

A CENTURY OF HORTICULTURE IN MANITOBA

1880-1980



Anemone patens L.

P.J. Peters

A Century of Horticulture in Manitoba

1880–1980

by
P. J. Peters
Horticulturist (Retired)

1914–2012

Winnipeg, Manitoba

1988

Copyright ©1988

All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review to be printed in newspapers or magazines.

ISBN: 0-88925-873-2

Published by P. J. Peters, Author
132 Riley Cr.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 0J6

First printing, 1988

Printed and bound in Canada by
Friesen Printers
a Division of D. W. Friesen & Sons Ltd.
Altona, Manitoba R0G 0B0
Canada

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Author gratefully acknowledges the contributions of material and articles for this book by the following:

Peter deWet

F. J. Weir

Prof. John Walker

Dr. W. R. Leslie

J. R. Almey

Dr. A. C. Ferguson.

Dr. D. A. Brown

Dr. H. H. Marshall

Mel Reimer

Dr. Karen Johnson

W. H. Gray

Secretaries of all Active Horticultural Societies

Dorcas Brown

Mrs. Dorothy Jensen

Evered Lawrence

Mrs. C. W. Beatty

Steve Chuckry

M. J. Gowryluk

W. S. Nebozenko

John Barchyn

Steve Kaminsky

W. A. Kroeker

John Kuhl

Jim Coulter

Ed Connery

Ken Todd

Jim Portree

Dr. Wilbur Ronald

A. T. Sandercock

Garth Stone

Many others who contributed
pictures and information

Pete de Wet was an organization man because he saw this as the most efficient way of sharing and promoting horticulture. He belonged to the Winnipeg Horticultural Society and inaugurated the city's industrial home grounds competition. The Prairie Garden knew him as a board member and contributor of articles. He was a strong supporter of the Manitoba Horticultural Association. The St. James Horticultural Society knew him, both as a member and exhibitor at its shows. All three of the above organizations honored Pete de Wet with Honorary Life Memberships.

Small wonder, then, that Mr. de Wet was a member of the M.H.A. committee that was asked to produce a Hundred Year History of Horticulture in Manitoba. He agreed to be the editor of this project. Together with the committee members he worked long and hard to research the many areas of horticultural endeavor that this history was to cover. Sadly, he died before the work could be completed. Were it not for the volumes of information he left behind, this book would have never been written. This is the reason this book is dedicated to J. Petrum "Pete" de Wet.

His two daughters, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren have every reason to be proud of the heritage he left behind.

On Mr. Pete de Wet's 93rd birthday, the present editor wrote a poem in tribute to him. This poem included these lines:

Coupled with his ability
Was Pete's great versatility.
The feel of earth and April showers,
The song of birds, the smell of flowers,
A garden and a gardener's art:
Stirred a strong passion in his heart.

P. J. Peters



FOREWORD

WITH THE EDITOR

P. J. "Pete" Peters

The dictionary defines horticulture as the cultivation of an orchard, garden, or nursery on a small or large scale and also as the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers or ornamental plants. Gardening needs both the gardener and the plants. This book is people oriented. Hobby horticulturists, horticultural societies, market gardeners and their organizations, nurserymen, research scientists at the experimental farms and the university, and extension horticulturists, all contributed to the horticultural developments in Manitoba. Many individuals made outstanding contributions and their stories will be told in detail. The full information on others was just not available. Some may have been missed and for this the editor begs the reader's indulgence. Those presently active in horticulture are not covered. They will find their niche in the history of the next hundred years.

The editor is indebted to the many many individuals who supplied information or wrote some of the articles. Their names are found on the page of "Credits".

This book is a labor of love. The editor hopes that the readers will enjoy this trip down "Memory Lane".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PETER J. "PETE" PETERS

Pete Peters was born in the village of Sagradowka in the Russian Ukraine. In the mid-1920's, after experiencing the turmoil of the revolution, the family emigrated, finding a home in southern Manitoba. Pete attended the Mennonite Collegiate Institute at Gretna and the Provincial Normal School, from which he graduated with a First Class Teaching Certificate.

His teaching career ended after seven years, when Pete enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. After the war he served as an interpreter for the Canadian War Crimes Trials.

Shortly after his return to Canada, he was hospitalized with tuberculosis. This became a heavy ordeal that called upon his reserves of courage and determination, when his wife Bertha (nee Ammeter) also was stricken. They both spent many months in a sanatorium.

After his eventual convalescence, Pete attended the University of Manitoba, earning the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and the great distinction of a gold medal award for his achievements. Upon graduation he joined the Extension Service of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture as Potato Specialist.

With the zeal and intensity that characterizes his every activity, Pete set about transforming the potato industry of Manitoba. His dogged and relentless determination, boundless enthusiasm and blunt challenges quickly achieved great improvements in quality, grades, production and marketing techniques. Among the noteworthy successes 'Potato Pete' scored for the industry were the 4-H Potato Clubs, the Canadian Potato Industry Conference of 1959, and his eight innovative years as Secretary Treasurer of the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba.

The provincial government, in its unchallenged

wisdom, decided that Pete Peters' talents and energy should not be monopolized by potato interests, and he was successively assigned to other sectors of horticulture. The first of these was strawberry production, and as a result of his efforts the Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba was formed, with, eventually, a large number of successful strawberry enterprises.

Later, as Fruit Crops Specialist, Pete worked with apple growers and berry producers. Under his able and active direction, the horticultural periodical *The Prairie Garden* was revitalized.

Pete also served as Secretary Treasurer of the Manitoba Horticultural Association. Here his appreciation of the Manitoba landscape and the ability to communicate his interest became more evident. He stimulated others to join him in photographing the breathtaking and everchanging beauty of Manitoba through the Provincial Slide Competition. He was active in the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture, and has served as President.

A measure of the esteem in which Pete Peters is held by the organizations he served may be taken from the honours bestowed upon him. He received Honourary Life Memberships from the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba, the Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba, the Manitoba Horticultural Association and the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture.

Beyond his professional stature in his chosen field of horticulture, Pete Peters is known throughout Manitoba for his multimedia presentations. Through his beautiful and well-chosen colour slides, his poetry, — and the interplay of philosophy, humour, spiritual values with his personal integrity and the conviction in his voice, — Pete's programs make a deep impact and lasting impression on all who hear him.

A number of anthologies of Pete's poetry have been published. His sensitivity to the beauties of nature and its moods, his strongly held religious convictions, his imagina-

tion, his ability to express profound emotions and his facility with words, are distinctives of his work.

Now retired, Pete's major interest and activity centres on his family — his wife Bertha, son Richard, daughter Cindy and their families. He has, however, taken the time, over a period of years, to write *A Century of Horticulture in Manitoba 1880-1980*.

The talents of Peter J. Peters were developed over a lifetime of service to the industry he loves. They have been called into full play in the development of this story. The book not only provides fascinating insights into a century of growth; clearly, it has been a labour of love.

Compiled by John Kuhl and Walter Kroeker

April 20, 1988

MW#16

DEDICATION



**J. Petrum "Pete" de Wet
1883-1979**

This book is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Pete de Wet. The Manitoba Horticultural Association set up a Historical Committee in 1967, to write and publish a Hundred Year History of Horticulture in Manitoba by 1970. This Committee was made up of F. J. Weir, Prof. John Walker, J. R. Almey, Dr. W. R. Leslie, Dr. A. C. Ferguson and Pete de Wet. Mr. de Wet agreed to be the editor. For many years, he worked in gathering information on the many areas of horticultural activity in Manitoba. Sadly, he died before the book was ready. Were it not for the volumes of research he left behind, this book would not have been written.

J. PETRUM "PETE" DE WET

Mr. de Wet was born in Cape Town, South Africa on February 3, 1883 and died in Winnipeg on August 27, 1978. Had he lived to see this book published, he would have been 100 years old.

Mr. de Wet came to Winnipeg in May, 1909. During the First World War he served 17 months in France with the Eighth Battalion (90th Winnipeg Rifles of the Canadian Expeditionary Force), and was a member of the Eighth Battalion Overseas Association. During the Second World War he was Corps Officer and Superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and a Serving Brother in the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

This determined man with the Churchillian physique and face was involved with the field of mining and metallurgy all his life. He was a newspaper man and writer for the Free Press, provincial correspondent for the Canadian Mining Journal, an associate member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and writer for the Canadian Fisheries and the Canadian Aviation magazines. The Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy gave him an Honorary Life Membership. Mr. de Wet was also a member of the Canukenna Club, the Manitoba Prospectors and Developers Association and the Winnipeg Economic Development Board.

But there was another love in the life of Pete de Wet, and that was horticulture. This was evident to anyone who visited his lovely, beautifully landscaped home. Trees, fruit trees, flowering shrubs, roses and neat flower borders that fringed a well-manicured lawn, were this gardener's love and pride. He was an exact man and would not permit the misspelling of scientific names of plants. But he was also an artist in flower arranging and organized a Flower Arranging Club.

MANITOBA'S FLORAL EMBLEM the "Prairie Anemone"

The snow
is not yet gone
when on the roadside
amidst prairie grass
so coyly smiling
those harbingers
of spring
"Prairie Anemones"
fair flowers
of the prairie wind
that many call
the crocus
proclaim
the breaking
of the bonds
of icy winter.
"Prairie Anemones"
that Indians called
"Ears of the Earth"
that the brown prairies
had thrust up
to listen
for the first faint rustle
of the spring.
"Prairie Anemone"
a bit of golden sun
encased by petals
of a mauvy hue
all wrapped securely
with a silv'ry robe
of finest fur.
"Prairie Anemone"
a fitting emblem
of a province fair
pointing the way ahead
for better days
for this our Manitoba.

P. J. Peters

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publication of *A Century of Horticulture in Manitoba 1880-1980* was made possible through a "Special Horticultural Promotion Fund" established, and shared in equally, by the following seven firms, whose generosity is gratefully acknowledged:

Connery's Riverdale Farms Ltd., Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

M.J. Gowryluk & Sons Ltd., Holland, Manitoba.

Kroeker Farms Limited, Winkler, Manitoba.

McCain Foods Limited, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board, Winnipeg.

Mulder Farms Ltd., Portage, and A&M Potato Growers Ltd., Carberry.

Southern Manitoba Potato Co. Ltd., Winkler, Manitoba.

Other contributors are: The Manitoba Branch of the Fresh for Flavour Foundation, The Manitoba Fruit Wholesalers' Association, and Mr. William S. Nebozenko. The Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba has funded the pre-publication purchase of a large number of books for promotional distribution. These contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

The Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board, 1200 King Edward Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3H 0R5, has agreed to facilitate the publication and continued distribution of the book. (Price \$25.00). This service is greatly appreciated.

The author, Mr. Peter J. Peters, has firmly declined any payment or honorarium for his work. Mr. Peters recommends that the net proceeds from sales of the book, beyond the direct costs of publication and mailing, be used to fund Scholarships in Horticulture at the University of Manitoba administered by the Plant Science Department.

The Finance Committee

June 15, 1988

mw 19

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Chapter I | In The Beginning | |
| * Manitoba's Natural Flora before settlement . . . | | 1 |
| * Indian Agriculture | | 4 |
| * Cataloguing Manitoba's Flora | | 8 |
| * Early settlements | | 12 |
| * The Mennonites | | 14 |
| Chapter II | Scientific Horticulture | |
| * Brandon Experimental Farm | | 17 |
| * University of Manitoba | | 22 |
| * Morden Experimental Farm | | 32 |
| * Western Canada Society for Horticulture | | 50 |
| * Manitoba Naturalist Society | | 59 |
| Chapter III | The M.H.A. and its Predecessors | |
| * The Western Horticultural Society | | 73 |
| * Manitoba Horticultural & Forestry Association | | 76 |
| * The M.H.A. over the Years | | 82 |
| 1927-1940 | | |
| 1941-1950 | | |
| 1951-1960 | | |
| 1961-1970 | | |
| 1971-1983 | | |
| * M.H.A. Honorary Life Members | | 102 |
| * Meritorious Service Awards | | 103 |
| Chapter IV | The Stevenson Memorial Awards | 113 |
| Chapter V | Manitoba Horticultural Societies | |
| * Organization of a Horticultural Society | | 165 |
| * Stories of Active Horticultural Societies | | |
| in 1980 | | 167 |
| * The Prairie Garden | | 231 |
| * The Manitoba Orchid Society | | 239 |
| * The Winnipeg Gladiolus Society | | 242 |
| * The Winnipeg African Violet Society | | 245 |
| * The Waugh Shield Children's Garden | | |
| Competition | | 247 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| * Horticultural Societies in Manitoba | 249 |
| (As recorded in Provincial Register) | |
| Chapter VI Commercial Horticulture in the Beginning | |
| * Early Market Gardeners . . . By J. R. Almey . . | 251 |
| * The Steve Chuckry Story | 259 |
| * A Trip Down Memory Lane with the Editor . . | 261 |
| * Winnipeg's Farmers Markets | 267 |
| * Early Market Gardeners in Brandon | 273 |
| * Gardeners Sales Limited | 274 |
| Chapter VII The Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba | |
| * The V.G.A.M. is Organized | 281 |
| * Manitoba Vegetable Producers Marketing Board | 289 |
| * V.G.A.M. Promotion Programs | 291 |
| * Government Involvement with the V.G.A.M. | 296 |
| * Horticulture Industry Days | 296 |
| * V.G.A.M. Presidents and Secretaries | 297 |
| * V.G.A.M. Honorary Life Members | 299 |
| Chapter VIII Promotion and Marketing | |
| * Salad Week | 335 |
| * Fact-Finding Committee | 337 |
| * Formation of M.F.V.W.A. | 339 |
| * Fresh for Flavor | 343 |
| * Produce Managers' Training Course | 347 |
| * Canadian Horticultural Council | 353 |
| * Retailing and Processing | 368 |
| Chapter IX Commercial Organizations | |
| * The Greenhouse Industry | 371 |
| * Manitoba Nurserymen's Association | 384 |
| * The Sod Industry of Manitoba | 394 |
| * The Horticultural Seed Trade of Manitoba . . . | 398 |
| * The Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba | 412 |
| * Keystone Vegetable Growers Association . . . | 419 |
| * Seed Potato Growers Association of Manitoba | 422 |

| | | |
|---|--|-----|
| Chapter X | In Search of Beauty | |
| * Provincial Parks | | 425 |
| * Town and City Parks | | 428 |
| * Brandon Parks | | 429 |
| * Assiniboine Park | | 430 |
| * Landscaping of Government Buildings | | 435 |
| * Beautification of C.P.R. Stations | | 436 |
| * The International Peace Garden | | 436 |
| * An Outdoor School in the Forest | | 442 |
| Chapter XI | Government Horticultural Extension Services | |
| * History | | 447 |
| * Functions of Horticultural Extension | | 450 |
| * Horticultural Development Programs | | 453 |
| * The Plant Pathology Laboratory | | 468 |
| * History of Dutch Elm Disease in Manitoba | | 469 |
| * Staff of Horticultural Extension in 1983 | | 474 |
| Chapter XII | Profiles of Noted Horticulturists | |
| * Down Memory Lane with J. H. Evans | | 475 |
| * Contributors to Horticultural Development | | 489 |
| * Other Horticulturists in Alphabetical Order | | 493 |
| * Ode to the Unknown Gardeners | | 528 |



INVOCATION

Lord, make us an instrument of Thy Peace!
Where there are petty weeds, may we bring flowers;
Where there is ugliness, may we bring beauty;
May we bring colorful harmony where there is clashing
discord.

Give us the serene humility of a Weeping Birch;
The reaching aspiration of a praying Elm;
A sensitivity as delicate as the Baby's Breath;
The conviction and strength of the mighty Oak;
The purity of thought of an Easter Lily;
The lasting faith of an evergreen Pine;
And the comforting ability of the shading tree.
Keep us from the blight of watery self-sufficiency.
Teach us to control our wild suckering habits.
Help us to prune away and burn our many faults.
Assist us in cultivating only the good and hardy habits.
Show us that it is greater to admire beauty than to be
admired for it;
That unity and purpose can be achieved through diversity.
Give that, when our flowering days are done
And we fade away like flowers in the field,
The seeds of our earthly sojourn may regenerate a passion
for Beauty:
For Beauty is Truth,
And Thou, O Lord, art the Father of all Truth.

CHAPTER I

IN THE BEGINNING

Manitoba's Natural Flora Before Settlement

What was the Province of Manitoba like before settlement?
What native plant species were most common?

The name "prairie", French word for meadow, was applied to the western plains by the early French explorers. They did not consider such land suited for agriculture and failed to discover the richness of the prairie soil. The prairie grasses over the centuries had built up a soil most suited to agriculture. This was the home of many tribes of American Indians. Buffalo in countless numbers grazed on the rich grassland. Game was abundant in great variety on land, in the streams and in the air above.

Numerous grass species and a great variety of native flowers were at home on the open prairies and also in the woods. Some of the flowering plants today come from selections or crossbreds of these native ancestors. Even now most of the wild flowers are still found on roadsides, uncultivated fields, and ungrazed woods. Some of them, however, are almost extinct. Their natural habitats have been destroyed by cultivation. Others are disappearing because of indiscriminate picking. The prairie anemone and the lady slipper are two examples. These are now on a longer list of protected plants.

Today few patches of the original prairie grassland remain. To preserve this part of our natural heritage, a Prairie Museum has been set up within the confines of Winnipeg. It is located on a patch of natural and untouched prairie and is a fascinating and educational place to visit.



Living Prairie Museum . . . 1976.

On the open prairie there was almost a complete absence of trees. Here mainly the poplar, *Populus tremuloides*, common throughout the entire region, and the Balsam poplar, *P. balsamifera*, in low lands and on shores, were found. Along streams, in ravines and wooded valleys was the Manitoba maple or boxelder, *Acer negundo*, a tree occasionally 30 ft. high and an early source of sugar and syrup. Next in abundance were the ash and American elm. The lance-leaved ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* v. *subintegerrima*, was a fairly tall tree in the south two-fifths of the province. Later it was the species generally distributed for shelterbelts. The green ash, *F. campestris*, a small tree growing to a height of 30 ft. was found in the southern valleys and on hillsides. The American elm, *Ulmus americana*, a tall tree with reddish bark and smooth twigs, was frequent in rich lowlands, especially along streams. The cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*, had its home in river valleys in south Manitoba. The Bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*, a hardwood tree growing 50 ft. high in eastern areas of south Manitoba, was general on sandhills and rocky outcrops. The basswood, *Tillia americana*, was

common only along the Red River and up the Assiniboine River to Portage la Prairie and Carberry.

Small trees and shrubs included the buffaloberry, *Shepherdia argentea*, around sloughs and coulees throughout the south; chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*, in dry prairie, sandhills, rock outcrops and shores in the south half of the province; highbush cranberry, *Viburnum trilobum*, in woods, thickets and shores, south half of the province; hawthorn, *Crataegus chrysocarpa*, roundleaved hawthorn, and *C. succulenta*, long-spined hawthorn, in thickets and clearings. It also included hazelnut, *Corylus americana*, American hazelnut, and *C. cornuta*, beaked hazelnut, in thickets and light woods; nannyberry, *Viburnum lantago*, in thickets and borders of woods, south quarter of the province; pincherry, *Prunus pennsylvanica*, sandy ground, rock outcrops, and clearings throughout the south; plum, *Prunus americana*, wild plum, and *P. nigra*, Canada plum, in woods and thickets throughout the south; saskatoon, *Amelanchier alnifolia*, in thickets, rock outcrops and clearings and redosier dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera* in moist locations. The western mountain ash, *Sorbus scopulina*, was in woodlands and ravines across the south and in the Riding Mountains and the Cypress Hills.

A great number of willows, *Salix*, were native on moist ground and shores in south Manitoba. They had a variety of names. The better known were the peach-leaved willow, autumn willow, shining willow, sandbar willow, balsam willow, hoary willow, gray willow, and pussy willow. A poultice made from the inner bark of the reddish-brown-twigged false mountain willow, fairly plentiful on moist ground and around sloughs, would reduce almost any swelling.

In Manitoba's extensive forests many evergreens were at home. On the Pre-Cambrian Shield, the vegetation was dominated by open forests of black spruce, *Picea mariana*, forming parklike stands. White spruce, *P. glauca*, was confined to eskers and bottomlands. It was often mixed with balsam fir, *Abies balsamifera*. On barren, sandy, or rocky soil the Jack pine, *Pinus banksiana*, thrived. In the eastern mixed

forest three species of cedar, *Thuja*, as well as red pine, *P. resinosa*, and white pine, *P. strobus*, were found.

These were the prairies and woodlands that were home to the Indian tribes before the white man came. Many Indians were good naturalists and made use of the plants of the fields and the woods.

Indian Agriculture

The Indian tribes of the Northern Plains and the Prairies are, all too often, referred to as American savages. Little research into their background has been carried out in Manitoba. It is however not out of line to assume that Indians in Manitoba led similar lives to those in North Dakota. This state has carried out a great amount of study of Indian culture, especially of the Mandan tribe. The following excerpts are from a paper entitled "A Tribute to Indian Culture", which was prepared by George F. Will and read to the Annual Meeting of the State of North Dakota Horticultural Society. Dr. W.R. Leslie obtained this paper for inclusion in this book. All the words are those written by George F. Will, but these excerpts are only about a quarter of his complete address. Here then is the shortened version of that paper.

"A TRIBUTE TO INDIAN CULTURE"

by George F. Will

"It has been the custom to consider our own tribes of North America a race of primitive barbarians. As the evidence accumulates from studies archaeological and ethnological, that opinion seems without proper foundation. It is true that they did not have writing nor reading of the written word. They did, however, have far more skill in the reading of the book of Nature than any of us.

Certainly they knew just what conditions of climate, soil and moisture must be sought for the locating of each of a very long catalog of plants, as well as the long list of animals with which they were acquainted. And not only were many of our Indians botanists, but they were horticultural scientists as well, with a very well-developed list of cultivated plant

varieties bred up and perfected through the centuries from native plants.

Agriculture or horticulture were themselves undoubtedly the end accomplishments of earlier centuries, spent by succeeding generations in the engrossing pursuit of the natural sciences to which we have earlier referred. It seems probable that the perfection of the hunting techniques went along hand in hand with the perfection of botanical and ecological techniques. Plants had just as much to give man as did the animals and were no less diligently studied. Natural local conditions to a large extent dictated which field of study should offer the most to the student. Thus we find that a series of cultivated crops was being raised over most of the Americas many centuries ago.

We are just realizing the fact that the buffalo-horse culture of most of the Plains Indians is a rather recent overlay in tribes which had previously long been agricultural. The Sioux, the Cheyenne, the Arapaho were all forced from an agricultural life out into the plains by the pressure engendered from white settlements on the eastern seaboard, and survived only through their quick grasp of the white man's greatest gift, the horse. The horse enabled them, by abandoning their normal agricultural life, to pass beyond the other agricultural settlements along the Missouri to the west of them, and find their place in the sun on the great high plains, game region of the continent.

The definitely known agricultural tribes in North Dakota have been the Mandans, the Hidatsa, the Arikara and the Cheyenne. Possibly the Mandan, at least, founded some of the really ancient agricultural villages at a time when their culture was cruder and simpler. For all the evidence seems to show that the Mandan people came into the Missouri Valley in Dakota very early, and that, in the course of the centuries there, they built up a real empire, prosperous and powerful, and a culture of considerable rank both esthetically and practically.

Their cultural remains show the very high place which the growing of cultivated, and the utilization of other plants, played in their economy. Nor is any doubt left of the extent of

their population nor the length of time which they spent in the region.

We know of the agricultural accomplishments of the Mandans in other ways also, from many accounts of early visitors, from their own account of their early culture, and from the fact that some of them still raise many of the old crops. They grew corn in some 13 different varieties, flour, flint and sweet corn. They had six different varieties of beans including one, the Great Northern, which has come to be the white man's most raised field bean. They raised a half dozen different types of squashes and pumpkins, several varieties of sunflower, and a tobacco of their own species.

All of these varieties have been adapted through long cultivating and selection to drouth, heat and short seasons, and have furnished the Mandan's white successors with many valuable varieties for growing and for breeding with later sorts. The legacy of these acclimated cultivated crops has in itself been of untold value to present day agriculture.

Furthermore, reliance on the plant kingdom was not confined to cultivated crops. Both the village dwellers and their nomadic neighbors knew all of the native wild plants, where to find them and what they were good for. Some of my most interesting experiences with Indians have been hunts for certain definite and rather uncommon plants, and the unerring knowledge with which they seek the plants in the locations to which they are best fitted, speaks volumes for their thorough education in the natural sciences.

Of the plants used for food perhaps the tipsina or Indian turnip ranks as high as any. Yet, I venture that not one white person in 50 would be able to go out and collect a dozen roots. Last summer I had opportunities to observe the actual collection and use of this edible root by an Arikara woman.

Some of the grass seeds were also saved, dried and parched. The ground beans of the Missouri River bottoms were collected from the storehouses of the bean mouse in considerable quantities. So too were the perennial sunflower or artichoke tubers. Wild onions were gathered and eaten in the spring and the military garrison at Ft. Stevenson was once saved from the scurvy by a supply of these little bulbs

brought in by the Arikara Indians. Numerous other plants were used for greens and the young shoots of the milkweed were gathered and cooked like asparagus.

Berries of the hackberry tree were ground up and used as a seasoning. Roots of the sweet flag which were obtained in trade from south and east were used as a tonic. Nuts of the hazel and burr oak were eaten, often being parched and ground. Leaves of the bearberry and bark of the red dogwood were dried and smoked, usually mixed with some tobacco. The boxelder was tapped in the late winter and syrup or sugar made from the sap, just as is done farther east with the other members of the maple family.

The bark of basswood and elm was used for fibers and containers. The bowstring and finest cordage was made from dogbane and nettle fibers. Yucca leaves were also sometimes used for their fiber.

Dyes were made from sumac, from the seed head of the giant ragweed and from a number of other plants. The pine flowers gave both a yellow dye and if mixed with a certain berry, a most brilliant scarlet dye.

Baskets were woven from the inner bark of the boxelder and diamond willow. Mats were made from bulrushes. From the little pearly seed of the gromwell and from plum stones and other fruit stones, beads were made. The cattail down from the ripened stalks served as lining for the swaddling clothes of newborn babies. Sweetgrass, Juniper sprigs, wild sage of several kinds, seeds of columbine, wild anise, horse-mint and many other plants served as scents.

A long list of other plants were used as medicines. Prickly pear leaves, split, drew the infection from wounds. Coneflower roots produced a kidney remedy. Numerous decoctions from roots and leaves, including the blazing star root, were used against other diseases. Yucca roots made an excellent sudsy soap for washing the hair.

Perhaps the catalog has been long enough to be tiresome. It has, however, been but a very short list in comparison with all the plants of which the Indians made specific uses. I truly believe that an Indian in almost any

region could find sufficient natural food where most of us would starve.

I think that when we white people become really acquainted with our native land to the same extent and in the same way that our red ancestors were, many of the difficulties that we have today will disappear."

This is the end of Dr. Will's paper. According to Prof. J. H. Ellis, in his book "The Ministry of Agriculture in Manitoba", the four Indian tribes that found a meeting place in the Red River region at the beginning of the 19th century were the Ojibwa or Chippewa, the Cree, the Assiniboine, and the Sioux. These tribes, though not as agriculturally minded as the Mandans, nevertheless also made use of the natural products of plants of the fields and woods. They were better naturalists than most of the white men who came after them.

Cataloguing Manitoba's Flora

The earliest extensive report on the flora of southern Manitoba was that of E. Bourgeau who listed the plants collected between Lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean recorded in John Palliser's "Exploration in British North America during the years 1857, 1858 and 1860", published in 1863 by Eyre and Spottiswoods, London, England.

However, first to report on the botany of Manitoba was Dr. John (later Sir John) Christian Schultz: "Botany of the Old River Trail and Red River Settlement", Transactions of the Botanical Society of Canada, 1861, based on his personal collections in 1860 and 1861. Schultz was a young physician from Kingston, Ontario, whose interest turned more to politics than to his profession. He was a bold and aggressive figure in the "Canadian Party" that opposed Louis Riel in the Riel Rebellion of 1869-70, and worked with great vigor and application for the Red River Settlement to become a part of Canada. He was Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Manitoba from July 1, 1888, to September 2, 1895.

Until 1872, there was little reference to the native horticultural plants, but in that year John Macoun, an Irish immigrant working out of Belleville, Ontario, as a self-

trained botanist, accidentally met Sanford Fleming, engineer-in-chief, Canadian Pacific Railway, and in charge of surveys in Western Interior Canada, while the latter was en route west to inspect the country. He was asked to join Fleming's expedition because of his botanical knowledge.

It was, in fact, Macoun's knowledge of and reports on the terrain of the prairie and its soils and plant life that determined the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1881 to continue from Winnipeg along the route for their railway line across the plains and through the Rocky Mountains Kicking Horse Pass to where Vancouver now stands, completed in 1885.

He continued surveys for the railway company and later was appointed Dominion Botanist in Ottawa until 1882, when he received a permanent appointment as naturalist to the Geological Survey of Canada. He died in 1920, aged eighty-nine years. Ten flowering plant species and many mosses have been named for him. His son, William T. Macoun, in 1898 was appointed horticultural assistant to Dr. William Saunders, first Director (October 12, 1886) of the Dominion Experimental Farms Service; was Curator of the Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Ottawa, and later Dominion Horticulturist. Between his first appointment and his death in August, 1933, he had been the recipient of many personal honors. He was known to many prairie horticulturists and gardeners for his practical support to horticulture in the land where they had chosen to live.

Dawson Brothers, Montreal, during the years 1883-1890 published John Macoun's "Catalogue of Canadian Plants" in five parts. Without doubt, his reports indicated the earliest appreciation of the horticultural possibilities that lay on the prairie; and such early followers in Manitoba as T. Frankland (Stonewall) and A. P. Stevenson (Nelson) likely were inspired by his enthusiasm.

The North American Boundary Commission Survey of 1872-74, which marked the western boundary between Canada and the United States, was particularly productive in the accumulation of scientific knowledge. Attached to the Survey was a young Canadian geologist, George M. Dawson, son of J. William (later Sir J. W.) Dawson, principal, McGill

College, who was only twenty-four years old when he went into the field in 1873. At the close of the Survey in 1875, he joined the Geological Survey of Canada and became its director in 1895.

Dawson included his observations of native plant life in his "Report on the Geology and Resources of the Region in the Vicinity of the Forty-Ninth Parallel, from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains", published in 1875 also by Dawson Brothers.

The 1887 Journal of the Botanical Society of Canada carried R. M. Christy's "Notes on the Botany of Manitoba".

On the occasion of the seventy-ninth annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in Winnipeg in 1909, the local committee of the Association in their handbook to Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, included an account of the flora of Manitoba by Rev. W. A. Burman, St. John's College, with introductory remarks by A. H. Buller, D.Sc., Ph.D., professor of botany, Manitoba Agricultural College.

It was titled "The Phanerogamia and Pteridophyta of Manitoba", and named 701 species, genera, families and varieties. Accompanying was a map of the province showing forests, sandhills and marshes in 1900, compiled and signed by Ernest Thompson Seton, noted writer of those days on nature subjects.

The Manitoba Natural History Society, now the Manitoba Naturalists Society, which had been organized in May, 1920, distributed in 1922 a "Check List of the Flora of Manitoba", with 1,029 names, by Professor V. W. Jackson, Manitoba Agricultural College. A copy was given at her request to Lady Byng, wife of Lord Byng, Governor General of Canada, and an enthusiastic botanist, when they visited Winnipeg that year.

Two years later, Jackson added a further 141 names to a second list. Another useful activity of the Society's Botanical Section was the start in 1932, in the Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg Auditorium, of a herbarium with over 700 plants from nearly all parts of the province.

In 1957, The Canada Department of Northern Affairs

and National Resources published National Museum of Canada Bulletin No. 140, "Flora of Manitoba", by H. J. Scoggan, 619 pages of families, botanical and common names, their native areas, the names of the men who first found them and the years their accounts were published.

Scoggan's earlier reports on Manitoba botany, in National Museum of Canada Bulletins, were: Bulletin 118, 84-92, Botanical investigations in central Manitoba, 1950; Bulletin 123, 139-161, Botanical investigations along the Hayes River route, northern Manitoba, 1951; Bulletin 126, 208-227, Botanical investigations in Manitoba in 1950, 1952; Bulletin 128, 103-107, Botanical investigations in the Glacial Lakes Agassiz-Souris basins, 1953.

In 1964, the Canada Department of Agriculture, Research Branch, published "Wild Plants of the Canadian Prairies," by A. C. Budd and K. F. Best, 519 pages of botanical taxonomy, including keys for identification and an illustrated glossary. Budd, born in London, England, in 1889, emigrated to Canada in 1910 as a land seeker.

Earliest of the publications on Ornamentals specially for prairie growth was "Ornamental Shrubs and Small Trees for the Canadian Prairies", by S. W. Edgecombe, associate professor of Horticulture, University of Manitoba, Bulletin No. Four, Line Elevators Farm Service, Winnipeg, April 1944.

Publications of the Canada Department of Agriculture contributing to knowledge for general wide distribution have been: "Ornamental Shrubs and Woody Climbers More Commonly Used for Landscape Purposes Throughout Canada", R. W. Oliver, December 1944 and reprint in June 1953; "Planning Your Garden", R. W. Oliver, 1947 and reprint in 1963; "Hedges for Canadian Gardens", R. W. Oliver, 1953; "Descriptive Notes on Herbaceous Perennials for Canadian Gardens", "Culture of Ornamental Trees for Canadian Gardens", "Trees for Ornamental Planting", "Woody Climbers and Ground Covers for Canadian Gardens", R. W. Oliver, 1957; "Hedges for the Prairies", H. F. Harp and W. A. Cumming, 1962.

In 1968, the Research Branch, Canada Department of

Agriculture, published "Ornamental Shrubs for Canada", Publication 1280, by Lawrence C. Sherk and Arthur R. Buckley, Ornamental Plant Section, Plant Research Institute. There are 162 indexed pages of recommended plants, nine with respective zones for best plant hardiness shown on an accompanying map. Given also are various heights in inches or feet, common and botanical names, shrubs with colorful fruits and with fruits that attracted birds. Named, too, are shrubs for special purposes, such as colored foliage; fragrant flowers and foliage; shrubs of different heights; and shrubs for moist, dry, sandy soils and shady places. The introductory chapters cover fertilizing, soil preparations, winter protection, pruning, diseases and use of pesticides.

Early Settlements

In 1670 the trading adventurers came into what is now northern Manitoba by way of Hudson Bay. These and rival fur-trader-explorers of Northwesters who came into southern Manitoba by way of Rainy River and the Lake of the Woods in 1732-33 had two prime problems to resolve. These were: (1) how to secure wildlife furs through trade with the natives and (2) how to obtain adequate supplies of provisions for those engaged in the trade.

The St. Lawrence fur traders established trading posts in the southern prairies. This forced the trading adventurers, now the Hudson's Bay Company, to move south from Hudson Bay to establish rival trading posts in the south. At first pemmican was the staple food. This did not last too long. The buffalo herds were decimated. The provision supply problem became acute. This forced the traders to the ultimate recognition of introducing and of developing subsistence agriculture as a means of supplying provisions.

The Northwesters were in favor of such agriculture as could be carried on adjacent to their trading posts. They were however bitterly opposed to any enlargement of land use for agriculture beyond their own subsistence requirements. Their opposition was based on the fear that the extended use of land for agricultural settlements was a threat to the fur trade.

The Hudson's Bay Company, on the other hand favored agricultural settlement on a larger scale as a means of securing cheaper provisions for the fur trade and also as a weapon in their fight against the Northwesters for control of the fur trade. These motives prompted the initiation of an agricultural colony at Red River. This accentuated the conflict between the two until the rival companies were forced to merge in 1821. It is not within the scope of this book to relate the fascinating story of the Selkirk Settlers or the Red River Settlement. The area on both sides of Lower Fort Garry was surveyed into river lots. Here the settlers grew a wide variety of crops. It is of interest that the lowly potato grew rather well. The settlers also grew a wide variety of garden vegetables. Another settlement was set up at what is now Portage la Prairie. Here the garden crops did even better.

July 15th, 1870 was the natal day of Manitoba. Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories were formally transferred from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion of Canada. Out of this extensive area a small district approximately a hundred miles square and inhabited by about 25,000 people was organized into the Province of Manitoba.

Manitoba now embarked on a new form of settlement, agriculture on a farming scale, in place of the village agriculture and the plains hunt. Land surveys interrupted in 1869, were resumed in the summer of 1871 and were pushed with such speed that by 1873 the "postage stamp" province of some 11,000 square miles was divided into the square survey of townships six miles square, and 36 sections of one mile square with 99 foot road allowances between all sections.

First, and almost the only movement into the new province from 1871 to 1874, were the arrivals from Ontario; nearly all were practical farmers with means; a few were graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. There were others, too, from the Eastern Townships of Quebec, from the Maritime provinces, and from the British Isles.

The years 1874 and 1875 saw the beginning of the "group" colonization: French from Quebec mainly around

the newly incorporated city of Winnipeg; the Mennonite East Reserve and West Reserve in the Red River Valley; and Icelandic settlers on the west shore of lake Winnipeg.

More settlers arrived from the Maritimes and from England and Scotland. Others came from Massachusetts, and from Michigan and Wisconsin. The possibilities of the Red River Valley for wheat growing attracted these people. The census of 1881 recorded a population of 65,954 for the province.

The Mennonites

When the first Mennonite settlers ended their long journey from Russia down the Red River at the Manitoba boundary, they entered a vast, treeless plain of grass and sloughs stretching west to the Pembina Hills along the International Boundary — the Red River Valley black-soil, aspen parkland. The open spaces were tall-grass prairie; good stands of oak, ash and balsam poplar grew in the woodlands. Their David Schellenberg is credited with being the father of rural tree planting. His father had known of the treeless land they were going to, and urged all other family heads to pick up young trees for planting on their assigned parcels. Many did so as they made their slow progress down the Red River by barge from Grand Forks, North Dakota, then the end of the railway. One of the first duties assigned to his own sons was to plant young cottonwood trees around the site he had chosen for his yard.

The senior Schellenberg had a stopping place for travellers on his farm a mile east of the present town of Gretna on the old Post Road which ran west from Emerson a mile north of the International Boundary and then north a short distance beyond the present town of Lowe Farm, and was so known from its mile-apart direction posts.

As one will quickly see today from the living evidence, every village community planted trees around their yards and around their pastures. The settlers planted also wild plums, chokecherries and other native fruits in their yards, and some hardy ornamentals as they could obtain them.



Unveiling Post Road Monument in 1950. L to R: Mr. Dave Schellenberg. Three people on right side: Mrs. R. F. McWilliams, Mr. W. C. Miller and Mr. D. Klassen. Photo Courtesy Isby Bergen, Altona.

Later, the Morden Experimental Station assisted many individual farmers with apples, crabapples, plums, apricots, sandcherry-plum hybrids and other fruits.

In 1950, contemporary residents placed a stone monument on the old Post Road in recognition of the contribution to present-day life by the early men of the West Reserve, as their settlements were then known. It reads:

"This monument was erected on the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Mennonite pioneers west of the Red River. It commemorates the faith and sacrifices of the early settlers who braved the wild treeless plains shunned by earlier immigrants. The peace and prosperity that these pioneers and their descendants have enjoyed here, and the Post Road which marked by stakes started at Emerson, passed this site, at that time a stopping place, and ran westward through the settlement".

Shelterbelts

After the early necessities of life have been provided for — source of income, shelter, food — home landscaping, attractive surroundings for living in, come next to work for. And where did the pioneering settlers begin?

On the bare, windswept prairie lands, a shelterbelt was the beginning. In the villages, towns and cities, avenues of tall growing trees were planted. Around homes, trees of lesser stature and flower-bearing shrubs were sought. These were termed woody ornamentals, but the term ornamental embraced also low herbaceous perennial plants. The search was continuous and far afield, in experimental stations, nurseries, small private gardens.

Variety of color, hardiness and adaptability to harsh climate, shape and size, general usefulness, were the goals to which men applied themselves with imagination, ingenuity, and the spirit that constantly looks well into the future — amateur, professional, scientific students, of many races and skills.

The world these men labored in had no boundaries, no limits nor limitations, no terminal point. They studied and tested genus, species, family; soil management and nutrition; tolerance to weather and soil variety; resistance to disease and insect infestation. There never is a boundary line on improvement.

Gradually some man here and some man there in the rising flood of settlers from Ontario, from the British Isles, and from Europe, saw usefulness in the native trees and shrubs and word of their finds was spread gladly. But it was not until after the Canada Department of Agriculture Experimental Farm at Brandon (1888), and the Canada Department of the Interior Forestry Branch farm at Indian Head (1903), had been set to work that maintained study was applied to the propagation and distribution of shelterbelt and ornamental stocks. The term "shelterbelt" was adopted from the United States where it had been used as early as 1833.

The interesting story of the research and demonstration work carried out in the early years at the Brandon Experimental Farm is told in the chapter on Scientific Horticulture.

CHAPTER II

SCIENTIFIC HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE AT THE BRANDON EXPERIMENTAL FARM

The Brandon Experimental Farm commenced operation in 1888 under the capable leadership of Superintendent S. A. Bedford. The Farm area extended from the north bank of the Assiniboine River to some distance above the hill on the north and included 652 acres. In addition to the selection and development of different kinds of field crops and livestock, work was undertaken with shelterbelts, vegetables and fruits and other plants that would assist in establishing and sustaining good and permanent farm homes.

The climate differed greatly from that in the eastern part of the continent and little guidance was available on how best to approach the problems of adaptability, so therefore the first several years were devoted largely to exploratory work. By 1891 the considerable number of 111,316 trees and shrubs of all kinds, including several hundred fruit trees and bushes, had been tested.

Trees and Shrubs

The problem of which trees and shrubs to use for shelter and ornamental purposes received prompt attention from the outset. Before the Farm had been established five months, 650 native maples, 8 to 10 feet high, had been procured and part of them planted to become the landmark which was later named Bedford Drive. Three quarters of an acre was seeded to native ash, basswood and maple that same fall. This later provided one of the first disappoint-

ments in that they were completely destroyed by frost and wind when they germinated in the spring of 1889. That same spring (1889) 12,000 forest trees and shrubs of 118 varieties were received from the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. Many of these were planted in a permanent shelter-belt extending the western limit of the farm. During the next several years further large numbers of trees were brought in from eastern Canada, Iowa, Nebraska, and Rat Portage (now Kenora), while others were collected in Manitoba. Some of the imported trees originated in Russia, Siberia or north eastern Asia. Before many years it was found that the native trees of Manitoba together with the species from Northern Europe and Asia were the only ones that could survive here. Of the many species planted in the arboretum and shelter-belts somewhat over 100 species are still living.

In addition to testing large numbers of trees for the Farm, large numbers were distributed to farmers. By 1891 a total of approximately 70,000 trees and cuttings had been distributed. The demand for these trees increased rapidly. The next year 40,000 trees were available but the demand exceeded the supply by 10,000. In 1901 ten acres of maples and elm were grown for the newly formed Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior and finally in 1903 about 1,500,000 were grown. The Forestry Stations at Indian Head and Sutherland in Saskatchewan continued the work after that date.

Indian Head and Sutherland

The distribution from Indian Head and Sutherland grew year after year as the limited early supply of planting stock was enlarged. During the years 1904-1915, their annual distribution averaged from about two million to three and a half million trees. In 1916, the two stations sent out more than four million seedlings and cuttings, and in 1917 more than seven million.

Their total distribution had grown to 145,700,000 trees by 1935; it was 266,254,225 by 1956, of which 7,129,711 were evergreen trees from Indian Head, and the remainder broad-leaf trees about equally from the two stations. The average



Bedford Drive in the early years.

annual distribution of broadleaf trees for the years 1950–54 ran to 6,122,320. It is difficult to calculate how many farmers received and planted these young trees since some individuals received repeated allotments from year to year, but the total likely will be well over two hundred thousand.

With these three stations, Brandon to a much lesser degree, the Canadian Government dominated the shelterbelt and windbreak nursery business for nearly half a century, thus assuming the controversial position of “government in business” in a country where the principle of free and unhampered development of private business ruled. The justification for this lay in the great and urgent need for large-scale tree planting by settlers to ensure a permanent and profitable agriculture. The drought years of the 1930’s showed clearly the value and effectiveness of well planned and well maintained shelterbelts; and the errors in early plantings were recognized, namely, too many rows of trees, poplars and willows used too freely, and evergreens mixed with broadleaf trees. As this book is published the distribution of shelterbelt trees from Indian Head still continues.

Agricultural representatives in Manitoba take orders of trees from farmers. These orders are sent to the Department of Agriculture in Winnipeg and from there to Indian Head. The tree orders are filled in Indian Head, forwarded to Winnipeg, distributed to the Ag. Reps, who in turn distribute them to the farmers. This province owes a debt of gratitude to the Forestry Stations. But it was the Brandon Experimental Farm that started the ball rolling.

Fruit Growing at Brandon

The early settlers were using the native fruits when and where they were available. They needed fruits of better quality and an adequate supply. The fruit problem also received prompt attention in Brandon but unfortunately satisfactory results were not easily obtained with most fruits. The scope of the involvement in fruit testing can be gauged from this report of fruit varieties planted at the Experimental Farm in 1889: 382 apples, 27 pears, 42 plums, 25 crabapples, 11 cherries, 961 currants, 35 grapes, 82 gooseberries, 23 varieties of raspberries and 3225 strawberries. Reports in the following years stated that apples, crabapples, plums and cherries, except the native ones of the last two, were not hardy. Small fruits fared better. Some currants, two gooseberries, two raspberries and a few varieties of strawberries were at least moderately hardy.

Later plum seedlings obtained from Ottawa, Minnesota, and several from Manitoba growers fared better. Brandon Ruby, Major, and Souris were plum varieties named. New apple seedlings from crosses made with Siberian crab and large apples were tested along with some seedlings of A. P. Stevenson. Many had fruit that was too small. A setback was suffered when fireblight killed many trees and the work begun so enthusiastically by Bedford was not continued because his two successors did not care to involve themselves in fruit growing. A new Experimental Farm at Morden was set up to carry on the work on fruit in a more suitable environment. One of the successful crabapple seedlings was named Bedford in honor of the first Superintendent of the Brandon Experimental Farm. Only the plum orchard was

maintained for a period of years. Any apple varieties in later years were planted only for demonstration purposes.

Vegetables at the Brandon Experimental Farm

The testing of vegetable varieties was begun in 1889 and has continued to the present. Large numbers of potato varieties, unfortunately many of them anonymous, were grown during the first twenty-three years. After 1912 more emphasis was placed on cultural methods. Later tests were conducted under the National Potato Variety and Seedling Trials and occupied approximately three quarters of an acre each year. All of the common vegetables and a number of less well adapted species have been tested each year and this occupies approximately three acres each year. Work with vegetables throughout this period appears to have been mainly confined to comparing varieties and cultural methods. Large numbers of people visit the vegetable gardens each summer in order to obtain useful information on vegetable varieties and culture. During Henry Marshall's time as gardener, he bred and named several vegetable varieties.

Ornamentals

The growing of ornamental trees and shrubs also received early attention but as there is in most cases no clear distinction between these and other woody plants they have been included in the section under trees and shrubs.

Several varieties of annual flowers were planted in 1890 and a number of perennials, particularly bulbs, a short time later. Annuals and perennials gradually received more attention until approximately 1912 when quite large numbers of flowers were being grown. Many species tried were popular in milder climates but proved to be unsatisfactory here. Work with flowers seems to have been confined to testing species and varieties until recently when a few thousand hardy chrysanthemum seedlings have been grown for selection. Also crosses have been made between *Heuchera sanguinea* (Coral Bells) and *H. Richardsoni* (Alum Root) which have produced a hardier Coral Bells. An area of approximately nine acres is occupied by the office, home grounds, arboretum, hedges, lawns and flowers.

Henry Marshall named many ornamentals during his term as Head Gardener, a position that required the holder to maintain some plots and to look after the beautification of the farm. The breeding work by Henry went beyond the call of duty. His success as a scientist, breeder, geneticist and taxonomist was recognized when the Brandon University presented him with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree.

The two men who really put the Brandon Experimental Farm on the map as far as horticulture is concerned were Bedford and Marshall. Others deserving credit in this field are M. H. Tinline and Dr. D. A. Brown. Their biographies are found in the chapter on noted horticulturists.

The following is a list of the directors over the years.

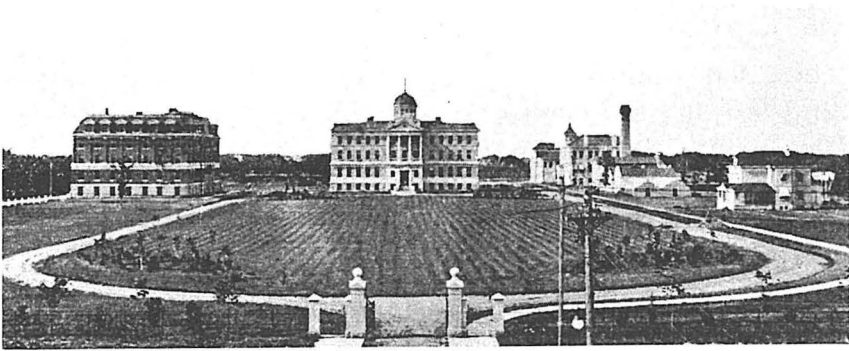
Bedford's successors have been N. Wolverton (1906-1907); James Murray (1907-1911); W. C. McKillican (1911-1925); M. J. Tinline (1925-1946); R. M. Hopper (1946-1960); J. E. Andrews (1960-1965); and W. N. MacNaughton (1965-1980).

The Brandon Research Station, as it is now known, gave Manitoba horticulture a boost in the early years. Its main purpose presently is to work in the field of Agronomy and Livestock. In this area it rates among the best in the land.

HORTICULTURE HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA 1905-1960

In the year 1905, the Manitoba Government, having decided that an agricultural college was essential to the growth of the still young province, engaged W. J. Black, B.S.A., LL.D., to be principal of a college built on the 117 acres which were to be its site for eight years, just west of Winnipeg in what is now the suburb of Tuxedo.

Black graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1901 and in December following became editor-in-chief of the Farmers' Advocate in Winnipeg. His appointment soon afterwards to the post of Deputy Minister of Agriculture ended his short career in journalism. In 1905 at the age of 33,



Manitoba Agricultural College — Tuxedo Site.

he was appointed the first Principal of the Manitoba Agricultural College.

An early appointment to the subjects of horticulture and forestry was F. W. Brodrick, also a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, who for ten years also instructed entomology. Brodrick was assisted by Thomas Jackson, greenhouse operator at both the old and later the new College sites.

In 1913 the College was moved to the suburb of Fort Garry where it is today. In the early development of the Fort Garry site, much help in landscaping was given by A. E. Theobald, a skilled landscape gardener trained in England. Most of the older plantings now on campus were planned or planted by Brodrick and Theobald.

In 1915, J. B. Reynolds (who had been professor of English at the Ontario Agricultural College for 22 years) was appointed President of the Manitoba Agricultural College. Ever a zealous advocate of high academic standings for professional agriculture, he introduced the entrance requirement of University matriculation for degree courses in Agriculture.

In 1916 additions were made to the staff chiefly for research. J. A. Neilson was added as lecturer in horticulture and forestry, and in 1918 A. V. Michener in horticulture. In 1920 Entomology was separated from Horticulture and Michener became its lecturer.

After the move to Fort Garry, both Horticulture and Forestry Departments grew vegetables for the students' residence. Much landscaping was done to improve the College surroundings and extensive flower borders were added for their beauty and use as trial gardens. Test orchards were planted and selections were started for hardy tree fruits under the direction of John de Jong, a keen gardener who followed Jackson as greenhouse operator.

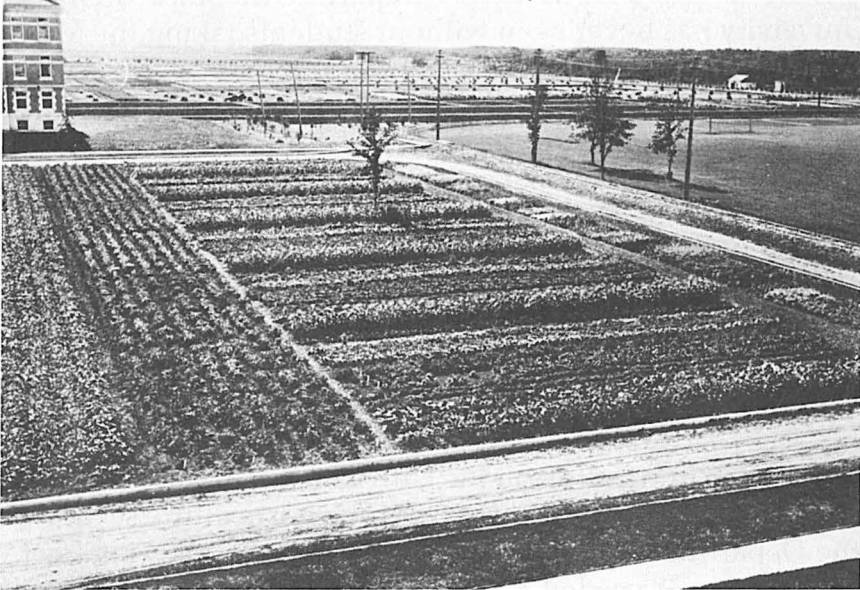


Manitoba Agricultural College in the Early Days.

In 1920 John Bracken, head of the field husbandry department at the University of Saskatchewan, was brought to Manitoba to succeed Reynolds who returned to the Ontario Agricultural College to head that institution. Bracken was head administrator at the Manitoba Agricultural College until 1912 when he resigned, at the request of the leaderless United Farmers Party, to become Premier of Manitoba. In 1922, C. H. Lee, head of the Department of Bacteriology, was made acting President and continued in that post for two years.

In March, 1924, the Manitoba Legislature passed an Act transferring control of the Manitoba Agricultural College from the Manitoba Department of Agriculture to the Board of

Governors of the University. That year, W. C. McKillican, superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Brandon, was appointed the first Dean of the new Faculty of Agriculture and Home Economics.



Horticultural Variety Trials in the Early Years.

In 1933, Alfred Savage, Head of the Department of Animal Pathology and Bacteriology, was appointed Dean to succeed McKillican. Savage's successor in 1937 was Michener; he continued in this position until 1946.

In 1937 John Walker, Provincial Horticulturist with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, succeeded Brodrick on the horticulture staff. In 1938 Horticulture and Agronomy amalgamated to form the Department of Plant Science.

Aided by a grant from the Canada Department of Agriculture, Walker expanded vegetable variety trials and established vegetable breeding work. Early in the World War II days, a program of vegetable seed production was started to meet food shortages.

In 1942, S. W. Edgecombe, who had been in charge of Horticultural Extension, Iowa State, succeeded Walker who had been appointed superintendent of the Canada Depart-

ment of Agriculture Forest Nursery Station at Indian Head, Sask. The following year, with a grant from the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, training was begun of graduates in Horticulture and for the first time in 25 years Horticulture was no longer a "one man" Department. Since then the University has never been without students taking the Master of Science degree in Horticulture.

Edgecombe was succeeded in 1944 by E. T. Andersen, a University of Alberta graduate, who had had charge of Horticulture at the Canada Department of Agriculture station in Lethbridge. Opportunities for research and advanced studies were further expanded and several graduate students qualified for Master of Science degrees. A potato breeding program was started by Prof. Andersen.

1960-1982

The early sixties saw several changes in personnel involved in horticulture at the University of Manitoba and an expansion in the overall program. The horticulture section of the Department of Plant Science, headed by Dr. A. C. Ferguson who succeeded E. T. Andersen in 1957, consisted of one other academic staff member in 1960, J. A. Menzies who had joined the staff in 1953, was in charge of the potato breeding and management program as well as the tree and small fruit evaluation program. Dr. Ferguson's program which included both vegetable and turf grass improvement developed during the sixties and seventies with a major emphasis on turf grass, particularly golf course management. This program was funded by the Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Manitoba Golf Association, and the Royal Golf Association and involved the development of management practices for golf courses as well as the evaluation and selection of grass cultivars suited to such uses.

H. R. Hikida who was employed by the Federal Experimental Farm Service as an Agricultural Research Officer until 1957 was responsible for the vegetable variety evaluation trials. He then took a leave of absence from 1958 to 1960 to continue graduate studies but did not return to the Department. In 1957, C. C. Bernier replaced Mr. Hikida as Research

Officer and continued the vegetable testing program until 1961. The departmental vacancy created by the leaving of Mr. Hikida was filled by J. D. Campbell who came to the Department from the Agassiz Experiment Station in 1961. Dr. Campbell's interest in growing vegetables in protected environments prompted many years of research in vegetable production under tunnels and eventually the management of tomato and cucumber production in the greenhouse.

Two Research Associates, both retired from Canada Department of Agriculture provided expertise in various aspects of horticulture in the early sixties. J. Walker who was on staff from 1958 to 1968 was involved in cultural management and breeding of ornamentals. B. Peterson served as a resource person supplying information to the public on horticultural problems from 1960 to 1964.

Breeding programs resulted in the introduction of herbaceous perennials and vegetables in the sixties and seventies. Four chrysanthemum cultivars, Dresden, Marsh Rose, Roseine, and Saturn were released in 1961 as a result of efforts by S. J. Westaway. An active breeding program in tomatoes begun by Dr. Ferguson with the cooperation of C. C. Bernier culminated in the release of three bush tomatoes, Summit in 1972, and Ping Pong and Prairie Pride in 1979. Two other tomatoes from this program Keystone and Manette, were not released. A sweet pepper selection, Earlired, was released in 1967.

To strengthen the physiology area in horticulture, L. J. LaCroix joined the Department in 1961. Dr. LaCroix's work involved various research projects on seed dormancy and germination, and iron chlorosis. The addition of L. M. Lenz in 1964 brought expertise into the horticulture section in the area of ornamentals, trees, and shrubs. Beside the various programs in ornamental production and physiology, a breeding program by Professor Lenz with *Potentilla fruticosa* resulted in the introduction of the cultivars Sundance and Orangeman in 1979.

A horticultural plant collection for teaching, testing and research had long been deemed a desirable feature in a complete horticultural program. Such collections had been

started several times in the history of the University of Manitoba. During the early 1960's, with greater resources available, a plan was developed for a Woody Plant Test Arboretum. In 1963 planting began on a 20 hectare tract of land, adjacent to the America Stadium. The plan was a systematic grouping of plants in rows and plots by genera and size. Due to the limitations of soil type, composition and drainage, and the design and maintenance of the area, a decision was made in the early 1980's to abandon the site. A proposal was developed for a smaller teaching arboretum. The new arboretum of 8 hectares is located in the "point" area of the campus along with other agronomic and horticultural testing and research. The new site encompasses the area adjacent to and incorporating the natural riverbank vegetation. The plan, developed by a landscape architect, groups the plants by botanical families in a park-like setting. The new plan is currently being implemented.

In order to offer more assistance to residents of northern Manitoba, a program was begun in 1969 to study the problem of establishment of landscape plants in the north. The program was located at Thompson, Manitoba and was supported by the International Nickel Co. This program eventually was taken over by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and expanded to include vegetables and other crops.

Evaluation of the performance of varieties of annual flowers and vegetables as the basis for recommendations to the horticulture industry in Manitoba has long been a major program at the University. Under the direction of Dr. Ferguson and Professor Lenz, the vegetable and annual flower testing program was supported by McKenzie Seed Co. beginning in 1971 which included testing of the All America Selections. By 1974, the All America Selection program was operating independent of McKenzie Seed Co. and the University remains a Trial Garden for vegetables and annual flowers. With the coming of the Agro-Man program, a Canada-Manitoba agreement, in 1979, funding for the variety test program was increased and perennial flowers were included in the evaluations.

In 1975, Mr. Westaway who had been on staff since 1954 left the Department. He had been actively involved in horticulture for many years and was well known for his weekly television programs on gardening. With the retirement of Dr. Campbell in 1976, Dr. LaCroix became more closely involved in horticultural production and was placed in charge of the potato evaluation and management program. He also became more closely involved with the greenhouse industry and their associated problems in design, environmental requirements, and production problems. When Dr. Ferguson retired in 1978, Dr. LaCroix assumed the duties as head of the horticulture section. M. K. Pritchard joined the section in 1979 in charge of the vegetable program. Dr. Pritchard's specific area of responsibility were continuation of the vegetable variety evaluation program, vegetable crop management, and storage physiology of vegetables and potatoes.

In order to meet the research needs of a growing horticulture industry in Manitoba, student training at the graduate level resulted in the awarding of twenty-two MSc. and 2 Ph.D degrees in horticulture since 1960.



All-America Variety Trials in 1981.

The Horticultural Section of the University of Manitoba can proudly boast of the success of its many BSA, MSc and Ph.D. graduates. They have excelled in extension and research, not only in Manitoba, but in other parts of Canada and the U.S.A. as well. A newly implemented diploma course in horticulture is preparing young people to become horticultural technicians or assisting them in establishing horticultural pursuits of their own.

Space does not permit the listing of the many scientific and popular press releases and articles in scientific and popular journals written by the horticultural staff. These have added greatly to the horticultural knowledge of the prairies. The staff has also been active in working with scientific organizations, such as the WCSH. Commercial growers in the province have relied on both research and information from the University to help solve their problems. The M.H.A. and many horticultural societies have benefitted from the willingness of the horticultural staff to participate in their programs. These extension activities were further enhanced by the popular field days on the University campus. The Horticultural Section of the University of Manitoba has served this province well.



The University of Manitoba Today.

Academic Staff In Horticulture 1960–1982

1. H. R. Hikida 1957–1960
 - left the Department in 1960
 - highest rank — Assistant Professor
 - specialty — Vegetable Crops
2. Dr. J. D. Campbell 1961–1976
 - retired in 1976
 - highest rank — Professor
 - specialty — Vegetable Crops
3. Dr. A. C. Ferguson 1957–1978
 - retired in 1978
 - highest rank — Professor
 - specialty — Vegetable Crops and Turf Improvement
4. Dr. L. J. LaCroix 1961–present
 - active
 - highest rank — Professor
 - specialty — Horticultural physiology, potatoes, green-house
5. L. M. Lenz 1964–present
 - active
 - highest rank — Associate Professor
 - specialty — Ornamentals, trees, and shrubs
6. J. A. Menzies 1953–present
 - active
 - highest rank — Associate Professor
 - specialty — Small fruits and potatoes
7. Dr. M. K. Pritchard 1979–present
 - active
 - highest rank — Associate Professor
 - specialty — Vegetable Crops

University of Manitoba Cultivar Releases 1961–1982

Ornamentals

1. Woody
Potentilla fruticosa

- 1979 — Orangeman
- Sundance
- 2. Herbaceous
- Chrysanthemum
- 1961 — Dresden
- Marsh Rose
- Roseine
- Saturn
- Vegetables**
- Tomato
- 1972 — Summit
- 1979 — Ping Pong
- Prairie Pride
- Keystone) not released
- Manette) not released
- Pepper**
- 1967 — Earlired (a selection)

HORTICULTURAL HISTORY MORDEN RESEARCH STATION 1915-1979

Phase 1 — 1915-1920 — The Earliest Years



Morden Research Station Office and Grounds in 1926.

From the outset the emphasis at Morden has been on horticulture to meet a keen demand for information and suitable plant material throughout the west. South-central Manitoba was a logical choice for this work owing to its fertile soil and slightly better rainfall than elsewhere on the prairies, and hence its good production of vegetables, fruits and ornamentals.

After preliminary surveys, the Morden site was chosen by Dr. J. H. Grisdale, then Director of the Experimental Farm Service. In 1915, on March 2, land was purchased. Mr. C. Boyle was appointed foreman-manager. A tree nursery was started and windbreaks of caragana and laurel willow were planted.

In 1916, S. J. Bjarnason was appointed superintendent, 25,000 apple seedlings were planted from Ottawa, and an excellent display of annual flowers was seen that summer. The following year apple and plum orchards as well as bee colonies were established.

E. M. Straight became the superintendent in 1918 and he bought the farm's first tractor. Small fruits were given extra attention and there were 90 acres in gardens and orchards. Plum varieties fruited in 1919 and the station purchased its first car. Spruce was planted for shelter.

Five years after the station was established, seedling apples fruited. For the first time in its fledgling existence, the station recommended a variety for growers in the area: Senator Dunlap strawberry.

Phase 2 — 1921-1956 — W. R. Leslie Era

In 1921, Dr. W. R. Leslie became the station's superintendent. In the next three years, he initiated fruit breeding, planted ornamentals from Fort William, Ontario, and built a headerhouse and greenhouse. He started raspberry breeding, a perennial flower border and the arboretum in 1924 and tried to grow sweet potatoes.

By 1926 he had established a Morden trial of fruit varieties where previously only Ottawa, South Dakota and Minnesota trial orchards had existed. About $\frac{1}{3}$ of the station land was in horticultural production, some 100 acres. A field day



Aerial View of Morden Research Station in 1933. Orchard Plantings in Upper Left.

planned in 1926 was rained out although 130 people from Winnipeg had started out for Morden.

The North Dakota State Horticultural Society held its annual convention at the Experimental Farm in September of 1927 and the number of visitors to the station was increasing every summer.

1929 was a big year. The station named its first new varieties: two ornamental shrubs and three apples; Stockton pincherry, Redman Elder, Mantet, Manton, and Mortof apple and Manmoor sandcherry. The tree fruit work was under the care of R. M. Wilson and Dr. Leslie reported that year that 21,124 apple pollinations were made and 3,017 mature fruits were harvested, 20,437 plum and cherry pollinations resulted in 1,592 mature pits, 2,500 apple seedlings were lined out in the nursery from 1927 work.

The station purchased the south half of section 4-3-5 in 1929 and started building the new horticulture building. Distinctive among visitors was the summer meeting on July 27 of the Manitoba Horticultural Association and the Dominion Convention of the Canadian Society of Technical Agriculturists on June 13.

The start of the "dirty thirties" in 1930 saw a steady expansion of horticultural research at Morden under Dr. Leslie's leadership. The station spent about 38% of its annual budget on horticulture. In addition to Mr. Wilson in tree fruits, T. O. Graham took care of the small fruits and vegetables, William Godfrey the gardens and rose breeding, and A. E. Theobald the arboretum and perennial tests.

Four more tree fruits were named and released in 1930. Most notable was the Spangelo apple named after Albert Spangelo who had been in charge of the seedling apple plantation during the past seven seasons. Other introductions were Manan and Moris apple and Mordel plum. The beekeeper was Erdman Braun, who started at Morden in 1921. The first visit of the Northern Great Plains Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science came to Morden on September 4 that year.

Between 1931 and 1937 the first extension list of recommended fruit varieties based on Morden research was pub-

lished for growers. The list also included vegetables and ornamental plants. Mount apple was named and released upon the recommendation of Harold Orchard, who grew it on his farm near Miami. Other releases in 1931 included apples Godfrey, Manitoba, Manred, Watts, Manitoba Spy and Stevenson. Mando sandcherry was released, too.

During this period W. L. Kerr, H. F. Harp and L. H. Lyall joined the Morden staff. Mr. Kerr became the assistant in horticulture, Mr. Harp as gardener, and Mr. Lyall as student assistant in vegetables. Other new plant releases in 1934 through 1937 included Mina plum, Breakey and Morden Russett apple, Manson cherry plum, Manbee, Ostem and Redant apple, Toba applecrab, Bounty plum, Maid gladiolus, Scott apricot, Coronation cherry, Morden Pink lythrum, and lilacs Royalty, Coral, Freedom, Nocturne, Swanee, Redwine, Beacon and Dawn.

During the period 1938-1946, three more significant people joined the Morden staff. Charles Walkof joined the vegetable crops section, C. Ray Ure the fruit crop section and A. L. Shewfelt the fruit products section. Dr. Leslie reported 21 active projects in fruits, 15 in vegetables, 6 in food processing and 20 in ornamentals by the end of the period.

The period further yielded new and improved plant varieties from the program. They included in 1938 Drilea cherry, 1939 Morden American elm and nasturtium gladiolus, 1942 Dura cherry-plum, 1943 Mordena cherry-plum and Norther plum, 1944 Tidy caragana and Morden Colorado Blue spruce, 1945 Manor cherry-plum, Morden yellow tomato and Almey rosybloom crabapple, 1946 M-604 apricot, Sugar Prince sweet corn and three roses. Prairie Sailor, Prairie Wren and Prairie Youth.

From 1947-1956 the farm continued to expand, consolidate and specialize. The Cooperative Fruit Breeding project was started in 1946 and provided thousands of apple seedlings for trials at stations in the west. The food processing lab was built, vegetable breeding increased, and more research was conducted into herbaceous and woody ornamentals. Research on bees was discontinued in 1934 and bees were not kept even for pollination after 1956.



Picking Apple Crop in 1970 at Morden. L. to R.: H. Temmerman, Jan Miciak, Tony Bergen and Henry Hiebert.

V. W. Nuttall joined the staff in vegetable crops, A. Hutcheson in fruits, D. D. F. Williams in small fruits, D. R. Brown and Evelyn Stevenson in food technology, Stan Westaway as gardener, Corny Ginter in vegetables, and W. D. Buhr in food technology. Canadian Cannery Ltd. opened a branch canning plant in Morden in 1952.

In 1947 the station released Manito American cranberry bush, Prairie flowering almond, Sylvia mockorange and Sundog rosybloom crabapple. In 1949 Toba hawthorn and Monarch hybrid tomato were released. In 1950 came Tiny Tim garden pea, Meteor tomato; 1951 Morden midget cabbage, Mustang hybrid tomato and Sunup autumn aster. In 1952 Kerr applecrab, Morgold sweet pepper, Muckle flowering plum. Three Autumn asters Morden Crimson, Lavender and Purple, two garden chrysanthemums Morden Gold and Skyline, and Morden Gleam and Rose lythrums came out in 1953 followed in 1954 by Morcrop hybrid cucumber, Morden Early cucumber and Morden and Manitoba flowering almond. In 1955 Goodland apple and Morden BB3 tomato and Manitoba tomato in 1956.

Phase 3 — 1957–Present — Present Research

Dr. Leslie retired from the Morden Station in 1956. Dr. C. C. Strachan was appointed superintendent to replace him. There were other staff changes too, that saw D. D. F. Williams, D. R. Brown, W. P. Mohr, and V. W. Nuttall leave the station, to be replaced by R. Hyde in fruit and vegetable production, W. A. Cumming in ornamentals and B. B. Chubey in vegetable crops. Dr. Strachan transferred to Summerland in 1959 and W. Breakey was in charge as acting Superintendent until J. W. Morrison was appointed director in 1960. That year also saw all the station's animal research end and the name changed from experimental farm to Research Station. It was all part of a new image of the old Experimental Farm Service that would further be known as the Research Branch of Canada Agriculture.

In the early 60's the station lost C. R. Ure and A. L. Stewfelt and obtained M. Kawase as a physiologist in fruits and ornamentals. The research scope was narrowing and

becoming more concentrated in specific areas. This was especially evident by the addition of more highly trained staff. In addition to staff already mentioned, Drs. G. H. Gubbels, H. A. Quamme, and R. C. Zimmer joined the staff. Dr. Gubbels started as a physiologist in vegetables, Dr. Quamme in fruit crops and Dr. Zimmer as pathologist in horticulture crops. Responsibility for the sub-station at Portage la Prairie was transferred from the Brandon Research Station to Morden in 1960. Morden would make it a regional special crop sub-station.

During this period the station, together with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Conservation established seven small commercial apple orchard trials throughout southern Manitoba. The station was also informed at this time that its first rosybloom crabapple release, Almey, had been chosen by the Canadian Nursery Trades Association as Canada's Centennial Tree for 1967.

The plant introductions during this period were many and varied, illustrating the excellent programs that had been



Lilac Plantings in Arboretum . . . 1976.

established at Morden. In 1957 came Morden 39 mung bean, in 1958 Early midget eggplant, and Arctic First sweet corn. In 1959 Miami Apple, Earligreen garden pea, autumn asters Cupid and Fay, garden chrysanthemums Morden Bronze, Carmine, Chestnut, Primrose, Ruby, and Tan, roses Prairie Charm, Dawn, and Maid. In 1960 came Boyne raspberry, 1961 apples called Carroll, Collet, Garland, and Luke, and Killarney raspberry, also garden mums Albatross, Amber and Aurora. In 1962 the releases included Starfire tomato, garden mums, Morden Bonfire, Blanche and Brightness, Mock-orange Audrey and Marjorie, and rosybloom crabapples Garry and Selkirk. In 1964 it was Morden Cameo and Canary garden chrysanthemums.

In 1965 the station celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a special field day in June. It was also the first year a public guide was hired during the summer to assist the many visitors the station was getting.

In 1966 Dr. E. D. Putt was appointed director. S. Pathak was briefly employed as a staff biochemist in vegetable and fruit products between 1966 and 1967 and J. M. Molnar was



Bert Harp and Crew Moving Evergreens in 1947.

also hired in crop management of vegetables in 1966. Dr. Chubey resigned in 1966 but returned as a biochemist again in 1968, the same year E. D. P. Whelan joined the staff to work in sweet corn and cucumbers. The staff also added W. G. Ronald in ornamentals.

In 1969 Bert Harp retired and Henry Marshall was transferred from the Brandon Research Station to replace him. In 1970 W. A. Russell transferred from Scott, Saskatchewan to take over the potato research at Morden. Drs. Molnar and Quamme both transferred to Ontario posts that year and the vegetables program was phased down under Dr. Walkof and he was given responsibility to look for new crops, encompassing some of the vegetable crops he was familiar with. He retired in 1973 and Dr. M. D. Stauffer replaced him. He resigned in 1979. Dr. Cumming retired in 1976.

The station continued to name and release plant selections during this period. In 1966 Junior, Little Leaguer and Pee Wee cabbage, together called the baseball series, and Earlihot sweet pepper were released. Canada's centenary year, 1967, was marked at Morden by the release of a series of garden mums called the Fathers of Confederation series developed by Mr. Harp. They included Brown, Cartier, Galt, Howe, Macdonald, McGee, Tilley, Tupper and Whelan. Other ornamental releases that year were Prince of Wales creeping juniper, Snowbird hawthorn, Miss Canada lilac, Metis rose, and Centennial weigela. The next year came Morden little leaf linden and in 1969 two autumn asters Marine and Velvet, along with Kelsey rosybloom crabapple. Miniota monarda joined the list in 1970 and in 1972, came Minuet lilac and Adelaide Hoodless Rose. Four more tomatoes came out in 1973 called Booster, Melfort, Pembina and Redstaker. Morden Delight garden mum was released in 1974 along with Alouette and Earlimor cucumbers followed later by Fallgold black ash, Walker caragana, Morden Eldorado and Everest garden mums, and Morden Beauty physotegia. Morden Fiesta garden mum was released in 1976. The 1977 releases were Batoche potato, Delta hackberry, Jacan Japanese elm and Morden Amorette and Ruby roses. In 1978 Ure pear was released followed by three

apples, Norland, Parkland and Westland, Northern Gold forsythia, Gaiety and Garland chrysanthemums, Northern fire coral bells and Tower poplar.

Dr. Putt retired in December, 1978 and Dr. B. B. Chubey became acting Director until July 1, 1980 when Dr. D. K. McBeath was appointed Director. In 1979 Dr. Ken Buchanan was appointed Director but died before he could take office.

Throughout the station's history an excellent range of helpful information has been published to help prairie horticulturists and gardeners grow better plants and plants better. Some notable books authored at Morden over the years include William Godfrey's *House Plants*, C.D.A. publication 798 first published in 1948, W. R. Leslie's *The Prairie Home Orchard*, C.D.A. publication 901 in 1954, Charles Walkof's *Hints On Dryland Gardening* in 1954, and with Wally Nuttall the *Hybrid Vegetables For Short Season Gardens* in 1955, and later in 1958 his *Growing Vegetables In The Prairie Garden*, C.D.A. publication 1033, now revised and in its fourth printing and still available free from the Information Service in Ottawa.

Bert Harp and Bill Cumming combined their knowledge and talent in 1962 to write C.D.A. publication 1153 *Hedges For The Prairies*, which is still in print today. Drs. Morrison and Cumming, together with ornamentals technician Alfred Vitins, authored a station publication called *Propagation Studies In Fruits And Ornamentals At The Morden Experimental Farm* in 1964 and Morrison and Cumming also combined with Mr. Herman Temmerman in 1965 to write *Tree Fruits For The Prairies*, another fine book still available today. In 1962 Dr. Walkof wrote *Vegetable Gardening Practices* and Bert Harp authored 3 brochures published by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in 1965 called *Peonies For The Prairie Garden*, *Hardy Chrysanthemums For Manitoba Gardens*, and *The Winter Storage of Tender Bulbs, Tubers, And Corms*. He also wrote *Lythrums For Home Gardens* in 1967. Dr. Harvey Quamme and Herman Temmerman combined to write an excellent brochure called *Hardy Stembuilders For Prairie Orchards* printed by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture first in 1968 and still available. Dr. Wilbert G. Ronald, new on

staff at the time, put together the first Index Seminum of the Morden Research Station arboretum in 1970. Before retiring, Bert Harp authored a comprehensive book published by the department in 1971 called *Herbaceous Perennials For The Prairies* and Henry Marshall took over putting together the annual Index Seminum from Dr. Ronald. And before he retired, Dr. Cumming put together a report on the *Prairie Regional Zonation Trials at Morden for woody Ornamentals*, and authored the official department list of Morden fruit and ornamental introductions from 1929 to 1977. In 1978, the station began a new tradition, and published its first annual research highlights report, a more comprehensive look at the year's progress than the Branch report traditional from the beginning.

Further evidence of the excellent and comprehensive research traditional at Morden can be cited by the many awards and active involvements of some of the staff in horticultural organizations throughout Canada and North America. For instance, Dr. Walkof was president of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science in 1965-66, Dr. Cumming was president of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture in 1964-65, Dr. Morrison was regional director for the Genetics Society of Canada in 1964-65.

In 1966, Dr. Walkof received the Manitoba Horticultural Society Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal. In 1970, Dr. Cumming was awarded the Public Service of Canada Merit Award and the Massachusetts Horticultural Association's Dawson Jackson Medal, the first for a Canadian. The following year, he was given an honorary Doctor of Science degree by the University of Manitoba. Henry Marshall also received an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1974 from Brandon University. Many of the outstanding staff contributions were also rewarded with numerous honorary life memberships in horticultural associations they belonged to all their life and many other awards.

PLANT INTRODUCTIONS / ENTRÉES DE VÉGÉTAUX • 1915-1979

Research Station, Morden, Manitoba ROG 1J0
Station de recherches à Morden (Man.) ROG 1J0

FIELD CROPS GRANDES CULTURES

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|----------------|------|------------|------|-----------|------|
| Buckwheat | | Morden 67 | 1966 | Asgrow RX17 | 1978 | Flax | | Commander | 1964 |
| Sarrasin | | Dawson M405 | 1971 | Pride R090 | 1979 | Lin | | Valley | 1968 |
| Tempest | 1971 | Morden 7G | | | | Cree | 1962 | Saturn | 1977 |
| Mancan | 1974 | Northrup King KE408 | | Field peas | | Dufferin | 1975 | Corona | 1978 |
| | | Warwick TX17 | 1973 | Pois de jardin | | | | CMH 101 | 1979 |
| Field corn | | Pickseed XR14 | | Trapper | 1970 | Sunflowers | | | |
| Mais de grande culture | | Speare 474 | 1974 | Triumph | 1973 | Tournesols | | Soybeans | |
| Morden 74 | 1950 | Pride 1108 | 1977 | Tara | 1978 | Beacon | 1954 | Soja | |
| Morden 77 | | | | Lenca | 1979 | Advent | 1959 | Morsoy | 1970 |
| Morden 88 | 1959 | | | | | Admiral | 1960 | | |

FRUIT / FRUITS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|--------------|------|----------|------|-------------|------|----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Apples | | Watts | 1931 | Miami | 1959 | Applecrabs | | Cherry plums | | Mina | 1934 |
| Pommes | | Manitoba Spy | | Carrill | 1961 | Pommettes | | Prunes cerises | | Bounty | 1936 |
| Manet | 1929 | Stevenson | | Collet | | Toba | 1936 | Mansan | 1935 | Norther | 1943 |
| Manon | | Breaker | 1935 | Garland | | Kerr | 1952 | Dura | 1942 | | |
| Mortol | | Russett | | Luke | | | | Mordena | 1943 | | |
| Manan | 1930 | Manbee | 1936 | Norland | 1979 | Apricots | | Manor | 1945 | Raspberries | |
| Moris | | Ostern | | Parkland | | Abricots | | | | Framboises | |
| Spangelo | | Redant | | Westland | | Scout | 1937 | Pear | | Boyne | 1960 |
| Godfrey | 1931 | Mount | 1937 | | | M-604 | 1946 | Poires | | Killarney | 1961 |
| Manitoba | | Goodland | 1955 | | | | | Ure | 1978 | | |
| Manred | | | | | | Cherries | | | | Sandcherries | |
| | | | | | | Cerises | | Plums | | Cerises de sable | |
| | | | | | | Coronoation | 1937 | Prunes | | Manmoor | 1929 |
| | | | | | | Drilea | 1938 | Mordel | 1930 | Mando | 1931 |

ORNAMENTALS / PLANTES ORNEMENTALES

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-----------|------|-------------|------|--------------------|------|
| American cranberrybush | | Coral bells | | Garden chrysanthemums | | Tilley | 1967 | Nocturne | 1936 | Poplar | |
| Viorne trilobée | | Heuchères sanguines | | Chrysanthèmes de jardin | | Tupper | | Swanee | | Peuplier | |
| Manito | 1947 | Northern Fire | 1979 | Gold | 1953 | Whelan | | Redwine | | Tower | 1979 |
| | | | | Skyline | | Delight | 1974 | Beacon | 1937 | | |
| American elm | | Creeping juniper | | Bronze | 1959 | Eldorado | 1975 | Dawn | | Roses | |
| Orme d'Amérique | | Genévrier horizontal | | Carmine | | Everest | | Miss Canada | 1967 | Roses | |
| Morden | 1939 | Prince of Wales | 1967 | Chestnut | | Fiesta | 1976 | Minuet | 1972 | Prairie series: | |
| | | | | Primrose | | Gaiety | 1979 | | | Série des Prairies | |
| Autumn asters | | European red elder | | Ruby | | Garland | | Lythrums | | Sailor | 1946 |
| Asters d'automne | | Sureau rouge | | Tan | | | | Lythrums | | Wren | 1946 |
| Sunup | 1951 | Redman | 1929 | Albatross | 1961 | Gladiolus | | Pink | 1937 | Youth | |
| Crimson | 1953 | | | Amber | | Glaieuls | | Gleam | 1953 | Charm | 1959 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Lavendar | | European little-leaf linden | | Aurora | | Maid | 1935 | Rose | | Dawn | |
| Purple | | Tilleul d'Europe | | Bonfire | 1962 | Nasturtium | 1939 | | | Maid | |
| Cupid | 1959 | Morden | 1968 | Blanche | | | | Mock oranges | | Metis | 1967 |
| Fay | | | | Brightness | | Hackberry | | Seringas | | Adelaide | |
| Marine | 1969 | Flowering almonds | | Cameo | 1964 | Hicocoulrier occidental | | Silvia | 1947 | Hoodless | 1972 |
| Velvet | | Pruniers trilobés | | Canary | | Delta | 1977 | Audrey | 1962 | Amorette | 1977 |
| | | Prairie | 1947 | | | | | Marjorie | | Ruby | |
| Black ash | | Manitoba | 1954 | Fathers of | | Hawthorns | | | | | |
| Frêne noir | | Morden | | Confederation series: | | Aubépines | | Monarda | | Rosybloom crabapples | |
| Fallgold | 1975 | | | Série "Les Pères | | Toba | 1949 | Monarde | | Pommetiers Rosybloom | |
| | | Flowering plum | | de la Confédération": | 1967 | Snowbird | 1967 | Miniota | 1970 | Almey | 1945 |
| Caraganas | | Prunus nigrella | | Archibald | | | | | | Sundog | 1947 |
| Caragans | 1944 | Muckle | 1952 | Brown | | Japanese elm | | Physotegia | | Garry | 1962 |
| Tidy | | | | Cartier | | Orme japonais | | Physotégie | | Selkirk | |
| Walker | 1975 | Forsythia | | Galt | | Jacan | 1977 | Beauty | 1975 | Kelsey | 1969 |
| | | Forsythia | | Howe | | | | | | | |
| Colorado spruce | | Spring Gold | 1979 | Macdonald | | Lilacs | | Pincherry | | Weigela | |
| Épinette du Colorado | | | | McGee | | Lilas | | Cerisier de Pennsylvanie | | Weigela | |
| Morden Blue | 1944 | | | | | Royalty | 1936 | Stockton | 1929 | Centennial | 1967 |
| | | | | | | Coral | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Freedom | | | | | |

VEGETABLES LÉGUMES

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|---------------|------|----------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------|
| Cabbages | | Alouette | 1974 | Mungbean | | Sweet Peppers | | Morden BB3 | 1955 |
| Choux | | Earlimor | | Haricot mungo | | Poivrons | | Manitoba | 1956 |
| Midget | 1951 | | | Morden 39 | 1957 | Morgold | 1952 | Starfire | 1962 |
| Junior | 1966 | Eggplant | | | | Earlihot | 1966 | Booster | 1973 |
| Little Leaguer | | Aubergine | | Potato | | | | Melfort | |
| Pee Wee | | Early Midget | 1958 | Pomme de terre | 1977 | Tomatoes | | Pembina | |
| | | | | Batoche | | Tomates | | Redstaker | |
| Cucumbers | | Garden peas | | | | Morden | 1945 | | |
| Concombres | | Pois cultivés | | Sweet corn | | Monarch hyb. | 1949 | | |
| Marcrop hyb. | 1954 | Tiny Tim | 1950 | Mais sucrés | | Meteor | 1950 | | |
| Early | | Earlgreen | 1959 | Sugar Prince | 1946 | Mustang hyb. | 1951 | | |
| | | | | Arctic First | 1958 | | | | |

Agriculture
CanadaResearch
Branch Direction
de la recherche

Update: 1980-82
Horticultural History
Morden Research Station

1980

This year produced two more roses in the Parkland Series developed by Dr. Marshall.

Morden Cardinette rose is an everblooming rose that is excellent as a pot plant that can be transplanted to the prairie garden, and is fully hardy. Beside this versatility, it also allows quick and simple vegetative propagation for the greenhouse industry guaranteeing it's popularity.

Morden Centennial was introduced in time for the Morden centennial year of 1982. Centennial is a larger plant than Cardinette, is vigorous and free blooming and an excellent companion rose to the very popular Cuthbert Grant rose.

1981

Two ornamental plants were introduced this year; Prairie Cascade weeping willow and Miniglobe honeysuckle.

Prairie Cascade is the first hardy weeping form of this plant that can be recommended for the Canadian prairies.

Miniglobe honeysuckle is a hardy dwarf form with excellent compact shape and should be very useful for foundation and bedding plantations.

Columbia Jerusalem Artichoke was released, more than a decade after the Morden Research Station began research with this type of wild sunflower. It is aimed mainly at the market looking for uses of the underground tubers this plant produces in the northern Great Plains area of North America. It features large tuber yields and high fructose yields from the tubers.

1982

Five ornamentals and one fruit plant are being introduced in this year. All five ornamentals are trees; Northline silver maple, Baron Manitoba maple (boxelder), Wascana basswood, Autumn Blaze white ash and Mancana manchurian ash. The fruit tree is Westcot apricot.

Some significant changes also occurred during this year. Dr. Chubey, who was the Morden Research Station Food

Technologist since 1968, became the station's vegetable physiologist. Miss Lynn Collicutt, who had worked as a student on Dr. Marshall's rose program that saw the introduction of the Morden Cardinette rose, took over his position after he retired. Mr. David A. Wall, a recent graduate of the University of Manitoba, was appointed weed control biologist in horticultural crops after Dr. Vanstone resigned to go into private business. Dr. Ronald also resigned after 14 years with the station to go into private business. At year end, Mr. Andy Russell retired from his potato biologist position at Morden, after 33 years with Agriculture Canada, the last 12 years at Morden.

At the end of 1982, four professionals were on staff at Morden in the Horticultural Crops Section. Dr. Chubey as vegetable physiologist is the head of the section, Miss Collicutt is in Ornamentals research, Dr. Joe Mazza is the Food Scientist, and Mr. Wall is the weed control biologist.

Horticulture Programs

Breeding and Evaluation of Herbaceous Ornamentals for the Prairies

Breeding and Evaluation of Hardy Roses

Evaluation and Selection of Potato Varieties and Seedlings for the Prairie Region

Broad Spectrum Weed Control in Woody Ornamentals

Chemical Weed Control in Potatoes and Cultivar Tolerance to Selected Inhibitors of Photosynthesis

Weed Control in Field Grown Vegetables

Crop Utilization Studies

Quality Assessment of Vegetables, Potatoes, Fruits and New Crops

Color Retention During Processing and Storage of Food Products of Plant Origin

Root Crop Production Technology

Cole Crop Production Technology

Garlic Production Technology

Nursery Management and Storage

Developing Methods for the Propagation of Woody Ornamentals

PLANT INTRODUCTIONS/ ENTRÉES DE VÉGÉTAUX — 1915-1981

Research Station, Morden, Manitoba R0G 1J0
Station de recherche, Morden (Manitoba) R0G 1J0

FIELD CROPS/GRANDES CULTURES

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|---------------------|------|----------------|------|------------|------|-----------|------|
| Buckwheat | | Morden 88 | 1959 | Asgrow RX17 | | Flax | | Admiral | 1960 |
| Sarrasin | | Morden 67 | 1966 | Pride R090 | 1979 | Lin | | Commander | 1964 |
| Tempest | 1971 | Dawson M405 | 1971 | | | Cree | 1962 | Valley | 1968 |
| Mancan | 1974 | Morden 7G | | Field peas | | Dufferin | 1975 | Saturn | 1977 |
| Manor | 1980 | Northrup King KE408 | | Pois de jardin | | McGregor | 1981 | Corona | 1978 |
| | | Warwick TX17 | 1973 | Trapper | 1970 | | | CMH 101 | 1979 |
| Field corn | | Pickseed XR14 | | Triumph | 1973 | Sunflowers | | Soybeans | |
| Mais de grande culture | | Speare 474 | 1974 | Tara | 1978 | Tournesols | | Soja | |
| Morden 74 | 1950 | Pride 1108 | 1977 | Lenca | 1979 | Beacon | 1954 | Morsoy | 1970 |
| Morden 77 | | Pickseed 2322 | 1978 | | | Advent | 1959 | | |

FRUIT/FRUITS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------|--------------|------|----------|------|------------|------|----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Apples | | Watts | 1931 | Miami | 1959 | Applecrabs | | Cherry plums | | Mina | 1934 |
| Pommes | | Manitoba Spy | | Carroll | 1961 | Pommettes | | Prunes cerises | | Bounty | 1936 |
| Mantet | 1929 | Stevenson | | Collet | | Toba | 1936 | Mansan | 1935 | Norther | 1943 |
| Manton | | Breakey | 1935 | Garland | | Kerr | 1952 | Dura | 1942 | | |
| Mortof | | Russett | | Luke | | | | Mordena | 1943 | Raspberries | |
| Manan | 1930 | Manbee | 1936 | Norland | 1979 | Apricots | | Manor | 1945 | Framboises | |
| Moris | | Ostern | | Parkland | | Abricots | | | | Boyne | 1960 |
| Spangelo | | Redant | | Westland | | Scout | 1937 | Pear | | Killarney | 1961 |
| Godfrey | 1931 | Mount | 1937 | | | M-604 | 1946 | Poires | | | |
| Manitoba | | Goodland | 1955 | | | | | Ure | 1978 | Sandcherries | |
| Manred | | | | | | Cherries | | | | Cerises de sable | |
| | | | | | | Cerises | | Plums | | Manmoor | 1929 |
| | | | | | | Coronation | 1937 | Prunes | | Mando | 1931 |
| | | | | | | Drilea | 1938 | Mordel | 1930 | | |

ORNAMENTALS/PLANTES ORNEMENTALES

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|------------------------|------|--------------|------|-------------------|------|
| American cranberrybush | | Coral bells | | Garden chrysanthemums | | Morden Delight | 1974 | Nocturne | 1936 | Poplar | |
| Viorne trilobée | | Heuchères sanguines | | Chrysanthèmes de jardin | | Morden Eldorado | 1975 | Swanee | | Peuplier | |
| Manito | 1947 | Northern Fire | 1979 | Morden Gold | 1953 | Morden Everest | | Redwine | | Tower | 1979 |
| | | | | Morden Skyline | | Morden Fiesta | 1976 | Beacon | 1937 | | |
| American elm | | Creeping juniper | | Morden Bronze | 1959 | Morden Gaiety | 1979 | Dawn | | Roses | |
| Orme d'Amérique | | Genévrier horizontal | | Morden Carmine | | Morden Garnet | 1979 | Miss Canada | 1967 | Roses | |
| Morden | 1939 | Prince of Wales | 1967 | Morden Chestnut | | | | Minuet | 1972 | Prairie Sailor | 1946 |
| | | | | Morden Primrose | | | | | | Prairie Wren | |
| Autumn asters | | European red elder | | Morden Ruby | | Gladiolus | | | | Prairie Youth | |
| Asters d'automne | | Saureau rouge | | Morden Tan | | Glaieuls | | Lythrums | | Prairie Charm | 1959 |
| Sunup | 1951 | Redman | 1929 | Morden Albatross | 1961 | Maid | 1935 | Morden Pink | 1937 | Prairie Dawn | |
| Crimson | 1953 | | | Morden Amber | | Nasturtium | 1939 | Morden Gleam | 1953 | Prairie Maid | |
| Lavender | | | | Morden Aurora | | | | Morden Rose | | Metis | 1967 |
| Purple | | European little-leaf linden | | Morden Bonfire | 1962 | Hackberry | | | | Adelaide Hoodless | 1972 |
| Cupid | 1959 | Tilleul d'Europe | 1968 | Morden Blanche | | Micocoulier occidental | 1977 | | | Morden Amorette | 1977 |
| Fay | | Morden | | Morden Brightness | | Delta | | Mock oranges | | Morden Ruby | |
| Marine | 1969 | Flowering almonds | | Morden Cameo | 1964 | Hawthorns | | Seringas | | Morden Cardinette | 1980 |
| Velvet | | Pruniers trilobés | | Morden Canary | | Aubépines | | Silvia | 1947 | Morden Centennial | |
| | | Prairie | 1947 | | | Toba | 1949 | Audrey | 1962 | | |
| | | | | | | | | Marjorie | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----------------|------|------------------------|------|---------------|------|--------------------------|------|----------------------|
| Black ash | | Manitoba | 1954 | Fathers of | | Snowbird | 1967 | | | Rosybloom crabapples |
| Frêne noir | | Morden | | Confederation series: | | | | Monarda | | Pommetiers Rosybloom |
| Fallgold | 1975 | | | Série "Les pères de la | | Honeysuckle | | Monarde | | Almey 1945 |
| | | Flowering plum | | confédération": | 1967 | Miniglobe | 1981 | Miniota | 1970 | Sundog 1947 |
| Caraganas | | Prunus nigrella | | Archibald | | | | | | Garry 1962 |
| Caragans | | Muckle | 1952 | Brown | | Japanese elm | | Physostegia | | Selkirk 1969 |
| Tidy | 1944 | | | Cartier | | Orme japonais | | Physostégie | | Kelsey |
| Walker | 1975 | Forsythia | | Galt | | Jacan | 1977 | Morden Beauty | 1975 | |
| | | Forsythia | | Howe | | | | | | Weigela |
| Colorado spruce | | Northern Gold | 1979 | Macdonald | | Lilacs | | Pincherry | | Weigela |
| Épinette du Colorado | | | | McGee | | Lilas | | Cerisier de Pennsylvanie | | Centennial 1967 |
| Morden Blue | 1944 | | | Tilley | 1967 | Royalty | 1936 | Stockton | 1929 | |
| | | | | Tupper | | Coral | | | | Willow |
| | | | | Whelan | | Freedom | | | | Prairie Cascade 1981 |

VEGETABLES/LÉGUMES

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|---------------------|------|----------------|------|---------------|------|--|--|--|
| Cabbages | | Eggplant | | Potato | | Tomatoes | | | | |
| Choux | | Aubergine | | Pomme de terre | | Tomates | | | | |
| Morden Midget | 1951 | Early Midget | 1958 | Batoche | 1977 | Morden Yellow | 1945 | | | |
| | | | | | | Monarch hyb. | 1946 | | | |
| 'Baseball Series' | | Garden peas | | Sweet corn | | Meteor | 1950 | | | |
| Junior | 1967 | Pois cultivés | | Mais sucrés | | Mustang hyb. | | | | |
| Little Leaguer | | Tiny Tim | 1950 | Sugar Prince | 1946 | Morden 883 | 1955 | | | |
| Pee Wee | | Arctic Sweet | 1958 | Arctic First | 1958 | Manitoba | 1956 | | | |
| | | Earligreen | 1959 | Early Arctic | 1977 | Starfire | 1963 | | | |
| Cucumbers | | | | | | Rocket | 1969 | | | |
| Concombres | | Jerusalem artichoke | | Sweet peppers | | Booster | 1972 | | | |
| Morcrop hyb. | 1955 | Topinambour | | Polvrons | | | | | | |
| Morden Early | | Columbia | 1982 | Morgold | 1950 | Pembina | | | | |
| Alouette | 1974 | | | Earlihot | 1966 | Redstaker | | | | |
| Earlimor | | Mungbean | | | | | | | | |
| | | Haricot mungo | | | | | | | | |
| | | Morden 39 | 1957 | | | | | | | |



Agriculture
Canada

Research
Branch

Direction générale
de la recherche

Breeding and Evaluation of Woody Ornamentals for the
Prairies

Selection of Apple Varieties for the Prairies

Weed Control in New Crops

WESTERN CANADIAN SOCIETY OF HORTICULTURE W.C.S.H.

At a meeting of federal horticulturists from Ottawa and the then Experimental farms in western Canada, and horticulturists from our universities, the provincial extension specialists, several western farm periodicals and other disciplines that was held in Regina November 1943, it was decided to form a society to promote horticultural development on the prairies. The name chosen was the Western Canadian Society of Horticulture. The Society came into being in November, 1944 in Winnipeg. At this meeting the constitution of the W.C.S.H. was adopted.

The object of the Society was to encourage investigational work in, and to disseminate knowledge on all phases of horticulture. The constitution spelled out two kinds of membership, active and associate. Active membership was to be limited to (a) graduates of agricultural and horticultural institutions who are engaged in research, teaching or extension work; and (b) such other persons who may be admitted to active membership by virtue of their work in technical or scientific horticulture. Associate membership was to be available to those persons not eligible for active membership but who were interested in the objects of the Society.

The By-Laws had the following to say about the executive: "The executive committee of the Society shall consist of the Honorary President, President, Vice-President and four directors, three of whom shall be representatives of the three prairie provinces. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be selected by the executive committee and shall forthwith become the fourth director of the executive committee. The retiring President shall be an ex-officio member of the executive committee."

"The Honorary President shall be the Dominion Horticulturist".

“The annual dues for each active and associate member shall be one dollar”.

Committees

“The standing committees to further the work of the Society throughout the year shall consist of committees on Membership and Program; Nomenclature; Experimentation and Research; Fruits; Vegetables; Ornamentals; Nursery and Seed Trade; or such committees as the executive shall decide.”

The slate of officers for 1944 was as follows:

Honorary President M. B. Davis, Dominion Horticulturist.
President Dr. S. W. Edgecombe, U. of M.
Vice-President . W. R. Leslie, Supt. Morden Exptl. Farm.
Secretary-Treasurer . . . C. R. Ure, Morden Experimental Farm.

Of the 46 charter members of the W.C.S.H. the following were from Manitoba:

Almey, J. R., Horticulturist, C.P.R., Winnipeg
Andersen, Prof. E. T., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
Braun, Ed., Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon
Brown, D. A., Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon
Fox, Geo. E., Dominion Experimental Station, Morden
Cumming, W. A., Hardy Plant Nursery, Dropmore
Edgecombe, Dr. S. W., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
Ellis, Miriam Green, Family Herald and Weekly Star, Winnipeg
Fry, H. S., The Country Guide, Winnipeg
Godfrey, William, Dominion Experimental Station, Morden
Gray, J. M., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
Irving, J. C., District Engineer, Winnipeg
Leslie, W. R., Supt., Dominion Experimental Station, Morden
McConnell, Edna, Agricultural Representative, Dauphin
Michalski, L. A., Man. Dept. of Public Works, Winnipeg
Skinner, F. L., Hardy Plant Nursery, Dropmore
Smith, C. B., University of Manitoba, Winnipeg
Tinline, M. J., Supt., Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon

Ure, C. R., Dominion Experimental Station, Morden
Walkof, Charles, Dominion Experimental Station, Morden
Wilson, R. M., Gladstone
Yager, L. A., Norwood

Activities of the W.C.S.H. over the Years

The W.C.S.H. has contributed greatly to horticulture in Manitoba over the years. It is meeting its objective as reworded in its constitution of Feb. 18, 1980. "The objective of the Society shall be to promote and foster the art and the science of horticulture in the Prairie Region".

The W.C.S.H. conventions are working sessions. They give our research scientists from our universities and the research stations the opportunity to meet and compare the results of their investigations in the various fields of horticulture. This personal contact between people in the same line of work is most important. It makes further communication during the year easier and more meaningful. It helps to reduce duplication of efforts. Joint planning of projects results in better planning. The needs for basic and applied research are evaluated and prioritized. Then these needs are forwarded to both federal and provincial jurisdictions via resolutions passed at the conventions. The W.C.S.H. is the voice of Prairie horticulture. Its recommendations are sometimes listened to, but too frequently ignored. Yet all in all progress has been made. It goes without saying that the cooperative efforts made possible through this Society, makes for the most efficient use of the limited manpower allocations in horticulture, both provincially and federally.

By organizing the Society into committees or councils, it is possible to cover the various fields of horticulture. Presently there are the Fruit, Vegetable, Ornamentals, and Communication Councils. Meeting a few days ahead of the W.C.S.H. but also sharing a concurrent session, is the Prairie Potato Council. This Council looks after potato problems in Western Canada as related to suitable varieties for both the fresh and processing trades. Promising seedlings and varieties procured from the prairies and the nearby states are grown at designated stations. Their performance is evalu-

ated at these meetings. Quality determinations are carried out at Morden. Multiplication of disease free stock takes place at the Manitoba Potato Farm or Espo Farm at Portage la Prairie. It is by this route that application for the naming of cultivars suitable for the prairie region is made.

The Fruit Council over the years carried out a cooperative tree fruit testing program in the three provinces. This was a most useful follow-up to the fruit breeding program at the Morden Research Station. The almost complete withdrawal of federal personnel from fruit work at Morden as dictated by the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa over the last twenty years, had severely curtailed meaningful work in fruit research in the prairies. This came about at a time when a breakthrough in producing suitable varieties for the prairies was imminent, especially by the stembuilder approach. Progress in small fruit development, such as strawberries, came about because of provincial inputs. Manitoba now has a thriving strawberry industry. Work on saskatoons is carried out in all three provinces at present. This work is coordinated by the Fruit Council of W.C.S.H. Problems related to the fruit industry receive attention at the meetings of this council. The input of nurserymen in the area of fruit culture and development is greatly appreciated.

The Vegetable Council is working on the problems related to commercial vegetable production for both the fresh and processing trades. The search for varieties adapted to the severe western climate, with good quality and a yield potential to make them competitive, is a major concern. Evaluation of varieties is carried out by many of our institutions and is reported on at council meetings. Mechanization in planting, insect and weed control, irrigation, harvesting and storage are under investigation. Pathologists, entomologists, soil specialists and practical growers participate in the deliberations. Processors and wholesalers are called on for their advice. Manitoba has experienced some progress in vegetable processing. Campbell Soup Co. and McCain Foods Ltd. have located in Manitoba. Recently the silverskin onion pickling industry received a boost with the establishment of the B. & B. Pickling Co.

The Ornamentals Council is the largest council of the W.C.S.H. Thankfully the federal program on ornamental research at Morden is still intact, although there are indications that it, too, may receive decreased emphasis in the future. Research in this field is also conducted at our universities and by some nurseries. The field of ornamentals is wide, covering both herbaceous and woody materials. Reports on ornamentals research are given at council meetings. As a result of coordinated merit trials, supervised by Council, new cultivars are tested and evaluated. Those that fare exceptionally well are awarded Merit Awards at the W.C.S.H. meetings. The Plant Introduction Sub-Committee of Ornamentals Council annually presents a list of new promising cultivars with a complete description, parentage, originator and source of availability for each. The Nursery Trades Associations of the three prairie provinces actively participate in the deliberations of Ornamentals Council. This is an important field for them. The last decade has seen public acceptance of the importance of good landscaping.

Merit Awards to Outstanding Ornamentals

For more than 15 years new ornamental plants have been evaluated at Morden, Manitoba on behalf of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture. These new selections or introductions, generally from prairie plant breeders, total 207 entries planted in the Morden trial gardens since 1959. The "Award of Merit" acknowledges outstanding entries and since 1965 a total of 18 such awards have been made by a sub-committee of the Ornamentals Committee. The Chairman of this sub-committee from 1959 to 1975 was Dr. W. A. Cumming who was followed by Dr. Wilbert G. Ronald.

Merit Award Winners

Rosa 'Assiniboine' — 1965. The first rose of a new series bred by Dr. Henry Marshall by crossing the native prairie rose with tender *Floribunda* types. This rose has given the basis for later introductions including 'Cuthbert Grant' and 'Adelaide Hoodless'. 'Assiniboine' remains a useful item as a bedding rose where maximum hardiness is desired. It readily propagates from softwood cuttings.

Heuchera 'Brandon Pink' — 1965. An herbaceous perennial bred by Dr. Henry Marshall by crossing the tender but colourful eastern coral bells with the hardy native species. 'Brandon Pink' has proven a hardy long-lived perennial and merits wide use. It can be quickly increased from leaf bud cuttings or divisions.

Juniperus horizontalis 'Dunvegan Blue' — 1967. This selection from native creeping juniper was made by Mr. John Wallace of Beaverlodge Nurseries. This excellent cultivar has colourful blue foliage and finely branched juvenile foliage. It continues to perform well and has demonstrated its adaptation as a low evergreen ground cover plant. It is propagated with relative ease from cuttings.

Potentilla fruticosa 'Coronation Triumph' — 1967. Selected and introduced by Mr. John Walker at Indian Head. A 7–9 dm shrub with attractive bright yellow flowers and a long flowering period, this has become the most popular potentilla in this region and is gaining acceptance in other parts of the continent and Europe. It readily roots from softwood cuttings.

Malus 'Royalty' — 1968. Bred and introduced by Mr. Les Kerr, formerly of the Sutherland Tree Nursery. A colourful small tree with purple foliage and dark reddish-pink flowers, small purple fruit and good hardiness. Widely grown in areas far beyond the prairies. Susceptible to fire-blight.

Rosa 'Prairie Dawn' — 1969. A hardy shrub rose bred by Mr. Bert Harp of the Morden Station. Plants will grow to 1.5–2.5m in height; pink semi-double flowers 6cm in diameter are produced in late June and throughout the rest of the season.

Chrysanthemum 'Morden Cameo' — 1969. A double, white-flowered garden chrysanthemum which is especially suited to use for cut flowers. Bred and introduced by Mr. Bert Harp of the Morden Station.

Rosa 'Cuthbert Grant' — 1970. Bred and introduced by Dr. Henry Marshall, this rose has large attractive velvety dark red double flowers. It will top-kill in severe winters; however, the hardy roots and lower stems will grow up to

give a mass of summer and fall flowers. Propagated readily by softwood cuttings resulting in hardy own-rooted plants.

Lilium 'Orange Light' — 1971. Upfacing orange flowered lily of the hardy Asiatic division. Bred and introduced by A. J. Porter, Honeywood Nursery, this cultivar merits use as an adapted perennial.

Lilium 'Redland' — 1971. Outfacing red flowered Asiatic division lily, bred and introduced by A. J. Porter. Another excellent hardy lily.

Sambucus racemosa 'Goldenlock's' — 1972. A dwarf globe form of the golden plume elder, bred and introduced by Mr. Les Kerr; plants mature at 1m in height, foliage is very finely cut leafed.

Malus adstringens 'Kelsey' — 1973. The first double flowered rosybloom crabapple cultivar introduced for prairie gardeners by Dr. W. A. Cumming of the Morden Station. 'Kelsey' has grown in popularity and is noted for its bright pink flowers produced in profusion each year.

Monarda 'Neepawa' — 1974. This bright pink flowered herbaceous perennial forms attractive 3-5 dm plants with attractive summer flowers. Readily propagated by divisions or from cuttings. Bred by Dr. Henry Marshall and introduced through the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation.

Syringa 'Miss Canada' — 1974. Cultivar of the late-flowered lilac group, bred and introduced by Dr. W. A. Cumming of the Morden Station. Colourful clear pink flower spikes are a feature of this lilac.

Lilium 'Honey Queen' — 1975. Taller, outfacing yellow flowered lily of the Asiatic division. Bred and introduced by the late Dr. C. F. Patterson, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

Lilium 'Red Carpet' — 1975. A dwarf upfacing red flowered lily of the Asiatic division. Bred and introduced by Mr. A. J. Porter. An excellent bedding plant.

Crataegus mordenensis 'Snowbird' — 1976. Double white flowered hawthorn tree growing to 6-8m in height. Hardier than 'Toba' hawthorn, the standard for this class. Propagated by budding on Arnold hawthorn seedlings. Introduced

by Dr. W. A. Cumming of the Morden Station through the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation.

Caragana arborescens 'Walker' — 1977. Bred by Mr. John Walker and introduced by the Morden Station. A hybrid of the fine-leafed *C. arborescens* 'Lorbergii' and the weeping *C. arborescens* 'Pendula'. Suitable as a ground cover (own-rooted) or a small weeping plant when grafted on a standard such as 'Sutherland' caragana. Introduced through the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation.

Rosa 'Hazeldean' — 1978. Bred by Percy H. Wright of Saskatoon. Very hardy and bears semi-double, bright yellow flowers in June. It offers improvement in shrub roses over any similar yellow-flowered type including 'Persian Yellow'.

Sambucus racemosa 'Sutherland Gold' — 1979. Bred by Mr. W. L. Kerr of Saskatoon. Has performed well since 1968 and has become well established in the nursery industry.

Lilium 'Golden Princess' — 1979. An Asiatic lily cultivar received from Dr. E. A. Maginnes of Saskatoon. It is an exceptionally strong grower with downfacing flowers which are dark yellow in color.

Chrysanthemum 'Morden Delight' — 1980. Developed by Dr. H. H. Marshall of the Morden Research Station, is a bronze-red flowered garden chrysanthemum with greater hardiness than previous cultivars in its class.

Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Patmore' — 1980. Selected by the late Mr. R. H. Patmore of Brandon and introduced by Patmore Nursery Sales of Brandon. In addition to the seedless characteristic, this ash possesses glossy green foliage and an improved growth form.

Syringa 'Minuet' — 1981. A dwarf cultivar developed at the Morden Research Station and named by Dr. W. A. Cumming in 1971. It has given outstanding performance in the Merit Trials since 1972.

Malus 'Thunderchild' — 1981. A purple-leafed cultivar possessing high resistance to fireblight. It was developed by Mr. Percy Wright of Saskatoon and has performed with distinction since 1974.

Populus 'Tower' — 1983. An erect, pyramidal male clone

readily propagated from short root cuttings. Will reach a height of 8-10 meters in 10 years.

Heuchera 'Northern Fire' — 1983. Selected from a series of open-pollinated seedlings of Brandon Pink. Flowers are small, tips of the sepals red, base of sepals rose. Blooms for 6 weeks in June and early July. Height is 60cm. A winter hardy, red, male, sterile selection.

Communication Council of the W.C.S.H. deals with matters of public relations, historical records, publications and other means of spreading the gospel of horticulture. The publications of the three prairie provinces, as well as those of Agriculture Canada relating to horticulture, are on display at conventions. Of great benefit to all parties attending the convention, as well as for those unable to attend, are the excellent Annual Proceedings of the W.C.S.H. These are most valuable records of the work done through the years.

The plenary sessions of the Society are most important. Capable speakers, often from other institutions in Canada and America, keep prairie horticulturists informed on what is done in other areas. Usually each convention focuses on a specific area for that year. At the annual meeting the reports of the Councils are received and discussed. Resolutions are passed and business matters attended to. At the annual banquet awards are made to promising university graduates and Honorary Life Memberships bestowed on deserving members.

The W.C.S.H. is affiliated with the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science. The W.C.S.H. delegate to C.S.H.S. meetings reports on the activities of this society at the annual convention.

The W.C.S.H. recognized the need to encourage the pursuit of horticultural studies at our universities. It instituted an award for deserving graduate students in 1952. It consisted of a \$25.00 award until the institution of gold and silver medals in 1976. Each of the three prairie universities may name a worthy student to receive either the gold or silver medal annually.

Manitoba recipients of these awards have been:

| Year | Award | Name of Recipient |
|------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1976 | Gold Medal | Miss Debra Leigh McLaren |
| 1977 | Gold Medal | Richard Daniel Gyselinck |
| 1978 | Gold Medal | Mrs. Karen R. Paul |
| 1979 | Gold Medal | Lynn Marie Collicutt |
| 1980 | Gold Medal | Sharon Alberta Arnold |
| 1981 | Gold Medal | Judith Ann Leith |
| 1982 | Gold Medal | Mrs. Masumi Robertson |

Manitoba Recipients of Honorary Life Memberships in the W.C.S.H. (*deceased)

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 1954 | *Brodrick, F. W. |
| 1959 | *Skinner, F. L. Dr. |
| 1959 | *Fry, H. S. |
| 1960 | *Leslie, W. R. Dr. |
| 1960 | Walker, John |
| 1961 | Almey, J. R. |
| 1965 | *Mackay, N. C. |
| 1967 | *Ure, C. R. Dr. |
| 1968 | Andersen, E. T. Dr. |
| 1969 | *Walkof, Charles Dr. |
| 1970 | Cumming, W. A. Dr. |
| 1974 | Westaway, Stan J. |
| 1980 | Ferguson, A. C. Dr. |
| 1980 | Peters, P. J. |

Manitoba Past Presidents of the W.C.S.H. (*deceased)

| | |
|---------|------------------|
| 1943-44 | *S. W. Edgecombe |
| 1949-50 | *W. R. Leslie |
| 1952-53 | J. R. Almey |
| 1955-56 | *H. S. Fry |
| 1958-59 | *C. Walkof |
| 1961-62 | *F. J. Weir |
| 1964-65 | W. A. Cumming |
| 1967-68 | A. C. Ferguson |
| 1970-71 | P. J. Peters |
| 1973-74 | *J. A. Menzies |
| 1976-77 | H. H. Marshall |
| 1979-80 | T. A. Sandercock |

MANITOBA NATURALIST SOCIETY

A book on Manitoba Horticulture would not be complete without listing the contributions made by Manitoba naturalists. The following story consists of excerpts from the 21st Anniversary Bulletin, 1920-1941 of the Natural History Society of Manitoba and Volume 2 (1942-1975) of the Manitoba Naturalist Society. Information on the present status of the Manitoba Naturalist Society has been supplied to the editor by members of the Society.

Dr. H. M. Speechly.



Dr. H. M. Speechly, in a paper read to the society on the occasion of the Celebration of the Twenty-First Anniversary of the Natural History Society of Manitoba, dealt with the history of the Association.

The Natural History Society of Manitoba is an organization of nature lovers formed in 1920 for both popular and scientific study of the Province's geology, flora and animal life. It is the third such society in Winnipeg's history and although it has celebrated its twenty-first birthday, it has not yet equalled the life-span of Winnipeg's first scientific organization, the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba. This Society was incorporated by Act of the Manitoba Legislature on June 25, 1879, when the City of Winnipeg was seven years old and its population numbered 4,113. It continued active until 1906 — a period of 27 years — and in spite of its isolation from cultural centres, its members prepared 85 papers, 72 of which were published in Transactions. The majority of these would be classed as historical, but there are papers on geology, birds, mammals and ethnology which

are the sole records of certain early natural history data of importance. These transactions are now in the Provincial Library. This Society was revived in 1928 and has since published several historical papers.

The second nature society was formed on April 5, 1915, and was chiefly composed of bird-lovers who organized under the name of the Manitoba Audubon Society. Owing to the 1914-18 war, the Society had difficulty in securing a substantial membership but meetings were held at intervals until October, 1920, when the active members voted to amalgamate with the Natural History Society of Manitoba. In 1920, the President was J. J. Golden, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Helen R. Cannon.

The present Natural History Society dates from May 1, 1920. Early in April of that year, Dr. A. M. Davidson and C. V. Whitehead, both primarily interested in entomology, called on Dr. Speechly to suggest the formation of an entomological society. Dr. Speechly discussed the matter with A. G. Lawrence, who was mainly interested in birds, and at a joint meeting of these four, it was decided to call a public meeting with a view to forming a natural history society embracing all branches of nature study. Mr. Lawrence was delegated to interview members of the Audubon Society, of which he was a member, with a view to having that organization join the new society, and Dr. Speechly was assigned the task of sending letters to persons known to be interested in nature lore, inviting them to attend a luncheon meeting at the Y.M.C.A., Winnipeg, on May 1, 1920, with a view to organizing a Natural History Society. The letter was dated April 15, 1920.

It was decided to form a society under the name of Natural History Society of Manitoba, the Society to consist of self-governing sections with a secretary in charge of each. Each section was to function like a separate society, the Sectional Secretary being responsible for the organization, conduct and progress of his section, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, which consisted of all officers and secretaries of sections.

The following was the list of officers elected:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Dr. H. M. Speechly |
| Vice-Presidents | J. J. Golden |
| | William G. Scott |
| | Norman Criddle |
| | J. B. Wallace |
| | Professor F. W. Brodrick |
| | Mrs. C. P. Anderson |
| | Dr. Charles H. O'Donoghue |
| General Secretary | Dr. A. M. Davidson |
| Treasurer | Miss H. R. Cannom |
| Secretaries of Sections: | |
| Ornithology | A. G. Lawrence |
| Entomology | C. V. Whitehead |
| Botany | Professor V. W. Jackson |
| Geology | Dr. Robert C. Wallace |
| Zoology | Professor W. Rowan |

The objects of the Society were drafted by the President, Dr. H. M. Speechly, and have appeared on the programme of lectures annually. They are as follows:

Objects

"To foster an acquaintance with and love for nature; to study especially the natural history of the Province of Manitoba; to encourage investigation and to publish the results of original research in all departments of natural history; to arrange for out-of-door excursions during the summer months; to provide free lecture courses during the winter months; and in a general way to render assistance to students or others interested in nature study".



The Society's badge was designed by the late Norman

Criddle in September, 1921, and redrawn for this bulletin by Angus H. Shortt. It consists of three representative forms of Manitoba natural history: the Black-capped Chickadee, a year-round resident; the White Admiral Butterfly, one of the characteristic butterflies of Manitoba; and the Prairie Anemone, which is generally accepted as the floral emblem for the Province.

**Past Officers of the Society
1920-1942**

Presidents Emeriti

- 1927-1932 — J. J. Golden
1932-1935 — Charles E. Bastin, B.A.
1935-1942 — H. M. Speechly, M.D.

Honorary Presidents

- 1921-1923 — W. G. Scott
1923-1924 — H. M. Speechly, M.D.
1924-1925 — V. W. Jackson, M.Sc.
1925-1933 — Norman Criddle
1935-1942 — A. H. R. Buller, F.R.S.,
LL.D.

Presidents

- 1920-1923 — H. M. Speechly, M.D.
1923-1924 — V. W. Jackson, M.Sc.
1924-1925 — J. J. Golden
1925-1927 — C. W. Lowe, M.Sc.
1927-1928 — J. B. Wallis, M.A.
1928-1929 — A. A. McCoubrey,
B.Sc., F.R.G.S.
1929-1930 — A. M. Davidson, M.D.
1930-1932 — R. A. Wardle, M.Sc.
1932-1934 — G. Shirley Brooks
1934-1936 — A. G. Lawrence
1936-1938 — B. W. Cartwright
1938-1940 — L. T. S. Norris-Elye, B.A.
1940-1942 — P. H. Stokes

This history has its main interest in the Botanical Section. The 21st anniversary bulletin gives the reader an insight into the scope of its work.

Botanical Section

The Botanical Section of the Natural History Society is one of the original sections, meeting in the earlier years on the third Monday of the month. The first meeting of the Section was on November 1, 1920, when Professor A. H. Reginald Buller, F.R.S., gave an address entitled "Flowers in Their Relations to Insects". Professor V. W. Jackson was

Secretary the first year and became Chairman in 1921. Mrs. K. J. MacDougal was appointed Secretary in 1921 and retained that office until 1924. Professor Jackson remained Chairman of the Section until he was appointed President of the Society in 1923. He was succeeded by Professor Charles W. Lowe as Sectional Chairman and Miss Grace Cameron was the third secretary.

In the year 1922, the Society published a bulletin "A Check-list of the Flora of Manitoba", which had been prepared by Professor V. W. Jackson, assisted by H. Groh, J. F. Higham and Professor C. W. Lowe. This was the second check-list prepared for Manitoba, the first appearing in the "Handbook to Winnipeg" for the meeting of the British Association in 1909. The new list contained 1,029 names which was an increase of 328 over the previous list. In 1924, Professor Jackson prepared a mimeographed list with 111 additional names. Largely through the activity of the members of this Section, particularly of Mrs. A. Simpson, Mrs. D. B. Sparling, Mrs. E. J. McMillan, Hector Macdonald, G. Shirley Brooks and Professor C. W. Lowe, the number of species of flowering plants and ferns known in Manitoba is now well over 1,400.

In the winter session of 1935-36, this Section was responsible for a special series of seven lectures in which the whole range of plant life was briefly reviewed.

One of the most outstanding and best attended lectures of the Society was one delivered in March, 1935, by Professor A. H. R. Buller, F.R.S., on the subject of "Carnivorous Plants". It was the annual lecture for which an admission fee was charged and the lecture theatre was well filled.

One important activity of the Botanical Section has been the beginning of an herbarium in the Manitoba Museum. Over seven hundred plants have been collected from nearly all parts of Manitoba, and mounted. These plants are housed in a cabinet with shelves for the various families. A loose-leaf index has been made so that anyone having a specimen to identify may be able to do so with the least possible trouble. Above the cabinet are twelve wings for displaying plants,

accommodating forty-eight specimens, which are changed at intervals.

There has been on display a prize collection, a donation from the 30th company Girl Guides of Woodhaven. Another display was a group of plants from Kittigazuet, Mackenzie River Valley, a donation from Mrs. A. Copeland.

During the height of the flowering season, May, June, and July, a display of fresh wild flowers has been kept in the Museum and these have been labelled for the benefit of the public. Members have also been busy collecting latex plants and shipping them to Ottawa for experimental work in rubber production.

Since 1920, the officers of the Botanical Section have been as follows:

Chairmen

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1920-21 | |
| 1921-23 | Professor V. W. Jackson |
| 1923-24 | Professor C. W. Lowe |
| 1924-26 | Professor C. W. Lowe |
| 1926-27 | Dr. G. R. Bisby |
| 1927-28 | Dr. G. R. Bisby |
| 1928-29 | Professor C. W. Lowe |
| 1929-30 | Professor H. F. Roberts |
| 1930-31 | Miss B. Maude Bradshaw |
| 1931-32 | Dr. Margaret G. Dudley |
| 1932-34 | Mrs. R. J. Priestly |
| 1934-37 | Professor H. F. Roberts |
| 1937-39 | Professor C. W. Lowe |
| 1939-41 | Dr. Margaret G. Dudley |

Secretaries

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1920-21 | Professor V. W. Jackson |
| 1921-23 | Mrs. K. J. McDougal |
| 1923-24 | Mrs. K. J. McDougal |
| 1924-26 | Miss Grace Cameron |
| 1926-27 | Miss Dorothy E. Newton |
| 1927-28 | Miss Grace Cameron |
| 1928-29 | Miss B. Maude Bradshaw |
| 1929-30 | Miss B. Maude Bradshaw |
| 1930-31 | Mrs. Harry T. Ross |
| 1930-32 | Mrs. Harry T. Ross |
| 1932-34 | Mrs. Harry T. Ross |
| 1934-35 | Mrs. R. J. Priestly |
| 1935-39 | Mrs. Harry T. Ross |
| 1939-41 | Mrs. G. W. Bartlett |

The aquisition of a clubhouse at Victoria Beach in 1923 gave the Society a local headquarter for surveying and col-

lecting. Interested readers will find the Victoria Beach Survey — Botany on Pages 45 and 46 in the 21st Anniversary Bulletin most fascinating.

The next 34 years of the Society are reported in Volume 2 (1942-1975) of the Manitoba Naturalists Society. It reports the following list of Presidents.

Presidents:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1942-1944 | Lillian R. Simpson |
| 1944-1946 | Harold Mossop |
| 1946-1948 | Leon W. Koser |
| 1948-1950 | Angus H. Shortt |
| 1950-1952 | Raymond R. Lejeune |
| 1952-1953 | Reta Sparling |
| 1953-1954 | Prof. R. K. Stewart-Hay |
| 1954-1956 | Clarence I. Tillenius |
| 1956-1958 | Rowena Cartwright |
| 1958-1960 | Dr. J. C. Ritchie |
| 1960-1961 | Dr. Ralph D. Bird |
| 1961-1963 | George S. Cotter |
| 1963-1965 | Jennifer Walker |
| 1965-1967 | Dr. Lawrie Smith |
| 1967-1969 | Doug Kyle |
| 1969-1971 | John Jack |
| 1971-1972 | Lorne Wallace |
| 1972-1974 | Dr. David Punter |
| 1974-1975 | Dr. William B. Preston |
| 1975-1977 | Dr. Karen Johnson |
| 1977-1978 | Jim Lewis |
| 1978-1979 | Robert Waldon |
| 1979-1980 | Phil Horch |
| 1980-1981 | Dennis Fast |
| 1981-1982 | Harvey Williams |
| 1982-1983 | Edith Williams |

The report carries letters of all living past presidents. From these the following changes can be reported.

In 1964 the sections (Archaeology, Entomology, Botany, General, Geology, Mammalogy and Ornithology) were disbanded. Activities were consolidated into two committees' — program and projects. The Program Committee became responsible for the summer and winter programs including lectures, field trips and workshops, while the Projects Committee organized conservation activities, research projects, nature trials, etc.

From the beginning the Society program consisted of two parts — winter lectures and summer field trips, each announced by separate programs. The lecture meetings

were held weekly throughout the winter months until 1962, after which they became bi-monthly. Classes in botany familiarization were given by Jennifer Walker during the hour before the regular meetings in the early 1960's. Several years later, this concept was revived in the form of a winter workshop series, a bi-monthly program of studies on various topics. February 1970 marked the first winter outdoor activity — a snowshoe hike in the Sandilands Provincial Forest led by Dr. Bill Pruitt. Since then the winter outdoor program has expanded enormously, so that at present there is at least one ski hike scheduled every weekend.

In summer the Society's activities moved outdoors for a wide variety of field studies. Birding in Assiniboine Park during migration seasons, counting birds at St. Ambroise Beach in May, and foraging for fungi at Victoria Beach became popular annual events. Botanists chose Little Mountain Park, the Living Prairie Museum, La Barriere Park, and the river bottom forest at Headingly to record the seasonal development of native plants. For many years the Society annually joined members of the Brandon Natural History Society in Spruce Woods Provincial Park, studying the sandhills of Carberry, viewing the famous bluebird nestlines established by John Lane and his Brandon Junior Birders, and enjoying the good fellowship of other naturalists. Oak Hammock Marsh (St. Andrews bog) became a popular destination, combining accessibility with a wide variety of plant and bird life.

A New Name for the Society

A drive to change the name of the Natural History Society of Manitoba began in 1971. The major reason for desiring a change was the public repeatedly confused the Natural History Society with the Manitoba Historical Society. There was much discussion, and the membership was canvassed for its opinion. Finally, on September 5, 1971, the membership voted to change the name to the Manitoba Naturalists Society.

Meeting Place

The difficulties of finding suitable premises for meetings were finally overcome.

By April 1970 the meeting place and the central office had become established within the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature complex, the appropriate locale for the Manitoba Naturalists Society.

At last, in Room 214 of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, the Society had found a home. Here could be consolidated all the papers, the books, the records, and the tea kettle. Here, too, was a permanent mailing address and a telephone.

An office was none too soon in coming, for in 1970 began the enormous growth in membership and the increasing need for an office to handle mailings, accounts, and to answer the telephone. Indeed, the insurgence of paper work led to such confusion that in 1972 Mary Foster was appointed office co-ordinator. With great skill and enthusiasm, Mary organized volunteers to staff the office each week day, streamlined membership processing and filing techniques, and oversaw the monthly printing of the Bulletin. Under the guidance, the office became the bustling centre of the Society.

Mary was succeeded by an equally efficient Jean Pollock, who continues to keep the office functioning smoothly, although the membership (and all related office work) has almost doubled since she took over in 1974. That she is a keystone of the Society is a generally accepted fact.

One wall of the new office is lined with bookshelves, and upon these are many books on a variety of natural history topics.

The Society over the years has made numerous presentations to all levels of government. These dealt with conservation, wild life habitats and the establishments of natural parks. "The Living Prairie Museum" in St. James came about partially because of the Society's input.

Through publications like Manitoba Nature newsletter, radio talks, lectures and fieldtrips, the Manitoba Naturalists Society has served the province well in making nature's

environment known to more people and in promoting its conservation for future generations.

Honourary Life Memberships

The list of those distinguished persons who have been so honoured by the Society is as follows:

- 1942 — Professor V. W. Jackson — zoologist and lecturer, well known for his interesting nature talks on radio, for giving freely of his time and knowledge to the Society.
- 1942 — Dr. H. M. Speechly — a founder of the Society, lecturer and writer, well-known President, and originator of the first "anti-mosquito campaign", who enthusiastically served the Society for over 30 years. Of him, a visiting American once said, "Any man with Dr. Speechly's talent for shooing away mosquitoes would stand a good chance of being elected President of the United States".
- 1942 — Mr. G. Shirley Brooks — entomologist, lecturer, charter member of the Society and a co-founder of the Manitoba Museum, for his Checklist of the Butterflies of Manitoba (1942).
- 1944 — Dr. A. H. Reginald Buller — botanist, naturalist and longtime friend of the Society, whose studies of fungi and wheat earned him international recognition.
- 1944 — Mr. Charles L. Borley — a faithful member and keen birder who upon his retirement undertook an intensive (and exceedingly arduous) study of the nesting habits of the Bald Eagle. He early detected the ill-effects of insecticide spraying on these birds.
- 1957 — Mr. and Mrs. Percy Stokes — "for their many years of faithful association and substantial contributions to the Society, particularly in the field of archaeology".
- 1960 — Dr. A. M. Davidson — in recognition of his leadership as a founding member of the Society, his service in numerous offices over the years, and his longstanding support of natural history studies, particularly in the field of entomology.

- 1961 — Mr. E. Gilbert — for his long and faithful service to the Society over many years.
- 1966 — Dr. R. D. Bird — “in recognition of his great contribution to the Society”, and also for his book, *The Ecology of the Aspen Parkland of Western Canada* (1961), one of his many recorded publications.
- 1967 — Mrs. A. G. (Selina) Lawrence — for her lifetime contribution to the social events of the Society throughout all the years since its formation; help-mate to her husband internationally famous naturalist, A. G. Lawrence; she discovered Manitoba’s first complete trilobite.
-
- 1968 — Mr. Stuart Criddle, Aweme, Manitoba — in recognition of his contribution to Manitoba mammalogy during a period in the province’s history when the land was changing to a settled agricultural condition.
- 1968 — Mr. James Parker, Gilbert Plains, Manitoba — for his contributions to botanical research as one of the most skilled amateur botanists in Manitoba. Throughout the years he has contributed more than 5,000 botanical specimens, accurately documented, to the University of Manitoba and the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature.
- 1968 — Mr. Edward Robinson, Wawanesa, Manitoba — keen lifelong birder who has kept excellent records and maintains bluebird nest boxes. He has a large collection of Indian artifacts and has gained national recognition as a horticulturalist, especially in breeding lilies.
- 1972 — Mr. Harold Mossop (Life Member) — for his outstanding contribution to ornithology in Manitoba. (See Special Award).
- 1973 — Dr. John Lane, Brandon, Manitoba (Life Member) — for his many years of work providing nest boxes to restore bluebird populations in southwestern Manitoba, and his encouragement and teaching of children through the founding of the Brandon Junior Birders.

- 1974 — Mr. Sam Waller, The Pas, Manitoba (Honourary Member) — for a lifetime spent in northern Manitoba studying and teaching natural history, and especially for the founding and building of The Little Northern Museum.
- 1974 — Mr. John Jack (Life Member) — for his many years of service to the Society as an officer, botanist, photographer, and ambassador. He has enthusiastically shared his knowledge and love of nature with thousands of school children, a labour whose fruits will be reaped by many generations of Manitobans.
- 1974 — Mr. Gerald W. Malaher (Life Member) — naturalist, forester, conservationist, who spent a lifetime working on behalf of wildlife, notably as Director of the Game Branch, who, following his retirement, continues to be active as one of Manitoba's most knowledgeable and ardent conservationists.
- 1974 — Mr. Angus Shortt (Life Member) — artist, naturalist, writer, and lifelong member of the Society, who for many years wrote the column "Wild Wings" in the Winnipeg Tribune, and whose paintings of birds, notably waterfowl, earned him international recognition. He served the Society in many offices, including that of President.
- 1974 — Mr. C. B. Gill (Honourary Member) — forester, naturalist, and historian, who, as Manitoba's first official forester, coordinated and published the first complete survey of Key to the Native Willows of Southern Manitoba (1965); and upon his retirement, served as a consultant on natural history and heritage resource-planning programs for the Manitoba Government.
- 1975 — Mrs. Rowena Cartwright (Life Member) — in recognition of the many valuable services she enthusiastically gave the Society over so many years and in so many capacities, including that of President.
- 1975 — Mr. Clarence Tillenius (Life Member) — in honour of his contributions to the Society for many years as lecturer and in various Executive capacities, and in

recognition of his artistic skill which so effectively communicates his deep understanding and appreciation of North American mammals in their environments.

- 1976 — Dr. Jennifer Walker Shay (Life Member) — honoured not only for her many years of service to the Society as lecturer, teacher, Executive member, and founder of the Junior Naturalists, Parks Committee, and Conservation Action Committee, but also for her knowledgeable and influential work in many environmental issues, both provincial and national.
- 1976 — Dr. H. Albert Hochbaum (Honourary Member) — biologist, naturalist, artist and author, who, during a career as Director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, established Delta as one of the marshes best known to biologists in North America, and whose portrayal of the prairie marsh through sensitive writing and vivid painting has earned him international acclaim.

Awards Presented since 1976

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|---------------|
| Cranstone, Mrs. Elizabeth | 1977 | Honorary-Life |
| Mott, Mr. J. J. | 1977 | Honorary-Life |
| Soper, Dr. J. Dewey | 1977 | Honorary |
| Stuckey, Mr. Lawrence | 1977 | Honorary |
| Copland, Mr. Herb | 1978 | Honorary-Life |
| Cotter, Mr. George | 1978 | Honorary |
| Gardner, Mr. Ken | 1979 | Honorary-Life |
| Hatch, Mr. David | 1979 | Honorary-Life |
| Pruitt, Dr. William O. Jr. | 1980 | Honorary-Life |
| Nero, Dr. Robert W. | 1980 | Honorary-Life |
| Laing, Hamilton Mack | 1981 | Honorary |
| Lane, Mrs. Norah | 1982 | Honorary |
| Madson, Mr. Richard | 1982 | Honorary |

CHAPTER III

THE MANITOBA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS PREDECESSORS

THE MANITOBA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Organized Horticulture in Manitoba Begins With the Formation of the Western Horticultural Society

According to printed records the first attempt to form an organization devoted to the promotion of horticulture took place in 1884. A show was held by the group, but that was the end of it. Next the Manitoba Floral Association was formed. A show was held in Trinity Hall, Winnipeg, in 1887, but the Association faded. In 1895 the market gardeners met and from this meeting the *Western Horticultural Society* was developed, and at a well attended meeting in February, 1898 the above name was adopted. For what purpose was the Western Horticultural Society formed? This is set out in the Annual Reports published by the Society in the following words: "the Western Horticultural Society is incorporated by a special act of the Legislature of Manitoba for the purpose of encouraging Horticulture in the Canadian West. With this object in view it invites the co-operation of all interested in the advancement of Horticultural knowledge in Manitoba and the Territories. The Annual membership fee is \$1 which should be sent to the secretary". The Western Horticultural Society was considered professional at first. Amateurs were later admitted to monthly meetings, and the society obtained a grant of \$100 from the Provincial Government.

Officers of the society were:

President

— Rev. Dr. A. B. Baird, Winnipeg

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Vice-Presidents | — S. A. Bedford, Brandon Dr. R. S. Thornton, Deloraine E. A. Struthers, Russell A. P. Stevenson, Morden Angus MacKay, Indian Head R. Alston, Winnipeg |
| Secretary | — A. F. Angus |
| Treasurer | — W. G. Scott |
| Councillors | — Rev. Dr. Bryce, G. H. Greig, H. C. Whellams |

The Society's area of activity extended from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains. A report was published covering the period February, 1896 to February, 1898. Prominent contributors of articles were: A. P. Stevenson, Rev. Professor A. B. Baird, Angus MacKay, S. A. Bedford, H. C. Whellams, R. S. Thornton and John Caldwell. From 1898 to 1900 membership increased from 49 to 78.

In 1893 the Brandon Horticultural Society was already organized and a prize list for the Western Fair was issued. A show was held in August of that year, a home grounds competition was planned and membership totalled 146. Reports of the Western Horticultural Society contained papers by members of the Brandon Society, and accounts of experimental work being carried on the Brandon Experimental Farm.

In 1902 a grant of \$200 was provided to the Western Horticultural Society by the Government of Manitoba, and a display of apples and plums was prepared in August at the Provincial Exhibition. The Society supported a plan to establish an Agricultural College in Manitoba. W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, C.E.F., Ottawa addressed the 1902 convention.

A provincial exhibition was also sponsored by the society in 1904; a deficit of \$800 resulted. Plant premiums, including apple trees, raspberry plants and day lily roots were distributed to members numbering 123.

The 1906 Ninth Annual Convention was a joint meeting of the Western Horticultural Society with the Winnipeg Market Gardeners' Association and Beekeepers. Action was begun towards the establishment of an experimental farm in the Red River Valley area. *Anemone patens* was adopted as the Provincial Floral Emblem by the Natural History Society of

Manitoba. In 1907 the convention was held at the Manitoba Agricultural College and members adopted a motion recommending that a Botanic Garden be established there. Membership in the Society had risen to 188.

A list of plants recommended for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta was approved by the Society at the 1908 convention and its area of influence was extended to include the three prairie provinces. A publication "Horticulture in the North" was prepared by D. W. Buchanan. At the 1908 Provincial Exhibition vegetable exhibits were staged by Kildonan and St. Pauls and other Agricultural Societies. In 1909 the Society received not only a grant of \$200 but also a grant of \$500 for exhibition purposes. A membership of 180 was reported.

It is of interest to note that the guiding individuals of the Western Horticultural Society came from the leading scientists of the Experimental Farms Service, the Manitoba Agricultural College and the first nurserymen in Manitoba. It also included prominent medical doctors, church ministers and many practising horticulturists of the time. The reader will meet up with many of these in the chapter dealing with horticultural personalities.

Communication of information was a major problem of the day. The Western Horticultural Society published Annual Reports. These included the papers presented at the Annual Conventions. The neatly printed and bound reports, some of which can be found in the Manitoba Archives, were a major undertaking of the fledgling Society at a time when finances were at a premium.

The table of contents of these reports indicates the wide scope of subjects covered at the annual conventions. At the 1899 convention the following papers were presented:

Hedges — S. A. Bedford

Apple Growing in Winnipeg — W. G. Fonseca

Early Difficulties in Apple Growing in Minnesota — Wyman Elliott

The Brandon Flower Show — P. Middleton

Cultivation of Plums for Manitoba — T. Frankland

What the Past Year Has Taught Us — A. P. Stevenson

Fruit Growing in the Territories — Angus McKay

Bee Culture — J. J. Gunn

Forest Conditions and Needs in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories — E. F. Stephenson

The Pests of the Garden — T. Oldham

The fourth Annual Convention held in the City Hall in Winnipeg on March 14th, 1901 featured the following papers:

Tree Planting by John Caldwell, Virden

Strawberry Culture by H. L. Patmore, Brandon

Vegetables for Pickling by David Dyson, Winnipeg

Winter Flowering Bulbs and Hardy Perennials by Ald. Barclay, Winnipeg

A Few Principles of Plant Growth by John P. Wadge, D.A.

Agricultural Education in Minnesota by Professor S. P. Green, University of Minnesota.

Bees and Beekeeping by A. Dupasquier, Notre Dame du Lourdes

MANITOBA HORTICULTURAL AND FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

The Western Horticultural Association, first predecessor of the present Manitoba Horticultural Association, functioned for 13 years. During the regular session of the Manitoba Provincial Government held in February of 1911 the Act of Incorporation was amended and the name of the Society was changed from the Western Horticultural Society to the Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association. The Act was also amended to give the Association powers to affiliate with local horticultural societies, thereby increasing its usefulness throughout the Province. The Annual Report of the 14th Convention held in the Auditorium of the Agricultural college on February 16 and 17, 1911 now appears under the banner of the M.H. and F.A.

Here is a list of the officers for 1911:

Honorary Presidents

Angus MacKay, Indian Head, Saskatchewan

W. J. Black, Agricultural College, Winnipeg, Manitoba
J. J. Golden, Deputy Minister Agriculture, Winnipeg, Manitoba

President

Dr. H. M. Speechly, Pilot Mound, Manitoba

First Vice-President

Norman M. Ross, Forestry Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan

Second Vice-President

J. J. Ross, Crystal City, Manitoba

Secretary-Treasurer

F. W. Brodrick, Agricultural College, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Directors

Rev. Dr. A. B. Baird, Winnipeg

A. P. Stevenson, Dunstan, Manitoba

D. W. Buchanan, St. Charles, Manitoba

George Batho, Winnipeg

A. M. High, Killarney, Manitoba

John Caldwell, Virden, Manitoba

W. H. Holland, Swan Lake, Manitoba

Miss E. Cora Hind, Winnipeg

Miss A. B. Juniper, Victoria, B.C.

Mrs. Thomas, Cathedral Avenue, Winnipeg

At this convention the Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association approved a "List of Trees, Shrubs, Perennials and Fruits for Manitoba". It is also of interest that ladies began to participate in the program. Following is a list of papers presented at the convention that year.

"Tree Planting" — Miss Playfair, Hartney, Manitoba

"Flowers, their help to the home maker" — Miss Ruth Lloyd, Morden, Manitoba

"The Garden in the life of a busy Mother" — Miss Vialoux, Sturgeon Creek

"Six Standard Perennials" — Dr. H. M. Speechly, Pilot Mound, Manitoba

"Memories of an old time Garden" — Miss E. Cora Hind, Winnipeg

"The Lawn" — Rev. Dr. Baird, Colony Street, Winnipeg
 "The Forests of Canada" — Abraham Knechtel, Inspector
 Forest Reserves
 "School Gardens" — W. J. Sisler, Strathcona School, Win-
 nipeg
 "How the Association may assist School Gardens" — H. W.
 Watson, John M. King School, Winnipeg
 "Potato Growing" — S. R. Henderson, Kildonan
 "Success with Cabbage and Cauliflower" — F. W. Hack, St.
 Vital, Manitoba
 "Growing Grapes under Glass" — James Hogg, Govern-
 ment House, Winnipeg
 "Discussion of Forestry Topics" — Norman M. Ross, Indian
 Head, Saskatchewan
 "Forest Scenes in Europe" — Abraham Knechtel, Inspector
 Forest Reserves

A feature of the convention held in 1912 at the M.A.C.
 was the discussion of garden problems by the ladies present.
 Papers of timely interest were presented. Affiliation with the
 Association by members of local societies was still a problem
 because of the 25¢ affiliation fee. Deficit financing featured
 the 1912 provincial show.

Chief development in 1914 was the first printing of the
 "*Manitoba Horticulturist*", planned as an 8-page monthly
 publication. Vol. 1, No. 1 is dated May, 1914. It was financed
 by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture with George
 Batho as Editor. Issues were Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 8. Societies
 reported as being active were: Brandon, Crystal City,
 Dauphin, Killarney, Neepawa, Souris, and Stonewall. Sev-
 eral societies held shows, but the provincial show was can-
 celled because of the outbreak of World War I. All previously
 published reports of the M.H. and F.A. were in the hands of
 members totalling 209.

Active supporters of horticulture up to 1915 were:

George Batho, Winnipeg
 James Birch, Winnipeg
 W. J. Boughen, Valley River
 Prof. F. W. Brodrick, Winnipeg
 D. A. Brown, Brandon

John Caldwell, Virden
 George Champion, Winnipeg
 J. Howard, Crystal City
 T. Kingsmill, Souris
 H. L. Patmore, Brandon

Harry Brown, Brandon
D. W. Buchanan, St. Charles

J. J. Ring, Crystal City
Dr. H. M. Speechly, Pilot Mound,
(President W. H. and F.A. for many
years)

Papers by such practical horticulturists as F. L. Skinner, Dr. H. M. Speechly and W. J. Boughen were presented at the 1915 convention. "*Manitoba Horticulturist*", Vol. 2, Nos. 1 to 11 was issued to a membership of 260.

In 1916 Volume 3 of the "*Manitoba Horticulturist*" was issued. The Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association, in cooperation with the Industrial Bureau, organized a series of meetings in the spring. Membership in the M.H. and F.A. stood at 265. A bulletin entitled "*The Farm Garden*" was prepared by Professor F. W. Brodrick. The Brandon Horticultural Society held its 19th annual exhibition and the Morden Horticultural Society held its first annual show.

An Honorary Life Membership in the M.H. and F.A. was conferred on A. P. Stevenson on February 16, 1917. A picnic was arranged in Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg, on August 28, 1917; membership stood at 255.

At the 1918 convention the M.H. and F.A. held joint sessions with Agricultural Societies and the Home Economics Society. A potato conference was sponsored in cooperation with the Manitoba Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. The Winnipeg Garden Show was staged on September 5-12, 1918, in the premises of the Industrial Bureau. An exhibit of vegetables from Manitoba won first prize at the Soils Products Exhibition of Dry Farming Congress, Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. on October 6-26, 1918. "*Standards For Judging Vegetables*" pamphlet was adopted by the M.H. and F.A. Mr. E.M. Straight was appointed Superintendent of the Morden Experimental Station in 1915.

Great Plains horticulturists (A.S.H.S.) met at Winnipeg in 1919. The Greater Winnipeg Board of Trade helped the Winnipeg Garden Club to organize a show. A publication known as "*The Western Gardener and Poultry Journal*" was published by Dawson-Richardson Publishing Company, Winnipeg.

An organization known as the Manitoba Potato Growers Association was active in 1919. Societies which prepared reports in 1919 were: East Kildonan and St. Pauls Agric. Society, Elmwood Cottage and Gardening Association, Morden Horticultural Society, Neepawa Horticultural Society, Souris and Glenwood Horticultural Society, St. James Horticultural Society, St. Vital Agricultural Society, Weston Horticultural Society, Winnipeg Garden Club.

Principal Officers M.H. and F.A.

| Year | President | Secretary-Treasurer |
|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1920 | H. W. Watson | F. W. Brodrick* |
| 1921 | F. W. Brodrick | H. W. Watson |
| 1922 | F. W. Brodrick | H. W. Watson |
| 1923 | F. W. Brodrick | J. R. Almey |
| 1924 | F. W. Brodrick | J. R. Almey |
| 1925 | C. C. Milne | J. R. Almey |
| 1926 | C. A. Mid-Winter | J. R. Almey |
| 1927 | W. R. Leslie | J. R. Almey |

*F. W. Brodrick, secretary for 14 years.

The first show held under the auspices of the M.H. and F.A. was organized in 1921. The Horticultural Societies Act was also passed by the Manitoba Legislature making the association the parent body of local societies. Each affiliated society became eligible for 60% of prize money and a membership grant. A new bulletin, "Vegetable Growing" was prepared by F. W. Brodrick and George Batho.

J. R. Almey joined the staff of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in 1921 as Extension Horticulturist. With the November-December 1921 issue of the "Manitoba Horticulturist" the publication of it ended. The alternative means of publicity for horticultural information was "Manitoba Agricultural Extension News" issued by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. The 1921 city show was held in the Board of Trade Hall under the auspices of the M.H. and F.A., assisted by a government grant of \$200.

In 1922 the M.H. and F.A. issued a Horticultural Year Book, the contents being horticultural articles reproduced from the "Manitoba Agricultural Extension News" up to January, 1923. Four winter meetings were held in the lecture theatre, University of Manitoba, Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg. The annual show was organized by a board of man-

agement with George Batho as chairman. Boys and girls clubs were active. There were 998 members in the M.H. and F.A.

Mr. A. P. Stevenson died in December, 1922.

The program in 1923 for the M. H. and F. A. was similar to that for 1922. Meetings were held during the winter, premiums were given to members and the show was held in the Winnipeg Curling Rink, Langside Street, north of Portage. Of particular interest in 1923 was the planting of 225 elm trees from Pembina Highway to the M.A.C. buildings in Fort Garry, on May 14 (Arbor Day), and dedicated as a memorial to M.A.C. students who gave their lives in World War I. (By way of interest, the first Arbor Day was celebrated on April 10, 1872 at Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A., when over a million trees were planted in that state).

"Manitoba Agricultural Extension News" discontinued publication in 1924, but the "Western Gardener and Beekeeper" appeared on the scene. The M.H. and F.A. Year Book for 1924 contained articles from the "Western Gardener" magazine. Meetings were again held in March and a show was organized by a board of management. Membership in the Association was 2,054 in 1924.

In 1925 the "Western Gardener" ceased publication and members obtained a year's subscription to the Canadian Horticulturist. Manitoba vegetables were exhibited at the Royal Agricultural Show in Toronto, Ontario. The Year Book contained papers presented at the 1925 convention, and the show again was held in the Winnipeg Curling Rink.

Klass de Jong won 1st prize for a display of cauliflower at the Vegetable Growers' Association of America Convention at Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., September 17, 1926; (Cauliflower King of Canada and America). Papers from the 29th annual convention were printed in the Year Book, the cost being borne by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. A peony show was held in Breen Motor Co. showroom on June 24, 25, 1926, under the auspices of the Association.

An interesting event occurred on August 19, 1926 when automobiles starting from Winnipeg for a field day at Mor-

den were forced to turn back when roads became impassable because of rain.

Additional active supporters of horticulture from 1916 to 1929 were:

J. R. Almey, Winnipeg
C. H. Budd, Winnipeg
J. Cox, Winnipeg
C. J. Edwards, Winnipeg
W. R. Leslie, Morden
C. A. Midwinter, Winnipeg
C. C. Milne, Morden

R. M. Muckle, Clandeboyne
F. Pugh, Charleswood
Mrs. G. S. Roxborough, Winnipeg
F. L. Skinner, Dropmore
Robt. Stevenson, Morden
H. H. Watson, Winnipeg

The Plant Pests Act was established in 1927 and 14 nurseries were inspected. At the Annual Convention in 1927 the word "Forestry" was dropped to make the name the "Manitoba Horticultural Association" or the M.H.A.

THE MANITOBA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

1927-1940

The M.H.A. became the coordinating body for the horticultural societies in the province. Its story is that of its societies, its conventions and its projects.

Klass de Jong, East Kildonan, won for the third time the American Championship for a Display of Cauliflower, silver cup, and seeds to the value of \$100 at the Vegetable Growers' Convention, South Bend, Indiana, U.S.A. in September, 1928.

Full membership in 22 societies which held shows in 1928 and the M.H.A. stood at 2500; premiums given included shrubs, fruit trees, seeds and bulbs.

A peony show was sponsored in Breen Motor Co. showroom, Winnipeg, in July, 1928; the Winnipeg Garden Show was sponsored jointly by the M. H. A. and Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The 1929 convention was held in the Odd Fellows Hall, Winnipeg; twenty-three affiliated societies were reported for 1929 and new societies were organized at Carman, Minnedosa, Roland, Transcona. Premiums were given and garden competitions held by most societies, the societies functioning as more or less autonomous units, re programs,

and federated in the M.H.A. A decision at the February, 1930, convention was that contact by the M.H.A. with societies would be with officers and not with members.

A new act approved by the Legislature was to become operative "at the close of the present financial year" April 30, 1930.

Progress was made with a "Standards of Judging" pamphlet by a committee of the M.H.A. Papers given at the 1928 and 1929 conventions were included in the 1930 Horticultural Year Book. Membership in 28 active societies stood at 2200 and individual membership in the M.H.A. was discontinued; new societies at the 1931 convention included Dauphin (revived), Portage la Prairie and District, and Winnipeg.

Winnipeg was established as a port for plant importation and inspection; a committee was named by the M.H.A. to cooperate with the Winnipeg Parks Board in establishing in one of the city parks an arboretum of native plants; the M.H.A. assisted with staging the Provincial Horticultural Exhibition at the time of the British Medical Association Convention, August 26-29, 1930.

Wm. Plantje, St. Norbert, won the Premium Award at the V.G.A.A. convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Aug. 1930; Klaas de Jong won second place.

Adverse environmental factors featured the early years of this period, e.g. extremes of heat and wind and serious soil drifting, from May to the end of the season in 1931, also frost damage to plant growth May 30 and killing frosts August 28 and 29; severe damage by blister beetles and grasshoppers especially in southern Manitoba; potatoes at Morden were sprayed to control the latter. Damage by blister beetles, cabbage worms, cankerworms, flea beetles, grasshoppers and potato bugs were severe June 26, 1933; pine needle scale on the spruce was becoming severe.

During this 10 year period the number of horticultural societies considered active varied from 31 (1936) to 13 (1940), with membership varying from 2,350 to 1,000. Except for nine not fully functioning, the following were considered active in 1932:

Arden, Beautiful Plains (Neepawa), Birtle, Brandon, Carman, Charleswood, Dauphin, Deloraine, Elmwood, Fort Garry, Gladstone, Hamiota, Lenore, Melita, Miniota, Minnedosa, Morden, Morse Place, Newdale, Portage la Prairie, Roland, Russell, Selkirk, Souris, St. James and Assiniboia, St. Boniface and Norwood, Transcona, West Kildonan, Winnipeg.

Drought restricted activities of societies, especially in southeastern and southern Manitoba in 1934. Many shows were cancelled in 1936 because of the dry season. Garden competitions were conducted in 1936 by societies at Flin Flon, Fort Garry, Morden, Portage la Prairie, St. James, Transcona, Winnipeg.

The reported attendance of societies at annual conventions of the M.H.A. varied from 11 to 17.

Principal Officers of The M.H.A.

| Year | President | Secretary-Treasurer |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1927 | W. R. Leslie | J. R. Almey |
| 1928 | W. R. Leslie | J. R. Almey |
| 1929 | F. L. Skinner | C. J. Edwards |
| 1930 | F. L. Skinner | C. J. Edwards |
| 1931 | F. C. Cave | John Walker |
| 1932 | F. C. Cave | John Walker |
| 1933 | Wm. Stubbs | John Walker |
| 1934 | Wm. Stubbs | John Walker |
| 1935 | C. A. Midwinter | John Walker |
| 1936 | C. A. Midwinter | John Walker |
| 1937 | J. R. Almey | John Walker |
| 1938 | J. R. Almey | John Walker |
| 1939 | R. R. Nichol | John Walker |
| 1940 | R. R. Nichol | C. R. Ure |

Honorary Life Memberships

Honorary Life Memberships in the M.H.A. and its predecessors have been presented to many worthy recipients over the years. These memberships honor those who have contributed to horticulture on the wider provincial scene in a meaningful way. Local horticultural societies present their own memberships to members who were promoting horticulture on a local scene. The M.H.A. Honorary membership list is truly a list of Who's Who in Horticulture. The complete list of recipients is found at the end of this chapter.

The Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal

The Stevenson Memorial was set up in the year 1930 and the first medal was presented to Dr. Frank L. Skinner in 1932. The constitution for the Stevenson Memorial Board was adopted at the M.H.A. Convention in 1935. The more complete story of this memorial and the recipients of the award is dealt with in a separate chapter in this book.

Continuing M.H.A. Projects

Annual conventions were held in Winnipeg each year, usually from mid-January to mid-February; a few exceptions as to date. At many the program for the first evening was arranged jointly by the Winnipeg Horticultural Society and the M.H.A. In 1934, "The Lure of Manitoba's Northland" was the title of an interesting convention address given by the Hon. D. G. McKenzie, Minister of Agriculture, Province of Manitoba.

The first Provincial Fruit Show was staged at Morden, Aug. 26-28, 1931, the second at Portage la Prairie, Aug. 24-25, 1932, and the third at Winnipeg, Aug. 29-31, 1933; display exhibits of fruits from all areas at the last named.

Brandon society sponsored a Fruit Show Aug. 29-31, 1934, when 174 plates of apples and 232 plates of plums and cherries were on display.

The M.H.A. cooperated with Brandon Society in staging the Provincial Fruit Show at Brandon, Aug. 28-30, 1935; on display were 516 plates of apples and 420 plates of plums and cherries.

No Provincial Fruit Show was staged in 1936 but two were staged at the Winnipeg Society Shows Aug. 28-30, 1939 and Aug. 26-28, 1940.

Other M.H.A. Projects Reported

The Winnipeg Society sponsored the Greater Winnipeg Garden Competition in 1933 and conducted the same competition on behalf of the M.H.A. in 1934. This competition was sponsored by the M.H.A. in 1935, 1936, 1938, 1939.

A nominal affiliation fee of \$1 was paid by each society to the M.H.A. in 1933, 1934; in 1936 the affiliation fee was set at 5¢ per member up to 200 members.

The M.H.A. cooperated with the Brandon Society to encourage attendance by horticultural society members at the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Dr. A. S. Bedford at the Experimental Farm, Brandon, July 17, 1937.

A government grant of \$100 was provided in the later years of this period but none was available in other years.

The cut for M.H.A. letterhead was arranged for in 1937, and a Plant Collecting Trip to Asia was also proposed in 1937.

A committee of the M.H.A. was appointed in 1939 to study the Plant Pests Act with a view to making revisions.

At the Provincial Peony Show staged at the Provincial Exhibition, Brandon, in 1939, there were 90 entries and 432 blooms.

Other Developments In Manitoba of Importance To Horticulture and Horticulturists

The number of nurseries inspected and registered varied from 15 to 23; premiums which 15 societies provided to members were purchased in bulk; nurserymen could be counted on to support the M.H.A. and Provincial Fruit Shows.

H. L. Moore, Islington, Ontario and secretary of the International Peace Garden, addressed four meetings in Winnipeg in 1931.

Pamphlets published by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture were: "Standards for Flower Judging", "The Peony", "The Gladiolus", "Shrubs for Manitoba", 1931; "Storage of Crops" 1932.

In 1933 nine cooperators continued with a project of Vegetable Seed Production; the U.S.D.A. potato variety "Chippewa" was the first tested in that year.

Garden Clubs operating on a 3 year study program, namely, cool season crops, (1st year), warm season crops (2nd year), hotbeds and transplanting (3rd year) numbered:

1933 — 33 clubs with 325 members

1935 — 48 clubs with 550 members

1937 — 71 clubs with 720 members

1939 — 97 clubs with 1075 members

In 1935 Whytewold Potato Club members won the

Potato Club Challenge Trophy at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, Ontario.

Manitoba Nurserymen's Association was reactivated in February, 1940.

Officers appointed were:

President — F. L. Skinner

Vice President — C. J. Edwards

Secretary — J. P. Miller

Great Plains (A.S.H.S.) Horticulturists visited Morden, Brandon, Dropmore, Valley River, and Winnipeg from Aug. 18 to 24, 1940.

Twenty cooperators were organized to produce vegetable seeds for the 1941 season as overseas supplies were cut off.

THE M.H.A. AND THE WAR YEARS

1941-1950

Two environmental circumstances which greatly affected horticulture during this period were: first, severe frosts in late September in 1942 and very bad winter killing of trees, shrubs and fruit trees during the winter 1942-1943; second, widespread damage to soil and all vegetation by flooding in the Red River Valley and adjacent areas in 1950.

Horticultural Societies

General activities of horticultural societies were greatly curtailed because of World War II; in the decade the number considered active ranged from 7 (1943) to 17 (1950). Shows and competitions were discontinued by many and the production of food stuffs promoted; local displays and the distribution of plants received attention by some societies.

New societies were formed at Poplar Point and Pine Falls early in 1946, and at Hartney, Russell and West Kildonan in 1950. A total membership of 2,225 was recorded in 1948, and nearly all societies held competitions, including shows in the years 1946 to 1950 (inclusive).

Continuing M.H.A. Projects

Conventions were held each year in Winnipeg around

or immediately after mid-February, except on one occasion; in 1945 and 1946 all active societies were represented.

Provincial Peony Shows were held at Brandon in several years during the last few days of June and first few days of July. At the 1942 show 1,000 blooms provided by E. Hack, V.D. Hurst and Herb Sulkers from the Winnipeg area were displayed.

The Provincial Fruit Show, usually held in late August, was organized in only a few years of this period, due in large measure to the pressures of World War II.

Other Activities Promoted By The M.H.A. 1941-1950

The List of Recommended Vegetable Varieties was revised in 1942 with representatives of seed companies cooperating. The M.H.A. conducted the Greater Winnipeg Home Grounds Competition in 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1947 and 1948.

Representatives of the M.H.A. visited communities in 1945 in an attempt to reactivate and organize horticultural societies.

The affiliation fee paid to the M.H.A. by societies was 10¢ per member in 1946. Government grants to societies in 1946 provided 50¢ per member and a maximum of \$100 per society, also 50% of prize money paid out.

Three Horticultural Short Courses were organized in 1949 and a Judges' and Exhibitors' School was conducted at Morden, October 2, 1950.

In 1950 the Provincial Urban Home Grounds Competition was organized and entries were received from seven points including Greater Winnipeg.

Other Developments In Manitoba of Importance To Horticulture and Horticulturists

A film "Colorful Seasons", prepared in 1941 by Dr. C. H. Goulden, was given to U.G.G. with a view to their making a copy of it.

Twenty-six cooperators continued a Vegetable Seed Production project sponsored jointly by Federal and Provincial Governments in 1941; tomato seed was valued at \$4 per lb. Vegetable seed production increased in 1942 and the project was continued in 1943.

Commercial vegetable growers contributed an important war effort in 1942; Victory Garden Campaign, promoted in the spring of 1942, resulted in many vegetable gardens being developed in Winnipeg in 1943.

Potato variety demonstration plots were discontinued in 1942, but in 1943 potatoes were affected by Bacterial Ring Rot, Late Blight, Rhizoctonia and Soft Rot.

In 1943 the Minnesota Horticultural Society presented:
Bronze Medal to F. L. Skinner
Award of Merit to W. R. Leslie

C. R. Ure, Secretary, M. H. A. and horticulturist with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, resigned on October 16, 1943. His position with the Department remained unfilled until the appointment of M.R. Bevan on May 1, 1946. He, in turn, resigned from this position on May 15, 1947. On June 1, 1949, F. J. Weir was appointed horticulturist with the Department and assumed the duties of Secretary-Treasurer, M.H.A.

A Potato Breeding Project was organized in 1946 at the University of Manitoba with a government grant of \$2,500; project supervisor, Prof, E. T. Andersen and student in charge, O. H. Olson.

In this decade the number of nurseries inspected and registered with the Department of Agriculture varied from 13 to 28; because of increased interest in improving home grounds, nursery business picked up, but the Nurserymen's Association was inactive. Registration certificates were issued in 1950 although only a few nurseries were inspected because of the flood.

Thirty-six potato clubs were organized in 1950.

Department of Agriculture publications prepared were:
"Lawns, Their Preparation and Care", 1949, and
"Preparation of Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Exhibition", 1950.

Principal M.H.A. Officers

| Year | President | Secretary-Treasurer |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1941 | D. A. Brown, Brandon | C. R. Ure |
| 1942 | P. Daman, St. Vital | C. R. Ure |
| 1943 | Mrs. A. M. Tobias, Morden | C. R. Ure |

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1944 | Theo E. Howard, Winnipeg | E. C. Martin (Acting) |
| 1945 | Theo E. Howard, Winnipeg | M. R. Bevan |
| 1946 | Theo E. Howard, Winnipeg | M. R. Bevan |
| 1947 | W. B. Bain, Brandon | M. R. Bevan |
| 1948 | C. J. Edwards, Stonewall | E. C. Martin (Acting) |
| 1949 | E. T. Andersen, U. of M. | F. J. Weir |
| 1950 | W. A. Cumming, Morden | F. J. Weir |

M.H.A. AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

1951-1960

During this ten year period the number of horticultural societies considered active varied from 18 to 34. A majority sponsored shows and/or competitions each year; some sponsored seasonal displays of flowers and local projects; a few supported 4-H Garden Clubs early in the period.

Exhibitors' Schools were held at Brandon (2), Carman (2), Dauphin (2), Dominion City (2), Grunthal, Hartney, Killarney, Makaroff, Miami (Committee), Newdale, Oakville, Souris, St. Pierre, University of Manitoba (Greater Winnipeg Societies).

New societies organized: Steinbach, The Pas, 1951; Bowsman, Oakville, St. Pierre, 1955; Grunthal, Minnedosa (reorganized), 1956; Killarney, Pilot Mound, 1957.

Attendance of delegates at the M.H.A. conventions improved during the period with almost 100% representation in 1960.

Continuing M.H.A. Projects

Annual conventions were held about mid-February each year, and for part of the convention delegates and visitors were guests of the Fort Garry Society, in 1956, and of the West Kildonan Society in 1957.

Provincial Fruit and Honey Shows were sponsored in rotation as part of annual shows staged by Winnipeg, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie and Brandon.

The Provincial Peony Show was staged annually at the Provincial Exhibition, Brandon, and sponsored by the Brandon Horticultural Society.

Other M.H.A. Activities Reported

A Provincial Urban Home Grounds Competition, with entries from nine points including Greater Winnipeg, 1951.

Greater Winnipeg Home Grounds Competition, 1952, 1953.

Provincial Farm and Urban Home Grounds Competitions, 3 sizes in urban and 2 sizes in farm — 1952, 1954, 1955, 1957. (1958, 1959, 1960?) highest number of calls — 69 in 1956.

Potato Improvement and Potato Show, 1953, 1954; the V.G.A.M. cooperated in 1954.

Recommended lists of Annuals and perennials were prepared in 1954 by two M.H.A. Committees.

Potato Show at the Red River Exhibition, 1955.

Planting in the International Peace Garden, M.H.A. plot (2 acres) was begun in the spring of 1956, and a report on progress was made in 1958.

Societies active every year 1949–1956 (incl.) were: Brandon, Charleswood, Dauphin, Fort Garry (except 1950), Morden, Newdale, Pine Falls, Poplar Point, Portage la Prairie, Steinbach (except 1949), St. James, Winnipeg; membership rose from 1768 (1950) to 3058 (1956).

The constitution of the M.H.A. re society affiliation fee was changed in 1957 from a minimum of \$5 each to 10¢ per member or a minimum of \$3 each (equivalent 30 members).

A plot of named trees, shrubs and flowers along the Assiniboine River bank south of the Legislative Building was proposed at the 1958 convention.

Other Developments In Manitoba Of Importance To Horticulture and Horticulturists Have Been

Steps were taken in 1952 to organize the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba (V.G.A.M.), and a Vegetable Sales Act to standardize containers was proposed by the V.G.A.M. in 1953.

“Potatoes for Polio” campaign was conducted in 1953; 1,535 bags of potatoes donated by growers realized a sum of \$1,653.

A constitution for the V.G.A.M. was adopted in February, 1954.

Potato sample exhibited by A. R. Chorney, East Selkirk, was placed first in its class at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto, in 1955.

A vegetable canning plant was planned for development at Portage la Prairie in 1956.

In 1957 a full-time horticulturist was employed at the International Peace Garden.

The Manitoba Nurserymen's Association was formed in 1957; nurseries inspected in this period varied annually from 16 to 23.

A resolution was passed at the 1959 convention urging authorities to plant trees at schools in Manitoba.

Principal Officers of the M.H.A.

| Year | President | 1st Vice Pres. | 2nd Vice Pres. | Sec.- Treasurer |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1951 | W. A. Cumming | J. H. Nichol | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh | F. J. Weir |
| 1952 | W. A. Cumming | J. H. Nichol | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh | F. J. Weir |
| 1953 | J. H. Nichol | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh | Alex Craig | F. J. Weir |
| 1954 | J. H. Nichol | J. J. Wall | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh | F. J. Weir |
| 1955 | J. H. Nichol | J. J. Wall | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh | F. J. Weir |
| 1956 | J. Wall | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh | G. M. Churcher | F. J. Weir |
| 1957 | J. J. Wall | Mrs. McIntosh | M. Churcher | F. J. Weir |
| 1958 | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh | G. M. Churcher | H. F. Harp | F. J. Weir |
| 1959 | Mrs. McIntosh | G. M. Churcher | H. F. Harp | F. J. Weir |
| 1960 | G. M. Churcher | H. F. Harp | Mrs. F. Slipetz | F. J. Weir |

THE M.H.A. 1961-1970

Horticultural societies considered active in this period ranged from 29 (1961) to 42 (1970). Societies active each year, 1951 to 1961 (incl.) were: Brandon, Charleswood, Dauphin, Fort Garry, Hartney, Manitou, Morden, Newdale, Pine Falls, Poplar Point, Portage la Prairie, Russell, St. James, West Kildonan, and Winnipeg. Total membership in 1961 was 4,654, an increase of nearly 700 over the 1959 figure.

Eight short courses and one Exhibitors' School were conducted by societies in 1963; Judges' Schools were held at Morden and Poplar Point in 1964, and at Winnipeg in 1965; in 1966 Short Courses were held at Morris and Newdale, an Exhibitors' School at Souris and Judges' Schools at Brandon and Swan River.

Societies receiving charters in 1970 were: Agassiz, (Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa), Beautiful Plains (Neepawa) and La Salle River (Starbuck).

Continuing M.H.A. Projects

In every year except one the Provincial Peony Show was staged in conjunction with the Provincial Exhibition, Brandon; in 1968 it was sponsored by the Minnedosa Horticultural Society. A new display building was available at Brandon in 1965.

Provincial Fruit Shows were staged in rotation at Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg; exceptions were: Killarney, 1964 and Morden, 1970.

Conventions were held each year, being sponsored in part during this period, more or less in rotation, by societies in the proximity of Dauphin, Greater Winnipeg, Brandon; providing facilities, entertainment and refreshments during coffee breaks have been the important contributions of local societies. Attendance at conventions by societies was almost 100% and convention reports contain some outstanding society reports and addresses which were presented to delegates and guests. Organ music generously provided by Mrs. J. M. Douglas, Dauphin, has been a pleasing feature of most conventions.

A Provincial Home Grounds Competition comprising three classes, e.g. **Farm, City Urban** (Brandon, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg), **Other Urban**, was continued. Entries are not all submitted by horticultural societies, and have averaged around 55 yearly for the 10 years from a high of 73 in 1962 to a low of 39 in 1966 (entries for 67-70 not available).

Instituted in 1963 a Junior Scrap Book Competition was continued until 1968; winning entries were displayed at Annual Conventions.

The M.H.A. Colored Slide Competition has been successfully conducted since 1962 with entries being received from many horticultural societies. Winning slides are available from the M.H.A. for showing at Society meetings.

Proceeds from auction sales at Annual Conventions, donations from horticultural societies, the M.H.A. and other

sources have been provided each year for the development and improvement of the M.H.A. arboretum plot at the International Peace Garden. Visits to the Garden by horticultural society members were organized by the M.H.A. in 1962, 1964, 1966. Progress on the development of the Arboretum was reported at the 1967 convention.

Other Activities Promoted By The M.H.A.

Recommended lists of flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees and shrubs were revised every two years by committees of specialists organized by the M.H.A. in cooperation with horticulturists at the C.D.A. Research Station, Morden and members of the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association. This project has now become the responsibility of the Manitoba Horticultural Council which was organized at a meeting January 10, 1968. The purpose of this meeting was "to bring all professional horticulturists together at one place and one time . . . to sit down together by themselves and freely discuss their common problems". The first annual meeting of the Council was held Dec. 19, 1968, in the Agricultural Building Auditorium, University of Manitoba.

A resolution passed at the 1962 convention requested the Government of Manitoba to take steps to pass legislation making it an offence to pick indiscriminately or otherwise mutilate or destroy our native plants except those designated as weeds.

At the 1963 convention members adopted a resolution endorsing the desirability of tree planting at schools, memorial parks, etc., that the Manitoba Government make trees available for 1967, and that horticultural societies be asked to supervise the planting of these trees.

Appreciation was expressed in 1963 to CBC for worthwhile boardcasts on horticulture presented on radio by H. F. Harp, "The Prairie Gardener", and on T.V. by S.J.-Westaway, "Gardening with Stan".

Progress was reported in 1964 on plans for establishing a Centennial Park at Birds Hill, a project first discussed by M.H.A. directors at a meeting May 1, 1962. The directors visited the park area in 1965; further progress on development was reported in 1967.

The number of M.H.A. directors was increased by two in 1965 for a total of twelve.

An outstanding film feature of the 1967 convention was "Centennial Fantasy" prepared and narrated by P. J. Peters; concluding poem in entitled "The Torch".

Proposed by the M.H.A. in 1967, action was taken by the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association to have only Amine formulations of 2 4-D distributed in smaller containers.

Plans to establish a "Certificate of Meritorious Service to Horticulture" Award were initiated in 1967; first award was presented to H. H. Marshall in 1969.

The F. L. Skinner Memorial Library Fund was instituted in 1968; Dr. Skinner died on August 27, 1967.

Since the cessation of the Children's Waugh Shield Garden Competiton in 1967, societies in the Greater Winnipeg area have given attention to a Junior Garden program. In 1968 three hundred and fifty sets of seed were distributed to junior gardeners. The culmination of this effort for them is competition at the Winnipeg International Flower Show for the W.E. Weale Memorial Trophy which was established in 1966.

A special feature of the 1970 convention was the presentation of the 100 year History of Manitoba in pictures and story, "Manitoba Fantasy", prepared and narrated by M.H.A. secretary, P. J. Peters.

In 1970 the Manitoba Department of Agriculture published a twelve page brochure containing descriptions and color photographs of Centennial Plants recommended by M.H.A. directors for planting to celebrate Manitoba's Centenary.

Other Developments In Manitoba Of Importance To Horticulture And Horticulturists

Hector MacDonald retired as director M.H.A. in 1964 after serving for many years. D. C. Foster retired in 1964 as Director, Extension Service, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg. Until 1965 horticultural societies and the M.H.A. were administered by or functioned under, this service.

In 1965 plans were finalized for the supervision (and administration) of the M.H.A. and horticultural societies to be transferred from the Extension Service to Soils & Crops Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

"Horticultural Horizons", a record of the life and horticultural achievements of Frank Leith Skinner, M.B.E., LL.D. was published in 1967 by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. The Order of the Buffalo Hunt was also conferred on Dr. Skinner.

In 1970 N. C. MacKay and D. B. McNeill retired as directors of M.H.A. H. F. Harp also retired from his position at the Research Station, Morden. The Order of the Buffalo Hunt was conferred on J. R. Almey at the 1970 Convention. A memorial cairn with plaque for W. J. Boughen was prepared and established by the Dauphin Horticultural Society at Valley River.

Principal M.H.A. Officers

| Year | President | 1st Vice-Pres. | 2nd Vice-Pres. | Sec.-Treasurer |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1961* | G. Churcher | H. F. Harp | Mrs. E. Slipetz | F. J. Weir |
| 1962 | H. F. Harp | Mrs. E. Slipetz | Eric Batchelar | F. J. Weir |
| 1963 | H. F. Harp | Mrs. E. Slipetz | Eric Batchelar | F. J. Weir |
| 1964 | Mrs. E. Slipetz | Eric Batchelar | H. R. Lamont | F. J. Weir |
| 1965 | Mrs. E. Slipetz | H. R. Lamont | Mrs. W. Shafer | F. J. Weir |
| 1966 | H. R. Lamont | Mrs. W. Shafer | Stan Gugin | P. J. Peters |
| 1967 | H. R. Lamont | Mrs. W. Shafer | Stan Gugin | P. J. Peters |
| 1968 | Mrs. W. Shafer | Stan Gugin | W. H. Gray | P. J. Peters |
| 1969 | Mrs. W. Shafer | Stan Gugin | W. H. Gray | P. J. Peters |
| 1970 | Stan Gugin | W. H. Gray | Mrs. A. W. Lyons | P. J. Peters |

*Hon. President W. R. Leslie

M.H.A.

1971-1982

The decade of the 70's was an active one for the M.H.A. In order that rural horticultural societies could participate more fully in the annual convention, the M.H.A. responded to their wishes and held alternate conventions in rural towns. This is a list of the convention sites for the 70's.

| | |
|------|------------|
| 1971 | Brandon |
| 1972 | Winnipeg |
| 1973 | Swan River |
| 1974 | Winnipeg |
| 1975 | Brandon |
| 1976 | Winnipeg |

| | |
|------|----------|
| 1977 | Russell |
| 1978 | Winnipeg |
| 1979 | Brandon |
| 1980 | Winnipeg |
| 1981 | Neepawa |
| 1982 | Winnipeg |

During this decade Mr. Peters, secretary of the M.H.A. produced audio-visuals "Salute to Manitoba", "Symphony of Seasons", "Symphony of Peace", "Symphony of Yesterday", and "Swiss Symphony". These thirty minute entertainment pieces, used at the end of society educational meetings, helped to bring more people to these meetings.

The fund drive for the Skinner Memorial Library was terminated and the Library was formally dedicated on August 13, 1971 at the Plant Science Building of the University of Manitoba. The annual interest of the \$5,000 principal is used to purchase books for this unique library. By 1980 some 142 excellent horticultural books had been purchased. The memory of Dr. F. L. Skinner, self-educated horticulturist and plant breeder of Manitoba, lives on in this ever-growing memorial collection.

Another project begun in this decade was the Horticultural Societies' Bursary Fund. The Bowsman Horticultural Society spearheaded this drive to collect money from interested societies and individuals in order that an annual bursary could be given to a worthy horticultural student at the University of Manitoba. The first recipients were given \$100 bursaries. As the principal grew the bursary amount was increased to \$200. The following is a list of the recipients to date.

The untimely death of F. J. "Fred" Weir occurred in 1976. A committee chaired by P. J. Peters was set up to collect money for the "Weir Memorial Fund". It took only a year to collect over \$11,000. This shows how well Fred was regarded by Manitoba horticulturists. The money was deposited with the Winnipeg Foundation. The interest earned annually is used to purchase films or other visual materials for the "Weir Memorial Film Library". These materials may be used by horticultural and other societies for their meetings.

The Provincial Home Grounds Competitions continued.

Manitoba Horticultural Societies Award Recipients

| Year | Name (Maiden Name) | Origin | Present Location | Occupation |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1. 1970-71 | Coutts (Henderson), Laurel Dawn | Crystal City, MB | Brandon, MB | Parent/Freelance work with Manitoba 4-H. |
| 2. 1971-72 | Allen, Leslie Roy | Winnipeg, MB | Portage la Prairie, MB | Vegetable Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture. |
| 3. 1972-73 | Rossnagel, Leonard Charles | Stoney Mountain, MB | Portage la Prairie, MB | Manager, Elite Seed Potato Farm. |
| 4. 1973-74 | Malazdrewicz (Wardrop), Cynthia Jayne | East Selkirk, MB | London, Ontario | Parent/Florist/Studying Accounting. |
| 5. 1974-75 | Bartley, Joyce Mary | St. Vital, MB | Sidney, Australia | Nursing |
| 6. 1975-76 | McLaren, Debra Leigh | St. James-Assiniboia, MB | Winnipeg, MB | MSc/PhD Student (Plant Pathology) U. of M. |
| 7. 1976-77 | Gyselinck, Richard Daniel | St. Vital, MB | Winnipeg, MB | Greenhouse Production |
| 8. 1977-78 | Paul (Bergman), Karen Ruth | St. Vital, MB | Calgary, AB | Alberta Nursery & Seed Co. |
| 9. 1978-79 | Collicutt, Lynne Marie | East Kildonan, MB | Morden, MB | Plant Breeder, Agric. Can. |
| 10. 1979-80 | Loeppky (Skinner), Heather Anne | Dropmore, MB | Winnipeg, MB | Parent/MSc Student (Horticulture) U. of M. |
| 11. 1980-81 | Grant, Gordon Douglas | Ostenfeld, MB | Winnipeg, MB | Msc Student (Horticulture) U. of M. (Accepted for PhD at U. of Guelph). |
| 12. 1981-82 | Robertson (Tani), Masumi | Osaka, Japan | Winnipeg, MB | MSc Student (Hort.) U. of M. |
| 13. 1982-83 | Siemens, Albert John | Swift Current (Wymark), SK | Winnipeg, MB | 4th Yr. Student (Hort.) U. of M. (Applying for graduate school). |

The number of classes was increased to five.

1. Urban Home Grounds (cities)
2. Urban Home Grounds (towns)
3. Farm Home Grounds
4. Rural-Urban Home Grounds
5. Northern Home Grounds

Home grounds were entered by horticultural societies. A team of judges spent a week or more judging the grounds. They selected the top three entries in each class. The awards were changed to engraved plaques and presented at the M.H.A. annual convention. Slide sets of the home grounds were made available to horticultural societies for educational purposes.

The Shaughnessy Trophy was a personal donation by Mr. D. C. Coleman, Vice-President, Western Lines, Canadian Pacific Railway, in the early twenties. Mr. C. H. Budd, Chairman of the Winnipeg Garden Show Committee of the Manitoba Horticultural Association, was responsible for obtaining this for annual competition in connection with the activities of the Winnipeg Garden Show. It was named after Lord Shaughnessy, former President of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

It became the official championship trophy of the M.H.A. Home Grounds Competition. The following is a list of the Home Grounds Champions between 1926 and 1969. At that time the trophy was retired and different awards were made to the winners of each class of home grounds. There was no longer a grand champion of all the classes.

**Shaughnessy Trophy Winners
M.H.A. Home Grounds Competition**

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1926 D. J. Allan, Winnipeg | 1938 J. T. Hodges, Elmwood |
| 1927 J. Campbell, Winnipeg | 1939 J. T. Hodges, Elmwood |
| 1928 F. P. Heberling, St. James | 1940 W. J. Newman, Winnipeg |
| 1929 F. P. Heberling, St. James | 1941 S. E. Steen, Winnipeg |
| 1930 George H. Young, St. James | 1942 Dr. Digby Wheeler, Winnipeg |
| 1931 George H. Young, St. James | 1943 W. J. Newman, Winnipeg |
| 1932 George H. Young, St. James | 1944 Dr. Digby Wheeler, Winnipeg |
| 1933 A. H. Brown, St. James | 1945 R. Skelding, Winnipeg |
| 1934 G. H. Young, not known | 1947 None |
| 1935 J. T. Hodges, Elmwood | 1948 D. J. England, Winnipeg |
| 1936 J. T. Hodges, Elmwood | 1949 Mrs. H. Harding, Winnipeg |
| 1937 J. T. Hodges, Elmwood | 1950 Mrs. J. Barrett, Manitou |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1951 Mrs. E. Slipetz, W.K. | 1961 D. G. Hoddinott, E. Kildonan |
| 1952 Mrs. J. W. Johansson, Pine Falls | 1962 G. Steeple, St. Vital |
| 1953 C. W. Risby, not known | 1963 G. Steeple, St. Vital |
| 1954 C. W. Risby, not known | 1964 D. F. Ferguson, Winnipeg |
| 1955 Mrs. A. G. Bremner, St. James | 1965 L. Gans, W.K. |
| 1956 H. Greene, W.K. | 1966 A. W. Lyons, E. Kildonan |
| 1957 Dr. G. M. Black, P.L.P. | 1967 L. Gans, W. Kildonan |
| 1958 D. F. Ferguson, Winnipeg | 1968 L. Gans, W. Kildonan |
| 1959 D. F. Ferguson, Winnipeg | 1969 Lloyd Yard, Carberry |
| 1960 R. S. Wiszczowski, Pilot Mound | |

The Provincial Slide Competition, begun by Mr. Weir in the early sixties, gathered momentum. The number of classes was increased to 18. This, and the great strides made in automatic cameras, resulted in a greatly improved competition. Many societies have their own competitions and mail their winning slides in the various classes to Winnipeg. Here they are judged by a team of competent judges. Four or more prizes are awarded in each class. The winning slides are first shown at the M.H.A. convention. Then the slide sets with tape commentary are made available to the societies for their meetings. There are few competitions that can boast of better slides.

There was an increased interest and emphasis on Junior Gardening in this past decade. The M.H.A. promoted the efforts of the local societies by setting up a Junior Gardening Committee under the chairmanship of A. G. Brock. Mr. Brock is an M.H.A. director and presently its president. Through meetings, newsletters and participation in M.H.A. conventions this committee has attempted to assist Junior Garden Club leaders in their work. Suitable project study books have been supplied to the children. Horticultural societies were encouraged to involve the juniors in their shows. Some of the horticultural societies sponsor their clubs as 4-H clubs. Most societies, however, find that they are able to involve more children and younger children in gardening by not affiliating with the 4-H program.

The Provincial Fruit Show was again sponsored by the M.H.A. This project was begun in 1931. Up to the 70's it had been cancelled only eight times. It was cancelled in 1974 because severe weather conditions during the preceding winter resulted in a lack of fruit. During the decade of the

seventies the show was held in conjunction with the Winnipeg International Flower Show in Winnipeg. The Morden Research Station always featured a display of named varieties of apples, plums and other fruits. The Provincial Fruit Show is useful in promoting fruit growing in Manitoba.

Support for the M.H.A. Arboretum at the International Peace Garden continued during these years. Societies make donations towards this worthwhile project. These donations are sent to the M.H.A., which in turn forwards them to the Peace Garden. The money is used for the upkeep of the arboretum. Better name tags for the shrubs and trees were also produced.

The M.H.A. sponsored many educational meetings for horticultural societies this past decade. These meetings were sponsored by a rural society which would then invite neighboring societies to attend. Speakers from the M.H.A., the Department of Agriculture and our educational institutions dealt with subjects of interest to these societies. With the increased interest in flower arrangements, this subject was usually covered. The M.H.A. also sponsored many Judges and Exhibitors Schools in various places. It further maintained a list of competent judges of flower shows.

Several Stevenson Memorial awards were given during these years. These are covered in the chapter on these awards. There were also the Honorary Life Memberships in the M.H.A. that are awarded annually. A complete list of the recipients is found in the appendix.

Mr. Peters, the Secretary-Treasurer of the M.H.A. for many years, retired in 1979. Mr. Reg Curle, Ornamentals Specialist for the Department of Agriculture, now fills that position. Government has been involved in supplying secretarial duties, and also in supporting the M.H.A. with funds for membership, prize money, and remuneration of judges. This relatively small investment in the beautification of Manitoba has, and will continue, to bear excellent results.

M.H.A. Officers, 1971-1982

| Years | President | 1st Vice Pres. | 2nd Vice Pres. |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1971 | Stan Gugin | W. H. Gray | Mrs. A. W. Lyons |
| 1972-3 | W. H. Gray | Mrs. P. Pierrepont | Mrs. M. E. Shelby |
| 1974-5 | Mrs. P. Pierrepont | Steve Foord-Kelcey | Lorry Gans |

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1976-7 | Steve Foord-Kelcey | Lorry Gans. | Mrs. Gertrude Jasper |
| 1978-9 | Lorry Gans | Mrs. Gertrude Jasper | Allan Brock |
| 1980-1 | Mrs. G. Jasper | Allan Brock | Mrs. Muriel Meadows |
| 1982 | Allan Brock | Mrs. Muriel Meadows | R. Brown |

Secretary-Treasurers

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1971 to 1978 | P. J. Peters | 1979-1982 | Reg Curle |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|

Honorary Presidents

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1971-1981 | J. R. Almey. |
| 1982 | Mrs. Phyllis Pierrepont |

HON. LIFE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS MANITOBA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| 1917 | A. P. Stevenson | 1960 | McBain Dudgeon |
| 1918 | W. G. Scott | | Frank Stockden |
| 1924 | J. J. Ring | 1961 | H. S. Paul |
| 1929 | Klass De Jong | | Nick Pankiw |
| 1930 | Geo. Batho | 1962 | D. A. Brown |
| 1931 | Dr. S. A. Bedford | | A. Archer |
| 1932 | Wm. Shepherd | 1963 | Mrs. F. W. McIntosh |
| 1933 | Chas. Midwinter | | J. P. de Wet |
| 1934 | H. L. Patmore | 1964 | W. A. Cumming |
| 1935 | Wm. Fingland | | F. C. W. Rice |
| 1936 | Geo. Champion | 1965 | Mark Janz |
| 1937 | Mrs. Wm. Dumbrill | | Douglas McKay |
| 1938 | Thos. Jackson | | B. Peturson |
| | Margaret Johnson | 1966 | G. S. Reycraft |
| 1939 | G. F. Sykes | | D. J. Paterson |
| 1940 | C. C. Milne | 1967 | John Walker |
| 1941 | Magnus Wilson | | H. F. Harp |
| 1942 | F. W. Brodrick | | G. M. Churcher |
| 1943 | Ritchie MacPherson | 1968 | Eric Batchelar |
| 1944 | C. H. Budd | | W. J. Tanner |
| 1945 | W. J. Boughen | 1969 | H. R. Lamont |
| 1946 | A. G. Warr | | Mrs. E. Slipetz |
| 1947 | John A. Flanders | 1970 | Charles Stevenson (Posthumous) |
| 1948 | H. Orchard | | Bronson Stevenson |
| 1949 | F. F. Pugh (Posthumous) | | F. J. Weir |
| 1950 | G. M. Hutchings | 1971 | W. J. Sinclair (Posthumous) |
| 1951 | Robert Stevenson | 1972 | Mrs. Eva Shafer, P. J. Peters |
| 1952 | Wm. Oaks | 1973 | Mrs. Phyllis Pierrepont, |
| 1954 | Peter Daman (Posthumous) | | Stan Gugin |
| | J. H. Evans (Posthumous) | 1974 | J. H. Nichol |
| 1955 | R. E. Marshall | 1975 | W. H. Gray |
| | Theo. E. Howard | 1976 | |
| 1956 | J. R. Almey | 1977 | Mrs. Gertrude Jasper |
| 1957 | M. J. Tinline | 1978 | |
| | Thos. Rose | 1979 | Steve Foord-Kelcey |
| 1958 | W. Bain | 1980 | Blanche Brown, |
| | H. S. Fry | | A. J. Strachan (Posthumous) |
| 1959 | Mrs. R. B. Smith | 1981 | |
| | Hector MacDonald | | |

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1969 | Dr. H. H. Marshall, Morden |
| 1972 | W. H. Gray, Winnipeg |
| 1972 | G. M. Churcher, Winnipeg |
| 1975 | W. J. Emerson |

Dr. H. H. Marshall



Dr. Henry H. Marshall.

Henry Marshall began his illustrious career in horticulture at the Morden Research Station in 1941. Born in the Roseisle area in Manitoba, Henry grew up and was educated there developing an early interest in natural plant stands. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marshall, hobby orchardists of note.

In 1943 he began a three year term with the Canadian Armed Forces in Europe. When he returned in 1946 he became Head Gardener at the Brandon Experimental farm. He spent 24 years there in that capacity. With no formal horticultural education, Henry set out to study botany, taxonomy and plant breeding on his own. Soon this self-made horticulturist began to attract the attention of the horticultural world with a number of new varieties of plants he bred and named. In 1970 Henry moved to the Morden Research Station to complete his civil service career.

Henry Marshall has developed some 40 plant introductions in his career. These include 16 chrysanthemums, three coral bells, one lily, five Monardas, one muskmelon, one pea, one Physotegia, seven roses, two willows, one Swiss chard and two tomatoes. His Brandon Pink coral bells, Neepawa Monarda, and Assiniboine and Cuthbert Grant roses have all received Merit Awards from the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture. He will no doubt receive more such awards for more recent introductions as time goes on.

The 1974 Convocation of the University of Brandon was a highlight in Henry Marshall's life. His two sons received their degrees at that time. But to top it all, the Brandon University bestowed on him the Honorary Doctorate of Science. It capped his many awards including a Government of Canada Centennial Medal in 1967, the M.H.A. Merit Award in 1969, a Certificate of Merit from the Brandon Parks Board and an Honorary Life Membership from the Brandon Horticultural Society, all in 1970. In 1978 he was enrolled as an Honorary Life Member in the M.H.A. and received the Linnaeus Award of Honor from the Linnaeus Society of Canada.

Dr. Henry Marshall's vast knowledge of plants has been well documented in a wide variety of articles in such publications as the Canadian Journal of Plant Science, Canadian Journal of Botany, Rhodora, Canadian Plant Disease Survey, American Rose Journal and others. His close observation of native plants is attested to by numerous citations in the Flora of Manitoba. His wide knowledge of plant flora was further recognized when he was selected as a Canadian team member travelling to China in 1981.

Now retired, Henry still works on breeding projects and participates in the work of horticultural organizations. He is a member and past president of the W.C.S.H. and a director of the M.H.A. He and his wife Eva live in Morden.

At his convocation, Prof. A. Rogosin had this to say about Dr. Marshall: "His work and ways exhibit an all-to-rare blend of the theoretical and practical. His special gift has

been, and is, to make the earth bloom, to bring forth its potential, and to help preserve what is yet unspoiled".

The latest award was presented to Dr. Marshall at the W.C.S.H. convention held in Winnipeg in February, 1983. He received the The Honorary Life Membership of the Society.

W. H. "Bill" Gray



Mr. W. H. Gray.

Bill Gray was born in Winnipeg in 1919, son of W. H. Gray, a mortgage inspector. He received his primary and secondary school education in Winnipeg schools. Bill had spent his summers on farms while attending school and had acquired a love for plants and nature in general. It was fortunate for him that he was accepted as an apprentice by the Assiniboine Park on May 1, 1937. He is still with the City of Winnipeg Parks and Recreation Department and holds the position of Superintendent of Horticulture for the city.

Few apprentices learn their profession as well as Bill Gray. He worked with James Kinnear and Frank E. Ball, Florists of Assiniboine Park, and also with Hector Mac-

donald, Park Supervisor. In 1953 Bill assumed the position of Florist Supervisor of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. The beauty of the English garden, the excellence of the numerous flower beds in all of the city parks, the seasonally oriented floral displays of the conservatory and the well landscaped city buildings, all of these emanate from Bill's desk and his greenhouses. Bill is an organization man who plans his projects knowledgeably and well.

The Second World War saw Bill Gray join the navy in 1941. He rose to the rank of Leading Seaman. In 1946 he returned to Winnipeg and to his job. The same year he married Mary Cronn, also of Winnipeg. Bill and Mary reside in a suite of the Conservatory.

Community involvement, especially in the field of horticulture, takes up much of Bill's time. In 1948 he joined the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. He has served it as director for many years and was its president in 1960-61. It was his drive that helped the Society to set up a June flower show in conjunction with the Red River Exhibition. When the International Flower Show was organized, Bill was on the board of directors. In 1967 the Winnipeg Horticultural Society presented him with an Honorary Life Membership.

The M.H.A. has benefitted from Bill Gray's participation for many years. He is the Government appointed director on the M.H.A. board. He was its president in 1972 and 1973. In 1975 the association made him an Honorary Life Member. For many years Bill was the head of a team of judges for the Provincial Home Grounds' Competitions. He is a much sought-after speaker and flower show judge.

Each director of the M.H.A. is responsible for the liaison with four or more horticultural societies. Bill is responsible for the Winnipeg, St. James, Charleswood and La Salle River horticultural societies. These greatly benefit from his input into their programs. The St. James Horticultural Society made him an Honorary Life Member in 1975. The Manitoba Orchid Society honored him similarly in 1979. Bill is also an active member of the Manitoba Golf Superintendents' Association.

Bill's contributions to horticultural development in

Manitoba have been extraordinary. That was the reason that he was one of the first to receive the Meritorious Service Award of the M.H.A. in 1972. He certainly was a most worthy recipient.

Bill's wife passed away in 1983. In 1984 he retired from his position with the City Parks.

G. M. "Grant" Churcher



Mr. Grant Churcher.

The poet was wrong. The good man does, it does live after him. Especially when that man is a horticulturist of the stature of Grant Churcher. The St. Vital Agricultural Society, the Winnipeg Horticultural Society, the Fort Garry Horticultural Society, the St. Vital Parks Board, the International Peace Garden, and the Manitoba Horticultural Association, all knew him as an active participant and leader. All the horticultural societies loved to listen to his informative and humor-spiced lectures over the years.

Grant was born at Antler, Saskatchewan on February 10, 1914. He was schooled at Antler and Brandon, Manitoba. His parents, Robert and Olive Churcher, quit farming at Antler

and moved to Brandon in 1929. Grant received a Diploma in Agriculture from the U. of M. and a Diploma in Horticulture from O.A.C. in Guelph, Ontario. He worked at the Brandon Experimental Farm and at the Reclamation Station at Melita under the direction of M. J. Tinline, director of the Brandon Experimental Farm. Next came a spell with two nurseries, Patmores and Hines. Then the University of Manitoba recognized Grant's capability and appointed him to the position of Head Gardener. As such he worked for two years under Prof. John Walker, a man he treasures as a teacher and friend.

When the Department of Public Works looked for a man who could make the Legislative grounds beautiful, their choice fell on G.M. "Grant" Churcher. He held the position of Head Gardener of the Legislative Grounds until 1963. In that year his field of work was expanded and he became Supervisor of Manitoba Government Grounds. He held that position up to the time of his retirement in 1979. All Manitobans and many visitors have greatly enjoyed the beautiful landscaping of the Legislative Buildings. The plantings of shrubs on the centre-strip of the Transcanada Highway, both east and west of Winnipeg, were made by Grant Churcher.

When the second World War came, Grant interrupted his Government service and joined the R.C.A.F. He served in the forces for three years and then came back to his job of Head Gardener.

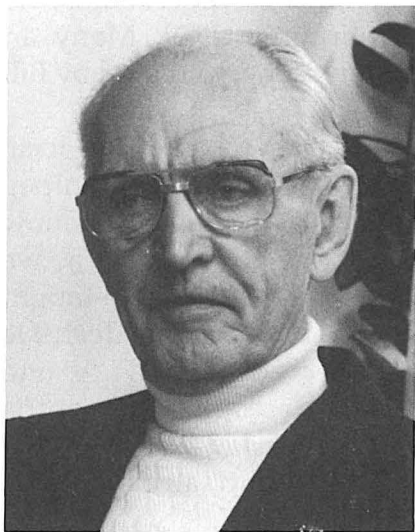
Grant Churcher's life was dedicated to horticulture. That is why the reader finds his name associated with all the horticultural associations mentioned in the first paragraph. Many of them bestowed honors on Grant over the years. In 1963 he received an Honorary Life Membership from the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. The M.H.A. knew him as a director and its president in 1960 and 1961, and bestowed its H.L.M. on him in 1967. In 1972, Grant was the recipient of the Meritorious Service to Manitoba Horticulture award of the M.H.A. The year before that, in 1971, the St. Vital Parks Board (of which he was chairman from 1949 to 1971), presented him with its Service Award. Grant served the International Peace

Garden as Chairman of its Planning Committee and a member of the Board for many years and the I.P.G. presented him with a Citation for Valuable Services in 1978.

But Grant Churcher is also a family man. He is married to Bernice Mitchell, a school teacher. The Churchers have two daughters, Terry-Lynne Gilette, a trade show organizer in Toronto, and Barbara Pirie, a school teacher in Fort Garry. Each daughter has three grandchildren for Grant and Bernice.

And what is Grant doing in retirement? The Churchers live in Nanaimo, B.C. There he belongs to the Nanaimo Horticultural Society and served it as president from 1979 to 1980. Once a horticulturist, always a horticulturist. Manitoba wishes him and his family a happy retirement.

William James Emerson



Mr. W. J. Emerson.

Bill Emerson was born in Winnipeg in 1913. His father, Thomas Henry Emerson, emigrated to Canada from England in 1908. Here he married a young lady who had come to Winnipeg from Ireland. Bill's father had been a nurseryman in the old country but was employed as a machinist by the C.P.R. His beautiful garden was proof that he never forgot his horticultural background.

Like father, like son. Bill started gardening even while he attended school. He became a member of the Morse Place Horticultural Society. At age 13 he won a silver medal in the Junior Garden or Waugh Shield competition.

All of Bill's life was spent in horticulture. Miss Margaret Johnson, the garden editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, encouraged him to take up this vocation when he left school at the age of 16. His first job with the H. J. Cull Greenhouses in St. James lasted three years. He spent a year setting up a garden for Mr. Findley, a Shoal Lake farmer. For 7 years he worked as propagator for the late F. L. Skinner at Dropmore. Then he found employment with McFayden Seeds until the war broke out. For a little more than 4 years Bill served in the R.C.A.F. police force. After discharge in October, 1947 he was employed by the Province of Manitoba on loan to the Lt. Governor as gardener and florist of Government House. Starting with Lt. Governor, His Honor R. McWilliams, he worked for six Lt. Governors, retiring in 1979. Many an admirer enjoyed the beautiful garden scenery created by Bill Emerson.

Wherever Bill lived, he became a member of the local horticultural society. The Morse Place, Roblin and Winnipeg horticultural societies knew him as an active member. Now that he lives at Kingston, Ontario, he became an active member of the local society there. Bill was a self-taught horticulturist who read and experimented a great deal. He loved to share his knowledge and served the M.H.A. and many societies as lecturer and judge. To recognize his contributions to horticulture, the M.H.A. awarded him the Meritorious Service Award in 1976. He had already been presented with the Centennial Medal in 1967.

Bill's love for young people led him to become a scout leader. In 1969 he was presented with the Merit Award for Scouting, thus recognizing 21 years of faithful service. He served as member and officer of the St. John Ambulance Society for 38 years and received the long member and Officer awards. The Mineral Society of Manitoba, whose interest is the collecting of crystal minerals, knew him as a founding member.

Manitoba is greatly indebted to this fine horticulturist and versatile gardener who contributed many articles to the Prairie Garden that knew him as a board member and contributor for many years.

Bill Emerson died in Kingston in 1983. His memory will linger on.

THE WILD WILD ROSE

Of all the flowers
That please the eye
Out in the meadows
The woods nearby
I have a favorite
That I like best
That gives me pleasure
More than the rest.

It does not ask you
For tender care
Deserted fencelines –
You'll find it there –
You'll find it also
In the open wood
Or where a cabin
Once proudly stood.

On gravelly soil
Or heavy clay
It puts its blossoms
Out on display.
It blooms all summer
The bumble bee
Visits its blossoms
So frequently.

I love those blossoms
That I behold
With pinky petals
And hearts of gold.
That quietly brighten
The home it chose
With quiet splendor!
My wild wild rose.

IN LOVE WITH NATURE

I fell in love with nature
When but a little child,
To me the love of God above
From every flower smiled.

With joy I still remember
The hours that I spent
Just sitting 'neath an apple tree,
So happily content.

Occasionally a sunbeam
Stole through the canopy,
A warbler from a nearby branch
Crooned me a melody.

The buzzing bees so busily
Kissed every pinkish bloom . . .
My love for nature got its birth
Out there in nature's womb.

I just had to tell others
Of pleasures and delight
That I had felt and loved so much . . .
And I began to write.

I've lost those early verses
But, though the years rolled by,
I've never lost the love I had
For flower and tree and sky.

And I still love to linger
In cosy nature's arms,
To feel reborn in spirit
By her enriching charms.

The songbirds in the treetops,
The flowers on woodland's sod,
They preach the greatest sermon
And bring me back to God.

CHAPTER IV

THE STEVENSON MEMORIAL AWARDS

**The Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal
(Now The Stevenson Commemorative Award)**



The Manitoba Horticultural Association, in 1932, gave lasting shape to thoughts which had persisted in men's

minds for some time, namely, a special form of reward for "conspicuous achievement in the field of practical horticulture". It was decided that a Gold Medal would be a permanent symbol to all men, and to its recipient in particular, of recognition of the worth of his introductions. The name chosen was "The Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal", thus honoring a man who gave life and purpose to the development of better fruit varieties, the field in which he had pioneered on the Canadian Northern Great Plains.

This venture required funds. Leader in raising the funds to prepare the dies and to maintain the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal was C. C. Milne, a magistrate in Morden, a gardener in his own right, and for several years president of the M.H.A. Milne was a strong supporter of the Provincial Fruit Show, and a tireless worker in collecting entries from the Morden area growers. These he packed carefully and placed them in their appropriate sections. He was noted, too, for his sweet pea exhibits and his raspberry plantation.

To select the candidates and administer the funds, the M.H.A. set up a standing committee, known as "The Stevenson Memorial Board". A constitution was drawn up. After the Board had named a candidate, the nomination was passed by the voting delegates at the M.H.A. Convention.

The membership of the Stevenson Memorial Board has undergone some changes over the years. At present it consists of the following:

- *Director of the Soils and Crops Branch of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture . . . Chairman.
- *J. R. Almey, past Honorary President of the M.H.A.
- *Head of Horticulture, C.D.A., Ottawa.
- *Chief of Horticulture, Soils and Crops Branch.
- *Director, Morden Research Station.
- *Head of Horticulture, University of Manitoba.
- *Representative of the Manitoba Nursery Trades.
- *Current President of the M.H.A.
- *Immediate Past President of the M.H.A.
- *Secretary, the incumbent M.H.A. Secretary.

Recipients of the medal have come, not only from the Province of Manitoba, but also from neighboring States and

provinces. The first 13 recipients received the Gold Medal. An accident in the transit of the dies caused them to crack in 1973. Replacement of the dies was too expensive. The Board recommended that the form of the award be changed and that it be known as "The Stevenson Commemorative Award". This recommendation was accepted by the M.H.A. The award now is a work of art, such as a painting, on which an engraved silver strip bearing the gold head of Mr. Stevenson, is mounted. The last recipients have received valuable paintings with this engraved silver strip.

This is the list of winners:

Dr. F. L. Skinner, Dropmore, Man. — Presented at Pine Grove Nursery, Morden, May 24, 1932.

Dr. N. E. Hansen, Brookings, S. D. — Presented at the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, August 25, 1935.

G. F. Chipman, Winnipeg — Presented posthumously at Chipman Fruit Farm, Charleswood, Man., June 3, 1938.

N. M. Ross, Indian Head, Sask. — Presented at Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention, Winnipeg, February 13, 1941.

Prof. W. H. Alderman, University of Minnesota — Presented at Western Canadian Society for Horticultural Convention, Winnipeg, November 9, 1944.

Wm. Godfrey, Morden — Presented at Great Plains Horticultural Convention, Morden, Man., August 25, 1947.

M. B. Davis, Ottawa — Presented at Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention, Winnipeg, February 15, 1951.

Dr. A. F. Yeager, New Hampshire — Presented at Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention, Winnipeg, February 18, 1954.

Dr. W. R. Leslie, Winnipeg — Presented at Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention, Winnipeg, February 12, 1958.

Robert Simonet, Edmonton — Presented at Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention, Winnipeg, February 11th, 1960.

A. J. Porter, Parkside, Saskatchewan — Presented at Man-

itoba Horticultural Association Convention, Winnipeg, February 14, 1963.

Dr. C. Walkof, Morden — Presented at Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention, February 9, 1967.

W. L. Kerr, Saskatoon — Presented at the Manitoba Horticultural Association Convention, Winnipeg, February 13, 1970.

Dr. W. A. Cumming, Morden — Presented at the Manitoba Horticultural Convention in Winnipeg, February 8, 1974.

Prof. John Walker, Winnipeg — Presented at the Manitoba Horticultural Convention in Winnipeg, February, 1978.

H. F. "Bert" Harp, Victoria — Presented at the Manitoba Horticultural Convention in Winnipeg, February 8, 1980.

John A. Wallace, Beaverlodge — Presented at M.H.A. Convention in Winnipeg on Feb. 3, 1984.

A. P. Stevenson

(after whom the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal was named)

Mr. A. P. Stevenson.



A. P. "Sandy" Stevenson was a Scot of extraordinary vigor and enthusiasm who became known as "The Apple King of Manitoba". He and Norman M. Ross, superinten-

dent 1903-1941, Canada Department of Agriculture Forest Nursery Station, Indian Head, Saskatchewan, were the founders of successful orcharding on the Canadian Prairie.

Stevenson was born in Perthshire, Scotland, and came to Winnipeg in 1874 by the Red River Route. He did not stay there long but later that year was on a farm near Morden where he began his work of developing an apple orchard and nursery. Before he left Winnipeg, though, he had planted some apple trees in a garden on what is now Portage Avenue, thought to be the first planted in Manitoba, but H. B. Hall, of Headingly, likely could claim this honor since he had the variety Tetofsky fruiting in 1878.

Stevenson's orchard undoubtedly was Manitoba's first; and his Pine Grove Nursery at Nelson, six miles northwest of Morden, started the same year, also should be rated "first". He was the Manitoba Horticultural Association's first Honorary Life Member, a distinction conferred on him on February 16, 1917, at the Association's annual meeting in Winnipeg that year. And in 1921, he received from the Manitoba Agricultural College a Certificate of Merit for his conspicuous work in fruit culture.

For many years the Pine Grove Nursery was the Mecca for farmers and visitors who wanted fruit. They could see the trees actually growing. They could pick what they wanted from right in front of their eyes. At one time this Scottish man had over a thousand trees in his orchard, many actually with fruit. He truly was the Apple King of Manitoba.

Much of his material was obtained from Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota. After many failures with stock from eastern Canada and Great Britain, in 1890 he received a number of hardy Russian apples from Prof. J. L. Budd, of the Iowa State Agricultural College at Ames. They launched him on the road to success, and it is recorded that in 1902, he had thirty-four of these Russian apples fruiting. Prof. Budd later became recognized as one of the greatest of the pioneer teachers of horticultural practices in the colleges of the United States.

Stevenson had planted Transcendent apples from Crookston, Minnesota, in 1894, but they died. Seedling

apples of Martha crab seeds from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, planted in 1896 began to bear in 1902. In 1902 also he was growing twenty-one named Minnesota seedling apples; thirty-four Russian varieties were bearing fruit. And ten varieties of plums were fruiting; he recommended Cheney, Wolf and Wyant as the best. In 1913, he reported his apple crop for that year at 200 barrels; in the following year about 123 barrels and in that year also he named his Pine Grove Red apple, suggested as a seedling of Wealthy.

Stevenson's first planting of cherries was in 1875, but none were hardy. Of Budd's 1891 Russian introductions he obtained Basserabian, Orel, Sklanka and Shubianca; and from the Central Experimental Farm the north German Cherise de Osthiem, Lutooka and Lithour Weischsel. In 1900, he received from the Central Experimental Farm a large number of one-year seedlings of hardy Russian cherries that had fruited there.

Besides apples, Stevenson tried many other kinds of fruit. From the Central Experimental Farm, he got seeds of Russian pincherries; many of the resulting seedlings were fruitful and led to the start of successful cherry breeding experiments at the Morden Research Station and at the Minnesota Experiment Station. Like many others, he appreciated the value of the native wild plum, *Prunus nigra*, and in 1906 he introduced Mammoth, a seedling of this species. His successes at his Pine Grove orchard and nursery were the influencing factor that led the Canada Department of Agriculture to decide on Morden as the place for the Research Station that carried that name.

Stevenson proved that prairie farming indeed could be a way of life. He introduced and tried out, besides fruits, trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables from the British Isles, from eastern Canada, and from the northern United States. Even before the Canada Department of Agriculture started the Experimental Farm at Brandon in 1887, he was gaining success with his first introductions of hardy Russian plants. He learned and followed sound agricultural practices. His way of life meant that the land should be handed on to succeeding generations in better state than when received.



Left to Right: 1st Row: N. M. Ross, J. Walker, E. Stevenson, J. Flanders, R. Stevenson, F. C. Cave, C. C. Milne. 2nd Row: Mrs. R. Stevenson, Mrs. L. F. Gorman, J. J. Ring, F. L. Skinner, Mrs. A. P. Stevenson, Mrs. H. Johnson, Mrs. W. T. Maguire. Standing: Hon. E. W. Montgomery, Prof. F. W. Brodrick, J. H. Black, W. C. McKillican, T. Laycock, G. Compton, W. Conner, J. Wiener, C. A. Midwinter, J. D. Duthie, Harold Orchard, Dr. H. M. Speechly, W. G. Scott, E. Leatherdale, W. R. Leslie, W. Stubbs, Rev. Dr. A. B. Baird, J. Evans, G. Batho.

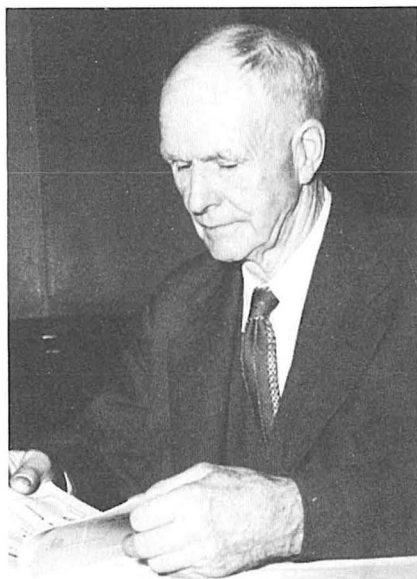
He grew to be a familiar and most welcome visitor at many prairie homesteads. In later life, for the Canada Department and the Forestry Branch Nursery at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, he travelled many hundreds of miles persuading farmers to plant shelterbelts instructing them on care and maintenance. Today, shelterbelts, and orchards are a way of life on countless prairie farms.

Stevenson continued operating his orchard and nursery until his death in December, 1922, age 68, when his eldest son Robert succeeded him. His family on August 11, 1924, received the Carter Gold Medal from the hands of Honorable W. R. Motherwell, Canada Minister of Agriculture, in recognition of their achievement in the field of fruit culture, at a meeting of the Manitoba Horticultural Association in Kildonan Park, Winnipeg. Robert Stevenson was made Honorary Life Member of the Association in 1951.

Picture of Gold Medal Presentation to Mr. Skinner on page 119.

Frank Leith Skinner, M.B.E., LL.D.

F. L. Skinner.



Frank Skinner came to Manitoba from Rosehearty, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1895 at the age of thirteen years, with his parents and six other children; and until his death

August 17, 1967, age eighty-five years, his mind, his work, all his days were concentrated on improvements — improved fruits, improved ornamentals, improved herbaceous perennials. His book, "Horticultural Horizons", published in 1967 and autographed for many friends and admirers, will ever be a source of wonder and an urge to emulate.

Canada had no one more worthy than he to be the recipient of the first Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal, on May 24, 1932, fitting in A. P. Stevenson's Pine Grove orchard for "Conspicuous achievement in Horticulture".

Mr. A. P. Stevenson handed the Gold Medal to him before an approving audience of 5,000.

That was the start of the honors to come to Skinner. He was winner in 1933 of the Cory Cup of the Royal Horticultural Society, Great Britain, of which he was a Fellow, for his 'Maxwill' lily; and in 1937 he was given the Minnesota State Horticultural Society Bronze Medal and Life Membership. In 1943 he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire and was on the King George VI Birthday Honors List. The University of Manitoba bestowed on him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in 1947.

Further recognitions of the value of his successes were: 1963, Silver Medal from International Horticultural Exhibition, Hamburg, Germany, for his display of lilies; 1964, Citation from the American Horticultural Society "For his lifetime of collecting, growing, studying and distributing ornamental plants adapted to the cold prairie areas of Canada". His introductions are now at home in many gardens, and his efforts to increase our knowledge of cold-resistant plants have been acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In 1967 the Honorable Dufferin Roblin, Premier, made him an Officer of the Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt for "his distinguished contribution to life in the Province".

He was admitted to Honorary Life Membership in the following: 1951, Saskatchewan Horticultural Societies Association; 1955, Agricultural Institute of Canada; 1956, Plant Propagators Society, Department of Agriculture, Ohio State University, (first award), with a plaque inscribed "In recog-

dition of his outstanding contributions in the field of Horticulture and plant propagation"; 1959, Western Canadian Society for Horticulture; 1964, Canadian Nursery Trades Association and in the same year the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science.

In 1900, when Skinner was nineteen, his father, his brother William, and he each filed on a quarter section (160 acres of farm land) near where the town of Dropmore now stands, then the farthest north settlement in Manitoba and thirty miles from the nearest town. Frank and William went into partnership on their joint half section. Previously his father had raised cattle for five years on Crown land. Horticulture won Frank for life, in the first year of the twentieth century.

In 1901, he started growing trees and shrubs on his quarter section. The Canada Department of Agriculture Experimental Station at Ottawa, and Dr. William Saunders, Director, Dominion Experimental Farms Service, were his first source of information. By 1925, Skinner's interest, experience and knowledge were on a strong foundation, and he felt ready to offer his plants and seeds for sale under the name of the Manitoba Hardy Plant Nursery, Dropmore, (in 1949, Skinner's Nursery Limited).

In "Horticultural Horizons", Skinner related that he had been in contact, either personally or by correspondence, with many of the greatest botanical and horticultural workers of the century. He had met C. S. Sargent, director of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and all the other directors, except W. H. Wilson whose name is kept fresh by the North American Lily Society with the E. H. Wilson Memorial Award. Skinner was one of the founders of the society in 1939 when the Lily committee of the American Horticultural Society decided to form their own society; and in 1964 he received the Memorial Medal for his own "conspicuous" work.

He had met many of the officials of the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.; of the Plant Introduction Garden, at Glendale, Maryland; and of the Plant Industry Bureau at Beltsville, Maryland. He learned from Dr. Sam

Emsweller, head of the Ornamentals section at the last named, how to propagate lily bulbs with a minimum of loss from basal rot.

Dr. W. T. Macoun, then Curator Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Ottawa, was a close, personal friend. It was talks with him that led Skinner to develop the Dropmore 'Scarlet Trumpet' honeysuckle, one of the best hardy ornamental vines that can be grown on the prairies.

For forty years Skinner had close associations with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, the Stockholm Botanic Garden, and the University Botanic Garden, Uppsala, Sweden, where Carl Linnaeus, the greatest Swedish botanist of the 18th Century and one of the founders of modern botany, had worked. From these and other institutions he received many plant species that proved of both economic and ornamental value in prairie Canada.

He corresponded for years with Russian A. E. Woeikoff and exchanged with him many valuable seeds and plants. In France, he had been in touch with R. Ruffier-Lanche of the Institut Botanique du Lautaret, University of Grenoble, and received from him plants native to the high Alps of eastern France and from Central Asia not obtainable from other sources. Many other men and institutions assisted him in his work of introducing hardy plant material to western Canada. Plant material came to him from Russia, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Siberia, Manchuria, Japan and South America.

Finally, at age eighty-three, Frank Leith Skinner set out to write "Horizontal Horizons", 164 pages of personal and philosophical record of work and achievement, in chapters, tables and text, grouped in ornamental and forest trees; ornamental shrubs and woody climbers; tree and bush fruits; and herbaceous perennial plants. Its closing chapter, titled "The Future of Horticultural Plant Introduction and Breeding for the Canadian Prairies", opened with the statement that "In spite of the progress that has been made in the past fifty years, what has been done is merely the prelude to what may be done during the next fifty".

After his death, the Manitoba Horticultural Association decided on an F. L. Skinner Memorial Library in his honor, to remind future generations of his treasured contribution to prairie horticultural advance. The books are to be selected by the Plant Science Department, University of Manitoba, and kept in the Department Library, every book bearing a Skinner Library name plate.

Contributions to the supporting fund were received from individuals, horticultural and agricultural associations, municipalities in the three prairie provinces, Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia; from England and Holland; and from the States of North Dakota, Montana, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Massachusetts, Illinois, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Alaska.

Dr. Skinner was truly a remarkable man.

N. E. Hansen, Ph.D.

Second of the recipients of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal was Niels Ebbesen Hansen, head of the Department of Horticulture, South Dakota Agricultural College, Brookings, S.D. He received this honor on August 25, 1935, at the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station, Morden, from J. H. Evans, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Hansen was born on a farm near Ribe, Denmark, in 1866, of parents who had been reared on large and prosperous farms. His father emigrated to the United States in 1872, and Niels and his stepmother followed the next year. The family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, three years later, and young Hansen entered Iowa State College at age 17 with an educational background much better than most youths of his age. Prof. J. L. Budd, head of the Department of Horticulture, said he was the most brilliant student ever to attend his classes.

After graduation, Hansen spent three years working for two of the largest nurseries in Iowa, and in 1891 became Budd's assistant at Ames. In 1894, on leave of absence with pay from the college, and able to speak seven or eight

SECOND AWARD of STEVENSON MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL MORDEN 1935



Left to Right: Standing: J. Walker, C. E. James, Prof. F. W. Brodrick, F. W. McIntosh, W. White, D. Allen, W. R. Boughen, C. Midwinter Jr., G. Champion, J. H. Evans, G. A. Ross, Unknown, Unknown, W. Keith, W. R. Leslie. Seated: Col. B. D. Wallace, Unknown, T. J. Harrison, Mrs. C. Hansen, G. F. Chipman, C. A. Hansen, P. Hansen, Unknown, F. L. Skinner, C. Milne, Mrs. A. P. Stevenson, W. Fingland, N. E. Hansen, J. R. Almey, Mrs. J. A. Strong, Mrs. W. R. Leslie, Hon. D. G. McKenzie, T. O. Graham, C. A. Midwinter Sr., H. Orchard, A. Roe, F. Pugh, R. Stevenson, E. Stevenson, M. Johnson.

languages, he spent four months in Europe, much of it in Russia. Budd had started bringing fruit introductions from Russia and by 1878 had accumulated 200 varieties of Russian apples, cherries and plums. They had proved of little value in Iowa, but did find a place in the northern states and in the prairie provinces. Hansen obtained his master's degree from Iowa State College in 1895, and when he transferred later in the year to South Dakota University he carried with him Budd's thoughts and experiences with Russian introductions.

His first journey as a plant explorer was in 1897 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture sent him through Russia, Turkestan, Western China and west central Siberia, on 2,000 miles of travel by wagon and sleigh that ended in Siberia in the middle of their winter. His search was primarily for grasses and forage crops that might be useful in the Northern Great Plains of the North American continent. He collected also seeds of many other kinds of plants, and a small amount of Crested Wheat grass, now so widely grown in both the United States and Canada.

Altogether, Hansen journeyed six times in northern Europe and Asia. The first three journeys (1897-8, 1906, and 1908-9) were financed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the next two (1913-1914) by the State of South Dakota. On his sixth visit in 1934, he was an honored guest of the government of the Union of The States of the Socialist Soviet Republic and accompanied his hosts on an expedition into Siberia. In all, he spent thirty-seven months on his search for plants in Europe and Asia and supplemented these with many visits into Canada.

From 1895 until 1937, when he became professor emeritus at South Dakota College of Agriculture, and continued on a part-time basis, Hansen worked with singleness of purpose as a plant explorer and plant breeder. The North American prairie lands, both north and south of the International Boundary, owe much, indeed, to this gifted man. A. P. Stevenson gained from his friendship with Hansen many of the ideas and many of the plant gifts which he applied to his fruit growing in Manitoba.

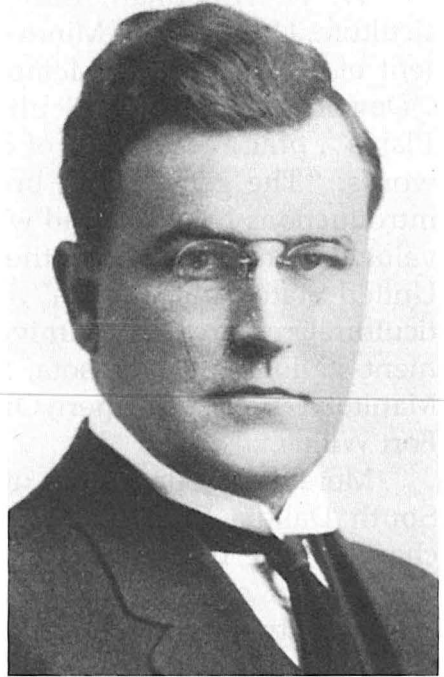
W. H. Alderman, head of the Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota, and in 1944 himself recipient of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal, in his book "Development of Horticulture on the Northern Great Plains", praised the value of Hansen's explorations in these words: "The germ plasm brought in through these plant introductions has been and will long continue to be of basic value to plant breeders in the Northern Great Plains of the United States and Canada". Working with him were horticultural researchers at universities, colleges, and experiment stations in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Manitoba and the Northern Ontario Plant Breeding station at Fort William.

More than 250 varieties of fruits were introduced by the South Dakota Experiment Station while Hansen was in charge of the Department of Horticulture. He raised great numbers of seedlings, fruits, ornamentals, vegetables, to lessen the time needed to gain favorable introductions, considering that his time was best spent in hunting for superior variants. He gave names to selections and distributed them among many gardeners to establish their value under varied conditions of cultivation. Best known of his originations are the Dolgo crabapple, the Sapa, Opata and Cistena cherry-plums, the Waneta, Toka and Kaga plums, the Sioux sand-cherry, and the Anoka apple. The best of his collection of fruit varieties, including both foreign plant introductions and his own originations, are now being maintained in a Hansen Memorial Orchard, at the South Dakota Agricultural College, to "constitute a reservoir of germ plasm for the benefit of future fruit breeders".

George F. Chipman

Next of the recipients of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal was George F. Chipman, but sadly it was a posthumous award for he was victim in 1935 of an accidental death. His high contribution to the knowledge of, and to the cultivation of fruit growing and vegetable growing was enshrined in the memory of prairie dwellers on June 3, 1938, at his Chipman Fruit Farm in Charleswood, on the south

G. F. Chipman.



bank of the Assiniboine River, when the Gold Medal was placed in the hands of Mrs. Chipman by Honorable John Bracken, Premier of Manitoba.

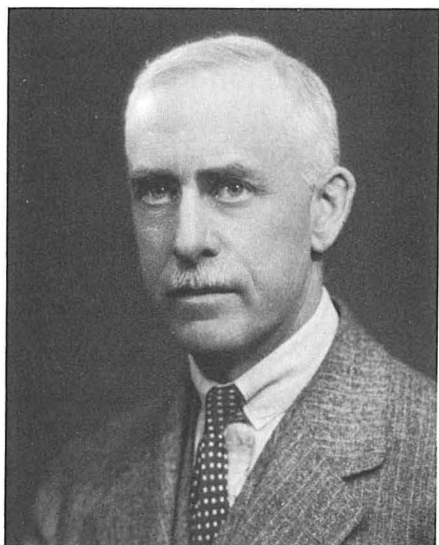
Chipman was a Nova Scotia man, born in 1882 on a fruit farm in the Annapolis Valley. He came west as a young man, and from the ranks of daily newspaper reporters was drawn to the very young Grain Growers Guide, first in an associate capacity, and then for nearly twenty-five years as editor until his death. He was not a nurseryman by profession, nor was he an orchard operator, not on a large scale anyway, but he did have at his Charleswood home an intensive fruit and vegetable breeding program. This activity produced improved sandcherries and muskmelons in addition to the widely grown Canada Red rhubarb.

Soon after he joined the Grain Growers Guide, he came interested in horticulture, not just as a hobby to which he was deeply attached but rather as a means to add permanence to farm living in the then new and underdeveloped prairie provinces. The Grain Growers Guide, later to be the Country Guide, was published by United Grain Growers

Limited, Winnipeg, a farmers' organization to further the needs of its members by promoting better and more profitable ways of raising and selling grain crops. He used the columns of his widely read paper, freely and to excellent purpose to get his ideas across to many prairie dwellers. He became well known and highly respected for his horticultural efforts.

Chipman held a firm conviction that horticulture, as reflected in fruit, vegetables and flower gardens, was essential to comfortable and satisfying farm life on the prairies; and by correspondence and personal associations, he cultivated the acquaintance with the best authorities of his day. Among these were W. L. Kerr and W. R. Leslie, of the Morden Research Station, both strong for better fruit varieties. With their encouragement and generous gifts, the Country Guide distributed thousands of apple and plum seedlings, and hundreds of pounds of seeds. A number of useful new varieties resulted from his work. Chipman also wrote and published special bulletins which were distributed to interested growers. His slogan was "The Million Dollar Apple"; he was fully convinced that some day an apple would be produced worth that much to prairie dwellers.

Norman M. Ross



Norman M. Ross.

The Canadian Government early recognized the need for experimentation and research to assist farmers and homemakers in their agricultural pursuits and in comfortable living, and for dedicated men to staff experimental farms and stations to that end. Horticulture, defined as covering fruits, ornamental shrubs and flowers, was prominent in the tasks to which these men applied themselves.

Such a man was Norman M. Ross who joined the Dominion Forest Service in the spring of 1901 and was given charge of the free tree distribution of shelterbelt stock to prairie farmers. The Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior had decided on Indian Head, Saskatchewan, for its first Forest Nursery Station, and after spending the winter in Ottawa, Ross was sent there in the spring of 1903 to organize the work, encourage the planting of shelterbelts on farms, and distribute suitable planting material to those who would agree to prepare land and plant and care for the seedlings according to the regulations set up by the Forestry Service. He remained in charge there as superintendent until his retirement in 1941.

The land acquired was only 160 acres, but additions in 1906, 1910 and later in 1950 raised the total acreage to 640, a square mile, or a full section in the language of the day. A second station was started at Sutherland in 1914, and annual tree distributions soon grew into the millions. In 1916, more than 4,000,000 seedlings and cuttings were sent out from the two stations; in 1917, more than 7,000,000; and by 1935 the total had mounted to 145,000,000.

Besides the propagation of material for distribution, the stations were used to demonstrate landscape and ornamental planting under the protection of suitable shelter, and the testing of all possibly hardy varieties of trees and ornamental shrubs. Material for an orchard was supplied by A. P. Stevenson from his Pine Grove orchard, by W. R. Leslie from the then Morden Experimental Farm, and by Prof. N. E. Hansen from the South Dakota State University orchard at Brookings. Stevenson and Ross were the founders of successful prairie orcharding and Stevenson in later life travelled many, many miles from Ross's Forestry Station

convincing farmers of their urgent need for shelterbelts to protect their land from the high winds that so often swept the flat country.

Thus it was right that Ross should receive the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal, given to him on February 13, 1941, by Prof. F. W. Brodrick and Robert Stevenson at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Horticultural Association in Winnipeg. He had been an Honorary Life Member since 1929.

In his garden, Ross grew many seedling delphiniums from which he selected a superior white variety which Frank L. Skinner listed as 'Ross' in his nursery catalogue. He found on a neglected farm garden, propagated and introduced, a popular gooseberry which W. R. Leslie, of the Morden Experimental Farm, named 'Ross'. He found, too, in a shrub border a growing, rambling rose which Leslie also named 'Ross'.

Norman Ross, for many years before his retirement, was regarded as "one of the stalwarts of prairie horticulture". And W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, often said of him that "he was the best endowed natural horticulturist in the nation". Besides being a horticulturist, he won renown as a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, as a horseman of distinction and as a breeder and trainer of hunting dogs. He lived to ~~eighty-four~~ 87 years and died in Vancouver in the autumn of 1964.

William H. Alderman

born 1877
d. 1964



W. H. Alderman.

Three distinguished United States horticulturists have received the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal, and their acceptance has added prestige to this singular Canadian honor for unusual men. Second among these neighbor recipients was William H. Alderman, a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, a 1908 graduate of Cornell University, New York, and from 1919 to 1953 professor and head of the Department of Horticulture, University of Minnesota, and superintendent of the University Fruit Breeding Farm at Excelsior, 1922.

He received the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal on November 9, 1944, from the hand of J. H. Evans, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, in Winnipeg, at a joint meeting of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture and the Canadian Society for Technical Agriculturists. And in 1959, in Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg, at the annual meeting of the Northern Great Plains Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science, Mayor Stephen Juba made Alderman an Honorary Citizen of the City of Winnipeg.

Alderman was a man of wide interests and many achievements. His life began in Holley, New York, in April, 1885. In his graduation year he was field agent in the Department of Pomology, Cornell University; and from 1908 to 1911 associate horticulturist, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York. During the years 1911 to 1919, he was professor and head of the Department of Agriculture, West Virginia College of Agriculture, Morgantown, West Virginia, and during the last year acting dean and director of the College of Agriculture and Experiment Station. He was secretary of the State Horticultural Society from 1917 to 1919.

Most orchards and gardens in the Northern Great Plains region bear the stamp of some of Alderman's work. In 1948, the American Society for Horticultural Science published his paper Number 2379 of the Scientific Journal Series, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, "Fruit Breeding — Past, Present and Future". Under his direction 124 new fruits, vegetables and flowers were developed which have

helped amateur and professional gardeners to obtain more satisfying and more profitable production.

During 1924 and 1925, Alderman was president of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society; in 1937 the Society awarded him their Bronze Medal for his contributions to Minnesota horticulture. Later he was made an Honorary Life Member both of that Society and of the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association. In recognition of his contribution to fruit breeding, the American Pomological Society in 1954 awarded him their Wilder Medal. The Minnesota State Fruit Growers Association in 1962 honored him with their Golden Apple Award.

The Wisconsin State Horticultural Society in 1945 recognized him with their Certificate of Honor for his services in breeding valuable fruit varieties; and in 1963, on July 9th, at the South Dakota State University, Brookings, the South Dakota State Horticultural Society presented him their John Robertson Memorial Medal, "for outstanding contribution to Northern Great Plains horticulture".

But after his retirement from the University of Minnesota, Alderman was not yet ready for idleness, and he and his wife Katherine applied for and were awarded Fulbright professorships in the University of Salonika, Greece. He worked there for nine months (1953-54) instructing students in American methods of breeding and improving fruits. Mrs. Alderman, a former president of the American Home Economics Association and teacher of home economics, worked with young women in developing a home economics program.

As professor emeritus at the University of Minnesota, he led a committee in the preparation of the historical "Development of Horticulture on the Northern Great Plains", sponsored by the Great Plains Region, American Society for Horticultural Science.

William Godfrey

Prairie Canada owes much to the continuous work from early days of the staffs of the Canada Department of Agriculture Experimental Farms. One name that comes quickly to

William Godfrey.



mind in association with the Morden Experimental Farm is William Godfrey, head gardener, and writer of the widely studied Publication 798, Farmers' Bulletin 145, "House Plants", issued in November 1947, and still a treasured possession in many homes.

Godfrey was a talented gardener with experimental ideas of beauty of appearance. He was a son (1878) of the English city Newcastle-on-Tyne who chose to be a gardener, and a very good one. He started with a thorough apprenticeship on English estates and like many of his day emigrated to Canada. In 1913, he joined the staff of the Canada Department of Agriculture at the Rosthern Experimental Farm, a little more than forty miles north of Saskatoon, established in 1909 under W. B. Munro, superintendent until 1931.

August 1914 saw the outbreak of World War One and Godfrey was a soldier on active service in the infantry, Canadian Expeditionary Forces. After discharge in 1918, he returned to the Rosthern farm as head gardener with flower beds and gardens everywhere, and carefully tended formal hedges. He was transferred in 1923 to the Morden Research Station to become head gardener of landscape, border and plant breeding projects until he retired in 1946.

At Morden, Godfrey applied himself to plant breeding

with characteristic energy and knowledge. His rose breeding alone covered many thousands of hybrid seedlings; and he raised as well most of the ornamental and fruit seedlings grown there. His laying out and care of planting areas and experimenting plantations added most valuably to the success of the Morden station in his time, and afterwards too.

The much favored 'Morden Pink' was his lythrum that led to the station's later lythrums, 'Morden Gleam', with deep rosy red flowers in medium green foliage, and 'Morden Rose', with rich rosy red flowers in dark green foliage. He commenced the breeding of new Chrysanthemums that have produced the justly popular plants Morden Bonfire, orange-red fully double flowers; Morden Cameo, large double white flowers; Morden Candy, large double soft pink flowers, and many others. The station in addition, introduced in 1967, a series of twelve chrysanthemums to commemorate Canada's Centennial.

Very good shrub roses also have come from Godfrey's work. These have been: 1946, 'Prairie Wren'; 1948, 'Prairie Sailor'; 1949, 'Prairie Youth'; 1959, 'Prairie Charm', 'Prairie Dawn', and 'Prairie Maid', and in 1967 'Metis'. On August 25, 1947, Godfrey received from M. B. Davis, Dominion Horticulturist, the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal at a meeting at the Morden Station of the Great Plains Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Also present was L. E. Longley, president of the Society.

Malcolm B. Davis, LL.D.

Malcolm B. Davis, known internationally as Chief, Division of Horticulture, Canada Experimental Farms Service, until his retirement January 19, 1955, broadened the Canadian scientific research in horticulture begun so well by his predecessors William G. Saunders, and William T. Macoun. He was a prolific plant breeder, a specialist in plant nutrition and in food technology, author and joint author of forty-three scientific publications. He was a strong influence on the development of prairie horticulture. The Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal was presented to him in Winnipeg, February 15, 1951, by Honorable F. C. Bell, Minister of Agri-

culture, Manitoba, at the annual meeting that year of the Manitoba Horticultural Association.

Davis was born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, January 19, 1890, and after completing public and high schools studied at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro. Next he furthered his knowledge at McGill University, Montreal, and graduated in 1912, with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. The First World War broke out in 1914 and he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served in France with the 7th McGill Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, from May, 1916, to April, 1919.

He joined the Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, largely a breeding and variety testing unit, in 1914. Under his influence, first as assistant pomologist in 1920 and chief assistant to W. T. Macoun, and, after 1933, as chief of the Division, the work expanded to include many phases of horticulture so that the Division became one of the largest and most important in the Canada Department of Agriculture, and moreover enjoys high international reputation. He did graduate work in genetics at the University of Minnesota in 1923; and in 1930 received from Bristol University, Bristol, England, his Master of Science degree.

Plant breeding remained a principal Division function and Davis when working with various fruits, introduced many new varieties some of which, including the Masawaska and Trent raspberries, the Louise, Mackenzie and Tupper strawberries, and the Captivator thornless gooseberry, widely grown in Canada. Some of his apple selections extend the ripening season, some ripen extra early, and others retain quality until late spring. He was responsible too for the commercial planting of Macoun's apple selections Melba, Joyce, Lobo, Atlas and Hume, now widely planted in parts of Canada, in contiguous parts of the United States, and in northern Europe. These five varieties account for twenty percent of the newer plantings in eastern Canada. His studies on tree nutrition and soil management in the apple orchard formed the basis of commercial growing in eastern Canada.

He instituted Canadian studies on hardy rootstocks and

tree building; and pioneered research in plant nutrition that resulted in the discovery and identification of symptoms of nutrient deficiencies and excesses in apple, strawberry, tomato, chrysanthemum, carnation and other horticultural plants. He discovered the importance of balanced or critical relationship between the different elements, particularly nitrogen and potassium, and was one of the first to recognize the importance of minor or trace elements in crop production.

In 1931 Davis established the first experimental cold storage unit in Canada devoted to the study of fruit and vegetables. Under his direction fundamental information was obtained on the physiology of apple fruit during storage. In 1934, he started the first experimental gas storage work with apples on the North American continent; these studies began the commercial use of gas storages now used to maintain the quality of apples in eastern North America. Other cold storage studies included the relationship between fertilizer and cultural practices and storage behaviour, and an evaluation of different methods of cold storage construction and refrigeration. He directed experimental work on apple juice and its fortification with vitamin C; and pioneered in experimental work on the preservation of fruits and vegetables by freezing.

With the outbreak in 1939 of the Second World War, the Horticulture Division was called on for assistance in vegetable dehydration. High quality Canadian dehydrated vegetables helped to feed Canadian army soldiers in several war theatres and allied armed forces in Europe and Asia, also to feed civilian populations in liberated countries.

As well as the phases of horticultural work in which he had been personally associated, the Horticulture Division included under his direction a section dealing with vegetable breeding, seed production methods and chemical weed control; an ornamental section on breeding; evaluation of new varieties and landscaping; a section on greenhouse management and greenhouse crops research; and a section on the evaluation and breeding of potatoes, particularly for disease resistance. He was responsible for the technical phases of

horticulture experiments and research on twenty-five branch farms and stations of the Experimental Farms Service across Canada.

He was chairman: Department of Agriculture Fruit and Vegetable Products Research Committee; Fruits and Vegetable Committee of the Canadian Committee on Food Preservation; Research Committee of the Canadian Horticultural Council; Horticultural Plant Breeding Committee of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and Official Correspondent of the Commonwealth Bureau of Horticulture and Plantation Crops.

He was a Founder and Fellow (1945) of the Agricultural Institute of Canada; was Vice-President (1955-1956) and in 1965 Fellow American Society for Horticultural Science; Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; member of the American Society of Plant Physiologists and of the American Society of Food Technologists; Honorary Life Member, Canadian Society for Horticultural Science; H.L.M., Western Canadian Society for Horticulture; and member, Canadian Horticultural Council, Canadian Seed Growers' Association, Institute of Food Technologists and Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada. In 1955, McGill University conferred on him the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Macdonald College of McGill University.

A. F. Yeager, Ph.D.

One reads with approval in Prof. W. H. Alderman's historical record, "Development of Horticulture on the Northern Great Plains", that "A. F. Yeager possessed the 'plant touch' in unique degree. His success in breeding new types of vegetables and superior fruits was phenomenal. He seemed to be endowed with practical magic in choosing parental plant materials and also in evaluating his selections".

His contribution to Northern Great Plains horticulture was recognized with the award of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal by W. R. Leslie at the annual meeting of the

Manitoba Horticultural Association in Winnipeg, February 18, 1954.

He joined the faculty of North Dakota Agricultural College, now State University, in March, 1919, to continue and broaden the work of breeding fruits and vegetables begun on firm foundation in 1891, by C. B. Waldron, graduate in Botany in July, 1890, of Michigan State University, first faculty (Horticulture) appointment (July, 1890) of the College of Agriculture opened earlier that year in Fargo. The next year Yeager was made Professor of Horticulture, Forestry and Landscape Gardening in the college.

Yeager remained at Fargo until November, 1938, and became widely known throughout the prairies of the United States and Canada as an imaginative, stimulating and productive plant breeder. He continued the work of experimenting in the selection of early ripening strains of tomatoes, and on August 5, 1920, had the satisfaction of seeding ripe fruits of selections of Earliana growing near the Canadian boundary. One of these, in 1922 named North Dakota Earliana, was the first of thirty new varieties of fruits and vegetables that he introduced. In 1925, three more varieties of tomato and a strawberry were released; and during the next thirteen years the introduction of new horticultural productions from the Fargo Experiment Station became almost an annual event.

He worked with a wide range of horticultural material. Besides the apple given his name, Yeager Sweet, in 1938 after he left Fargo, he introduced nine varieties of fruits, eight miscellaneous vegetables, and thirteen tomatoes. He will be remembered longest for his well known Bison tomato, Buttercup squash, New Hampshire midget watermelon, Red River crabapple, Durham raspberry and Pixwell gooseberry. He was largely responsible for the reorganization in 1923 of the North Dakota State Horticultural Society which he made the vibrant organization that it still is, during his fourteen years as secretary.

His work in Fargo was summarized in Alderman's book in these words: "Yeager's success and contagious enthusiasm did much to stimulate vegetable breeding in the north-

ern prairie region, particularly in Canada. His early maturing tomatoes, squash and sweet corn demonstrated the possibilities of continued improvement in these crops and furnished parental material for other breeders. He was the first to make extensive use of 'self-pruning' tomatoes with determinate growth habit in the development of early ripening varieties. The small, compact plants of this type are now widely used in many parts of the continent where a short summer season is the limiting factor in production''.

After leaving North Dakota, Yeager spent a short time at Michigan State College, and then moved to New Hampshire to be head of the Department of Horticulture where he continued his productive career as a plant breeder until he retired in 1958 and went to Fort Myers, Florida.

W. R. Leslie, LL.D.

Dr. W. R. Leslie.



When W. R. Leslie commenced his thirty-five years as superintendent at the Dominion Experimental Farm at Morden in July, 1921, much of the foundation work, the pioneering in prairie horticulture, had been started by men like A. P. Stevenson at Morden, N. M. Ross at Indian Head, Angus MacKay at Indian Head, S. A. Bedford at Brandon and F. L. Skinner at Dropmore. There were also others like J. L. Budd

in Iowa, W. H. Alderman in Minnesota, N. E. Hansen in South Dakota, and C. B. Waldron in North Dakota.

Leslie's arrival at the then six years old experimental farm was at a very fortunate time, because the potentials of successful horticulture were becoming widely recognized. His task had broadened immensely. Dozens of men had applied themselves to fruit production chiefly, to hardy trees and ornamental shrubs, to vegetables, and to a somewhat lesser degree to annual and perennial plants. They knew well the direction they wanted to follow . . . testing new varieties, cultural practices and soils. He came well equipped for the duties he undertook and developed a horticultural research station second to none in North America. He gathered the most extensive number of hardy plant species available to plant breeders to be found in Canada.

He had graduated from Manitoba Agricultural College in 1916 with the degree of Bachelor of Science, Agriculture, and the Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal for general proficiency. This he followed with two years post graduate studies in plant physiology and breeding at the University of Minnesota.

He had held successive positions at the Dominion Forestry Nursery Station at Indian Head (1914); with the Forestry Service of the Canadian Pacific Railway (1915); with the Horticultural Division at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, (1916-17); and from 1917 to 1921 as plant specialist in charge of the Northern Ontario Plant Breeding Station at Fort William. He was familiar with the successes in fruit breeding at the experiment stations in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. Out of this wealth of training and experience, he brought to Morden intimate knowledge of prairie horticulture, and a vision of the possibilities that still lay ahead.

For several years before 1914, the Canada Department of Agriculture had known that the Brandon Experimental Farm was not best suited to breeding and general experimenting with fruits and other horticultural plants, and a 300 acre farm was bought in the Morden area, a few miles from A. P. Stevenson's Pine Grove Nursery. Stevenson's successes had shown that the soil, the climate and other growth needs were

better than those at Brandon. More land bought in 1929 raised the total acreage to 627.

Leslie found miles of shelterbelt planting already enclosing relatively small, oblong plots. A start had been made in forming a collection of hardy plant materials. But while recognizing the value of that material as parents in a breeding programme, he set out to enlarge this collection; and such was the measure of his success that the arboretum and the various test plots at the Morden station now have the biggest collection of super-hardy horticultural plants in North America.

Around 250 acres are in horticultural plantings, distributed roughly in fruits, 150 acres; vegetables, 11 acres; arboretum, 54 acres; landscape grounds and special gardens, nurseries and lawns, 29 acres. More than 75 new and hardy varieties of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and perennial flowering plants have come from the Morden station.

Many able men have worked with Leslie at the Morden station, among them William Godfrey, ornamentals, W. Kerr and C. R. Ure, fruit, Charles Walkof, vegetables; and H. F. Harp and W. A. Cumming, ornamentals. All had a hand in improving horticultural practices on the prairie farm and urban areas. They have added importantly to the splendid reputation that the Morden Research Station enjoys on the North American continent.

W. R. Leslie received the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal from the hands of Dr. J. R. Bell, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Horticultural Association in Winnipeg, February 12, 1958. He was one of the first to receive the Manitoba Government's "Golden Boy" Good Citizen Award. In 1952, the University of Manitoba conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He received the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's Award of Merit, 1942, "For achievement in promoting horticulture and in developing hardy plants", and in 1956 the Citation of the American Horticultural Council, Washington, D.C., "for fifty years work in testing plants for cold climates".

He is a Fellow of the American Association for the

Advancement of Science and a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada; and an Honorary Life Member of the Western Canada Society for Horticulture, and of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. After his retirement in 1956, he wrote weekly and semi-weekly articles on horticulture for the readers of the Winnipeg Free Press until he moved to Victoria, British Columbia, in 1971.

Robert Simonet



Mr. R. Simonet.

Robert Simonet is an introduction, or more correctly an immigrant, from France, born in a little village near Paris, who has contributed substantially to prairie garden life. He has credited his grandmother, with whom he spent his early years, with arousing in him keen and intelligent interest in plant life.

At the age of 16, in 1919, he accompanied his sister to Edmonton where she married a Canadian soldier. Since he had had no formal education, he fell back on his own resources and took any job he could get, mostly with market gardeners during the summer months. Later he was employed at the Edmonton Misericordia Hospital as steam

engineer in the winter and gardener in the summer. He occupied his leisure hours with studying the principles of genetics in the Edmonton and University of Alberta libraries.

By 1930, Simonet had saved enough money to embark on a modest market garden of his own, at first selling bedding plants and vegetables, but soon selling seeds also. His library studies had led him to thinking about the possibility of using a single parent plant carrying complete dominance for double flowers as a means towards getting fully double petunias, the professional secret of a few Japanese who dominated the world market for petunia seeds.

By the time that Japan attacked the United States Navy anchored in Hawaii in 1941, he had one or two lines of fully double petunias, and having built himself a moderately expensive greenhouse was then able to supply a fair quantity of seed. He has since held the lead he had gained on the North American market, and won himself, too, a wide reputation. He had developed also a gladiolus variety which he named 'Simonet Buff', and a strain of double hollyhocks. He introduced Yukon native strawberry into everbearing varieties that gave him some promising seedlings. He named one Alberta.

In 1958, he moved to six acres of rich soil about ten miles southeast of Edmonton which gave him more land for his many ideas. One of these was a pure white and a pure yellow double petunia. From a saskatoon and a mountainash cross which he had found quite by accident in his earlier nursery, he worked on developing an unusual line of ornamental and small fruit bushes. Other projects he applied himself to were ever-bearing and winter-hardy strawberry crosses, and Mongolian and Bing cherry crosses. He had already produced a sweet turnip variety which he named Alta Sweet; and continued his experimenting with rhubarb, raspberries, apricots, clematis and honeysuckle.

He was now able to devote more land to his interest in roses, using *Rosa acicularis* and *Rosa arkansana* V. *suffulta*, both with shades of pink, with white or nearly white flowered natives of Asia and Siberia, *Rosa spinosissima altaica* (the Altai

rose) and *Rosa laxa*, in hybridizing trials with tea roses and other species and hybrids.

One of his crossings was Percy H. Wright's 'Aylsham' from a crossing of 'Hansa' and *Rosa nitida*, with F. L. Skinner's 'George Will' from a crossing of *Rosa acicularis* and a 'floribunda.' In his article on his rose breeding in the 1965 edition of the *Prairie Garden*, he noted that he considered its value mainly for further breeding rather than for decorative qualities, adding that his results were fair proof that much hardier ever-blooming roses are possible with more trials.

For his searches into new and varied fields, Robert Simonet qualified for the award of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal, and this was given to him by J. R. Almey at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Horticultural Association in Winnipeg on February 11, 1960. In 1971, Alberta Horticultural Association presented him their Centennial Gold Medal.

A. J. Porter



A. J. Porter.

A. J. Porter is a farmer's son who gave up school teaching to have a nursery and bring forward his own introductions to hardy plant life. He has done this successfully with tree and bush fruits and lilies, and the worth of his frequent additions in his special field was recognized by the Manitoba Horticultural Association, on February 14, 1963, in Winnipeg with the award of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal from the hands of John Walker and Robert Stevenson.

Porter came to prairie life in 1907 spring, from Surrey, England, at age six, to join his father who had homesteaded the previous year at Parkside, thirty-five miles west of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. In adult life, after teaching in various schools in that province and then two years as salesman for a commercial nursery, he began his chosen nursery career at Parkside where he did his first test trials in 1933, setting out over fifty crabapple trees which had been grafted on ordinary apple seedlings. Their life was short.

He had seen the need for a source of supply of good, young stock of suitable fruit varieties, and his friendship with George F. Chipman, than editor of *Country Guide*, strengthened his intention to engage in fruit production. For a quick financial return his tests began with strawberries, but he had also collections of crabapples and other fruit varieties in small plots in his young Honeywood nursery. He tried out over ninety strawberry varieties and raised thousands of seedlings from both open-pollinated and controlled crosses, but found few able to stand the climate, and many low in quality and in resistance to disease. Nevertheless, he introduced the following named varieties; 1942, Sparta; 1947, Pixie and Sweetheart; 1953, Prince Albert; 1954, Northerner and Parkland; and Jubilee in 1955.

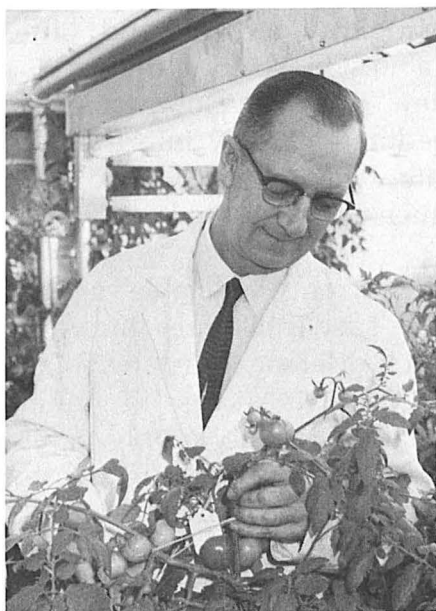
He worked extensively also in raspberry trials, beginning with Herbert, Starlight and Sunbeam. Viking red raspberry from Ontario did well under winter protection and led him to a variety with Viking quality and more cane hardness, using local native raspberry pollen on his Viking. Crosses gave him Honey King in 1933 and later Redman, his best early raspberry and an exceptional hardy one whose canes resemble its native ancestor. In 1940, he brought out a black raspberry which he named Honeywood. Other introductions have been his Honeywood sandcherry, Parkside gooseberry, Redheart crabapple and Double Altai shrub rose.

Around 1950, a gift of lily bulbs from Percy H. Wright, of Moose Range, took Porter into another field, in fact his present chief breeding field. He has since raised many thousands of lilies, among them the named Pattersons and Bar-

bers and his own wide ranging Honeywoods, the last including his selected Orange Light, Pink Champagne, Fire-blight, Sunbright, Golden Jubilee, Redland, Rosabelle, Red Knight, Earlibird, and Rusty. Delicious, with a pleasing light fragrance, in 1967 received the North American Lily Society E. H. Wilson Memorial Award. Wilson, a renowned lily expert, is widely known for his discovery of *Lilium regale* in the wilds of China, and its introduction in Great Britain in 1904 that has been credited with a general revival in lilies in that country and North America. In 1971, Orange Light and Redland were given Awards of Merit by the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture.

Porter is a member of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture and a past president of the Saskatchewan Nursery Trades Association. He was president of the Saskatchewan Horticultural Societies Association in 1969 and 1970; was elected Honorary Life Member in 1955; and the Association, at their meeting in 1968 further recognized his "outstanding contribution to horticulture" with the presentation of their Certificate of Merit.

Charles F. Walkof, Ph.D.



Charles Walkof.

For the comfortable life on the Northern Great Plains a wide variety of good vegetables for eating must be added. This was the field which Charles Walkof entered after he had graduated in 1933 from the University of Manitoba with the degree of Bachelor of Science, Agriculture, and started his professional career at the Dominion Experimental Station, Manyberries, Alberta.

The Canada Department of Agriculture in 1936 sent him to the Lethbridge Experimental Station, Alberta, where W. H. Fairfield was superintendent, to be horticulturist, and in 1945 moved him to the Research Station, Morden, where W. R. Leslie was superintendent, to have charge of vegetable crop research.

While at Lethbridge, Charles Walkof continued his academic studies at the University of Manitoba and received his Master of Science degree in 1942; and while at Morden at the University of Minnesota where he received his degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1954. On February 9th, 1967, at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Horticultural Association in Winnipeg, His Honor, R. S. Bowles, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, presented him the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal after an introduction by T. A. Sandercock.

His introduction at Morden of the Baseball series of dwarf cabbages, Morden, Midget, Pee Wee and Little League, were evidence of his ability in isolating the various genetic factors involved in new plant developments. His practice of moving tomato seedlings directly into the field showed commercial and amateur gardeners how to have their crops of this vegetable much earlier in the spring, with low risk of frost damage.

Walkof has named more than twenty vegetable varieties that may be found listed in prairie seed catalogues, including his bush tomato plants, Monarch, Meteor, Mustang, Manitoba, Starfire and Morden Yellow. His success in gaining new vegetable varieties has enabled him to supply parent stocks for breeding not only in Canada, but also in areas of the United States, Holland, Germany and Sweden.

He has been a frequent contributor to scientific journals, both of North America and of other continents; and has

written special bulletins on the practical applications of scientific knowledge gained from his continuing research. He is on the Steering Committee of the worldwide Tomato Breeders Round Table Conference; is a member of the International Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature; and is on the membership committee of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

He has been president of the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science, of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture of which he was a founding member and in 1969 was elected Honorary Life Member, and of the Morden branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. He was one of the Canadian delegates to the International Horticulture Congress in Holland in 1955.

Since his retirement, Dr. Walkof has narrated a daily program on horticulture and related topics on C.F.A.M., a local radio station at Altona.

William Leslie Kerr



Dr. W. L. Kerr.

An Ontario man who chose to apply his knowledge to the advance of horticulture on the prairies was given the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal in Manitoba's Centennial Year. He received this honor for his imaginative and practical

pursuit in the breeding and propagation of prairie-hardy fruits, trees and ornamental shrubs from Honorable Philip Petursson, Manitoba Minister of Cultural Affairs, on February 13, 1970, at the 72nd Annual Convention of the Manitoba Horticultural Association, St. James-Assiniboia.

From 1931 to 1942, Kerr had charge of fruit breeding at the Morden Research Station, and many of the new fruits which have been introduced in the last thirty-five years have come from his crosses and hybrids. The 'Snowbird' hawthorn, named and introduced by the station in 1967, is a third generation seedling from his original cross in 1937. The foundation which he laid in those days will lead to many more improved fruits and improved ornamentals.

Top cultivars directly from his work, named and introduced by the Morden Station, have been: 'Scout' apricot (1937); 'Bounty' (1939) and 'Norther' (1940) plums; 'Almey' Rosybloom crabapple (1945); 'Dura' (1942) and 'Manor' (1945) cherry-plums; 'Toba' hawthorn (1949); 'Prairie' (1947), 'Manitoba' and 'Morden' (1954) flowering almonds; 'Kerr' crabapple (1952); and 'Kelsey' Rosybloom crabapple (1969). 'Kelsey' was the choice in the Rosybloom selections recommended by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture for 1970 Centennial Year planting.

Kerr's father was a nurseryman near Ottawa and the son learned quickly to love growing plants and the outdoor life. He received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at the Ontario Agricultural College in 1925, and in 1928 graduated from the University of Maryland with the Master of Science degree. His next four years were with the Federal-State Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service in that State.

He joined the Canada Department of Agriculture in 1932 as assistant to the superintendent of the Rosthern Experimental Farm, Saskatchewan, but later that same year was transferred to the Morden station as Research Officer in charge of fruit breeding. In 1942, the Department appointed him superintendent of the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station, Saskatchewan, later the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Tree Nursery. When the decision to end that nursery was made in 1966 he retired from the Department

service. The beautifully landscaped grounds at the tree nursery, mostly his work, were transferred to the City of Saskatoon Parks and Recreation Division, and he continued there as supervisor of the renamed Forestry Farm Park.

Kerr's Sutherland Forest Nursery Station introductions have been the 'Royalty', 'Sutherland', 'Pink Spires', 'Dainty' and 'Pink Cascade' Rosybloom ornamental crabapples; 'Sutherland' larch; 'Sutherland' pyramidal caragana; 'Fangstadt' weeping willow; 'Pinky' flowering almond; and several hardy, early flowering garden chrysanthemums. 'Royalty' was the selection of the Ontario Horticultural Association for that province's Canada Centennial planting in 1967. It was given the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture Award of Merit in 1968.

He studied and became an authority on plant materials for field shelters and shelterbelts, on wild life preservation, and on landscape improvement. He excelled in his contributions to knowledge of nursery management, plant propagation, irrigation, tree storage, weed and rodent control and specialized machinery. Many millions of trees for farm shelterbelts left the Sutherland tree nursery during his years there.

He has many promising selections and hybrids on hand. Some eventually will be named. Others will be used in further breeding. Among them are hardy, flowering peaches; dwarf Rosybloom crabapples with brightly colored foliage; strongly growing weeping pincherries; Mayday trees with purple-leafed chokecherries; fuzzy-fruited sandcherry x apricot hybrids; and black-fruited Nanking cherries from hybridization with sandcherries. He has always been ready to share the progeny of his plant breeding with others; and the fruit of his work will show up during many more years.

Moreover, Kerr directed his activities to the enrichment of several Horticultural organizations. He is a Past President of the Great Plains Region, American Society for Horticultural Science; Past President and in 1969 elected Honorary Life Member of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture; Honorary Life Member, Canadian Society for

Horticultural Science; Director and Honorary Life Member of the Saskatchewan Horticultural Societies' Association; and Director and Honorary Life Member, Saskatchewan Fish and Game League. He is a member of the Canadian Club and the Rotary Club; and has been a director of both the Canadian Institute for the Blind and the Saskatoon Fair Board. From now on Mr. Kerr will be referred to as Dr. Kerr as he received an honorary Doctor's Degree from the University of Saskatchewan at its last convocation. Dr. Kerr passed away in 1983.

William A. Cumming, D.Sc.

Dr. William A. Cumming.



Work on Ornamentals at the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station at Morden since 1957 has been under the direction of William A. Cumming. Born in Teulon, Manitoba, March 18, 1911, oldest son of Hugh D. Cumming, principal of the Teulon school from one room until it was a twelve-room consolidated high school teaching home economics and agriculture. His love for nature can be traced to field trips with his father, a well-known naturalist.

He received his primary and high school education in his home town; attended the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, and graduated in 1932 with the Bachelor of Science,

Agriculture degree. He was employed by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture for the next four years as apiary — regulatory inspector; following that was inspector and next district supervisor, 1936–45, Canada Department of Agriculture Pest Act regulation. He was manager of Skinner's Nursery Limited, Dropmore, Manitoba, from 1945 until 1955. He then returned to the staff of the Canada Department of Agriculture, at Morden Research Station, on woody propagation research; was made head of the Ornamentals section in 1958; and in 1966 head of the Ornamentals and Fruits section.

Before Cumming joined the Morden station, main centre on the prairies for Ornamental horticulture, he had established his career and given significant leadership to it in western Canada through the Manitoba Horticultural Association, (president 1952–53 and Honorary Life Member 1964); Western Canadian Society for Horticulture since its formation in 1943 and president in 1965; and the Prairie Association of Nurserymen. Other memberships are: Great Plains, American Society for Horticultural Science; International Plant Propagators Society; Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation; Canadian Botanical Association; American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums; International Association of Botanic Gardens; and International Association of Plant Taxonomy.

Acknowledgements of leadership in his chosen field have come from: 1962, Prairie Association of Nurserymen, Gold Watch, "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Canadian Horticulture", (the first and only award of this by the Association); 1970, Public Service of Canada, Merit Award; 1970, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Jackson-Dawson Medal; 1971, International Lilac Society, Award of Merit; 1973, Western Canadian Society for Horticulture, Award of Merit for the 'Kelsey' cultivar flowering crabapple; 1973, North Dakota State Horticultural Society, R. L. Wodarz Memorial Medal; February 8, 1974, A. P. Stevenson Commemorative Award, by Honorable Samuel Uskiw, Minister, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, at the annual meeting in Winnipeg of the Manitoba Horticultural Association.

President Ernest Sirluck, University of Manitoba, on May 21, 1971, conferred on him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science for "his outstanding contribution to the knowledge and development of Ornamentals, combining hardiness with other desirable characteristics of new varieties. He has met enviably the challenge of bettering the living conditions in his native region; the Prairie Provinces and the States bordering them are the richer for his work. The prairie landscape is more pleasant".

In 1959, the Morden station, under Mr. Cumming's leadership, started extensive plant testing with the co-operation of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Tree Nursery, Indian Head, Saskatchewan; the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station, Lethbridge, Alberta; the Alberta Department of Agriculture Horticultural Station, Brooks; the University of Alberta Department of Botany and Horticulture, Edmonton; and the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

New varieties from the Morden station have been: two Mockoranges; three Ornamental Crabapples; two late-flowering Lilacs; one Weigela; one double-flowering Hawthorn; one creeping Juniper; twenty-two hardy Chrysanthemums; three Shrub Roses; one little-leaf Linden; and four perennial Asters.

The most important introduction, 'Kelsey' ornamental crabapple, pink double-flower, was selected by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture for planting in Manitoba's Centennial Year, 1970. Other "special mention" cultivars are: 'Miss Canada' Lilac, bright, clear pink, late-flowering, also selected for 1970 planting; 'Prairie Dawn' shrub rose, Western Canadian Society for Horticulture Award of Merit, 1969; and Centennial Weigela, compact shrub, blooming profusely with brighter colors than earlier varieties of comparable hardiness.

The well-deserved Stevenson Commemorative Award, consisting of a painting by the well-known artist Clarence Tillenius on which the inscribed plaque was mounted, was presented to Dr. "Bill" Cumming at the M.H.A. Convention held in Winnipeg on February 8, 1974.

John Walker



Prof. John Walker.

Contributor in three fields to growth and improvement in prairie horticulture is John Walker: research, teaching administration — 58 years. He is a Scottish man, born in Aberdeenshire, and graduate in 1909 of Gordon's College, Aberdeen, who emigrated to prairie Canada in 1913 after apprenticeship training in gardening.

He attended Alberta School of Agriculture, Claresholm, and in 1915 won the School's Diploma in Agriculture. He next enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces; served in France in the Fiftieth Battalion, Fourth Division; and in 1919 as lieutenant was demobilized. After his return to Alberta, he was gardener in charge at the Canada Department of Agriculture Experimental Farm, Lacombe, until 1921, when he resumed his studies in horticulture at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, and graduated in 1924 with the degree of Bachelor of Science, Agriculture.

He had early recognized the wideness of the prairie field and next researched and taught in the Division of Horticulture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, until 1925 when he returned to the prairies to be assistant superintendent in

charge of horticulture until 1929 at the Canada Department of Agriculture Experimental Farm, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. In 1926 he received the University of Minnesota Master of Science Degree.

He came to Manitoba in 1929 to be Extension Horticulturist in the Department of Agriculture until 1937, and included in his general work the organizing of many Boys and Girls Garden and Potato Clubs, chiefly through local horticultural societies. Also he was secretary of the Manitoba Horticultural Association for several years. Back to university, he returned as assistant professor and head of the Department of Horticulture, University of Manitoba, until 1942, directing studies in all horticultural fields. During the years 1929 to 1942 over forty extension circulars and research papers were published and revised by him.

In 1942, Walker went back to Indian Head to be superintendent of the Canada Department of Agriculture Forest Nursery Station until 1958. New ornamentals during his superintendency included the widely praised "Coronation Triumph Potentilla", introduced in 1953, the year Queen Elizabeth II was crowned Queen of the British Commonwealth. This introduction won the W.C.S.H. Award of Merit in 1967. Other improved selections were "Density" and "Korman" spireas, "Jubilee" willow, "Radiance" Amur maple, and "Prairie Princess" phlox. He travelled on commission to Iceland in 1956 to advise on Forestry Management, production and reforestation.

On his retirement as superintendent, he returned to the University of Manitoba as Research Associate, Department of Plant Science, until 1968. Here his technical bulletin, "Good Gardening Practices in Manitoba" was published by the University. During the years 1942 to 1958, around fifty extension circulars written and/or revised by him were published. In 1970 he was consultant for the editors of the Time-Life gardening series "Annals".

Since his return to the University of Manitoba in 1958, three other plant introductions selected by Prof. Walker have been recognized.

1. "Garry Pink Viburnum."

2. The hybrid Poplar named "Walker". This is highly recommended by the P.F.R.A. Tree Nursery of Indian Head and is widely planted in shelterbelts.
3. "Walker Caragana", a pendulous, fine-leaf form which is valuable for landscape planting. Its value was recognized by an Award of Merit by the W.C.S.H. in 1977.

Before retiring (for a second time) from the University of Manitoba in 1966, Prof. Walker completed plans and plantings for the landscaped areas near the buildings at the University's Glenlea Research Station.

In 1926, Walker was instrumental in organizing the Indian Head Horticultural Society. In 1931 he assisted in the organization of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society and in 1981 completed its fifty year history.

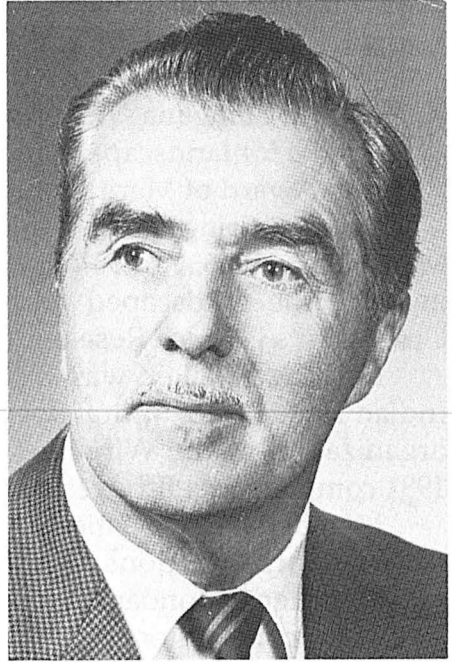
Memberships, positions held and life memberships in different organizations: Winnipeg Horticultural Society, past president, Honorary Life 1944, Honorary Director since 1982, and contributor to its Prairie Garden for many years; Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, charter member and president 1944; Saskatchewan Horticultural Societies' Association, past president and past director, Honorary Life 1958; Western Canadian Society for Horticulture, charter member and past president, Honorary Life 1960; Manitoba Horticultural Association, Honorary Life 1967; Canadian Society for Horticultural Science, Honorary Life 1969; Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, Honorary Life 1971; Agricultural Institute of Canada, Fellow, elected 1972; American Society for Horticultural Science and past chairman of the Society's Great Plains Region.

On April 28, 1973, Walker, Mrs. Walker, their two sons and their wives, were honor guests at a gathering in Assiniboine Park of around one hundred personal and general friends from Winnipeg and out of town, in celebration of his eightieth birthday. Mr. Walker received the Stevenson Commemorative Award on February 8th, 1978 at the M.H.A. Convention in Winnipeg.

Herbert F. Harp

The Sunday morning fifteen minutes of informing radio

H. F. Harp.



talk, fifty-two times every year, titled the *Prairie Gardener*, and broadcast by prairie stations of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, was started on September 16, 1943, as part of the corporation's *Country Calendar* program. The first writer was A. R. Brown, graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, and a gifted amateur horticulturist who continued until his death in 1961, when a gifted professional horticulturist named Bert Harp, succeeded him.

Harp is a man of Dorset, England, who has given forty-seven years of his life to prairie horticulture. Shortly after his birth in November 1904, his parents moved to Wales where his father continued his nursery and landscape gardening business. The son worked for him in his younger teens and then served five years apprenticeship with the Hardy Plant Nursery at Llanishen.

He came to live on the prairies in 1927 and after a short period with the Saskatoon City Parks Board, moved to Brandon to have charge until 1933 of the greenhouses of pioneer Patmore Nurseries Limited. In that year the Morden Research Station was on the lookout for an assistant to Head

Gardener William Godfrey. Harp responded to a proposal that he apply for the position, and a partnership followed that introduced many hardy plants for prairie gardens, broken only by four and a half years with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the War 1939-45.

He succeeded Godfrey on the latter's retirement in 1946, and continued as head gardener until his own retirement in October, 1969. Much of his early work with Godfrey was in breeding shrub roses, and the partnership produced seven notable introductions: "Prairie Sailor", (1946); "Prairie Wren", "Prairie Youth" (1949); "Prairie Charm", "Prairie Dawn", "Prairie Maid" (1959); and "Metis" (1967). "Prairie Dawn" in 1969 received the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture Award of Merit. Other breeding interest lay in mockoranges, chrysanthemums and autumn asters.

After his retirement he continued writing the radio script for the Canadian Gardener and since the spring of 1970 has read it personally for many years. Moreover, he has put his knowledge and his talent for expression to good use in his book "The Prairie Gardener", eighteen chapters and 304 indexed pages, published in December 1970. Chapter titles are in succession; Planning the Prairie Garden, How Plants Grow, Soil, Gardening Skills, Gardening Tools and Machinery, The Home Garden Greenhouse, Growing Plants under Artificial Light, Trees and Shrubs, Hedges, Making a New Lawn, Roses, Climbing and Trailing Plants, The Perennial Border, Bulbs and Plants with Fleshy Roots, Annuals, The Vegetable Garden, Growing Fruit in the Home Garden, and the Rock Garden. Both botanical and common names are included in his naming of trees, shrubs, perennial and annual flowers.

The Canada Department of Agriculture in 1962 published "Hedges for the Prairies", by H. F. Harp and W. A. Cumming; and in 1967 his "Lythrums for Home Gardens". Other publications have been "Hardy Chrysanthemums for Manitoba Gardens", "Peonies for the Prairie Garden", and "Winter Storage of Tender Bulbs, Tubers and Corms", Manitoba Department of Agriculture, 1965.

He has been a frequent contributor to papers read at

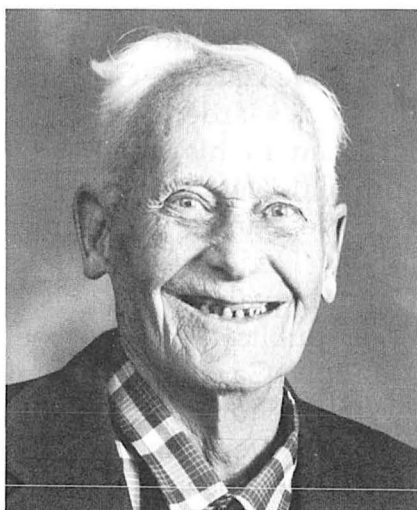
annual meetings of the Manitoba Horticultural Association, and distributed for wider study. Some papers evidencing his wide field have been: "Some Neglected Annual and Perennial Flowers", (1961); "Flowers That Impress", (1962); "Studies in Rose Breeding", and "Breeding Hardy Chrysanthemums", (1963); and "Chrysanthemums of Note", (1968).

Harp is a former director of the Manitoba Horticultural Association and was its president in 1962-63; in 1967, on the proposal of W. R. Leslie, superintendent when he joined the Manitoba Research Station staff, was elected Honorary Life Member. He is a member, too, of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture. On October 15, 1969, the Morden Horticultural Society, in appreciation of his work, presented him a painted arrangement of his "Prairie Dawn" rose and "Cameo" chrysanthemum, by Mrs. Helen Latter, artist and director of that society.

It is no wonder that all these achievements led to Bert Harp's nomination for the Stevenson Commemorative Award. This consisted of an Eskimo sculpture on which the inscribed plaque was mounted. Mr. J. R. Almey presented the well earned eulogy at the M.H.A. Convention in Winnipeg on February 8, 1980 prior to the presentation of the award.

John A. Wallace

John A. Wallace.



John A. Wallace, son of Scottish parents on both sides, was born in Leeds, England in 1899. From his mother he inherited a love for gardening and from his father, a school principal in Leeds, a thirst for knowledge.

The Wallace family immigrated to Alberta, arriving in Edmonton in March 1907. It took them until August 5th to get to their homestead at Campsie, some 90 miles northwest of Edmonton. This was a sparsely populated settlement with few neighbors and no school. The clearing of the land, a laborious and hard task, was done by the rest of the family. John was a sickly lad of small stature who only weighed 99 pounds at the age of 18. As a result of an encounter with the farm bull he sustained many severe injuries. Shortly thereafter the severe flu of 1919 nearly did him in. It took years and many operations for John to recover. A severe reaction to grain pollen made it impossible for him to farm. His main help to his pioneering parents was in the area of gardening.

Life had not endowed John Wallace with too many assets. His physical weakness made heavy work impossible. He was unable to attend school. It seemed as if life had stacked the cards against him. But these disadvantages did not faze him. He had an inquiring mind, a love for a nature, determination, persistence and a willingness to make do with what he had. He also possessed a goodly dose of shy charm that netted him a partner by the name of Gertrude Dodgson. The two were married in 1928.

Gardening was to become John's way of making a livelihood. He grew vegetables for sale. Bedding and vegetable plants brought in some money. Experimenting with plant material suited to the rigorous northern climate really fascinated him. He studied any available information such as the Country Guide and the Experimental Farms bulletins. His contacts with prominent horticulturists of the day included George Chipman of the Country Guide, Dr. W. R. Leslie of Morden, A. P. Stevenson of Morden, and Prof. George Harcourt of the University of Alberta.

The Wallace garden expanded through the thirties and became a fair sized enterprise by 1938. They sold substantial amounts of tomatoes, cucumbers, citrus, pumpkins and

potatoes. These vegetables were interplanted in a five acre young fruit orchard. Bedding and vegetable transplants helped bring in money. Everything looked rosy. Then came the winter of 1942 that killed John's orchard outright. John was forced to seek outside employment. He worked at the Morden Experimental Farm that summer. This gave him the opportunity of observing and studying many fruits and ornamentals and also of collecting some seed samples.

Next year John was offered employment at the Experimental Farm at Beaverlodge, Alberta. It was with a heavy heart that John, his wife Gertrude and their daughter bade farewell to their garden and moved to Beaverlodge. His position at Beaverlodge offered considerable scope to this interested gardener and he put heart and soul into his work.

But John had always dreamed of having a nursery of his own. In 1948 he bought 15 acres between Beaverlodge and the Experimental Farm. It was here that he and his friend Fred Morris built a shack and a little greenhouse. This work was done after hours. Together they produced bedding plants and vegetable plants for sale. The Experimental Farm frowned on this moon-lighting job and asked him to desist. John left the Experimental Farm service as a result. To help earn some money he became a Fuller Brush salesman.

In 1950 John returned to the Beaverlodge Farm with the understanding that his after work hours were his own. He built up his nursery while working at the farm. He retired from the Beaverlodge Experimental Farm in 1960. During these years the Wallace Nursery specializing in hardy plant material for the north began to prosper. Things progressed fairly well but another trying period was in the offing. John's wife and daughter became sick and both of them died in 1969. At the same time unfavorable weather caused severe losses at his nursery.

The year 1971 saw a new beginning for John Wallace. He married Irene Hamel who had become his partner and office manager. Irene had previously also worked at the Beaverlodge Experimental Farm and shared the love of growing things with her new husband. Together they built up the Wallace Nurseries into a respected enterprise. Suc-

cess finally crowned the efforts of this determined and self-educated horticulturist.

What, then has John Wallace accomplished? Firstly, he brought a considerable number of adapted plants to northern Alberta. Secondly, when he found no established nursery cared to supply the right plants for local use, he found a way to supply them. Thirdly, while at the Experimental Farm, he played a part in developing the following list of plants:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Honeysuckle | Magnared, Frosty, Beavermore |
| Flowering Crab | Snowcap, Arctic Dawn, Albright |
| Saskatoon | Smoky |
| Juniper | Wapiti |
| Tomato | Sub-Artic series of three varieties |
| Fourthly, there is another group of plants he developed: | |
| Juniper | Dunvegan Blue Western |
| (This received the W.C.S.H. Award of Merit) | |
| Saskatoon | Pembina, selected in 1928 |
| (The first outstanding saskatoon for the prairies) | |
| Aster | Two Lakes |
| Oregon Grape | Prince George |
| Lupine | Racing River |
| Lily | Nugget |
| Tomato | Early Yellow. |

The Stevenson Memorial Board of the M.H.A. rated the contributions of John A. Wallace of Beaverlodge as richly deserving and he was presented with the Stevenson Commemorative Award at the annual M.H.A. Convention held in Winnipeg on February 3rd, 1984. Dr. H. H. Marshall presented the eulogy.

A SERMON IN THE WOODS

In the soft and speckled shadow
Of the cool and open wood
By myself, alone not lonely,
On a Sunday morn I stood.
Gentle zephyrs softly whispered
In the greenery of the trees,
Scents of woodland's flowers were wafted
To me by the mellow breeze.
Silky cloudlets, heaven's sailboats,
Floated in the azure hue,
On the forest floor a violet
Smiled in color just as blue.
Suddenly a little songbird
Sitting in a nearby tree
Broke my silent meditation
With its song of ecstasy.
I sat down in woodland's chapel
On a fallen tree's brown bole
Listening to Nature's sermon
With my ears and with my soul.
There and then I felt a closeness
To the woods and to the sod
But what's more I felt the nearness
Of this world's creator . . . God.

CHAPTER V

MANITOBA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

ORGANIZATION OF A HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The horticultural societies of Manitoba have contributed in many ways towards the beautification of this province. These grass root organizations of hobby gardeners in our widely spread communities encouraged the love for horticulture in young and old alike. The first society, that of Brandon, was organized in 1894. It is impossible to say how many thousands of people had their lives enriched by the many societies formed since that time.

When 30 or more people of a community so desire, they may apply to the Minister of Agriculture for the permission to form a horticultural society. The M.H.A. board of directors is the Horticultural Advisory Board of the Minister. On the advice of this Board, the Minister may then issue a charter to this new society with the name it chooses. The horticultural societies of this province come under the Manitoba Horticultural Societies' Act. This act requires societies to elect boards of at least nine directors. The directors in turn elect a president and appoint a secretary-treasurer. Each society must submit an annual audited financial statement to the secretary-treasurer of the M.H.A. All societies must be affiliated with the M.H.A. and are to appoint two voting delegates to attend the annual M.H.A. convention.

In all other respects the horticultural society is an autonomous unit. It plans its flower show, its programs and other activities. The government assists the societies in many ways. Each society annually receives a membership grant of

50¢ per member. Of this 15¢ are withheld as affiliation money to operate the M.H.A. The government also pays 60% of the prize money paid out at the societies' flower shows. It further pays judges' fees and expenses. Once a year a society may ask for an outside speaker whose expenses are reimbursed by government.

The M.H.A. assists the societies in their programs. Each director of the M.H.A. has four or more societies assigned to him or her. These directors visit their societies several times a year and often are speakers at their meetings. They assist the societies in planning their shows, meetings, and other projects. They encourage joint meetings and seminars for the societies under their care. Most societies avail themselves of these services.

There are other ways in which the M.H.A. serves the societies. It holds exhibitor schools in various parts of the province. Judges schools are held to train society members in the art of judging. Seminars on flower arranging, landscaping etc. are planned periodically. The M.H.A. convention is held in different towns so as to make it possible for society members to attend. The convention program is planned with the help of the societies in close proximity to the convention site. The educational program thus fills the needs of those societies. Societies are encouraged to have their own home grounds and slide competitions and to enter their winners in the Provincial Home Grounds' Competitions and the Provincial Slide Competition. The M.H.A. makes slide sets of the provincial home grounds and the winning slides of the Provincial Slide Competition available to the societies for their meetings.

A complete list of the horticultural societies formed over the years is found at the end of this chapter. Many societies fell by the wayside. New societies were formed in other areas. The short reports of presently operating societies that follow will give the reader an insight on the many many ways in which they have enriched this province. These reports are presented in alphabetical order.

STORIES OF HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN 1980

Agassiz Horticultural Society

The Agassiz Horticultural Society was formed in 1969 with members from Pinawa and Lac du Bonnet. The charter members were: Doug Taylor, John Minton, Robert Otto, Gordon Boone, Joyce Hampton, Elizabeth Turner, Fred Gauer, Alice Puddicombe, Mary Yakem and Olga Urban. Only the last two are still members.

The annual show has had a junior section in it since 1973. It also sponsors a Seniors' Section. The local Adult Day Care Group sets up a large crafts display at the show. This began in 1980. To serve the community with horticultural information, the Society began a regular column "Over the Back Fence" in the Springfield Leader, the local newspaper, in 1979.

The Society has sponsored home grounds competitions since 1976. In 1978, the home grounds of Mr. and Mrs. C. Urban placed third in the Provincial Rural-Urban Class.

Several community beautification projects have been undertaken by the Society. In the early 1970's the Society planted shrubs and trees and flowers at the Pinawa Hospital and the Bonny Vista Senior Citizens' Home in Lac du Bonnet. In 1975 and 1976 beautification work was carried out at the local Veterinary Clinic.

To date no Honorary Life Memberships have been presented. Two outstanding members of the Society over the years have been and are Mary Yakem and Olga Urban. They are the sustaining members of the Society and eager attendants of M.H.A. conventions.

The Lac du Bonnet Horticultural Society is only a small society. Its most significant achievement to date is its annual large and successful flower show with its beautiful displays of flowers and vegetables.

For 1983, Mrs. Vera McLean is the President and Mrs. Leona Beauchamp the Secretary of the Agassiz Horticultural Society.

Antler River Horticultural Society

(Serving Melita and Area)

A search of old records reveals that a Horticultural Society Charter, Number 20, was granted to Melita in 1928. There are, however, no records on how it operated or how long it was active. According to the residents of Melita, there had been a garden club but not a chartered society.

In the fall of 1975, a group of interested gardeners in Melita met to plan the formation of a Horticultural Society. Mrs. Gertrude Jasper, M.H.A. director for the area, and Mr. Maurice Ludlam of Reston attended the meeting and offered advice on what was involved in forming a society. A steering committee made up of Herb Pickett, Trudy Warren, Sharon Andersen and Hazel Robson was set up. At a second meeting in November, 1975, Mr. Fred Weir, Provincial Horticulturist, discussed society organization with the group. At a third meeting held in January, 1976 the society, under the name of Antler River Horticultural Society, was formed and the first board of directors elected. These charter members were: Herb Pickett (President), Mrs. Millie Gould, Emilia Pickett, Elsie Cheyne, Donna Cameron, Francis Tilbury, Kay Atkins, Iverson Groves, Donna Gould, Linda Elliot, Llewella Anderson, Doris Shannon and Dorothy Tucker. A planning meeting was held in March, 1976 and the society was on its way. The charter, dated March 1st, 1976 was presented to the society on May 26, 1976 by Mr. P. J. Peters and Mrs. Gertrude Jasper.

The society holds regular meetings. Every spring it holds a spring bake and plant sale and a tea to raise funds. The annual Flower and Vegetable Show is held in August and a farmers' market in September. Home grounds and garden competitions are sponsored annually. The society enters the Provincial Home Grounds' Competition. Jim and Annie Wheelans were champions in the Provincial Farm Home Grounds for two years and Herb and Emilia Pickett were champions in Urban Home Grounds, Class II for two years in a row. These are only four of the outstanding members of this young society.

The Antler River Horticultural Society sponsors Junior

Gardeners and has had up to 44 members. These are encouraged to participate in the Flower Show. A new feature was a Trial Flower Garden in 1982. The society regularly sends delegates to participate in the M.H.A. Convention. The society is alive and well.

Beautiful Plains Horticultural Society

(Serving Neepawa and District)

The Provincial Register of Charters issued to Horticultural Societies tells us that Beautiful Plains (Neepawa) was the third Manitoba Horticultural Society to receive its charter and that was in 1914. The only information on that early society is a prize list of August 19 and 20, 1927. It lists the following officers: Patron — Robt. Milne, M.P.; Honorary President — Mrs. J. H. Howden; President — A. C. Merriman; V. P. — Mrs. J. S. Poole; and Sec. Treas. — George Faryon. No records exist as to when it ceased functioning.

The present Beautiful Plains Horticultural Society received its charter, charter number 57, on November 1, 1969. The following names are inscribed on this charter: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Acutt, Mrs. R. T. Robinson, Mrs. B. J. Kolesar, Mrs. I. J. Grudeski, Mrs. W. G. Moger, Mr. A. B. Thurston, Mr. S. J. Prawdzik, Mrs. G. Pryor, and Mrs. F. C. Murray.

The Society holds regular meetings and has its annual Flower Show in August. This show also features classes for the Junior Gardeners. It sponsors at least one field trip a year for its members. Visits have been made to the International Peace Gardens, the University of Manitoba trial plots, the International Flower Show in Winnipeg, the English Garden in Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg and to the Morden Experimental Station. Sunday tours to winning home grounds in the vicinity are also taken.

The Beautiful Plains Horticultural Society believes in community involvement. It sponsors Junior Gardeners, giving them seeds for their gardens, judging them, giving them a place in the show, and presenting them with awards. The Society is helping to clean and beautify the Town Hill on the east approach to Neepawa. Flower beds are planted and tended at Yellowhead Manor. Flower pots are manufactured

and placed in prominent locations around town. Individual members help in beautifying their church and the corners of the street where they live. Presently everything is geared to make Neepawa beautiful for its centennial in 1983.

The Society sponsors competitions for flower borders, patios, vegetable gardens, planters and front and rear yards. It holds a slide competition and enters the winners in the Provincial Slide Competition where several members have won awards. The Society fully supports the M.H.A., its convention and other projects.

The following is a list of members who have been awarded Honorary Life Memberships: Mrs. Fred Murray, Mr. George Thomas, Mr. W. A. Drysdale, Mrs. Elizabeth Buchanan, Mrs. Bertha Hostler, Mrs. Vi Adamson and Mrs. W. A. Drysdale.

At present Barrie Strohman is President and Elsie Pilkey the Secretary of the Beautiful Plains Horticultural Society.

Neepawa should be most happy with its revived horticultural society.

Benito and District Horticultural Society

The Provincial Register of Charters Issued lists Benito and District as the Society receiving charter number 50 in 1962. Alex Craig of Swan River helped the Society get organized. The first executive officers of the Society were: President — Mrs. F. Scouten; Vice President — Mrs. A. Zlotoff; and Secretary-Treasurer — Mrs. Ch. Shadbolt. The Benito and District Horticultural Society had 48 members in its first year.

The highlight of the year for the Society is the annual Flower Show in fall. Judges have praised the quality of the Benito show. This also features sections for the Junior Gardeners. The Society has and always had several open meetings to inform the members on a variety of horticultural topics. It fully supports the M.H.A. convention. When this was held in Swan River in February of 1973, the Benito Society was one of the sponsors. The Society also supports the many projects of the M.H.A. It has a close liaison with its neighboring societies at Bowsman, Roblin and Russell. This works to the benefit of all.

The future of our country is in the hands of our children. With this in mind, the Benito and District Horticultural Society organized and sponsored a Junior Gardeners Club. The work with the Juniors has been most gratifying. One of the Juniors studied horticulture at Olds, Alberta and is now employed by the Regina Parks Board.

The Society sponsors home grounds competitions in several classes. Several of the home grounds in Benito and District have won championship awards in the Provincial Home Grounds Competition sponsored by the M.H.A. Whereas the Society does not as yet have a local slide competition, several members have won prizes at the Provincial Slide Competition.

Community beautification is high on the list of priorities of the Benito Society. It supervised and helped plant trees and shrubs in the Benito Collegiate grounds. Members of the Society helped beautify the Centennial Park, Senior Citizens' Homes and the Water Plant by planting flowers, trees and shrubs. The New Library grounds are next on the list. Horticultural floats on Canada's Centennial and at several home-coming events spelled out the motto of the Society; "We say it with Flowers". The Society placed trash barrels in Benito to help keep the streets clean. All of these efforts have created an awareness for beauty in the citizens and made Benito and environs a better place to live. To make the members of the Society aware of other beauty spots in the province, the Society has sponsored several field trips during the years.

Only two Life Memberships have been presented to date, and these went to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Simpson. Other outstanding members over the years may well be: Mrs. Pearl Sleeman, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Shadbolt, Mrs. A. Schneider, Mrs. R. Bateman, Mrs. Wm. Mazuren (now Mrs. R. Szlachtycz), and Mrs. P. Babchishen.

Mrs. P. Babchishin, a Director of the M.H.A., was the President of the Benito Society in 1982. The Secretary was Mrs. Shakatko.

Boissevain Horticultural Society

The Boissevain Horticultural Society, organized May 20,

1971, is only a dozen years old. Its first officers were: Mrs. W. (Shirley) Phillips (President), Harold Brake (Vice-President), Mrs. W. (Eileen) Brake (Secretary) and Mrs. H. (Louise) George (Treasurer).

Like all societies, the Boissevain Horticultural Society has an annual Flower Show in August. Juniors participate in this event. Regular directors' meetings and several open society meetings are held each year. These are educational meetings on a variety of horticultural items. Films and slides are also featured.

Junior Gardeners' Clubs have been sponsored since 1974. The enthusiastic leader, Mrs. W. (Nora) Ransom, now has two groups of juniors: one aged 5 to 11, the other aged 12 to 16. These grow their gardens with seeds, flowers, bulbs, etc supplied by the Society. Their gardens are judged and prizes awarded. The children join in the annual Flower Show. To wind up the year's activities of the junior gardeners, the Society arranges a special program for them at the October meeting.

On Arbor Day each year, a tree is given to each student in Grades 5 and 6. Leaders go to school, explain Arbor Day, and give instructions on how to plant and take care of the trees.

The Society is heavily involved in community beautification. It started by planting boulevard trees and yearly assists town workmen in planting and caring for these trees, especially in the newer residential areas of the town. The Society places oak tubs of flowers in the business section of the town each year. It pays for the plants and members plant and water them. The Society arranged for drawing up the landscaping plans for the new Hospital, paid for the plants and assisted in the planting. It sponsors a Farmers' Market at the Turtle Derby each year and mans an Information Booth at the local Fair. An evening for newcomers to Boissevain is held each year to explain the activities of the horticultural society to them and invite them to join. The society joins in meetings with Bill Poole, Manager of the Turtle Mountain Conservation District. It is most interested in the International Peace Garden and participates in its beautification.

The local paper and television station keep the community informed of society activities.

Other Society activities include Home Grounds Competitions in four classes and a slide competition. Plant and bake sales are a regular annual event. Over the years group tours to the International Flower Show in Winnipeg, visits to local and N.D. flower shows and to the Peace Garden have been sponsored. Members attend seminars and workshops in the area. Society delegates and other members attend and participate in the M.H.A. Convention each year.

All of the Society members are important. Several who have given a great amount of time and effort to the success of the Society are: Mrs. T. (Bessie) Patterson, Miss Bernice Pettypiece, Miss Rhoda Pettypiece, Mrs. J. (Helena) Dyck, Mrs. A. (Harriet) McColl, Mrs. J. (Helen) Patterson, Mrs. W. (Nora) Ransom, Mr. Laurie Holditch, Mrs. L. (Lois) Holditch, Mrs. A. (Ella) Swain, Mrs. A. (Isabel) Martin, Mrs. L. (Marion) Facey, Mr. J. Dyck, Mr. H. Albrecht, and Mrs. W. (Eileen) Brake, secretary since the Society was formed in 1971.

In 1982 the Boissevain Horticultural Society has Mrs. Harriet McColl as President and Mrs. Eileen Brake as secretary. The Society enjoys an enviable record.

Bowsman Horticultural Society

Bowsman residents have always been interested in gardening. For two years, before the Society was formed, the local W. I. hosted a flower and vegetable show. It was felt that there were benefits to be derived from becoming a horticultural society. Application for a charter was made and the Bowsman Horticultural Society was granted charter No. 39 in December, 1955 with a membership of 36. Mr. T. H. Hooper was elected President, Mr. J. A. George as Vice President and Mrs. A. M. Metcalfe as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Bowsman Horticultural Society can be justly proud of its annual Flower Show. This has always featured classes for Junior Gardeners. The Society has held regular educational meetings over the years, often collaborating with Benito, its neighboring society. It fully supports the M.H.A. convention and projects. In 1973 the Society, together with

neighboring societies, hosted the M.H.A. convention. Mrs. Phyllis Pierrepont, a local member, has been director and is a past president of the M.H.A. She is presently the Honorary President of that association. The Bowsman Society has sponsored field trips to various areas of interest for its members. Educational seminars have been hosted by them.

To encourage beautification, the Society has held home grounds competitions. Junior Garden clubs have been sponsored over the years. It has had an input in community projects such as the Pioneer Mini Park in Bowsman. Any local celebrations could always count on the Bowsman Horticultural Society to participate.

The most significant achievement of the Society has been the establishment of the Horticultural Societies' Bursary Fund. The Bowsman Society sponsored this project and enlisted the support of Manitoba horticultural societies. A Name Quilt, now the property of the M.H.A., was made by the Society in order to gather funds. Worthy students at the U. of M. now receive \$200.00 bursaries to encourage them in the pursuit of horticultural studies. A list of the recipients is found in the chapter on the M.H.A.

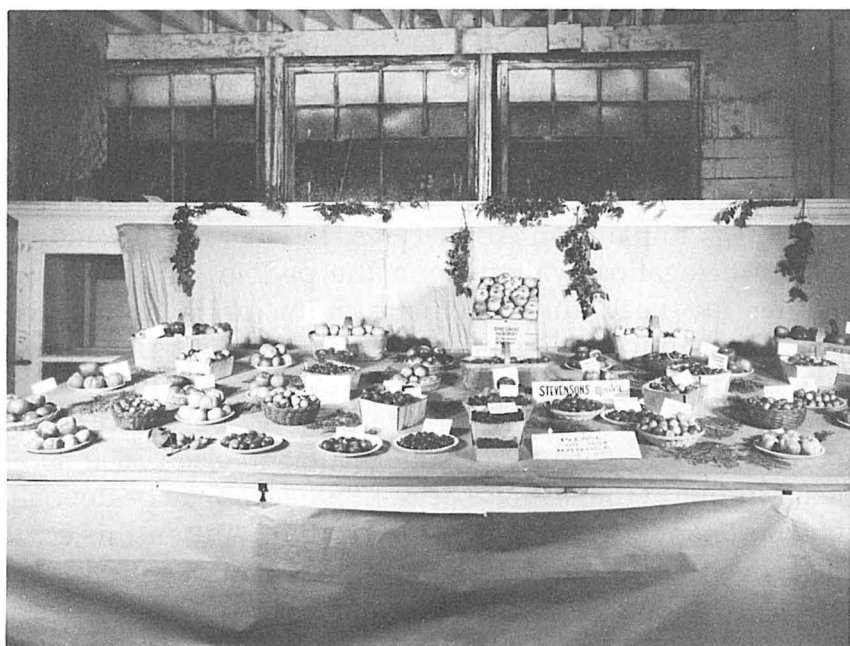
The Bowsman Society does not grant Honorary Life Memberships. It has many outstanding members. Some that could be named are: Tom Hooper, Mrs. Robina Metcalfe, Mrs. Phyllis Pierrepont and Mrs. Mary Hrynkiw. The Society is indebted to Mr. Alex Craig of Swan River and Mr. Frank Shadbolt of Benito, both now deceased, for their help and advice that contributed so much to the success of its programs.

In 1982 the Bowsman Horticultural Society has Phyllis Pierrepont as President and Beth Jeffrey as Secretary.

A member of the Society had this to say: "History is a memory of ups and downs, friends, laughter, some tears, hard work, beauty, and pride of accomplishment".

Brandon Horticultural Society

Brandon received the first horticultural society charter in Manitoba. The picture of the charter shows that the society applied for it in 1893, but the charter itself was only issued in



Fruit Display at Brandon. H. S. show in 1900.

1923. Records indicate that the Brandon Society commenced activities in 1898 with Peter Middleton as the president. That year the first horticultural show, featuring flowers, vegetables and school books, was held in City Hall. After this the show became an annual event (excepting certain war years) and has been staged in places like the Brandon Arena, Brandon Armory, in Exhibition Grounds buildings, in a downtown store, in the Brandon University gymnasium and in the Brandon Shoppers Mall.

The first board of directors of the Society had many very prominent members. J. H. Kirchhoffer was a Senator, Fred Hesson a successful farmer, D. H. Scott a wonderful gardener, C. R. Coldwell a lawyer and city alderman, T. M. Percival a grocer, R. M. Matheson a lawyer and police magistrate, and H. L. Patmore the well-known nurseryman. No wonder that the Society got off to a good start. This history can only list the major achievements of the Society over the years. The Brandon Experimental Farm, through the help of its first director, Dr. S. A. Bedford, Dr. D. A. Brown, M. J.

Tinline, Dr. Henry Marshall and other staff members, helped enrich both the show and programs of the Society.

Community beautification had a high priority in the Society's program right from the beginning. H. L. Patmore and Society members planted shade trees along city streets. Children were encouraged in the field of horticulture and given trees to plant on Arbor Days. In 1905, a Horticultural Society delegation waited upon the people's elected concerning the need for systematic municipal beautification (boulevards and tree-planting) through a parks board. In 1915, during World War One, the Society sponsored vacant lot vegetable gardens. In 1913 the Society suggested to the federal Department of Agriculture that it place 3000 acres near Morden at the disposal of A. P. Stevenson to be devoted to experimental fruit and tree production. Out of this came the move that resulted in the establishment of the Morden Research Station in 1915.

Other community projects in more recent years indicate that the Brandon Horticultural Society continues to view community involvement as a priority. In 1970 it landscaped Green Acres Lodge. At various times floral arrangements were prepared and given to Nursing Homes in Brandon. For several years, under the direction of Gus Hendzel, flowers were planted at the Brandon University. The Society participated in the Provincial Exhibition and Arbor Day celebrations. As a Brandon Centennial project, the Society landscaped the Daly House Museum. A Horticultural Hotline was manned by several Society members for a time.

Home grounds and garden competitions have been held by the Society for many years. Mr. Edward Stone was a winner in 1913. He also received an inscribed \$10 gold piece in 1928 for the best home-grown roses. During the Second World War, a class for Victory Gardens was part of the home grounds and garden competitions of the Society. In recent years, entries of the Brandon Horticultural Society have won the top awards in the Provincial Home Grounds Competition. The winners were: Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hendsel and Mr. and Mrs. Brian Moffatt.

The Society fully supports the M.H.A. convention and has hosted many of these over the years. It participates in many of the projects of the M.H.A. Many members of the Society have won prizes in the Provincial Slide Competition. The Society has also hosted a number of seminars and exhibitors' and judges schools.

One project the Brandon Horticultural Society is justly proud of is that of its Junior Garden Club, 1972-1982. The following report was submitted by Jean Cross, a long-time leader.

The Junior Garden Club 1972-1982

"On January 5, 1972, Mr. E. E. Taylor spoke to the Brandon Horticultural Society directors with regard to the interest of the Kiwanis Club in having a junior garden section in Brandon. D. A. Brown, Joan Svenson and Bill Thompson formed a committee in April 1972 to organize such a club. Bill Thompson was appointed leader, and a club of thirteen members was in operation by June of that year. From this beginning, at the request of Bill Thompson, the Manitoba Horticultural Association under the leadership of Al Brock formed province-wide Junior Garden Clubs run by nearly every horticultural society today.

Bill led the young Brandon club for approximately two years before going on to further his knowledge in Alberta and England, where he is today. He led the club with great enthusiasm and inspiration. In his second year he was assisted by Jean Cross, who has continued as a leader to the present day.

By 1975 fifty-nine members were enrolled, but the usual membership is around twenty. Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Christianson of Carroll assisted from 1974 to 1979 with valuable knowledge and leadership. Mrs. Jean Hunter of Kirkham's Bridge 1979 and lastly Mrs. Irene Parsons in 1980 have given much valuable time, effort and ideas to the club.

Much effort has been put into programming by the leaders, who often financed special projects such as a small gazebo for plant displays, providing lunch, printing programs, donating prizes, trophies, etc. and for a few years conducting three separate programs because of widespread

membership from Griswold, Alexander, Brandon, Brandon Hills and Poplar Hill.

Reports of Niverville, Benito and Poplar Point were printed and presented at the 84th Annual Horticultural Convention in Brandon to be available for any club's use. These ideas included club membership and procedure, garden knowledge and practice, competitions, demonstrations, outdoor fun, good deeds, inspiration, celebrations, planning for next year, finances, reports and records, and birds in the garden.

The last few years the Brandon club has seen 15 to 20 gardens judged simultaneously by the three leaders and all members as a judging practice. Results of leaders are averaged and a standing established. Each year of late on judging day all members end the year's program with a picnic, a swim in the Hunter pool and a scoring discussion.

Farmers' Market experience has been introduced but not with great enthusiasm, as 8 A.M. is very early for young people to collect vegetables, drive up to 27 miles and remain in place until 11 A.M.

It's been a pleasure to work with these enthusiastic young people who have responded with up to 180 entries in the August flower show and a vegetable creature section to delight the viewers.

Brandon has the oldest Horticultural Society in Manitoba and also boasts one of the finest Junior Garden Clubs in the province."

As the Brandon Horticultural Society is the oldest society of this province, it could list many names of members who have made meaningful contributions over the years. Many members also served on the board of directors of the M.H.A. Suffice it to list three of the Society's members who were given honorary degrees by the University of Brandon. These were:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------|
| Dr. H. H. Marshall | Doctorate of Science | 1974 |
| Dr. D. A. Brown | Doctorate of Laws | 1977 |
| Dr. A. Hendzel | Doctorate of Science | 1980 |

Carberry and District Horticultural Society

At an organization meeting held in Carberry on October

28, 1968, interested gardeners of the area decided to form a horticultural society and to apply for a charter. The name decided on was "Carberry and District Horticultural Society". The Provincial Register of Charters Issued lists the Carberry charter as charter number 56, issued in 1968. The first slate of elected officers of the Carberry and District Horticultural Society consisted of the following:

President — Mr. Albert Pickup; 1st V.P. — Mr. George Calvert; 2nd V.P. — Mrs. Willard Switzer; Sec. Treas. — Miss Susan Menzies. The Directors were: Mr. Albert Pickup, Mr. George Calvert, Mrs. W. Switzer, Miss Susan Menzies, Mr. Roland Nichol, Mr. Tom Bennett, Mrs. D. G. Ramsey, Mr. Charlie Johnstone, Mrs. Vi Nicol and Mrs. Albert Manns.

In 1969 the Society held its first flower show and embarked on a rather ambitious program. It holds several educational meetings each year and fully cooperates with the M.H.A. in its convention and projects. The Society sponsors home grounds competitions and enters its winners in the M.H.A. Provincial Home Grounds Competition. Several championships in several classes have come to Carberry. It also has a slide competition and members have won awards in the Provincial Slide Competition.

Community involvement is high on the list of priorities of the Carberry and District Horticultural Society. Over the years it has landscaped the new Memorial Hall grounds, the Recreation Centre grounds and the Personal Care Home grounds. Every year flower beds are planted at the Library. Flowers are delivered twice weekly to the Personal Care Home with special bouquets and arrangements for birthdays of residents, as well as for special occasions.

The major project of the Society over the years has been and continues to be their Junior Gardener Program. The editor of this book marvels at the fact that this Society could enrol up to 120 youngsters in this program. Some of the children have been in the garden program for up to seven years. They needed greater challenges. So the Society brought in sections of creative and research gardens. The latter is for youngsters 12 years or older. In 1982 some 96

Junior gardens were judged. Mr. and Mrs. R. Andersen really started this program rolling. It is an enviable record for any society.

Honorary Life Memberships in the Society have been bestowed upon Mr. R. D. Nicholson* in 1972, Mr. Thomas Bennett, Mr. Ed Oliver, Mr. Albert Pickup, and Mr. James Moore* in 1978. (*deceased)

Other outstanding members of the Society are Mrs. Olive Caithness, Mrs. Bernice Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. R. Andersen and Mrs. Barbara Witherspoon, to name but a few.

The Carberry and District Horticultural Society has Mrs. Bernice Wallace as President and Mrs. Margaret Tolton as secretary for 1983. May the Society continue to flourish.

Carman Horticultural Society

Carman is one of the prettier towns of Manitoba. There is no doubt that the members of the Carman Horticultural Society, through their flower shows, their open educational meetings, the example set in their landscaped homes and their direct involvement in town beautification have helped Carman become such a pleasant town.

Carman was the 23rd Society to receive its charter. The Carman Horticultural Society was organized on March 23, 1929. The following officers were elected: Honorary President — Peter Campbell, President — A. S. Doyle, 1st V.P. — G. J. Aubin, 2nd V.P. — Mrs. W. A. Finch, Sec.-Treas. — Dr. A. L. McLachlan; other directors were: S. J. Staples, Wm. Humphries, Mrs. Henry Armstrong, Mrs. J. St. Jean, Mrs. Andrew Graham, Mrs. Sim Eby and Mrs. Jos. Billings.

A strong society is active throughout the year. The Carman Society holds six or more informational meetings every year. The highlight of the year is its annual Flower Show. This also features children's classes. Because some of the members were expert gladiolus growers, the gladiolus section was truly exceptional. The executive further plans money raising functions such as plant sales and teas.

Over the years the Carman Society has been involved in community beautification. Boulevard plantings and flower beds at the Memorial Hall are but two examples. The Society has most capably organized Junior Gardeners' Clubs for

many years. It has an annual home grounds competition and participates in the M.H.A. sponsored Provincial Home Grounds' Competitions. To keep its members abreast of horticultural developments in other parts of the province, the Society sponsors three or four field trips a year. Places such as the University of Manitoba, the Morden Experimental Station, and champion home grounds around the country are visited.

The Carman Society has bestowed an Honorary Life Membership on Lorimer Shilson, a charter member and also a member of the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society for many years. Another member of the Society that warrants special mention is the late A. J. (Alf) Strachan. Alf, also a charter member, was active in horticulture all his life. His specialty was gladiolus which he exhibited in Carman, in many Manitoba shows and internationally.

The President of the Society for 1982 was Lorimer Shilson and the Secretary Len Budd.

Cartwright-Mather Horticultural Society

The story of this Society differs from that of other Manitoba horticultural societies in many respects. It is really hard to say when the urge to form a horticultural society began. In 1880 the Cartwright Agricultural Society was organized. Soon there was a group of people who were put in charge of classes for vegetables, flowers, cooking and fancy work. Finally, on March 29th, 1963 this group of interested gardeners decided to form the Cartwright-Mather Horticultural Society and to strike out on its own.

The first Board of Directors of the new Society was made up of the following: President — P. J. Watts; Vice. pres. — Mrs. Garth Vincent; Secretary — Mrs. Harvey Wallace; Treasurer — Mrs. Roy Lees. Directors: Mrs. Les Thompson, Len Croom, John Loewen, Mrs. Gordon Trembath, Mrs. Tom Taylor, Mrs. Clayton Thody, Mrs. Conway Lumb, Mrs. Keith Watts, Mrs. Jim Trembath, and Mrs. Raymond Vincent.

The Cartwright-Mather Horticultural Society holds its annual Flower Show and makes special arrangements for young gardeners to show. It encourages the youngsters in

their gardening efforts by giving them bulbs, seeds and prizes. The Society has no prize money in their prize list except for a few special classes. Show ribbons are the only recognition of prize winning entries. This has and continues to work well for them. The Society holds a minimum of public meetings. The Board of Directors does most of the work. While affiliated with the M.H.A., it does not take part in many of its projects. It does not sponsor home grounds competitions or slide competitions, though some members enter the Provincial slide competition. It frequently sends delegates to the convention.

But the Society is active in community beautification. Bedding plants are supplied and cared for at the Cartwright Centennial Park and the Badger Creek Lodge in Cartwright, also to the United Church and Centennial Hall plots in Mather. Bouquets are on display at local business places through the spring and summer months. The Society provides bulbs as premiums for its members, holds plant sales in May to provide seeds, perennials etc. to members at reasonable prices, and also sponsors teas and other events.

The Society has no honorary members. Outstanding members, because of their showmanship over the years, are: Mrs. R. C. Lumb, Mrs. Calvin Hill, Mrs. Geo. Martins, and Mrs. J. Trembath.

Mrs. Enid Bragden was President and Mrs. Norma Vincent the Secretary of the Cartwright-Mather Horticultural Society in 1982.

Charleswood Horticultural Society

Charleswood is one of the oldest of Manitoba's horticultural societies. It was organized in 1919 and held its first meeting on September 12, 1919. The first officers were:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| President | Geo. T. Chapman |
| First Vice-Pres. | Charles E. James |
| Second Vice-Pres. | Mrs. Helen Vialoux |
| Sec.-Treas. | Thomas J. Lock |

Directors: Robert Smith, W. Martin, Fred Abrahams, F. Wild, Wm. Finner, Mrs. L. Hammill, Mrs. A. E. Atkinson, Miss Lilian James, Miss Ada Chapman, Miss M. Harper. Mr. M. Vialoux was the organizer.

In 1917, two years before the Society received its charter, a Boys' Garden Club and a Girls' Garden Club had been formed. These thriving clubs were taken over by the Society and combined. In 1932 the club competed under the Waugh Shield banner and was known as a Waugh Shield Club. In later years it became a Junior Garden Club. Charleswood's two day Flower Show had an continues to have many sections for the Juniors, as well as sections in domestic science and handicrafts.

Charleswood's homes were built in a setting of unspoiled nature. Most homes had lovely gardens. To further enhance the beauty of Charleswood, a garden of flowers was planted at the east entrance to Charleswood in front of a big sign bearing the names of all citizens who enlisted in the second World War. A stone planter was erected at the Eric Coy Arena and planted with flowers. Presently the Society is helping to beautify Charleswood's Nursing Homes by planting and caring for flower beds around them. Lately, too, society members will feature guided tours through the Assiniboine Forest to help people identify trees and plants.

The dirty thirties and the years of the Second World War were hard on the Society. To keep going, prize money at the fairs was done away with. Only ribbons were awarded to the winners. In 1945 the Society went back to prize money awards.

Besides regular directors' meetings, series of public meetings and an annual flower show, the Charleswood Horticultural Society sponsors home grounds competitions. In the early years it had a competition for Home Flower Beds, for Gardens and then Home Grounds. At one time the latter were judged in two classes: those with and those without running water. For the last number of years the Society has its own competition of home grounds and then enters its winner in the Provincial Competition, The Society also has a slide competition for its members and has won awards in the Provincial Slide Competition.

The M.H.A. knows the Charleswood Society as a faithful member society. The Society always sends delegates to the convention and participates in M.H.A. projects.

Honorary Life Memberships are given to outstanding members of an organization. The Charleswood Horticultural Society has the following H.L.M. members:

| | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1924 | George T. Chapman | 1952 | Mr. F. T. Anderson |
| 1930 | Thomas J. Lock | 1953 | Mrs. Dorcas Hookway |
| 1934 | Charles E. James | 1956 | Mrs. F. T. Anderson |
| 1935 | Mrs. Helen Vialoux | 1957 | J. Lejune |
| 1936 | Mrs. A. E. Atkinson | 1969 | Miss Lilian James |
| 1940 | Mrs. William Finner | 1969 | Mrs. G. Schwartz |
| 1945 | Mrs. E. A. Webber | 1969 | Mr. A. H. Dykes |
| 1947 | Mrs. P. Whitebread | 1977 | Arthur P. Kerr |
| 1951 | Mrs. Ada Parkin | 1977 | Ed. J. Kerr |

The 1982 President of the Society is Mrs. Doreen Giesbrecht, the Sec.-Treas. Mrs. Shirley Froehlich.

The Charleswood Horticultural Society has made its community a better place to live in.

Dauphin Horticultural Society

The Provincial Register of Charters issued to Horticultural Societies shows that the Dauphin Society received its first charter in 1921 and a second charter in 1923. The society functioned until 1935 at which time it ceased operations due to the depression and the war. It was reorganized in 1947 and a new charter was issued. The society has functioned continuously since 1947 and has been very active. It was the first society to host the M.H.A. convention in the rural area.

The 1947 charter was lost, so a new one was issued on October 16, 1973. The following names are inscribed on this charter: Mr. J. McFadden, Mrs. M. W. Gordon, Mrs. J. B. Robson, Mr. G. Sumpter, Mr. F. Wright, Mrs. Hugh Lys, Mr. R. Watson, Mrs. J. Cox, Mr. D. Craig, Mr. D. D. McDonald, Mr. Ed Osborne, Mr. Chas Snyder and Mrs. J. McPhee. All of these directors, with the exception of Mrs. McPhee, were connected with the society during the period 1921 to 1935. Mrs. McPhee has been a director since 1947.

The first executive consisted of President, J. McFadden, and Sec.-Treas., Mrs. M. W. Gordon. The executive officers in 1947 were: President, George Sumpter; Vice-Pres., M. W. Cryderman; and Sec.-Treas., George Vickers.

Like other societies, the Dauphin Horticultural Society has an annual Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Show. For some

years Peony Shows were an annual event. Gladiolus Shows used to be held in conjunction with the Churchill Excursion. The society also sponsors a Junior Garden Club. One year it had the honor of sponsoring the Provincial Fruit Show at its Garden Show. The Society fully supports the M.H.A. convention and has been its host three times over the years. One society director, the late Mrs. J. Crucq, was an M.H.A. director for six years. Community activities include home grounds competitions and some entries have won provincial honors. Besides sponsoring a Junior Garden Club, several directors have been assisting a school teacher to create an interest in horticulture among his students. Field trips have been made to various parks and a bus load of members visited the International Peace Garden on its 50th anniversary in 1982.

Community beautification has been high on the agenda of the Dauphin Horticultural Society. A flower garden was planted in Vermillion Park. The Hospital and Library grounds have also been beautified with flowers. A Bouquet of the Month is given to a shut-in or newcomer each month by a director. In 1970 a cairn was erected in memory of W. J. Boughen, a well-known horticulturist of Valley River. No honorary life memberships are given as the society believes in the team approach.

In 1983 the President of the Society is Mrs. Shirley Hollyoake and Secretary is Mrs. Lena Richardson. She has held this position for the last 17 years.

Deloraine Horticultural Society

Deloraine's first horticultural society was organized in March 1927. The following were the officers of that society: President — Dr. R. S. Thornton; Vice-President — Alidor Andries; Sec.-Treas. — M. S. Colquhoun; Committee members — Mrs. W. E. Cowan and Mrs. O. Boles. Mrs. F. Diggle, Mrs. Geo. Somerville, Wm. Franklin, Mrs. Nona Williams and her father, Mr. Cory, were other members.

The first meeting had Mr. J. R. Almey as guest speaker. Mr. Almey was Extension Horticulturist and Secretary of the M.H.A. at that time.

Little is known about the society activities in those early years. After some time it became inactive. In 1969 a group of interested gardeners held meetings in the Municipal Hall in order to reorganize the Deloraine Horticultural Society. An executive consisting of President, Mrs. H. (Martha) Gall; Vice-President, Mrs. H. K. Dodds and Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Claire Baillod was elected. The main objectives of the Society were to interest the citizens of Deloraine and District in beautifying their home grounds and the town, and to learn how to grow and care for better gardens, lawns and trees. The first flower show was held in August of that year and drew some 200 entries. Prizes consisted mainly of ribbons. Mrs. N. R. Jasper and Nellie Hall of Hartney judged this show. The Department of Agriculture granted a new charter to the Society on November 1, 1971. It was presented to Mrs. H. K. Dodds at the M.H.A. convention in Winnipeg in February of 1972.

The annual horticultural show is held in the auditorium of the Elementary School in the month of August each year. It has grown in size and now boasts of more than 600 entries. Since 1972 money prizes are awarded. The show has a section for junior gardeners.

The first Home Grounds Competition was held in 1970 with a Chamber of Commerce trophy for the best home grounds in town. The Toronto-Dominion trophy was for the best rural home grounds. In 1978 the Turtle Mountain Credit Union gave a trophy for the best home grounds up to five years. Now there also is a trophy for the best planter.

The most significant accomplishment of the Society has been the landscaping of the Bren-Del-Win Lodge including a memorial rose garden in memory of Dr. Wm. Malyska, a well-known horticulturist and rose grower. Regular informational meetings are held. The Deloraine Horticultural Society supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects. Each year it plans a field trip for Society members. It has visited the Winnipeg Flower Show, Morden, the Peace Garden and Indian Head.

Life memberships have been presented to Mr. Claire Baillod and Mrs. Charles Beernsert, the latter now deceased.

Outstanding members over the years have been Dr. R. S. Thornton, M. S. Colquhoun (Sr.), Martha Gall, Elizabeth Dodds and Isa Lesy. Neither should Mrs. A. (Dorothy) Howden, a former president now tending her beautiful home grounds at Waskada, and Mrs. Ruth Burr, the noted African violet grower of Goodlands, be forgotten. Miss Augusta Schoonbaert, Madeline Vergrugghe and Alice Wilson are truly good members.

Miss Augusta Schoonbaert is the 1982 President and Mrs. Hazel (Earl) Babcock the Secretary-Treasurer of the Deloraine Horticultural Society. The Society is ready to face the challenges of the future.

East Kildonan Horticultural Society

The East Kildonan Horticultural Society was organized and received its charter in 1967, Canada's centennial. The charter members were: Mrs. C. Kadash, Mrs. J. Hardman, Mr. J. McLean, Mrs. J. Jorowski, Mr. E. Anderson, Mr. D. Brewer, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. B. Cowley, Mr. W. Beatty, Mrs. M. Anderson and Mrs. B. M. Davis. Mrs. M. Kadash was the first President and Mr. H. Horwood the Secretary-Treasurer.

The first flower show was held in August, 1968. Mayor M. Ruta and Mrs. J. H. Coulter opened the show. Mrs. Coulter had been a member of the original Kildonan Horticultural Society from 1923 to 1933. Since then the annual shows have been most successful. The show features classes for Junior Gardeners. For several years this Society had an active Junior Flower Arranging group. The story of this group was told in one of the Prairie Garden books.

The Society supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects. Some of their home grounds have won provincial awards. It is not uncommon to find East Kildonan winners in the Provincial Slide Competition. The Society holds a number of informational open meetings at which horticultural topics are covered by guest speakers and Society members. Occasionally trips to outside points are planned. Some forty members made a bus trip to see the Morden Research Station one year. The springtime auction

of plants not only brings in the needed finances for the Society, it also promotes further beautification of East Kildonan.

Community beautification is a major concern of the Society. To do this it has involved its Junior Gardeners. One year all Grade V children planted a tulip bed designed by the Parks Board and then were given a bulb each to take home. Tree planting, street beautification, landscaping of public buildings and the planting of flower beds in East Kildonan parks are some of the Society's projects over the years. The Junior Gardeners program is capably handled by Mrs. Elsie Stepaniuck.

To date Mr. S. Colhoun, Mr. Bill Gillespie and Mr. Nelson Crawford have received Honorary Life Memberships. The first two of the above are now deceased. Some other outstanding members of the Society are Mr. Crawford, Anne Jorowski, Fran Partridge, Millie King and Lorne Heshka.

According to Jean Atto, the present secretary, it is the exchange of views and information and the sharing of friendships and concerns that has held the Society together over the years. Joan Scott, the president agrees with her.

Flin Flon Horticultural Society

The Flin Flon Horticultural Society was formed on April 8, 1936. The first officers were: President — Fred Willis; V. P. — Lorne Widing; Sec. Treas. — Mrs. F. Widing; Directors: Cyril Steventon, Mrs. Margaret Allan, W. C. Alderson, E. E. Foster, F. Sykes and Mrs. A. Symons.

Flin Flon is a company town. It is to the credit of Hudsons Bay Mining and Smelting Co. that the Horticultural Society was able to achieve so much in this northern rocky town. The H.B.M. & S. sponsored competitions and provided prize money and awards. It is to the credit of the gardeners that the rocky outcrops were beautified. Soil was at a premium and had to be hauled in, or "manufactured" as one of the gardeners put it. We are advised that Mrs. Mary Machan probably had the first garden in Flin Flon and that it was she who encouraged others to grow gardens.

The Flower show of the Flin Flon Society is always most colorful. It seems that the long days of northern summers accentuate the depth of color of flowers. Northern roses have won championships for Gordon Grindle at the International Flower Show in Winnipeg. Dahlias have done the same for Bob Davison, dahlia expert. The Flin Flon show also has sections for Juniors. The Society sponsors a 4-H Junior Garden Club.

Besides sponsoring Junior Gardeners, the Society also sponsors home grounds competitions. In the M.H.A. sponsored Northern Home Grounds Competition, Flin Flon has won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awards. Then there are the local Environmental Garden Competitions sponsored by H.B.M. & S. There are competitions for flowers and for vegetables for Flin Flon and also for Creighton. The Company gives three awards for each of the four competitions. The Society does the organizing for this competition as well as the judging. The Company also supports the garden competitions of the 4-H garden clubs with prizes.

It should be mentioned here that since the Company raised its smoke stack, there is very little environmental damage.

The Society operates two other competitions sponsored by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. These are for senior citizens' garden plots at the Rotary Court and at the Northern Lights Manor. The Flin Flon Horticultural Society further helps beautify Flin Flon with tree and shrub planting in town parks and on avenues. They also plant and take care of inside stands of flowers and herbs at the Hospital and the Personal Care Home.

Individual members of the Society have successfully entered the Provincial Slide Competition over the years. The Society has a program of regular educational meetings. It sponsors field trips for its members. It further supports the M.H.A. convention and its many projects.

Honorary Life Memberships have been presented to the following: Dr. Balfour A. Biggs, Bob and Anne Davison, Andy Kaehut, John Wilson, Marge Rumbal, Bernice Campbell, Margaret Wingert, Gordon Grindle, Tom and Charlotte

Willey, Les and Velma Saville, Phyllis Lloyd and Dorothy Willis.

Other outstanding members that could be mentioned are Mrs. Mary Machan, Cyril Kemp and Gordon Roberts.

The 1982 officers of the Society were Mrs. Velma Inglis, President, and Tom Willey, Secretary.

The Flin Flon Horticultural Society has had its ups and downs, but it faces the future with flowery anticipation.

The Fort Garry Horticultural Society

According to Provincial records the Fort Garry Horticultural Society was granted its charter, No. 12, in 1922. The records from 1922 to 1925 are not available, but enthusiastic presidents have maintained a continuous range of interesting events from 1925 to the present day.

This item of interest is gleaned from Society minutes. In 1926 the Manitoba Agricultural College provided dahlia tubers and gladiolus corms at 4¢ each or \$3.25 per 100. This establishes the change in prices and the Society's affiliation with the seat of agricultural learning.

The Society has used many local buildings as its "home" to spread its message of earthy tasks. Its first home was at the General Steele School, the second in St. Pauls Parish Hall, and the third at the Pembina Curling Rink where a rental of \$3.00 was charged for lighting. The last three have been the Viscount Alexander School, Vincent Massey High School and the Fort Garry Community Centre or Club.

Shows have been staged in all these locations, but the present trend to have Shows at Malls led the Society to the Southwood Mall on Pembina Highway. Flower and Handicraft shows have been held annually since 1925. Ribbons were introduced by the Society in 1957.

It was in 1932 that a Dr. deJong suggested that the Fort Garry Horticultural Society should sponsor a movement to provide garden lots for the unemployed, to provide them with food for the winter. This is the first reference to such plots. It was, however, in 1943 that the Municipal Council of Fort Garry advised the Fort Garry Society that its application to lease three municipal properties:

- 1) West side of Pembina Highway, from Waterton Ave.

on the east of the railroad, 900 ft. from Waterton Ave. due north.

- 2) South side of Somerset Ave. from 740 Somerset to the top of the river bank.
- 3) South side of Calrossie Blvd. from Highmore west, 300 ft. was accepted as per resolution of the Public Works Committee on April 20th, 1943. These lots were the Victory Gardens which probably symbolize the official dawn of the allotments concept in Fort Garry.

The minutes of the Society reveal that the 33 lots it sold in 1943, cost 50¢ per annum. In 1983, 40 years later, the Society has 56 lots and the cost is \$10.00 per lot.

If there is an underlying quality in the Fort Garry Horticultural Society, it must be its community mindedness; it has been responsible for several landscaping improvements in the Municipality of Fort Garry.

There have been many who have been honored by the Fort Garry Horticultural Society by receiving Honorary Memberships, but to symbolize these events only the presentation to Mr. John Welsh of Riverwood is cited here.

"Mr. John Welsh joined the Society in 1932 and won third prize of 75¢ in the Home Grounds Competition. Mrs. Welsh received a \$1.00 prize for a winning cake. Mr. Welsh was not too sure of the justice of this because his efforts in maintaining a garden far exceeded his wife's effort in baking a cake".

And yet gardening has remained as constant as the Northern Star.

Hartney Horticultural Society

Hartney received the 30th charter when it formed its horticultural society in 1937. Its first officers were: President — Jas. Baxter; V.P. — Allen Moffat; Secretary Treasurer — Miss Reine Isabey; Librarian — E. L. Houck; and Auditor — Mrs. Harvey Woodhull.

The Hartney Horticultural Society is justly proud of its annual Flower Show. It is especially strong in the classes for flower arrangements. Mrs. Gertrude Jasper, the long time guiding spirit of the Society, is an expert and teacher in the

art of flower arranging. In 1939 the Society decided to include children's classes in its show and this has continued to date. Besides a regular diet of Society meetings, it has sponsored seminars for surrounding societies. The Society fully supports the M.H.A. convention and its many projects. Mrs. Gertrude Jasper is a director and Past President of the M.H.A. Over the years the Society has arranged many field trips for its members. They have visited the University of Manitoba, the Morden Research Station, the International Flower Show in Winnipeg and numerous other places. Several members of the Hartney Society are qualified judges and are often called on to judge other flower shows.

In 1939 the Society started Junior Garden clubs. These have continued since that time. The club has two leaders and a society member is the coordinator. Special prizes are given to the Juniors.

The Society conducts home grounds competitions in several classes. The winners are entered in the Provincial Home Grounds Competitions. Provincial championships have come to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon White of Hartney, Mrs. Violet Sadler of Elgin and Mr. and Mrs. Ovila Mireau of Hartney. Because of the improvement in the town, Hartney received the Bentley Cup from the Good Roads Association in 1973 and received another trophy from them for "Beautification of the Town".

Another competition of the Society is the slide competition. Hartney members have won awards in the Provincial Slide Competition.

The Hartney Horticultural Society has always been community minded. Over the years a major project has been the beautification of the town by planting flowers at the Cenotaph, the Park, the Clinic, and the Senior Citizens' Lodge. One year it brought in many hundreds of tulips to be planted all over town. For the Hartney Centennial the Society prepared an audio-visual program to help people enjoy the good old days. The Society frequently combined with other organizations in fostering town projects. For some years a Christmas Lighting Contest was held. Hartney owes so much to its active and innovative Horticultural Society.

Rather than awarding life memberships, the Society presents Certificates of Merit to its long time senior members. Four of them were presented in 1977. So many members of the Society might be considered outstanding. Only two will be named here. One is Mrs. Jas. Baxter who was the moving spirit at the time of the Society's organization. The second is Mrs. Gertrude Jasper who has been the driving force for Society activities for so many years.

The President for 1982 was Mrs. Kay Moffat and Mrs. Phyllis Hodgson was the Secretary.

This short resume can in no way do justice to the Hartney Horticultural Society.

Interlake Horticultural Society

(Stonewall and Area)

A group of people interested in forming a horticultural society in the Interlake contacted the communities of Argyle, Stonewall, Balmoral, Teulon, Gunton, Meadows, Stony Mountain, Rosser and Grosse Isle in the summer of 1960 to see if there were enough support for such an organization. As a result of this investigation, an organizational meeting was held in Stonewall on November 14, 1960, with Mr. Evered Lawrence as Chairman. It was decided to form a society with the name Interlake Horticultural Society. The following slate of directors was elected: Mr. Ev. Lawrence, Mr. Henry Main, Mr. J. C. Dack, Rev. Bruce Rathbone, Mr. C. Baranovsky, Mr. C. J. Edwards, Mrs. C. W. Hughes, Mrs. Ken Doanes, Mrs. S. H. Chanin, and Mrs. A. H. Campbell. Mr. C. J. Edwards was named President and Mrs. Ken Doan Vice President. Mrs. Archie Gray was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. The motto adopted was "To make the Interlake beautiful".

The Interlake Society stages an annual Flower Show featuring flower, fruit and vegetable classes and also a children's section. No admission fee is charged, refreshments are served but donations are accepted. Every winter a short course, featuring qualified speakers on a variety of subjects, is held for the members. Some years field days for instruction in a suitable local garden have been sponsored. In other years these were replaced by strawberry socials. Lately there

have been garden tours. When possible, Society delegates attend the M.H.A. convention. In 1982 a home grounds competition was held and it attracted 14 entries in three classes. One of the entries won the first prize in its class in the Provincial Home Grounds Competition. The spring plant sale helps members to obtain new varieties of plants and also is a means of obtaining necessary finances. Informational articles in the Stonewall Argus newspaper keeps the community informed of Society activities.

Besides inspiring members to beautify their own grounds, the Society has promoted community beautification projects. It has sponsored the planting of over 2000 flowering small trees on Stonewall boulevards as a Centennial project. A small park has been developed at the entrance to Stonewall. Almey crabapple trees have been planted in the cemetery. Where there was a town dump, a half acre park and playground have been developed.

The Interlake Horticultural Society has many members who have contributed to its success over the years. Of these, Mr. Clarence Edwards, now deceased, deserves special mention. He was the driving force behind the formation of the Society, its president for the first twelve years, and the inspired leader of its projects. Mrs. Ruth McAdam has been secretary of the annual Flower Show since its inception. Mr. J. C. Dack, the present reporter of the Society, has been on the executive since the Society was formed. The last two were honored at a Recognition Night sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce when they received certificates presented to them by Lieutenant-Governor Mrs. Pearl McGonigal.

In 1982, Mrs. W. Yule was President and Mrs. H. Good the Secretary-Treasurer of the Interlake Horticultural Society.

Killarney Horticultural Society

The Killarney Horticultural Society had its beginning as a committee of the local Agricultural Society in 1953. This committee had Mr. W. J. Kellaway as chairman, Mr. George Fairhall as vice-chairman and Mrs. Alma Johnston as secretary-treasurer. A membership committee of five was able to

sign up 32 members at a \$1.00 membership fee. The Killarney Horticultural Society finally received its charter in May, 1957. (Charter number 42)

Even before it officially became a society, the then committee in 1953 sponsored home grounds competitions and had seven rural and 20 urban entries. The Society has continued with these competitions with great success, both locally and provincially. Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Sawatzky and Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Martens have been provincial home grounds winners.

The highlight of the year for the Killarney Horticultural Society is its Flower Show in August. This has really grown in size and quality since 1953. It features children's classes as well. In 1964 this show featured the Provincial Fruit Show. The Society carries on a program of regular public meetings. It fully supports the M.H.A. in its convention and other projects. A member of the Society, Mr. Hugh Lamont, was director of the M.H.A. for many years and its president in 1966 and 1967.

The future of any society lies with its children. In 1966 a Junior Garden Club was formed with Mr. Harry Wheeler as the chief mover. The junior garden program continues to this day.

It is in community beautification that the Society has made its greatest contribution to Killarney. In 1954 a Horticultural Committee of the Society was set up to work with the Chamber of Commerce and Town Beautification Committee in planting trees and shrubs. The Society continues to help in this work. As a Canada Centennial Project the Society helped develop a small park on the south shore of Killarney Lake. A beautiful floral float of the Society took part in the centennial parade. Projects over the years have included the planting of flower beds at the hospital, the War Memorial, and the Senior Citizens' Home. The biggest challenge came when the new hospital was built. The Society was asked to landscape the grounds. A memorial fund was set up and \$8000.00 collected. The grounds were ready when the hospital was opened. This is a continuing project for the Society.

For the Centennial of the Turtle Mountain Municipality the Killarney Horticultural Society sold over a 100 flower boxes and encouraged the planting of geraniums, the chosen flower. A float bedecked with flower boxes took part in the festive parade. The home grounds competitions of the Society also feature "The Tidiest Lane of the Town" award.

The Society also participates in the Provincial slide competition and has some winning slides to its credit. It cooperates in M.H.A. sponsored regional meetings. Several of its members are often called on to judge other societies' flower shows. The Society has arranged for several trips to points of interest in the province.

Only one member of the Killarney Society has received an Honorary Life Membership to date, namely Mr. Hugh Lamont. There are so many members that have contributed to the success of the Society over the years. A salute goes to all of them.

In 1982 Mr. Edward Pettypiece was president and Mrs. Helen Lovett the secretary of the Killarney Horticultural Society, a society worthy of its name.

Lasalle River Horticultural Society

The Lasalle River Horticultural Society, a relative newcomer in the family of Manitoba societies, was formed in 1969 with 82 active members. As the society has members from Starbuck, Springstein, Oak Bluff and Sanford, the name Lasalle River was adopted.

The first officers of the Society were:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| President | John Bossuyt |
| V.P. | Mrs. Helma Qually |
| Secretary | Mrs. Cecilia Janis |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Ruth Martens |

Directors: Mrs. Anne Rempel, Mr. Henry Rempel, Mrs. Ethel Erb, Mrs. Gerda Schrof, Mrs. Margaret Horn and Mrs. Betty Schlichting.

This Society of enthusiastic gardeners has a program of regular educational meetings open to the public. The annual Flower Show reflects the expertise of the gardeners and the artistic abilities of flower arrangers. The show has sections

for the junior gardeners. The annual banquet, at which prizes for the year are awarded, is a well attended event. The Society has sponsored field trips to the Morden Research Station and the University of Manitoba experimental plots for its members.

The Lasalle River Horticultural Society is community conscious. It has sponsored junior gardeners over the previous years. The Society bought and planted trees and shrubs for the Starview Manor in Starbuck and buys replacements when necessary. When the Macdonald Municipality held a Centennial Parade in Sanford in 1981, the Society entered a horticultural float.

Home grounds beautification is one of the pet projects of this Society. It holds home grounds competitions in several classes annually. The winners in each class are entered in the Provincial Home Grounds Competitions. Major awards have come to the following:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Schlichting, Sanford | Second in Rural Urban in 1975 |
| A. Bossuyt, Oak Bluff | First in Rural Urban Class in 1977 |
| E. Ammeter, Starbuck | First in Farm Home Grounds in 1977 |
| | Second in Farm Home Grounds in 1981 |
| R. Burns, Starbuck | Second in Rural Urban Class in 1981 |

The Society has significant achievements to record as a result of competing in the Mass Arrangement Competition sponsored by the International Flower Show for Manitoba horticultural societies. Since 1971 the Lasalle River Horticultural Society has won 4 first, 2 second, 2 third, 1 fourth and 1 fifth prizes.

As the Society is young, it has not yet awarded Honorary Life memberships. Margaret Horn, Helma Qually, Louise Thiessen and Eva Flaws are four of the many outstanding members of the Society. So also are Cecilia Janis, who has been a consistent grand aggregate winner at the annual shows, and Resi Vis, who together with Louise Thiessen has been responsible for the prize winning mass arrangement at the International Flower Shows.

In 1982 Anne Masse was President and Jane Tishinski the Secretary of this young but active Society.

Manitou Horticultural Society

The Manitou Horticultural Society was formed May 22,

1935 and received charter No. 28. The first officers of the Society were: President — C. P. Old; Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. R. B. Smith. Directors: Mrs. A. L. Edwards, Mrs. J. A. Hill, Dr. E. C. Nolan, W. T. Pringle, Dr. W. A. Pommer, Mrs. J. Strong, H. F. Griffin, C. H. Vrooman. The following year L. Crampton and C. Wightman were added to the slate of directors.

The Society's annual Flower Show is held every August with classes for adults and children. Due to drought, polio epidemic and again drought, the show had to be cancelled in 1946, 1952 and 1961. Special gladiolus shows have also been held. The Society fully cooperates with the M.H.A. at its convention and in its many projects. Mrs. W. (McIntosh) Smith is a past director and also past president of the M.H.A. Mrs. R. B. Smith and D. R. Thom also served as M.H.A. directors. The Manitou Society holds regular educational meetings. Over the years it has sponsored many field trips for its members. Places like the Peace Gardens, the Carberry Desert, the English Gardens, the Morden Experimental Farm and many others have been visited. Most every year home grounds competitions have been sponsored and slide competitions have been held as well. For many years garden clubs for juniors were organized and functioned very satisfactorily. The Society has sponsored one day educational seminars in horticulture for surrounding societies. Nine of its members are qualified judges for horticultural shows.

But it is in the area of community beautification where the Manitou Horticultural Society has an enviable record. It all started in 1936 when 225 elm trees were planted on Manitou boulevards by Society members. Coronation Park, the Town Hall, the Home for the Aged, and in later years the new Centennial Park, these and many more public places have been beautified with the help of Society members. The Town of Manitou is a beautiful place to live and work in and the local horticultural society deserves much credit for this. During World War II, the Society encouraged the growing of Victory Gardens and was active in selling Victory bonds. Floral floats have been prepared to participate in Manitou's festive occasions.

To date the Manitou Horticultural Society has presented two Honorary Memberships. Mrs. R. B. Smith received hers in 1959, and Mrs. W. F. (McIntosh) Smith in 1963. There are so many outstanding members in the Society who have contributed to the Society's programs, that it is impossible to single any out. Let it be said that the members worked as a team.

In 1982 the Manitou Horticultural Society had Mrs. Stuart (Mary) Young as its President and Mrs. Andrew (Mildred) Adams as Secretary. It was and is in good hands.

Miami, a Committee of the Miami Agricultural Society

The Miami Agricultural Society had its 75th anniversary in 1982. Early records of the activities of the Horticultural Committee have been lost. It might actually predate the Agricultural Society. Some records talk about a flower show held on a lawn in 1890. Others tell of the flower shows held in the I.O.O.F. hall in the 1940's. The fact remains that this Committee has had its beautification projects and its annual Flower Show for many many years. In 1982 the show attracted 50 exhibitors and had 571 exhibits. Not bad for a small committee made up mainly of elderly people.

In 1982 Elizabeth Stevenson was the President and Mrs. Ruby Simpson the Secretary-Treasurer of the Miami Committee.

Minnedosa Horticultural Society

The history of the Minnedosa Horticultural Society dates back to 1913. At that time, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Johnson, who had shown their sweet peas at the Brandon Horticultural Show the previous year, helped organize the Society in Minnedosa. A prize of \$10.00, a great deal of money at that time, was offered by one of the merchants for the best sweet peas in the local show. Records of those early years are sketchy but it is thought that the flower shows were sponsored by the Ladies' Hospital Aid.

Mr. George Eames and Mr. Mel Johnson were dedicated workers in the early twenties and thirties. Of the 49 members registered in 1930, three, namely Mr. M. Cartwright, Mrs. J. Jury, and Mr. W. Hooper, are members of the Minnedosa

Horticultural Society today. The Society was discontinued in 1937, although the flower shows continued annually under the auspices of the Ladies Hospital Aid.

It was not until 1956 that Minnedosa had an organized horticultural society again. At that time it was reorganized with 96 members and had Mr. Stan Gugin for President and Mr. Wm. Johnson for Secretary-Treasurer. Since that time the membership has increased and the Society has flourished under the capable leadership of several past presidents: Mrs. John Jury, Mrs. Jack Burgess, Mr. K. Chorneyko, Mr. Bill Dyer, Mrs. Muriel Meadows, Mrs. M. Shorroch, Mrs. Eva Wark, and today's president, Mrs. Phyllis Abel.

The Society's motto, "Help Beautify Minnedosa", has been developed by the Home Grounds Competitions in which prizes and trophies are awarded for the best lawns, gardens and boulevards. In this competition, Mr. and Mrs. M. Cartwright have been consistent winners over the years.

Under the capable leadership, for many years, of Mrs. Florence Clark, the Beautify Minnedosa Committee has been helpful in making Main Street beautiful with plantings at business locations and the Main Street divider. Premiums of shrubs, trees and perennials, which have been given to members each year, have also added greatly to the beauty of Minnedosa.

The Society's annual flower show soon became one of the largest rural shows in the country. For several years there were well over a thousand entries from such well known exhibitors as Mr. and Mrs. Mel Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John Jury, Mr. and Mrs. O. Douglas, Lorne and Mrs. C. St. John, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gugin, Mr. Stan Gugin, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burton and Mrs. Jessie Hutton.

Minnedosa was one of the first Societies to develop a special flower arranging class based on a theme. Among the early exhibitors in the flower arranging class are the names of Mrs. L. Cummins, Mrs. P. Bowman and Mrs. L. A. McLean.

In 1958 the Junior Garden Club of the Minnedosa Horticultural Society was formed, and under the capable leadership of Mrs. Brenda Erickson, Mrs. Margaret Shorroch and Mrs. Edna MacDonald, it has, over the years, continued to

be an active and successful project. Each year Junior members enter their exhibits in the Junior class at the annual Flower Show and receive awards for their gardens.

The Minnedosa Horticultural Society has been one of the very few organizations that have not been affected by inflation. The membership fee in 1930 was \$1.00. It is still \$1.00 today.

Honorary Life Memberships have been presented to the following: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Burgess*, Mrs. J. Burton*, Mrs. M. Burton*, Mrs. S. Cummins*, Mr. and Mrs. O. Douglas*, Mrs. F. Gugin*, Mrs. S. Gugin, Mrs. P. S. Hancock, Mr. W. Hooper, Mrs. C. Hutton, Mrs. J. Jury, Mrs. L. A. McLean, Mrs. A. Orr, Mrs. G. Proven, Mrs. C. L. St. John*, Mrs. A. Wilding, Mr. K. Chorneyko, Mrs. I. Jackson, Mr. B. Dyer, and Mrs. E. Wark*. (* stands for deceased)

For a number of years the Minnedosa Horticultural Society has had entries and many prize winners in the Provincial Slide Competition. Every summer the Society plans one or two field trips to visit parks or interesting nature and garden areas.

In 1982 the President of the Society was Mrs. Phyllis Abel, Mrs. Audrah Caughell the Secretary-Treasurer. The Society is alive and well.

Morden Horticultural Society

This Society is one of the oldest continuously operating horticultural societies of this province. The society charter, No. 4 in the province, is dated April 3, 1916 but was only signed March 27, 1923 by the then Minister of Agriculture and Immigration, the Hon. N. Cameron. But it was 1916 when the new Society got into the thick of things.

The first slate of officers of the Society reads as follows: Hon. Pres. — Hon. V. Winkler; Pres. — Dr. R. A. McIntosh; Vice Pres. — W. J. Mellor; Sec.-Treas. — E. D. Kerby. Other Directors were: Dr. R. M. Rumball, W. J. Cram, R. T. Hewitt, C. C. Milne, J. R. Bonny, Mrs. A. W. Bowen and Mrs. S. Scott. Besides these there were 24 more charter members. These members were all from the town of Morden and represented professions like member of Parliament, clerk of the court, magistrates, ministers, land titles registrar,

banker, editor, post master, C.P.R. agent, veterinarian, business profession and ladies. Today the active members of the Society come more from the rural areas and the Society today is more properly called the Morden and District Horticultural Society.

The Flower Show of the Society reflects the area it serves. As Morden is the hub of fruit culture, the fruit entries are naturally larger than in other areas. There have always been sections for Junior Gardeners. The Society fully co-operates with the M.H.A. convention and most of its other projects. Presently Dr. Henry Marshall, a member and president of the Morden Society, is a director of the M.H.A. Besides a regular schedule of meetings, the Society has laid on field trips to places of interest.

The object of the Society was and continues to be: "A better and more beautiful community in which to live". To achieve this end, the Society helped in planting the town boulevards with flowering shrubs, such as yellow roses, spiraea, and lilacs. It also helped with plantings at the Tabor Senior Citizens' Home and the Confederation Place Park. To encourage home landscaping, the Society had home grounds competitions for most of its years. It also had slide competitions. For many years junior gardeners were sponsored. As the Society is conservation conscious, tours of natural areas to study wild plants have been held. The Society worked hand in hand with the Research Station and so both share credit for beautification.

As so many prominent people helped the Society to work and grow, it was decided not to award Honorary Life Memberships because the list would simply be too long. Outstanding contributions have been made by Dr. W. R. Leslie, Bert Harp, Dr. Bill Cumming, McBain Dudgeon, R. A. Milne, John Reichert and many more.

At the time of this publication, Dr. H. H. Marshall is the President and Mrs. Colleen Lumgair the Secretary of the Morden and District Horticultural Society.

Morris Horticultural Society

The Morris Society was organized as the Red River

Horticultural Society and was granted a charter, No. 46, on April 10, 1959.

The first officers of the Society were: President — Mrs. Ed Manikel; Vic. Pres. — Mrs. Stan Churchill; Sec.-Treas. — Miss Ida Hoffman. The other Directors were: Mrs. Cliff Mitchell, Mrs. Henry Peters, Mrs. Jean Sabourin, Mrs. Ed. Jorgenson, Leslie Stevenson, Mrs. P. K. Dueck and J. B. Wiens.

In 1977 the Society asked the Government to permit a name change for the Society so as to more easily identify the location of the Society. Accordingly a new charter was issued under the name of "Morris Horticultural Society".

Ever since its formation the Society has held its annual Flower Show that incorporates children's classes. It holds regular educational meetings and seminars for its members and interested visitors. Field trips to parks and other places of interest have been made. The Society fully supports the M.H.A. convention and its projects.

Junior Gardeners are sponsored by the Society. Free seeds, free potatoes, and supervision are given by the Society. In fall the gardens are judged and a Junior Gardeners' Night is sponsored. Potato and pumpkin contests are held at it and prizes awarded for winning gardens.

One way to highlight good landscaping is to hold home grounds competitions in the area. The Society has sponsored these as well as slide competitions.

Besides encouraging members to beautify their own home grounds, the Society has and continues to participate in the beautification of many public places in Morris. It has done foundation planting at the Morris Hospital and the Morris Manor. It is further assisting in the landscaping of the Red River Valley Lodge and the Swimming Pool. Society members are always ready to assist individuals with their beautification and other horticultural problems. The annual plant sale in spring is worth mentioning. Members and others donate bedding plants, flowers, shrubs and trees and many homes in the area have been beautified with these reasonably priced plants. Besides, it helps the finances of the Society.

No Honorary Life Memberships are given by the Morris Horticultural Society. It believes in the team approach. It is grateful for the assistance of local businesses and especially the Evergreen Nursery over the years.

In 1982, Mrs. May Elliot is the President and Mrs. Anne Voigt the Secretary of the Morris Horticultural Society.

Newdale Horticultural Society

Before the Newdale Horticultural Society was organized, a Garden Show of the district was held under the auspices of the Women's Community Club. In 1927 the Society was organized as a horticultural society and it received charter No. 17. Here are the names inscribed on the charter:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Mrs. Thomas Rose | President | Mrs. J. Blaikie |
| Mrs. W. R. Lavery | Vice-Pres. | L. Lee |
| Mrs. Jas. Young | 2nd Vice Pres. | J. Milne |
| Miss R. Sing | Secretary | Mrs. D. Dalgarno |
| Mrs. Ethel Thomson | Treasurer | Mrs. W. Carrick |
| Mrs. J. Cassidy | | G. Coutts |
| A. Lyons | | G. Davies |
| Mrs. Geo Rose | | Mrs. C. Irwin |
| Miss D. Wood | | |

The Flower Show of the Society has been an annual event. It always featured children's classes. Many directors' and several society meetings are held every year. The Society supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects. It sponsors home grounds and slide competitions. A Junior Garden Club was formed as far back as 1929. The Society has also sponsored field trips to visit Boughen Nurseries at Dauphin, Patmore's Nursery at Brandon, Souris, winning home grounds and other places over the years.

The Newdale Horticultural Society has an excellent record in community beautification. Here is a list of a few projects.

- * Landscaping the grounds of the New' Hall in early years.
- * Planting spruce trees at Municipal Cemetery in 1954.
- * Created a children's playground in 1951.
- * A flower bed laid out between Main Street and the C.P.R. station.
- * Centennial project of three flower beds along Main Street.

* Landscaped the Cenotaph in 1967.

The major impact of the Society has been to make the community beauty conscious.

Life members of the Newdale Horticultural Society are: Mrs. E. Thomson, Mrs. K. Blaikie, Mrs. Allan Waddell, James Wood, Frank Williams, Mrs. Wallace Munson, Mrs. Alberta Sage, Mrs. Richard Westaway and Wilma F. Rose.

In 1982 Wilma F. Rose was President and Betty Fossum the Secretary of the Newdale Horticultural Society.

Niverville Horticultural Society

The Niverville Horticultural Society was formed in 1975 and the charter was presented to the Society at the M.H.A. Convention in Winnipeg in 1976. It had a membership of 70 at the time of organization.

The first board of directors consisted of the following: President — Fred Kaita; Secretary — Shirley McMahon; Directors; Arlene Hykaway, Emily Fast, George Sawatzky, Carole Taylor, Margaret Stott, George Hildebrand, Linda Podjan, and Dave Stoesz.

The first efforts of the Society were directed towards educational and informational meetings. These continue to be held regularly. Results achieved indicate that they planned well. Informed members are better members. To achieve this, the Society has sponsored field trips over the years. The University of Manitoba horticultural tests plots, the Peace Gardens, the Assiniboine Park with its English Garden, and various professional greenhouses have been visited. To help members with their photographic skills, a Photography Course was organized. This helped greatly to improve the slide competition. Sets of Home Ground Slides were shown to indicate to members what judges look for in good home grounds landscaping. The Niverville Society participates in the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects.

The Society sponsors a successful Junior Gardens Club. There is a section for junior exhibits in the Flower Show. The Senior Citizens' Residence was landscaped by the Society. It placed a welcome sign, complete with an annual flower plot, at the east entrance of town. The Society bought several

concrete planters to decorate the Main Street and continues to plant annuals in them each year. Potted plants are donated to senior citizens' residences at Christmas and Easter. At the Annual Fair each senior citizen receives a corsage from the Society. At the time of the Flower Show each business establishment receives a flower arrangement to promote horticulture. The Society is working towards home grounds competitions.

To date no Honorary Life Memberships have been presented. There is no doubt that Fred Kaita is the most outstanding member of the Niverville Horticultural Society. It was his drive that led to its organization and his untiring efforts over the years that helped it succeed. Two other hard and long time workers in the Society are Kay Martens and Elizabeth Dueck.

In 1982 Emma Wiebe was the President and Pete Peters the Secretary of this hard working young horticultural society.

Oakville and District Horticultural Society

The Provincial REGISTER OF CHARTERS ISSUED to horticultural societies in Manitoba lists Charter No. 40 as that presented to the Oakville and District Horticultural Society in 1956. It was on Jan. 18, 1956 in the Community Hall of Oakville that this Society was formed. The first Executive consisted of Mr. Len Harris as President, Mr. Dawson Halliday as Vice President, and Mrs. Clara Boddy as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Oakville area is blessed with excellent soil. This is reflected in the superb quality of fruit, vegetable and flower displays at the Society's Flower Show. The show also features a section for Junior Gardeners. A Court of Honor displays the winning entries and trophies. To finance its operation, the Society holds a yearly Plant Sale in May. Plant tables, a bake table, a junior table, and sometimes a "White Elephant Table" are featured. The society supports the M.H.A. at its convention and many of its projects. Some educational meetings are held annually. The year's activities are concluded with a "Pot Luck Supper", at which the awards are presented to Juniors and Society members.

Sometimes the Society joins with neighboring societies in bus trips to functions outside the area.

A Junior Gardeners Club was formed by the Society in 1956. This project has been quite successful over the years. Home grounds competitions are an annual event. In 1959 the Society had an Easter Card Competition. The Edna Bray Park in Oakville knew the Oakville and District Horticultural Society as its convenor from 1958 to 1977. Many hours of work by Society members went into its beautification. At Oakville's Centennial the Society entered a floral float.

Honorary Life Memberships have been presented to: Mrs. Ruby Gadway, Oakville; Mrs. Esther Paulson, Oakville; Mrs. Connie Bennett, now residing at Ninette; Mrs. Clara Boddy, now in Portage; and Mrs. Isabella Smirl, Oakville.

In 1982 the Society officers were: Mr. Michael Maxwell, President; Miss Helen McPherson, Vice President; and Mrs. Isabella Smirl, Secretary-Treasurer.

Pilot Mound Horticultural Society

The Pilot Mound Society was formed on April 15, 1957. The officers were:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Hon. President and Founder | Mr. F. Hagyard |
| President | Mrs. J. D. McKay |
| V. Pres. | Mr. Ivan Stewart |
| Sec. Treas. | Mr. G. F. Windsor |

The Pilot Mound Horticultural Society features an excellent flower Show each year. There are children's classes in the show. The Society participates in the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects.

The community involvement of the Society begins with its support of the Junior Gardening Club. It has worked with this program from the very beginning. Besides its Show, its educational meetings and its teas and other functions to raise funds, the Society sponsors Home Grounds Competitions. As yet the Society has no local slide competition, but individual members participate in the Provincial Slide Competition.

To help beautify Pilot Mound, the Society has landscaped the grounds of Prairie View Lodge. It keeps the

memories of departed folks alive by placing flower pots in the Cemetery. Planters have been placed at the Kinsmen Hall. These projects are representative of the Society's interest in its home base. For its own members the Society periodically sponsors field trips to points of horticultural interest.

Honorary Life Memberships have been presented to the following over the years: Mrs. F. Hagyard, Mr. and Mrs. T. Johnston, Mr. R. Wilson, Mrs. A. Armstrong, Mr. J. Simmons, Mr. W. Zimmerman, and Mr. W. J. Collins.

The Pilot Mound Horticultural Society works as a team and every member is an outstanding member.

The 1982 officers were; President — Mrs. Ferne Morrow and Secretary — Mrs. M. McIntosh.

Pine Falls Horticultural Society

The Pine Falls Horticultural Society was formed March 7, 1947. It takes in the Pine Falls townsite, the Rock Area and Powerview. The first board of the Society consisted of the following: J. V. Jackson, President, 1st V.P. J. T. Carey, 2nd V.P. Stan Brewster, Sec.-Treas. L. E. Seguin; Directors Mesdames E. R. Sterling, D. D. Monro, J. W. Johannson, A. J. Pinette, and Messrs. J. J. Jackson, A. B. Robinson, W. J. Roslyn, J. Heinkel, S. H. Velie and Alex Iwanick.

The main project of the Society is the annual Flower Show held in August. Lately a handicraft section and one for Juniors has been added. The last two years Junior Gardeners are sponsored by the Society.

The major community project has been and continues to be the beautification of the Pine Falls cemetery. Home Grounds competitions have been held to encourage residents to beautify their home grounds. Mrs. J. W. Johannson was the provincial champion, winning the Grand Aggregate and the Shaunessy Trophy. Mr. and Mrs. P. Pasaluko have been winners several times in the Urban — Rural competition. The Society over the years has arranged for the sale of fertilizers, insect and disease control chemicals, perennial plants, spring and gladiolus bulbs, etc. It has provided speakers to advise on gardening problems and to teach the

arts of budding, grafting and flower arranging. Field trips, such as visits to the Gordon Boone and Fred Gower greenhouses at Lac du Bonnet, have been sponsored. The Society encourages the senior citizens residing in Pineview Lodge to beautify the grounds. The tuberous begonias grown there by Mrs. Dora Sawchyn are truly beautiful.

The only record of a Life Membership awarded was to Mr. Bill Roslyn in 1966 for his past work with the Society. Other outstanding members that merit mention are: Mrs. J. W. Johannson, Mr. J. V. Jackson, Mr. E. J. Kahle, Mr. Art Krueger, Mr. and Mrs. P. Pasaluko, Nick Kush and Mr. Don Munro.

Mrs. Herb Johnson is President and Mrs. L. Cavers the Secretary for the Society in 1983.

The Pine Falls Horticultural Society has had its ups and downs over the years but appears to be functioning well now.

Poplar Point Horticultural Society

In 1944, on the request of gardeners in the Poplar Point area, a grant of \$25.00 from the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture led to the formation of a Garden Club at Poplar Point. The first years' efforts consisted of competitions for vegetable gardens, children's gardens and home surroundings which were all judged by Mr. Lorne Carter, Agricultural Representative for the area. A successful vegetable and flower show was held and the tea on the same day helped to defray the expenses and to repay the \$25.00 to the M.F.A.

After two years of successful operation as a Garden Club, the residents felt that it would be to their benefit to form a horticultural society affiliated with the M.H.A. After 33 members were signed up, an application for a charter was made. In May, 1946, charter No. 31 established the Poplar Point Horticultural Society. Mrs. R. M. Kennedy was elected President and Mrs. R. G. Cartlidge the first Secretary.

The Society, though small, has always had an excellent Flower Show with classes for junior gardeners. It fully supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects.

One of the main projects of the Society has been Junior Gardens. Mrs. Eva Shafer, a driving force in the Society, was

a director and past president of the M.H.A. She worked hard to promote junior gardening throughout the province.

Home grounds competitions have been held by the Society. These have resulted in the championships in Farm Home Grounds in the Provincial Home Grounds Competitions. Regular educational meetings and an annual awards banquet round off the activities of the Society's year.

The Poplar Point Horticultural Society has presented Honorary Life Memberships to: Mrs. R. G. Cartlidge, Mrs. A. Fidler, Mrs. R. Kennedy, Mr. W. Shafer, Mrs. D. Hamilton, Mr. T. Scaife, Mrs. G. Bailey, Rev. R. G. Cartlidge, Mr. A. Fidler, Mrs. W. Shafer, Mrs. C. Eyvindson, Mrs. H. England, and Mrs. G. Lier.

The outstanding member over the years has been Mrs. W. (Eva) Shafer.

In 1983 the President of the Society is Mrs. K. C. Stewart and the Secretary, Mrs. D. Robertson.

Portage and District Horticultural Society

The Provincial Register of Charters Issued to horticultural societies lists Portage and District as having received number 25 in 1930. Art Kitson was President and Eric Smith the Secretary at the time of organization.

The annual Flower Show is the highlight of the year. Several times the Portage and District Society hosted the Provincial Fruit Show. One of the best fruit growers in Manitoba, Harvey Sparling Q. C., enriched the Portage show with his entries of fruit and roses. The Society's show also includes children's sections. A series of regular informational and inspirational horticultural meetings, open to the public, are held by the Society annually. It fully participates in the M.H.A. convention and most of its projects. In 1983 the Portage and District Horticultural Society will host the M.H.A. convention. Over the years the Society has laid on bus tours for its members to conventions, to the International Flower Show in Winnipeg, and to the Peace Gardens, Gladiolus and rose field days have been attended. Plant Sales and Teas help to give members plants at greatly reduced prices, at the same time bringing in funds for operating the Society.

The Society has run local home grounds competitions, entered the winners in the Provincial Competitions and recorded some championships over the years. It is trying to revive this competition. The Slide Competition Program finds support here.

The Society carries on an active Junior Gardeners' program. It is working with the schools to reach potential gardeners in Grades 4, 5, and 6 and to enroll them in garden clubs.

The city of Portage la Prairie has benefitted from its horticultural society over the years. The Society has always taken part with the city in tree planting on Arbor Day and other beautification efforts. The editor liked the comment of the Society in their report to him that said, "We have such good time at our meetings". Evidently the members of the Portage and District Horticultural Society enjoy their work.

Honorary Life Memberships in the Society have been presented to Wm. C. Laird, A. H. Young, M. A. Myron, Fred Lake and Mrs. Ferne Green.

There are so many outstanding members who have given of themselves over the years, that it is difficult to single out individuals.

The President for 1982 is Dr. M. Gerald Elliott and the Secretary Mrs. Edna Stanger. They and society members hope to host the best M.H.A. convention ever in 1983.

Reston Horticultural Society

The most dominant feature of Reston is the Reston Memorial Park. In 1922, the citizens of Reston erected a monument to honor the memory of its fallen soldiers in World War One. In 1923 the town asked Mr. Alfred Archer to join the Parks Board and to draw up plans for the 5-acre site on which the monument stood. It was Mr. Archer's skill, determination and seemingly boundless energy that led to the development of one of the finest town parks in Manitoba. Many people and organizations assisted, yet the park was really the work of Mr. Archer's hands and heart. He signed the guest register of the park for the last time when he left in 1967.

It was the same Mr. Alfred Archer that inspired the

people of Reston to form a horticultural society. The first meeting called to organize the society was held on the 8th of April, 1964. That same year an executive consisting of the following was elected: Hon. President, Mr. A. Archer; President, Mr. John Milliken; Vice President, Nellie Morris and Secretary, Mr. Maurice Ludlam. The Society applied for a charter under the name of Reston Horticultural Society.

The charter was finally received in April 1967. The names on the charter were: A. Archer, Evan Ellis, Ed Wilson, John Milliken, Beth Phillips, Nellie Morris, Maurice Ludlam, Mrs. Ian Hutcheson, Mrs. Frank Skelton and John Rainnie. Mr. Archer's dream had come through.

The first Flower Show, a modest effort, was held in 1967. Since that time it has grown in size and quality and has become an annual event the citizens of Reston look forward to. Presently Junior Gardeners have their own section and Court of Honor in the show. The Reston Horticultural Society has held many educational meetings featuring outside and local speakers over the years. Many plants sales, strawberry socials and summer flower shows have been sponsored by the Society. Pot Luck suppers and Christmas parties occur every year. Lately a farmers' market has been added. To keep members abreast of what goes on elsewhere, field trips to such places as the International Flower Show in Winnipeg and the Peace Gardens, were laid on. The Society fully supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects.

The Reston Horticultural Society is justly proud of its Junior Gardeners' program. This was begun by Maurice Ludlam in 1974. Two clubs, one for children up to 10, and the other for children over 10 are operating. Children enrolled come from Sinclair, Tilston, Pipestone and Reston.

Home grounds competitions are sponsored by the Society. Many local winners have been declared. The Society is proud of the championships of members in the Provincial Home Grounds Competitions. Mr. and Mrs. G. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Telmar, the Picketts (when they were at Tilston) and Mr. Ed Wilson have won awards.

The Society's community beautification efforts have

been devoted mainly to keep the Reston Memorial Park as beautiful as possible. It should be mentioned here that many of the members of the Society come from neighboring towns. That is why the Society prefers to be known as the Reston and District Horticultural Society.

Maurice Ludlam was made an Honorary Life Member of the Society. Other outstanding members of the Society are Mrs. Floya Scott, Mrs. Joan Jago, Lily Miller (now deceased), Mrs. F. Harrison and Mrs. Mary Ludlam. To this list the name of Mr. Alfred Archer, also deceased, must be added.

For 1982, Sheryl Sobry was the President and Pat Hamel the Secretary of the Reston Society.

Roblin Horticultural Society

The Roblin Horticultural Society was organized July 29, 1959. The following names appear on the charter: Robert Arnott, Frances Nowasad, Jack Adam, Mrs. O. Kelso, Mrs. V. Laird, Harold Boughton, Jean van Dreht, H. Dillin, Dr. F. L. Skinner, Burke McNeil, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, Miss Emma McDonald, Bill Elvers, A. A. Romanyk and Wm. Skinner. These and 35 others had signed the petition for a charter.

The first Board of Directors consisted of these people: President — Robert Arnott; V.P. — Frances Nowasad; Secretary — Mrs. Vi Laird. Other directors; Walter Ward, Mrs. Wilson, Burke McNeil, George Kelso, P. Bugera, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, and Miss Emma McDonald.

Perusal of the minutes of the Society reveals that it has carried out regular meetings of an educational nature over the years. Besides the regular Flower Show in fall, it has also held peony shows. It has supported the M.H.A. at its convention and other projects. Provincial Home Grounds and Slide competitions, fund raising projects such as the Skinner and Weir memorials, the Horticultural Societies' Bursary Fund, and the M.H.A. Arboretum at the Peace Gardens, all of these were fully supported by the Roblin Society. It took part in judges' and exhibitors' schools as well as special seminars. The Society benefitted from the M.H.A. and the M.H.A. in turn benefitted from the Society. Mrs. Lila Bily, a

member of the Roblin Society, has been a director of the M.H.A. for some time.

Fund-raising activities, such as plant sales and teas and other events, are carried out regularly. Over the years the Society has also sponsored trips to different points of interest.

The input into the community improvement and beautification is of prime importance. This is where the strength of the Roblin Horticultural Society has been shown over the years. Concern for youth led them to form a Junior Gardeners' Club. It was started by Flo Hunter. Though not too large in membership, it carries on to the present time. Besides growing gardens, competitions for flower arranging, growing the largest potato, vegetable carving and the making of wall plaques have been held.

Home grounds competition are a means of creating public interest in good landscaping. Over the years the following classes have been sponsored by the Roblin Society: Best Urban Home Grounds, Best Suburban Home Grounds, Best Farm Home Grounds, Best Home Grounds tended by a person over 70, Best Vegetable Garden, Best Planter. Roblin entries in the Provincial Home Grounds Competitions have brought championships to three Roblin families: Kay and Jack Goodbun, Myrtle and Ben Jaasund, and Anna and Hans Olsen.

Direct involvement in the community has taken place over the years. The Society helped landscape Senior Citizens' Homes, planted trees on Canada's Centennial, cooperates with the town in a ten year tree planting program, annually keeps a planter at the Roblin and District Cemetery beautiful, plants flowers on the Hospital grounds and makes corsages for the birthdays of people in the Personal Care Home. These are only some of the community activities of the Roblin Horticultural Society.

Honorary Life Memberships have been given to Eleanor Fatteicher and Robert Arnott, both of whom passed away in 1982. Many people have made outstanding contributions to the Society over the years. Some names that come to mind are: Jean van Dreht, Olive Arnott, Flo Hunter, Lena Mann,

Jack Macleod, Burke McNeil, Frances Nowasad, Vi Laird, Eva Jory, and Lottie Kelly.

The 1982 Executive had Henk Capelle as President, Gladys MacLeod as V.P., Verna Ostrowski as Secretary and Katie Haberstock as Treasurer.

Editor's Note: The above is an abstract of a 16-page report submitted by Verna Ostrowski. Her report should be typed and given to all of Roblin's members in booklet form.

Russell Horticultural Society

The Russell Horticultural Society received its charter on April 18, 1926. According to the Provincial Register of Charters Issued it was charter number 16.

In those early years the formation of an organization was considered quite an event. Important people acted as patrons. Patrons of the Society were: Col. Mullins, J. A. Glen, M.P., and I. B. Griffiths, M.L.A. Mrs. A. G. Smellie was Honorary President. The President was none other than Manitoba's most famous horticulturist, Frank L. Skinner of Dropmore. Mrs. J. S. Warrington was V.P. and Rev. D. D. Miller the Secretary-Treasurer.

Not much is known of the Society's activities in the early years. With the outbreak of the War in 1939, the Society ceased operations until 1953 when it became active again. There is information, however, that Mrs. J. G. Kippan, a director of the Society in the early years, led the Society in beautifying the town grounds and boulevards. Particular attention was paid to gardens and back lanes. The town reacted by providing for better garbage disposal.

Since its revival in 1953, the Russell Horticultural Society has its regular annual Flower Show and program of educational meetings. Its activities do not only take in Russell, but Binscarth and the Shell Valley as well. The Society supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects. Russell hosted the M.H.A. convention a few years back. To date the Society's efforts to have home grounds and slide competitions have failed. Individuals of the Society participate in the Provincial Slide Competition.

The Russell Society is unique in that it has supplied

bedding plants for the public for 20 years and has its own greenhouse. It sponsors a Junior Garden club. In 1956 this was one of the largest and had three levels. It continues to function, but on a smaller scale. The Society built a planter in front of the Library for Manitoba's Centennial. In 1969 it built another to beautify the Municipal Building. It further maintains a flower bed in the trailer park. Over the years the Russell Horticultural Society has sponsored field trips to various points of interest for its members.

Honorary Life Memberships were given in the early years of the Society, but as the early minutes are gone, only people that present residents remember can be named. They remember that Mrs. J. G. Kippan, Dr. F. L. Skinner and George Bell were so honored. In 1982 the H.L.M. was changed to "Member Recognition". Mary Mintenko was so recognized for 33 years of faithful service. Other outstanding members of the Society have been E. W. Robertson, Mrs. J. S. Warrington, George Ledingham, Bill Schwalm and George Mintenko, to mention only a few.

In 1982 Lila M. Bily was President and Anne Keating the Secretary of the Russell Horticultural Society.

St. James Horticultural Society

The St. James Society was organized in 1914, but its charter was issued in 1929. The following names appear on the charter: H. England, Miss M. J. McKay, W. H. Champion, F. Smith, F. W. Seiffert, Miss L. A. Davidson, A. B. Welsh, Rev. D. M. McKay, T. J. Watts, J. G. Smith, W. D. Bailey, Mrs. Bruce and Mrs. Simm.

It is of interest that P. J. deWet, the man to whom this book is dedicated, was an active member of this Society. He was instrumental in organizing a flower arranging group. The present Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, Her Honor Pearl McGonigal, also held a membership in the St. James Horticultural Society. Mr. and Mrs. M. McGonigal have donated a trophy which is awarded to the senior citizen obtaining the highest aggregate at the annual show of the society.

The annual show or exhibition is held in August of each

year and has been staged at the St. James Civic Centre for some time. Besides the sections for regular society members, the show also has special sections for the Junior Gardeners and Senior Citizens. A beautiful Court of Honor is a central feature of the show.

The St. James Society has always supported the programs of the M.H.A. Home grounds competitions and slide competitions are held fairly regularly. Provincial winners have come from both of these competitions. Members actively participate in the M.H.A. convention. The St. James Society has hosted several M.H.A. conventions over the years. As this book is written, Mr. A. Brock, a member of St. James, is the M.H.A. president.

Community beautification has been high on the agenda of the St. James Horticultural Society for many years. Churches, Senior Citizens' Homes and many parks benefitted from this program. The Society was actively involved in promoting the establishment of the Living Prairie Museum and has assisted in its program over the years.

The Junior Gardeners program of the St. James Society was begun in 1914, the year of its organization. In 1910 the Waugh Shield Competitions were started in Winnipeg when Mr. Richard D. Waugh presented a trophy for this competition. In 1914 the horticultural societies of the city became involved in organizing juniors for the competition in cooperation with the schools. Shortly after a further change was made by making the Agricultural and Horticultural societies completely responsible for this competition. Any time that an organization won the Waugh Shield for five consecutive years, it could take permanent possession of it. The St. James Society accomplished this in 1930 but immediately returned the trophy for permanent competition in order to maintain interest.

In about 1941 the St. James Society gained access to a plot of land in the Silver Heights area of St. James. This led to a garden plot program for both adults and junior gardeners. This program has continued since that time though the location of the garden plot area has changed. The junior gardeners obtain their 10-foot-square plots free of charge and

are also provided with free seeds and instruction. Some years over forty youngsters avail themselves of this opportunity. These enter their produce in the junior section of the annual flower show of the Society. The garden plot program, for both adults and juniors, has been and continues to be a successful project of the St. James Horticultural Society.

Periodically the St. James Horticultural Society has honored some of its outstanding members by presenting Honorary Life Memberships to them. This is a list of people so honored: Mrs. D. Axcell, Mrs. A. G. Bremner, Mrs. M. Curle, Mr. R. H. Garland, Mr. W. H. Gray, Mrs. K. Greeniaus, Mr. J. M. B. Nicoll, Mr. W. E. Rhodes, Mrs. H. J. Sewell and Mr. C. H. Webb.

Mr. W. H. Gray has been and continues to be the M.H.A. Regional Director responsible for the St. James Society. In 1982 Mr. E. W. Reeve was the President and Mrs. Dirrie Axcell the secretary of the St. James Horticultural Society.

St. Vital Agricultural Society

The story of the St. Vital Agricultural Society is told here because its main thrust at the present time is horticultural. Even before it became so, the garden or flower shows of this Society were among the best in the province.

At first the St. Vital Society was an athletic organization known as the Pastime Club. This was organized by Mr. F. W. Hack in 1900. Changing interests and the growing emphasis on agriculture brought about the transition to an Agricultural Society. Extension Records indicate that the St. Vital Agricultural Society received its charter in 1909. Its first fair was held in 1910. It was held on the corner of St. Mary's Road and St. Vital Road. Exhibits were displayed in tents and consisted of vegetables, flowers, poultry, farm animals, and also cooking and sewing sections. The first judge was Prof. F. W. Brodrick.

The objective of the Society was to encourage improvements in all branches of agriculture, with emphasis on the beautification of homes and surroundings.

The Society was granted a charter for horse racing. At

first the charter was used in River Park, then moved to Whittier Park, next to Polo Park, until today Assiniboia Downs uses the same charter.

In 1931 a site was leased from the Municipality and a building suitable for curling was erected. This is how the St. Vital Curling Club got its initial start. The facilities were used for the fair. During these years horse shows were a great attraction.

In 1970 the St. Vital Arena was officially opened and Mrs. Jean Lambert, President of the St. Vital Agricultural Society, presented a cheque for \$80,000 from the Society as its contribution to the \$425,000 it cost to build the arena. The Society thus has a permanent home to hold its fairs. In 1971 the last horse show was held. From then on the fair has been mainly a horticultural show with classes in cooking, baking and crafts added.

In 1969 the Society decided to beautify the Southwest corner of St. Mary's and Fermor Ave. and transformed this eyesore into a park with a rock garden. This was later dedicated "Harry S. Paul Park", in memory of Harry S. Paul for his outstanding service to the community over the years. Mr. Paul was president of the Society for 15 years. He was active in the Waugh Shield competitions and was an Honorary Life Member of the M.H.A.

The St. Vital Agricultural Society supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects. It carries on home grounds competitions. A garden booster night is held every April and a flower and vegetable show in August.

In 1982, the Society listed the following Honorary Life Members: Mr. A. R. Tod, Mr. S. F. Chadwick, Mr. G. Churcher, and Mrs. A. McDowell.

The 1982 officers of the St. Vital Agricultural Society are: President, Mr. Rudy Trnka and Secretary Mrs. Lucy Craig.

Thompson Horticultural Society

The example set by Bill and Edith Chaddock, optimistic and experimenting horticulturists of Thompson, led to the beautification of this northern metropolis. Their "showcase" property was an inspiration to all would-be gardeners. A

group of these gardeners formed a club to share information and ideas. Inco offered encouragement by organizing competitions for best lawns, flower gardens, vegetable plots and overall landscaping. On November 1st, 1970 this Club became the Thompson Horticultural Society. Mrs. Edith Chaddock's dream of a horticultural society for her beloved town had come true, even though she passed away before the charter was granted.

The Charter bears the following names: Mr. and Mrs. John Swierstra, Cass Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Laing, Mr. and Mrs. Norm Kalika, Mr. and Mrs. George Price, Joe Fadgyas, Wm. Chaddock, Della Danko, Audrey Hooze and Susan McEwen. Of these only Mr. and Mrs. John Swierstra and Mrs. Cass Wood are still members in 1983. Mary Ann Swierstra, besides being president of the Thompson Society, is also M.H.A. Director for the northern societies.

Even though many members reside in Thompson for only a few years, the membership has been maintained at between 125 and 150 members. Fees presently stand at \$5 per family for three years. The society holds eight meetings a year. Activities include a Houseplant Sale in March, a Perennials Sale in May, group orders of tree and shrubs, the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show in August, a Color Slide Competition in November and also the Home Grounds Competition. The latter was originally run by Inco but is now held as part of the Northern Home Grounds Competition of the M.H.A. Inco still assists with prize money.

The Thompson Horticultural Society has been and continues to be a strong supporter of M.H.A. programs and activities. It assisted Bowsman in hosting the 1973 M.H.A. convention held at Swan River. In 1980, the Thompson Society hosted the first Northern Manitoba Horticultural Workshop and repeated this in 1983. At this time a Judges' School was also held. In 1983 the Society is developing an area for garden plots for the general public. It has also assisted the Department of Agriculture in experimental plots at the golf course and donated plantings to the Public Library, flower beds for the Zoo and Mansan Park. Donations from the Thompson Horticultural Society to the Public

Library have enabled the latter to purchase a fine selection of gardening books. To supply its many inexperienced members with much needed information the Society compiled a booklet called "Thompson Gardening Notes". These are updated and revised and presented to each new member. Yes, the Thompson Horticultural Society has an enviable record of community service.

In 1973 the Thompson Horticultural Society developed an audio-visual presentation, with musical background, entitled "From Muskeg to Metropolis". This was first shown at the M.H.A. Convention at Swan River in 1973. It beautifully depicts the results of the beautification efforts of the Society in this northern city. This program was made available to all Manitoba Horticultural Societies and received rave reviews. The Society is currently working to update this presentation. It was truly an excellent piece of work.

To end this report of the Thompson Horticultural Society, the editor wishes to quote the last paragraph from a letter received from Mrs. E. I. Lewis, a Society member.

"The emphasis of the Thompson Horticultural Society continues to be on learning and experimenting. We have established a basic list of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and vegetables which can be grown successfully here, but are continuing to try new varieties to expand the list. We have not yet developed a Junior Gardeners' program, but that may be because in Thompson, no matter what our age, we are all Junior Gardeners".

In 1983, Mary Ann Swierstra is the President and Mrs. Wendy Gowan the Secretary of the Thompson Horticultural Society.

The Pas Horticultural Society

The Pas Rotary Club, in 1931, decided to have a flower and vegetable display, mainly for the purpose of showing visitors that they could be grown successfully north of 53°. This display was carried on for a number of years, the emphasis being on vegetables and the flower display being almost non-existent. Prior to the formation of the Society, growing of bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, etc. had not been

attempted. The residents had the mythical idea that they could not be grown there.

The The Pas Horticultural Society was formed on June 10, 1952. The officers at that time were; Bill Brauneis — President; Jeanette Harwood — Secretary Treasurer. Directors were: Jean Chalmers, Gerry G. Clark, Wm. Despins, Wm. Harvey, Mrs. E. Law, Mabel Richards, Sid Wilton and Eric Batchelar.

Many of the members of the Society experimented in growing different bulbs and flowers. The annual Flower Show, as well as the members' gardens, soon proved to residents that they had lived with a myth. No southern shows can compare in depth of color with the shows in the north. The Society used to hold its show during the C.N.R. Churchill Excursion for the benefit of U.S.A. visitors. Judges of the show advise that the quality of exhibits is of a high calibre.

The The Pas Horticultural Society has had a regular series of informational meetings annually. Since 1970 plant sales have been held in the month of May. The Society began home grounds competitions soon after its formation. Soon the Society's entry in the Provincial Competition carried off championship awards. Now that the Northern Home Grounds Competition is formed, The Pas entries continue to win. In 1967 and 1968 the Society sponsored junior gardens. This project was dropped because of lack of interest. The Society assists the M.H.A. with its convention and many of its projects.

Since its formation, the The Pas Horticultural Society has been involved in community beautification. Over the years flowers have been planted at the Tourist Bureau. The St. Paul's Personal Care Home was beautified with flower plots. Hanging flower pots were used to decorate the streets and store fronts for The Pas Homecoming in 1982. A float was decorated by the Society for The Pas Rodeo Parade in 1979. These are only a few examples of the Society's input to beautify the town.

The Society has laid on field trips for its members over the years. Local beauty spots were toured. Picnics were held

with members of the Flin Flon Society at Rocky Lake. Phyllis Pierrepont's garden at Bowsman was visited. The first rally of Northern Societies was hosted by The Pas Society in 1975, and again in 1981. During the years in between, the The Pas Society attended the rallies held at Flin Flon, Benito and Thompson.

The most notable achievement of the Society is the creation of an awareness of what beautification has done for The Pas. The example set has been followed by many residents who are not members of the Society.

Only one Honorary Life Membership has been presented. This was given to Eric Batchelar in 1967. Eric is a past director of the M.H.A. and also has an H.L.M. from that association. Certificates of Merit have been presented to George Halliday, Rudolph Schlick, Sam Waller, and Esson Gale.

As this book is written, Andy Mahalek is the President and Betty Keats the Secretary of The Pas Horticultural Society.

Transcona Horticultural Society

The story of the Transcona Horticultural Society really falls into two parts. The first Society was organized in 1930 and lasted until 1941, when it was disbanded. The present Society dates back to November 1, 1967.

The following were the officers of the first Transcona Horticultural Society: Hon. Presidents, Dr. M. McKay, M.L.A. and W. Haigh; President, G. E. Olive; Vice-Pres., Mrs. H. L. Erratt; Secretary-Treasurer, G. Rennie. Directors: Mrs. J. M. Fowlis, Mrs. W. H. Middlehurst, L. Russell, D. Evans, W. Clifford, and M. Kasianchuk.

The activities of the first Society included sponsoring the beautification of home surroundings, planting trees, boulevards, holding exhibitions, children's garden competitions, juvenile garden competitions, adult garden competitions, educational lectures and field days. In 1936, on the occasion of the Transcona Silver Jubilee, the Board of Trade complimented the Society for notable achievements in its first six years. The Society had truly lived up to its motto: "To Beautify Transcona".

In 1966, members of the Friendship Club were looking for a Centennial project and a Flower Show was suggested. This led to the organization of the present Society. The new Transcona Horticultural Society received its charter November 1, 1967 but it had already held a Flower Show on August 19 and 20 of that year. The main drive to reorganize came from Mr. O. Davies, Mr. J. Tyler, and Mr. D. Campbell along with a few unnamed others.

The highlight of the year for the Transcona is its Flower Show. This features classes for their Junior Garden Club members. The Society holds a series of educational meetings annually. It participates in the M.H.A. convention and some of its projects. It is working on popularizing home grounds and slide competitions. Quite a few members have attended Judges' Schools in Brandon and Winnipeg and four of them are now active judges. The Transcona Horticultural Society has planned visits to greenhouses, the Conservatory and the International Peace Gardens.

In 1971, a Junior Garden Club was formed. Mrs. Bagnall, Mrs. Kowalchuck, and Mr. and Mrs. Derkach were the organizers. The club has six meetings a year. The juniors pay a membership of 35¢ and receive a different plant or bulb each year. They participate in the Society by making posters and helping at the show. Mrs. Kowalchuck is the Director in Charge of this successful group of Junior Gardeners.

The Society has planted trees, shrubs, bulbs and flowers at various public places. A flower bed is planted and maintained annually in the public park. For some years it participated in unique block competitions. Society floral floats have been entered in the Hi Neighbor Festival Parade.

The Transcona Horticultural Society had some hard years. There are so many clubs and activities in Transcona that it was difficult to get people to assume executive positions in the Society. It appears that it has weathered those times and is well on the way once again.

This is the list of Honorary Life Members:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| *Oscar Davies | 1970 | Mrs. G. Rennie | 1976 |
| *J. W. Newman-Tyler | 1970 | Mrs. J. Bagnall | 1976 |
| *Mr. and Mrs. S. Marshall | 1973 | Mr. and Mrs. G. Lanigan | 1977 |
| *Mr. Jack Hodges | 1975 | Mrs. J. Kowalchuk | 1978 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Mrs. Marion Hodges | 1975 | Mrs. B. Tyndall | 1980 |
| Mr. and Mrs. D. McLachlan | 1975 | Mrs. C. Derkach | 1980 |
| John M. Duncan | 1976 | (* . . . Deceased) | |

The Society also wishes to make special mention of Mr. D. Campbell and Mrs. D. Galusha for their great contributions. Both are now deceased.

In 1982 the Transcona Horticultural Society has Mrs. R. (Louise) Page for its President and Mrs. C. (Domia) Derkach for its Secretary.

Virden Horticultural Society

Residents of Virden and surrounding areas have always been interested in horticulture. Rev. Sparling of St. Paul's Church and Fred MacDougal were joined by R. B. Rutherford, J. A. Caw, S. M. Mooney, F. Hayherst, L. Haight and P. Gerand to form an executive to have a Flower Show in Virden. The first show was held in the basement of St. Paul's Church on August 19 and 20, 1954. It was a great success and attracted 62 exhibitors and 600 visitors. This organization was discontinued after several years.

When Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steele moved from Hartney to Virden in 1964, they sparked interest in Virden for the formation of a horticultural society. Mrs. Gertrude Jasper, M.H.A. director, was invited to explain what was needed to form a society. Members were signed up and the charter applied for. Charter No. 52 in 1965 officially recognized the Virden group as the Virden Horticultural Society.

The first executive consisted of: President, Bert Snape; Vice-President, Ed Peers; Secretary, Gloria Moshenko, Treasurer, Charlotte Hutton. Directors were: Mr. and Mrs. C. Steele, Mr. and Mrs. F. Van Loo, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Steele, Mrs. W. Evans, Mrs. Leo Gabrielle and Mrs. Rene Gabrielle.

The Society's Flower Show has been an annual event. The gladiolus section was very strong for many years because of the interest of many members in gladiolus. Ed Peers was an expert grower and won prizes for his gladiolus entries at the International Flower Show in Winnipeg, and also at shows in Grand Forks and Regina. The Virden show has always had sections for junior gardeners. The Society supports the M.H.A. convention and many of its projects.

Informational meetings are held yearly. A history of important Society events and a list of prize winners is being maintained. Monthly publicity bulletins are published. The Society has laid on field trips for its members to places like the International Peace Gardens, the English Gardens in the Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg and other places. Plant sales and other events are used as a means of raising finances.

For the last ten years, the Society has sponsored Junior Gardeners. It has run Home Grounds Competitions since 1966 and Slide Competitions since 1967.

One of the main projects of the Society has been the beautification of Victoria Park. This work started in 1967 and continues to date.

The Virden Horticultural Society recognizes the work of Society members by issuing Certificates of Merit. Those so honored are: Mr. and Mrs. Whiteford, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wilson, Miss Amy Hayward, Mr. Carr.

Other members deserving of special mention are Mr. Bert Snape, Mr. John Marshall, Mr. Ed Peers and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Van Loo.

The 1982 President was Mrs. Jean Sobel and Mrs. Lois Williams was the Secretary.

West Kildonan Horticultural Society and its Predecessor The Kildonan Agricultural Society

Whereas this chapter deals mainly with the histories of horticultural societies, it is important to deal with the Kildonan Agricultural Society, the predecessor and inspiration of the West Kildonan Horticultural Society. Extension Service Records tell us that Kildonan Agricultural Society (sometimes referred to as the Kildonans and St. Paul Agricultural Society) received its charter, No. 38, in 1895. W. W. Watson was chairman and George F. Munroe was secretary.

It is only natural that the main thrust of the Society centered around field crops, horses, livestock and poultry. The Fair also had classes of roots, vegetables and fruits. The Society for many years carried on Field Competitions with market gardeners, potato growers and home owners. The

Society often exhibited at the Winnipeg Garden Show. It won three cups and a diploma at the Land and Apple Show in 1913 for the best district display in the province.

Even before that, in 1905, the Society sent an exhibit of potatoes and canned fruits to the Kansas City Exhibition and won the distinction of winning 100% on their whole exhibit. Mr. Klaas DeJong sent an exhibit to the Royal Agricultural Fair at Toronto in 1921, winning first place for his collection of vegetables against Canadian and American exhibitors. In 1926, he again sent an exhibit of cauliflower to Cleveland, Ohio, winning the first prize along with the honor of being "Cauliflower King" of North America. The Kildonan Agricultural Society became world-renowned for its showmanship.

Many of the members of the Ag. Society were beauty conscious. The 1927 president, Mr. D. J. Allan, built his home on Munroe Avenue in East Kildonan. He beautified his grounds for all to see and won the Shaughnessy Cup, the highest award for the best garden in Greater Winnipeg.

In 1927 the Ag. Society became extinct. An era had ended. The achievements of those days, however, were not forgotten. The years from 1927 to 1951 were void of societal activity. Interested gardening enthusiasts participated in the activities and shows of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. Finally the year 1951 saw the birth of the Kildonan Horticultural Society. Could it live up to the standards set by the Agricultural Society?

Birth of the West Kildonan Horticultural Society

Mr. Hector Macdonald was supervisor of the West Kildonan Park in the early fifties. He and councilman Mr. Douglas McKay decided that West Kildonan needed a horticultural society to develop its potential. An organizational meeting, with Mr. Fred Weir, the Provincial Horticulturist in attendance, was held in the Grosvenor Semple School on March 8, 1951. Mrs. Eugene Slipetz was appointed Secretary-Treasurer and asked to sign up the necessary number of members required for a society. When this was done, application for a charter was made. The provincial

Register of Charters issued shows that the West Kildonan Horticultural Society received charter No. 35 in 1951.

The following names appear on the charter: W. Cordingley, Mrs. A. Craig, W. C. Edgar, R. Gemmel, Mrs. Rose Glesby, Miss E. Hunter, D. McKay, Jas McKay, A. Nitchuk, D. Poertigal, P. Sharp, A. Shurling, Mrs. E. Slipetz, E. D. Smith and Chas. Edwards.

The first president was Mr. D. McKay and Mrs. E. (Jay) Slipetz was the first secretary-treasurer.

The annual Flower Show or Exhibition was held at the local curling club, then moved to the better facilities in the auditorium of the Edmund Partridge Junior High School for many years, and in 1971 to the air-conditioned premises of the Garden City Shopping Centre Mall. It has grown in size, quality, and the number of sections. Junior Gardeners' classes are featured. One fascinating feature is the competition of paintings by member artists. It is of interest that the first two judges of the West Kildonan show were Prof. F. W. Brodrick and Mr. Klass DeJong.

The Society carries on a series of regular meetings every year. It fully supports the M.H.A. convention and participates in its many projects. Two members of the Society, Mrs. Jay Slipetz and Mr. Lorry Gans, are past directors as well as past presidents of the M.H.A. These two, as well as Mr. D. McKay are Honorary Life Members of the Association. The Society has an excellent Slide Competition and its entries into the Provincial Slide Competition have won many prizes.

Home grounds beautification is almost a hangup for the West Kildonan Society. The winning entries of the Society competitions are entered in the Provincial Home Grounds Competition. No Society has produced as many champion home grounds as Kildonan. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Slipetz won the Shaughnessy trophy in 1951. Mr. and Mrs. L. Gans were winners in 1958, 1965, 1967, 1968 and 1975. Mr. and Mrs. A. Korolyk won in 1978 and Mr. and Mrs. Pawlik in 1982. The yearly Home Grounds Competition of the Kildonan Society declares annual winners both in small and large home grounds. But the Society goes farther than that. For the Canadian Centenary, all the West Kildonan residents'

grounds were viewed and 100 award certificates were presented to 100 citizens whom the Society felt merited an award for beautiful home grounds.

Space does not permit to fully describe the work the Society does with Junior Gardeners. It has created so many incentives to inspire a love for gardening in the young.

The Society has an even better record when it comes to community beautification. In 1955 the directors landscaped the City Hall grounds. Auction sales of shrubs, flowers, plants and what-have-you are held annually to raise money for the Society's many beautification projects. Many tot lots, the Library grounds, the Seven Oaks Arboretum, the Garden City Community Center and the courtyard of Luther Home have had landscaping help from the Society and its members. They purchased and erected a small statue with a sprinkler set on a pedestal in the middle of the pond behind the Peguis Pavilion in the Kildonan Park. A fountain statue to be surrounded by blooming plants was donated to Seven Oaks Hospital when it opened. The Society also supplies flowers regularly for the chapel of Seven Oaks Hospital. Not all the projects of the Society can be mentioned here but the above are proof positive of the Society's community involvement.

The following members have been presented with Life Memberships in the Society: Mrs. E. Slipetz (Secretary-Treasurer for 19 years), Mrs. H. Hoffman, Mrs. W. C. Wright*, Mrs. D. M. Park*, Mrs. W. R. Munroe, Mr. M. Kepron, Mrs. F. J. Leavens, Mr. Eugene Slipetz, Mrs. A. Nitchuk, Mrs. R. Aldritt and Mr. L. Gans.

In 1982, Dr. G. Danzinger was President and Mrs. W. Slonosky the Secretary of one of the most active horticultural societies of Manitoba, the West Kildonan Horticultural Society.

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society was organized on March 5, 1931 with Henry Downing as the first President. Directors elected were J. R. Almey, Dr. B. S. Bailey, L. F. Earl, C. J. Edwards, John A. Flanders, Mrs. C. M. Graban,

Dr. R. W. Kenny, A. J. D. Morgan, Dr. H. M. Speechly, and Dr. J. F. Taylor. C. J. Edwards was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. It combined with the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society for its first show in August of that year.

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society published the Historical Record of the Society in 1981, its 50th year. Only its major achievements can be listed here.

Shows The annual Flower Show of the Society became the International Flower Show in 1955. The Winnipeg H. S., the Gladiolus Society, the African Violet Society, most years the Provincial Fruit and Honey Show . . . all of these worked to stage the show. It also featured children's classes. The early shows were held in the old City Auditorium. Later it was moved to the more spacious facilities of the Polo Park Mall. Entries were accepted from other societies in Manitoba, and from exhibitors of other provinces and the States. The show is administered by the International Flower Show Board made up of members from the Winnipeg H.S. and the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society. The International Flower Show has been and continues to be the top horticultural show in the country.

Since 1956 the Winnipeg H.S. has annually sponsored a flower show at the Red River Exhibition. This show is held in June and continues to be well received.

Youth Work The Waugh Shield Children's Garden Competition was carried by the society from 1944 to 1967. Since then a Youth Committee oversees junior gardening in Winnipeg with cooperation from the School Board.

Industrial Home Grounds Competition This annual competition was initiated by the Society in co-operation with the Industrial Development Board of the City.

Year Book The year book of the Society was first published in 1937 as the Winnipeg Flower Garden. It has since become the Prairie Garden. It is published by the Prairie Garden Committee of the Society. The story of the Prairie Garden follows this report.

Flower Arrangement Committee Since 1961 the Society has an active committee to teach the art of flower arranging. This

has certainly improved the flower arrangement classes in the shows.

Rose Committee Activities This committee sponsors field days and participates in the Society meetings with topics on roses once or twice annually.

Meetings The Society has seven meetings a year and often a banquet to round off the year's activities.

M.H.A. Projects The Society takes part in the Provincial Home Grounds and Slide Competitions annually and actively participates in the M.H.A. Convention and other M.H.A. projects.

Garden Plots The society arranges for and supervises a garden plot program for interested citizens.

Honorary Life Memberships the following have received H.L.M. certificates over the years:

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Prof. F. W. Brodrick | 1944 | Frank Hall | 1961 |
| R. W. Brown | 1944 | J. J. Coffey | 1962 |
| Dr. H. M. Speechly | 1944 | G. S. Reycraft | 1962 |
| Prof. John Walker | 1944 | Grant Churcher | 1963 |
| J. A. MacPhail | 1950 | D. Campbell | 1965 |
| H. E. Sellers | 1950 | F. J. Weir | 1966 |
| Theo. E. Howard | 1951 | W. H. Gray | 1967 |
| W. J. Tanner | 1952 | Mrs. W. A. MacDonald | 1969 |
| J. C. Williams | 1953 | N. C. MacKay | 1969 |
| T. Yager | 1954 | Dr. W. R. Leslie | 1970 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Harding | 1955 | F. C. W. Rice | 1970 |
| Mrs. Roy Munt | 1956 | Mrs. Jean Lyons | 1971 |
| Hector Macdonald | 1957 | J. H. Nichol | 1972 |
| Miss Gladys Matchett | 1958 | R. A. Lang | 1974 |
| A. M. Oswald | 1958 | J. R. Almey | 1976 |
| Dr. A. R. Brown | 1960 | Mrs. C. M. Strong | 1978 |
| J. P. de Wet | 1961 | | |

Membership Though the membership of the Society rose to over 1000 at one time, it now has stabilized around the 400 mark. Membership fees now stand at \$6, but this includes a free copy of the Prairie Garden.

THE PRAIRIE GARDEN

The Prairie Garden is Western Canada's foremost Annual. It is appreciated by prairie horticulturists because it is written by westerners and its information applies to prairie conditions. Its main distribution is to the three prairie



The Prairie Garden.

provinces, but is also sold in Ontario, British Columbia and the northern states.

This annual was first published under the name the "Winnipeg Flower Garden" in 1937. It was actually the annual report of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. As well as the annual reports and financial statements of the society, it carried informational articles by prominent horticulturists of the time. At the beginning it was published mainly for members of the Winnipeg Society and came free to the members when they paid their annual membership fees. There was no editor as such. A group of directors would be assigned the work of getting the annual ready for publication. Advertisements would be solicited to help defray the cost of printing. This is the way that the annual was printed until 1954.

Because the publication became popular, not only in the society but with outside readers as well, it was decided to change the name to simply "The Flower Garden". It was published under this name in 1955 and 1956. And still the demand grew.

This led to another name change in 1957. Because the annual was now read in the western provinces as well as in Manitoba, the name was changed to "The Prairie Garden". It no longer carried the annual report of financial statements of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society, but became an informational and educational bulletin for the prairies. It was published under the auspices of a committee of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society known as the Prairie Garden Committee. At first this was a very informal committee. An editor and committee members were asked to serve. It was the business of the editor and committee members to solicit articles and advertisements. Prominent horticulturists from Saskatchewan and Alberta were asked to encourage feature articles from writers in those provinces. The editor was in charge of editing and also distribution. This was the situation in 1957 when Glad Reycraft took over as editor.

The change in name and the impetus of a new editor brought a greater demand. In 1956 the number of copies printed was 3000. In 1957 this rose to 5000. Yet the very informal setup of the committee worked a real hardship on the editor and those few committee members who attended the meetings. It is to the credit of stalwarts like J. R. Almey, John Walker, Fred Weir, Fred Rice, Pete de Wet and others that the publication survived. It was clear however that a change was needed to keep the annual alive.

In 1970 the committee asked Mr. P. J. Peters to put the Prairie Garden on a more formally structured basis. A constitution was prepared and accepted by the committee. This called for the following positions:

1. A committee chairman . . . to call and chair meetings and to oversee the whole operation.
2. An editor to be annually appointed by the committee.
3. A treasurer who would also be in charge of sales.
4. A secretary to keep the minutes of the meetings . . . usually appointed by the chairman at each meeting.
5. Four or more committee members appointed annually.

The Prairie Garden Committee decided that an honorarium be paid to both editor and treasurer. Meetings were to be called at noon so that committee members could attend. The

Prairie Garden was to pick up the tab for the luncheon meetings for all members. All decisions such as how many copies to print, what printer to select and what articles to solicit were in the hands of the committee as a whole.

The fear that the Prairie Garden would not be able to pay the extra costs were proven groundless. Attendance at committee meetings improved. A spirit of comraderie became evident. Committee members fulfilled assignments for soliciting articles. Distribution increased. The Prairie Garden was alive and well.

Several changes were made to improve the publication. In 1970, in honor of Manitoba's Centennial, a color section of Manitoba's centennial plants was included. This was so popular that the committee decided in 1972 to always have a 16 page color section in the Prairie Garden. For some years the topical approach was used. One year landscaping was featured, perennials another year etc. In 1977 all advertisements were done away with. The Prairie Garden, unlike other publications, was sold on the basis of its contents.

In 1974 Glad Reycraft decided to resign after 16 years in that position. Mrs. Phyllis Thomson was appointed editor. Roger Brown took over as treasurer. In 1979 P. J. Peters resigned as chairman and that position was filled by Prof. Louis Lenz. When Mrs. Thomson (McGrath) left Manitoba in 1979, Mrs. Dianne Wreford became editor. The Prairie Garden Committee has become an efficient unit. The publication is in good demand and some 14,000 Prairie Gardens are published annually. Distribution is through horticultural societies and book stores. May it prosper in the future.

Many individuals have contributed their time and effort to make this publication a success. The most liberal contributor and solicitor of articles over the years has been Prof. John Walker. His story is told in the chapter on the Stevenson Memorial. Glad Reycraft and his wife kept the Prairie Garden alive in the difficult years. He was editor longer than any other. His story follows.

G. S. "Glad" Reycraft F.R.S.H.

The name Glad Reycraft and the street address of 92



Glad Reycraft.

Queenston in Winnipeg is remembered by many horticulturists. They remember him because of his heavy involvement with the Prairie Garden and also as the man who wrote the popular horticultural article "Over the Garden Wall" from 1971 to 1981 for the Winnipeg Free Press.

Glad was born at Ridgetown, Ontario in 1905 and came to Winnipeg with his parents in 1913. He attended Mulvey School, Trinity College and also studied at the University of Manitoba. In 1928 he entered the workforce, working in the insurance field for Canadian Indemnity and other firms. His love for horticulture led him to enrol at the Manitoba University once again. Here he studied horticulture under the well-known Prof. F. W. Brodrick.

In 1934 he began his long career with Swift Canadian Co. He worked as salesman, was with the Provision and Nutrition Division that formulated cattle and poultry feeds, then became salesman again of Vigoro and allied products. From 1960 to his retirement in 1965 he was in charge of sales for all of western Canada and northern Ontario. It was through his efforts that the Vigoro Division of Swifts annually presented the award for the "Best Farm Grounds" in the M.H.A. sponsored Provincial Home Grounds Competition.

It was in the early 1940's that Glad Reycraft became a member of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. He soon became a director and was its president from 1952 to 1953. The Winnipeg Flower Garden, annual yearbook of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society and the predecessor of the Prairie Garden, knew him as a contributor of articles. In 1957 he became the editor of the Prairie Garden. He held this position longer than any editor. He and his willing spouse Agnes did all the editorial, secretarial and bookkeeping work, and were also in charge of getting advertisements for and the distribution of the book. This was a labor of love, mostly without any remuneration. The year before Glad took over as editor, 3000 books were published. In 1957, Glad's first year, this rose to 5000. When Glad retired from his position as editor in 1974, some 13,000 Prairie Gardens were published.

It was only fitting that the Winnipeg Society of Horticulture honor him with an Honorary Life Membership in 1962. The M.H.A. also recognized his contribution to horticulture in 1966 with its Honorary Life membership.

Glad and his wife continue to reside at 92 Queenston. Every week Glad waters the plants in the senior citizens' home, Tuxedo Manor. He regularly visits the Lions Manor and writes articles for their monthly newsletter. Once a gardener, always a gardener.

History of the Winnipeg Flower Arranging Committee

According to the Historical Record of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society 1931-1970 activity of the Flower Arranging Committee stemmed from a discussion by Tammas Scott of flower arrangements prepared by members at a meeting in 1961.

The Flower Arranging Committee records show that the inaugural meeting of this committee was held at the Portage Avenue Branch of the Winnipeg Public Library on November 15, 1963. Committee members were: Mrs. A. H. Shortt, Mrs. S. F. Chadwick, Mrs. W. J. Tanner, Mrs. C. M. Strong, Mrs. F. R. Smith, Mrs. F. Proctor and Mr. J. P. DeWet — Secretary.

It was at this time that the committee received permission from the Winnipeg International Flower Show Board to

set up the flower arranging sections for the 1964 flower show and have continued to do so from that year on.

In December of 1963 the committee became a committee of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. Several meetings were held each year with field trips to members gardens during the summer months.

In 1973 a perpetual trophy was donated by the committee in memory of Mr. W. J. Sinclair to be awarded at the Red River Exhibition flower show to the exhibitor accumulating the most points in the flower arranging class.

A "Festival of Flowers" was held at All Saint's Church, Winnipeg, in July 1975 and members of the Flower Arranging Committee enjoyed making large arrangements which contributed to a most spectacular display of flowers.

In the spring of 1976 a course on Judging under the leadership of Robert Serbin was held and instruction was given on using the point system of judging. This was followed by a practical and theoretical test and those passing the test became qualified judges. The point system has been used since this time at Winnipeg Horticultural Society flower shows.

In January 1977 the committee decided that regular meetings would take the form of workshops. Membership had increased considerably since the committee was first formed and it was necessary to find a larger facility, namely St. Vital Library. Meetings from then on have been devoted strictly to flower arranging and a working committee was formed to deal with revising prize lists and other business matters.

Mrs. Tanner established the "W. J. Tanner Award" in memory of her late husband, to be given each year at the Winnipeg International Flower Show for the best flower arrangement in the show. (1977)

In 1979 the committee decided that each year a special award, a book on flower arranging be given to the most unique arrangement at the International Flower Show in memory of Mr. J. P. DeWet who was instrumental in founding the Flower Arranging Committee.

*The booklet "Floral Artistry for Beginners" published

by The Prairie Garden Committee in 1977 has been a source of valuable information to this committee. It was written and illustrated by Mrs. Scarth — a member of the St. James Flower Arranging Committee and by Mrs. F. Partridge — a member of the Winnipeg Flower Arranging Committee.

During the spring of 1979 the committee provided Flower Arranging Classes for Beginners to encourage more people to learn the art of flower arranging and become interested in exhibiting at the flower shows.

In the fall of 1979 the committee was informed that the space at St. Vital Library was no longer available and meetings have been held in the Norquay Building since that time.

In 1980 the committee realized the need for more instructional material on the art of flower arranging, particularly for other Horticultural Societies throughout the Province. The Weir Memorial Committee approved the funding of instructional slide programs to be prepared by the Flower Arranging Committee. This involved many hours of hard work making different types of designs and having them photographed and then scripts were written to accompany the slides. Three slide programs were the result of the committees' efforts and the Weir Memorial Library is kept busy sending them to various Societies.

Members of the committee assisted the Department of Agriculture in compiling information for their new publication "Manitoba Horticultural Judging Standards".

In 1982 the committee affiliated with the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies in Great Britain.

For a number of years the committee has been involved in giving demonstrations at the May meeting of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. Demonstrations and instruction have also been given to many other Societies throughout the Province as well as at the Manitoba Horticultural Association Conventions.

The success of this very active committee is due mainly to the members who work diligently at preparing exhibits for the flower shows, sharing their knowledge at committee meetings and giving assistance to flower arrangers in all

parts of the Province. It is also interesting to note that some of the founding members are still active on this committee.

MANITOBA ORCHID SOCIETY

(A Report by Mrs. Dorothy Jensen, President)

In April 1970, a group of orchid hobbyists met at the home of Dorothy Jensen. There were nine people at that meeting and all of them had been growing orchids, some for years, little realizing that there were others in the city enjoying the same fascinating hobby. From that meeting the Manitoba Orchid Society emerged. For little over a year we met in members' homes, but as word spread about an orchid society more people joined, too many for the average living-room, so Mrs. Jensen offered the use of her family room. Another year passed and the numbers became too great for even the big family room and we began to look for a bigger place. A member of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society told us about the auditorium of the Norquay Building and upon application we were granted the use of it, so that has since been our meeting place.

Our meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month with the exception of July and August, and in December we hold our meeting on the second Sunday so we don't interfere with approaching Christmas activities, and we call that meeting our Christmas party. In July we have a "Pot-Luck" dinner, with each member bringing their "specialty" and after dinner we hold an orchid "Auction", with plants donated by members and the proceeds going to the society's treasury.

During the second year we drew up our Constitution with the officers to be elected and the various committees to be appointed, with eleven members in all to guide the working of the Society. We decided elections should be held every two years, and the President could only serve two consecutive terms.

We formed our Society to encourage the growing of orchids as a wonderful hobby and to work for the preservation of our native orchids.

Our meetings start at 2:00 P.M. and consist of a business session, with correspondence and reports from the Committee Chairpeople. Then we have a "Show and Tell" table, on which members have placed blooming plants. A narrator holds up a plant and the owner tells how he grows that plant, whether in a greenhouse, on a windowsill, or under lights, what temperature and humidity he has and with what and how often he fertilizes. Anyone can ask questions about the plants. Then we have a "Break" with tea and coffee and "Goodies" provided by members. During the break we sell raffle tickets on several plants.

After the break we have a program. Knowledgeable members give talks or demonstrations on orchid culture, sometimes we bring in a speaker from the States, usually in conjunction with another Canadian Society which now number 15 from coast to coast. We also bring in slide programs, courtesy of the American Orchid Society with whom we are affiliated, and as a member we have the use of all their slide programs and now they are even providing film programs.

Three or four times during the year we bring in shipments of orchid plants for the members. With the trouble of clearing customs, minimum shipping rates, etc., we save time and money for the members by ordering as a group. If we can get listings we "Xerox" the list and members can pick what they want, or we just leave it up to the growers to ship a good assortment of plants in a certain price range.

If we don't have ordered plants coming in, members with extra plants to sell can bring them in to the "Bourse" table. They mark the price wanted and give a list of the plants to the Treasurer who looks after the sales and 10% of the price goes to the Society's funds. We also bring in supplies for our members, the things unobtainable from ordinary sources. About every second year we bring in a load of bagged fir bark, in grades suitable for orchid growing. When something new comes on the market, we try to get a bit for members to try out under our conditions and if it proves satisfactory we will order a quantity for the members.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings, but if they

attend more than two meetings we assume they are interested enough to become a member. We have members all over the Province so we put out a "Newsletter" every month to keep them up to date on what is coming up at the next meeting and what took place at the last meeting. We also, after the November meeting, send out a membership list with address, telephone and zip codes of the current members. We exchange "Newsletters" with the other Canadian Societies, so travelling members can take in meetings in other cities.

We have an extensive library and subscribe to the Orchid Periodicals which we think would interest our members.

At present our membership fee is \$10 for a single member, and \$5 for a second member of the family, called an associate member. We have members from high school right up to Senior Citizens.

Our present list of officers consists of:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| President | Dorothy Jensen |
| First Vice President | Lyndon Campbell |
| Second Vice President | Garth McCann |
| Treasurer | Harvey Busch |
| Secretary | Doreen Picken |
| Past-President | Jerry Lenover |
| Our Chair-people are: | |
| Membership | Gloria Keleher |
| Social | Joan Ewacha |
| Library | Abe Hiebert |
| Supplies | Gerry Wustmann |
| Program | Roman Miszczak |

Orchids used to be considered a hobby only for those who could afford big greenhouses and gardeners to look after the growing, but today it has become a wonderful hobby for anyone who is interested in variety in growing plants. With over 35,000 species discovered to date and the amount of hybridizing that is taking place, there are plants for most any price, any size and any color but black.

At Easter, for several years, we have been invited by Mr. Gray of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory to put on an orchid display along with their big Spring Flower Show. We have really enjoyed and appreciated this opportunity of showing our wonderful blooms to the public.

WINNIPEG GLADIOLUS SOCIETY



Gladiolus Display at a Winnipeg Flower Show.

(Report by Evered Lawrence)

The Winnipeg Gladiolus Society (W.G.S.) was formed by a group of some forty horticulturists having a common interest in the culture and promotion of their favorite flower, the gladiolus. These gardeners met March 11, 1931, in the Auditorium of the Winnipeg Tribune Building. Mr. S. G. Newall chaired the meeting and became the first president of the newly-formed Society. Mr. C. T. M. Wakefield was the first secretary. An honorarium of one dollar per member, annually, was voted for this position. A committee made up of the President, the Secretary and four members was named to draft the constitution. Mr. J. R. "Bob" Almey, still an

active member in 1983, was a member of the constitution committee and so has given the W.G.S. fifty-two years of active and devoted service to date.

The W.G.S., in the last fifty-two years, has held five winter meetings annually. The programs at these meetings have been set up to give information on the growing and storing of bulbs, on showing, on new varieties, and weed and insect control. There have been numerous knowledgeable speakers, films and demonstrations. During the summer months, members and friends have met during the blooming season for three or four friendly field days, at which spikes and arrangements were discussed and judged. This offered an opportunity for the members to visit each other's gardens and to enjoy a friendly competition. The culmination of the growing season each year has been the annual flower show where spikes and floral arrangements are placed in competition and on display for the public.

These annual Gladiolus Shows have been held at the following locations:

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1932-34 | Johnson Hutchinsons Jewellery Store . . . on Portage Ave. |
| 1935-36 | Hudsons Bay Store |
| 1937-42 | Eatons' Annex |
| 1943-49 | Eatons' Assembly Hall |
| 1950-54 | Winnipeg Hydro Bldg . . . on Portage and Edmonton |
| 1955 | Civic Caledonian Rink . . . Sherbrook |
| 1956-66 | Winnipeg Auditorium — as part of International Flower Show |
| 1967-81 | Polo Park Shopping Centre — as part of International Flower Show |
| 1982 | St. Vital Shopping Centre — as part of International Flower Show |

In 1955, the W.G.S. show prize list was combined with that of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. The next year these two societies formed the International Flower Show Board and since then have jointly sponsored the annual International Flower Show. The Board, which plans and stages the show, is made up of four members from each participating society. The International Flower Show is an outstanding display of Manitoba Horticulture at its finest. Thousands of people have seen this truly international show. The gladiolus section has received entries from the midwestern states of the U.S.A. and from many provinces of Canada as well. The Winnipeg Gladiolus Society, through the years, has hosted both the Canadian Gladiolus Society

Show and the Canadian International Show a number of times.

To promote the gladiolus and to create interest in its many uses, the W.G.S. has brought in noted flower arrangers to demonstrate their talents and to stimulate the art of flower arranging among the public, namely:

Mr. Carl Starker from the U.S.A. 1960
 Mr. Harold Goldstein from the U.S.A. 1966
 Daisy Patmore from Brandon, Manitoba 1963

The W.G.S. is affiliated with the Canadian Gladiolus Society and two of its members, namely Mr. J. R. Almey and Mr. Evered Lawrence, are past presidents of the latter. The Winnipeg Society is also affiliated with the North American Gladiolus Council. A former Winnipeg member, Mr. Wm. Crowley, was a president of that Council and Mr. J. R. Almey is the recipient of a Life Membership in the N.A.G.C. For many years the Winnipeg Society held an affiliate membership with the New England Gladiolus Society.

The Winnipeg Gladiolus Society has been blessed with many hard-working and dedicated members. The many outstanding growers and showmen over the years, are too numerous to mention. There have also been those who, through the long process of hybridization, have introduced new and exciting varieties to the Gladiolus world. Amongst them are: J. R. Almey, J. Twomey, S. Pickup, C. S. Taylor, J. E. Machacek and C. Jenkins.

Life Members of the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society

| | |
|------|---|
| 1949 | Thomas Flynn |
| 1951 | Dr. B. S. Bailey |
| 1954 | Dr. J. E. Machacek |
| 1955 | W. J. Bowsfield |
| 1956 | J. R. Almey and Milton McCaw |
| 1967 | W. C. Edgar |
| 1971 | S. Chadwick |
| 1972 | R. Stonhouse |
| 1974 | E. L. Lawrence |
| 1979 | C. S. Taylor |
| 1981 | Edith Moffett, L. Shilson, and A. E. Cole |

W.G.S. Presidents and Secretaries

| Years | President | Secretary |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1931-32 | S. G. Newall | C. T. M. Wakefield |
| 1933 | R. E. H. Morgan | C. T. M. Wakefield |
| 1934 | J. R. Almey | C. T. M. Wakefield |
| 1935 | T. H. Kolb | J. J. Smith |

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1936-37 | C. Edwards | R. S. Mullins |
| 1838 | Dr. J. E. Machacek | E. A. Powell |
| 1939 | D. McLean | E. A. Powell |
| 1940 | J. H. Kolb | E. M. Westerberg |
| 1941 | Charles Hawkins | J. E. Dalton |
| 1942 | Dr. R. Peterson | J. E. Dalton |
| 1943 | Charles Barlow | J. E. Dalton |
| 1944-45 | M. McCaw | Robert Morrison |
| 1946 | T. E. Babb | G. Fazackerley |
| 1947 | Charles Hawkins | Lola Pottage |
| 1948-49 | J. W. Flack | Lola Pottage |
| 1950-52 | E. F. Youngs | Lola Pottage |
| 1953 | E. F. Youngs | May Colhoun |
| 1954-55 | W. C. Edgar | May Colhoun |
| 1956-57 | E. L. Lawrence | Dr. Barney Peturson |
| 1959-60 | Dr. B. Peturson | May Colhoun |
| 1961-62 | W. J. Sinclair | May Colhoun and Wm. Crowley |
| 1963-64 | S. F. Chadwick | Lorne Heshka and C. S. Taylor |
| 1965 | J. R. Almey | C. S. Taylor |
| 1966-67 | C. S. Taylor | Wyn Crowley |
| 1968-70 | Wm. Crowley | Wyn Crowley |
| 1971-72 | L. B. Shilson | Gwen Moffett |
| 1973-74 | A. J. Strachan | Gwen Moffett |
| 1975-76 | A. E. Cole | L. B. Shilson |
| 1977-79 | E. L. Lawrence | L. B. Shilson |
| 1980-83 | Rev. John Ross | Ethel Chadwick (2), Tom Musty (2) |

WINNIPEG AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

(Mrs. C. W. Beattie)

On the evening of May 10, 1954 a group of approximately 65 men and women met in the old University buildings on Broadway Avenue to organize an African Violet Society, their common interest being "Saintpaulia", better known as the African Violet.

The result of this meeting was the formation of the Winnipeg African Violet Society, as an affiliate of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. The idea of organizing such a society was the brain-child of Mrs. A. J. Richardson (now a resident of Calgary), who became its first Secretary. The first President was Mrs. Roy Munt.

Speakers at the early meetings included such well-known personalities as Mr. G. S. Reycraft, Dr. Barney Peturson, Prof. Hedlin, Dr. Duncan Croll, Prof. Grant Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Mullan, and many others. Their subjects included soils, insecticides, leaf propagation, fertilizers, diseases, light, growing for show, etc.

One year after its formation, the Society held an exhibition of African Violets in the annex of the T. Eaton Company store, with 493 blooming plants on display, as well as a demonstration of plants in their various stages of growth. Of the blooming plants, there were 108 different varieties.

Through the co-operation and courtesy of the executive of the Red River Exhibition and the Winnipeg Horticultural Society a special section was set aside each year from that time for members of the society to exhibit their plants, at both the Red River Exhibition and the International Flower Show.

Monthly meetings of the Society are held throughout the year (with the exception of July and August). These meetings are devoted to the many facets of violet culture including such environmental factors as exposure, fluorescent lighting, humidity, fertilizing, soils, insecticides and, most important of all, the latest introductions of the African Violet itself. There are now thousands of varieties, including brilliant new colours, miniatures, semi-miniatures, those with variegation of blossom or leaf, multicolored blossoms and pliable leaves.

Attendance at and interest in the monthly meetings has always been high. Considering the intemperate winter climate of Manitoba it probably seems incongruous to find a group of people gathered once a month in the depth of winter to learn as much as possible about the growth and culture of a plant whose native habitat is the lush, hot climate of Africa. Perhaps that is what motivates members and their friends to attend and enjoy not only the company of one another, but the plants on display, the lectures and demonstrations and the beautiful colour slides which are often featured. Forgotten for a few hours is the weather which may be particularly bad that evening.

Many of the original members are still actively engaged in the Society and many young people interested in the culture of Saintpaulia have become excellent members. Perhaps one of the original by-laws of the Society has had a good deal to do with this. The by-law reads "friendliness and courtesy shall be shown at all times by members to one another."

Affiliation with the African Violet Society of America became effective shortly after organization of the Winnipeg Society, and has been of immense value ever since. They are generous with advice and have been most helpful throughout the years. In 1969, through their generosity, a Judging School was held in Winnipeg, the results of which produced 13 judges qualified to judge at any African Violet show on the Continent.

There is still much work to be done with the African Violet. Hybridization by some of the members is being carried on and they look forward to the day when, perhaps, the horticultural world will know some beautiful African Violets hybridized in Winnipeg.

THE WAUGH SHIELD CHILDREN'S GARDEN COMPETITIONS

Most horticultural societies sponsored children's gardens. A most unique program in promoting children's gardens was initiated by Mr. Richard D. Waugh a mayor of the city of Winnipeg. He became an ardent recruiter in the First World War. He was chairman of the Greater Winnipeg Water District. In 1920 he became Great Britain's representative in the Saar Valley Commission. He ended his career as Chairman of the Manitoba Liquor Commission. Mr. Waugh died in 1938. He will be remembered by horticulturists for promoting children's gardens.

A SHORT HISTORY

This competition was instituted by the late Mr. R. D. Waugh in 1910 when the first shield was donated by him for inter-district competition. This shield was won by Weston. Up to 1919 three more shields had been presented, being won by Elmwood, Brooklands, and Weston respectively. (Weston winning the fourth shield in 1922) In 1923 the fifth shield was provided by Mr. Waugh, to be won five times before becoming the property of winner. St. James accomplished this in 1930, but instead of retaining it, returned it to the Committees for perpetual competition, and this is the Shield competed for now.

Each year from 1910 to 1940 there has been a competition for a Waugh Shield, with an increase from 30 gardens in 1910 to the peak of 1842 gardens in 1921, when practically all the gardening associations of Greater Winnipeg took part. From then to 1940, entries ranged from 600 to 1000 yearly. This decrease was largely due to the withdrawal of government grants to the horticultural societies during the depression years and their consequent lack of funds to carry on.

The years 1941–42–43 saw the competition temporarily closed, owing to wartime and financial conditions. In 1944, the Winnipeg Tribune agreed to finance the committee to the extent of \$250, in order to get the competition re-established. Working through horticultural societies then in existence, and schools, the Committee re-opened, with 300 gardens in seven districts entered. 1945 saw ten districts with 412 gardens, and 1946, sixteen districts with 427 gardens entered.

After 1947 the records of the Waugh Shield competitions are incomplete. The wooden part of the shield deteriorated and the shield lay in storage for several years. Some five years ago the Winnipeg Horticultural Society made a new frame for the shield. It was renamed the J. R. Almey Award. This trophy is now presented to the junior gardener with the highest aggregate in the International Flower Show.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES OF MANITOBA
(As Recorded in Provincial Register of Charters Issued)

| Charter No. | Date | Name of Society | Charter No. | Date | Name of Society |
|-------------|------|--|-------------|------|--|
| 1 | 1893 | Brandon Horticultural and Forestry Association | 31 | 1946 | Poplar Point |
| 2 | 1929 | Brandon (Reorganized) | 32 | 1947 | Pine Falls |
| 3 | 1914 | Beautiful Plains | 33 | 1947 | Dauphin (Reorganized) |
| 4 | 1916 | Morden | 34 | 1950 | Steinbach |
| 5 | 1919 | Charleswood | 35 | 1951 | West Kildonan (Reorganized) |
| 6 | 1921 | Dauphin | 36 | 1952 | The Pas |
| 7 | 1913 | Souris and Glenwood | 37 | 1953 | Carman (Reorganized) |
| 8 | 1914 | St. James | 38 | 1953 | St. Pierre |
| 9 | 1917 | Morse Place | 39 | 1955 | Bowsman |
| 10 | 1922 | West Kildonan | 40 | 1956 | Oakville and District |
| 11 | 1922 | St. Boniface and Norwood | 41 | 1956 | Grunthal |
| 12 | 1922 | Fort Garry | 42 | 1957 | Killarney and District |
| 13 | 1922 | Selkirk and District | 43 | 1957 | Pilot Mound (Reorganized) |
| 14 | 1923 | Hamiota | 44 | 1958 | Dominion City and District |
| 15 | 1924 | Gladstone | 45 | 1958 | Dominion City (Re-issued) |
| 16 | 1926 | Russell | 46 | 1959 | Red River, Morris |
| 17 | 1927 | Newdale | 47 | 1959 | Roblin |
| 18 | 1927 | Birtle | 48 | 1960 | Central Manitoba (Holland, Swan Lake and Treherne) |
| 19 | 1928 | Arden | 49 | 1960 | Interlake (Stonewall) |
| 20 | 1928 | Melita | 50 | 1962 | Benito and District |
| 21 | 1928 | Lenore | 51 | 1964 | Cartwright-Mather |
| 22 | 1928 | Miniota | 52 | 1965 | Virden |
| 23 | 1929 | Carman | 53 | 1967 | Reston and District |
| 24 | 1930 | Minnedosa | 54 | 1967 | Transcona |
| 25 | 1930 | Portage and District | 55 | 1967 | East Kildonan |
| 26 | 1930 | Transcona | 56 | 1968 | Carberry and District |
| 27 | 1931 | Winnipeg | 57 | 1969 | Beautiful Plains |
| 28 | 1935 | Manitou | 58 | 1969 | La Salle |
| 29 | 1936 | Flin Flon | 59 | 1969 | Agassiz |
| 30 | 1937 | Hartney | | 1970 | Thompson |
| | | | | 1971 | Boissevain |
| | | | | 1972 | Deloraine |
| | | | | 1976 | Niverville |
| | | | | 1976 | Antler River |
| | | | | 1977 | Morris |

A SEASON'S SYMPHONY

Take the ecstasy of Spring,
Season of new life and birth
All the world is flowering,
All is sunshine, all is mirth.

Follow it with summer's fun
When the birds upon the wing
And the children in the sun
Make the world with laughter ring.

Go to fall in colored dress
And the fields of golden grain,
Who, with all this fruitfulness,
Can untouched, unmoved remain?

Winter's storms, its silv'ry glow
And the festive season's call,
Temperatures may sink so low
Yet this season warms us all.

These four seasons of our land
Manitoba, proud and free,
Make us value, understand
Our own country's symphony.

Love of country swells each chest,
Thankfulness fills every heart,
For this country you have blessed
Lord, we sing, how great thou art.

CHAPTER VI

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE IN THE BEGINNING

When this province was in its infancy some one hundred years ago, almost every home owner had a little vegetable and potato garden at the back of the house. In order to have healthy and complete meals it was necessary to grow one's own vegetables. The few stores that existed dealt in staples such as salt, sugar, tea, coffee, rice and flour. As towns and cities grew some people on the outskirts began to grow produce for sale. That was the beginning of market gardening. J. R. "Bob" Almey, who was the first Provincial Horticulturist for Manitoba from 1921 to 1928, recalls the early days of market gardening in an article written in 1970.

MARKET GARDENING

by J. R. Almey — 1970

How far back into the past can one go to learn when vegetables were first grown in Manitoba? It is doubtful if any records of the first time exist. If we do not give credit to the Indians we must believe that vegetable growing commenced in the vicinity of some Mission, Fort or Fur Trading Post. We do know that Indians in the States south of us grew maize, beans and pumpkins. Whether under Manitoba conditions they lived in villages long enough to cultivate a "garden" before the fur traders came is doubtful. The three crops mentioned above no doubt originated in Mexico and gradually passed northward from tribe to tribe — at the same time all three are frost tender, and under our short season would be hazardous to grow.

In 1674 minutes on the books of the Hudson's Bay

Company Committee of May 16th "ordered such garden seeds as the Governor shall advise". These were to be included with supplies being sent out to Canada. In April, 1683, seeds of turnip, lettuce, radish, colworts and mustard were sent out. It is known that garden stuffs were being grown at York Factory in 1730. In 1749 a committee of the British House of Commons was advised by Joseph Robinson that at York Factory and Fort Churchill combined, two acres composed of carrots, radishes and turnips, together with greens, were growing to perfection. A census of the Manitoba total potato crop in 1822 was 7,500 bushels. Records indicate that vegetables were grown by the Stanley Mission of the Church of England on the Churchill River in 1845.

Before agricultural settlement took place, hamlets grew up around the Forts and Trading Posts. Some of these hamlets grew into towns, and later the cities we now have. The inhabitants, too busy to grow or know how to grow their own vegetables, would need to be supplied with them. At locations most favorable, crops were grown to supply local needs and additional supplies to other forts and trading posts. Thus would begin the first market gardening in Manitoba. This brings us to an age where some records are available which tell us much of the development in the last one hundred years. In 1870 the population in Winnipeg was about 300, in 1871, 700 and in November, 1872, it was 1,467.

Until the late 1880's our waterways were the easiest method of transportation. This influenced the first surveys in that river lots were laid out. This gave many settlers access to the Red and Assiniboine Rivers from the lots which were narrow and extended a mile or more back from the two rivers. At the fork of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers forts and trading posts established the nucleus of our Winnipeg of today. As the settlement grew larger, market gardening came into being. Up until the late 1930's nearly 90% of the market gardening in Manitoba was located in what is now Metro Winnipeg. At the present time, it is estimated that 90% of the surface crops are still grown in this area, but 70% of the root crops are produced in other areas, such as Portage la Prairie, Carman and Carberry.

Land adjoining the rivers was much sought after by growers. The soil was rich and well drained. Farther back from the rivers, the larger areas were taken over by potato growers. Early publications record a meeting of market gardeners on February 13th, 1895, at which seventeen growers formed the Western Horticultural Society. Many growers had been established for varying lengths of time before this. Probably Victor Major was one of the earliest market growers as he was operating in 1873. In 1889 J. P. Haarsma was the first grower from Holland to start operations. From here on many names of growers appear, except for the first four all were known by the writer — Peter Tod 1882, Maurier 1882, William McDowell 1886, W. H. Coulter 1905, Chas. Midwinter 1878, Hulton Bros. 1890, F. W. Hack 1890, John and Dick de Graff 1890, H. C. Whellams 1894, Klaas de Jong 1895, J. H. Coulter, Nye Bros., C. Paul, E. Mancner, B. J. Marchant, W. J. Harrison, Hoddinott Bros., W. P. Andrews, Fred Carlsbeck, Geo. Begg, Wm. Knowles, Andrew Mulder, Louis De Jong, Herb Sulkers, David Byles, Wm. Plantje, J. de Visser, Jules Mager, Geo. Wallis and Sons, J. G. Overwater, Sam Tomlinson, Jacob Haarsma.

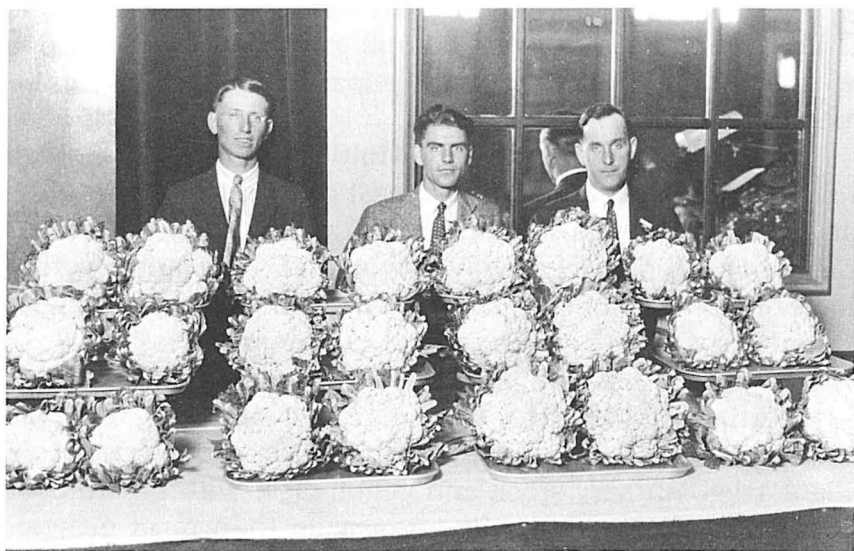
It was my good fortune to judge the market garden competitions held by the Kildonan and St. Paul's Agricultural Society in 1921. Guided by the moving spirit of that Society, Sam "Bob" Henderson, (the Henderson Highway is fittingly named after him), we rated numerous gardens east and west of the Red River from Winnipeg north. This was one of my earliest initiations to market gardening in Manitoba, in which I obtained an insight to various crops grown, and the success attending the growers' efforts, as well as meeting these men.

Many growers used considerable acreage in the production of vegetables for the pickle factory which had been in operation by the David J. Dyson Company since 1887. On the virgin soils in the early years few crops suffered from the various ills which vegetables now are prone to. Crop yields were high. In the early 1920's it was a common sight to see truck loads of pure white cauliflower, and piled high truck loads of cucumbers on their way to the Dyson pickle factory,

although at this time the Western Vinegar Company had bought out Dysons. Crops needing intensive care, or those grown especially for the early market occupied the smaller acreages close to the rivers, and whenever possible on river flats. Most growers had their specialties or pet crops, although economics also guided their operations. To make a brief reference to the growers in this regard — John De Graff on the Bird's Hill Road grew a large acreage of pickling onions. It was a refreshing sight to see the straight, parallel rows free of weeds. His son Frank is still growing vegetables where his father operated for most of his life. North and west of Bird's Hill village R. P. Andrews' and the Hoddinotts' acreage was mainly in potatoes. Wm. Knowles was just getting established on the Bird's Hill Road. Previous to the First World War he operated a grand piece of river flats in East St. Paul, but on returning from overseas he found the land was in other hands, much to Billy's disgust. Bill finished gardening years in charge of Lower Fort Garry gardens. J. H. Coulter's (son of W. H. Coulter) specialty was Lady Llewellyn potatoes — this and other varieties he grew for certified seed purposes. Other main crops were rhubarb and pickling onions. His two sons still operate on the same land, in addition to a special operation on muck soil east of Winnipeg. W. J. Harrison's main crop was potatoes — Early Bovee and Early Ohio being his main favourites. Herb Sulkers grew a variety of crops, cauliflower being his major crop. Herb took to politics and for several years was M.L.A. He started the first Vegetable Growers' Co-op. B. J. Marchant, also on the Bird's Hill Road, made potatoes his main operation. H. De Visser and Fred Carlsbeck were east of Bird's Hill and devoted their operations to potatoes only, de Visser growing certified seed. Louis de Jong, cousin of Klaas de Jong, grew the usual market garden crops in addition to considerable acreage in potatoes. J. J. Cropp started in 1910 on the Bird's Hill Road; later he operated in Springfield, and, in addition, a retail seed house on Rennie Street.

Going westward to Henderson Highway — Chas. Midwinter, City Alderman, City Controller, and the moving political spirit behind the "new" city water supply from

Shoal Lake, operated a large garden between Henderson Highway in East Kildonan and the river. He shipped cabbage and potatoes out of the province by carload lots — such was the extent of his gardening. He was particularly proud of an early sweet corn which he developed. Early tomatoes was a favourite crop with him. H. C. Whellams operated a large garden between the highway and the river. Besides pickle factory crops, he grew a general market gardener's assortment. Cooking onions, cauliflower, cucumbers and tomatoes were his main kinds. He was very active in the early Potato Growers' Associations and Horticultural Societies. George Begg, in addition to many vegetables, grew cut flowers for the trade, Sweet Peas being his specialty.



Winning Cauliflower Exhibit at Vegetable Growers Association Fair held in Southbend, Indiana in 1928. The de Jong brothers on the left and Bob Almey on the right.

Close by the river Klaas de Jong operated one of the most intensive types of vegetable growing. At competitions held in conjunction with the annual American Vegetable Growers' Convention, he won the Championship for cauliflower for two years. In addition to cauliflower he grew vine crops and tomatoes. He and H. C. Whellams grew

vegetables for international competitions and for display purposes in U.S. cities for the Canadian Immigration Service. Jansen Bro., Karl and W. A., were also wholesalers and growers. Princess Street was their wholesale location, and their acreage was in East St. Paul, and later in Headingly. J. P. Haarsma was one of the very early growers. He operated a greenhouse near the Red River in Elmwood where the Mineral Springs Sanatorium was built (now operated as the Concordia Hospital). Leaf lettuce was one of his main crops. He had eight sons. Jacob was known to the writer as he was grower for Dr. W. A. Montgomery, M.L.A. located on the bank of the Red River, near the end of Hoddinott Road. Here was grown the largest acreage of transplanted Spanish onions in the Province. At present there are no descendants of the Haarsma's among the growers. Two sons of Dick de Graff, George and Rennie, are still growing on the original acreage along No. 59 highway, asparagus now being their main crop.

There were two families of Mulders — no relation, I am told. Andrew Mulder operated east of Bird's Hill and grew an extensive acreage of potatoes. George Mulder was located on the Henderson Highway. Two sons, Dick and Everett, have operated extensive plantings at Carberry and Portage la Prairie, as well as a gravel pit and cartage business.

George Wallis and Sons were located in East Kildonan, just north of Morse Place. The sons had a stall at the City Hall market, where they sold throughout the growing season. Plant sales, nursery stock and vegetables, with greenhouse operations, gave them a longer season than most growers operated in.

Crossing to the west side of the Red, Nye Bros. operated a large garden, cucumbers, onions and early potatoes being their main crops. David Byle was also located on the west side at Middlechurch. His seven sons grew a general assortment of crops, with a large percentage of their acreage in potatoes. Edward Mancer operated in this area, but also grew a large acreage of potatoes near Stonewall. Van Berkel operated a wholesale business on Princess Street, as well as growing a large acreage of crop in West St. Paul. J. W.

Holiday was also located in West St. Paul. Other early growers west of the Red River were the McNaughtons, the McBeths and the Gunns.

Moving to south of Winnipeg in St. Vital and south, Hulton Bros., after whom the Hulton P. O. is named, made successful celery growing their specialty. There were two Tods operating gardens, Alex and William, sons of Peter Tod mentioned above. C. H. Paul grew a general assortment of outdoor crops, as well as operating greenhouses. Farther south, also opposite St. Norbert, F. W. Hack was noted for his perennial flowers, as well as large Spanish onions. In the early 1930's Hack and Hulton Bros. moved out to Oliver, B. C. where fruit growing became their occupation. More recently they have gone back into vegetable growing. Wm. Plantje's land adjoined Hack's. Egg plant, peppers, Chinese cabbage and tomatoes were among his specialities. He was an expert vegetable showman, and was the mainstay among the professionals in putting on collective displays at the former Winnipeg Garden Show which was held in the Winnipeg Rink. He also supplied the majority of the vegetables that made up the collection which won the Championship at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair in the late 1920's. The Connery boys were his stepsons. About 1920 Brown Bros. commenced their growing operations south of the city. For a number of years they combined their efforts with a winter operation in Texas. Tom Brown is now wintering in Texas. Peter Daman had a bedding plant operation as well as general truck crops, cauliflower and celery possibly being his main favourites. Jules Mager, St. Anne's Road, son of Peter Mager, in addition to the usual market garden crops, operated a range of greenhouses used mostly for the production of cucumbers to supply the hotel trade. He grew an unusual variety of cucumber. It was as long as the indoor Telegraph types, but smooth skinned and larger in diameter. When allowed to ripen on the vines they appeared more like well-grown vegetable marrow than cucumbers. Where the original seed came from seemed unknown. Jules set and saved his own seed. William McDowell was among the very early growers. Mrs. McDowell tells us she remembers selling at the City

Hall market in 1905. It was a scramble in the early mornings to get the best locations, she recalls. After selling was done the growers then delivered to the buyers and peddled elsewhere in the city. Meats were sold under cover in the centre of the market.

Probably the oldest grower now living who was active 50 years ago is J. G. Overwater, now in his 90th year. He was located in Charleswood and grew a large acreage in cauliflower, onions and potatoes. A son is still at the same location, sugar beets being his main crop.

Three families now have the third generation still in the gardening business. Jim and William Coulter belong to this group, and are still cultivating the acreage which their father operated. Ed Connery is a third generation grower. He has moved most of his gardening operations to Portage la Prairie. Paul Bros., St. Vital, are also third generation growers. Plant sales are now their major operation. Extensive greenhouses are maintained by them.

In more recent years, and continuing at present, large acreages devoted to potatoes and onions can be found at Winkler where the A. A. Kroeker & Sons operate. Extensive potato acreage is also located at Carman. Here Eldon McEachern and Ross Laycock were the first main growers.

From 1945 to 1960 several growers transferred their operations from the Winnipeg area to Portage la Prairie and elsewhere in Manitoba. This was caused by various pressures, among which were high labor costs, and the need to mechanize operations on a larger acreage; the recognition that soil conditions for many crops were better on the sandy loams or spring ploughable soils, also better and quicker transportation to the market now available.

Without doubt, the writer of this has missed many names of those who have been market gardeners and many who still are active. The writer also feels sadly remiss in not including the many Ukrainian and Polish growers who operated in the early days, mainly east of the Red River in the Gonor, Birds Hill and Kirkness areas. My acquaintance with them was only very brief and I could not do justice to this worthy group,"

Editor: This is the end of Mr. Almey's article. The reader should remember that this was written in 1970. Most of the market-gardeners named have gone out of market gardening. Many have since died.

In order to cover the many market gardeners not mentioned in Mr. Almey's report, the editor convened a meeting with Steve Kaminski, Mike Gowryluk, Bill Nebozenko and Steve Chuckry. He is indebted to them for a trip down Memory Lane. Space does not permit a detailed coverage of these fine people. So many of them worked against overwhelming odds. Before going down Memory Lane, the story of one of the market gardening families is related in some detail. It will serve to underline the many difficulties all those pioneering gardeners faced.

THE STORY OF STEVE CHUCKRY AND HIS PARENTS (Market Gardeners of Birds Hill)

Steve Chuckry's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Panko Chuckry. Panko immigrated to Canada from Galicia in the Eastern Ukraine in 1907. His mother, also from Galicia, came to Canada in 1909. The two were married in 1910. Father Panko worked for the C.P.R. and received from \$28 to \$30 a month. For this he had to work from 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and sometimes even later. At first the family lived in Winnipeg. Here Steve was born on June 11, 1921. Two brothers and one sister were born before him. It was not easy to raise a family on these meager wages.

In 1919 Panko purchased 40 acres of bush in the Birds Hill area, had a house built on the site, and moved his family here from Winnipeg. The old house is gone now but Steve and family have built their home here. Panko was away most of the time and so mother tried to eke out a meager living in the bush. Soon a few acres were cleared. Panko was quite community-minded. He was a school trustee of the Corona School District, helped organize and promote the building of the Ivan Tranko Hall in North Springfield and also helped to organize the Ukrainian North Springfield Cemetery in 1922. Sad to say, he passed away in 1927.



The Chuckrys of Birds Hill Building Root Cellar.

Now Mrs. Chuckry was left to fend for her own. Her children were young: Pauline was 15, Peter 12, Michael 9, and Steve only 6 years old. For three months she received \$9 a month relief from the Springfield Municipality and then even that was cut off. It was the height of the depression. Out of the 40 acres only 2½ acres were arable at this time. But mother Chuckry was quite a hustler. She slept little and worked hard growing garden crops on her limited acreage. Potatoes, cabbage, turnips, carrots, onions, red beets, parsnips and cucumbers were the main crops. She also grew radish, rhubarb, pumpkins and tomatoes and sold eggs, chickens and dairy products. Twice weekly she and her family took their produce to Winnipeg by horse and peddled them on the streets. In 1935, the purchase of a truck made this a bit easier. Gradually more land was cleared and the operation grew.

The storage shown above was 4 by 5 ft. and was dug into the ground. Tree pillars were placed in the centre and beams on top of these and also along the sides. Next poles were laid from the centre beam to the sides. Then came a covering of straw, one foot deep and finally a covering of earth on top of the straw. There were vents for aeration and a square port

hole to move the produce in and out. For winter protection, extra straw was used.

Most of the produce was sold directly to the consumer by peddling. The wholesalers of the day were always trying to buy produce at the cheapest possible price. With the money realized, the family bought their extra needs at the corner grocery store. When the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op opened the North End Farmers Market, the Chuckrys used this as an outlet for their produce.

This ends the story of Mrs. Chuckry and her family. Many of the oldtime market gardeners can identify with the problems they faced.

Steve Chuckry was fed up with the exploitation of local producers. He worked hard with many others to help growers to organize. He was active in the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op and later the Farmers' Buildings Co-op Ltd. When the V.G.A.M. was formed in 1953, Steve was one of its staunchest supporters. When Gardeners Sales Ltd. came into being, really a union of the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op and the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op to do away with inter-Co-op competition, Steve worked hard to help this venture succeed. Those early years had taught him that organized marketing was truly needed. He was most happy when the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board came into being.

Steve and his wife grew potatoes at Portage la Prairie for a time. Then they set out on a new venture and became sod growers in the Stead area. This is his occupation today. The Chuckrys live in a new home on the old homestead of his father. The old home is gone, but a picture of it hangs on a wall. It brings back so many memories of the bygone days.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH THE EDITOR

Market Gardeners East of the Red River

The reader has already gone down memory lane with J. R. Almey and met many oldtime gardeners that he remembers. His story basically covered the early Dutch growers. Hundreds of gardeners of Ukrainian and Polish origin had

thriving market gardening enterprises along the Red River from Winnipeg to Selkirk, along both sides of the river. In 1955, the editor of this book was Provincial Potato Specialist and sent out over a thousand newsletters called "Spud News". Over half of these were to people in the vicinity of Winnipeg. It is not possible to tell the story of every gardener. To get a representative sample of growers of the early days, the editor had a meeting with W. S. Nebozenko, Steve Kaminski, Mike Gowryluk and Steve Chuckry. Growers mentioned by Mr. Almey are omitted.

The East St. Paul Area

One of the larger growers was **Mike Omeniuk**. Mike used up to 100 tons of manure per acre to fertilize his land. As a result his carrots could be pulled out by hand. It was a pleasure to inspect his weed-free fields of vegetables and potatoes. Not too far off were **Harry and Theodore Pritchards** and then **Joe Gaynor**, all of them in market gardening. Lot 74 was the address of **Gerrit Mulder** and his sons Everett and Dick. The Frank Bucksack family operated both greenhouses and market gardens. They still sell their produce from a stand on Henderson Highway. The **Kaminski** brothers, **Tony** and **Mike**, were located on the old Isbister Road and Henderson and had seed potatoes and vegetables. **Luke Stelmack** and family also were good growers.

The Gonor Area

Proceeding north on Henderson Highway, the reader next meets **Sam Maruda**. His wife, Hilda, was known for her aggressive organizing ability.

Then comes the **Vincent Gaynor** family who depended on vegetables to improve their livelihood.

Kirk Perfaniuk, another grower, came next, followed by **Andrew Nebozenko**, who came here in 1898. Andrew was an aggressive grower who was Councillor and also kept the records or vital statistics of the area. He had three sons, **John, William and Steve**. William was very active in grower organizations such as the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op and the V.G.A.M. His story is found in the chapter on the V.G.A.M.

A Swedish family by the name of **Loudstrand** were neighbors of the Nebozenkos. They grew their produce in raised beds, especially in wet years.

The **Ernest Sienkiewicz** family was known throughout the district. Besides growing vegetables, they had the Post Office, a poolroom and a dance hall. Mrs. Sienkiewicz was good at putting on concerts.

Max Dubas Sr., father of Max Dubas of East Selkirk loved arguing with his fellow gardeners.

Kindrat Kotowick came from the Ukraine about 1900. He had three sons. They grew both vegetables and potatoes. They had the cleanest road allowance in the district.

Lucas Kaminski also came to Canada in 1900. He grew his market garden with his four sons. **Steve Kaminski**, a close friend of William Nebozenko, received an Honorary Life Membership from the V.G.A.M. and his story is told in the chapter of the V.G.A.M.

John Huttz was an immigrant from Poland, who also tried his hand in market gardening.

One of the more aggressive market gardeners was **John Wasylyk**. His son, **Harry Wasylyk**, was very active in grower organizations, in the canning trade and in the manufacture of polyethelene bags. His story is told in the chapter on Noted Horticulturists.

Gustaf Ludwic, was both vegetable grower and postmaster.

Bill Barchyn grew vegetables and potatoes. He was the father of **John Barchyn**, who still farms on the place and was the long time secretary of the Growers Buildings Co-op.

The **Tomczak** family had enough help to look after their market garden enterprise as they had 14 children.

Steve Semeniuk, was also a director of the Growers' Co-op.

The **Gusnowsky** family was next, followed by **John Gunther**. John was the father of **Joe Gunther** who later became a grower in Selkirk.

The **George Gowryluk** family also had a fair holding of vegetables and potatoes.

Harry Waytiuk bought the Buchanan and Ostler farm of

Highway 59 and grew between 40 and 50 acres of potatoes. His son **Clifford Waytiuk** is now carrying on the operation.

Mike Zegil grew vegetables and potatoes on the flats close to East Selkirk.

Les Mazur, now retired, grew up to 60 acres of potatoes. His brothers, **Harry Mazur** and **Paul Mazur** were in the potato business also.

James Sternat of Highland Glen grew potatoes for Old Dutch and other chip companies. He had up to 80 acres of potatoes at one time.

Frank Florko is also retired now but he grew up to 40 acres of potatoes at one time.

Hnat Romano, an early settler in Gonor. Sons Steve and William carry on in Gonor.

As one studies the families of growers in more detail, an interesting sidelight emerges. Many of the parents did not have the opportunity to get a higher education themselves but they saw to it that their sons and daughters did.

Market Gardeners of the East Selkirk Area

Most of the early settlers grew large gardens and often disposed of their surplus vegetables and potatoes at the Farmers' Market or by peddling. Following is a list of growers who had more than a passing interest in the market garden industry.

Max Dubas, son of Max Dubas of Gonor, grew vegetables and potatoes on a fair scale. He was active in the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op and was greatly concerned in the welfare of small growers. The Municipality of St. Clements knew him as Reeve for almost 40 years.

John Kusminski is one of the original seed potato growers. The Kusminskis also grew vegetables and marketed them at the Main Street market. John has always been active in community activities. He is presently Councillor of Ward IV of St. Clements.

Mike, Joe, John and Anton Chorney all were involved in potato growing. Joe and John each grew about 50 acres and had contracts with Old Dutch. Anton grew up to 200

acres. Because of his close association with the V.G.A.M., his story is told in the chapter on the V.G.A.M.

Victor Watko grew 40 or more acres of potatoes. At one time he was director and then also chairman of the Marketing Board. Victor was always involved with community affairs and is the Reeve of St. Clements at present.

M. J. Gusta was one of the larger potato growers of the area, growing more than 100 acres. For some time he grew seed potatoes for Carnation at Carberry. Mike is presently involved in sod farming.

Frank Gusta and son Ronald have been in the potato business for some time and continue in it to this day. They have set up their own potato wash plant.

Sam Uskiw was a potato farmer, growing up to 80 acres of potatoes, before he became involved in politics. He was the Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba for 8 years. It was his support that helped the growers achieve a Producer Vegetable Marketing Board. Sam has switched portfolios and is presently the Hon. Sam Uskiw, Minister of Highways.

Going down St. Peters road there were **Nick Kopynsky** and **Nick Youzwa**, small but good growers. In the same neighborhood, was the home place of **Bill Molitowsky**.

The Prazniks of Old St. Andrews

Nykola and Kathryna Praznik, fruit farmer immigrants from Trembolia (then part of the Austria-Hungary Empire), came to Canada in 1899 and in 1902 purchased Lot 69 in the Municipality of St. Andrews. Here they engaged in mixed farming including vegetables, which were often sold on "Duvids Market". The Prazniks had eight children: Mike, Joe, Mary, Steve, Harry, Tom, Paul and Ann. Five of the sons became involved in vegetable and potato production in a meaningful way.

Mike Praznik, a strong church worker and a school trustee, grew potatoes and vegetables and son, **John Praznik**, continues in it to this day.

Joe Praznik was one of the first to wash vegetables. He was one of the early directors of the Manitoba Vegetable and

Potato Growers Co-op and was instrumental in selling Manitoba vegetables in the Minneapolis and Chicago areas. He retired in 1962 and entered the real estate business.

Harry Praznik and **Paul Praznik** also continued in the vegetable and potato business, often sharing their machinery with Tom.

Tom Praznik was the family spokesman when it came to the vegetable and potato industry. He was an early director and a past president of the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op and represented it at Canadian Horticultural Council. He worked hard on the amalgamation of the two competing growers' co-ops that resulted in the formation of Gardeners Sales Ltd. When the V.G.A.M. was formed, Tom was on its board of directors. Yet he found time to serve his community as councillor for seven years, as reeve for two years and on the local school board for 12 years.

Bernhard J. Praznik, son of Tom and Rose, went into partnership with his father and they expanded by building new storage facilities and by growing strawberries. He also became a director of the V.G.A.M. and was its president in 1966 and 1967. He further served on the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission for three years and on the Manitoba Farm Bureau for four years. Community service saw Bernie serve in meaningful capacities on the Extension Advisory Group of Selkirk, The Selkirk Hospital Board, the St. Andrews Community Club, and Notre Dame Parish of Selkirk.

Presently Bernie, with the aid of his family, carries on his business. Fresh vegetables and fruit are sold from a neat stand on the highway opposite their home in St. Andrews.

Birds Hill Area Growers

In the early years there was a Jewish settlement in the Birds Hill area and many of the settlers grew vegetables and potatoes. Other growers of this area were George Borowski, John Zelinski, Smith Farms, Andrew Mulder, the de Visser family, John Petrasko, Louis Lazare and many others.

The Kirkness District

This is the domain of the Gowryluks. M. J. Gowryluk's

story is told in the V.G.A.M. chapter. Here there were also Steve and William Gowryluk. Another name that crops up is that of Paul Hnatiuk.

East of the Red, between Lockport and Selkirk. Here the name Cybulski is well known. It started out with John Cybulski and continues with Mike, Jack, William and Ken. Ken has become a large strawberry grower. Mike Petaski and Ludwig Petaski were prominent potato growers. The younger generation of Joe, Kasmir and Michael Petaski carry on the family tradition of potato growing.

Other Growers

The author remembers some growers of Old St. Andrews. They are Thomas Addis, William Byle, Carl Gessner, and the Gusnovskis: Frank, Walter, Joe, Michael and Peter. Close by were Peter and Joseph Duchek.

The St. Norbert area had Joseph and Stanley Andrechuk, The Bartmanovich Brothers, Ed and Stanley Hachkiewich, the Sumkas: Albert, Peter and Steve, and William Syrota.

At Kings Park John Itzke grew vegetables and later moved his operation to Portage la Prairie.

Sam Mosiewich is a long-time vegetable grower of La Salle.

South of Winnipeg, on the east side of the Red River the following names come up: Thomas Brown of Norwood Grove, Ysbrand Anema, Charles and Paul Palusma, Harry, John and Ralph Voetberg, Ed Zylema, and others.

The reader could also meet Camille Chaput at St. Anne, William Walter Bodner of Garson, and, at Selkirk Joe Gunter, Mike and Nick Youswa, and Mike and Ted Zelych who are close to Lockport.

WINNIPEG'S FARMERS' MARKETS

Most of the early market gardeners around Winnipeg had only small holdings, carried on mixed farming, and did not produce vegetables on a large scale. They did, however, produce excellent vegetables in variety. At first many of them used horse drawn democrats to peddle their produce to



"Duvid" Farmers Market on Dufferin in 1915. Photo Courtesy W. J. Sisler Collection of Manitoba Archives.

customers' homes. Frequently they sold eggs, poultry and dairy products along with their vegetables.

Oldtimers tell us that a Farmers' Market existed even before 1910 at the north-west corner of Dufferin and Derby. This was known as David's or "Duvid's" market. The vehicles were drawn up in a row and the horses stalled in a low long barn behind. Another early market is said to have been located on Colony Street.

The Winnipeg Industrial Bureau had an imposing building at the rear of the old city hall. This could be called the first shopping centre of Winnipeg. Everything from soup to nuts was sold and traded here. Clothing, appliances of the day, tools, grain, and just about anything and everything was sold here. This certainly included farm produce such as eggs, poultry, meats and vegetables. It was not, however, a farmers' market.

The City of Winnipeg had had numerous complaints from retail grocers and other people about the peddling activities of market gardeners. In 1913 the City decided that a



City Market on Market Square in Winnipeg. (Photo Courtesy Manitoba Archives)

Central Farmers' Market should be established behind the City Hall. It was financially assisted by several of the communities adjacent to Winnipeg. Some 48 market stalls were built. The official opening was held in May, 1914. Lt. Gov. Sir Douglas Cameron and Mayor Deacon officiated at the opening ceremonies.

The market gardeners using these stalls were of mixed ethnic origin. One could hear many languages spoken. Their apparel often gave away the gardeners' ethnic background. The Old World customs gave this market a unique character. Only in these markets was the venerable art of haggling still practised, and with such skill.

Picture a Saturday night in summer at the City or Central Farmers' Market on Market Square. Workers had just been paid and they and their wives were eager to lay in next week's supplies at the best possible prices. The elite were also there in their finery. They knew that this market featured the freshest produce. Here was an intermingling of languages and apparel. Buyers brought their own bags or baskets. They would buy potatoes from one gardener, car-

rots from another and tomatoes from a third. The smell of fresh earth, and sometimes horse manure, filled the air. Above the din of the sales chatter came the strident musical notes of the Sally Ann. The Salvation Army was here to harvest souls for heaven. At an opposite corner soap-box orators, Hyde Park style, denounced and dammed politicians and sundry to hell. Mixed with this was the laughter of young people enjoying a night out on the town. No farmers' market in any other setting had quite the same aura as the Central Farmers' Market of Winnipeg. It truly was a people place.

In spring the Central Market also featured many stands selling flower and vegetable transplants, as well as shrubs. These continued on even when the Farmers' Market as such was no more. The last stand, that of Connery's, was moved in 1961 because it proved to be a hazard to traffic flow in the area.

The Northend Farmers' Market, off Main Street, began operating about 1931-32. It was operated both as a wholesale and retail market by the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato



Mrs. Theo Bosch showing off her radishes.

Growers' Co-op. Association. The wholesale section was nothing more than a parking lot and was open only until nine o'clock a.m., after which time all trucks had to be taken away. The retail market had 160 stalls of from 5 to 7 feet in width. These were not covered but many growers covered their stalls with canvas. As soon as this market opened, most of the gardeners from the old "Duvid's" market moved over here. Even in summer the retail market was not filled to capacity except on weekends. Then it was often overcrowded.

The Northend Farmers' Market was not without humor. An oldtimer related this story. A gentleman came to the first stall of the market and asked to buy a leek. The lady in charge said, "Sorry, I have none, but wait just a minute". Then, in a loud voice, she shouted to her friend Mary some four stalls away, "Mary, this gentleman wants a leek. Can you help him?" The people within earshot convulsed in laughter.

There was also a second wholesale market operated by the Manitoba Truck Farmers' Co-op and located in a block adjoining the Northend Market. This market had 70 stalls but was without facilities, other than numbers painted on a fence to indicate the location of stalls. Market gardeners sold their produce from the back of trucks. The Manitoba Truck Farmers' Co-op. was a forerunner of the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op.

The Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Co-op that started the Northend Farmers' Market formed a holding company in 1945 called the Growers' Co-operative Buildings Ltd. to administer the financial affairs. It was a shareholder company and collected the stall fees of the market. Records show that Harry Wasylyk, W. S. Nebozenko, Steve Kaminski, A. Rewucki, S. Lasko and J. E. Gusnowsky were on the first board of directors.

The Northend Farmers' Market was overcrowded on weekends. It had less than an acre space. City authorities were unhappy with the traffic tie-ups that resulted at peak periods of the market. The Buildings Ltd. looked for an area to relocate the market. It was felt that clients of the market

now used cars for transportation and so distance to the market was no longer a factor. After several years of discussion the Northend Market was sold and the Farmers' Market opened on a 3 acre lot on Nairn and Stapleton. This property was bought for \$25,000.00. There were the costs of paving, stalls, an office building with toilet facilities and others. This market had room for 48 stands, 80 truck stalls, and parking for 113 cars and 30 trucks. The Nairn Farmers' Market was officially opened on May 30, 1960.

The Nairn Farmers' Market operated fairly well for a while, but it never really was filled. Many market gardeners had ceased operations and others just did not like the new location. Some began to sell from roadside stands opposite their homes. In 1971 some relocated to an area near Flora Avenue. The Nairn Market began to fail. A decision was reached to close the market and to sell it. The Growers' Buildings Co-op Ltd. sold the property in 1981. Shareholders are almost fully reimbursed at this time. The Buildings Co-op will shortly be dissolved.

An era has ended. The Old Market Square Association a few years ago set up a new market place behind the new city hall. This was to provide a "people place" for Winnipeg, at least on weekends. It has colorfully canopied booths for some thirty vendors. These show up on Saturday mornings. A few with B.C. salmon. A few with fresh garden produce. Some with home-made soups of the ethnic variety. Many with flowers and potted plants. Others with candles, saddlewood soap, jewellery, pottery and just plain junk. It seems to be a popular spot for city people. They come to buy, but more for entertainment. A Farmers' Market it is not.

The old farmers' markets were a boon to the many small market gardeners around Winnipeg. These markets gave them a living. These markets also were a boon for consumers who loved fresh produce at reasonable prices. Most of the oldtimers have retired. The children of these market gardeners found easier ways to make a living. Most of the market garden land on both sides of the river has been sold for housing. The few gardeners that remain often sell their produce from roadside stands. Sales of vegetable and flower

transplants are booming. These greenhouse growers set up their stands in most of the large shopping centres and on many a vacant lot in the early spring months. But the nostalgia of the Old Farmers' Markets is no more.

EARLY MARKET GARDENERS IN BRANDON

When no written records are available, the next best avenue of information available is to be found in the memories of older citizens, especially if they themselves were involved. To find out who the early market gardeners of Brandon were, the editor took a trip down memory lane with Mrs. R. (Dorothy) Kitchen of Brandon, daughter of Robert Harden.

The 1983 calendar of the Brandon Sun has a picture of a painting of the Robert Harden home on the river flats of Brandon, the house where this first market gardener of Brandon lived. Robert Harden was born in Kent, England and learned the art of gardening on an estate. He came to Brandon as an immigrant in 1891. Like so many others, he worked wherever he could to get a new start. Robert dug sewer lines, worked in hospital maintenance a year, and then was employed by S. A. Bedford, the first director of the Brandon Experimental farm.



Mrs. R. Harden taking Produce to Market in Brandon. Photo Courtesy Mrs. D. Kitchen.

Robert Harden's market gardening began in 1898 when he purchased 20 acres of river flat land and built a cottage there. He became a successful gardener even though his land frequently suffered from spring flooding. All vegetables, potatoes, small fruit, and even watermelon were found in his garden. At first the produce was peddled. Later it was sold at the Farmers' Market in the old Winter Fair building. The quality of his produce gained recognition and soon he supplied most retail stores and hotels with it. A good root cellar guaranteed quality and continuity of supply of root vegetables and potatoes. He and his family continued this enterprise until Robert's death in 1943. A few years later, in 1947, another market gardener, the well-known Dick Town, acquired the property and grew garden produce on it for many years.

Other market gardeners in those early years included the Van Brunt family, who grew mainly potato and root crops. Robert Bourne was a part-time market gardener. Then there was Richard Noonan's garden where 28th Avenue is today. The Scott family, neighbors of Patmore's Nursery, specialized mainly in fruit crops. Adam Petrick had 15 acres on the east side. These, and most likely some others whose names are not easily recalled, were really the pioneer market gardeners of Brandon.

GARDENERS SALES LTD.

Because they realized the hopelessness of selling their produce in a disorganized market, several groups of market gardeners worked together to pool their knowledge and experience in producing and selling. One of these was the Manitoba Truck Farmers Cooperative Association. A Co-operative Study on "The Marketing of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in Greater Winnipeg" conducted by the Manitoba and Dominion Departments of Agriculture in 1946, lists this Association as operating a wholesale and retail market on a vacant lot next to the Northend Farmers Market.

Another such group was known as the Manitoba Associated Growers. This group was a marketing pool formed by Peter Daman with Klaas Anema, James Connery, J. Daman



Bill Daman
General Manager

Ready To Serve You...

Here are the men whose knowledge and experience
is available for your every requirement.



Harold Garza
Sec.-Treasurer



Hunter Brown
Asst. Manager



Gene Gyselinck
Sales Manager



John Ritchie
Sales Manager,
Chemical &
Machinery Div.



Bryan Chudleigh
Shipper



John Plantje
Fieldman



E. S. Lovelace
Sales Rep.,
Chemical &
Machinery Div.



Karl Petri
Receiver



A. MacMurray
Sales Rep.,
Chemical &
Machinery Div.

Management Team of Gardeners Sales.

and Sons and K. Daman. It was this body that registered the
"Peak of the Market" brand.

THEY MAKE THE MEAL

MANITOBA VEGETABLES

PEAK of the MARKET
QUALITY VEGETABLES

"Peak of the Market" Brand.

The idea of organizing a stronger growers marketing group existed in the mind of Peter Daman long before 1946. When a property at the corner of Ross Avenue and Ellen Street, part of what was popularly known as Fruit Row, became available in 1946, such an organization actually became a reality. Meetings of interested growers were held during the winter and spring of 1946-47. It was then that growers of the two groups mentioned above, joined together to form the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op which received its charter in 1947. During the summer of that year, a building 50 by 100 with basement and main floor was erected. Equipment for grading and washing consisted of a barrel-type washer left from an earlier growers' organization and a small potato grader loaned to the organization by two members.

The first directors of this organization did not realize how well they planned and built. The first directorate of Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op consisted of Peter Daman, St. Vital, president; J. Connery, St. Vital, vice-president; Des Whellem, North Kildonan, secretary-treasurer; Klaus Anema, St. Vital; J. Daman, St. Vital; T. Brown, Norwood; J. Coulter, North Kildonan; Peter De Graff, North Kildonan; and S. Mulder, North Kildonan. One of the first actions of this Co-op was the adoption of the "Peak of the Market" brand.

Members of the group laid down the four basic principles of the organization:

- * Produce sold by the shareholder is sold on a commission basis. Pooling of sales is done over varying periods to determine the selling price. From this price, the handling charges, set and approved by the directors, are deducted and the net price is paid to the shareholders.
- * The grower's entire crop must be delivered and sold through the organization.
- * The quota system assures each shareholder of his portion of the sales of the firm.
- * Each grower must guarantee his produce and absorb any claims made upon the company in respect to his product.

The whole venture was financed completely by 25 growers. Each member purchased a \$1000.00 share. The

balance of the capital was raised in the form of a mortgage.

In the course of the next few years, the organization expanded rapidly. To keep facilities in line with increased volume, additions were made to the building in 1949 and 1952.

Prior to 1956, two grower cooperatives, namely the Manitoba Vegetable & Potato Growers Co-op Association and the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op Ltd., competed for business in the province. Duplication of services and facilities proved costly and it was highly essential that the two be brought together into one organization. The former folded and its assets were in the hands of the Growers Co-op Ltd. The members of the Manitoba Vegetable & Potato Growers Co-op joined with those of the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op Ltd. to form a joint stock company. **The Gardeners Sales Ltd.** The "Peak of the Market" brand was now transferred to Gardeners Sales Ltd.

The first membership of G.S.L. consisted primarily of growers of the Winnipeg area. As other areas turned to vegetable production, the membership of the organization increased. The shareholders consisted of individuals, family partnerships and corporations. Production began to come from every area in the province and accounted for approximately 65% of the total potato and 80 to 85% of the total commercial vegetable production in Manitoba.

Vegetables were usually stored on the farms in root cellars until Gardeners called for them to fill an order. Facilities on the Ross and Ellen building, plus the later acquired Derby Street plant, provided about 30,000 square feet. But an increased number of shareholders and a generally favorable acceptance of Gardeners produce, encouraged Gardeners Sales Ltd. to look for larger and improved premises. In 1960 Gardeners proudly opened the spanking new plant on King Edward. Now they had 65,000 square feet of space and new facilities for washing, grading, hydro-cooling and controlled temperature storage. When this plant was opened, The Hon. George Hutton, Minister of Agriculture, had this to say: "I think the Gardeners Sales Ltd. is a great asset to the growers of Manitoba. They have worked hard on behalf of the

growers. I've been impressed with the degree of cooperation that exists between the growers and the wholesalers and I might add, the retailers in the vegetable industry of Manitoba''.

Bill Daman, general manager of Gardeners when they moved into their new plant, had this to say about the challenges facing the organization. "While our products boast quality, the number of sales we make will depend largely on the effort made in the merchandizing field. To that end, we have projected an elaborate merchandizing program to promote our products both provincially and nationally."

"This program consists of:

- * Extensive advertising, billboards, radio, newspapers.
- * In-store promotionals carried out with the co-operation of individual stores and the Canadian Horticultural Council.
- * Promotional talks given by the company home economist Marilyn McWilliams to women's groups invited to G.S.L.'s new conference room.
- * Continued research in the organization's new test kitchen to find new ways of preparing dishes using Manitoba-grown vegetables."

The organization's success in the merchandizing and promotion of the "Peak of the Market" brand Manitoba produce is a matter of record. Three specific programs, described in the chapter on Marketing, were of immense importance to the whole vegetable and potato industry of this province. These were:

- * The Fact-Finding Committee.
- * Salad Week Promotion.
- * Produce Managers' Training courses.

Gardeners Sales Ltd. now added another service to growers when it also went into the Agriculture and Chemical Business. Irrigation and general equipment, fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides, and registered garden seeds were sold.

And what about the results? In 1947 Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op sold \$328,000 worth of vegetables. In 1958, these sales approached the two million figure.

In 1953, the Vegetable Growers Association of Manitoba

came into being. There still was great concern about the state of the vegetable and potato industry. While Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op held an umbrella over the industry, the market still received a great deal of produce that was not up to par and thus gave Manitoba produce a bad name and resulted in lower prices. The V.G.A.M. and Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op (later Gardeners Sales Ltd.) approached government with a request for controlled marketing by means of a Producer Marketing Board. The story of this struggle is told in the chapter of the V.G.A.M. When a Potato Marketing Commission was set up in 1964, the premises of Gardeners Sales Ltd. were taken over by this commission. The premises were finally sold to the Marketing Board. Gardeners Sales continued its Agriculture and Chemical Business for a time. Then this was sold and Gardeners Sales Ltd. ceased to exist.

Gardeners Sales Ltd. was the pioneer in good marketing and merchandizing practices in Manitoba. It was instrumental in building good producer-wholesaler-retailer relations. When the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board took over, many of the Gardeners Sales staff were kept on. The promotional programs of today are patterned after those of Gardeners Sales. Yes, Gardeners Sales Ltd. served the industry and the province of Manitoba in an exemplary fashion.

I'M JUST A FARMER

I'm just a farmer – from morn till night
(And often through the night as well)
I work and slave with all of my might;
And why I slave it is hard to tell.

I'm just a farmer — my hands are rough
And sweat-pearls grace my furrowed brow;
I keep on plodding when the going is tough,
There's work to be done, there's fields to plow.

I'm just a farmer — you said it, friend.
(Nor did I miss that knowing smile)
But there's chickens to feed and fences to mend,
And furrows to plow for many a mile.

I'm just a farmer — my wheat was so tall,
It gladdened the heart 'neath this well-worn vest,
But after last night, the hail and the squall,
I'll wait for next year and hope for the best.

I'm just a farmer — but come with me
When the dewy pearls are aglow with the morn,
When the meadowlark's song is strong and free:
Come with me and see how a day is born.

I'm just a farmer — but let me show
You the secret of life in the field of grain;
And, perchance, if you see your heart will know
Something of my love for the field and the plain.

I'm just a farmer — this dusty old sod
It lives, has a music that words can't define:
'Tis a part of me, 'tis a part of God,
The ground that you stand on is hallowed, divine.

I'm just a farmer — and proud of my name,
I'm a privileged tiller of the life-bearing sod,
Three things I will fight for, yet all three are the same:
And these are the land, and my country, and God.

CHAPTER VII

THE VEGETABLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

V.G.A.M.

As can be seen from the preceding chapter many Manitoba vegetable and potato growers had taken joint action in order to market their produce. There was not however any organization that could talk for all the growers and deal with the many problems facing an unsettled industry. Up to 1952 many of the market gardeners had taken an active part in the Manitoba Horticultural Association, both at the time of its annual convention and at its garden shows. In 1952 a committee of the M.H.A. under the chairmanship of Prof. Emil Andersen of the University of Manitoba with a dozen vegetable and potato growers as members, laid the groundwork for the formation of the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba or the V.G.A.M. This Association came into being in 1953 and held its first convention that year.

The first elected Board of Directors of the V.G.A.M.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| President | W. E. Kroeker |
| Vice-President | W. D. Brown |
| Secretary-Treasurer | F. J. Weir (Provincial Horticulturist) |

Directors

Three Year Term

S. Chuckry, Pine Ridge
W. E. Kroeker, Winkler
J. Coulter, Bird's Hill
Tom Praznik, St. Andrews

Two Year Term

Stanley Copp, M.L.A., Bird's Hill
W. S. Nebozenko, P. la Prairie
Joe Kuypers, Charleswood
M. van Hull, St. Vital

One Year Term

M. J. Gowryluk, Kirkness
G. Scott, East St. Paul
W. D. Brown, St. Boniface
John Daman, St. Vital

There was a Potato Section with Stanley Copp as Chair-

man and a Market Vegetable Section with J. Daman as Chairman.

Three Standing Committees were: Projects, Research and Resolutions.

Special Committees: Tariff with W. Daman as Chairman and the Marketing Committee chaired by S. Chuckry.

The Financial Statement of the year shows a donation of \$1,826.15 for the Potatoes for Polio Campaign.

In his address to the first convention of the V.G.A.M. Dr. J. R. Bell, Deputy Minister, Department of Agriculture and Immigration, set out the following **Objectives:** (Quote) "It would seem essential to any future planning program that there be very definite objectives, broad in scope, positive in outlook, basically and fundamentally sound, practical in application, around which to build an efficient, permanent industry. Looking ahead or planning for the future will, at least in part, be based upon objectives which recognize the need of efficient land use and soil, cultural practices, high quality of products, efficient grading policies, consumer requirements, stabilized income, and honest efficient merchandizing methods as the cardinal principles worthy of attainment. Principles which, in application will lend encouragement to the grower and, at the same time, progressively build consumer confidence in Manitoba-grown vegetables, are those which your organization should promote".

Dr. Bell named the following factors as the means by which to attain the objectives:

1. Educational services to the grower.
2. Efficiency of the producing unit.
3. Production of selected varieties.
4. Strict adherence to grade standards and requirements.
5. Public relations.
6. Compilation of marketing and production statistics.
7. Research and experimentation.

In conclusion Dr. Bell said: "Again, may I repeat, there is no substitute for markets, there is no substitute for efficiency in production, nor is there a substitute for education and research upon problems that affect the industry. The

challenge which the industry offers suggests the employment of the resources of your organization as well as of other institutions. The field is a broad one, an interesting one, and an important one. I leave the matter for your consideration''.

The V.G.A.M. came into being when the grower industry in Manitoba was in sad disarray. Insect and disease control problems needed attention. Grading practices were poor. As a result, Manitoba produce did not find ready acceptance by wholesalers, retailers and consumers alike. Members of Gardeners' Sales, as well as many other growers outside this organization were putting out an excellent quality product. But there were many growers who were not too concerned with quality and packaging. They were aided and abetted by some wholesalers. The industry was judged on the basis of the poorer produce that found its way into the market place. As a result imported produce predominated and Manitoba-grown potatoes and vegetables went begging for sales or drew low and depressed prices. This was the situation the V.G.A.M. faced when it was formed.

How has the V.G.A.M. met the objectives set out by Dr. Bell? Take a look at the area of grower education. A good grower is an informed grower. As one studies the informational papers presented in the proceedings of the conventions over the years, one marvels at its wide scope. Growers, extension specialists, university professors, research scientists from the Morden Research Station, wholesalers, retailers, consumer representatives and visiting lecturers from Canada and the United States combined their efforts in dealing with the many problems facing the growers and the industry. The V.G.A.M. must be credited with the excellent liaison it established between growers, governments both provincial and federal, wholesalers, retailers, processors, consumers, Canadian Horticultural Council, researchers of the U. of M. and Morden, and, though sometimes a bit painfully, with the news media.

The annual resolutions of an association are a fair barometer of the importance it attaches to the various aspects of the industry it serves. Four of the ten resolutions of the first V.G.A.M. convention dealt with various aspects of

grading and packaging. In succeeding years these resolutions became even stronger. As a result of these resolutions the Manitoba government finally saw fit to enforce grading and packaging regulations. This was of great benefit to the producer, but it did not really solve the problems of marketing. The need for controlled marketing was stressed again and again by V.G.A.M. resolutions over a period of many years. And what came of these resolutions? It might be best to look at the results of the marketing resolutions through a grower's eyes. Dick Mulder, a director and a past president of the V.G.A.M. and the recipient of an Honorary Life Membership in 1982, presented a paper at the 25th anniversary convention of the V.G.A.M. entitled "TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WITH THE V.G.A.M." The following is a direct quotation from Mr. Mulder's address.

Quote

"In 1953, the Vegetable Growers' Association was formed with its own directors and constitution. Having its own charter made it possible to get the direct help from the extension workers of the Provincial Government. Without this help, the organization would never function. With Fred Weir as its Secretary, a program of ambitious objectives was formulated, all of which were to promote Manitoba vegetables and vegetable growing by all available means.

It seems one of the first thrusts was to give the Potato Growers in Manitoba a new sense of direction. Quality had deteriorated to the point where claims were made that 95% of the product would not meet grade. Consumers and retailers were demanding American potatoes. Almost immediately, the Provincial Government appointed Mr. Nick Sandar as potato specialist and the education program had begun. The V.G.A.M. along with Nick through the cooperation of the local Ag. Representatives held meetings throughout the growing areas, encouraging growers to apply better growing and handling techniques. Nick's services, while very effective, were relatively short but it did not take long for a new face to appear on the scene in the name of Mr. Peter Peters.

I think some of the first comments were "where did this

D.P. come from''? Well it didn't take long and this Potato Specialist stuck his nose into everything to do with potato production and I am sure within weeks he had visited every potato grower in Manitoba promoting changes in growing, harvesting and storing of potatoes. So eager were his ambitions that in the first year he launched his potato improvement competition to encourage a better quality potato for the consumer.

Peter was so proud of its progress that he gave free banquet tickets to all the news media so he would really get some favorable free advertisement for the Manitoba potato. Well some of us here know what happened. The following morning in large print in both newspapers were the headlines "Spuds are Duds". Peter was furious. He and Walter Kroeker demanded a retraction which they got in small print in the back section. I well remember Mr. Kroeker saying that the only smart thing about the author was his name "Fred Cleverly". That launched the V.G.A.M. promotion program, but more important it set the stage for our Potato Specialist to prove to the industry that Manitoba can and will produce potatoes comparable with any place in the world.

With Peter's energies so entrenched in the potato industry, the vegetable grower felt neglected and so the V.G.A.M. petitioned the Provincial Government to add a vegetable specialist to the staff of the extension service. In 1956, Mr. Bert Sandercock was appointed Vegetable Specialist. So vigorous were the efforts of the V.G.A.M. that in three short years we had both a Potato Specialist and a Vegetable Specialist to work on behalf of the industry. These two men, along with Garth Stone, working as a team, gave growers an awareness of the need for change and the opportunities changes had in store for them.

Through the V.G.A.M. great strides were made in production planning, grower research liaison, farming planning, proper use of chemicals, grower-to-grower liaison and most of all grower-wholesale liaison. Their efforts did not stay there. Through the V.G.A.M., the industry gained a united front at the Canadian Horticultural Council in Ottawa

and without exception our delegates were always recognized as leaders in the industry.

Over the years our representatives have been involved in numerous meetings with government officials in the agricultural, finance and national revenue departments both to create an awareness for our problems and to find a solution to these problems. I need not dwell on the value this had for the growers in Manitoba.

At the wholesale level the V.G.A.M. did much to promote good relationships. I think that the early fact-finding committee worked well with its weekly meeting with wholesalers during the growing seasons. I believe the efforts of this committee were actually responsible for the formulation of the Wholesalers Association with whom we continue to enjoy a very close liaison.

Your organization's participation in the 3rd Canadian Potato Industry Conference and the tours of the Winkler area surely made all of Canada aware of the potential of Manitoba as a major production area. The conference predicted that we could look forward to the fact that half our potato crop would be utilized in processed form within a few years. Now, less than twenty years later, we have 80% going to processing. This also brings up the question? "Would Simplot have come to Carberry had it not been for the efforts of various levels of government working with the V.G.A.M. and its members?"

Promotion has always been one of its keen objectives. Since the beginning, the V.G.A.M. has been active in the National Salad Week program. In the early stages, they had already agreed to a check-off system, whereby all vegetables and potatoes would pay for an aggressive promotion program. This check-off system now rates approximately \$25,000 annually. The major portion of this program is carried out by the two home economists now on staff at the Marketing Board.

These programs are basically made up as follows:

Two weekly T.V. shows

Two weekly radio shows

Tours of schools and supermarkets

The fall harvest show

The winter stew promotion

Displays in Minneapolis at Fruit Wholesalers Conventions, Brandon Fair and Manisphere.

Also, there is a daily contact with the Food Editors plus the farm tours barbecue.

Although most of the physical work is now done by the marketing board, the program was originated by the V.G.A.M.

The V.G.A.M. has had an enviable record throughout Canada with the exception of Marketing. Growers are still asked to sell their products below the cost of production.

Now let's take a look at Marketing and what has happened in the past 25 years. I had earlier touched on the attempts of group marketing by the Vegetable and Potato Growers' Co-op and the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op and its predecessors. While these groups had some success in stabilizing prices they were only as good as the percentage of growers that participated.

As early as 1941, the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Co-op Association petitioned the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council and the Manitoba Marketing Board asking that a Board be set up to control the marketing of potatoes and certain other vegetables. As a result of this petition, the Manitoba Marketing Board wrote to the Minister of Agriculture, D. L. Campbell to the effect that the following resolution be adopted. "That a scheme to control and regulate the transportation, packing, storage and marketing of certain vegetables in Manitoba be approved. Also, recommend that the scheme be submitted to a plebiscite of the growers affected before it is put into effect".

As a result of this resolution several attempts were made to have a vote but each time they were called off because the vegetable growers felt it would not get the required support.

It was not until the formation of the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba that this recommendation was vigorously pursued.

Several people here would probably refer to these years as the "Great Vegetable Revolution" or maybe "Revolt".

In 1958 the convention gave the director a clear directive to arrange a plebiscite on a Vegetable Marketing Board. Many hours went into bringing a plan to the Provincial Marketing Board for their approval. A plebiscite was held but it failed to gain the necessary support.

Then again in 1962 the growers were asked for a vote and this also failed to get the required support.

The V.G.A.M. did not quit there but decided to pursue a plan on a commodity basis and that potatoes be used on a pilot basis.

With this in mind, they finally convinced the Government in 1964 to incorporate Gardeners Sales Ltd. as the Manitoba Potato Marketing Commission.

This was the first time in the history of Manitoba that a product came under compulsory marketing. The success of the Potato Marketing Commission after two years, finally gave way to the formation of the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission. Thus in December of 1965 seven vegetables came under the jurisdiction of the commission, namely potatoes, beets, cabbages, onions, carrots, parsnips, and turnips. This then led the way for the take over of the facilities at 1200 King Edward Street.

This commission was not long in meeting the objectives of the V.G.A.M. but, this was not good enough for all Manitoba growers. By the summer of 1966 "All Hell Broke Loose" and accusations were flying thick and fast.

By mid-summer a new grower organization was formed which was known as the Vegetable Producers of Manitoba and fell under the leadership of Marius Van Hull. This group went on a provincial wide crusade saying small growers would be forced out of business. Throughout 1966, the vegetable industry in Manitoba dominated the headlines in both newspapers. The Minister of Agriculture was under constant pressure to launch an inquiry into all aspects of the Marketing Commission. The continuation of this pressure throughout 1966 finally resulted in the establishment of an independent commission to inquire into all aspects of the existing marketing system. And so in December of 1966 this commission under Donald R. Baron was formed.

This Commission heard charges and counter charges but finally on April 24, 1967, the Baron report was tabled in the Legislative. Then the Minister of Agriculture, Honorable Harry Enns reported that effective immediately the vegetable marketing commission would be scrapped but would continue to market potatoes until June 30th. To the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba this seemed to end a life-long dream and subsequently resulted in a large demonstration and parade of farmers' trucks in front of the Manitoba Legislature.

Under continuing pressure from the V.G.A.M., the minister finally consented to a referendum on the establishment of a marketing board for potatoes. This successful vote and the subsequent vote on the four major root crops led to the formation of The Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board and The Manitoba Root Crop Producers' Marketing Board in 1968. I am sure those years from 1962 to 1968 were the busiest years ever experienced by the V.G.A.M.

Here ends the quotation from Dick Mulder's paper. It is important to take a look at the Marketing Board's life since its inception.

MANITOBA VEGETABLE PRODUCERS' MARKETING BOARD

Legislation passed in 1972 made this Board an elected board. It is comprised of nine members, six of whom are potato and three vegetable growers. The marketing of potatoes and of carrots, onions, parsnips and rutabagas is handled by the Board. Growers having four or more acres of potatoes and vegetable growers with $\frac{1}{2}$ an acre of the above vegetables must sell through the Board. The Board may also handle the produce of growers having smaller acreages, but those growers have no vote. The Board will also handle the sales of other vegetables if asked to. The overall policy is laid out by the Board while the manager and his staff carry out the day-to-day operations.

Simply stated, the purpose of the Board is to maintain a fair product price for the grower and to facilitate orderly

product marketing with a consistent supply of uniformly high quality product.

The nine-member Board elects its own chairman and the three root crop members also choose a chairman. At that time of writing this book, Mr. John Kuhl of Winkler is Board Chairman. Mr. Ed Connery of Portage la Prairie is Root Crop Chairman, and Ken McLean is Manager.

The Board allocates quotas and time of delivery. This is necessary to ensure constant supply for the trade. The facilities of the Board provide central warehousing. Washing, grading and prepackaging is done at the warehouse. It also has controlled-temperature storage to ensure quality of product. Transportation of produce from the farm to the warehouse (when needed) is also supplied, as well as transport of product to the trade channels.

The Manager, under the direction of the Board, carries out the sale of product. Good relations with the trade are absolutely essential. The Board is a member of the Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association. The Board and Wholesalers work together having joint promotion committees for Salad Week and Fresh for Flavor programs. The Board and Manager are very promotion-oriented. Two home economists are on staff. These give demonstrations on product use in the warehouse, at exhibitions, and on T.V. They prepare and distribute recipes. The Board works closely with the trade outlets with product and instore promotions. Together with the V.G.A.M. it arranges tours to growers and enlists the support of the Provincial Marketing Branch for many of its promotional efforts.

The Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board has two memberships in C.H.C. The V.G.A.M. and the Manitoba Department of Agriculture each also have a membership. This makes sure that the voice of Manitoba producers can play an active role on the federal scene.

The Board in turn is responsible to the growers and reports to them at regularly called or also special meetings. To date the Board has served both producers and consumers fairly well. The V.G.A.M., which was responsible for the establishment of orderly marketing in the first place, con-

tinues to monitor the operations of the Marketing Board.

PROMOTIONS PROGRAMS OF THE V.G.A.M. OVER THE YEARS

A great deal of credit must go to the people who planned the V.G.A.M. Its committee structure was set out at the beginning of this chapter. The activities of the Marketing Committee resulted in compulsory grading and in formation of the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission. The Tariff Committee gave effective leadership in the Canadian Horticultural Council and the results of their efforts will be dealt with in the story of C.H.C. The Research Committee was instrumental in getting the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, the Morden Research Station and the University of Manitoba involved in research. The educational programs at the conventions were second to none.

But it is in the area of Projects and Promotion that the V.G.A.M. has registered significant successes over the years. Somebody had to blow the horn for the Manitoba vegetable and potato industry. The V.G.A.M. featured colorful displays at its conventions, at the Red River Exhibition and the Brandon Winter Fair. It supported the 4-H vegetable and potato clubs which at that time were supervised by provincial horticulturists. A. A. Kroeker & Sons supplied seed potatoes for potato clubs for many years. All of these activities helped to promote the Manitoba industry.

One program that resulted in good publicity for the Manitoba potato was the Improvement Competition that began in 1955 and ran for four years. Some 24 growers grew one acre of potatoes from foundation seed. The fields were judged four times a year by the potato specialist. Yields were taken. Each grower had to prepare ten 75 lb. bags of graded potatoes to be judged by inspectors. A 30 tuber show sample had to be prepared by each grower for a potato show in Eatons' Annex and at other locations. Growers, the trade and other industries donated trophies and liberal prize money. The winners were presented with their awards at a public banquet to which the press was invited. To begin

with, press comments were not too flattering. But when Chorney's show samples were entered in the Toronto Royal and began to win international awards for them, not only the Chorneys, but also the Manitoba potato were feted in the press, on T.V. and radio.

The A. R. Chorneys — Tony and Adeline

The team effort of Tony and Adeline Chorney of East Selkirk resulted, not only in obtaining well deserved honor for themselves, but in publicizing and promoting Manitoba potatoes. Tony was born in East Selkirk in 1915 and began growing potatoes in 1942, the year after he and Adeline were married. He soon joined the Manitoba Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba. For 23 years he was a director of the V.G.A.M. and its president for 2 years and acting president for 4 more years. The Chorneys took part in the Manitoba Potato Improvement Competition and soon won prizes, especially with their show samples. This led to showing at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair. Here they have more wins than any other exhibitor in potatoes.

They won the following:

Grand Championship in Table Potatoes — 1959

Grand Championship in Seed Potatoes — 1960

Grand Championship in Seed and Table Potatoes — 1961

Grand Championship in Seed Potatoes — 1963

Grand Championship in Seed Potatoes — 1971

In the intervening years Adeline Chorney was asked to judge the potato section at the Royal.

The Chorneys also won 19 trophies at the Brandon Winter Fair. For 15 years Adeline was 4-H club leader. She also was chair lady of the V.G.A.M. ladies' section and helped to set up numerous displays for conventions. The Chorneys took an active role in community affairs as well.

The well-landscaped home grounds of the Chorney farm received recognition when they became champions of the Manitoba Good Roads Home Grounds Competition in 1973. In 1976 they were proclaimed Farmers of the Year at the Red River Exhibition. But it was their prowess as exhibitors that was so meaningful to the promotion of the Manitoba Potato Industry.



The Chorneys with Tropies in 1961.

Canadian Potato Industry Conference

But it was the third Canadian Potato Industry Conference that was held in Winnipeg in 1959, that focused national and international attention on the Manitoba Potato

Industry. This conference was sponsored by Canadian Horticultural Council. Walter Kroeker, Bill Daman and Pete Peters, Manitoba delegates of C.H.C., were responsible for extending the invitation on behalf of the V.G.A.M. and the Province. Walter Kroeker was the Chairman and P. J. Peters the Secretary-Treasurer of the conference. Some 20 Manitoba firms generously donated finances to make the project possible. Delegates, speakers and visitors came from all of the Canadian provinces and from many U.S.A. states. Growers, retailers, wholesalers, processors, government extension specialists, universities and consumers were represented. The Convention program covered all phases of the industry.

A field tour showed delegates potato growing in the Carman and Winkler area. A large potato storage at Carman was visited. A potato harvesting demonstration on the Kroeker potato farm at Winkler featured the modern harvesters of four firms. The group visited the Morden Research Station to look at Dr. Shewfelt's research into potato quality and also enjoy the horticultural beauty of the station.

The climax of the tours was the most enjoyable beef barbecue sponsored by A. A. Kroeker & Sons. As the beautiful western sunset spelled the end of the day, and the end of a successful conference, the delegates departed for Winnipeg and from there to their homes. The "Coming-out-party" of the Manitoba Potato had been a successful venture.

Three projects, jointly sponsored by the V.G.A.M., the Wholesalers and the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, deserve special coverage because of their promotional impact on the Manitoba vegetable and potato industry. These are:

- a. The Fact-Finding Committee
- b. Salad Week
- c. Fresh for Flavor

The reader will find a full discussion of these three projects in the next chapter.



Beef Barbecue at Kroeker's Farm.

GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT WITH THE V.G.A.M.

The Manitoba Department of Agriculture did more than just grant a charter to the V.G.A.M. Since its formation extension horticulturists have supplied secretarial services to the Association. The Department has throughout the life of the V.G.A.M. paid for all the costs of publishing proceedings and the convention programs and also all mailing costs. It has enforced grading regulations and passed the act that set up the marketing boards. The names of Fred Weir, Nick Sandar, P. J. Peters, Bert Sandercock, Lawrence Jorgenson, and Garth Stone, all horticulturists working for the Department of Agriculture, are well-known and respected by the V.G.A.M. members.

But this was by no means a one-way street. To do effective extension work, it is easier to work with an organized group of growers. Thus the Department's extension function was made easier and more effective.

It was largely through the efforts of Bert Sandercock, the Vegetable Specialist, and Garth Stone, Potato Specialist, that Horticultural Industry Days came into being. This unique approach of bringing all the commercial horticulture associations together is of benefit to the whole industry.

HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY DAYS

Annual Conventions of the V.G.A.M. have been held each year since its inception. These sessions were mainly educational meetings, but included a review of business activities. In addition, commercial firms were encouraged to participate in displays during the meetings.

Over the years interest in the latter activity grew and previously used facilities at the Faculty of Agriculture became restrictive.

During 1972 the V.G.A.M. Convention Organizing Committee for the 20th Annual Meeting chose the International Inn as the convention site. The dates were changed to November and the business portion was retained for the January Annual Meeting session.

During the next year the Association working with Manitoba Department of Agriculture staff and with the full support and encouragement of the late E. S. (Ed) Lovelace conceived the idea of an overall Horticulture Industry Days Approach. In 1973 the first sessions included a separate program on strawberries as well as vegetables and potatoes. The Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association and the Manitoba Greenhouse Vegetable Growers' Association joined the group in 1974. By November, 1975 the Manitoba Strawberry Growers' Association had been formed out of the V.G.A.M. Fruit Committee and organized their own program in the H.I.D. format. In preparation for the 1979 Convention, the local branch of the Golf Superintendents' Association requested to be included as they hosted the Western Group. They took part in 1979 and again in 1982. Finally, in 1980 the Manitoba Department of Agriculture organized a seminar for producers of wild rice in the province.

During the 1973 to 82 period the participation of commercial firms through display space rentals has provided modern accomodations to hold joint and separate sessions of all participants. The arrangements have worked well with a continued upgrading of various facets of the meetings.

The overall operations are organized through a H.I.D. Committee made up of representatives of the participating groups including Manitoba Agriculture. Mrs. Jean Easton has served as Arrangements Co-ordinator in recent years and Garth Stone has been the Committee Chairman. The Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association has served as the bookkeeper and handles the financial transactions.

V.G.A.M. Presidents, 1953-1982

| Years | Name | Address |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1953-1955 | W. E. Kroeker | Winkler |
| 1956-1957 | W. D. Brown | Norwood Grove |
| 1958-1959 | Dick Mulder | East St. Paul |
| 1960-1961 | M. J. Gowryluk | Kirkness |
| 1962-1963 | W. Daman | St. Vital |
| 1964-1965 | W. S. Nebozenko | Portage la Prairie |
| 1966-1967 | B. J. Praznik | Old St. Andrews |
| 1968-1969 | E. Connery | Portage la Prairie |
| 1970-1971 | A. R. Chorney | East Selkirk |

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1972-1973 | W. Byle | Old St. Andrews |
| 1974-1975 | J. W. Kuhl | Winkler |
| 1976-1977 | A. L. Jordan | Portage la Prairie |
| 1978-1979 | John Douma | Portage la Prairie |
| 1980-1981 | Greg Gowryluk | Holland |
| 1982-1983 | Hans Werner | Winkler |

V.G.A.M. Secretary-Treasurers, 1953-1982

| Years | Name | Position |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 1953-1957 | F. J. Weir | Provincial Horticulturist |
| 1958-1965 | P. J. Peters | Provincial Potato Specialist |
| 1966-1983 | G. E. Stone | Provincial Potato Specialist |

The Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba

An Assessment of the Past and a Look into the Future

The V.G.A.M. is now in its 30th year. Has it achieved what it set out to do? The record speaks for itself. Few associations can boast of as fine educational programs as those of the V.G.A.M. conventions over the years. Its efforts to bring in grading and quality control have been largely successful. The problems of marketing have been resolved. Its efforts geared towards establishing sound liaison with the wholesalers and retailers have resulted in an industry approach in the vegetable industry. The promotional efforts have placed Manitoba on the map as a sound and reliable producing province. Processors have seen fit to establish their plants in Manitoba. Manitoba has a strong voice at Canadian Horticultural Council. The V.G.A.M. is respected as the voice of Manitoba producers by governments, both provincial and federal. Researchers from the University and the federal Research Station have shown their willingness to work on grower problems.

There is however one objective that has not been achieved. It was hoped that all these programs would help to keep the smaller grower in business. Sad to say, this goal has not been achieved. The acreage of potatoes has increased, especially that devoted to the processing trade, but the number of growers has decreased. The need to mechanize has shifted the growing areas to soils more suitable for mechanization. The heavy river clays did not lend themselves to mechanical harvesting. Small growers were unable to get workers for hand harvesting. The sons and daughters of the small growers along the Red River looked for less

strenuous work in other professions. Land values rose temptingly and much farm land was sold for housing developments. In vegetable production the picture is even worse. A handful of growers, fully mechanized, now produce what it once took hundreds of growers to raise. The industry has followed the trend evident in other areas of farming. Even the efforts of the V.G.A.M. could not stem this tide.

And what about the future of the V.G.A.M.? May it now relax and glory in its achievements? That would be a mistake. Educational work must continue. Promotion needs to be stepped up. The marketing process must be guarded and improved. New fields of production need to be explored. As the watch dog of the industry, the V.G.A.M. must continue to build on the sound foundation it has laid in its formative years. May it continue to grow.

VEGETABLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP ROLL

- H. C. Maxwell, Apex Purchasing, Winnipeg, January 1968
M. K. Todd, Scott National Co., Winnipeg, January 1968
W. Daman, Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board, Winnipeg, January 1969
A. A. Kroeker*, A. A. Kroeker & Sons Ltd., Winkler, January 1969
P. J. Peters, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg, January 1972
F. J. Weir*, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg, January 1972
W. S. Nebozenko, Portage la Prairie, November 1972
Dr. C. Walkof*, Research Station, Agriculture Canada, Morden, November 1973
J. A. Menzies*, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, November 1977
M. J. Gowryluk, M. J. Gowryluk & Sons, Holland, November 1978
Steve Kaminski, Carnation Foods Ltd., Carberry, November 1979
W. E. Kroeker, Kroeker Farms Ltd., Winkler, November 1980

T. A. Sandercock, Manitoba Department of Agriculture,
Winnipeg, November 1981

J. S. Coulter, Cedar Lake Farms, Anola, November 1982

Dirk Mulder, Mulder Farms Ltd., November 1982

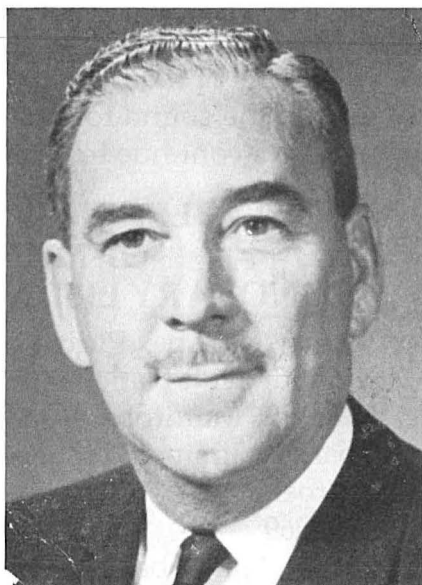
Dr. E. T. Anderson, Vineland, Ont., November 1983

* Deceased

Biographical sketches of the recipients follow. Those of P. J. Peters, and Dr. C. Walkof are found in other chapters of this book.

Herbert Cater Maxwell — Brigadier

Mr. Herb Maxwell



Herbert Cater Maxwell, "Herb" to all who knew him, was born in Winnipeg on June 5, 1908. He attended Daniel McIntyre School and also took business training in Winnipeg. After graduation he worked for the Canadian National Railway and also the Chicago North Western Railway. An important date in Herb's life was September 12, 1935, the day that Herb and Nona were married.

On December 1, 1934 Herb joined the Canadian Fruit Distributors. This marks the beginning of a long service career devoted to the horticultural industry of Manitoba and Canada, and how well he served. His career with Canadian Fruit Distributors was temporarily disrupted by war service.

He stayed with his firm until September, 1956 when he joined Apex Purchasing as Manager and held this position until his retirement.

This short resume of Herb's devoted military service to our great country, before, during and after the war, can hardly do him justice. He started his military career in the Reserve Army and was appointed to a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Armoured Car Regiment in Winnipeg on September 29, 1939. After attending the School of Instruction, Cavalry, he was promoted to Lieutenant effective August 11, 1940. On April 21, 1941 he joined the Active Force at No. 10 District Depot, Winnipeg. In 1942 he attended No. 7 Canadian War Staff Course at Kingston and embarked for England on November 25, 1943. Herb was promoted to Staff Captain and proceeded to France on August 5, 1944. By May 8, 1945 he was acting Major. He received the King's Commendation for brave conduct. On October 21, 1945 Herb returned to Canada and was discharged on November 29, 1949.

Herb's Reserve Service is a matter of record:

- * Promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and to command 48 Anti-Tank Regiment RCA effective 1 Jan., 1947.
- * Appointed Officer Commanding (Lt/Col.) Winnipeg Grenadiers 1 Sept., 1948 to Dec., 1954.
- * Staff Officer (Admin.) 19 Militia Group, effective 1 Sept., 1958
- * Promoted to Brigadier 1 Sept., 1960.
- * Vacates command and transferred to Supplementary Reserve in 1962.
- * Placed on retired list 1 Jan., 1969.

Brigadier Maxwell's record is not easily matched.

But Herb's service record with the fruit and vegetable industry matches that of his military career. He was a strong organization man. The Canadian Fruit Wholesalers Association knew him as a National Director for 16 years, as a member of its Executive Committee for several years, and as its keynote speaker of the C.F.W.A. national convention at Montreal in 1973. Locally he was President of the Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association. Herb promoted the highest moral and ethical responsibility and co-

operation of growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, and the public. He served for many years on the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission as a Director and as Vice-Chairman. He was Chairman of the Steering Committee that brought about the Manitoba Division of the "Fresh for Flavor Foundation".

The V.G.A.M. felt deeply indebted to Herb Maxwell for his support of the Manitoba vegetable industry and therefore honored him with its Honorary Life Membership at its convention held in Winnipeg in January 1968.

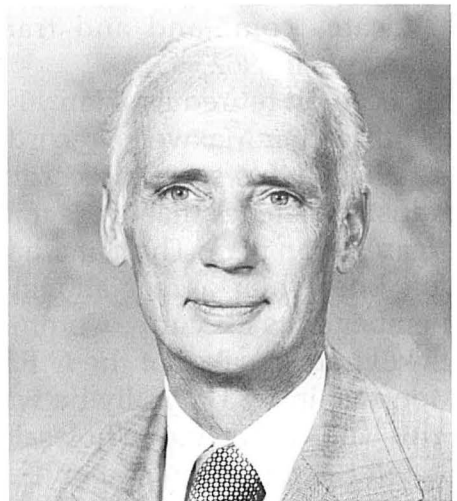
If you have a job to be done, give it to the busiest man. This applies to Herb Maxwell. Here are just a few positions he held:

- * Past President of Winnipeg Rotary Club and member for 24 years.
- * Shriner with the Khartoum Temple.
- * A member of the Sanatorium Board of Manitoba.
- * A member of the Board of Governors of the Corps of Commissionaires.
- * President of the Manitoba Branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Since his retirement in 1973, Herb and Nona have travelled widely and visited 25 countries. No matter where he is, Herb will always be an ambassador of good will.

M. K. "Ken" Todd

Mr. Ken Todd.



Ken Todd was born in Consort, Alberta in 1915. He obtained his business education at Lacombe and Edmonton, Alberta. He joined Scott National as office boy in 1935. Before long he advanced to Credit Manager at Brandon and then the Audit Staff. World War II erupted and he joined the Royal Canadian Airforce, serving overseas in Bomber Command. When the war ended, Mr. Todd returned to Scott National and the credit staff. He spent a year in Saskatoon and then transferred to Winnipeg where he has been to the present.

During this time he served as Assistant Branch Manager. In 1964 he became Scott National's District Manager of Manitoba and held this position until 1977. In that year he became Director, Staff Training, the position he presently holds. Mr. Todd is in his 48th year of service with Scott National, an envious and unsurpassed record.

Mr. Todd is a very private and unassuming gentleman who would rather talk about the health of the horticultural industry than himself. His keen, analytical mind, his sense of fairness, his willingness to listen to others, his ability to look at the crux of a problem and his kind, yet firm, persuasiveness over the years, has been instrumental in getting growers and members of the trade to adopt the industry approach in the potato and vegetable industry.

Both, Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op and later Gardeners' Sales Ltd., found an ally in Ken Todd when it came to moving Manitoba produce into the trade channels. When the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba was formed, Ken became one of its staunchest supporters. His many lectures at the V.G.A.M. conventions and his sage counsel meant much to the Association in its formative years and later on as well. Ken believed in a controlled marketing concept and never wavered in supporting it. When the government finally saw fit to establish the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission in 1965, Ken Todd became its Chairman. When the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Inquiry Commission questioned the Commission marketing concept, it was Ken's brief and that of the other Commission members, that ably presented the case for the Commission.

The final establishment of the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board was fully supported by Ken Todd.

In 1968, the V.G.A.M. presented its first Honorary Life Memberships. This honor is bestowed on individuals for meritorious service to the vegetable industry of Manitoba. The first two recipients were none other than Mr. Ken Todd and Mr. Herb Maxwell. Both were members of the wholesale trade whose support of the Manitoba growers was invaluable. These were well deserved honors.

But Ken Todd was also highly respected by his peers in the wholesale trade. He was a long standing member of the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers' Association and was a director of it for some years. In 1967 he was its President. Ken strongly supported the activities of the Fact-Finding Committee for the Winnipeg Vegetable Industry which led to the formation of the Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association. In 1965 Ken Todd was president of the M.F.V.W.A. Since Canadian Horticultural Council was established in 1922, representatives of the Wholesale trade in Canada have made substantial contributions to the Council. None, however, has made greater contributions than M. K. "Ken" Todd of Winnipeg. Since his appointment in 1970, as a representative of C.F.W.A., Mr. Todd has provided sage counsel to Council deliberations based upon his many years of experience in working with producer organizations in Manitoba. His talents were recognized when he was appointed chairman of the Council's Marketing and Promotion Committee for the years 1980 and 1982. Ken received the C.H.C. Merit Award in 1972.

The stories of Salad Week, the Produce Management Training Course, and the Fresh for Flavor Foundation are told in the next chapter. These programs owe their success as well as their initiation to Ken Todd. Small wonder that the Packer, the highly respected American vegetable magazine, named M. K. Todd the Canadian Produce Man of the year in 1976.

And what occupied Ken Todd's time outside his business activities? All his life he has been involved in youth work. This started when he was in Saskatchewan. When he

came to Winnipeg he worked with Boys' Clubs and general youth work in the Weston area. In 1959 he received the City of Winnipeg Award for this work. He was President of the Neighborhood Services centre of the Inner city and received the Good Neighborhood Award in 1970. He is an active member of Sparling United Church and guided its Boys' Club for many years. For several years Ken was Chairman of the Presbytery of the United Church. Presently he is involved in Non-Profit Senior Housing. The Winnipeg Rotary Club knows him as a member and past board member.

Such is the life and work of Mr. M. K. "Ken" Todd. One short sentence sums it up: "Ken is a Man of Service".

W. (BILL) DAMAN



W. Daman.

At a recent retirement party held for Bill Daman, the guest speaker of the evening used the words modest, sensitive, competent, committed, vision, and leadership to describe this native son of St. Vital, Manitoba. The story that follows will prove that he exemplified all of these qualities and more.

Bill is the second youngest of the seven children of John

Daman, well known market gardener of St. Vital. He was born in 1918 and obtained his high school education in Winnipeg. After this he worked with his father in market gardening. When the war came, he joined the R.C.A.F. and became a Pilot Instructor. He married Roberta Lawrie while in the Air Force in 1943. After the war, Bill again joined his father's gardening enterprise.

Peter Daman, Bill's uncle, had long had the dream of organizing growers to establish price stabilization. His dream came to fulfillment when the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op Ltd. was formed in 1947. It was soon after this that Bill Daman became its general manager. At first the Co-op had modest facilities at Ross Avenue and Ellen Street. These were enlarged and the Derby Street plant used as an extra facility. In 1956 the members of the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op and those of the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op decided to form a joint stock company, The Gardeners Sales Ltd.

Modest, friendly, and sensitive Bill Daman, with the help of like-minded individuals, competently developed a promotional sales program that was based on quality control and consistent supply of product to the trade channels. He established good communication with trade channels. As a result more and more growers joined Gardeners Sales. Finally, in 1961 Gardeners Sales was able to move into its modern plant on King Edward Street and Dublin Avenue.

In 1953 the V.G.A.M. was formed. Even though the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op, and later Gardeners Sales, was holding a protective umbrella over the industry, the state of this industry was far from healthy. The first board of directors of the V.G.A.M. chose Bill Daman to chair its tariff committee. He soon became a director of the association and was its president in 1962 and 1963. Bill's vision of controlled producer marketing never wavered. His good rapport with the wholesale trade, helped gain their support. Finally, in 1964, the government of the day was convinced to incorporate Gardeners Sales Ltd. as the Manitoba Potato Marketing Commission. This gave way to the Manitoba Vegetable Mar-

keting Commission in 1965. Bill Daman was appointed as manager.

Then all hell broke loose. Many growers were violently opposed to this form of marketing. Grower confrontations! Threats and name calling! Heated debates in the legislature! Media interventions and distortions! An inquiry hearing! It was all there! The sense of direction, the determination, and the leadership provided by Bill during that difficult period will never be forgotten by those that were in the centre of that storm. Coolness under pressure! Level headedness! Perseverance! All were displayed, together with Bill's great power of persuasion — the ability to convert opponents into supporters.

Bill firmly believed that successful marketing involved more than just a provincial marketing organization. He became involved in the Canadian Horticultural Council when he was with Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op. In 1957 he became C.H.C. chairman of its Merchandizing Committee. From 1958 to 1969 he was chairman of the C.H.C. Promotion Committee. In 1958 he was president of the C.H.C. and in 1972 received its Award of Merit. In 1969 he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the C.H.C., a position from which he is retiring in 1983. Lately this position is designated as Executive Vice-President. The prestigious Packer named Bill as "Produce Man of the Year" in 1976 and he was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 for Outstanding Contribution to the Horticultural Industry in Canada. The reports on "Salad Week" and "Fresh for Flavor" will indicate Bill's leading role in these promotions. He served C.H.C. with the same dedication and competence as he did the Manitoba industry.

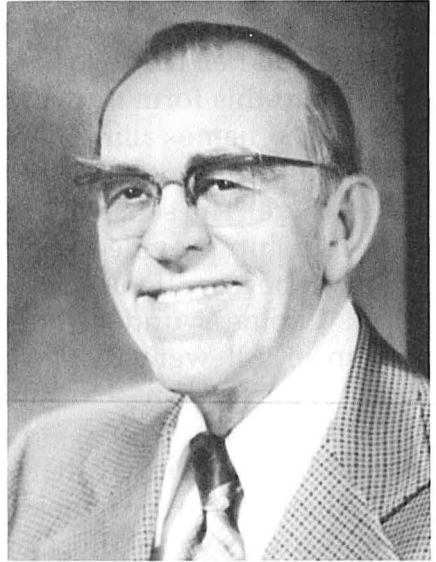
In retrospect, the V.G.A.M. really honored itself when it bestowed its Honorary Life Membership on him in 1969. Bill really made the dream of his father, John Daman, come true.

Bill's understanding and supportive wife, Roberta, and their three daughters have reason to be proud of him.

A. A. Kroeker

Abe Kroeker was born in 1892 on his parents' homestead which later became part of Winkler, Manitoba. He grew up

Mr. A. A. Kroeker.



in the Winkler community and became a public school teacher. After a few years of teaching he joined his brothers in a general store and automobile business. His concern for the future of his growing family, and his sons' propensity for getting into mischief in town, led him to the decision in 1928 to begin farming. He used his equity in the business as a down payment on a farm 6 miles from town.

With little or no actual farming experience, he had difficulty in coping with drought, dust storms and economic woes. Under these circumstances he turned to the "experts". He frequented the Morden Experimental Station and attended many extension meetings. Here he met far-sighted leaders such as Jim Haney, International Harvester's Superintendent of Illustration Farms, Bill Breakey, Assistant Superintendent of the Morden Station, Jack Crawford (and later Walter Frazer), Agricultural Representative of the Provincial Extension Service. Abe Kroeker became a convert to the gospel of crop rotations, field corn and legumes, all foreign to traditional farming practises of the area.

He seldom did things "by halves" and he revolutionized his farming program with characteristic enthusiasm and zeal. The initial forty acres of corn expanded rapidly. In the second year he set his sights on growing seed corn. When

the primitive drying system of hanging individual cobs on nails set at an angle in 2×2's proved unreliable he adapted to Manitoba conditions a system of corn drying used at the University of Wisconsin, in which heated air was forced through slatted-floor bins of cob corn. This innovative project proved to be highly successful, and the development of a row-crop economy in the Pembina Triangle was assured.

This was in 1936. In a logical next step, the Kroekers began contracting sweet corn seed to the Canadian trade, and soon a major part of Canada's needs were supplied from Winkler. However, in 1942 a disastrous August frost wiped out the corn crop, and Mr. Kroeker turned to another row crop in an attempt to recoup his losses. Potatoes had been grown on his farm on a small scale for several years — now they became a major emphasis. In addition to the "table" crop he began growing seed potatoes, and developed a system for commercial-sale production of "tuber-unit" Foundation seed. This seed found acceptance both for domestic and export markets, and the marketing success led to the establishment of a flourishing seed potato industry in Manitoba.

In 1951, Mr. Kroeker began packaging table potatoes in transparent "consumer" bags. Again, acceptance was encouraging, and in 1958 a fully modern warehouse with washing and packaging facilities was built and put into production.

Concurrently, the Kroekers began growing onions on their farm. They found that growing the crop was relatively simple, but reliably curing the onions for market acceptance was not. Eventually they tried curing the onions artificially, using the corn-drying kilns on their farm. These trials were so encouraging that in 1958 they built an onion storage with kiln-drying capability, applying their experience with corn. This system proved to be exceptionally reliable, and Kroeker "kiln-cured" onions gained a favourable reputation both in Canada and in the United Kingdom. The basic system is now in general use in Western Canada.

In all of these innovative steps, Mr. Kroeker eagerly shared his enthusiasm and vision with others. He was inter-

ested in young people, and supported Junior and 4-H Clubs for many years. He was an "Adult Club Leader", and for years encouraged Junior Potato Clubs by supplying, free of charge, the Foundation seed potatoes used in the program.

The Kroeker farm enterprise became a partnership with his sons as "A. A. Kroeker & Sons", which was incorporated as a family farm corporation in 1955. In 1978 the name was changed to Kroeker Farms Limited.

A. A. Kroeker maintained his active interest in the vegetable industry, as well as his optimism and enthusiasm, until his mid-eighties. He passed away in 1981 at the age of 88, leaving a rich legacy of unique innovative progress for Manitoba horticulture.

F. J. (Fred) Weir

Mr. F. J. Weir.



Fred Weir was born in Omemee, Ontario. This is where he received his primary and secondary education. He attended the Peterboro Normal School and taught in local public schools for 3½ years. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II and served as Navigator Bomber in a torpedo squadron in Egypt, Libya and Malta. After instructing in England for over a year, he returned to

Canada for a month's leave. He was one of the groups to be the first recipients of the R.C.A.F. gold operational wings at a ceremony in Montreal. On returning overseas he was posted to Northern Ireland where he completed a second tour of operations as Bombing Leader of a flying boat squadron. He was discharged with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

After his discharge Fred enrolled at the Ontario Agriculture College in Guelph and graduated in May, 1949 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, a degree in Ornamentals and Landscaping. On June 1, 1949 he accepted the position of Provincial Horticulturist of Manitoba, and held this position to the time of his death in 1976.

Fred brought his practical and scientific knowledge of horticulture, his boundless energy, his sparkling enthusiasm, and his practical organizing ability to the position he filled for 27 years. He was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Manitoba Horticultural Association for 18 years. Many horticultural societies were formed. The programs of the societies and the M.H.A. were enriched. The Stevenson's Memorial Board was organized to recognize plant breeders of note. Home Grounds Competitions gained a new momentum. A Provincial Slide Competition was launched. Exhibitor and Judging Schools were held. Home Landscaping Seminars became effective tools in giving practical assistance to home owners. Under his tutelage the M.H.A. and the horticultural societies of Manitoba made excellent progress. The M.H.A. recognized his contributions and made him an Honorary Life Member in 1967.

The vegetable industry was in sad disarray. In 1953 Fred was instrumental in helping to organize the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba. He was its first Secretary-Treasurer. Later, as ex-officio director, he helped shape this organization and its future. Next came the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association, organized in 1956, and again he was its first secretary-treasurer. Fred was a charter member of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture and was a director and president of this society in 1961-62. His contributions to the work of this society were recognized when he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership.

Just three years after coming to Manitoba, Fred became a member of the Planning Committee of the International Peace Garden. He was instrumental in establishing the M.H.A. Arboretum in the Peace Garden. Fred also was active in helping to form the Manitoba Horticultural Council in 1968. He was a member of the International Shade Tree Conference, the International Shade Tree Conference-Canada, the Ontario Shade Tree Council, and a member and director of the American Society for Horticultural Science. As member and past chairman of the Great Plains Region, American Society for Horticultural Science, he helped plan its programs.

Fred has an eye towards the future. The devastating effect of Dutch Elm disease in other areas worried him. In order to plan for the prevention and eventual control of this disease, he helped form the Manitoba Advisory Committee for Tree Protection. As chairman of this committee he was responsible for getting legislation in Manitoba for the control of Dutch elm disease. This is one of his greatest contributions to Manitoba.

In spite of all of these activities Fred found time to prepare numerous horticultural publications for the Department. These were invaluable to the dissemination of horticulture in Manitoba. He was also active in preparing study material for 4-H garden clubs.

When Fred Weir came to Manitoba in 1949, he was the only extension worker in horticulture. Over the years he was able to build up a horticultural team that at the time of his death included a potato specialist, a fruit specialist, a northern horticulturist, and a pathologist.

But Fred still found time for his fine family. He was proud of his wife Betty and their two sons and one daughter. He loved music and enjoyed his organ playing. In his church he was active in the choir, as Sunday school teacher and as a member of the church board. Golf, music and photography were amongst his hobbies.

When Fred Weir died in 1976, this province lost one of the greatest horticulturists as well as one of the finest human

beings it has ever known. His contributions and his memory will live on.

In Memoriam For Fred Weir

(Provincial Horticulturist for 27 years)

He's crossed the bar,
He's reached the final goal,
He is up there. Christ has prepared a place
Where angels are
And heavenly cymbals toll:
It's there he'll meet his maker face to face.

We'll miss the smile.
We'll miss the helping hand,
He was a servant who would always go
The second mile;
He gave unto our land
As fine a standard as we'll ever know.

There was so much
to this so tiny man:
Love for his wife, concern for family,
The human touch
Would lead our Fred to plan
A nobler life for all humanity.
He planned ahead
And future folks will see
For years to come the landscapes that he planned.
Yes, this man had
An eye for symmetry,
For harmony . . . he beautified our land.

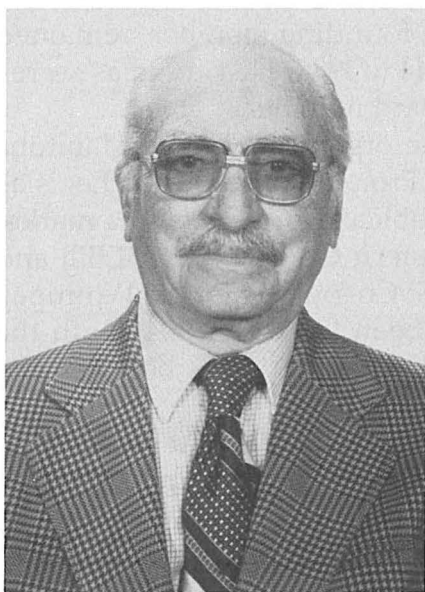
And he inspired
So many a kindred soul,
He was a little colonel who could lead.
He never tired,
And many an honor scroll
Brought unsought honor for so many a deed.
With music blessed
He touched the ivories
Expressing depths of feeling he could show

His hands caressed
The organ's tinkling keys
Setting the hearts of listeners aglow.
He loved to sing,
His voice was full and strong;
Yes, he found time to join the church's choir.
And he could bring
A joy into a song,
It's joy like this that truly can inspire.
And he found time
To teach the golden rule,
To teach the precepts of a nobler goal:
Of life sublime.
He taught his Sunday School,
And he inspired new visions in so many a soul.
Life was so full
Of beauty and of fun
And laughter was Fred's way to set it free.
Yes, he could pull
So many a joke or pun
To fill his listening audience with glee.
And Fred could cry,
He was so full of care,
Tears of compassion often wet his face.
And he would try
Another's grief to share,
To bring relief like that is heavenly grace.
And yet our Fred
Showed deep humility,
He was not one to set himself on high.
The life he led
(A man of service he)
Is an example for which all should try.
And now he's gone,
We feel the void so much
Because there was so much he gave to life.
His work is done.
No longer pain may touch

This wondrous man — this is the end of strife.
God rest his soul,
And though our tears may fall,
We should be filled with joy and thankfulness,
We should extol
The heavenly Lord for all
Fred gave so richly all our lives to bless.

P. J. Peters

W. S. "Bill" Nebozenko



W. S. Nebozenko.

Bill, the second child of Steve Nebozenko of Narol, was born on October 3, 1904. He attended primary school at Narol and high school at St. Johns Technical School in Winnipeg. In 1933 he married Mary Dorturkala of Winnipeg. In 1934 Bill and his wife began farming in Narol. He was engaged in mixed farming with vegetables as the main crop.

Steve Nebozenko, Bill's father, ran a mixed farming operation and also grew vegetables and potatoes. As a young lad Bill would accompany his parents on their trips to the Farmers' Markets in Winnipeg. He saw the difficulties involved in selling produce in an unorganized market. It was at an early age that Bill resolved that something must be done

to develop as orderly marketing program. His father Steve shared this resolve with his son. That is why Steve became a director of the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Co-op. This Co-op began operating a wholesale and retail market off Main Street, known as the Northend Farmers' Market. Bill became a director of this Co-op in 1938. Even in those early years this co-op approached government with resolutions asking for orderly marketing. In 1944 the members of the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op formed a holding company known as the Growers' Co-op Buildings Ltd. to administer the Northend Market which by then was basically a retail market. Bill, a founding member, remained with this organization from 1944 to 1982. He served as secretary-treasurer and also as a board member.

In 1947 Bill was one of the organizers of the Manitoba Seed Potato Growers' Co-op. From an office in the Legislative Buildings he worked to publicize and develop a market for seed potatoes in all of Western Canada. In 1951 Bill and other members of the M.V.P.G. Co-op, joined the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op which had been formed in 1947 with the resolve to help straighten out the differences between the two co-ops.

Bill started to grow seed potatoes in 1946. At one time he together with Steve and Tony Kaminski grew up to 100 acres of seed potatoes in East St. Paul. In 1949 Bill and Mary moved their operation from Narol to Portage la Prairie. He continued in the production of seed potatoes, specializing in the sale of seed potato eyes through T & T Seeds.

In 1953 the V.G.A.M. was born and Bill was one of the founding directors. He was president in 1964 and 1965. Most of his energies were directed to orderly marketing. He served on the Provincial Marketing Board from 1972 to 1979. He also was the V.G.A.M. representative on the Manitoba Farm Bureau. No one was happier to see the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Board come into being than Bill Nebozenko. It was like a dream come true. It was only fitting that the V.G.A.M. recognize his contributions to the industry by presenting him with an Honorary Life Membership in 1972.

Bill also participated in other community activities. He

was a school trustee at Narol and also a trustee of the Wassagaming Foundation at Clear Lake. Several trophies give evidence of his participation in the potato competitions at the Brandon Winter Fair. Bill and Mary are retired now. They love to fish at their cottage north of Dauphin. You may be sure that potatoes will always be served along with the fried pickerel.

J. A. "Jack" Menzies



Prof. J. A. Menzies.

Jack was born in Morden, Manitoba in 1923. He was the second child of Dr. Adam and Mrs. Menzies. Dr. Menzies was a well known physician of that community. Jack received his primary and secondary education in Morden where he graduated with a Grade XII diploma in 1944. He worked at the Morden Experimental Station in summer and enrolled in the agricultural degree course at the University of Manitoba that fall. Here he studied for two years. During the summers he was employed at the Morden Station.

In 1943 Jack enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and became Navigator-Bombardier. He served in the European theatre of war until 1946 and rose to the rank of Flying Officer. In 1946, before he returned to Canada, he married Terry Griffin.

After his return he worked at the Experimental Farm in summer and then returned to the U. of M. to continue his studies. He graduated from the University with a B.S.A. degree with specialization in horticulture in 1948. The Kennedy Prize in Horticulture was given to him at the convocation.

The next four years, from 1948 to 1952, Jack spent in graduate studies under Drs. Schneider and Wilcox at the University of Minnesota, St. Pauls, Min. Much of his time was devoted to pomological studies. His thesis major was Horticulture and his minor in Plant Breeding and Genetics.

The year 1952 saw this native Manitoban return to the U. of M. as Assistant Professor of Horticulture. Prof. E. T. Andersen was head of horticulture at the time. Besides lecturing, Jack had the fields of potato breeding and fruit culture assigned to him. At the time the horticultural division carried on an extensive potato breeding project. Much time was spent in the evaluation of seedlings. One of these was named Manota but is no longer grown. Variety and early potato tests were conducted at the University and in farmers' fields. A test orchard was planted and small fruit varieties evaluated. At publication time Prof. Menzies continues at the University, but his work area has been shifted.

Since coming to the University, Jack has been a faithful member of the W.C.S.H. His greatest input has been in the work of the Potato Committee, now the Prairie Potato Council. In 1973-74 he served as president of the W.C.S.H.

It is in the area of extension that Prof. Menzies, Jack to all potato growers, has contributed greatly to the development of the potato industry in Manitoba. He worked closely with the Provincial Potato Specialist and the V.G.A.M. to help solve the many cultural problems in potatoes. His expertise in this field was well known and highly respected. No convention of the V.G.A.M. was complete without a paper or two presented by Jack. He was always ready to assist individual growers with their problems. This is why the V.G.A.M. honored him with an Honorary Life Membership in 1977.

Prof. Menzies and wife Terry live in Fort Garry. They

have a family of two. Son Michael is taking his Master's studies in French. Daughter Allison, now Mrs. Hamington, was involved in journalism and social work for some time.

In 1970. Prof Menzies received The Order of the Gate from Fort Garry for his involvement with clubs, church and park work and horticulture societies. Jack died of cancer in 1987.

M. J. "Mike" Gowryluk



Mr. M. J. Gowryluk.

Mike Gowryluk was born at Gonor, Manitoba in 1909. His parents, John and Anna Gowryluk, came to Canada in 1904 and several years later established themselves on a mixed farm in the Gonor area. Mike went to school at Kirkness and Selkirk. At the age of 18 he went to work in a gravel pit and saved his meagre earnings to buy land for himself. Two important events took place in 1935. Mike married Kathleen Beliak and the young couple started their own farming operation. It was a mixed farming enterprise with 4 acres of potatoes as a specialty crop. His first potato digger was drawn by one horse. The land on his farm was rocky and heavy. Returns were small and so Mike turned to other kinds of work to help their income. He ran a sawmill in the Birds Hill area and baled hay and straw for other people. Over the years he also built and sold some 16 homes.

But potato growing was really Mike's first love. He believed in cooperative marketing and joined the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Association. When the group formed the Growers' Buildings Co-op Ltd., he also joined it as a share holder. He became a director of both of the above. When the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Association ceased to function, Mike joined the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op. What bothered Mike was that the grower's voice carried little weight in the market place. When the V.G.A.M. was formed in 1953, Mike became one of its strongest supporters. He was on the first board of directors and president of the V.G.A.M. in 1960 and 1961. His main concern was that the interests of the small growers would be looked after. No one was happier than Mike when the grower marketing board was finally established.

Mike's potato acreage quickly increased. In 1950 he began to grow certified potatoes. But the stony terrain and the heavy land he farmed on made mechanization difficult. He looked around for more suitable land and finally, in 1963, moved his potato enterprise from Kirkness to Holland, Man. Here his potato business grew. His sons, Gregory and Garry, became partners in the enterprise. Mike is retired but the business is in good hands. His sons fully support the V.G.A.M. Gregory is on the board of directors and was V.G.A.M. president in 1980 and 1981.

Mike and Kathleen had three sons and now there are also 10 grandchildren. When Kathleen died, Mike did some travelling. He visited Israel, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany and France. He remarried in 1978 and built a home close to Highway 59, opposite to Birds Hill Park. They are close to the environment Mike grew up in. There are, however, frequent trips to Holland to see the boys and their potatoes. Mike still talks and dreams about potatoes.

In 1978 the V.G.A.M. honored Mike Gowryluk with its Honorary Life Membership. The Association rated his contributions to the Manitoba vegetable and potato industry as worthy of this honor. And rightly so.

Steve Kaminski

Steve Kaminski was born at Narol, Manitoba in 1906. His



Mr. Steve Kaminski.

parents, Lucas and Anastasia Kaminski, had emigrated from the Ukraine to Canada in 1900. Lucas did mixed farming and also grew vegetables.

Steve attended school at Narol and in Winnipeg. Before he was 18, Steve's wanderlust took him to the neighboring states. He worked in the automobile industry in Detroit and Lansing, Michigan and later in Milwaukee. It was here that his Manitoba sweetheart, Anna Roscoe from Melrose, joined him and the two got married.

In 1932 the young couple came back to Manitoba. Two years later Steve began farming, growing vegetables and Steve did some trucking to Saskatchewan to help out his finances. He remembers taking loads of cucumbers to the Dyson Pickling Plant and sometimes coming back with the load because there was no sale for them. At one stage he specialized in growing Dutch set onions for McKenzies at Brandon. Other vegetables would be sold through the Northend Market and to wholesalers. Steve's main crop was potatoes. He grew seed potatoes with his brother and Bill Nebozenko. As a side line, Steve and his brother ran a mink ranch.

From the beginning Steve realized that growers had to

work together to obtain rightful returns for their produce. He joined the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Cooperative and later the Growers' Buildings Cooperative. He was on the board of directors and for some years the president of the board. When the V.G.A.M. was organized in 1953, Steve actively participated on many of its committees. His concern was the establishment of a marketing system that would benefit the small grower.

In 1960 Steve grew potatoes in partnership with the Mulder Brothers at Carberry. In 1961 J. Simplot Co. built its potato processing plant at Carberry. Steve was asked to become Farm Manager for the procurement of raw materials for the company. When Simplot became Carnation, Steve continued in this position. Quite a responsible position for this quiet, hard-working, and efficient potato grower from East St. Paul. He retired in 1972 and moved back to Winnipeg.

Steve was always community-minded. He served on the Central East St. Paul School Board for 9 years. He further served as councillor of East St. Paul for 20 years and was its reeve for 4 years. The Mayors' and Reeves' Association of Greater Winnipeg presented him with a Certificate of Merit for services rendered.

The Kaminski family are proud parents of two sons and one daughter, all married, and also of 9 grandchildren.

The V.G.A.M. at its 1979 convention presented Steve with an Honorary Life Membership for services rendered to the Manitoba vegetable and potato industry. This was an honor well deserved.

W. E. Kroeker

Walter Kroeker has played and continues to play an important role in the development and promotion of the Manitoba vegetable and potato industry. He became involved in the family farm with his father A. A. Kroeker at an early age. Together they established A. A. Kroeker & Sons Ltd., an organization that pioneered in corn and potato production in Manitoba. Later they established a seed clean-



Mr. Walter Kroeker.

ing plant known as Kroeker Seeds Ltd. of which he was president.

But it is for his involvement with the V.G.A.M. and the Canadian Horticultural Council that Manitoba owes him a debt of gratitude. He was an active member and director of Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op. To help stabilize the floundering potato and vegetable industry, he fought long and hard to create a meaningful and effective growers' association. When the V.G.A.M. was formed, he was its first grower president and a director for many years. His clear insight into tariff and trade matters, when he represented the V.G.A.M. on the C.H.C., led to his becoming a director of that organization for many years and its president in 1967. His ability to write briefs and resolutions was soon recognized and he became chairman of the Trade and Tariff Committee for many years. He edited the "History of C.H.C." when it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1972 and received the Award of Merit of Council that same year.

At home, in order to establish orderly marketing, Walter was heavily involved in establishing the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission and when this was changed to the

Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Board was elected director of it. The V.G.A.M. recognized his contribution when Walter received an Honorary Life Membership in it in 1980.

Walter also is an active member of the Winnipeg Rotary Club and the Agriculture Committee of Winnipeg. He is founding director of the Winkler home for the Aged and the Kroeker Foundation and director of the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society and the Canadian Water Resources Association. He was instrumental in establishing radio station CFAM in Altona and is currently president of Golden West Broadcasting Ltd. which now also has broadcasting interests in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta besides Manitoba.

Walter's wife Madeline and their children can well be proud of his contributions to family, to his church, to the vegetable and potato industry and the community at large. No wonder that he also received the Golden Boy Award of this City.

The reader will meet Walter again in the chapter dealing with the Canadian Horticultural Council.

Thomas Albert (Bert) Sandercock

Mr. T. A. Sandercock.



Bert was born at Morden on March 21, 1925. When he was born the Morden Experimental Farm was the hub of

horticultural research in Western Canada. It was here that he acquired a love for horticulture. After graduating from high school in Morden, Bert enrolled in the degree course in Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. He obtained his B.S.A. in 1949 and returned in 1963 for his Masters degree in Agriculture.

After graduating in 1949, Bert worked for the Canadian Forestry Association for a year. From 1950 to 1956 he was employed as Agricultural Representative in Selkirk for the Extension Service of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. When the expanding vegetable industry of Manitoba required the services of a Vegetable Specialist in 1956, Bert applied for the position and joined the Horticultural Section that year.

Those were the years of turmoil in the Manitoba Vegetable Industry. The Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission was formed and went through a period of strife. Bert's diplomatic capability was recognized and in 1968 he was involved in the management of the Commission. Bert's understanding of and his belief in the future of the vegetable industry of the province, led him to work with growers in the development of new techniques for old crops and the investigation of new crops. His ability to communicate with growers, coupled with patience, resulted in many positive changes. As a result of his work, Manitoba vegetable producers are amongst the most progressive in the country.

Always the diplomat, Bert was instrumental in establishing good grower and trade liaison. He was active in the V.G.A.M. Fact Finding Committee and in the joint grower and trade Salad Week promotions. These two ventures actually led to the formation of the Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association. Since 1960 he has been the Government of Manitoba representative on C.H.C. Since 1956 and to date he is an Associate Director of the V.G.A.M. Bert was on the planning committee that set up the unique Produce Managers' Training Course.

Bert is an active member of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists and the Agricultural Institute of Canada. He fully participates in the work of the Western Canadian Soci-

ety for Horticulture and was its president in 1979. In 1980 he was a member of the Core Committee for the review of horticultural research in Western Canada. The Manitoba Horticultural Council knows him as an active participant and past president. Bert is presently the Chief of the Horticultural Section of the Soils and Crops Branch, a position he assumed in 1976.

The community of Selkirk knows Bert Sandercock as an active participant in community affairs. He is an Honorary Member of the Kinsman Club of Selkirk. He also swings a mean golf club.

Bert is a family man. In 1950 he married Ella Eiriksson. The two are the proud parents of three children — Shelly, Blair and Garth.

In 1981 the V.G.A.M. paid tribute to Bert by presenting him with an Honorary Life Membership. This was an honor richly deserved.

Jim Coulter

Mr. Jim Coulter.



The outstanding and unselfish service to the vegetable industry that Jimmy Coulter has rendered over the years was

recognized at the last V.G.A.M. convention when he received an Honorary Life Membership from that association. A fitting honor this for a stalwart member of the industry.

Jim was born of Scottish parents and has been a resident of this area all his life. He, and his parents before him, operated a vegetable and seed enterprise in North Kildonan and Lydiatt, Manitoba. A few years ago he moved to Vivian where he is involved in growing radishes and lettuce on peat soils. For many years Jim supplied potato eyes to Eatons which were sold for garden plots. Throughout his life he has displayed a keen interest in grower organizations, particularly in the area of orderly marketing. He has demonstrated himself to be a fair and honest person, one who was always willing to go the second mile and one who often sacrificed personal gain in order to help others. Jim, and his late brother Bill, pioneered many techniques in production and storage of vegetable and seed crops. The Coulters were always interested in promoting their industry and faithfully participated in exhibitions and fairs at which they won a roomful of ribbons, awards and trophies.

In 1966 Jim was a successful candidate in the Bank of Montreal Leadership Awards and was given a trip to Europe. This was recognition for his genuine concern for his immediate community as well as the community of market gardeners at large. His excellence as a farmer, his leading role in organizing and fostering sports activities, his participation in youth activities as leader of 4-H potato clubs, his active role in schoolboard work and his faithful service to his church were thus recognized. As president of the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op and later of Gardeners Sales he showed his leadership and executive ability and his absolute fairness. He certainly was a most worthy candidate for this high award.

When the Manitoba Government created the Manitoba Potato Marketing Commission, Jim was appointed a member of this Commission. When this Commission was enlarged to include other vegetables, he was reappointed to it. The Commission now changed into The Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board. From its inception until he

resigned in 1982 Jim has been an elected member of the Board, serving it as director as well as chairman for many years. But he still found time to get involved in the Big Brothers organization.

Yes, Jim Coulter and his wife Lillian have served their community and Manitoba well.

Dick Mulder

Mr. Dick Mulder.



In the beautiful and spacious home of Dick and Velma Mulder on Henderson Highway, a home built by vegetables, initiative and daring, the editor took a trip down memory lane with them. Dick, the son of an immigrant Dutch vegetable grower, was born in Holland in 1923 while his parents were visiting their old homeland. Dick's father, Gerrit Mulder came to Canada in 1913 where he eked out a hard living working at any jobs he could get. Eventually he worked for a Mr. Kooyman, a successful Dutch vegetable grower, and learned the trade from him. He rented some land and, with the help of a brother who came to Canada in 1919, Gerrit struck out on his own. Lot 74 in East St. Paul became his permanent home place. Here he married in 1920 and raised a family of three boys, Everett, Dick and George, two girls, Areen and Nellie, as well as vegetables.

Dick attended school in East St. Paul and Birds Hill and obtained a Grade 11 standing. While attending school he worked on his father's garden. After graduating, Dick worked in a variety of places. In 1946 he married Velma Stople and soon after, he and brother Everett, settled on a 40 acre piece of land at Lot 71 in East St. Paul. Here the two, with their families, established a thriving vegetable business. They built greenhouses for their own transplants and grew crops of Spanish onions, tomatoes, celery, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumbers and others with considerable success. They marketed their produce directly to wholesalers until 1962, when they joined Gardeners Sales.

As the operation was too small to sustain two families, Dick and Everett became involved in trucking manure to many market gardeners. They also hauled gravel and this eventually put them into the construction business. This proved to be a successful venture, one in which they are involved to this day.

Mechanization on the heavy Red River clays is next to impossible. As early as in 1957, Dick, Everett and their friend, Steve Kaminski, had often discussed the possibility of growing vegetables and potatoes on lighter soils. Many sites where this might be feasible were investigated. In 1959 the three formed Carberry Farms Ltd. and started growing potatoes for the fresh market at Carberry. At that time Simplot was investigating the possibility of setting up a potato processing plant in Manitoba. Simplot was impressed in the operation of Carberry Farms Ltd. and this helped in making Carberry the location for their new plant. In 1960 Simplot purchased Carberry Farms Ltd. and hired Steve Kaminski as field manager. Simplot needed potato growers at Carberry and encouraged the Mulder brothers to again grow potatoes in the area. This led to the formation of A & M Potato Growers Ltd., a three-way partnership of Dick, Everett and Tony Aadriensen. This partnership was dissolved in 1978 when Tony Aadriensen and his sons bought out the Mulders' shares. The Aadriensens now grow up to 1200 acres of seed and processing potatoes.

In 1960 the Mulders also purchased some land near

Portage la Prairie and began to move their vegetable operation to there from East St. Paul. By 1963 the complete operation had been moved. Here they specialized in crops like onions, celery, cauliflower, cabbage, and rutabagas. John Douma was farm manager. This operation was sold to two Dutch growers in 1982.

In 1979, Dick and Everett got into the potato growing once again, this time under the name of Mulder Farms Ltd. at Portage la Prairie. Here they grew potatoes for the newly established McCain plant. This operation, too, has now been sold.

Dick's community involvement, outside of the vegetable area, has taken many forms. He was on the School Board for 9 years, a Municipal Councillor for 9 years, a member of the East St. Paul Community Club and the Home and School Association, a John Black United Church elder and a member of the Winnipeg Rotary Club. He further was President of Mulder Bros. Sand and Gravel Ltd., President of the American Public Works Association and a director of Manitoba Roadbuilders.

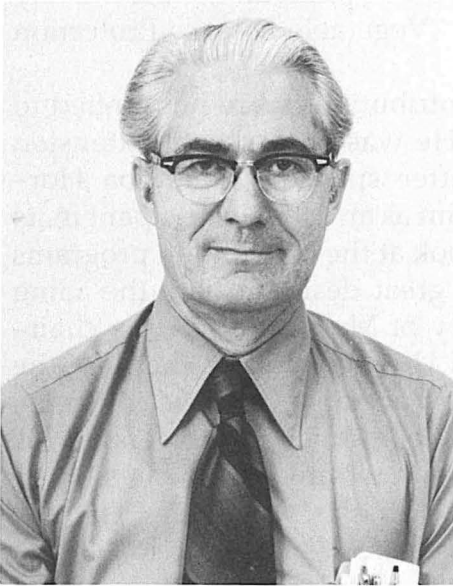
Dick and Val are the proud parents of Donald, a civil engineer, Brenda Lee, a chartered accountant and Barry, an electrical engineer. All three are now married. The Mulders are world travellers. Their trips have led them to Japan and around the world, to Holland, twice to Russia, twice to Europe, twice to Australia and New Zealand and once to Brazil and Argentina. Many of these trips were associated with agricultural investigations.

But it is Dick's contribution to the development and stabilization of the Manitoba potato and vegetable industry that is of greatest importance in this book. Dick and Everett, through their innovative approach to vegetable and potato growing in new production areas, along with others, helped attract processing firms to locate in Manitoba. Dick was a keen supporter of orderly marketing. When the V.G.A.M. was formed, he was one of its strong supporters. As a director and as V.G.A.M. president in 1958-59, he helped the industry to achieve its goal of a Producers' Marketing Board. His concern was that marketing should be to the good of all

producers. Another concern was the establishment of good liaison with the trade channels, so necessary for the development of a sound industry. When the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board came into being, Dick was one of its directors from 1965 to 1981.

The V.G.A.M., at its Hort. Industry Days convention held in Winnipeg in November, 1982, recognized Dick Mulder's great contributions to the Manitoba vegetable industry, by bestowing an Honorary Life Membership on him. This was an honor well deserved.

Dr. E. T. Andersen



Dr. E. T. Andersen.

Emil Andersen spent only 12 years of his professional life in Manitoba. His contributions to the horticultural development in this province, however, were many.

He was born at Binquille, Alberta in 1917. His studies took him to the University of Alberta in Edmonton where he obtained his B.Sc. in Agriculture in 1941 and an M.Sc. in Horticulture in 1943. Following his graduation he became Research Officer in charge of horticultural research at the Experimental Farm, Lethbridge, Alberta.

In 1944 Emil Andersen accepted the position of Assistant Professor, Division of Plant Science, University of Manitoba.

Here he was in charge of all horticultural research and teaching. In 1948 he rose in rank to Associate Professor, a position he held until 1956 when he left the University of Manitoba for the University of Minnesota. While at the University of Manitoba Emil not only taught and directed the horticultural research, he also advised and directed the master's research programs of nine graduate students who received M.Sc. degrees. The most meaningful Manitoba Potato Breeding Program was directly under his charge. During these years he wrote several articles for scientific journals and also published several bulletins. The most notable were "Raspberry Growing in Manitoba", "Strawberry Growing in Manitoba", and "Vegetable Disease Protection Calendar for Manitoba".

But E. T. Andersen's contributions were not limited to his work at the University. He was an excellent extension man and a much sought-after speaker. Manitoba Horticultural Association knew him as an active participant in its programs over the years. A look at the convention programs verifies this fact. Emil had a great desire to help the ailing potato and vegetable industry of Manitoba. He was chairman and president of the M.H.A. committee that laid the plans for the formation of the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba. The vegetable and potato growers of this province owe a debt of gratitude to him for the far-sighted planning of their association. That is why the V.G.A.M. honored him with its Honorary Life Membership in 1983.

Emil has had a most successful career since he left Manitoba. He rose from staff instructor to Assistant Professor and finally Associate Professor in Horticulture at the University of Minnesota. Here he obtained his Ph.D. in Horticulture in 1962. Dr. Andersen was at the University of Minnesota from 1957 to 1966. In 1967 he became Chief Research Scientist in charge of the Production and Breeding Research Unit of the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario at the Vineland Station. In 1981 he assumed the position of Chief Research Scientist in charge of the Horticultural Products Laboratory at the same station, a position he held to his retirement in 1983.

It is not within the scope of this book to list all of Dr. Andersen's accomplishments since he left Manitoba. The province is indebted to him for his contributions while he was here. Emil is married to Anne Huska, a registered nurse. The Andersens have two sons and one daughter.

SUMMERTIME IN MANITOBA

(Tune — Im schönsten Wiesengrunde)

In sunny Manitoba
It's happy summertime.
The woods, the lakes, the hillsides
are so sublime.

Summertime is here
Sing it loud and clear.
The woods, the lakes, the hillsides
are so sublime.

Come trek the luscious woodland.
Enjoy the speckled shade.
You'll hear the happy songbirds
Sing in the glade.

Summertime is here.
Sing it loud and clear.
You'll hear the happy songbirds
Sing in the glade.

The lakes are so inviting.
They sparkle in the sun.
Come join the throngs enjoying
the beachside fun.

Summertime is here.
Sing it loud and clear.
Come join the throngs enjoying
the beachside fun.

And on a summer's evening
How wonderful to rest
and see the sunset's glory,
the glowing West.

Summertime is here.
Sing it loud and clear.
Come see the sunset's glory,
The glowing West.

* * *

CHAPTER VIII

PROMOTION AND MARKETING

THE REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SALAD WEEK

Salad Week was first introduced into Western Canada as a food industry merchandizing project in 1935. Prior to that year Kraft Foods Limited introduced Kraft Salad Week as a company sales promotion. Mr. W. V. Adams, Sales Manager for Canada of Kraft Foods, suggested to F. W. Tees, Editor of the *Prairie Grocer and Provisioner*, that he and his publication could perform a notable service to all the food trade in sponsoring Salad Week in Western Canada, and organizing the food trade at all levels to participate in full measure. Mr. Tees agreed, and with the support of his company, the *Prairie Grocer and Provisioner* designated the week of July 1 to 6, 1935 to be Salad Week in Western Canada. All facets of the trade were contacted. The *Prairie Grocer and Provisioner* distributed free of charge many thousands of display streamers. Retail outlets featured displays of salad foods headlined by these streamers. The first Salad Week was a success.

Salad Week promotion aroused greatly increased trade participation year by year. The *Prairie Grocer and Provisioner* featured publication of many salad making recipes. This served a very useful purpose in promoting the sale not of vegetables only, but also of fruits, meat products, cheeses and other salad dressings. Salad Week carried on with increasing participation until wartime marketing regulations and restrictions halted all such effort in 1941.

Salad Week was renewed in 1951 under the joint spon-

sorship of the Canadian Horticultural Council and the Canadian Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association on a Dominion-wide scale and was featured as Canadian Salad Week. The C.H.C. and the C.F.W.A. shared joint offices and secretarial staff. J. R. Burns was appointed secretary of the Salad Committee for all Canada. Co-Chairmen of the Committee were W. Daman, Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission, and M. Blidner, Dominion Citrus Fruit Co. Ltd. of Toronto. Seven Regional Committees were established, four for Western Canada. The Manitoba Committee was chaired by Ken Todd of Scott Fruit. The National Salad Week Committee projected the overall program for Salad Week, while the Regional Committees adapted this to the special needs for their areas. Salad Week was quickly re-established as a highly important and very worthwhile merchandizing promotion. The timing of Salad Week was changed to the last week in July and into the first week in August with the idea of lending support to local market gardeners in all parts of Canada.

A great deal of credit for the success of Salad Week promotion must go to Gardeners Sales Ltd., a Grower-Wholesaler organization, formed when the Winnipeg Gardeners Coop Ltd. and the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Coop were amalgamated in 1956. Under the guiding influence of W. Daman and Jim Coulter Gardeners Sales developed marketing concepts based on promotion and quality of product. "Peak of the Market" was their brand. They established good relations for Manitoba growers with the wholesale and retail trade. It was their leadership that was of great importance to the success of the Salad Week promotions. When the Manitoba Potato and Vegetable Marketing Board came into being it took over the promotional functions of Gardeners Sales and continues in active support of Salad Week in Manitoba.

The Government of Manitoba made a substantial contribution to the success of Salad Week. Assistance by developing recipe booklets, demonstrations by home economists at fairs and on T.V., films on Manitoba produce, T.V. and radio tapes and clips, etc. and the many hours of work done by

qualified personnel are just a few examples of this support.

Over the years many novel ideas have been used in promoting Salad Week. Salad Queens were selected annually. Beautiful vegetable floats led parades through Winnipeg streets. To get the message across to people, the Salad Queen took part in the Red River Exhibition and helped man a booth at it. Contests were held for Mrs. Consumer to submit her favorite recipe. Winners were awarded valuable prizes. Then there was a "Name the Salad" contest. Retailers were encouraged to set up sales displays which were judged. The winners were awarded prizes and had the benefit of good publicity in the press, on radio and T.V. One year a salad lunch for underprivileged children was given. Hotels and restaurants were supplied with colorfully illustrated place mats designed to portray the appetite appeal of fresh salads. The Salad Bowl football game and the Salad Bowl feature race at Assiniboia Downs were other features. A salad seminar for restaurant and institutional personnel was organized. Brochures prepared by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and featuring the use of Manitoba fruits and vegetables were widely distributed.

All of the above features lent themselves to good favorable publicity by all of the news media. They aided the sale of Manitoba produce, increased the sales for retailers and wholesalers alike, and made the consumer aware of the health giving food products of Manitoba. Salad Month was and continues to be an example of what can be achieved through planned and cooperative action.

FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE FOR THE WINNIPEG VEGETABLE INDUSTRY

A viable potato and vegetable industry is dependent on the close co-operation between the producers and the wholesale and retail channels. Some progressive growers had banded together in 1947 to form the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op and to establish the basic principles of co-operative marketing and promotion of their produce. This created an awareness in the trade that Manitoba could produce and market quality vegetables. The co-operative efforts of Gar-

deners Sales Ltd. (the former Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op), the Wholesale and Retail Trade, and the Manitoba Department of Agriculture resulted in the successful Salad Week promotions. In spite of this, the trade often brought in imported produce just when the locally grown crops came on the market. The response to the complaints of growers given by the trade was that the trade did not have the knowledge as to when and in what amounts a crop in Manitoba would come onto the market. This was a fully justified complaint.

To resolve this problem, W. Daman of Gardeners Sales Ltd. called a meeting to organize a "Fact-Finding Committee For The Winnipeg Vegetable and Fruit Industry". This organizational meeting was called on June 28, 1956 and was attended by representatives of the following: Western Grocers, Rogers Fruit, United-Universal Fruit Ltd., Scott Fruit Co., Jansen Bros., Macdonald's Consolidated Ltd., Gardeners' Sales Ltd., and three representatives of the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Daman explained that there appeared to be a lack of information as to when the local vegetables and fruits would be available to the retail market. He informed the group that in Toronto, the retailers, wholesalers, grower organizations and Department of Agriculture representatives meet approximately once a week to discuss the local situation. This seems to have worked well in helping to dispose of local produce. He suggested that a similar program should be started in Manitoba.

Following Mr. Daman's explanation of the purpose of this meeting, it was opened up for the election of a Chairman and a Secretary. Mr. Daman was elected as Chairman and Mr. T. A. Sandercock, Provincial Vegetable Specialist, as Secretary. It was decided by the meeting to hold half-hour meetings every Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in the Rogers Fruit committee room to discuss the supply of local vegetables and fruit. To have the greatest amount of information available at these meetings, it was hoped that several members of the committee would find it convenient to make a survey of the current situation as close to the hour of meeting as possible. Mr. Daman and the Secretary hoped to

make a short tour every Wednesday afternoon. They invited others to participate in these tours with them. Extension personnel would assist in supplying the needed information. Committee members would be sent notice of the Wednesday meetings and also a copy of the reports given at the meetings.

The Chairman and Secretary next gave a report of the produce presently available as well as forecasts as to when other crops would be coming onto the market.

Thus ended the organizational meeting of the Fact-Finding Committee. A perusal of the minutes of the committee shows that it met on a regular basis during the promotion season until 1966. After that the Vegetable Marketing Commission took over this function of supply forecasting. When the V.G.A.M. was formed in 1953, it fully supported the Fact-Finding Committee in its work. V.G.A.M. directors would often attend meetings. Other matters of concern were also dealt with. Grading, new containers and container sizes, and produce promotions found their place on the agenda. Growers were apprized of the work of the Fact-Finding Committee through the Spud News and also through reports given at the annual V.G.A.M. convention. The greatest benefit of this committee's work, however, lay in the fact that it brought members of the Wholesale trade together and resulted in the formation of the Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association. The growing and selling industry of this province had learned that working together as a team was to everyone's benefit.

MANITOBA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE WHOLESALESAERS' ASSOCIATION

The marketing of fruits and vegetables is one of the most competitive industries. The importance of the fresh fruit and vegetable department of any store or modern supermarket is beyond dispute. It gives the selling place character and reputation. Because of the perishable nature of the produce, it is important that the supplier or wholesaler have his finger on current supply situations of both imported and local



End of Fruit Row . . . End of an Era . . . September 1974

supplies. Because of the improved modern communication channels via telex, the information on imported vegetable and fruit products, was readily available. This, however, was not the case when it came to local vegetables and potatoes. Because of this lack of knowledge of when and in what quantity they might be available, wholesalers and retailers often bypassed the local produce to the great detriment of provincial producers.

The unsettled state of the local industry was partially the fault of local growers. They were unorganized, competing against one another and their performance was judged on the basis of the often poorly-graded produce that some of them brought to the market place. A few of the local wholesalers took advantage of this in order to turn over a quick buck. While this happened, the majority of good growers and good wholesalers stood helplessly by. Some growers' organizations, desirous of changing this situation were formed over the years. The stories of the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Co-op, the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op, and Gardeners Sales Ltd. are related in a previous chapter in this book. Their presence improved the situation,

but did not really solve the basic problems for local producers.

During the fifties, the Manitoba Department of Agriculture called many a meeting of wholesalers, retailers and growers in order to stress the importance of the local vegetable and potato industry. These meetings often helped to move local surpluses, especially in problem years. The formation of the V.G.A.M. proved to the trade that the growers were anxious to set their own house in order and that they were ready, willing and able to establish better liaison with the selling trade.

No formal organization of the fruit and vegetable wholesalers of Manitoba existed at this time. There appeared to be more cooperation between growers and wholesalers at the national than at the local level. Meaningful progress was made at the Canadian Horticultural Council where both segments were represented. The story of C.H.C. is told in this chapter. Many readers will remember "fruit row" on Ross Avenue in Winnipeg. For nearly half a century a string of warehouses in central Winnipeg were the centre of prairie fruit distribution. The Canadian Fruit Distributors (C.F.D.) periodically called the wholesalers of Winnipeg together to discuss problems of mutual interest. Glenn Florance, Herb Maxwell and Hugh Gunn made the arrangements for three or four meetings a year. The promotional program of "Salad Week", discussed elsewhere in this chapter, proved that cooperative action could be of benefit to all.

An article in the *Western Grocer*, Vol. 45, No. 10, dated October 1960, carried an article headlined "Fruit Row—End of an Era". It told the story of the development of "Fruit Row" over the years. It carried a picture of the fruit row warehouses with the caption: Fruit Row: An institution may be dying. Most of the tenants of fruit row were relocating to other locations. In retrospect it can be said that the year 1960 was not only the "end of an era", but also the "beginning of a new era". In 1960 the Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association (M.F.V.W.A.) came into being.

It was the successful work of the "Fact-Finding Committee for the Winnipeg Vegetable Industry" that began its

work in 1956, that led the wholesalers to form an Association. The story of this committee has already been related in a previous portion of this chapter. It bears repeating, however, that Ken Todd, Bill Daman and Bert Sandercock deserve the credit for the far-reaching results of the Fact-Finding Committee.

The Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association (M.F.V.W.A.) was formed on November 30, 1960. It is the objects of an organization that set the tone and direction which it intends to follow. These were spelled out as follows.

Objects of the M.F.V.W.A.

- * To render trade service to its members.
- * To encourage closer cooperation among members.
- * To encourage closer cooperation between growers and wholesalers, through close liaison of this Association and the V.G.A.M.
- * To support desirable legislation and oppose undesirable legislation.
- * To collect and disseminate information.
- * To promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- * To encourage competition on a fair and ethical plane.

Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association Presidents

1960 — Organizational Meeting
1961 — Cliff Rusen — Charter President
1962 — Cliff Rusen
1963 — Cliff Rusen
1964 — Alf Leonard
1965 — Ken Todd
1966 — Ed Lomow
1967 — Joe Slayen
1968 — Alex Gourluck
1969 — Gary Wagner
1970 — Harry Rubinfeld
1971 — Wilf Jansen
1972 — Wilf Jansen
1973 — Vern McNally
1974 — Neil Pineau
1975 — Neil Pineau
1976 —
1977 — Ron Spencer
1978 —
1979 — Bert Moser
1980 — Gerry Bonin
1981 — Gerry Bonin

1982 —

1983 — Harry Rubinfeld

(Two-year terms starting 1974/75)

1983 M.F.V.W.A. Membership List

Apex Purchasing (Division of Westfair Foods Ltd.)
Assiniboine Mushroom Co.
R. W. Baskerville Trucking Co.
B.C. Tree Fruits Ltd.
Bonar and Bemis Ltd.
Castle and Cooks Foods Ltd.
Chiquita Brands Ltd.
Crescent Fruit Sales Ltd.
Del Monte Banana Co.
Golden National Importers
Jansen Produce Ltd.
Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board
Merchants Consolidated Ltd.
The Codville Company (Division of Oshawa Holdings Ltd.)
Northern Fruit Distributors Ltd.
Pacific Midwestern Trucking Co.
Scott National Co. Ltd.
George Smith Trucking Co.
Stella Produce Co. Ltd.
Sunkist Growers Inc.
Western Grocers (Division of Westfair Foods Ltd.)
J. E. Williams Trucking Inc.
Zenith Transport Ltd.

Secretary-Treasurer . . . Ray Leitch

Two more promotional programs deserve special coverage. One is the Produce Management Training Course and the other the "Fresh for Flavor" program. These are covered in the following pages.

The Manitoba vegetable and potato industry is deeply indebted to the M.F.V.W.A. for its support. The industry approach speaks well for the future.

FRESH FOR FLAVOR

The Fresh of Flavor Foundation, launched in 1972, is a

national, non-profit organization, dedicated to the increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by Canadians and the increase of the production rate by Canadian producers. It is a promotional body made up of representatives from all segments of the industry, the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers' Association and the Canadian Horticultural Council. A schedule of promotions is operated by Regional Committees organized in the main marketing regions across the country. These promotions involve commodity groups, wholesale and retail representatives, and the Provincial Marketing sections.

The Foundation is funded by the sponsoring organizations as well as individual growers' groups, wholesalers, retailers and associated companies interested in the development of the fresh produce industry. The Federal Government has been involved with the Foundation by providing initial financial assistance through the Agricultural Marketing Development Assistance Program. Provincial Departments of Agriculture have supported the Foundation financially particularly at the Regional level, and through active participation in promotional activities by staff members.

The Foundation is unique in several ways. Firstly, because of the dual nature of its structure, as an instrument of the two organizations, C.F.W.A. and C.H.C., the Foundation can draw support and participation from producer and trade and coordinate their interests in one objective. These two organizations were very much aware of the great potential to increase the usage of fresh fruits and vegetables by the Canadian consumers, and in a joint operation formed the Foundation to spearhead a marketing program that would increase the fresh industry's share of the food dollar. The Foundation operates under the guidance of a Board of Governors made up of senior executives with national reputations in the produce industry. Six represent the C.H.C. and six the C.F.W.A. Together they represent the main marketing regions across the country.

Secondly, the Fresh of Flavor Foundation has a further dimension that adds to its uniqueness and its value as a

marketing structure. In addition to its national scope, the Foundation has firmly rooted itself in every major economic area across the country by the organization of Regional Committees. These committees are made up of representatives from grower groups, wholesalers, retail chains and Provincial Marketing Branches. Working to sell more produce, these committees meet in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Their function is to plan and execute the operation of national activities in each region. In addition the Committees originate, fund and launch regional promotions based on local requirements and production. Most committees raise substantial funds each year for regional promotions and in support of national promotions.

The Fresh for Flavor Foundation can therefore be called a unique organization. A study of the organizational chart of the Manitoba Committee demonstrates the degree of involvement of various promotional sub-committees as well as the contacts with the media, marketing boards and the national office.

Manitoba F.F.F. Executive Committee

(This consists of 12 members, plus event chairman)

The Executive has direct liaison with the following:

- * Manitoba Vegetable Board Marketing Committee.
- * Manitoba Department of Agriculture Marketing Branch.
- * Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association.
- * F.F.F. Director of National Office in Ottawa.
- * F.F.F. Board of Governors in Ottawa.

Informational liaison is maintained with the following:

- * Key Media People: Newspapers, Magazines, TV and Radio.
- * Consumers' Association of Canada, Canadian Agricultural Council.
- * Hotel-Motel Association.
- * Provincial Home Economists.
- * Schools, Business etc.

At present there are 10 major sub-committees on the books of the F.F.F. Manitoba Region. These:

1. Winter Stew Committee — chaired by Veg. Bd. Member.

2. Citrus Month Committee — chaired by Sunkist Rep.
3. Apple Month Committee — chaired by local Rep. of B.C.T.F.
4. Canadian Grapes Committee — chaired by Service Wholesaler.
5. California Strawberry Committee — chaired by Service Wholesaler.
6. Salad Month Committee — co-chaired by Allied Industry and Vegetable Board Member.
7. Manitoba Early Potato Committee — chaired by Potato Bd. Member.
8. Manitoba Food Products Event — chaired by Veg. Bd. Member.
9. Harvest Festival Committee — chaired by Veg. Bd. Member.
10. Emergency Promotions — Re-Domestic Surpluses — chaired by Executive Committee.

As can be seen from the above, the Fresh for Flavor Foundation is in effect a national sales organization, with expertise available to move the producers' crops and at the same time creating a demand for fresh produce. The Foundation's policy has always been to give Canadian production first priority in its promotional activity.

And what are the achievements in the Foundation?

- * At the inception of the Foundation in 1972, the per capita consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in Canada was 350 lbs. This has increased to 432 lbs. per capita in 1982, and the Foundation presently has a target of 500 lbs. per capita.
- * There are many illustrations of success in respect of the Foundation's ability to move heavy surplus situations, e.g. onions, apples etc.
- * The majority of growers have been organized to work together with the trade under the umbrella of the Foundation, in a continued operation to increase the per capita consumption rate.
- * The Wholesale and Retail Trade has been organized in one organization to increase the per capita consumption rate of

fresh fruits and vegetables, especially of commodities produced in Canada.

- * Regional committees are in place and actively engaged, not only in national promotions, but available to answer concerns of local production.

Over the years C.H.C.'s role has evolved into that of becoming the legislative and regulations arm of the industry. The C.F.W.A. has been the marketing and distribution link with retailers and consumers. More recently, the Foundation has closed in the third side of the industry triangle by becoming the promotional arm of the industry. Working together as a team is proving to be the best assurance of optimal success. Many feel that the Foundation is the best thing that has happened to the industry since the inception of the C.H.C. and the C.F.W.A. back in 1922 and 1925. It is the most efficient and effective vehicle by which the industry can expand the market for fresh fruits and vegetables in the shortest possible time. It has participation, involvement and support by all the segments of the industry. It is the greatest catalyst yet devised to encourage understanding, cooperation and unity within the fruit and vegetable industry in Canada. The Foundation is indeed a worthy successor to the earlier promotional vehicle, National Salad Month.

Report by M. K. Todd

Editor's Note: The author of the above article failed to mention the fact that two Manitobans, M. K. Todd and Bill Daman, were to a large extent responsible for the inception and implementation of the Fresh for Flavor Foundation program.

PRODUCE MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

A proposal to establish a formal training program for produce managers in the horticultural produce industry was first advanced at the annual C.F.W.A. convention held in Vancouver in 1968. Both retail and wholesale organizations had for some time indicated that the foremost problem surrounding their produce operations was a shortage of qualified and knowledgeable produce operators.

Picking up on this concern, a small group of five people in Manitoba established themselves as a Steering Committee with the object of testing out the feasibility of initiating such a training course in Winnipeg. The result of the initiative and action of this Committee produced two successful Produce Management Training courses in Winnipeg in 1969 and 1970. M. K. Todd, Chairman of the Steering Committee, presented the following report when these courses were concluded. It is reprinted in full because of its importance to the industry as a whole. Hopefully many more of these courses will be given in future.

1965-1970

Produce Management Training Course

The importance of the fresh fruit and vegetable department in giving a store its character and reputation is beyond dispute. New products of all kinds pour into all departments of the modern supermarket. But there is nothing in the store comparable to the excitement and interest generated by that "first-of-season" display of fresh fruits and vegetables. Throughout the year produce displays reflect the seasonable changes so much a part of our lives, and of all departments in the store, produce most lends itself to creative merchandising. Fresh fruits and vegetables are beautiful products. Their handsome colors, interesting shapes and forms have been the inspiration of artists for ages — and they appeal to all who appreciate beautiful things. Then again fresh produce stands nearly alone in the world dominated by processed foods. The hard "crunch" of an apple, the pleasurable peeling of an orange, that exciting first slice into a melon — these are unforgettable experiences offered by produce which can also boast the "real" taste of the **natural** product.

Well, with all these advantages what is the problem? The produce department, by its very nature, is a department that **requires** and **thrives** on a great deal of **attention**, affection and **management**. Unfortunately it doesn't always get it!

A recent article in the Chicago Packer (the voice of the fresh produce industry) contained an interview with Mr.

Fred De Vries, a professional produce merchandiser in which he was asked a number of questions. First, "what are the greatest problems that you find in produce departments today?" His answer, "I believe the greatest problem is the produce personnel's **lack of knowledge** of product." Second, "why are profits down in our nation's produce departments?" His answer, "I have stated many times that if profits are down, it is because of two basic problems. First, management's lack of interest in their produce departments, and the fact that they are too busy to train their people in the act of produce operation. Second, a lackadaisical approach to the produce department by their personnel."

These and similar concerns have been expressed over the years at the annual conventions of the two major voices of the fresh produce industry in Canada, the Canadian Horticultural Council and the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers' Association. Each of us within the industry has an important role to play. We are part of a vast army of farmers, researchers, packers, transporters, brokers, retailers, wholesalers, distributors, etc. Millions of dollars are being spent in research for better seed — better varieties; better methods of cooling, of storing and shipping, to bring fresh produce to its final destination, the Canadian consumer. Weakness at any level affects the rest.

Retail organizations locally, and across Canada and the U.S.A., have indicated that their main problems in the produce department stems from the shortage of qualified, knowledgeable produce operators. Historically, development of people in this business has come primarily from on-the-job training. And there is no doubt but that there has been an active concern on a person-to-person basis by all levels of management. But it is apparent that much more is needed. Changes are taking place at an ever-increasing pace and the produce business is not isolated from the pressures of these changes. There is an ever-increasing demand for better informed people in this industry as in others. The huge market for goods and services keep growing and changing and this requires a more qualified capability of supplying the needs of that market at all levels.

Acting then upon this need, and carrying forward a proposal first advanced at the annual convention of the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers' Association in Vancouver in February 1968, the general outline for a formalized training course was developed. The Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission, because of its unique and central position in the industry in Manitoba, became the initiator and co-ordinator. Departments of the Provincial Government (Agriculture and Youth and Education), retail divisional heads, wholesale trade representatives, and growers were called together and the broad plan outlined. Enthusiasm was instant and unanimous.

At the outset, financial support was obtained from the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration, under provisions for the training of personnel already engaged in industry and on the basis of an approved curriculum. The first 'pilot' course (unique in North America) got under way on September 17, 1968. Perhaps one basis for judging the success of the first year's venture was an insistant demand that the course be continued. This demand came not only from the retail groups (who were the only one participating in the first course), but from the wholesale trade as well. The Manitoba Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers' Association became co-sponsors and undertook to share in the responsibility of organizing and directing the course as an on-going venture. After some anxious weeks, funding was resolved and a curriculum approved. Again, it was necessary to establish limits on the number of registrants that could be accommodated in the course and because of the flood of applicants it was decided to hold the sessions on two evenings of each week, using the same curriculum and the same instructors. The wholesale members met on Tuesday evenings of each week and the retail on Wednesday evenings. In the case of the retail organizations, quotas on numbers of participants from each group had to be established as it was felt by the Steering Committee that a limit of thirty to each class was the maximum that could be properly handled. The final registration was twenty-six members from the wholesale trade and thirty-one members from retail.

The course this year was refined to an extent and cut down to seventeen sessions (twenty-one last year) commencing on October 28, 1969 and running through to March 18, 1970, at which time examinations were conducted. Instructors were recruited (twenty-two in all) from top level management in all segments of the industry — grower — retail — wholesale. In addition, others were recruited from Federal and Provincial Departments, and from the University of Manitoba. Professionals were engaged to cover the area of Customer and Public Relations. A class co-ordinator for each group was appointed.

1. The course curriculum provided:
 - a. Detailed background information on all major fruits and vegetables and similar information by grouping in the less important (by sales volume) items. The lectures given by various instructors covered — botany — history — varieties — sources of supply — marketing seasons — growing — harvesting — storage — packing — containers — grade — uses — etc.
 - b. The consumers' viewpoint was covered. Product use and nutritive values were covered by provincial Home Economists.
 - c. Customer and public relations by professionals in that field.
 - d. Grades — regulations — quality interpretations, by the Federal Inspection Service — by workshop and lecture.
 - e. Promotions — national and regional — tie-in promotions — product promotions.
 - f. Effective Communications — films, instruction and discussion — Provincial Department of Education.
 - g. Motivational Films — e.g. Vince Lombardi's "Second Effort".
 - h. Quality Control Films — e.g. Al. Bruno's "Hussman" film.
 - i. Horticulture — handling and merchandising bedding plants, potted plants, etc. and other items.
2. In all presentations emphasis was placed on proper

handling, temperature and humidity controls and other factors that lead to an expansion in sales of fresh fruits and vegetables.

3. Reference material was assembled with United's Fruit & Vegetable Facts and Pointers forming the base. This is complemented and supplemented by other informational product material from all parts of Canada and the U.S.A. In addition, instructors' notes were mimeographed for each student. Reference material thus assembled by each student fills two large ring binders, which he will retain.
4. Instructors, in addition to using the reference material indicated, made extensive use of films and slides in visual presentations, together with the use of the product itself.
5. A budget drawn up early in the planning stage, indicated a cost of approximately \$180.00 for each student. Each company involved was required to advance \$150.00 for each of their employees taking instruction. This entire amount will be returned now, at the completion of the course when Canada Manpower Services meets its commitment. In addition, each student paid a registration fee of \$30.00 at the time of enrollment.
6. The course was split by a mid-term test, which was held on the basis of self-evaluation rather than as a credit to the final examination. The final examination was held on March 17th and March 18th, 1970. The Steering Committee took the position that attendance at each session was of major importance and allotted thirty-two points (two for each session) towards final examination credits. The final examination was in two parts — first, being short answers based on general knowledge gained throughout the entire course — the second half, a more detailed in-depth test of one of the major fresh fruits and vegetables.
7. If attendance is a criteria of interest, then interest was high indeed — the average for the entire course was 88.1% with almost one third of the students not missing a single session. Diplomas were awarded to twenty-four from the retail group and twenty-three from wholesale, at the closing banquet held on March 24, 1970.

Conclusion

The possibilities for the continuation and possible expansion of this type of specialized course in our industry, will be limited only by the concern and involvement we are prepared to make personally.

As to the benefits to be derived — they are numerous:

Firstly, from the trainee's standpoint, a formal training course provides an opportunity for personal development and advancement. His work becomes more important and meaningful.

Secondly, top management of all sections of the industry are working together to resolve a problem of mutual interest and concern. This in itself will help in placing greater emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables and more recognition for personnel engaged in it.

Thirdly, with better trained and qualified people at wholesale and retail, increased consumer satisfaction and increased sales cannot help but follow.

M. K. Todd, Chairman, Steering Committee.

Members of Steering Committee:

Mr. J. Huyda — Munroe Junior High School — East Kildonan

Mr. H. Maxwell — Apex Purchasing Service

Mr. H. Rubinfeld — Stella Produce Limited

Mr. T. A. Sandercock — Department of Agriculture, Province of Manitoba

Mr. G. Wagner — Scott National Company Limited

Mr. M. K. Todd — Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

Genesis

At the Sixth Dominion Fruit Conference, held in Ottawa February 22, 1922, Dr. J. H. Grisdale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, in his opening address to the delegates expressed the hope:

"that you may be able to make some recommendations looking to the establishment of a sort of fruit producers' parliament . . . a national horticultural council, which shall serve as a board of last resort or of reference, and to which shall be referred the present and future problems of the industry. Through such an organization, close and quick contact with legislative bodies is possible and effective."

Later in the same meeting, chaired by C. W. Baxter, Fruit Commissioner, the following resolution: "That this conference declare itself to be in favour of the organization of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL", was adopted unanimously.

A draft of a constitution and by-laws, based largely on that of the National Dairy Council, had been prepared in advance by Captain Leslie Franklin Burrows, assistant to the Fruit Commissioner, and was submitted for consideration. The discussion which followed, centred around which sectors of the horticultural industry should be recognized as eligible for membership and the extent to which manufacturing and distributing services should be considered.

The following resolution spelled out the Objects of Council.

- 1) The name of the council shall be The Canadian Horticultural Council.
- 2) The objects of the Council shall be:
 - a) advancements of all matters tending towards the improvement of the horticultural industry of Canada, including production, grading, packing, transportation, storage, marketing, etc.;
 - b) initiating, fostering and assisting such legislation and regulations as will be beneficial to the horticulture industry;
 - c) emphasizing through inter-provincial co-operation, the importance of the horticultural industry, and to obtain for it the position it deserves as an important and progressive branch of agriculture;
 - d) encouraging the holding of horticultural displays, the distribution of literature and by systematic use of advertising, informing the general public as to the value and general use of horticultural products;
 - e) encouraging the adoption of uniform standards of grading and packing, and assisting in developing home and foreign markets;
 - f) co-operating with the railway, express and steamship companies, in securing the best conditions for trans-

- portation and a just equalization of charges therefore;
- g) co-operating with any agency working in the national interests of the improvement of marketing methods or for the more equitable distribution of horticultural products;
 - h) carrying on any undertaking which may seem to the Council capable of being carried on in furtherance of these objects.

3) Members of Council

The Canadian Horticultural Council shall consist of 17 representatives, 12 of these shall be producers of horticultural products, two wholesale dealers in horticultural products (one representing the dealers in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and one representing the dealers in the remaining Provinces of the Dominion), one manufacturer of packages used in the sale of horticultural products, one a nurseryman, selected from the Dominion at large, and one representative of the cannery and jam interests, selected from the Dominion at large. Of the 12 producers, there shall be two from each of the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia, and one from each of the remaining provinces of the Dominion.

- 4) Members of the Council shall elect from amongst themselves, at the annual meeting, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and three other members who will form the executive. Unless otherwise provided, the executive shall have full power of the Council''.

Chairman Baxter recommended that this national body would require "a good live national secretary" to ensure that it would function most efficiently at the national level. This was a sound recommendation and the three secretaries that have held the office to date, have fully lived up to expectation. The first Secretary-Treasurer was L. F. Burrows who served from May 17, 1922 to Feb. 28, 1968 and again from April 1, 1969 to May 31, 1969. John King (deceased) served in the intervening year. William Daman of Winnipeg assumed the office on June 1, 1969 and served until his retirement in 1983. They were truly "good live national secretaries".

The financing of Council presented a few problems at the first meeting. These were, however, amicably resolved. It is not within the scope of this book to deal with the financial arrangements made. What is of greater importance is how well C.H.C. has served the horticultural industry over the years.

A provisional board of 11 members was chosen at that first meeting. This Board met a second time in Ottawa on May 17, 1922. It retained L. F. Burrows as Secretary and worked on the many details of a constitution, financing and organization. The incorporation meeting was held on August 17 of 1922. The following officers were elected:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| President | Col. H. L. Roberts, Grimsby, Ont. |
| First Vice-President | F. W. Bishop, Paradise, N.S. |
| Second V.-President | R. R. Scott, Winnipeg, Man. |
| Executive Directors | W. H. Stewart James Wagstaffe W. E. Groves |

The proposed by-laws of the Company were read, adopted and the seal approved and affixed. Applications for membership were accepted, and the salary of the secretary-treasurer agreed on. Auditors were appointed and a schedule of membership fees was approved. The Canadian Horticultural Council had become a reality.

Manitobans Active in C.H.C. over the Years

The first name from Manitoba to appear in the Council's record is that of **R. R. Scott**, a wholesaler from Winnipeg under date of 1922. The next names to appear prior to producer representation upon Council were those of **Professor F. W. Broderick** of the University of Manitoba in 1924 and 1925, representing Prairie Vegetable interests and **Messrs. Emery** and **A. E. Burns** as representatives of Western Canada Jobbers for the years 1926 to 1928. The name of **Mr. A. McCallum**, a Winnipeg wholesaler representing the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers' Association, appeared through the years 1935-39.

The Council's records indicate that **H. E. Sulkers**, repre-

senting the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Assn. attended the Council's annual meeting in March of 1929. That year the Manitoba Vegetable Growers' and the Manitoba Horticultural Association applied for membership upon Council. The fees were \$100.00 and \$50.00 respectively.

For some years in the 1930's, there was a lapse of producer representation from Manitoba upon the Council. It would appear that representatives of the wholesale trade in Winnipeg attempted to fill that void as best possible in those years. It was not until 1940 that the name of **Stanley Ludwick** appeared as representing the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Association. The name of **Mr. H. Wasylyk** appears as a member of the Council's Vegetable Committee for the year 1941. In 1943, he became the first director upon the Council from Manitoba, a position he held until 1946. **Mr. Tom Praznik's** name appears as the representative following Mr. Wasylyk's term of office with the Association.

In the Annual report of the Council of 1942, the name of The Truck Farmers' of Manitoba appears as an Associate member continuing until 1946, when the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op Limited replaced it. The Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op Limited continued as an Associate member until 1947, replacing the Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers' Association as the active member upon Council from Manitoba in 1948. The latter organization retained associate membership until 1955. **D. W. (Wynn) Thomas** served as the representative upon Council for the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op Ltd. for the years 1948 to 1950 inclusive. In 1951, **W. Daman** was named as the representative to the Council for the Co-op, serving that year on the Vegetable Committee, Potato and Turnip Committee, the Canning Crop Committee and the Marketing Committee. **James S. Coulter** attended the Council meetings with W. Daman for several years in order to assure Manitoba attendance at meetings held simultaneously with those attended by the Co-op's official representative.

Mr. W. Daman's service to the Council as the representative of Manitoba Producer Organizations, spanned eighteen years from 1951 to 1969. The organizations represented in

that time span were the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op Limited, (1948-55), the Gardeners' Sales Limited, (1956-63) and the Manitoba Vegetable Growers' Marketing Commission (1964-69). He was appointed chairman of the Council's Merchandising Committee for the years 1953-1969. He served as a director of Council after his election to the Board of Directors in 1954 until 1969. In the interim he was elected 2nd Vice-President in 1956, 1st Vice President the following year and was elected President of the Council in 1958.

The Vegetable Growers' Association joined the Council in 1956 with **Walter E. Kroeker** as its representative. Mr. Kroeker attended the Council meetings regularly to the present date, being appointed chairman of the Potato & Turnip Committee (1966 to 1972) and chairman of the Trade and Tariff Committee from 1973 to 1980 inclusive. Apart from his term as an officer and President of the Council, Mr. Kroeker made a tremendous contribution in tariff-related matters including the hearings before the Tariff Board on Reference 152 in 1974. He led the work in preparation of the Council's submission to the Tariff Board and acted as chief spokesman throughout the hearings which extended over a period of three consecutive weeks. Mr. Kroeker's expert testimony at the hearings was acknowledged by Mr. L. Couillard, Chairman of the Board. His congratulatory recognition of Mr. Kroeker's efforts was as unusual as it was deserved.

Mr. Kroeker's talents were appropriately recognized by members of Council, when in 1965, he was elected to the office of 2nd Vice-President, culminating in his term as President of the Council in 1967. A man of exceptional talent, Mr. Kroeker again gave exemplary service to horticulture in Canada in 1982 by providing leadership in the preparation of the Canadian stance on hearings on Potatoes before the U.S.I.T.C. at Boise, Idaho and Bangor, Maine. He appeared as the Council's Chief witness at the hearings, performing masterfully and with great effectiveness.

Following W. Daman's appointment to the position of Secretary-Treasurer of Council in May of 1969 (later redesignated as Executive Vice President) a change in representation upon Council from Manitoba was made. W. Kroeker

was appointed as the representative of the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Commission replacing W. Daman, and **E. Connery** as the representative of the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba. This arrangement continued until 1973 when the Commission became the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board, with Mr. Kroeker representing that organization. With the establishment of the Manitoba Root Crop Producers' Marketing Board in 1973, Mr. E. Connery became its representative to Council. **Mr. John Kuhl** filled the position of representative for the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba vacated by Mr. Kroeker. In 1978, Mr. **G. Gowryluk** replaced Mr. Kroeker as representative of the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board which represents the only other change to date.

The third appointment of a Manitoban to the executive of the Council was made in 1975 when Mr. E. Connery was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President. Mr. Connery became the third President of Council from the province in 1977, bringing spice and good humour to his term as well as capable stewardship. Mr. Connery also served as the first chairman of Council's Rutabaga Committee from 1974 to 1977 and as chairman of the Labour Committee in 1979 and 1980.

Upon Mr. W. Kroeker's resignation as chairman of the Trade and Tariff Committee, **Mr. J. Kuhl** was appointed to that important position which he presently occupies. **Mr. G. Gowryluk** was appointed as chairman of the Council's Potato Committee in 1982. Based upon the manner in which he led the committee through an onerous and at times contentious session, Mr. Gowryluk earned his spurs as a competent person to fill the position.

Since the Council was established in 1922, representatives of the Wholesale trade in Canada have made substantial contributions to the Council. None however, has made a greater contribution than **Mr. K. Todd** of Winnipeg. Since his appointment in 1970, as a representative of the Canadian Fruit Wholesalers' Association, Mr. Todd has provided sage counsel to Council deliberations based upon his many years of experience in working with producers' organizations in

Manitoba. Mr. Todd's talents were recognized when he was appointed chairman of the Council's Marketing and Promotion Committee for the years 1980 and 1981.

The Manitoba Department, since 1957, has taken an active interest and participated fully in the Council's activities over the years. **Mr. P. J. Peters** was the first representative to Council from the Manitoba government in the late 1950's and early 1960's. **Mr. F. J. Weir** represented the Department in the later 1960's to early 1970's after which time **T. A. Sandercock** became the appointee to Council for the Manitoba Department. Each of the representatives from the Manitoba government made significant contributions at Council's committee meetings and plenary sessions. Their exemplary dedication and sound, constructive inputs at all times, were recognized and appreciated by members of Council. Their untiring and unselfish work with producers and producer organizations within the province is best demonstrated in the quality of producer representation to Council from Manitoba over the years.

Many persons from Manitoba attended the Council meetings in an unofficial capacity throughout the years. The names of **M. Van Hull, T. Praznik, D. Mulder, E. Mulder, J. Daman, C. Daman, J. Coulter, A. E. Kroeker, D. Kroeker, W. Siemens, J. Douma, D. Jeffery, J. Moorhouse** were noted and undoubtedly there were others whose names are not recorded.

Canadian Horticultural Council's Impact on Manitoba's Industry

The work of the Council in the area of grades and containers for vegetable crops has been important for Manitoba's horticultural industry. Council's tremendously important work in the area of tariffs on an ongoing basis routinely, and in the more specific roles of formal presentations to the Tariff Board periodically, has brought great benefit to horticultural producers in Canada and in Manitoba.

Marketing and Promotion activities initiated and coordinated by the Council and put in place by the Fresh for Flavour Foundation, its promotional arm, have not been

recognized sufficiently by producers. That work has been a major force in expanding the market place for domestic production and Canadian producers in recent years.

The Agricultural Congresses in the late 1960's and early 1970's, the Food Systems Approaches of the mid-1970's and finally, the work undertaken with Agriculture Canada in the convening of horticultural seminars on "Challenge for Growth" — An agricultural Strategy for Canada, held in the past three years, all served to provide members of Council with an opportunity for influencing government policy for the horticultural industry of Canada.

Representatives to Council from Manitoba's horticultural industry have played a prominent and important role in all of the aforementioned areas. They have brought leadership, wisdom and responsibility to the process of policy making, leading to decisions which will benefit future generations of horticultural producers, not only in Manitoba, but in our great country, Canada.

The Golden Jubilee of C.H.C.

In 1972, fifty years after its organization, government officials, Council members and visitors from across the nation gathered in Ottawa to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Canadian Horticultural Council. The banquet, with many noted dignitaries at the head table, was a gala affair. The editor of this book was asked to compose the grace.

Banquet Grace for the Golden Jubilee Banquet of C.H.C.

For the valleys
and the hillsides
and the plains
of fertile soil;
for the people
growing produce
with devotion
and with toil;
for the apples
bright and shiny
and the plums
with velvet sheen;

for potatoes
and for carrots
and the cole crops
crisp and green;
for these blessings
Thou hast given,
for this land
by heaven blessed
at this banquet
our great Father
praises are
to Thee addressed.

For the men
of this Dominion
who to build
this industry
formed this Council
worked and labored
often so
unselfishly;
for their vision
of uniting
the producers
of our land
so that they
could with persuasion
press their every
just demand;
for the fruits
of all their labors
the success
of C.H.C.,
Lord above
we give Thee praises
on our golden
jubilee.
Lord we ask Thee
to bless richly
all of those

who work the soil
may there be
just compensation
for their labor
and their toil.
Teach us all
co-operation
and the art
of give and take,
that good will
can heal division
out of weakness
strength can make.
Bless this Council,
bless this meeting,
bless to us
this bounteous fare;
we commit us
to Thy service
and our country
to Thy care.

Amen

A 50 Year History of the Canadian Horticultural Council

On its 50th anniversary, C.H.C. published a history entitled "50 Years of Integrity, Leadership and Liaison". The editor of this book was none other than Manitoba's Walter Kroeker. Space does not permit even a summarizing of this comprehensive review. Chapter XI of this book is entitled "Perspective" and was written by Walter. It is a keen reflection of the achievements of C.H.C. and is quoted here in its entirety.

Perspective

A review of the first half century of the Canadian Horticultural Council has been a stimulating and exciting experience, bringing to mind half-forgotten memories of the great men whose wisdom, good judgment and sure sense of direction guided our industry through the troublesome and turbulent times that seemed to characterize so many of these fifty years.

We reflect with wonderment and almost a sense of awe on the steadfast determination and dogged tenacity with which the first organizational objective, that of a total and united industry voice, was developed, achieved and maintained.

This concept of an industry forum, in which the many and diverse elements of horticulture might discuss their problems, share their aspirations and find common ground in a broadly based concensus, has been fundamental to the Council's success.

As the record clearly shows, success has not always been apparent or obvious, nor the road toward it an easy one. The projected purpose, stated on February 22, 1922, as "a national horticultural council . . . to which shall be referred the present and future problems of the industry", did not minimize the magnitude of the task, nor did it deter the "good live national secretary" from accepting the challenge which led to a lifetime of service to our industry.

The objectives adopted fifty years ago are still relevant and tenable today, but emphases have changed as our economic, political and social environments have changed.

Establishment of new centres of population, improvements in transportation facilities and storage techniques, increased competition within our own country, intensified pressure of imports from foreign lands, consolidation of trading factors and increased involvement of governments in areas of economic policy, have all affected horticulture and required adjustments or responses to the new circumstances.

Despite these changes in our environment and in our industry which have made the Council's work increasingly complex, a simple and basic philosophy has slowly developed and gradually crystallized. This philosophy has never been formally adopted, nor have there often been occasions for concise enunciation, but its basic tenets might well be:

- We believe in Canada as a free and independent nation.
- We are proud of our people and our institutions.
- We are grateful for our resources of land and water and the

immense productive capacity of our soil, and industry and labor.

- We are concerned that our capacity for production be used to the fullest possible degree for the benefit of our own people; that we not abdicate control over our destiny; that we not become vassals, pawns or satellites of others, but that what we consume be the produce of our fields and industry and the work of our hands.
- We are convinced that in first meeting our own market needs we will maximize the just rewards of honorable toil and minimize the need for enervating and debilitating welfare programs.
- We are confident that Canadians will reach a broad understanding of the interdependence of all segments in our economy and the will to provide to all, agriculture and industry and labor, compensatory returns for their products and services.

Translating principles into practical measures has been a continuing preoccupation. As these apply to our industry, the major concerns have been, and continue to be:

1. Promoting the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. The natural richness of our soils, the long summer days of our northern growing season and the relative freedom from destructive pests and disorders make our horticultural products healthful and flavorful. It is a service to our country, and incidentally to our industry, to promote these foods. We intend to continue, with greater zeal, Salad Week, Apple, Potato and other specific commodity programs, as well as the currently initiated and imaginative "Target 400" project, designed to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption from 350 lbs. to 400 lbs. per capita.
2. Cooperating and consulting with consumers in achieving common objectives of stabilized prices, continuity of supply, uniformity of quality and dependable market information.
3. Developing and refining advanced marketing techniques designed to achieve a viable industry, to provide reasonably compensatory returns to producers and

reduce the destructive impact of supply surpluses, while maintaining adequate production for our domestic and export needs. We welcome national marketing legislation as an enabling measure, with flexibility for many uses from cooperative promotion to full supply management.

4. Working with research scientists and service industries to develop techniques for quality maintenance, eliminating pesticide residues and improving health factors.
5. Cooperating with regulatory agencies in establishing and maintaining quality and packaging standards for effective presentation of our products in response to the changing needs of the marketplace.
6. Constantly and continuously maintaining involvement in the consultative process with government. This function becomes increasingly important as industry problems become more urgent and government interaction becomes increasingly complex. The scope for consultation is becoming broader as there is increasing involvement with government departments other than agriculture. The Council must continue to fulfil a primary responsible role as the agency and vehicle for such consultations on behalf of the total horticultural industry.
7. In order to properly fulfil this responsible role, to consciously and conscientiously take a "total industry" approach to the solution of our problems, fulfilling our needs, and reaching a national consensus.
8. Cooperating with trade and other governmental agencies in promotional, trade and technical missions having as their objective expanding markets for Canadian produce.
9. Cooperating with government and various other agencies in providing a broad spectrum of informational services involving aspects of our industry, such as forecasting supply situations, training retail produce personnel, initiating conferences with the trade and consumers, encouraging research on marketing and production economics, both specific and in relation to

our total economy.

10. To cooperate in ensuring, especially for perishable horticultural products adequate transportation services within Canada and beyond, at reasonable equitable rates and meeting the needs of modern communications.
11. Continuing to promote the welfare of our producers and their employees in fair and equitable tariffs and trading conditions for our horticultural products, fresh and processed, on our own and foreign markets. We hold the unequivocal view that if Canada is to advance beyond economic colonialism and a dependence on exports of basic raw resources, it must be a primary market for its own produce at reasonably compensatory returns to its producers, and that it must recognize the right to such reasonable returns for agriculture, just as it already recognizes such rights for labor, manufacturing and commerce. Our objective continues to be a moderate tariff during our production and marketing season for fresh produce, a parallel equivalent tariff on processed horticultural products, plus automatically triggered emergency mechanisms as a protection against occasional and massive surges of foreign surpluses at distress prices.

It is our firm conviction that Canada must also establish recognized freedom of action in imposing countervailing tariffs and trading conditions in cases where other countries restrict entry of our produce through prohibition or other non-tariff barriers or who subsidize exports to Canada at values below their domestic prices.

The foundations for the future have been firmly and solidly laid by our founders.

They have been tested and proved to be secure.

As we proceed into our second half century, it is an advantage to continue building on these foundations.

Amid the stresses of our increasingly complex society, may we hold steadfastly to the principles that have served us so well for so long. Particularly and especially may we maintain the Council as an open forum for our total hor-

ticultural industry, free from attempts to form power blocks or majority commodity or area control.

One of the major strengths of the Council has been the leadership calibre of many individuals whose ability to set aside narrow provincial or commodity interests has greatly benefitted our industry. These men were blessed with the ability to inspire others, to share their vision, and through them transformations in others have occurred. As in the Mark Twain classic, and on many occasions, new delegates "... came to jeer, but remained to whitewash!"

The Council's Executive Committee has aptly applied the phrase "Fifty years of Liaison, Leadership, Integrity" to summarize the activities of the past half century.

To the extent that these attributes continue to characterize our deliberations and activities, the Canadian Horticultural Council will continue to grow in stature, influence and effectiveness.

Manitoba Recipients of the C.H.C. Merit Award

In 1972 C.H.C. presented 50 Award of Merit certificates to provincial horticulturists "in appreciation and recognition of the valuable and dedicated service rendered to the Horticultural Industry of Canada." The six Manitobans so honored were W. Daman, A. A. Kroeker, James S. Coulter, M. K. Todd, F. J. Weir and P. J. Peters. J. Robert Almey and F. R. Garland were national recipients of these same awards.

RETAILING AND PROCESSING . . . THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT

Before Manitoba vegetable and potato growers organized themselves and finally achieved some control in marketing their produce through a Marketing Board, the growers had been at the mercy of many unscrupulous wholesalers and retailers. Since the inception of the Marketing Board a great improvement has taken place. Good relations of the Board with the wholesale and retail outlets have resulted in the acceptance of Manitoba produce by consumers and the trade. This has benefitted not only the growers but also the many people involved in handling, packaging,

transporting and selling the Manitoba produce. The multiplier effect of the operation has greatly benefitted the whole economy of this province.

It is not within the scope of this book to give a detailed account of the canning and processing industry of this province over the years. This industry has benefitted consumers, growers, the labor market, the supply industry and the export trade as well. Suffice it to list some of the major processing and canning firms in Manitoba over the years.

David J. Dyson began a pickling operation in Winnipeg in 1887 and continued until 1921 when it was sold to Western Vinegar. They operated for a number of years and then folded. The Kildonan Canning Company started operation in 1925 and, with some interruptions operated until 1950 when it was destroyed by fire. Canada Packers entered the market with a pickling operation in 1950 and operated for many years. Between 1945 and 1950 a small factory in Reinland canned sweet corn.

Canadian Cannery began canning peas, beans, cream corn and beets in Morden in 1952. It became Morden Fine Foods in 1972, Best Pack of Farm King in 1978 and finally folded in 1982. Neighboring Winkler built the Gardenland Cannery about this time and folded in 1972. Many operators in various parts of the province tried their hands at producing potato chips and french fries but folded after a few years. They benefitted growers during their productive years.

The four stable processors that have been and are benefiting the Manitoba economy are Campbell Soup Co. of Portage la Prairie, Old Dutch Foods of Winnipeg, Carnation Foods (formerly Simplots) of Carberry and McCains of Portage la Prairie. Over 80% of all potatoes grown in this province are now processed. This has made Manitoba a well respected exporter in many world markets. Vegetable growers basically supply the fresh market but also have an outlet for their produce with the canning and processing trade. In no other area is the multiplier effect as visible as in the processing industry.

PEACE

(Theme poem for "Symphony of Peace")

Peace is the calmness of a summer's night,
Leaves subtly rustling in the evening breeze,
The moon's reflection on a glassy lake,
The moody shapes of silhouetted trees.

Peace is a melody that stirs the soul
And all the world about with harmony,
How sweet and gentle, now with stronger chords,
Filling a longing world with ecstasy.

Peace is a world of creativity:
A painter's brush reveals a higher sphere,
And graceful dancers reach for higher goals:
'Tis reaching out that brings the heavens near.

Peace is activity — for man was born
With human form, a temple for his soul;
And friendly competition helps to give
Attention to the human as a whole.

Peace is an act of love; you cannot love
Unless you truly try to understand
And value other people's point of view:
You learn to give much more than to demand.

Peace is an act of love. Can there be peace
When for some lands there is prosperity
While others die from lack of daily food?
Peace is concern for all humanity.

Peace is an act of faith, a reaching out,
Communion with a greater, higher power;
It is a prayer to our Lord and God:
May on this garden He His blessings shower.

CHAPTER IX

COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE GREENHOUSE INDUSTRY

The first greenhouses in Manitoba were most likely built by market gardeners. They did not have enough window space in their homes to grow the transplants of tomatoes and other tender vegetable crops to produce the number of plants they needed for their business. Small sash houses were built and heated with wood and coal stoves. Soon they also added flowers to this operation. When they had too many transplants, they found a ready market for these. This prompted some of them to enlarge their greenhouses and to set up a bedding plant business. Some of the early operators sold their bedding plants directly from their greenhouses. Most of them, however, found it more profitable to set up stands at the Farmers' Markets in the cities and towns where they operated.

There are no written records of the greenhouse bedding plant operators in Winnipeg. The editor had to search out this information by visiting with many oldtimers who still remember the early days. In most cases these early operators are long gone and even their families can no longer be found. The following list has been compiled as a result of these visits with kindly oldtimers. The greenhouses named are the larger ones. Dates of their operations could not be ascertained. It is almost certain that some operations will have been missed. For this the editor apologizes.

Bedding Plant Greenhouses of Winnipeg in the Early Years

- * E. M. Antenbrings on Polson Avenue
- * Harry Cull on Albany Street in St. James

- * Frank Pound on Warsaw and Mulvey
- * Dick Olson on Notre Dame and Princess
- * Charley Ming on St. Anne's Road
- * Sing Lee in West St. Paul
- * Brookside Gardens in Brookland
- * C. J. Paul in St. Vital
- * Paul Brothers St. Mary's Road, St. Vital
- * Tony Peterson Birds Hill
- * Jim Connery St. Vital
- * Tilley Brothers on Clifton and Portage
- * Paul Amos' Notre Dame Greenhouses . . on Notre Dame
- * Herb Sulkers by Louise Bridge
- * Charley Boyer on Des Murons and Marion
- * A. M. J. Hobbs in Fort Rouge

The above is a list of the major early greenhouses in the Winnipeg area. There certainly were many more than that. Early greenhouse operators also were found in other cities and towns of this province.

The Greenhouse Industry gives a living to many Manitoba citizens. Many hobby gardeners have built greenhouses for their own enjoyment. The editor found the stories of Greenhouse Operators who went into the production of potted plants and cut flowers for the florist trade most interesting. These stories follow next.

STORIES OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS

Broadway Florists Ltd.

Ernest Cholakis, son of a shepherd in Sparta, Greece, immigrated to New York in 1908. Ernest's older brothers opened up a florist shop on 2813 Broadway in New York and he joined them in this enterprise in 1915.

But Ernest was anxious to set out on his own and decided to open a flower shop in Seattle, Washington. He was travelling from Montreal and was going to Seattle via Winnipeg. When he came to Winnipeg he walked from the railroad station down Main Street and then down Portage Avenue. The excavation for the Bay store was just being dug. What struck Ernest was that he had not encountered any flower shop on his long walk. There and then he decided to

establish a flower shop in Winnipeg. He opened a flower shop at 241 Portage Avenue that same year. He must have thought about his brothers' shop on Broadway in New York when he called his shop Broadway Florist.

In 1924 Ernest married. Son John was born in 1925 and was followed by four brothers: Harry, Paul, Chris and Leo. In 1942 Ernest bought H. J. Cull's greenhouses on Albany in St. James. Cull had grown mainly bedding plants. Ernest now added potted plants and cut flowers to the operation and continued bedding plants as a secondary line. John, the oldest son, was in charge of the greenhouse operation. The other four brothers worked together with father Ernest in the flower shop. When their father died in 1970, the five brothers worked together in the florist trade. They discontinued the greenhouse operation in 1977.

In 1983 the five brothers still work together as Broadway Florists Ltd. They operate flower shops in the Bay, at Polo Park, in Kildonan Place and at 239 Portage Avenue. John's second oldest son, Steven, is now working with the firm. Little did Ernest dream that his stopover in Winnipeg would result in such a flourishing enterprise.

Ormiston Florists

The proverbial green thumb runs in families. In 1886, Robert B. Ormiston immigrated to Winnipeg from Scotland. His father in Scotland was an excellent gardener known as Pansy Jock, because of the wonderful pansies he grew. Young Robert became the Head Gardener of Government House in Winnipeg. He married Elizabeth Kennedy, who came to Canada from Scotland shortly after he did.

In 1905 Robert decided to strike out on his own. He built a greenhouse on Arnold Street and grew bedding plants as well as some potted flowers. His first flower shop was opened on River Avenue. As time went along, the bedding plant business took second place to the growing of flowers for his florist shop.

The Ormistons had six sons. Three of them: John, Art and Manton, followed in their father's footsteps. John struck out on his own and established Sally's Flowers or Sally's

Ltd., the story of which follows. When father Robert died in the early fifties, Art and Manton carried on and expanded the florist business. Art died in 1955, but his sons carried on along with Manton and his son. Later Manton's son, Doug, took over the established florist shop, known as Ormiston the Florist, in Flin Flon. When John Ormiston retired, he sold Sally's Ltd. to the Ormistons. The Ormistons ceased operating their greenhouses on Arnold Street in 1973. Manton died and the business is now in the hands of Art's sons Robert and David, and Robert's son. Ormiston R.B. Ltd. presently operates five florist shops in Winnipeg. Pansy Jock passed his love for flowers down to four generations.

Sally's Flowers

John Ormiston was born in Winnipeg in 1896. At the ripe old age of 87 his love for the world of flowers is undiminished, nor is his memory of bygone years. He'd love to live his life over again, but he'd prefer to start with the knowledge he has gained over the years.

The editor went down memory lane with Mr. Ormiston. The First World War saw him serving Canada as a member of the 61st Battalion of the Canadian Army for more than four years. He married Edith Smith and shared life with her until her death in 1982. They have two daughters, Annie Lou and Betty-May. Annie-Lou is married and has two children, a boy and a girl.

John Ormiston's flower business began in 1940. At that time he bought Tony Peterson's greenhouses in the Birds Hill area. Whereas he also started with bedding plants, his main crops were pompom and standard mums, poinsettias and many other potted florists plants as well as bulbs. At the same time, John opened a florist shop known as Sally's Ltd. on 243 Portage Ave. in Winnipeg. He remembers the devastating effect of the 1950. In the early 1970's John Ormiston retired and sold Sally's Ltd. to the other Ormistons. Flower lovers will often meet him on his weekly visit to the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. The spirit of his grandfather Pansy Jock is still very much alive in him. The editor of this book is indebted to him for information on many other oldtime greenhouse operations in Winnipeg.

Red Valley (Now Riverside) Greenhouses

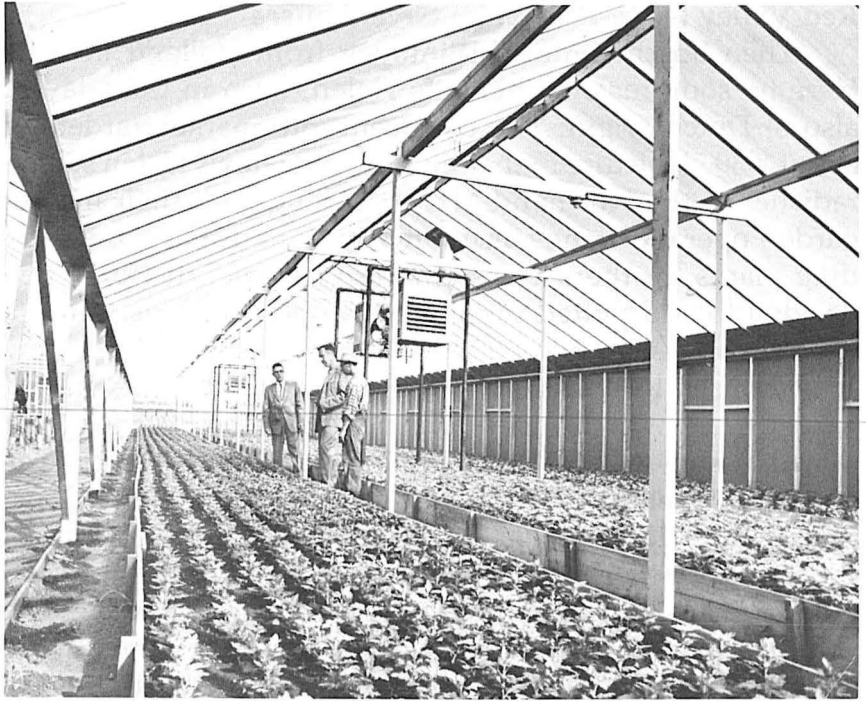
Theo Bosch came to Winnipeg from Holland in 1925. Here he soon married his wife Helen, born in Canada but also of Dutch origin. The two went into market gardening about 1930. A picture in their livingroom shows Helen selling radishes at the Northend Market. Along with their market garden operation, they also ran a greenhouse to grow bedding plants for themselves and also for sale. In 1952, Theo decided to add potted mums to his operation. He found a market for his mums with the florist trade and built new greenhouses to enlarge his operation. In 1964 the market garden work was dropped. The next year the Bosches were joined by son-in-law, Dan Gyselinck, and the operation was expanded still further. Now that Theo and Helen have retired, the operation is in the hands of Dan Gyselinck, capably assisted by his wife. The name Red Valley Greenhouses has been changed into Riverside Greenhouses. The bedding plant operation has been greatly enlarged. The greenhouses are operated on a year round basis. Potted mums and poinsettias are grown for the florist and super-market trade.

Theo and Helen are retired now and spend their winters in Hawaii. The rest of the year they live in their lovely home on St. Marys Road. Here they still busy themselves in the greenhouses, planting mum cuttings for their son-in-law. Once a gardener, always a gardener.

Paddon Wholesale Florists Ltd.

It is the pioneering spirit of Gordon F. Paddon that is responsible for the Paddon Florist Ltd. on Henderson Highway. Mr. Paddon was born in Winnipeg in 1905. He moved to B.C. with his parents. There his father set up a hardware business which became a victim of the depression of the 1930's. Gordon came back to Winnipeg in 1939. At first he worked for a pottery concern. Next he went into the wholesale cut flower Export and Import business. A letter on file attests to the fact that Gordon Paddon was the largest importer of flowers in Winnipeg in 1945.

The years spent in dealing with cut flowers awoke a



Paddon's First Greenhouse . . . Mylar on Wood.

desire of growing flowering plants in Gordon. In 1955 he bought property at 3014 Henderson Highway. The next year he built one greenhouse and a packing shed. Tropical plants was the first project. To help defray expenses, Gordon went into prepackaged soils. He shipped soils as far as Nelson, B.C. and Toronto, Ont. Next he went into growing hyacinth, crocus and tulip bulbs. Another greenhouse was added and spray mums were grown for cut flowers and potted mums also were grown. Still another greenhouse was added and this added poinsettias and Easter lilies to the growing florist business. Finally plants were also introduced. At the present time Paddon Florist Ltd. has 33,000 sq. ft. under fibre glass and a lovely display area of another 2,000 sq. ft.

Gordon and Mrs. Paddon had a family of three daughters and one son, Michael, the present owner and manager of the firm. Michael was born in 1932, attended St. John's and then went into business with his dad. He learned the florist business from his dad and from books. Michael's

three children have chosen their own careers. Father Gordon and son Michael went through many difficult times. There was the year when all their plants froze because of a faulty propane gas installation. Another year the plants died because of too tight greenhouses that resulted in too high a carbon dioxide concentration. They survived in spite of these set-backs. When Michael asked his father what they would do if their operation should burn, He replied: "We'd start again".

Gordon Paddon died November 14, 1979. His wife survives him. Gordon was active right to the end. In spite of physical handicaps and a raft of almost unsurmountable difficulties, he succeeded in his chosen field. Michael Paddon capably carries on the business he and his father built. Paddon's is both a wholesaler and retail concern. If the beautiful plants in the display area are any indication of the quality of flowers produced, then the future augurs well for Paddon Florists Ltd. Michael is very conscious of the problems that increased heating costs and competition from other provinces means to his business. May he succeed as did his father before him.

Anderson Greenhouses

B. W. "Bertel" Anderson, owner and manager of Anderson Greenhouses, was born in Birds Hill in 1915. Life was no bed of roses for the young lad. He began working for market gardeners when he was only 10 years old. Later he worked for Billy Knowles, a very knowledgeable horticulturist. This is where Bertel learned the basics of horticulture.

In 1932 Bertel rented land and went into market gardening. How well he remembers the Northend Farmers' Market where he went to sell his produce. He had a greenhouse right from the beginning where he grew his transplants and also bedding plants for sale. In 1957 he added potted mums to his greenhouse operation. He still carried on market gardening along with his greenhouse work. In 1960, however, the market gardening was dropped and Bertel fully concentrated on greenhouse work.

At the present time the growing of bedding plants is the main operation of the Anderson Greenhouses. The two main potted plants grown are poinsettias and mums. Asked what he would go into if he had it to do over again, Bertel replied: "I'd do the same thing I'm doing now. I like it".

Bertel married in 1940 and the Andersons have two children, a daughter and a son. The son is working in the operation with his father.

Bertel Anderson remembers the Tony Peterson greenhouses, where Redekop (now Polin) Lumber is located on Henderson Highway, and also the Jim Reed Greenhouses at Birds Hill.

Notre Dame Greenhouses



Notre Dame Greenhouses in 1958.

Paul Amos immigrated to Canada from Germany in the early 1900's. He came here as a lad of 12. Soon he worked for some vegetable wholesalers in Winnipeg. Paul was possessed of a green thumb and liked gardening. In 1921 Paul bought a little dairy farm located on Dublin and Notre Dame. There were no longer any cattle but the old buildings still stood. Paul started market gardening and soon built his first greenhouse. Here, besides transplants he grew leaf lettuce, onions, radishes, watercress, mint, hothouse tomatoes and

hothouse rhubarb. He expanded his greenhouse operation and called them Notre Dame Greenhouses.

Paul and wife had three children, two daughters and one son, William. William joined his father in the business and carried on with it when his father died in 1938. He was ably assisted by his wife, the former Evelyn Lindsay from Saskatchewan. Bill now added many potted florist plants to his operation. Presently most potted plant growers bring in their slips from across the line. Bill grew them from his own slips. He grew cyclamen, azaleas, poinsettias, cinerarias, calceolareas, mums and spray mums. His flowers were found in C.N.R. dining cars. The Fort Garry Hotel and Eatons were excellent customers. So were many florist shops.

But Bill kept up with the bedding plant business as well. These were sold on location. His hothouse products were quite renowned. When the Queen came to Winnipeg in 1959, Bill was asked to produce some hothouse rhubarb for the occasion. Bill was an oldfashioned grower who valued manure for his hotbeds. He had hot water heating in his greenhouses and his stoker was fed with cordwood. A fire in 1965 spelled the end of the Notre Dame Greenhouses. Since then, Bill has worked for Florist Supply for some years.

It was the pleasure of the editor to relive the many years Bill spent in the greenhouse operation with him and his wife Evelyn. It was quite evident that they enjoyed those active years. Evelyn proudly showed off the pictures of their daughter Marilyn and sons William and Brent. Their family might well be proud of them.

Vanderveen Greenhouses — Carman

The largest Manitoba supplier of potted plants and cut flowers for the retail florist trade is Jack Vanderveen of Carman. As the visitor walks through the modern and extensive greenhouses, he finds it hard to believe that this enterprise is only 20 years old.

Jack Vanderveen, the son of a dairy farmer in Holland, immigrated to Canada in 1953. He had had training in dairy and grain farming in Holland and hoped to go into that type

of farming in Canada. The Dutch people believed in the maxim; like father, like son. He worked on farms in the Carman area. Here he married Rouwiena DeWitt, also a Dutch immigrant. The first 10 years in Canada were really hard. Jack also worked in construction.

In 1963, Jack bought a house with a small acreage at the location he still lives. His love had been in gardening and now he could put his love in action. He began to grow vegetables and strawberries. The small greenhouse that was there when he bought his place, was put to use for growing his transplants. Two years later he began to sell bedding plants. A new greenhouse was added and more transplants were grown and sold. His young family, Jack and Rouwiena have 11 children, helped with the work. This business however was seasonal and Jack still had to find work in order to feed his large family.

Thirteen years ago Jack decided to try growing potted plants for sale. He grew plants for the Christmas trade and then for Easter and Mothers' Day. Some Winnipeg florists started to place regular orders. New greenhouses were added almost yearly. Some of the fibre glass greenhouses were not too satisfactory. Eight years ago he began using steel and plastic for his greenhouses. He still grew bedding plants but gradually his florist crops gained in importance. By 1982 the Vanderveens had 120,000 sq. ft. under glass.

Presently the Vanderveen greenhouses supply between 80 and 90 florists with potted plants and cut flowers on a regular basis. These florists are from Winnipeg, other Manitoba points and also some in Saskatchewan and Ontario. The bedding plant business has also grown. These plants are sold on location and also sold by a large number of dealers.

The Vanderveen Greenhouses is a family business. Two sons have joined their parents and a third is about to do so. The other children are following other vocations. It requires a workforce of ten, complemented by up to 40 more at peak times. At present the demand outstrips the supply of plants he grows. Jack and Rouwiena and sons hope this will continue. Jack's advice to his children is noteworthy. He tells

them, "Don't work with plants unless you really love them". Maybe this is the key to the Vanderveen success.

Behnke's Greenhouses Ltd.

Walter Behnke was born in Germany in 1913. He was in the greenhouse business. In 1958, Walter and wife Hildegard left Frankfurt-Oder in East Germany and immigrated to Winnipeg. The next year he built his first greenhouse. Here he grew bedding plants as well as potted plants. At present the greenhouse features mainly tropical plants and bedding plants. The tropical plants are sold to the wholesale outlets, but also retail at the Behnke's garden centre located on the greenhouse premises.

In 1968, Walter opened up Behnke's Florist shop in the Crossroads Shopping Centre. When the children were young, they all assisted both in the greenhouse operation and at the florist shop. Walter and Hildegard have five children: Wolfgang, Gerlinda, Elfrieda, Lothar and Irene. In 1978 the two operations went out on their own. Irene, now Mrs. Irene Siemens, is in charge of Behnke's Florist shop. Lothar is the manager of Behnke's Greenhouses Ltd.

Walter retired in 1979. He and Hildegard can still be found at the greenhouse just about every morning. Hildegard's deft fingers are busy with transplanting and Walter carefully waters the plants in the greenhouse. Time and work have not erased the smiles from their faces. Their love for plants is undiminished.

Addis Greenhouses

Tom Addis, and his parents before him, were excellent market gardeners in the West St. Paul area. When the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Commission came in, Tom decided to go into the greenhouse business. He was both in the bedding plant business and also the wholesale flower business. The latter was the main enterprise. He grew potted plants in variety, cut flowers and also tropical plants. At one stage the Addis Greenhouses were the largest in all of western Canada.

Several factors led to the demise of the business. Tom expanded too rapidly. Competent help was hard to find. A

disastrous fire led to a loss in the marketplace. The ultra modern new greenhouses were costly and required costly financing. The interest rates rose sharply and all these factors forced Addis Greenhouses into receivership. This was a disastrous blow to Tom Addis and his fine family.

Manitoba Greenhouse Growers' Association

Dr. J. D. Campbell of the University of Manitoba carried out work on greenhouse tomato and cucumber production in his experimental tunnel and regular greenhouses at the University in the late 60's and early 70's. He was of the opinion, not generally shared, that commercial production of these two hothouse crops was economically feasible in Manitoba. It was certainly true that the tomatoes produced by him, were of a high quality. The experiment caught the interest of the media and also of a group of interested potential greenhouse growers.

It was as a result of this interest that an Advisory Board for Greenhouse Research in Manitoba met in December, 1972. A. E. McKenzie Ltd. funded the operation of the Board to the tune of \$28,200. The next step was the formation of the Manitoba Greenhouse Vegetable Growers' Association. After some preliminary meetings of a Provisional Board, a general meeting was called in Portage la Prairie on Feb. 3, 1973. Here the proposed constitution was discussed, amended and passed, and a Board of Directors elected.

The results of a questionnaire were discussed. Some 15 active growers were planning a spring production on an area of 102,800 sq. ft. New growers for fall production were planning an additional 32,000 sq. ft. and present growers might add another 23,000 sq. ft.

At a series of further meetings in 1973 the problems of the Marketing, Packaging and Promotion were dealt with. The Association was asking the Manitoba Vegetable Marketing Board to handle the tomato crops for them. On the suggestion of Mr. T. A. Sandercock of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, and an ex-officio director of the M.G.V.G.A., a Greenhouse Growers' Seminar was planned for November 21, 1973. This was to be held in conjunction with the V.G.A.M. annual convention at the International Inn in

Winnipeg. These seminars, that continued for several years, were of a high calibre. Speakers from neighboring provinces and the United States joined those from Manitoba in giving meaningful information to the fledgling greenhouse tomato and cucumber growers.

After several years the original enthusiasm of the dozen or so growers began to wane. The anticipated returns did not materialize. By 1979 all of them had quit the experiment.

Why did the experiment fail? In most instances the yields obtained in relatively small experiments, cannot be achieved on the commercial scale. It therefore is a false premise in using experimental yields as the norm when making the calculations of a commercial enterprise. Most of the participants were not experienced in greenhouse operations. They ran into problems with culture, insect and disease control, and fertilization. There was not enough follow-up to assist the growers with these problems. The anticipated market prices did not materialize. At the same time the costs of heating materials increased substantially. While some growers approached the break-even point, they found that there were really no returns for their labor. Some greenhouses completely ceased operations while others went into growing bedding and potted plants. The Manitoba Greenhouse Vegetable Growers' Association ceased to exist.

The Future of the Greenhouse Industry in Manitoba

There are presently a large number of greenhouse operators in the province. They are making a success of growing bedding plants and, in some instances, potted plants for the florist trade. These growers do need help when they run into the many problems that can beset greenhouse culture. The industry is also faced with competition of greenhouse plants, often an inferior quality, from neighboring provinces. The greenhouse growers need to follow the example of the Manitoba vegetable and potato growers. They formed the V.G.A.M. in order to resolve the problems that beset their industry. This Association has helped them to stabilize their industry. The strawberry growers followed their example and formed the Strawberry Growers' Association of Man-

itoba. Even in a highly competitive business, the advantages of an organized approach are invaluable.

It is to the credit that the present Fruit Specialist of the Department of Agriculture is sending out periodic newsletters to all greenhouse growers. These contain much meaningful information on a variety of greenhouse problems. In the final analysis, however, it is the greenhouse growers that must take the initiative to organize. The benefits of annual seminars cannot be underestimated. The organization can also speak in a meaningful way to governments and get more research input from researchers. A Manitoba Greenhouse Growers' Association is essential to the progress and stabilization of the greenhouse industry.

THE MANITOBA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

(This story is a condensation of the recently published book entitled "Development of Manitoba's Nursery and Landscape Industry". The author wishes to thank the editor of this book for the permission to use it as resource material. It is a well written and liberally illustrated book and well worth having).

Pioneer Nurseries

The pioneer nurseries of Manitoba deserve well earned credit for promoting its beautification and for introducing and developing hardy plant material suited to its rigorous climate. These early nurserymen were more than plantsmen eager to sell their products, they were among the best extension specialists in our province. Their names appear in the early annual reports published by the Western Horticultural Society on which many of them were executive officers. Biographical sketches of many of them are found in another chapter of this book.

The Patmore Nursery of Brandon

This nursery is now celebrating its centennial. It was founded by Henry Lewis Patmore in 1883, an immigrant from Essex in England where he had learned the nursery trade from his father. In his 1925 catalogue Mr. Patmore wrote

"The Patmore Nursery Company first became established in Brandon in 1883 (one year after the founding of the city), and for 41 years has added knowledge of horticulture for the prairie provinces to an ever-expanding business, the benefit of which is freely offered to the public." The nurseries have now expanded to an area of some 400 acres of cultivated land and includes greenhouses and other facilities. Richard Patmore followed in his father's footsteps and operated the business until 1970 when it was sold to Mr. Jake J. Driedger. It operates under the name of Patmore Nursery Sales.

Stevenson Pine Grove Nursery at Morden

This nursery was begun by Mr. A. P. Stevenson who was one of the first pioneers to establish a fruit orchard and nursery in the prairie provinces. He began his first plantings in 1876. The Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal Award was established in his honor. Mr. Stevenson's story is told in the chapter on the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal. After Mr. Stevenson's death in the 1930's the nursery was operated by his son, Robert Stevenson, until the 1950's.

Skinner's Nursery Ltd. — Dropmore Near Roblin

Frank Skinner, a wily Scotchman, began dabbling with plants soon after taking up a homestead near Dropmore in 1901. In 1925 he decided to commercialize his hobby and founded the Manitoba Hardy Plants Nursery, later to be incorporated as Skinner's Nursery Ltd. The record of Dr. Skinner's life work with plants is chronicled in his book "Horticultural Horizons". He was the first recipient of the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal. His contributions to Manitoba horticulture are beyond measure. He is without any doubt the best known Canadian horticulturist not only in Canada but throughout the world. The more complete story of his life is found in the chapter on the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal. The nursery now is operated by Dr. Skinner's son, Hugh Skinner.

Boughen Nurseries — Valley River

William James Boughen came to the Valley River area in 1891 and founded the Boughen Nurseries about the year 1900. This dedicated plantsman maintained contacts with many

horticulturists both far and wide throughout his career. He was made honorary life member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society in 1916 and appointed Horticultural Explorer for the Dominion of Canada in 1920. Mr. Boughen will be remembered for the many plant introductions he made. The present size of the Boughen Nursery consists of 240 acres devoted to growing hardy nursery stock. The nursery is now operated by Russell and Ada Boughen. William Boughen's memory is kept alive by a cairn in Dauphin that was erected in his honor some 10 years ago.

Aubin Nurseries Ltd. — 1927-1982, Carman

Gerald Aubin dreamed about having a nursery even when he was a small boy. He worked at the Morden Research Station for two years and then with Robert Stevenson of the Pine Grove Nursery. In 1927 he established his own nursery at Carman. Clearing the land on the 75-acre site was difficult. At first vegetables and small fruits were grown and sold along with nursery stock. For many years apples were sold when in season. Most nursery stock at first was sold at the wholesale level. Upon the sudden death of Gerald Aubin in 1958 his son Lawrence came back from the Niagara Park Commission School of Horticulture to take over the nursery. Aubin Nurseries Ltd. has changed greatly from the original operation in the early years. Irrigation mist beds, modern packaging facilities and expanded acreage have made the nursery a truly large operation. Nursery stock is marketed through chain stores, landscape contractors, nurseries and garden centres. They supply and direct-mail all the nursery products from the famous T & T Seeds of Winnipeg. The company also enjoys a retail business of their own from both drive-in sales and mail orders. It has a permanent staff of 12 employees and an additional staff of 25-30 people at peak periods. Gerald Aubin's dream has really come true.

Shelmerdine Nurseries and Garden Centre Ltd.

— Charleswood

The Shelmerdine Nursery commenced business under Walter Shelmerdine in 1937 but was inactive during the

second world war. Walter reactivated it in 1944 concentrating mainly on fruit trees which were sold to farmers in the surrounding area. During the winter Walter drew up landscape plans for prospective customers. The first mimeographed catalogues in 1953 and a two page printed one in 1954 brought many people to the nursery. Walter was a capable nurseryman but he had the ability and wisdom to select competent men when the work expanded. The first one was Carl Pedersen from Denmark in 1954. Carl had a thorough grounding in propagation and field management. In 1958 the nursery undertook its first commercial landscape project. This led to the addition of another staff member, Gordon Lawrie, whose competence lay in drawing up landscaping plans. In 1966 things progressed to the stage where still more help was needed and Charles Gerlach systematized the production end of the business. Walter Shelmerdine now was free to oversee all aspects of the operation.

In 1967 Carl, Gordon and Lawrie acquired ownership of Shelmerdines but retained Walter on a consulting basis for five years. In 1974 Brian Duncan and Burghard Wohlers joined the company. The same year the old site was sold and a large modern garden centre was established on an 80-acre site near Headingly. Steady growth led to a second garden centre on a 30-acre site on St. Mary's Road. In 1981, with the retirement of Carl, Gordon and Lawrie, Brian Duncan and Bo Wohlers became major partners of the company. They were joined by Jan Pedersen, Carl's son.

The steady growth of Shelmerdine Nurseries and Garden Centres Ltd. is due to the hard and competent work of all concerned but much credit must go to its founder, Walter Shelmerdine, for the high business ethics which he instilled in all of his co-workers.

Glenelm Nursery — Miami

Harold Oakes commercialized his nursery in the Pembina Hills. Specialty fruits were his forte. He planted an orchard and selected the best varieties known at the time. "Glen" was the surname attached to the apple and strawberry varieties he named. He did much to promote fruit growing in the early years.

Glenorchie Nurseries — Miami and Winnipeg

Mr. Harold Orchard settled in the Pembina Hills 5 miles northwest of Miami in 1912 and developed his orchard and fruit nursery until passing away in 1956. He was a self-taught plant breeder who selected a number of lilacs, strawberries and other crops. His specialty was fruit of all kinds and he was one of the first in Manitoba to grow the quality 'Melba' cultivar, developed at Ottawa. He developed the Miami, Glenorchie and White Lake apples; the first two of which are well known in Manitoba.

Mr. Orchard shipped trees widely across the prairie region and into both northern B.C. and Ontario. He invented a number of tools and small nursery equipment including the three side garden hoe which was commercially manufactured as the "Orchard — Hoe".

He was made an honorary life member of the Manitoba Horticultural Society and received many other tributes to his work.

Murray Orchard, a son of the founder of Glenorchie Nurseries, was a driving force behind the move to found the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association in 1957. Mr. Orchard was then carrying on the Glenorchie Nursery in the northern Winnipeg suburb of Old Kildonan. Mr. Murray Orchard served as MNA and MNLA President for two 2-year terms. He also served as CNTA delegate and served as an active MNLA member until retiring to B.C. in the early 1970's.

Stevenson Evergreen Nursery — Morris

M. J. Stevenson, born in Ontario in 1872, came to Morris, Manitoba in 1883. He was interested in growing trees when he was but a boy. After he married in 1895, he began working on his dream by bringing in trees from the woods 40 miles east. By 1906 he had two acres of trees planted.

In 1926, after encouragement received at a short course on horticulture at the U. of M., M. J. and sons Charles and Bronson decided to start an evergreen nursery with the name Stevensons Evergreen Nursery. Business was slow at first. Spruce trees were peddled from door to door, usually

planted and guaranteed to grow. After a few years it was no longer necessary to peddle them.

Matthew and sons Charles and Bronson all took an active part in the Manitoba Horticultural Association. Matthew received an Honorary Life Membership in the Minnesota-Horticultural Society and Charles and Bronson received theirs from the M.H.A.

The Nursery has a third generation input from Charley's sons Delmer and Neil. The Stevenson Evergreen Nursery has made significant contributions in demonstrating evergreen production in Manitoba and in promoting the wider use of evergreens for prairie landscapes.

Wallace Nursery — Portage la Prairie

The Wallace Nursery on Island Park rates as one of the oldest continuously operated nurseries in Manitoba having been incorporated by Colonel B. C. Wallace in 1912. Mr. Wallace was extensively involved in several businesses but became a keen nursery grower and plantsman. Mr. W. R. McCarthy took over as managing director in 1936 and upon his retirement he was followed by Mr. Steve Bodnaruk in 1956. Steve Bodnaruk had begun work at the nursery in 1935. He recalls his first weekly pay cheque in 1935 was a grand total of \$9.00 at an hourly rate of 15¢.

The mail order business was a specialty of Wallace Nurseries and large shipments of shade trees were sent to prairie cities as well. The nursery developed the 'Golden Boy' pear and 'Wallace' plum and also distributed the 'Prince of Wales' maple. The strain of silver maple was recognized as a hardy northern adapted strain.

Mr. W. Linden took over the Wallace Nursery in the fall of 1968 and has carried on the business with emphasis on landscape work and garden centre sales.

Wallace Nursery was a founding member of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association and has maintained active membership since that time. Mr. Bill Linden served as President of the MNLA in 1972.

The Manitoba Nurserymen's Association is Formed in 1958

In the middle 1950's, a number of men engaged in the

nursery industry of Manitoba met informally during a period of two to three years to discuss the formation of an association which would be a means of helping each other and providing assistance to others. These informal discussions culminated in a meeting of nurserymen and horticulturists on Nov. 8, 1957 at the Morden Experimental Farm. The agenda for that meeting shows that definite objectives were set for this initial meeting of which Mr. Fred Weir, Provincial Horticulturist, served as chairman. Representatives of ten nurseries were in attendance and letters of support were read from Dr. F. L. Skinner and Mr. R. H. Patmore who were unable to attend. In addition to Mr. Fred Weir of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Mr. Henry Marshall of the Brandon Experimental Farm and several staff of the Morden Experimental Farm were also in attendance. The formative meeting accomplished its purpose and led to the formation of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association with an annual fee of \$25.00. An interim executive committee of Walter Shelmerdine, Murray Orchard, Gerald Aubin and Bro. La Flamme was charged with preparing a slate of officers and a constitution.

In reading the accounts of the 1957 meeting it is evident that nurserymen were convinced the time was ripe for an association which would work together for the common good and improve the level of communication and standards of business. Following the Nov. 8 meeting events moved quickly with a meeting of the interim executive on Nov. 14, 1957, which was to chart a course of activities and plan a general meeting of the MNA for late February. This meeting, the first Annual Convention, took place at the University of Manitoba on Feb. 10 and 11, 1958. Membership fees were collected and by May 12th a total of 13 firms had joined to produce gross revenue of \$325. Thus the MNA was formed, a constitution approved and the 1958 executive elected. This original executive consisted of the following men most of whom were to play a prominent role in the early years of the Association:

W. Shelmerdine (P)
H. M. Orchard (V.P.)

— Directors 3 years
— Directors 3 years

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| G. Aubin | — Directors 2 years |
| Bro. T. Laflamme | — |
| D. B. McNeill | — Directors 1 year |
| C. S. Stevenson | — |
| F. J. Weir | — Secretary-Treasurer |

Charter Members — 1958

Aubin Nurseries — Carman
 Boughen Nurseries — Valley River
 Glenorchie Nurseries — Old Kildonan
 Maison St. Joseph — Otterburne
 Patmore Nurseries — Brandon
 Poole Nurseries — Brandon
 Sadok Nurseries — West St. Paul
 Shelmerdine Nurseries — Charleswood
 Skinner Nurseries — Dropmore
 Stevenson Nurseries — Morris
 Van Dungen Nurseries — St. Vital
 Wallace Nurseries — Portage la Prairie
 Wenham Nurseries — St. Vital

Perhaps the most important role of the MNA was to improve communication and trust amongst the nursery industry of Manitoba. The annual meetings, summer field days and the newsletters brought people together as never before. This developed a spirit of trust and sharing which had been lacking in earlier years.

Towards the end of its first five years the MNA began an important study of reorganization which would include the landscape companies in an expanded organization. This reorganization no doubt grew out of the need to expand the membership base to represent the changing face of the industry which witnessed major growth of landscape businesses.

A change in name and direction came about at a second general meeting held for the purpose of uniting nurserymen, landscape gardeners and suppliers in one association.

"On June 15th, 1963, at a second General Meeting the draft constitution was approved. It was also agreed that the association would be known as Manitoba Horticultural Trades Association. The following members were elected as Directors of the new association:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Lawrence Aubin | Aubin Nurseries, Carman, Manitoba |
| Stan Corrigan | A. Corrigan & Sons, Carman, Manitoba 1015 Arlington St., Winnipeg, Manitoba |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Ernie Kackenhoff | Kackenhoff Nursery & Landscaping, 1851 Legion Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| Gerald A. May | May & Son Nurseries, Charleswood, Manitoba |
| Mel McEwen | McEwen Bros. Landscape Gardeners, 623 Moncton, Winnipeg, Manitoba |
| H. Murray Orchard | Glenorchie Nursery, Box 23, Group 2, R.R. 1, Winnipeg |
| Walter Shelmerdine | Shelmerdine Nurseries Ltd., Charleswood, Manitoba |
| J. A. Thompson | J. Thompson Garden Supply & Cartage 1000 Elgin Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba. |

At a Directors' Meeting held on June 26th, 1963, Walter Shelmerdine was elected President and J. A. Thompson was elected Vice-President. A Secretary-Treasurer will be appointed approximately August 1st.

The main purpose of the MANITOBA HORTICULTURAL TRADES ASSOCIATION will be to promote a greater use of horticultural products in the province and advance fair trade practices for the benefit of the public and the industry.

The constitution of the Association provides for Active, Associate, Foreign, Horticultural and Honorary Life Members. Any individual, partnership or corporation may apply for Active Membership if, for a period of two years, they have been primarily engaged as growers, landscapers, nurserymen, florists, Garden Centre Operators, or Horticultural suppliers in the Province of Manitoba and have a reputation for trustworthy dealings which must be maintained as a condition of membership''.

It is not within the scope of this book to give any details of the struggles and the successes of the M.N.L.A. Its beginning years were difficult. But gradually they worked towards financial and membership stability. Horticultural co-operation began to be felt in a practical way. In the last 5 years of its existence the M.N.L.A. has worked towards Regional Co-operation and a new relationship with the Canadian Nursery Trades Association.

As the M.N.L.A. reaches the end of its fifth 5-year period, it has developed a strong record of membership service. These developments no doubt have set the stage for the future. The continued dedication of individuals such as

has been known in past years can lead to rapid future progress. This challenge is for M.N.L.A. members to take up as the association begins its second quarter century of service.

Membership in 1982 had risen to 54 active, 20 associate and 9 horticultural members. Many of the active members are sod growers. The sod industry in Manitoba has shown a rapid revolution and has developed as an essential part of the landscape and nursery industry over the past few years.

| MNA-MNLA Presidents | | MNA-MNLA Secretary-Treasurers | |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. W. Shelmerdine | 1958, 1959 | Mr. F. J. Weir | 1958, 1959 |
| Mr. H. M. Orchard | 1960, 1961 | Mr. F. C. W. Rice | 1960, 1961 |
| Mr. L. E. Aubin | 1962, 1963 (June) | Mr. D. C. Denison | 1962, 1963 (July) |
| Mr. W. Shelmerdine | 1963 (June), 1964 | Mr. P. L. Ford | 1963 (Sept)-1964 (Aug.) |
| Mr. J. A. Thompson | 1965 | Mrs. J. R. McCombe | 1964 (Oct.) |
| Mr. E. Kackenhoff | 1966 | Mrs. H. Atkinson | 1965 (Mar.)- |
| Mr. M. McEwen | 1967 | | 1967 (Sept.) |
| Mr. H. M. Orchard | 1968, 1969 | Miss M. B. Wharrie | 1967 (Oct.) |
| Mr. L. E. Aubin | 1970, 1971 | Mrs. D. Lynch | 1968-1980 (Mar.) |
| Mr. W. A. Linden | 1972 | | |
| Mrs. D. Cristall | 1973 | Mrs. B. Craig | 1980 |
| Mr. E. Warburton | 1974 | | |
| Mr. E. Kackenhoff | 1975, 1976 | | |
| Mr. B. Hutchison | 1977 | | |
| Mr. D. Stevenson | 1978 | | |
| Mr. Bo Wohlers | 1979, 1980 | | |
| Mr. H. Levandowski | 1981 | | |
| Mr. M. Touchette | 1982 | | |

Honorary Life Members

Dr. W. (Bill) A. Cumming, Box 175, Morden, Manitoba.

Bill Cumming has been associated with the nursery industry both in employment at Skinner's Nursery from 1945-1955 and at the Morden Research Station from 1955-1976. He made numerous contributions to the nurserymen's annual meetings and field days. He developed several ornamentals which were widely accepted in the trades and made many advances in plant propagation.

Mr. Walter Shelmerdine, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Walter Shelmerdine was the founder of Shelmerdine Nursery which has continued to develop as the largest garden center operation in Manitoba. Following his retirement

from this company he founded the Model Nursery in the early 1970's and built this company until selling it in 1978. Walter was a major figure in the founding of the MNLA and assumed many positions of leadership in the organization.

Mr. F. B. Stevenson, Box 256, Morris, Manitoba.

Bronson Stevenson was associated with the Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery until his sons recently took over management. Bronson made many contributions as a nursery grower and along with his brother, Charles, gave support to the MNLA from the date of its founding.

Mr. Murray Orchard, 502-2050 Nelson St., Vancouver, B.C.

Murray Orchard, a son of the pioneer nurseryman, Harold Orchard, was one of the founders of MNLA. He served in several executive positions including several years as CNTA representative. He sold his nursery in the mid 1970's and retired to the west coast.

Mrs. Doreen Cristall, 25-525 Cathcart St., Winnipeg.

Doreen Cristall was a pioneer in lawn maintenance as the founder of the Lawn Clinic in 1964. Doreen served on the MNLA executive including a term as President in 1973, and assisted with numerous meetings and events.

THE SOD INDUSTRY IN MANITOBA

In 1948, the Ryan Equipment Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota, produced the first mechanized sod cutter, and seemingly overnight the sod industry in North America, and worldwide for that matter, dropped their horse-drawn cutters and hand edgers to become involved in a marketplace that would realize tremendous technological change over the next two decades.

The Manitoba sod industry, like others, has evolved into a highly sophisticated operation. Prior to 1950 a variety of small landscape contractors and suppliers dabbled in the prairie sod business in a relatively small workplace in which seeding remained the common method of establishing a turfgrass. The names of J. H. From, Thompson Cartage, Ditchfield, Percy Johnston, Bill Zonco, Gerry May, Frank Ploshay and Stan Barch of Veterans Landscaping were

prominent in the early 50's. Memory serves that Dutchy bought the first sodcutter in Manitoba in 1949, followed by John From. J. H. From Landscaping started in 1938 and John From ranked as the major landscape contractor in the 50's. Since his death in 1973, son Raymond has formed Raymond From Landscape Contractors and is proving himself an ambitious businessman. Gerry May grew up with his father in a successful nursery operation and branched out on his own as a landscape contractor but, unfortunately, fell by the wayside in the early 60's. Jack Thompson also grew up with his father in the landscape business, started in the 20's. Jack took over from his dad after serving with the Navy, but decided to liquidate the company in 1970 in favor of a key position with the Province of Manitoba Parks Branch as a Landscape Consultant. Jack has since joined the City of Regina Parks and Recreation Department.

The first to specialize as a sod grower was Harry Lach of Lach Landscape Supplies Ltd. Harry and his good wife, Alice, immigrated to Canada in 1949. After working for others and operating as a service station lessee, Harry's initiative as an entrepreneur and instinct in seeing a void in the sod market, caused him to pursue this endeavour. He began selling prairie sod in 1953. Being a perfectionist by nature, and quality conscious, he constantly strove to produce better sod. He was the first grower to sell cultured nursery sod, after buying a tract of land from John Peddles in 1966. The consumer response was overwhelming and set the pattern for the future of nursery sod in Manitoba. Harry continually sought to improve standards by analyzing all available resource information, conferring with others in similar occupations, working closely with the University of Manitoba and in particular, Dr. A. C. (Fergy) Ferguson, who was responsible for the Manitoba Turf Plot Research Program. Most of all, he was usually the first to grow new varieties.

In 1956-57, Mel and Bill McEwen formed McEwen Bros. Ltd. and began operating as landscape contractors. Yearning a challenge and possessing unyielding energy, the McEwen brothers quickly became the biggest landscape contractors in

the west. In order to expand into the sod industry, Prairie Seed & Sod Farms Ltd., another McEwen company, was formed in 1969. Prior to 1967, approximately 10 acres of nursery sod a year was harvested. However, a land expansion program was started in 1973 and an industry record was set — the first year to break the million mark at 1,200,000 yards. Bill McEwen decided to retire in 1973 and sold his interest to 5 employees, then moved to Red Deer, Alberta but after a period of fishing and hunting, is back in the sod business. Prairie Seed & Sod Farms also were the first growers to use a "tow-along fork lift".

The McEwens and Lachs jointly purchased the first Ryan Harvesters in 1969 and both experienced difficulties trying to make the units work in the heavy "Agassiz basin" soils of Manitoba. Harry has since converted his Ryan to operate hydraulically, similar to the Brouwer Harvester which he purchased in 1974, and Mel in 1975. Chuckry Stead Sod Farms also bought a Bouwer for delivery in 1975. Soon others followed. The flexibility of hydraulic operation in altering cutting speeds of the Brower Harvester, like the converted Ryan, works well in the heavy Manitoba soils.

Gusta Seed & Sod Farms operated by M. J. Gusta and his son, Ed, in Stead and Selkirk, Manitoba, prior to 1969, produced Bluegrass seed for the Pick Seed Co. In 1969 they decided to harvest the sod, discovered a high demand and continued to increase production.

Fill-Bar Nursery Sod Farms, owned by Marcel Barnaby at Ste. Anne, Manitoba have shown good quality in sod production since their formation in the early 70's.

Blue Grass Sod Farms in St. Norbert, just south of Winnipeg, is owned by Ed Hackie, a former vegetable grower who decided to convert to sod production. Ed spent considerable time with Dr. Ferguson prior to converting in order to gather details on proper grass varieties and their care. The application of this information has resulted in quality turf and a demand for available crops.

1958 is a proud and memorable year for the Manitoba Turf Industry. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Manitoba, after numerous discussions, formed a commit-

tee for the purpose of establishing a turf research program at the U. of M. The original members who presented a brief to Dean Weir on April 21, 1958 were: Stan Walker, Sam Hutchings, Cy Creed, and J. D. Steel. J. D. Steel assisted in preparation of the brief.

Turf Plot Research Program was established to research turf grass varieties and evaluate fertilization, disease, weed and pest controls into turf grass management. The project was initiated through the co-operation of the Golf Course Superintendents Association, The Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Faculty of Agriculture. Mr. Jack Parker, Director of Soils and Crops Branch, provided guidance to the continuous success of the program. The Golf Course Superintendents and the Department of Agriculture contributed equally each year toward the operating expenses of the project. Other major contributors have been the Royal Canadian Golf Association, Manitoba Golf Association, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, McKenzie Seeds Co., Ontario Seed Cleaners Assoc., O. & M. Scott, Oseco Ltd., and Otto Pick & Sons. Each year new contributors become involved. The far-reaching minds of the few who firmly believe in turf research as a future social benefit, and worked diligently to establish a continuing research project will not be forgotten, as the results of the project are adapted by industry and society in general. Each summer, one undergraduate student has been employed on the project along with a technician — all under the direction of Dr. A. C. Ferguson, Department of Plant Science who guided the project from the beginning until his retirement in 1980. Dr. Ken Clark has since replaced Dr. Ferguson. Fergy's contribution to turf research in Manitoba cannot be overstated. His affiliation with regional, national and international bodies involved with turf research and management are numerous. He has lectured to most turf management organizations and had several articles published in trade magazines. Each year, since 1958, Fergy has published a Progress Report on the Turfgrass Research Program and copies are available upon request by interested persons.

THE HORTICULTURAL SEED TRADE IN MANITOBA

The avid gardeners begin planning their next year's plantings early in the new year. You see them pouring over seed catalogues and carefully studying the seed racks in the stores. There is something very fascinating about seeds.

A Bit Of Eden

There's a little bit of Eden

Buried in a tiny seed;

And my pleasure as a gardener

Is to see that it is freed.

See the seed coat, dark and dirty,

So impervious, so tough;

We must find a way to crack it,

Beauty hides beneath the rough.

Bury it in soil so mellow,

In its own unpretty gown,

Ask the sun to come and warm it,

Ask the raindrops to come down.

And the seed will hear the message

And its heart will swell to break,

Break the hard, hard coat that bound it

It has heard the call: Awake!

Tiny rootlets in the darkness

Will reach down for drink and food,

And the stem will reach for daylight,

Stretching out for all that's good.

Leaves will ripple in the breezes

As the young plant stretches out;

Yes, each day will see it reaching,

Growing stronger, straight and stout.

And the heart of every gardener

Knows a joy words cannot tell

When the tiny buds start showing

When, with hope alive, they swell.

And then comes that beauteous morning

When the bees buzz with delight

Gently kissing all the florets

As they bloom in colors bright.

Yes, a little bit of Eden
Deeply buried in the seed
Gushes forth in joyous colors
And in song as it is freed.

P. J. Peters

The early settlers in Manitoba brought flower and vegetable seeds with them from their former homes in Eastern Canada or Europe. As time progressed, the university and some individuals began to produce vegetable seeds. In 1956, the Western Society for Horticulture published *An Historical Review* which included the following report on seed production in Manitoba.

Manitoba. Production of vegetable seeds in Manitoba was of minor importance until about 1934. The Annual Report of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, 1932-33, states, "Work initiated in 1932 by a provincial committee under the chairmanship of J. H. Evans, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, to find out what kinds of vegetable seeds can be produced in Manitoba. Successful crops of Round Pod Kidney wax beans, Golden Bantam and Golden Sunshine sweet corns, Early Scarlet Globe and scarlet Globe radishes, Earliana tomato, and spinach were produced. Mr. John Walker who supervised the tests in the country felt that there were great possibilities for future production. The Department of Horticulture at the Manitoba Agricultural College had successful crops of peas, beans, corn, and onions. Professor Brodrick felt that there was a future in seed growing in Manitoba."

In 1934, fields inspected for certification included 2 acres of garden peas with an estimated yield of 4,000 pounds, 2 acres of garden beans with an estimated yield of 285 pounds, and 18½ acres of garden corn with an estimated yield of 19,200 pounds.

In 1938, production of Foundation Stock of vegetable varieties was assigned as follows: — Dominion Experimental Station, Morden — King of Denmark spinach, White Bush Scallop squash; Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon — Dorinny sweet corn; and University of Manitoba — Altoba bean, Round Pod Kidney wax bean, Burbank sweet corn,

Thomas Laxton peas, World Record peas, and Banquet squash.

Professor F. W. Brodrick has been called the father of vegetable seed production in Manitoba. His vegetable seed production program started in 1926 with Mountain Danvers onion and Burbank Bantam sweet corn. By 1936 over 3000 pounds of the M.A.C. strain of Mountain Danvers onion and 1200 pounds of the M.A.C. strain of Burbank Bantam sweet corn was sold annually. These became the heaviest selling vegetable seed items throughout western Canada.

A number of individuals in Manitoba have been successful in the production of vegetable seeds. The growing of pea seed started along the Red River north of Winnipeg about 1890. From here production spread up to the Assiniboine River and then west over to the Portage la Prairie area. One of the early growers was A. McCallister who began production in 1930. By 1941 he had at least 120 acres in garden peas, soup peas, baking beans, and vegetable soybeans. Harold Orchard of Miami was producing muskmelon, popcorn and Sioux Squaw corn seeds as early as 1926. Dr. G. P. McRostie took great interest in the production of vegetable soybeans and baking beans for seed. Field and sweet corn seed production on a large scale was started in the Winkler area by A. A. Kroeker in 1934. Successful production expanded the corn seed production in Manitoba. A number of vegetable seeds was produced by Mr. Strachan of Carman as early as 1928. Gerald Aubin of Carman commenced sweet corn seed production in 1934. Albert Spangelo, Morden Nursery was producing Dorinny sweet corn in 1934. Later he became the largest producer of hybrid sweet corn in Western Canada. Boughen of Boughen's Nursery at Valley River was producing seed of Improved Boughen muskmelon in 1926. William Murray of Dauphin was producing seed of Murauphin sweet corn (Burpee Early Yellow \times Early White Sweet) in 1933. Mrs. Annie Young of Haskett selected a non-acid Earliana tomato in 1924 and maintained seed stock of this strain. Large quantities of seed were sold from 1934 to 1941. George Chipman of Chipman's Nursery at Charleswood was growing for seed Chipman's Champlain muskmelon,

Oregon Giant pole bean, and Canada Red rhubarb. Harris McFayden of McFayden Seed Co. in Winnipeg first started growing vegetables for seed at East St. Paul with 8 acres in 1936. By 1941 he had 110 acres in vegetable seed production made up of peas, beans, cucumbers, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, squash, pumpkins, marrows, muskmelons, and citrons. In 1938 Mr. J. A. Coulter named his Coulter rhubarb, a bud sport of the Macdonald variety. He is still maintaining stock of this selection. In addition he has grown various vegetable seeds in demand. About 1942, Mr. Clarence Edwards started the production of certified vegetable seeds. The Scott-Bathgate Co. of Winnipeg was the outlet for this packet trade. This firm, not only grew vegetable seeds on a large scale, but also brought the growing of mustard seed into Manitoba. From time-to-time they have had approximately 400 acres under contract for the production of mustard seed.

The Mennonite and Hutterite influence on seed production in Manitoba cannot be ignored. A number of Canadian muskmelon and watermelon varieties can be traced back to the seeds brought to this country and to the seeds saved from year-to-year by the Mennonites. However, their greatest contribution has been in the introduction and production of sunflower seeds for oil. The Hutterites brought seeds of many warm season vine crops to Manitoba. These stocks are still being maintained by them.

Though onion sets are not true seeds, the history of their production should be recorded here. The growing of sets in the Red River valley began about 1912. Steele Briggs Seed Co. of Winnipeg and McKenzie Seed Co. of Brandon had production of sets under contract to growers in the valley. About 1939, production of onion sets increased rapidly reaching a peak of about 1.5 million pounds. During the past ten years, production has stabilized at about 1.0 million pounds. Most of this production is under contract to seed firms.

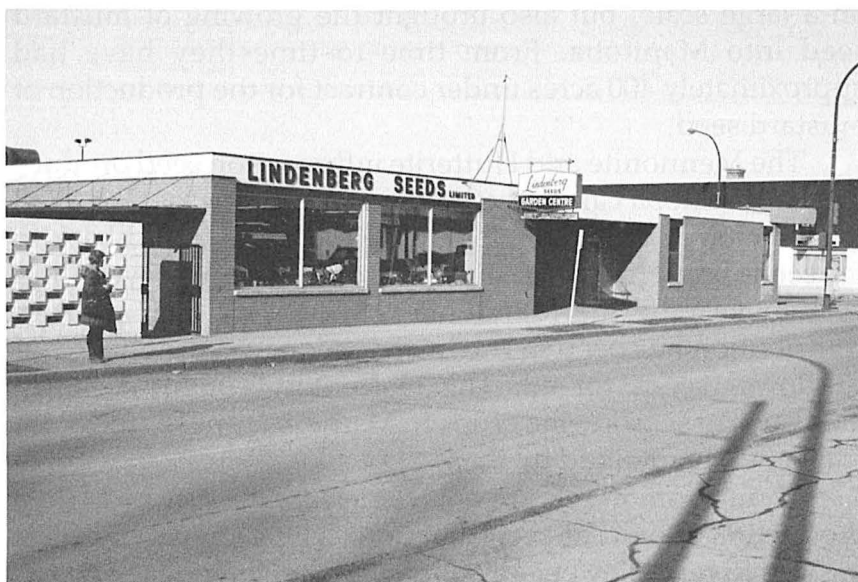
This is the end of the quotation from the W.C.S.H. Review.

This book will concern itself with the major garden seed firms that were active in Manitoba over the years. All major

stores, supermarkets and nurseries today are handling consignment racks of Manitoba seed companies as well as some from other parts of Canada and the U.S.A.

The two family-operated seed firms, Lindenberg Seed Ltd. and T & T Seeds Ltd., will be dealt with first. Then will follow McFayden Seed Co. and Steele-Briggs Seed Co. Ltd., both of which were later absorbed by A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Last will come the story of McKenzie-Briggs Co. Ltd., the oldest of the seed companies in Manitoba, and originally operated as the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd.

Lindenberg Seeds Limited



Lindenberg Seeds of Brandon.

For the background of this 48-year-old family seed firm, the reader is invited to visit Rapid City, Manitoba in 1915. Here Louie Lindenberg started a farming operation. The Lindenegs had four children, three sons and a daughter. The three boys, Arwid, Bruno and Arthur, worked the farm together with their father. They looked for other avenues of income and, in 1932, they began to grow registered Home-steaders peas. These were sold to A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. in

Brandon. By 1935 their acreage in this one crop had increased to 40 acres. They were now growing seven varieties of registered crops. In 1937 they opened a sales office in Grand Rapids. They expanded their production area, not only in the area of Fairway Crested wheat grass, wheat, and barley, but also into the area of vegetable and flower seeds.

In 1941 Lindenberg Seeds Ltd. located in Brandon. By this time they had a catalogue business as well as commission boxes. Their catalogue and commission box trade has greatly expanded. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and even Alberta are now in their increased sales area. Their neat sales plant on 803 Princess Ave. handles all the necessities a gardener may look for besides the handsomely packaged seeds, bulbs and roses. Gladiolus is only one specialty.

The firm also has a seed cleaning plant and sells registered field and garden seeds in bulk. Through all these years it has remained a family business. The three brothers, Arwid, Bruno and Arthur still actively participate in the day-to-day operation of the business. Eric Lindenberg, a third generation family member, is the president while Arwid still acts as Secretary-Treasurer of the firm. Fourth generation participation in the business is expected in the near future.

This family seed business has built up an enviable reputation over the years. It is known as a reliable source of excellent garden seeds and bulbs. Hard work, sound business practices and high business ethics made the Lindenberg Seeds Ltd. what it is today. And this without any infusion of government subsidies.

T & T Seeds Ltd.

T & T Seeds Ltd. is another family seed operation. When it began in 1945, the T & T stood for Taintor-Twomey. After Mr. Taintor left the company, the Twomeys took over. It is still operated by Twomeys and could realistically be called the Twomey-Twomey Seeds Ltd.

No other Manitoba seed company began with as well informed personnel as T & T. Jim Taintor of Grand Forks was a director of one of N.D.'s agricultural schools and a scientific grower of registered seed potatoes. Jerry Twomey was a graduate in horticulture of both the Manitoba Agricultural

College and the University of Minnesota. He had gained practical experience while working with Harris McFayden and, after McFayden's death, in operating the McFayden Seed Co. for A. E. McKenzie for five years. The T & T test plots were in charge of Bill Silversides, formerly on the staff of the University of Manitoba. Two other close collaborators were Dr. Chas. Walkof of the Morden Experimental Farm and Hector MacDonald of the Assiniboine Park.

T & T put out its first seed catalogue in 1946. The Dedication in that catalogue is reproduced here. It shows the high esteem Jerry Twomey held for Harris McFayden. It did more than that for T & T Seeds. It pulled in many of the customers of the McFayden firm. But in reality it was the knowledgeable approach to the seed trade combined with the high business ethics of the firm, that helped T & T grow. It has no commission boxes but only a seed catalogue. This covers a large part of Canada. The seed packages are not as fanciful as those of competitors but the quality of the seeds is guaranteed. The firm is located in an unimposing building on Lombard Avenue. The business premises are austere. Yet the seed packing operation is computerized. For many years Jerry Twomey supplied Hector MacDonald with flower seeds and bulbs for the English Garden. The varieties that showed up well, were then featured in his catalogue.

Jim Taintor of N.D. left the firm after a few years. Jerry Twomey is retired now and breeds roses for a hobby in his home in **California**. Patrick (Paddy) Twomey, a brother of Jerry, and Paddy's sons, Kevin and Brian, now operate T & T Seeds Ltd. The firm seems to be prospering. It is in good hands.

McFayden Seed Co.

Harris McFayden was the founder of McFayden Seed Co. He was the son of a doctor from Caledon, Ontario, who ran away from home but later settled down and received his B.S.A. degree from Ontario Agricultural College. He was in a class with John Bracken, who later came to be premier of Manitoba.

After graduation Harris became horticultural editor of



**THE LATE HARRIS MCFAYDEN
AND OUR JERRY TWOMEY IN 1940.**

Jerry Twomey, Canadian Manager of T and T Seeds, had the opportunity of studying 12 years under the guidance, and thus became thoroughly imbued with the ideals and ideas of the late Harris McFayden, founder of the McFayden Seed Company.

Mr. McFayden, before his untimely death in 1941, believed, and expressed in his business policy, that the returns from large volume, low priced seed, should go into Plant Breeding and development work for the Benefit of Northern Agriculture rather than into the coffers of large corporate trusts.

It is to keep these ideals alive that we dedicate our T & T SEED DIGEST to the memory of the late Harris McFayden, Canada's Greatest Seedsman.

the Family Herald and Weekly Star. Next he became Seed Commissioner for Saskatchewan. Then he acted as Canadian Manager in Winnipeg for the Garton Pedigree Seed Co. In that position he attended exhibitions all over Canada and the U.S.A., putting on exhibits for his firm and selling seeds for spring delivery. This education later stood him in good stead.

Harris' first venture into the seed business in 1921 was a failure. He borrowed money and started again in 1923. To help pay for the business, he went on the road in summer, selling land and adjusting hail claims for the Great-West Life Company. It is hard to say just when McFayden Seed Co. really turned the corner to stability. By 1930 his firm was well-known to the trade. He hired Tom Graham of O.A.C. to help him select hardy and suitable varieties of vegetables and ornamentals. New immigrants brought seeds from the old country and this would be tested. Harris started a field testing station at East Selkirk and grew vegetables, flowers,

bulbs and ornamentals, as well as small fruits on the 170 acres there.

Harris was always on top of any new information in the seed world. Jerry Twomey, an agricultural graduate in horticulture of both Manitoba and Minnesota, visited Research Stations and the large seed companies in Canada and the States for him.

Hardy varieties suitable for this country as determined by an extensive testing program, mass production of the seeds, standard packaging and low prices were the cornerstones of the McFayden Seed Co. business. The McFayden catalogue enjoyed a large circulation especially in the west.

Harris McFayden suffered a stroke in 1941 and soon passed away. Jerry Twomey took over the management of the firm. In 1942, McFayden Seed Co. was purchased by A. E. McKenzie Ltd. of Brandon, Manitoba. It was, however, run as a separate operation. Jerry Twomey managed the firm for McKenzie's until 1945.

Steele Briggs Seed Co.

Steele and Briggs were the two gentlemen who came to organize Steele Briggs Seed Company with its home base in Toronto. To start out with, the major thrust was in field seeds. This company was responsible for the first shipment of Manitoba wheat to Toronto. In 1928 Mr. Don MacKay joined the company in its Winnipeg operation on Market Street. The firm ran a catalogue and commission box operation for the West. Many Manitobans will remember the Homesteader peas grown for the firm at Portage la Prairie. In 1932, Mr. W. B. Dack of the Imperial Bank (now the Bank of Commerce) was made comptroller of the firm and in 1949 became its President and General Manager. Mr. Dack purchased the firm in 1956 and the same year opened a branch office in Vancouver. Steele Briggs was in bulk sales and also serviced the market garden area with its catalogue sales and commission boxes. Mr. Dack also purchased the Toronto firm known as Rennies Seed Company and the combined firm came to be known as Steele Briggs-Rennies Seed Com-

pany. Cropp on 221 Market Avenue in Winnipeg handled Rennies seed for some years.

About 1966 Mr. Dack sold his firm to Maple Leaf Mills in Toronto and retired. The Canada Seed Company acted as a holding company for Maple Leaf Mills' newly-acquired Steele Briggs-Rennies firm and Don MacKay was named its Vice President and Director.

In 1971 Maple Leaf Mills sold the Steele Briggs-Rennies firm to the A. E. McKenzie Seed Company of Brandon, Manitoba. The company now became known as the A. E. McKenzie-Briggs Seed Company. The name Rennies was dropped, but the firm still holds the rights to this name and still markets some seeds as Rennies seed. Mr. Don MacKay was kept on as National Accounts Executive with his office in Winnipeg. Mr. McKay retired in 1980. His span of service lasted from 1928 to 1980, a total of 52 years. It was only suitable that his long service to the seed trade be recognized. At his retirement party he was presented with a gift of money for an overseas trip, a copper-engraved likeness of himself, and a silver tray. Mr. MacKay and his wife now live in East Kildonan. Though retired, Don's interest in the seed trade is undiminished.

A. E. McKenzie Seed Company

A landmark of the Brandon sky-line that greets the visitor who approaches this city from the Trans Canada Highway, is the A. E. McKenzie building. The tower of this building dates back to 1898, the year that Albert Edward McKenzie struck out on his own as the A. E. McKenzie Seed Company. He had actually been in business in 1896 when he and Dr. S. A. Bedford and Mr. Henry Patmore incorporated the A. E. McKenzie Feed and Seed Company.

Albert E. McKenzie was born in 1870. This determined, shrewd and frugal Scot saw an opportunity in the expanding grain industry in Western Canada and decided that he was going to have part of the action generated by this development. He began with certified seed of grain, legumes and grasses and soon added a vegetable line to his business. The business grew and the big seed plant that he built in 1898, was expanded in 1942. To keep down costs, McKenzie



McKenzie Seeds in Brandon.

employed young people who could be paid a lesser wage. Nevertheless, his plant gave employment opportunities to Brandon people at a time when work was hard to come by.

As this book deals with horticulture only, the trade in field seeds will not be dealt with. McKenzie soon developed a seed catalogue and also went into the commission or consignment stand business all across Western Canada. To cut down the competition, Mr. McKenzie purchased McFayden Seed Company in 1942, shortly after the death of Harris McFayden, the founder of that firm. McFayden was a Winnipeg-based concern and was managed for McKenzie's by Jerry Twomey until 1945. Whereas both, the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. and McFayden Seed Company, were now owned by McKenzie, they were operated as separate

entities. Both put out catalogues and consignment boxes. They are still operated as separate profit centres to this day. The McKenzie catalogue was dropped in 1966. The A. E. McKenzie business now is in the consignment packaged seeds only and McFayden Seeds is strictly a catalogue business operation. Both have a country wide distribution.

Mr. A. E. McKenzie was a Brandon man. He saw the floundering Baptist College, later to become Brandon College, and thought of a way to help solve its financial difficulties. In 1945 he approached the Provincial Government with a plan. He would deed 90% of the A. E. McKenzie shares to government and keep 10% for himself on the condition that profits from the operation would go to the upkeep of the College. McKenzie would stay on to manage the operation. This plan was accepted by the government of the day. Mr. McKenzie managed the affairs of the company until the time of his death in 1964. He died at the ripe old age of 94. At the time of his death the company books were in the black.

The years that followed McKenzie's death saw a downturn in the business of the firm. Whether it was as a result of the times or of mismanagement, or both, is a mute question. The firm sank into debt and needed an infusion of government capital to keep it afloat.

In 1971 A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. purchased Steele Briggs Seed Co. and also Brett Young Seed Co. The latter was sold in 1973 to Pool Elevators and McKenzie-Briggs has been consolidated as one operation. McFayden Seeds is run as a separate profit centre and so is Pikes, an Edmonton firm bought by McKenzie-Briggs in 1982. This three-in-one McKenzie-Briggs operation covers Canada coast-to-coast with the McFayden and Pike seed catalogues and the McKenzie commission boxes. Bill Moore is the president and Ray West the Vice President in charge of Marketing. Jean MacKay, a long time employee of the firm, is secretary of Mr. Moore. Ray West has been with the company for 28 years. His father, Ross West, was employed by McKenzies for over 40 years. Another long-time employee, now retired, is Steve Lestition. At present the Brandon operation employs 150 full

time workers and 300 workers at peak times. The fortunes of the firm seem to be on the mend.

The government appoints a board to oversee the operation of McKenzie-Briggs. Only history will prove whether government involvement in the private sector will benefit, not only the workers, but the country as a whole.

The Role of Pickseed In The Agriculture/Horticulture Economy of Manitoba

Pickseed first began doing business in Manitoba in 1960. That same year the Federal Department of Agriculture embarked on a new law whereby seed of named variety had to be of a pedigree class. This change effectively marked the beginning of the end for timothy seed production in Ontario. Eastern farmers who were becoming variety conscious and to simply say that a particular variety of seed was grown from another variety, and then be able to call it by that variety's name, was unacceptable.

Concurrently with this change many seed farmers had looked to growing grass seed as a crop of diversity. Those years were years of heavy grain surpluses and moving wheat, oats and barley through the elevator system was difficult as quotas were low. Therefore many farmers planted acreages of timothy and meadow fescue to diversify their crop and have more crop available for cash sale at harvest time.

Some seed farmers established fields of pedigree Climax timothy, among them men like the late Robert Cottingham, Dan and Fred Porcher and the McRae families at Selkirk.

Martin Pick of Otto Pick & Sons Seeds Ltd., travelled to Manitoba and toured the province calling on the growers producing certified Climax timothy. In 1960 there were less than 70 producers in the province scattered from Sprague in the southeast, as far northwest as The Pas.

From this initial activity Pickseed started developing its base of operation in the province. In 1964 a warehouse receiving depot was built at the present location on the corner of PTH 7 and Inkster Blvd. The initial installation operated rather poorly, not meeting the projected capacities for receiving and scalping (pre-cleaning) timothy seed. The

following year an addition was built with a more modern system which worked to its projections. In 1970 a larger warehouse was added to the operation. Throughout the 60's a seed cleaning mill had been installed and a percentage of the crop was always processed at the Winnipeg site. The seed processed in Winnipeg would be shipped to U.S. mid-western markets or directly by semi-load to Toronto or Montreal.

The location at the northwest corner in Winnipeg soon demonstrated its ability to attract buyers of seed. Farmers from the Interlake found that our location was very convenient and rapidly a retail business started developing. Sales efforts were put forth to contact landscape contractors, sod producers and garden centers and this business too was expanded.

Throughout the 70's marked an era of a shift in the entire seed industry. New varieties bred by the private sector of the seed industry were growing rapidly in acceptance. These new varieties transcended most crops from hybrid corn through cereal seeds, forages and turf grasses. In 1976 Pickseed established its own research program at Blenheim, Ontario, prior to that time promoting varieties on which it had negotiated representations.

Throughout the late 70's also hybrid corn was started being grown in much greater quantities in the province and Pickseed undertook an aggressive marketing program for hybrid corn.

Most recently in horticulture, better turf demanded by the public lead to a much broader acceptance of improved turfgrass varieties.

The most recent development in the landscape era has been the use of colourful wildflowers or legumes to colour up the landscape sites for society's recreation. Pickseed is the leading marketer of wildflower seeds and mixtures of grasses and wildflower seeds.

Pickseed is proud of its role in the agricultural and horticultural sector of the Manitoba economy and of the people we work with and serve in the province.

Martin C. Pick

STRAWBERRY GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA



Happy Berry Pickers at Sosiak's U-Pick Farm.

Steps Leading up to the Formation of the Association

Strawberries have been grown in Manitoba since the time when the early pioneers planted their gardens. Market gardeners in the proximity of cities and towns grew small acreage and picked strawberries for their customers to sell from their roadside stands or their booths at the Farmers' Markets. The varieties grown were of excellent eating quality, but tended to be soft and had a short shelf life. Because straw mulches brought in weeds and there were as yet no weed control chemicals, no mulches were used and the berries were dirty as a result. Even in the early days, it was difficult to get reliable pickers. Strawberry plantations lasted only a couple of years before they had to be plowed down. Certified plants were not available and so new fields were planted with runners from old fields. In spite of these difficulties a few growers around Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie

and Dauphin had limited success. There was however, no grower who could depend on strawberry growing for a complete livelihood.

This was the situation when the Manitoba Department of Agriculture appointed Mr. P. J. Peters as Fruit Specialist. In 1960 Mr. Peters set out to investigate the feasibility of commercial strawberry production in Manitoba. Under the auspices of the Department the Reynolds Fruit Growers' Coop was formed at Hadashville. A 39-acre field was purchased by the Department and experimentation begun. A planter, sprayer and irrigation equipment were purchased.

High on the list of priorities was the choice of varieties of suitable hardiness, good quality and yielding ability. A test plot of forty varieties was laid out. From this the five most promising June bearers and three everbearers were selected. To further test the validity of this selection, the fruit specialist arranged for thirty test plots of these eight varieties. Two test plots were at the University of Manitoba and at the Morden Research Station. The rest were located across the province going as far north as The Pas. The results of these tests were most interesting. Redcoat was the first choice at all locations. Sparkle came in as second. In everbearers, Ogalalla was the unanimous choice.

The practical art of strawberry growing was next in importance. The following areas were investigated.

1. Planting techniques
2. Cultivation methods
3. Irrigation
4. Fertilization
5. Chemical weed control
6. Insect and disease control
7. Suitable mulches
8. Straw spreading techniques
9. Picking and merchandizing
10. Grower plants versus certified stock
11. Renovation practices
12. Deblossoming
13. Shelter

It is not within the scope of this book to enumerate the

many early failures. Success came, even though slowly. The fruit specialist wrote a bulletin entitled Commercial Strawberry Production for Manitoba and also developed a Strawberry Spray Calendar. The experiment proved that commercial strawberry production in Manitoba was feasible and could be profitable. The experimental farm was turned over to the Reynolds Fruit Growers' Coop.

When the first ten-acre field of berries came into bearing, it was found that there were not enough pickers to harvest the crop. Radio and T.V. releases asked people to come and pick their own. This is how the U-Pick system in Manitoba came into being. From the very beginning of this experiment, the fruit specialist arranged for field days at the Hadashville farm. These annual field days were very well attended. They sparked an interest in many potential growers. Annual meetings of potential growers were held in conjunction with V.G.A.M. convention.

Following the Hadashville experiment, the fruit specialist worked closely with new and old growers who began to grow strawberries in earnest. Test plots for evaluating varieties, testing weed control, and investigating fertilizer requirements were laid out in growers' fields. Happily many of the growers were successful. The annual meetings and field days became even more important. It was at this stage that the fruit specialist advised the growers that they could benefit greatly by forming a Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba. The story of this association follows. It is prepared from notes obtained from Mr. Dan Sosiak of Portage la Prairie.

The Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba is born

The first resolution favoring the formation of an association was passed at a strawberry growers' meeting in November, 1973. As a followup another meeting was called on Feb. 26, 1974 at the Ramada Inn in Winnipeg. At this meeting the possible advantages that such an organization could have for growers were enumerated. These were:

1. As an organized body, plants could be ordered in bulk, shipped in refrigerated vans and kept in cold storage until

the growers were ready to plant. This would keep the plants in good condition and result in better stands. Growers, especially smaller ones, would benefit pricewise.

2. An association would be able to get better service in the matter of chemicals for insect, disease and weed control.
3. An association is in a better position to impress the needs of the industry on government, such as the registering of beneficial chemicals and the need for research on weed, insect and disease control and others.
4. Promotion and advertising, so important to the industry, is more effective when done by an association. The media respond more easily to an association than to individual growers.
5. Crop insurance can only be obtained by group requests.
6. The exchange of information in all phases of production becomes more effective through meetings, field days, and joint visits to other producing areas.
7. Pricing is also important. Growers can discuss prices that will give them fair returns.

The major selling point in favor of an association was the matter of importing plants. The attendance of this meeting was too low to warrant the immediate formation of an association. The group did name a steering committee made up of the following:

Joe Yablonski — Winnipeg
Bill Wowk — Hadashville
Bob Sontag — Dugald
Dan Sosiak — Portage la Prairie
Ben Krueger — Altona

The steering committee in the spring of 1974 arranged for the refrigerated shipment of plants from Ontario and the storage of these plants in cold storage. It was a wet spring and resulted in late planting. The far-sighted plan resulted in few plant losses and it alone proved the necessity for a growers' association. The steering committee met again on Nov. 25, 1974 and drew up a constitution and also a resolution for the next growers' meeting.

At the Strawberry Growers' Meeting held at the Inter-

national Inn on **November 27, 1974**, eighteen growers, a majority of the growers in attendance, voted to form the **Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba**. The first board of directors was as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Dan Sosiak, Portage la Prairie |
| Vice-President | Bill Wowk, Hadashville |
| Sec.-Treas. | Joe Yablonski, Winnipeg |
| Director | Bob Sontag, Dugald |
| Director | Frank Ptosnick, Morden |
| Director | Morris Chubey, Rosa |
| Director | Ben Krueger, Altona |

At this meeting the object of the association was spelled out as follows: The object of the association shall be the advancement of the Manitoba fruit growing industry in all its phases.

At a meeting held on Jan. 4, 1975 a constitution was adopted. Membership fees were set at \$5.00 plus 50¢ an acre over ten acres. Membership at this time stood at about 40. Thus was the S.G.A.M. launched.

Activities of S.G.A.M.

1. The scope of the annual meeting has been greatly enlarged. Helped by its finances, the association has brought in many speakers from other areas. Three days are now devoted to the discussions.
2. The association has been instrumental in getting research on weed control, fertilizers, slug control, cutworm control, and high density planting carried out for them by the University and the Department of Agriculture. Fumigation and plastic mulch tests are in the offing.
3. It continues to order certified plants for the growers. These are brought in by refrigerated vans and are kept in cold storage until they are needed.
4. Annual field days are sponsored by the association.
5. The association sent two members to Nova Scotia and Ontario in 1976 to investigate the reasons for poor plants the previous year. On the association's request the fruit specialist was permitted to accompany them. A full report of their findings was given at the next convention.
6. The association has organized tours to other growing areas and seminars in the States for interested growers.

Some Manitoba growers are now members of the North American Strawberry Growers' Association. All this helps Manitoba growers keep abreast of what is happening in the industry.

7. Promotion is a success story for the S.G.A.M. With the help of the Marketing Branch, U-Pick Strawberry signs were developed. A hundred of these were printed for the association and sold to growers at cost. A map showing the location and size of all growers was drawn up and distributed to growers, ag. reps., the Tourist Bureau, newspapers, radio and T.V. stations. A brochure to promote the U-Pick operation was printed. It had advice on how to pick, handle, store and freeze fresh strawberries. Recipes on the use of berries were included. The Marketing Branch printed 20,000 of these brochures and distributed them to all growers. The newspapers now cooperate by carrying stories on Manitoba strawberries and featuring recipes at berry time. The Portage la Prairie Strawberry festival, in which area growers participate by supplying fresh berries, gives the industry further publicity.

Problems still exist. Pricing and price undercutting need to be looked at. But if the cooperative spirit which founded this association continues, many of these problems can and will be solved. The Association now has about 80 members.

The board of directors for 1982 is as follows:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| President | Bob Hicks, Souris |
| Vice.-Pres. | John Sosiak, Portage la Prairie |
| Secretary | Waldo Thiessen, Altona |
| Directors | Donna Kennedy, Carman; Peter Maendel, Portage la Prairie; George Neudorf, Brandon; Bernie Perron, Beau-sejour |

S.G.A.M. Honorary Life Memberships

The young association presented an Honorary Life Membership to P. J. Peters, former Fruit Specialist and editor of this history, in 1980. Mr. Peters biography appears elsewhere in this book.

The second membership will be presented to Dan Sosiak in 1983.

Dan Sosiak

Dan Sosiak.



There is no man that eats, lives and breathes strawberries like Dan Sosiak. He is the most accomplished, knowledgeable and successful grower in Manitoba. It was his interest and drive that led to the formation of the Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba. He could be called the father of the S.G.A.M. and was also its first president.

Dan, son of Peter Sosiak, was born in Missouri and came to Amaranth, Manitoba with his parents when he was four years old. In 1919 the family moved to Portage la Prairie where they engaged in mixed farming, including the growing of vegetables.

In 1938 Dan began his strawberry career with $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of Senator Dunlap. The local stores refused to buy the fruit because it was too soft. So Dan peddled his crop in town and sold the berries for \$2.00 a crate. In 1940 he sold 1100 crates that way.

After three years of overseas service with the Canadian Air Force from 1942 to 1945 in World War Two, Dan returned to his strawberry growing enterprise. Later he added seed potatoes, pickling cucumbers and raspberries to his operation. He grew firmer varieties of strawberries like Glenheart and Robinson. As a result some wholesalers in Winnipeg,

like Lomows and Gardenia Florists, became interested in handling Dan's berries. From then on he sold most of his crop to wholesalers in Winnipeg for a period of years.

When the provincial strawberry experiments at Hadashville began to show positive results, Dan dropped his other crops and concentrated on strawberry growing. His farm is a model of tree shelterbelt protection. He changed to varieties currently in use. The operation was modernized and fully mechanized. A complete irrigation system was set up. But Dan still continued to get pickers for his berries. He just did not trust the U-Pick system to begin with.

Dan is the father of two sons. The oldest, Jim, is a civil engineer in Grand Prairie, Alta. John, the younger son, formed a partnership with his father known as Sosiak's Berry Farm. Because pickers were no longer available, they turned to the U-Pick system. They have organized this system beautifully. A treed picnic area gives a pleasant setting. Yields have increased and the acreage is now up to 20 acres. Two families depend on the production of these acres for their livelihood.

A good grower is an informed grower. This is the maxim by which Dan lives. He is a member of the American Strawberry Growers' Association and attends their meetings. He has attended many seminars in the states and visited many growing areas. The information gained is gladly shared with other growers. Dan is a most worthy recipient for the Honorary Life Membership that will be bestowed on him at the next convention.

KEYSTONE VEGETABLE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

1969-1982

Prior to the incorporation of the association in 1969 an informal group of producers met and carried out business under the name Carberry Producers Association. This group first met in 1962, the first year that Carnation Foods Limited contracted for potato supplies. The company had purchased property at the local airport in 1961 and produced potatoes in the first season on its own.

The initial membership of the Carberry Producers Association was Anthony Adriaansen, Joe Baron, Lester Baron, Roy Baily, A. T. Brown, Harold Calvert, Barry Hood, Wallace Hood, and Bill Steen. With the exception of Adriaansen, production of potatoes was a new enterprise for the above farmers. The informal association served as a forum to exchange ideas, discuss contracts and for some members served as an unofficial vehicle to place bulk orders for some production supplies.

By 1965 an increase in supplies for the plant was needed and additional farmers began to produce potatoes for the Carberry outlet. Roy Bailey became chairman and Barry Hood, who had been secretary-treasurer from the beginning continued in the office. By 1965 a membership fee of 10 cents per acre had been initiated to finance the association.

In 1969 the group completed the incorporation of their association and it was known as Keystone Vegetable Producers Association Incorporated. The first President was Herb McIntosh with Barry Hood continuing as Secretary-Treasurer until 1971. Others listed on the document are Alvin Wiebe, H. H. Kuhl, E. T. Nichol and Anthony Andriaansen.

The charter lists the objects of the association and expands its stated interest of the group to "growers producing agricultural products for processing". It was to provide a forum for opinion development, represent growers in contract negotiations, encourage cooperation among growers as well as growers and processors, to participate in educational meetings, research activities, publish newsletters and to support educational and research insitutes deemed worthy of subsidy.

The time of incorporation coincide with a major increase in demand for processing potatoes. Over the next year or two contracts were signed in many areas of the province. Examples are Lockport, Teulon, Haskett, Portage, MacGregor, Winkler, Carman, Elie, Holland, Treherne, Souris, and Plum Coulee.

A change in the membership fee structure was made at the 1969 annual meeting. A fee of 0.25 cents per hundred weight was to be deducted from the negotiated price and

turned over to the association by the company. The growers were invited to sign the separate "check-off permission" sheet at the same time that the contract was to be signed.

A summary of the presidents and secretaries of Keystone Vegetable Producers Association is as follows:

Presidents

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1969-71 | Herb McIntosh, Carberry |
| 1972-1973 | John Murta, Greysville |
| 1974-77 | W. J. Siemens, Gretna |
| 1978 | Don Kroeker, Winkler |
| 1979 | Eldon McEachern, Carman |

Secretary-Treasurer

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1969-71 | Barry Hood, Carberry |
| 1972-75 | Jim Stow, Greysville |
| 1976-79 | Henry Thiessen, Winkler |
| 1980 | Garry Sloik, Portage |

In 1974 Keystone and several other North American producer groups sought ways of exchanging information on product supplies (raw and processed) contract conditions, costs of production and production techniques. This group has become known as the Potato Marketing Association of North America. The group has held meetings regularly and has visited the major potato production areas on the continent. The group was hosted for their summer meeting at Winnipeg in 1979 by Keystone.

In 1979 Keystone was successful in obtaining an Agro-Man Contract under the federal Provincial Value Added Crops Agreement. This provided for in the field evaluation of recommended cultural and storage practices. The results of the project have been an excellent source to extend information to producers on efficient production technology.

Initially contracts were based on acres and the company took all of the potatoes produced from the specified acreage. In recent times the procedure was changed and the contracts specified the volume of potatoes that would be purchased. This resulted in "surplus" potatoes and was a source of concern. In 1981 arrangements were formalized with the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board to have Keystone recognized as an "agent" of the Board and thus make arrangements to market surplus potatoes.

In 1978 McCain Foods negotiated the first contracts for

production at the Portage la Prairie location. Keystone was authorized in 1982 to negotiate contract terms for the raw production produced in Manitoba for the Simplot facility in Grand Forks and the seed potato contracts with McCains and Carnation.

Since the initial activities of the informal group in 1962, the group now known as "Keystone" has grown steadily in stature and influence. It currently negotiates sales conditions for 77% of the volume of the 30 million dollar crop in Manitoba and represents by far the majority of producers in the province. The dedication of the elected representatives and the achievements attained are tribute to the high regard earned in the North American potato world.

SEED POTATO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

This voluntary Association of seed potato producers had its beginning in the fall of 1968. A group of producers, staff of the Federal Seed Certification Agency and the Provincial Potato Specialist met and formulated the proposed Association. At a general meeting held January 14th, 1969 the proposals were accepted and the Seed Potato Growers' Association of Manitoba was formed. The object of the Association, as stated in the 1969 Constitution "— will be the advancement of Manitoba's seed potato industry in all its phases". This shall include:

- 1) To make available to growers the best known techniques in production.
- 2) To further quality improvement.
- 3) To encourage improvement in sanitation procedures.
- 4) To advise on regulatory matters, including licensing of new varieties.
- 5) To work closely with marketing agencies in market development and sales.

The first Board of Directors was:

A. D. Kroeker, President, Winkler

A. M. Briggs, Portage la Prairie

J. J. F. Goertzen, Winkler

J. Kuzminski, East Selkirk

A. Adriaansen, Wellwood

W. M. Whiteway, Agriculture Canada was appointed as Executive Secretary.

The first major activity of the newly formed Association was to work towards the establishment of a provincial seed farm. Through the Association a commitment for the growers to participate was established as well as support of the industry at large. The proposals were presented to the Honorable Samuel Uskiw and became an established project.

The Seed Growers Association of Manitoba was invited to nominate three seed potato producers for the consideration of the Minister of Agriculture in selecting the Elite Seed Potato Farm Board. In all cases the nominees have been representatives on the Agro-Man Technical Committee. these members have been: A. D. Kroeker

A. M. Briggs

A. Adriaansen

A. Funk

H. Jonk

The Association worked closely with the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board and were successful in establishing an official seed growers' representative on the Board. This individual is recommended to the Board through the business of the Annual Meeting. This recommendation is treated as a nomination at the Board's Annual Meeting with the eligible voters being restricted to seed producers.

This representative reviews production volumes and competitive prices at a general meeting of Association members held each fall. From this, pricing guidelines are recommended for open market stock and presented to the Board. The representative continues to monitor the quantities and markets and actively participates in the price determination structure for seed potatoes. These arrangements continue at the present time for open market stock.

The Association has also participated in contractual terms for seed supply with the two major French fry processors, McCain Foods and Carnation Foods. Initially the

contract conditions were negotiated by a committee of producers appointed by the growers. The major frustration of this procedure was the late date of contract settlement often delayed into the summer well after acreage was planted and always delayed until the raw supply contracts were settled. A review of the processing product and seed stock price relationship led to the development of a formula to up-charge the negotiated processing price to determine the seed contract price. While this system was never formally adopted by the processors it in fact has been the basis of settlement since it was developed.

The final stage of this development was the formal extension of membership to seed potato producers by Keystone Vegetable Producers Association Incorporated in 1983. This Association negotiates the contract terms with the major processors. As a result, the contract discussions reflect the interests of the seed producers and the seed sold under the contracts pays the Keystone check-off.

Over the years SPGAM has held several educational field days, tours and meetings. They co-operated with the Vegetable Board in publishing a Seed Buyers' guide and organized educational displays.

More recently the Association has sent a grower representative to participate in the revision of seed certification regulations at Ottawa. Their input at the local and national level assures that an overall industry perspective is maintained. Particular stands have been taken on Bacterial Ring Rot, spindle tuber virus, witches broom and bulk shipment regulations. All of these have been important to Manitoba. The Association is recognized as an official representative on this National Advisory Body. Association interests are also represented through direct membership in the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba. This group maintains active participation in Canadian Horticultural Council, the National watchdog for all of the horticultural industry.

CHAPTER X

IN SEARCH OF BEAUTY

I took one day to search for God
And found Him not, but as I trod
O'er rocky ledge and woods untamed
Just where one scarlet lily flamed
I found his footprints in the sod.

Provincial Parks

Footprints of the Almighty, that's what Manitoba's Provincial Parks are. "In Manitoba, the park panorama



Whiteshell Provincial Park. Courtesy Manitoba Government.

encompasses 12 natural parks, three heritage parks, 42 recreation parks and over 100 waysides. In them people can swim, fish, boat, sail, canoe, camp, play golf or tennis, picnic, hike, backpack or ride horseback. Natural settings and countless activities create a kaleidoscope of park images, but provincial parks are more than just convenient get-away places for the rest and recreation. Many of them also contain fascinating scenic, historical and zoological features; features considered important enough to be set aside in provincial parks for all to share, then passed on as a legacy to future generations". This is a quote from a brochure entitled "Self-guiding Trails" of the Provincial Parks.

To the horticultural naturalist, the self-guiding nature trails are most enticing. Here he or she can commune with the rich ecology of the plant kingdom. To a naturalist finding a rare specimen plant is akin to a miner finding a lode of gold. The panorama changes with the seasons. Even a winter tour has its rich compensation. Books could be and have been written about the flora of many of these parks. Space permits the mention of only a few of these nature trails.

Pisew Falls is a perfect wayside stop for the northern travellers and is located 76 km. south of Thompson. This is a good place to stop and marvel at nature's handiwork. Manitoba's highest accessible waterfall invites the camera enthusiast and the landscape painter. Here the editor was enraptured by the golden fall colors one sunny September afternoon. Then he and his naturalist friend and photographer, Lawrence Stuckey, spent a few hours visiting the late blooming flowers on this park's self-guiding trail.

Whiteshell Provincial Park, the very name conjures up visions of fishing, boating, water-skiing, bathing or other more restful holiday pursuits. To the naturalist it spells Assinika Interpretive Trail. This trail leads the traveller through the country typical of the Manitoba portion of the Canadian Shield, an area of many moods and contrasts. Open jack pine stands give way to the aspen poplar groves with a dense understory of hazel. Some of the world's oldest exposed bedrock is found here. On rocky outcrops life clings precariously to its ledges. Rusty woodsia, common poly-

pody, and two woodland ferns send out their roots into concealed crevices in the granite. Farther up, along the banks of river, is the aromatic cedar and the occasional black ash. Beaver ponds with the encroaching willows and alder are next. Then comes balsam fir with its complement of shade loving plants. Here wild lily-of-the-valley, bunchberry, blue-bead lily and mocassin flower carpet the forest floor. And there is much much more. The visitor should pick up a brochure from the parks office and allow enough time to enjoy this wonderful outing.



Bald Head Hills. Courtesy Manitoba Government.

The Bald Head Hills Interpretive Trail of the Spruce Woods Provincial Park offers a unique opportunity to study the origin of the Spruce Woods landscape. The trail leads to the top of a 25 sq. km. area of shifting sand dunes. The names of "Spirit Hills", "Sand Hills", "Bald Head Hills" and "Desert" have been applied to this area. On the way to the top of this hill, the trail passes through a great variety of plant communities. Repeated visits are necessary to fully appreciate the rich heritage this park is attempting to preserve.

Other Provincial Parks that invite inspection are: Nopiming, Paint Lake, Grass River, Hecla, Grand Beach, Clearwater Lake, Birds Hill, Duck Mountain, Turtle Mountain and Assissippi. The federal park, Riding Mountain National Park, is as rich as any in horticultural plant species. In many of these parks beautiful flower beds have been planted by horticulturists. A natural park's scenery can be compared to a colorful dress. The flower bed is the brooch to set off the beauty of that dress.

The nature lover will find Manitoba's parks and woodlands full of rich nature lore. Too few people have taken the opportunity to explore them.

TOWN AND CITY PARKS



Reston Memorial Park.

Early explorers called Manitoba's southern area a treeless prairie. Today's traveller who visits its many towns and cities could call this a paradox. Just about every town has tree-lined streets and avenues. Homes are tastefully and beautifully landscaped. And just about every town has its own park or parks. Horticulture has made the difference. Trees, shrubs and flowers express the love for home and country. Parks boards, horticultural societies and individual gardeners are responsible for this development. Canada's Centennial gave an impetus for many new parks in smaller towns.

Space only permits the story of park development of the Brandon and Winnipeg parks. Even these can not be fully covered.

BRANDON PARKS

The organizational meeting of the Brandon Public Parks Board was held on January 29th, 1905. Dr. S. W. McInnis was the Chairman, Mr. H. Brown the Secretary and Mr. Thomas Charlesworth the Superintendent.

Board members at the time consisted of the following: Mayor Fleming, Alderman Harcourt, Alderman McKenzie, Mr. F. T. Gargett, Mr. S. A. Bedford, Mr. A. F. Campbell, Mr. A. S. Rose and Mr. A. McEachern. Readers will remember Mr. S. A. Bedford as the Director of the Brandon Experimental Farm.

The names of two prominent horticulturists are found in the list of Board Chairmen. These are H. H. Marshall of the Brandon Experimental Farm and R. H. Patmore of Patmore Nurseries.

The Superintendents over the years were:

| | | |
|--------------|-------|---------------------|
| 1906 to 1908 | | Mr. T. Charlesworth |
| 1909 to 1945 | | Mr. F. Shrives |
| 1945 to 1959 | | Mr. C. R. Adams |
| 1960 to 1967 | | Mr. W. B. Tandy |
| 1967 to 1979 | | Mr. R. Langridge |
| 1979 to date | | Mr. H. Stevenson |

In 1979, by action of the City Council, the Brandon City Parks Board was disbanded and became a City Department.

The Brandon Parks Department is responsible for the

maintenance of the following parks: Vincent Massey Park, Centennial Park and Sir Winston Churchill Park. It also maintains several recreational areas. Other duties include tree trimming, sodding, grass cutting on boulevards, weed control and snow clearing.

The dreaded Dutch Elm Disease has added to the work of the Park Department in the last years. Many diseased and dead trees had to be removed.

The Parks Department grows its own bedding and potted plants in its greenhouses. The bedding plants are planted in the parks and around civic buildings. The potted plants are grown for the Christmas and Easter displays at the Civic Administration Building and Fairview Home. It has a tree nursery in town and a larger one east of town. Some 6000 trees and shrubs are grown there.

A few notes from Parks Board meetings could be of interest.

May, 1908 — Motion was passed allowing Superintendent Charlesworth to exchange his bicycle for a stronger one with the cost being \$12.00.

June 1910 — Motion was passed to grant \$150.00 to the Superintendent for a horse and rig.

1920 — First Parks Board truck was a 1910 Model T Ford.

May, 1955 — A telephone was installed in the Parks Board Office

From humble beginnings the Department of Parks has grown into an efficient beautification unit. It currently has 10 employees and more during the busy season.

Winnipeg Parks

Winnipeg has numerous larger and dozens of smaller parks. Assiniboine Park, Kildonan Park, St. Vital Park, Crescent Drive Park, Blumberg Golf Course, Windsor Golf Course, The Living Prairie Museum, Assiniboine Forest, La Barriere Park and Westview Park are among the larger ones. The story of Assiniboine Park, Manitoba's most famous city park, follows.

ASSINIBOINE PARK

(Gleanings from "Assiniboine Park, History and Develop-



Assiniboine Park Pavilion.

ment", A Report of the Parks And Recreation Department of the City of Winnipeg, December, 1972)

"Well kept parks are, without question, refining and civilizing factors". This statement is taken from the first annual report of the City of Winnipeg Parks Board. A request of the Winnipeg City Council to the Legislature resulted in the passage of the Public Parks Act on April 20, 1893. This act stated that, "A park or system of parks, avenues, boulevards and drives, or any of them may be established in any city or town, and the same, as well as existing parks and avenues, may be controlled and managed in the manner hereinafter provided".

Whereas the Parks Board in 1893 stressed the desirability of a large suburban park for Winnipeg, it took another 10 years before action was taken. With the purchase of 283 acres of woodland and prairie along the south side of the Assiniboine river in 1904 the creation of Assiniboine Park began. The English Landscape Style with emphasis on horticulture was adopted. There were to be geometrical flower gardens surrounded with irregular shrubbery. The roads and path-way were to be curvilinear to contrast as much as possible

with the regimented pattern of urban streets. Quiet and secluded walks should be included. Bodies of water should be free-form or serpentine in shape. These could offer recreational opportunities for boating or skating. The park should include areas for organized sports and games. It should have a winter garden of glass or a conservatory. It should also feature zoological gardens for the study of natural history. The architectural features should play a subservient role in the park and should never overpower the park's surroundings. These were the principles spelt out by Frederic Law Olmstead and Andrew Jackson Downing that were adopted in planning Assiniboine Park. The beauty and serviceability of the park as it exists today are proof that they planned well.

The years 1904-1914 can be referred to as "Years of Progress". All major buildings and landscape features completed; all the major planting undertaken and all the open lawn areas constructed. The park progressed well. Winnipeg was growing and prospering and Assiniboine Park offered the only opportunity to the populace to partake in a wide variety of outdoor activities in a concentrated area.

The years 1915 to the late 1950's have been referred to as "The Years of Repose". Development in Assiniboine Park almost came to a complete standstill. Due to the War there was decreased revenue, increased labor costs and materials costs and a national necessity for rigid economy. With the return of better times in the 1920's, the Parks Board was faced with the demands for more parks and recreational facilities in a rapidly growing city. The creation of Kildonan Park in 1910, Sargent Park in 1911, Kildonan Park Golf Course in 1921, Windsor Park Golf Course in 1924, St. Vital Park in 1929, and numerous smaller parks, necessitated the depression of the parks budget over a much greater system. The Great Depression in the 1930's brought major development to a standstill. The disastrous 1950 Flood was another setback because many parks, particularly Kildonan Park, suffered disastrous damage.

The years from the end of the 1950's to the present can be referred to as "The Years of Revival". The general increase in economic prosperity has again allowed for attention to be



Boy with Boot at Entrance to English Garden. Courtesy Manitoba Government.

given to improving Assiniboine Park. With the turning over of the Parks' System in 1961 to the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg, greater funds have been made available to the parks. During the following years virtually every facility in the park has been either reconstructed or renovated, and many innovations made.

It is not within the scope of this book to delve deeply into

all the developments. As this is a book on Horticulture, only those developments can be stressed. This is in no way to detract from the exceptional development of the Assiniboine Park Zoo. It is a credit to the city.

The most renowned and beautiful garden of the Assiniboine Park is the English Garden. It displays floral beauty at its best. It is educational in that all the varieties of flowers and shrubs are named. The preliminary work on this garden was begun in 1927. A landscaped entrance was constructed for the English Garden in 1952-53. This is known as the International Goodwill Garden and has the famous "Boy with the Boot" as its central attraction. This statue was moved here from Winnipeg's City Hall.

A second major attraction, especially in winter, is the Park Conservatory. The present or new Conservatory was built over and around the old Conservatory in 1969 in order not to endanger any of the over 8000 plants, many of them being original inhabitants since 1914. All the plants in the tropical house survived. There are facilities for art displays, meetings, banquets or receptions in a sunken area. Next to the tropical display is another sunken area. It is in this area that seasonal displays of flowers draw much public appreciation. This is especially true for the Christmas and Easter seasons. It is a wonderful place to visit when the outside world is cold and blustery.

Superintendents Public Parks Board

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 1907-1935 | George Champion |
| 1936-1950 | Frank T. G. White |
| 1950-1961 | Thomas R. Hodgson |
| 1961-1971 | Andrew Currie, Director Metro Parks and Protection Division. |
| 1971-to date | Martin E. Benum |

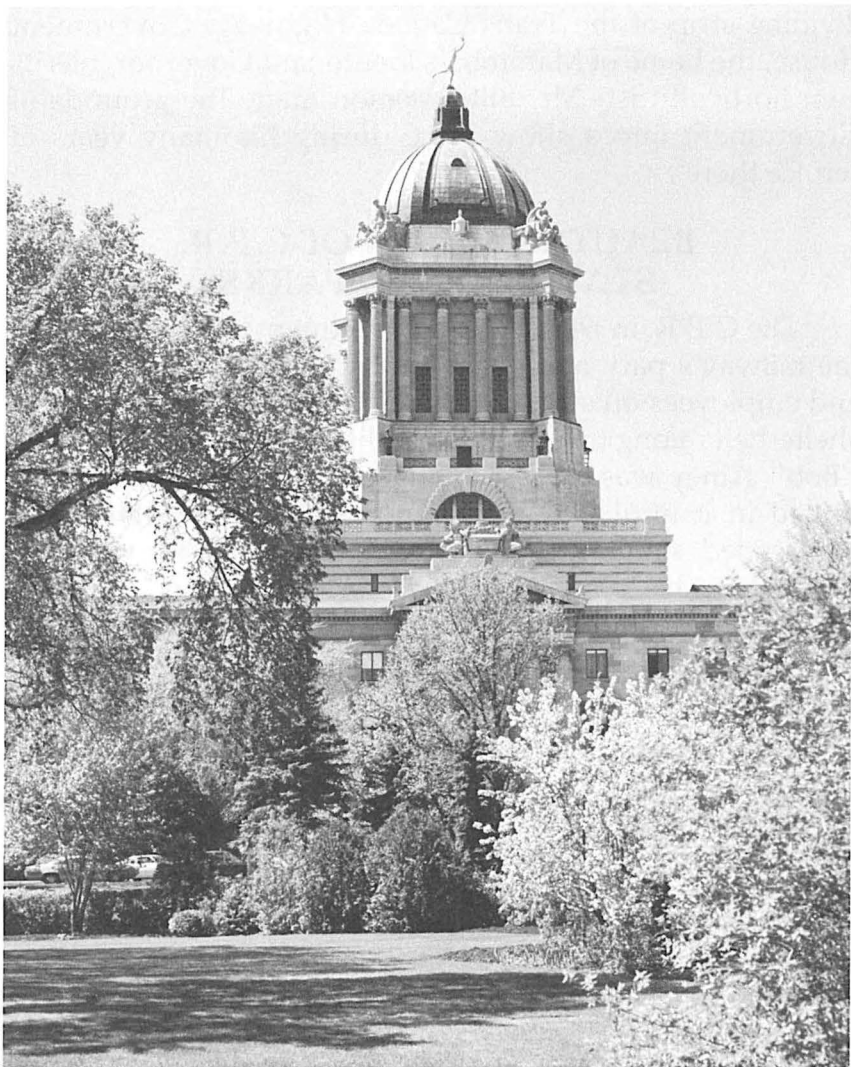
Gardeners, Florists, Architects

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1894-1906 | D. D. England, Head Gardener, Public Parks Board |
| 1914-1944 | James Kinnear, Florist, Assiniboine Park Conservatory |
| 1944-1953 | Frank E. Ball, Florist, Assiniboine Park Conservatory |
| 1953-1964 | Hector Macdonald, Supervisor, Assiniboine Park |
| 1953-to date | William H. Gray, Florist, Supervisor, Assiniboine Park Conservatory |
| 1962-to date | Gunter A. Schoch, Landscape Architect for the parks and the city. |

The City and the Province owe so much to the work done by the Parks Board. The beautiful parks, the well-landscaped boulevards and public buildings gave inspiration

to the city homeowners to beautify their yards. The gardeners and florists of the City Parks gave of their time to help disseminate horticultural information. As a result Winnipeg has become one of the best landscaped cities of the country and its parks are an inspiration to residents and visitors alike.

LANDSCAPING OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS



Landscaped Legislative Buildings. Courtesy Manitoba Government.

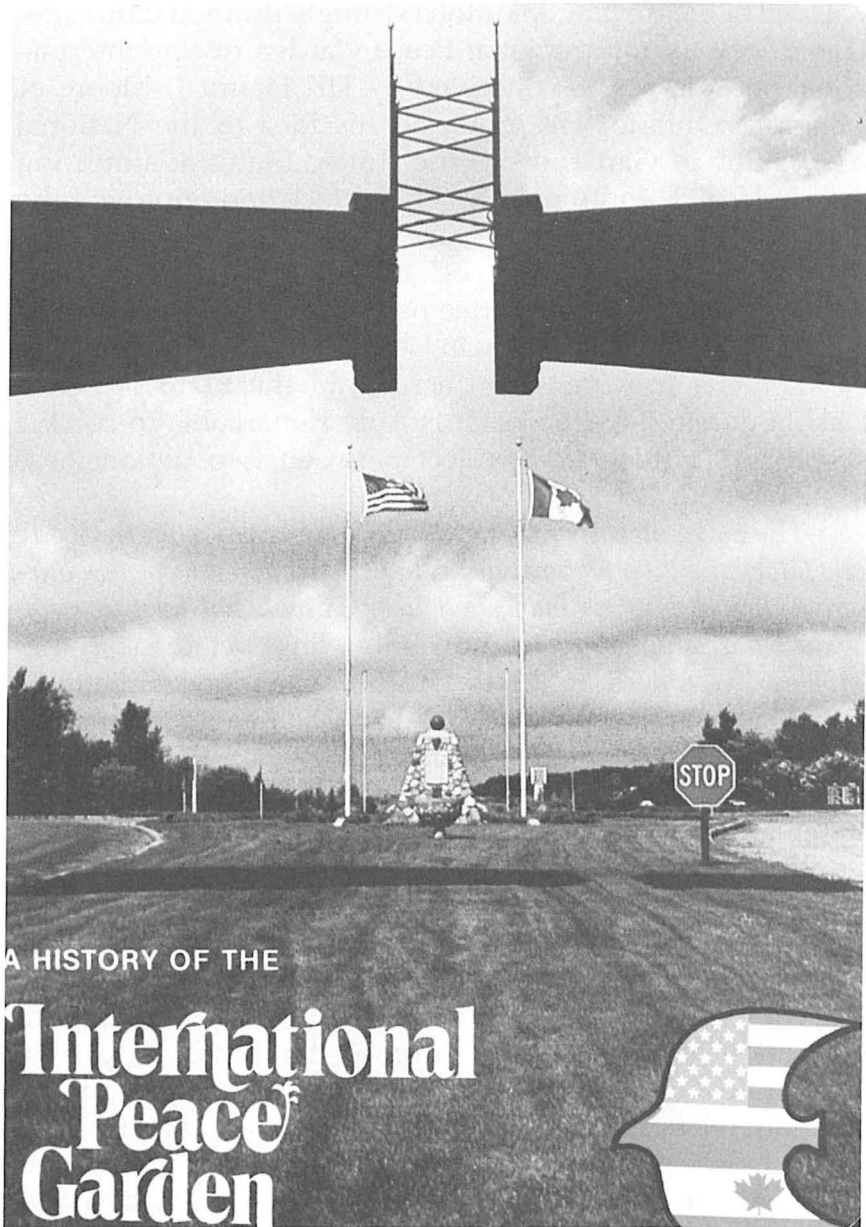
The Manitoba Legislative Buildings are among the most beautiful buildings of its kind in Canada. They are set off by superb landscaping, colorful flower beds and well manicured lawns. The beautification of all government buildings is the responsibility of the horticulturist of the Public Works Department. Mr. Grant Churcher, now retired, and Roger Brown, his successor, deserve a great deal of credit for the attractiveness of the legislative grounds. Mr. Churcher also was responsible for the planting of the shrubbery on the dividing strip of the Trans Canada Highway. Government House, the home of Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor, has its own horticulturist. Mr. Bill Emerson made the grounds of Government into a show place during his many years of service there.

BEAUTIFICATION OF C.P.R. STATIONS AND PARKS

The C.P.R. in 1908 set up a department to have charge of the railway's park and garden work and to advise officials and employees on station garden plantings and on trees for shelterbelts along the railroad's right of way. In 1928 Mr. J. R. "Bob" Amey was placed in charge of this work and continued in it until 1960. Oldtimers will remember the well landscaped stations and parks that greeted the traveller when disembarking. Lately there are few railroad stations left and the beautification program has almost fallen by the wayside.

THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

The distinctive International Peace Garden is one of the highlights of any visitor's tour of Manitoba. It is located in the Turtle Mountains and straddles the border between North Dakota and Manitoba. The Turtle Mountains are a wooded plateau that rises about 600 feet above the surrounding plain that stretches from it in all directions. In the valleys between the rounded hills, numerous small lakes are found. The woods have a wide diversity of trees, shrubs and flowers. Many kinds of birds find congenial homes here, including



populations of water and upland game birds. Big game is plentiful.

This was the site selected for the International Peace Garden by a committee made up Henry J. Moore of Ontario and Joseph R. Dunlap and Robert P. Brydon of Ohio. Mr. W.

V. Udall of Boissevain, Manitoba strongly promoted this site. The idea of an International Peace Garden on the international boundary was conceived by Dr. Henry J. Moore of Islington, Ontario. He proposed his idea to the National Association of Gardeners of the United States at a meeting they held in Toronto in 1929. The association approved the plan and the International Peace Garden, Inc. was incorporated in the State of New York on September 17, 1930. The site selection of the committee named above, was approved at a meeting held in Toronto in December, 1931. The Province of Manitoba provided 1,451 acres and the State of North Dakota donated 888 acres. It is truly remarkable to see the speed with which this project between two nations was implemented.

The cairn of native stone with the inscription, *"To God In His Glory, we two Nations dedicate this Garden and pledge ourselves that as long as man shall live, we will not take up arms against one another"*, was hurriedly constructed in June of 1932 and was dedicated July 14, 1932. Attending the dedication was a crowd estimated at 50,000 people with good representation from both countries.

Articles of incorporation define the purpose of the International Peace Garden, Inc., as the "creation and maintenance of a garden or gardens approximately one half of each which shall be situated in the United States of America and the other approximate half in the Dominion of Canada and contiguous thereto as a memorial of the peace that has existed between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada". Its purpose, therefore, is to commemorate and perpetuate the long-standing friendship and pleasant relationship between the peoples of Canada and the United States, by the establishment, maintenance, and development of a living garden of flowers, shrubs, and trees on the longest unfortified border in the world.

It is not within the scope of this publication to relate the fascinating history of the International Peace Garden. The reader is urged to visit it and to obtain copies of "A History of the International Peace Garden" by John A. Stormon (Revised May, 1981 by Tom Wilkins) and the "Comm-

emorative Guide'', 1932-1982, published for the 50th Anniversary of the International Peace Garden. A short description of the major features of the garden and its operation follows.

The beautiful wilderness area is in itself a natural garden, a fitting living symbol to glorify mutual respect and peaceful development between nations. Much of this area is to remain in its natural state. A formal area, taking up 160 acres, occupies the boundary line. Mr. Hugh Vincent Feehan, a Minnesota landscape architect, first submitted a general plan for development of the formal area. This plan was further developed by technical personnel of the National Park Service of the United States, with approval of the National Parks System of Canada.

Words, and even pictures, are inadequate to describe the symbolic beauty of the formal garden. As visitors approach the impressive gate on the eastern boundary of the Peace Garden, they have a view of the original cairn flanked by the American and Canadian flags. Proceeding due west, there are a series of panels. First comes the Peace Panel, a grassed area flanked by borders of shrubs and trees on both sides. Next comes the Terrace Panel with an extensive system of stone retaining walls, a reflecting pool and massive garden houses on either side. It is here that the Music Camp entertains visitors on summer weekends. The Sunken Garden, the Cascade Panel, the Reflecting Pool and the Peace Tower, recently completed, follow in that order. At the western end of the formal gardens, the All Faiths Peace Chapel, symbolizing the spirit of International Peace, invites the visitor for a few moments of meditation. Now that an irrigation system has been installed, the formal garden area should really blossom forth.

But there is much more to the International Peace Garden than just the formal area. A quick tour through the Canadian side of the garden takes the visitor past tranquil Lake Stormon and several nature trails. Signs invite a visit to the Manitoba Horticultural Association Arboretum and the Birch Grove Picnic Area. The Federated and Manitoba Women's Institutes picnic area has a dreamy setting. Nestled

in a grove of poplars and birches is the Errick F. Willis Pavillion, built in memory of Manitoba's popular Lt. Governor. More picnic areas follow.

Just south of the entrance gate and the formal gardens is the Floral Bulova Clock. Then the road swings right past the new Peace Garden Administration building and the residence of the Garden Superintendent. Farther onwards the traveller is greeted by dreamy Lake Udall on the left and the formal area and the Peace Chapel on the right. After crossing a rustic bridge, the visitor is invited to leave the road and visit several picnic areas. The spectacular old Lodge, the cabins used by the International Music Camp and the Legion Athletic Camp, the Royal Canadian Legion Memorial Sports Complex, the Knights of Columbus Amphitheatre and the spanking new Masonic Auditorium are other points of interest. Once again there are more picnic areas for visitors and then it's back to the gate. And all along the trail there are areas that have been specially landscaped for beauty through the seasons.

The International Peace Garden invites the pursuit of activities of peace. The world-renowned International Music Camp, created by Dr. Merton Utgaard in 1956, is much more than a music camp. The program includes instruction in band, orchestra, chorus, swing choir, stage band, piano, guitar, hand bells, drama, creative writing, speech and debate, ballet and modern dance, visual art, cheerleading and piping and drumming.

Then there is the Royal Canadian Legion Sports Program. The sports include basketball, rhythmic gymnastics, sailing, equestrian, volleyball, cross-country, tae kwon do, soccer, judo, wilderness, football, track and field and weight training. George Phillips and Fred Taylor were the moving spirits behind this program's development.

To date the Peace Garden Board of Directors has wisely opposed any attempts to commercialize the Garden. There are only two concession stands that provide light snacks and souvenirs. Peace is too valuable a commodity to be commercialized.

The monies required for the building and upkeep of the

Peace Garden have come from many sources. The federal governments of the United States and Canada, and the governments of North Dakota and Manitoba made this project possible and continue with their support annually. Then there are so many organizations in both the States and Canada that have generously supported the Peace Garden and its many projects over the years. It is not within the scope of this book to name them all. The 33 organizations that have contributed are listed in the Commemorative Guide. Many individuals from both sides of the border have also donated money, time and effort to help create this monument to Peace. Two people that deserve special mention are Dr. Henry Moore and Judge John A. Stormon. Judge Stormon now rests in peace, but his work with the International Peace Garden will never be forgotten.

Manitoba horticulturists who gave of their time and expertise in the beautification of the Peace Garden over the years have been: Dr. W. R. Leslie, M. J. Tinline, F. C. W. Rice, Dr. W. A. Cumming, G. M. Churcher, F. J. Weir, Dr. A. C. Ferguson, Dr. Eric Putt, Dr. H. H. Marshall, Roger Brown, Prof. Louie Lenz and Reg Curle. These, together with their horticultural counterparts in the States, have literally made the International Peace Garden bloom.

International Peace Garden, Inc.

President

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Donald J. Crighton | 1932-1936 |
| Dr. Charles MacLachlan, Dunseith, North Dakota | 1936-1941 |
| W. M. Smart, Minot, North Dakota | 1941-1947 |
| Donald G. McKenzie, Winnipeg, Manitoba | 1947-1957 |
| John Stormon, Rolla, North Dakota | 1957-1973 |
| Oscar Solberg, Rolla, North Dakota | 1973-present |

Chairman of the Board

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Donald J. Crighton | 1937-1938 |
| Henry J. Moore, Islington, Ontario | 1938-1945 |
| F. R. Longworth | 1945-1947 |
| John Stormon, Rolla, North Dakota | 1947-1957 |
| Dr. W. R. Leslie, Morden, Manitoba | 1957-1969 |
| Mr. R. O. Lissaman, Brandon, Manitoba | 1969-1974 |
| Mr. Ed Dow, Boissevain, Manitoba | 1974-1977 |
| Dr. Eric Putt, Morden, Manitoba | 1977-1979 |
| Mr. Donald Heyes, Winnipeg, Manitoba | 1979-present |

Who runs the International Peace Garden? The affairs and destiny of the I.P.G. is governed by a board of 20

directors, 10 Canadian and 10 American, elected for three terms at the annual general meeting held in September each year. Anyone can become a voting member by attending the annual meeting and paying a fee of \$10.00 per year.

The I.P.G. has a Planning Committee to oversee and assist with the beautification program of the Garden. The four present Manitoba members on this committee are: Reg Curle, Chairman; Dr. Henry Marshall; Roger Brown; and Prof. Louie Lenz.

The Superintendents over the years have been:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Dr. Henry Moore | | Ontario |
| 2. Mr. Milton J. Tinline, 1949-1959 | summers only | Brandon |
| 3. Mr. R. J. McKenzie, 1960-1964 | summers only | Winnipeg |
| 4. Mr. Bert Howard, 1965-1976 | full time | Boissevain |
| 5. Mr. Jack Howard, 1976-1977 | full time | Winnipeg |
| 6. Mr. Dean Mortenson, 1978-present | full time | North Dakota |

The Treasurer is Superintendent Dean Mortenson and staff secretary, Eleanor Davidson, serves as secretary of the board.

In a world beset by war, the International Peace Garden stands out as a Beacon of Peace . . . and Hope. It needs the moral and financial support of all people of good will.

AN OUTDOOR SCHOOL IN THE FOREST

This title is an apt description of the Conservation Training Area that is operated by the **Manitoba Forestry Association Inc.** This Association is a private corporation supported through membership fees, grants and donations, with activities directed to teaching conservation and a better understanding of the outdoor world of nature. Jean Agassiz said, "If you learn about Nature only from books, when you go outside you will not find her". At the Conservation Training Area, Nature is the classroom.

The Conservation Training area is a 100-hectare tract of land located along the Whitemouth River 100 Kilometres east of Winnipeg on the Trans-Canada Highway. This outdoor classroom is operated by the Association with generous support from the Department of Natural Resources, Labatt's Manitoba Brewery, and many other companies and individuals.

How did this innovative and meaningful program begin? The editor is indebted to Dianne J. Beaven, Executive Director, Manitoba Forestry Association, for its background and history.

Background and History

In 1956 two men started looking for land with a particular objective in mind. They were C.A.E. Hensley, Principal of Earl Grey School and later head of the Science Centre, who for many years had taken small groups of students on trips into forest areas, and Alan B. Beaven, Manager of the Manitoba Forestry Association. Several places in south-eastern Manitoba were investigated but Mr. Beaven emphasized the importance of having an area served by a river or a lake. Eventually an ideal situation, located along the Whitemouth River near Hadashville, was chosen with the help of C. K. Smith and Harold Tirschman of the provincial government forestry branch.

All four men were very interested and enthusiastic about finding just the right site for the establishment of the Conservation Training Area, an outdoor school which in succeeding years would provide the opportunity for thousands of young people to learn about the forestry environment. The land was granted to the Manitoba Forestry Association through an Order-in-Council in 1957 and the first groups of school children from Earl Grey and other Winnipeg schools visited that season.

Mr. and Mrs. Hensley took up residence for the first years in a CP Rail Car which was later renovated to serve as a natural history museum. Alan Beaven and many others from provincial and federal forestry commuted daily from Winnipeg to Hadashville to donate their teaching services.

Mr. Beaven had realized that the "conservation classes" presented by Association lecturers in Manitoba schools were important, but that young people were hearing about a world which many of them might never see and hence found difficult to visualize. The persistence and dedication of both Messrs. Beaven and Hensley saw the realization of the first outdoor training centre in Manitoba. It has been patterned in

other parts of Canada, and continues today as one of the most popular field trips offered in this province.

The following is a direct transcription from the brochure of the Manitoba Forestry Association and is printed here with their kind permission.

Features And Facilities At The Area

Tree Identification Building

Visitors to the Area have a chance to become amateur foresters at the Tree Identification Building. This display was prepared by the Canadian Forestry Service and the building was made possible by the Kiwanis Club of Winnipeg.

Tree Planting Car

This famous railroad car was donated to the Area in 1974 by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. From 1919 to 1973 the Tree Planting Car provided an annual service to the rural areas of the prairie provinces in promotion of tree planting. After 55 consecutive years of service, 263,000 miles of rail travel, and attendance by over a million and a half people representing four generations, the Tree Planting Car has made its final stop at the Conservation Training Area. Today it serves as a stationary theatre for conservation programs.

Museums

A renovated railway business car donated by the Canadian Pacific in 1969 has served as a natural museum. With the construction of a new building in 1980 to allow for expansion of displays and exhibits, the rail car will continue to be used to tell the life history of a tree. Special help is received from the Manitoba Department of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources.

Model Fire Tower

A model fire tower containing the actual equipment found in forestry look-out towers across Manitoba is used for instruction in forest fire detection and suppression. Fire fighting equipment is also demonstrated.

Suspension Bridge

Visitors on their way to one of the nature trails cross the Whitemouth River on the Beaven Bridge, one of the few suspension bridges in Manitoba. It was built in 1963 by the

Sixth Field Engineer Regiment R.C.E. from Pine Falls, Manitoba, and is an interesting and useful contribution to our school.

Nature Trails

Three separate nature trails are used for instruction on tree identification, ecology, and the natural history of the surrounding area.

Administration Buildings

For the instructors' use there are an administration cottage and separate dormitory. A large auditorium is used for special meetings and instruction during adverse weather.

An important part of the day is a visit to the Pineland Provincial Forest Nursery, located on the Trans-Canada Highway, approximately 2.4 km. east of the Conservation Area. Here experienced nurserymen grow millions of evergreens each year for farm woodlots and reforestation. As a living and growing reminder of their day at the Area visitors are given a tiny spruce tree from the Nursery to transplant into a small carton and take home to grow in their own yard.

Each year during May, June, September and October, over 8,000 students and their teachers spend a day at this "outdoor school" learning how a forest lives and grows and the part it plays in the outdoor environment of nature. Summer tours during July and August are conducted for adult and family groups. Emphasis is on "learning by doing" and visitors are encouraged to actively participate.

Editor's Note: The Manitoba Forestry Association invites all interested parties to participate in this valuable work by taking out a membership in the Association.

NATURE'S CALL

I long for the open spaces
I yearn to be alone
I've heard the call of nature
She's claimed me for her own.
At morn in the open meadow
Is the place I want to go
Where the meadowlark sings in gladness
And the east is a rosy glow.
The air is so freshly scented
By the flowers so pretty and wild
I forget all my woes and worries
I once again am a child.
At noon on the sandy beaches
Of a shimmering, glittering lake
The sound of swooshing wavelets
Strange longings within me awake.
I'll sit in the shade of an aspen
The trembling leaves up above
They set my whole being atremble
With tender delight and love.
And at night when the starry stillness
Is lit by a silvery moon
My heart deep within me is calling
With the voice of a lonely loon.
I'll doze away in the darkness
And awake 'neath a threatening sky
To the sound of booming thunder
And the storm winds moaning and sigh
And witness the beauty of lightning
The majesty of its glow
As millions of candle power
Shed their light on the darkness below.
I'll wander home in the darkness
My umbrella shedding the rain
As the parching meadows and forests
Are refreshed and alive again.
I, too, am refreshed and happy
By Nature's wonderful art
That gives joy to my innermost being
And new strength to my longing heart.

CHAPTER XI

GOVERNMENT HORTICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES

HISTORY

The appointment of a Minister of Agriculture in 1874 and the passing of a Legislative Act authorizing a Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics in 1876, to control "all that part of the Administration that relates to Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics", marks the beginning of the Ministry of Agriculture in Manitoba. In 1903, "An Act respecting the Agricultural College", was passed by the Manitoba Legislature. Thus the Manitoba Agricultural College came into being and its opening in 1906, marked the beginning of an era of expanded service to the Province by the Ministry of Agriculture. From the time the M.A.C. commenced active extension work until 1916, when J. A. Neilson was appointed and served as extension specialist in horticulture and entomology, extension activities in connection with horticulture were carried out by Prof. F. W. Brodrick in close cooperation with the Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association. In the interim that followed Neilson's resignation, 1918 to 1921, the College Horticultural Department was once again called upon for assistance in horticultural extension.

In 1921, the position of Extension Horticulturist of the Department of Agriculture was created. Mr. J. R. "Bob" Almey assumed this position that year and served in that capacity from 1921 to 1928. His keen perception of the needs of all facets of horticulture involved him with the Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association and the commercial market gardeners as well. Mr. Almey's article on "Market Gardening", found in a previous chapter of this book, is

proof of the intimate knowledge he had of market gardening in those early years. Mr. Almey may well be called the "Horticultural extension pioneer" of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. John Walker, another leading horticulturist of Manitoba, was appointed Extension Horticulturist in 1929 and served in that position from 1929 to 1937. The chapter on the Stevenson Memorial Awards tells the story of Prof. Walker's illustrious career in horticulture.

The position of Extension Horticulturist was vacant in 1938. From 1939 to 1943, C. Ray Ure, who later became a leading fruit breeder at the Morden Experimental Station, served in this position. His story is told in the chapter on Noted Horticulturists. The war years led to another vacancy from 1944 to 1945. Then Mr. R. Bevan served as Extension Horticulturist for two years from 1946 to 1947. The year 1948 was again a year of vacancy.

Those were the formative years in horticultural extension under the Extension Service Branch of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, without exception those early Extension Horticulturists served this province well. They took a leading role in any and all horticultural organizations and endeavors of the day. They worked closely with the Research Stations and the M.A.C. which later became the University of Manitoba. They were initiators, promoters, and excellent communicators. They laid a sound foundation for the horticultural extension that was to follow. Nor should the excellent support they received in their efforts by the administration be forgotten. N. C. MacKay and D. C. Foster, directors of the Extension Branch, were most supportive. When horticulture was moved to the Soils and Crops Branch, the active support of its Director, J. M. Parker, was most important to the further development in horticultural extension.

The Fred Weir Era

In 1949, a man from Ontario by the name of F. J. "Fred" Weir, a man small in stature but tall in character and a horticulturist with a fertile imagination and unbounded energy, assumed the position of Provincial Horticulturist for

Manitoba. For the first three years he worked alone. Then he was able to convince the government that the expansion of the horticultural industry in Manitoba required more staff. In 1952 Nick Sandar was appointed as potato specialist and served in that capacity from 1952 to 1955. P. J. Peters, Potato Pete, took over from Nick and served as potato specialist until 1965, when he became the fruit specialist for the province. He was assisted by L. G. Jorgensen from 1958 to 1959. In that year Garth Stone became assistant potato specialist. Garth became potato specialist in 1965 and holds that position to this day.

In 1956 Mr. Weir, with the aid of the V.G.A.M., was able to add a vegetable specialist to his staff. T. A. Sandercock, the present Chief of Horticulture, assumed this position. When the ornamentals section needed more input, a promising young graduate from the University of Manitoba by the name of Reg Curle, was added to the staff in 1969. So many of the problems in horticulture are related to disease. It took a great deal of lobbying, but Fred Weir succeeded in getting Dr. Gary Platford, a Pathologist, added to his staff in 1972. When the problems of northern Manitoba, as far as horticultural development is concerned, came into focus, the Government saw fit to add yet another staff member. In 1976, Jim Portree became the Northern Horticulturist.

This was the team that Fred Weir assembled to serve Manitoba's expanding horticultural industry. The reader who has perused the chapters dealing with the Manitoba Horticultural Association, the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba, the Manitoba Nursery Trades Association and the Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba, has already met up with all of these horticulturists. They played a leading role in any and all horticultural developments in the province.

Fred Weir's untimely death occurred in 1976. All Manitoba horticulturists mourned his passing. Such was the high respect they held him in, that in less than a year, \$11,000 were donated to a "Weir Memorial Fund". This money has been invested and the interest earned, will build up a Weir Memorial Film Library. Fred Weir's impact on horticultural devel-

opments in Manitoba, has been greater than that of any other individual.

After Fred Weir's death, T. A. "Bert" Sandercock assumed the position of "Chief of Horticulture" in the Soils and Crops Branch of Agriculture. P. J. Peters, the then Fruit Specialist, retired in 1979. This resulted in a shift of some positions in the horticultural section. The following paragraphs will offer a short outline of the functions of horticultural extension, a description of some of the major horticultural projects undertaken in the last years, and a list of the present horticultural staff members and their fields of expertise.

FUNCTIONS OF HORTICULTURAL EXTENSION

A. Extension of Horticultural Information

The extension horticulturists answer any calls for information, be it by phone, letter or in person. Their services are available to the hobby gardener, the commercial grower and all hobby or commercial organizations. Plants are identified, disease problems analysed, fertility problems explained, and, in consultation with entomologists, recommendations for insect control made to the enquiring party. During the growing season, answering services are available.

The various specialists present papers and illustrated lectures on a variety of topics at meetings of various organizations in Winnipeg and in the country. Several times each year horticultural short courses are organized in different areas of the province. Frequently radio talks and illustrated T.V. lectures carry the information to the public. Newspaper releases are sent to all papers. Special newsletters are periodically sent to all members of commercial vegetable growers' associations.

The horticultural section prepares horticultural bulletins and also distributes informational bulletins of the Canada Department of Agriculture and the University of Manitoba. These informational brochures cover trees and shrubs, annuals and perennials, fertilizers, insect and

disease control, landscaping, lawns and a variety of specialty plants, such as roses etc. Every ag. rep. office carries a full complement of these bulletins for local use.

B. Services to organizations

Extension horticulturists of the section supply secretarial services for the V.G.A.M. and the M.H.A. For a time the Manitoba Nursery Association also received these services. Members of the section act as directors or ex-officio directors of the M.H.A., the V.G.A.M., the Manitoba Nursery Trades Association, the International Peace Garden, the Manitoba Horticultural Council, the Dutch Elm Disease and Forest Protection Unit, the Strawberry Growers' Association, and the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council.

C. Administration of Government Acts

The horticultural section is responsible for carrying out the intent and regulations of the following acts:

1) Manitoba Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Sales Act.

This act applies to the grading, packaging and labeling of commercial produce at the grower, wholesale and retail levels to ensure quality products for consumers. Close liaison with the federally appointed inspection staff is necessary here.

2) Plant Pests and Diseases Act.

This involves the inspection by the ornamentals specialist of all the registered nurseries of Manitoba. It involved, until lately, the administration of the Dutch Elm Disease Control Program. It has lately passed into the hands of the Forest Protection Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. Both, the Horticultural Pathologist and the Ornamentals Specialist, continue to be involved with this program.

3) Natural Products Marketing Act.

The Chief of Horticulture, as a member of the Manitoba Natural Products Marketing Council, helps to monitor the activities of the Manitoba Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board, especially its quota allocations. This Council acts as a Court of Appeal for affected growers.

4) Horticultural Societies Act.

The incumbent secretary-treasurer of the M.H.A., a horticulturist of the section, is responsible for the government's budget allocation for horticultural societies. This requires the annual monitoring of the financial statements and reports of all horticultural societies. The secretary also is responsible for the Skinner, Weir, and Stevenson memorial funds. He further is responsible for assigning and paying for judges of the shows of the horticultural societies, the Provincial Home Grounds Competitions and the Provincial Slide Competition. Speakers for society meetings and horticultural hot lines are provided. The M.H.A. convention is under the secretary's direction, in cooperation with the M.H.A. Board of Directors.

D. Marketing and Promotion

Horticulturists continuously update the market share volumes of competing provinces and imports to Manitoba's share in the major prairie markets. They assist the Marketing Board in fact finding on the time and availability of Manitoba produce. The work done by the Fact Finding Committee is described in another chapter. The horticulturists continue to take part in promotional programs such as Salad Week and Fresh for Flavor. The Vegetable Specialist was instrumental in helping organize Produce Management Training Courses and Instore Promotions. Horticultural Industry Days are organized annually by the horticultural staff. Field tours for the trade are organized by the horticulturists in cooperation with the Producers' Marketing Board. The staff works with the Provincial Marketing Branch and the Marketing Board to set up displays at many Manitoba Fairs.

E. Horticultural Liaison

Good relations between growers, University and Research Station scientists are essential to the progress of all phases of the horticultural industry. All horticulturists of the section are involved in the work of the Manitoba Horticultural Council. This helps in prioritizing research needs so as to make the best use of limited finances. This

liaison extends to both the provincial and federal governments. The Chief of Horticulture represents Manitoba's interests at C.H.C. All extension horticulturists belong to W. C.S.H. and help plan projects of interprovincial interest.

F. Research, Investigation and Demonstration

To illustrate the horticultural section's involvement in these fields, some of the major projects undertaken in the last two decades will be described. These are as follows:

- 1) Dutch Elm Disease Program and Tree Pruners' Courses
- 2) Espo Potato Farm
- 3) Essential Oils
- 4) Apple Orchard, Native Blueberry and Cranberry Investigations
- 5) The Strawberry Experiment
- 6) Jerusalem Artichokes
- 7) The Wild Rice Program
- 8) Northern Horticulture Project
- 9) Others

G. 4-H Club Work

In the fifties the Extension Specialists were heavily involved with 4-H club work. Mr. Weir and Mr. Sandercock had up to 30 4-H Garden Clubs and Mr. Peters a similar number of 4-H Potato Clubs. In later years these clubs came under the direct supervision of 4-H Specialists.

HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

(Prepared by T. A. Sandercock)

Jerusalem Artichoke

Initial testing at the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Morden identified Jerusalem Artichoke as a source of fructose sugar. The Manitoba Department of Agriculture in order to determine the commercial production and processing potential initiated projects at the University of Manitoba and with growers. After 4 years of activity the crop still shows potential but problems in both production and pro-

cessing remain to be solved before initiation of commercial operations can occur.



Examining samples of silverskin onions produced in Manitoba for the cocktail market are L. to R.: Bert Sandercock, Manitoba Department of Agriculture vegetable specialist, Burt Waters, MDA marketing branch officer and Dr. Barry McConnell, University of Manitoba food scientist.

Silverskin Onions

A project to determine the potential of peeling and brining silverskin onions for the pickling industry was initiated in 1973 by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the University of Manitoba and growers. The project included several field trips to other production areas along with pilot projects in respect to production and brining. Following 9 years of investigational work concluding with a semi-commercial operation at the Canada Food Products Lab a commercial operation was established in 1982.

Essential Oil

In 1974 a project to determine the potential for Dill Oil production was initiated in co-operation with growers and the Manitoba Department of Economic Development. Following a year of investigation in production and distillation a commercial operation was established for the production of 1,000 acres of dill.

With the success with the dill oil project other crops were tested for their potential in the essential industry. One that surfaced was Monarda a native plant of Manitoba rich in "geraniol" a product used as a base in perfumes. In 1979 a co-operative project was set up with Valley Essential Oils Ltd. After 4 years of investigational work this crop with some improvement in disease resistance has shown promise as a commercially potential market.

Mechanized Production Pickling Cucumbers

In 1979 a project was initiated to demonstrate the use of the once-over harvester to mechanically harvest pickling cucumbers and the use of high density plantings for maximum yields. Seven, Portage la Prairie area growers were involved growing 140 acres. The project adequately demonstrated that commercial production in Manitoba was feasible. Future production in the province would be dependant on the establishment of a pickling plant.

Monarda Oil Production

Monarda a native plant of Manitoba is of interest as a possible commercial source of flavoring and scents for perfumes and soaps etc.

In 1979 an investigational project under funding for a Canada/Manitoba Agreement was initiated in cooperation with the Agriculture Canada Research Station, Morden and Valley Essential Oils Ltd. to look at the industrial potential of Monarda. The project included production, harvesting, distillation and quality assessment of the oil.

At the completion of 4 years of investigation it was determined the Monarda Oil was a suitable replacement for commercial Geraniol now available on the market from artificial and natural plant life sources. Interest by several companies indicates that Monarda Oil has commercial potential at a price that it would be competitive to produce it.

Northern Horticulture

by Jim Portree

Northern gardeners have tended to be isolated individuals using personally developed methods for crop pro-



Jin Portree (front) inspecting Greenhouse Crops.

duction and little of this gardening knowledge and skill has been transferred to other Northern residents. Records of Indian Island Gardens, Trapline Potato Gardens and Mis-

sion Gardens have been documented throughout the history of Northern Manitoba.

Canada Agriculture in 1956 established a field test station at Wabowden. Mr. Peter Braun, Manager of the station, cultivated test plots of forages, cereals, and some horticultural crops. With the close of the station in 1966 reports indicated encouraging yields from horticultural crops such as potatoes, carrots, and other root crops, as well as small fruit crops. Similar testing was undertaken in the mid '60s with some horticultural crops in The Pas by Dr. Ellis of the University of Manitoba, Agriculture Faculty.

In the spring of 1974 an investigational and development program for Northern gardening was initiated at Thompson. Funding sponsorship was by the Manitoba Research Council for an agreement between the University of Manitoba and the City of Thompson. The agreement was coordinated by Dr. Joe Campbell of the University of Manitoba, Plant Science Department with the support of other Departmental staff, and Mr. Brian Campbell, the then Mayor of the City of Thompson.

A 186 square meter demonstrational greenhouse was built in Thompson for the purpose of testing greenhouse tomato and cucumber crops grown in native sphagnum. An Advisory Board chaired by Mr. John Swierstra maintained a strong public interest and awareness in the project. This awareness was spread throughout Manitoba by the frequent and enthusiastic articles by Northern Free Press reporter, Mr. Bob Lowery. Crop responses were beyond expectations, with high yields partly being attributed to the long summer days and the high quality of sphagnum growing media. Other crops such as vegetable transplants, flowers, poinsettias, and cut flowers were also tested with similar success. The greenhouse acted as a Northern conservatory with visitors and tours from throughout the North and also served as a focus point for exchanging gardening information.

Northern public interest in the project helped shift project goals from a commercial emphasis to the home garden concerns. Landbreaking and soil preparation were done manually on hard packed clay soils, discouraging many

individuals from becoming involved. Other difficulties included unpredictable yields, with southern cultivars responding differently to Northern growing seasons. This resulted in immature crops not ripening before the autumn frost. Knowledge transfer to younger generations was not guaranteed, and gardening seemed outdated when canned produce could be bought in the stores. Increasing food costs and limited incomes prompted Northerners to seek self-sufficiency in food production. Satisfying the basic need for food led Northerners to investigate once again the idea of vegetable production for local consumption. Extension programs evolved to meet Northern gardening needs. Gardeners were now armed with innovative gardening aids and faster maturing cultivars giving them much higher success rate for production.

In the spring of 1976 funding for the greenhouse project was coming to an end. However, through the strong interest and support of the Mayor of Thompson, Tom Farrel, Premier Ed Schreyer and the general public, the Thompson greenhouse project was continued under Manitoba Agriculture, Soils and Crops Branch. The position of Northern Horticulturist was created with program emphasis switching from research to extension. Thirty Northern communities ranging from Churchill to Pine Dock were participating in garden and tunnel greenhouse demonstrations. The program developed with the addition of more services and other agencies coming into the gardening program. Frontier School Division's Nutrition Advisors' Program under the direction of Ms. Joan Butcher assisted in training paraprofessionals in nutrition to act as local gardening resource persons for their respective communities. Demonstrating growing techniques and offering trouble shooting assistance as well as the use of vegetables in diet and storage was a strong thrust of their program. The introduction of these skills was directed to schools and through nutrition and plant growing lessons. Other agencies such as Northern Affairs, Medical Services, community councils, Band Councils, Mennonite Central Committee, Norman, Northern Hort Societies and gardening clubs and Provincial and Federal

funding agencies actively supported the extension goals of promoting home gardens and commercial and semi-commercial gardening. The untiring efforts of longtime Northerners like Mr. Bill Antaya made commercial projects like Kistigan (Cree for garden) at Thicket, Portage, a reality. Churchill residents such as Bill and Diane Erickson and their many innovative gardening techniques to battle the harsh growing elements as well as the polar bears are examples of the pioneering Northern gardening spirit. Lush vegetable and flowering gardens grown by the Swierstras of Thompson, the Bachelors of The Pas, and the Grindles of Flin Flon are a few of the many examples of Northern landscapes recognized by the Northern Hort Societies of Thompson, Flin Flon and The Pas. The early Northern gardeners such as Brother Leech of Berens River, Chief Adam Dick of the War Lake Band and Ben Larson of Thicket Portage marvelled at the efforts of the youthful gardeners associated with the many Northern schools.

Today the program in the North is directed by the Northern Horticulturist, Dinah Ceplis. The program, in conjunction with other agencies and departments, offers Northerners a wide range of support services including landbreaking, land tilling, community hand tillers, tunnel and garden demonstrations, gardening bulletins, radio gardening programs, gardening workshops, vegetable cooking and harvest displays, and youth gardening. From this base of new information is evolving the commercial and semi-commercial horticultural growers of the North.

Fruit Investigations by the Fruit Specialist

Four major fruit investigation projects were carried out by P. J. Peters, Fruit Specialist over a period of some 16 years, beginning in 1961. Short resumes of these follow.

Hadashville Strawberry Project

The story of this investigation is fully told in the story of the Strawberry Growers' Association of Manitoba in Chapter IX.

Apple Orchard Project

The Morden Research Station was anxious to have trial



Mrs. Mervin Spencer of Miami in Trial Orchard.

apple orchards planted throughout Manitoba. It was felt that a program of this type would make it possible to recommend what varieties of apples could be recommended for each region. The station offered to supply grafted seedling trees of six varieties of standard apples and three of applecrabs for this project. The Fruit Specialist suggested that it might be better to set up orchards in the Pembina Hills because most of the successful orchards in the past had been located on the north and east facing slopes of these hills. This might lead to the development of a small orchard industry in Manitoba. The Fruit Specialist was overruled because Morden supplied the free trees. The sites, the planning, the planting and the supervision of these orchards was placed into the hands of the Fruit Specialist. The University of Manitoba agreed to lend a helping hand.

Site selection began in 1962 and the first orchards were planted the next years. Within four years, orchards, ranging in size from $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to 10 acres, were planted at Cowan, Dauphin, Firdale, Boissevain, East Selkirk, Morris, Grosse Isle, Plum Coulee, Kleefeld, Miami, Miami, Darlingford and Woodmore. Over the next six years some 4000 trees, includ-

ing numerous replacements, were planted. Ten years after the beginning of the project, only three orchards remained. The other ten had failed completely.

Three severe test winters were the main cause of the loss of trees. There were another three years when there were prolonged periods of precipitation. This resulted in water-logged soils that caused the hardy rootstock to rot. The ten orchards that died, all had imperfect drainage. Manitoba soils are rich in fertility and this results in poor hardening off in fall. When the cold suddenly sets in, the trees are injured by the cold. In most cases there was adequate wind protection. Most of the cooperators did their level best to have their orchards succeed.

The most successful orchard, and one that still bears well, was the Mervin Spencer orchard on an east facing slope of the Pembina Hills near Miami. The other Miami orchard was on the flats north of the hills and succumbed to poor drainage. The B. Penner orchard at Plum Coulee and the R. Nicholson orchard at Firdale soon lost all the standard trees. These were then replaced by stembuilders and were fairly successful for some time. It became quite evident that the matter of compatability of stem and budwood needs more investigation.

Every experiment, even if it fails, adds to man's knowledge. Of the standard apple varieties tested, Goodland and Collett appeared to be the most hardy. The Fruit Zonation map is a good guide to follow. Zones one and two, that have suitable slopes and shelter protection, should make orcharding possible, always provided that there is a competent orchardist. Oldtimers like A. P. Stevenson of Morden, Robert Marshall, Bill Oaks and Harold Orchard, all of Miami, proved this fact long ago.

The Native Blueberry Project

This was an Arda Project that began in 1965 and ran for five years. It was set up to investigate the commercial feasibility of producing blueberries by managing suitable forest areas by using the conventional methods of burning. The project was under the joint supervision of Mike Kaye of the

Forestry Branch and P. J. Peters of the Department of Agriculture. Large size areas in the Belair, Aggasiz, Sandilands and Duck Mountain (near Mafeking) reserves, served as test sites. Three different approaches were used. Some sites were completely cleared of trees, others had strips of trees cut alternating with uncut areas, and still others had the trees thinned out so that a six foot burner could meander between the trees. The latter was the most successful. A six foot liquid propane gas burner was used to burn off the old blueberry plants early in spring, before the frost was out of the ground. This was necessary to prevent the duff or organic layer from burning.

The results of this experiment proved that native blueberry management in Manitoba is not economically feasible and that for the following reasons:

1. Manitoba's precipitation is not adequate. Even when good stands of new plants resulted from the burn, these could not develop properly because of lack of moisture. Nova Scotia, Maine and New Brunswick have three times the precipitation rate of Manitoba.
2. June frosts, that kill the sensitive blueberry buds, completely kill these buds one out of five years, and cause losses of 20% to 70% in another three out of five years. On the average only one year out of five can one expect no frost damage. The results of the experiment verified this fact, a fact well known to people living in the jack pine forests.
3. Weed control in the blueberry fields of Manitoba poses an insurmountable problem. The bearberry inhabits the blueberry areas in Manitoba. Burning seems to accelerate its growth. It can only be killed by strong herbicides. The blueberry, on the other hand, is very sensitive to any herbicide. Anything that kills the bearberry, completely eradicates the blueberry. The blueberry areas in the East do not have this pesty weed.

One interesting fact emerged from this investigation. In Nova Scotia the blueberry is known as the "light-loving plant". In Manitoba, because of the insufficient rainfall, the blueberry does best in shade or semi-shade. A University

student working on this project, wrote a Master's Thesis on "The Blueberry, a shade loving plant". He had facts to substantiate his findings.

The Cranberry Project

The cranberry of commerce is the American cranberry, *Vaccinium macrocarpon*. It has to date not been found in its native state in this province. Manitoba is always looking for new industries and new crops to grow. The Department of Industry and Commerce and officials of the Eastman Region felt that cranberry production might offer an opportunity. It was decided to check out this feasibility by growing one acre of cranberries. The Fruit Specialist was asked to undertake this project.

Cranberries are at home on boggy or peaty soils that are very acid. A peat bog, some four miles east of Whitemouth seemed to offer the best site for the experiment. The overall depth of the peat here was between 8 and 10 ft. Here an area was cleared of trees and the tree roots dug out. Next an area one acre in size was scalped and levelled. A ditch was dug around the field and a dike built around it. A ditch was dug from a small shallow lake some 1000 yards away to within a hundred feet of the field. This was to supply the irrigation water needed for the project. A pumping station was put in place and a sprinkler system set up.

The preparation of the site took place in 1970 and 1971. In 1972 plant cuttings of four of the hardiest varieties were brought in from Eagle River, Wisconsin. These were planted late in spring of that year. Fertilizer was applied to half of each of the four variety fields. The project was sprinkled almost daily except during rainy spells. This was necessary for the cuttings to root.

By fall most of the cuttings had rooted. Cranberry fields are usually flooded with six or more inches of water just before freezeup. The ice covering that results is a protective measure for the plants below. An early heavy snowfall the first winter, and also in subsequent winters, made the flooding unnecessary. Winter injury to the plants did not appear to be a factor during this experiment. It generally takes three or more years to develop a solid stand or mat of plants. Two of

the four varieties planted did fairly well in this respect in four years. The other two varieties did not fare as well.

Weed problems had to be resolved. The fields were sprayed with Varsol at the rate of 500 gallons per acre. This was fairly effective. Some handweeding had to be done to remove some shrub growth that resulted from imperfect removal of tree roots in the preparation of the field.

After four years the cranberries started to yield a crop. The quality of the berries was excellent but the yields in the fourth, fifth and sixth year were far below the average yields of cranberries in other areas of production. Several factors could account for this. Cranberries grow best when the pH is at about 5. The pH of the experimental area was closer to 6. Irrigation water should be slightly acid or at least neutral. The water supply for this project was slightly alkaline and thus tended to further reduce the acidity of the peat. So, even though two of the varieties planted gave a fair yield, the project was abandoned. The growing of cranberries in Manitoba was not found to be economically feasible.

The marketing of cranberries also played a part in this decision. All of the American cranberry industry is under the control of Ocean Spray. This association has complete government-sanctioned control of the growing and marketing of cranberries. No one may plant an acre without the permission of Ocean Spray. To control prices, the association frequently has growers destroy a percentage of the crop. The cranberry growers of B.C. have also become part of the Ocean Spray regime. With much lower than average yields, it was felt that Manitoba could not compete in the market place with this giant competitor.

The Elite Seed Potato Farm

(Espo Farm)

G.E.Stone

The concept of a specialized seed potato production facility grew out of seed potato certification systems in other countries and the development of intensive disease testing procedures. Changes in Canada's seed potato certification system added a further dimension.

In the early 1960's the "Elite" or flush through system

was introduced and stocks entering the certification system were subjected to intensive disease testing. These procedures involved virus and bacterial diseases in particular. It was immediately apparent that the volume of material which could be subjected to these evaluation procedures was limited and that procedures for rapid increase of stocks from a few tubers would be advantageous.

In the late fall of 1968 the seed potato growers of Manitoba, Agriculture Canada potato certification staff and the Provincial Potato Specialist met and formulated a proposed voluntary growers association. On January 14, 1969 the proposals were accepted and the Seed Potato Growers Association of Manitoba was formed. Three months later the Directors approved motions favouring the " — establishment of a Provincial seed farm based on the production of virus free stock". The Association also recommended "that all seed growers contribute on a per bag basis towards the establishment and operation of a Provincial seed farm — ". R. P. Stogryn, Agriculture Canada and G. E. Stone, Manitoba Agriculture were requested to spearhead further investigation and involve the Association as necessary.

During the summer of 1969 arrangements were made to obtain virus free stocks of 8 cultivars. Proposals for operation of a farm were developed including a commitment from the producers that they assure payment of 50% of any operating cost deficit remaining after subtracting annual operating cost from the seed potato sales revenue. These actions were approved at the annual meeting held in November 1969 and were taken to Hon. Samuel Uskiw, Minister, Department of Agriculture. The Association received assurance that the Minister would request inclusion of funds in the next budget process.

In the spring of 1970 the virus tested seed stocks obtained from Agriculture Canada were planted at an isolated location near the Assiniboine River northeast of Holland. The small plots were cared for by staff of Manitoba and Canada Agriculture and storage space was provided at the Research Branch in Winnipeg. The tubers were classed as Elite I stock.

During the same summer locations for a Provincial seed farm site were considered on Hecla Island, Spruce Woods Park and Reserve, areas north and east of Wellwood and north of Portage la Prairie. In the spring of 1971 an opportunity arose west and south of Portage la Prairie on the Assiniboine River and this was the site selected.

The summer of 1970 was also used to trap aphids and determine the population differentials at several locations as they might affect seed potato production.

To provide additional background, the Provincial Potato Specialist travelled to New Brunswick and Maine to visit seed production units. In both instances information on government and grower participation, physical facilities, agronomic practices and costs were noted and used to develop the local proposals.

The Board of Directors of the Seed Potato Growers Association of Manitoba, in February, 1971, approved a proposal consistent with the requirements stipulated by the Provincial Department. Steps, including final site selection proceeded immediately to establish the production unit and plant the first crop. Varieties planted were Russet Burbank, Irish Cobbler, Warba, Norchip, Norland, Kennebec, Waseca, Red Pontiac and Green Mountain. All stocks were planted with tubers.

From the outset it was decided to use a mass propagation system to generate the first class (Elite I) stock for the farm. As a result a small greenhouse facility was constructed in the summer of 1973. The new facility was put into operation in December and 11,800 transplants were produced from 64 mother plants representing 9 varieties. The 62 sets used to start the mother plants generated 13,200 pounds of Elite I tubers the first and very successful year.

The following spring this stock was used to produce Elite II and one year later it became Elite III and was sold to the seed producers.

Over the years the principal components of this system have continued the same. Facilities have been improved and a key factor was the installation of two growth rooms to better regulate temperature, day length and humidity during

the mass propagation process. This is particularly critical of early maturing varieties and Norland is the most difficult. Russet Burbank is the least demanding to date.

In the initial stages all stocks were produced with Manitoba growers in mind. At the request of Saskatchewan Agriculture through Stan Sheard, arrangement to include orders from seed potato producers in Saskatchewan was completed. Arrangements are still in effect although they have been renegotiated twice over the term since initiation.

For the period 1971 to 1978 funding arrangements provided that income to the farm was used to defray operating costs and growers contributed 50% of the operating deficit incurred. Manitoba Agriculture provided funds for capital expenditures plus the remaining operating loss.

In 1979 arrangements were modified with the implementation of a Canada/Manitoba Agro-Man project. It was agreed that the agreement would fund all costs incurred in the production of the first two classes and the Seed Potato Growers Association of Manitoba would be responsible for the final year in the Elite classes. These arrangements are in place until early fall of 1985.

The operations of the seed production unit have provided for the introduction of newly released varieties. When the cultivar is of general interest, the farm obtains stock and introduces the material into the increase system. When a variety is of interest to only one producer or a small portion of the growers, arrangements have been made for production under contract of a minimum volume. Both of these systems work satisfactorily provided the industry is in tune with variety development.

In addition to the above, the farm maintains a source of a relatively small number of virus free stocks of the most promising cultivars. These are retained only as long as the inclusion in the industry is positive.

Quantities of seed required to be produced is another major aspect. This is determined on the basis of advance orders for seed stock placed by producers. Each year these are updated with a deposit required with the final order. This

helps assure that the orders placed are in line with intended purchases.

In summary, the operation of Provincial seed production unit, Espo Farm has and continues to have support and involvement of the industry, the province and the federal certification group. The varieties, quantity and quality produced has met the changing needs of the industry in nearly all instances. The production system is reliable to the extent of current disease evaluation techniques. As these improve, they can be incorporated and will be the base for an even better product.

THE MANITOBA AGRICULTURE PLANT PATHOLOGY LABORATORY

by G. Platford

The Manitoba Agriculture Plant Pathology Laboratory was established in 1972 in the Agricultural Services Complex on the University of Manitoba Campus. The initial staff consisted of Dr. Gary Platford, plant pathologist.

In September 1972 Joan Murray was hired as laboratory technician. There were only 216 samples analysed in the initial year. Joan Murray resigned in 1973, and was briefly replaced by Barbara Langridge who in turn resigned before the end of 1973.

Lorna Poff was hired as laboratory technician in 1975. Lorna remained in that position until December 1979.

In 1975, Dutch Elm Disease was detected in Manitoba. Because of the increased workload with the D.E.D. program it was necessary to hire another laboratory technician, Rhonda Kurtz.

After Lorna Poff left in 1979 it was necessary to hire another laboratory technician. Mardith Desjardins was hired in January 1980.

Rhoda Collins was the plant pathology laboratory secretary from 1975 until 1977. Patricia Vouriot was hired as the secretary in 1977.

In the period from 1975 until 1983 there have been usually 3 summer students working at the plant pathology laboratory primarily with the Dutch Elm Disease program.

The number of samples analysed by laboratory has increased from 216 in 1972 to 2,203 in 1982. The laboratory also analyses up to 5 thousand samples of elm trees annually for presence of *Ceratocystis ulmi*, the fungus which causes D.E.D.

The plant pathologist has worked closely with other plant pathologists in Manitoba, especially Dr. Claude Bernier and Roger Rimmer of the University of Manitoba Plant Science Department and Dr. Andy Tekauz and Dr. John Mills of the Agriculture Canada Research Station in Winnipeg, on the investigation of disease problems. Surveys have been conducted on crops in Manitoba primarily special crops such as rapeseed, pulse crops and alfalfa.

A major part of the plant pathologists duties since the laboratory was established in 1972 has been extension. Disease control information is updated annually for the field crop, vegetable and strawberry production guides.

HISTORY OF DUTCH ELM DISEASE IN MANITOBA

G. Platford
Manitoba Agriculture

D.E.D. in North America:

The first infections of the Dutch Elm Disease in North America were observed in the State of Ohio in 1930 and in the Province of Quebec in 1944. It was found in the State of Minnesota in 1961 and in Manitoba in 1975.

D.E.D. Legislation (before D.E.D. detection, prior to 1980):

The first legislation was initiated in 1966 in Manitoba for control of Dutch Elm Disease. The list of pests and diseases was removed from the Plant Pest and Diseases Act and placed in the regulations. This enabled the inclusion of Dutch Elm Disease in the list of pests without a change in the act.

These changes were made under the recommendation of Fred Weir, Chief of the Horticulture Section, Soils and Crops Branch, Manitoba Department of Agriculture with assistance from Martin Benum, City of Winnipeg; Vern

Hildahl, Canadian Forestry Service, Environment Canada; and Dr. Jim Reid, University of Manitoba, Botany Department. The early development of D.E.D. control policies was largely the result of efforts by these individuals, Bruce Denyer of the Canadian Forestry Service also played a role.

1970's — an Advisory Committee on Shade Tree Protection was set up by regulation under the Plant Pest and Diseases Act reporting to the Minister of Agriculture. A major responsibility of this committee was to make recommendations concerning the D.E.D. control program. Fred Weir was Chairman of this committee until his death in 1976. Since 1976 T. A. (Bert) Sandercock has served as Chairman. Other official members appointed to this committee were: Dr. Jim Reid, University of Manitoba Botany Department; V. Hildahl, Canadian Forestry Services and later the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources; Martin Benum, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Winnipeg; Ray Langridge, Director of Parks, City of Brandon; and Laurie Gans representing the Manitoba Horticultural Association.

Tree Pruners' Course

The Plant Pest and Diseases Act also had provision for licencing of tree pruners. The initial course was given in 1970 and until the end of 1983 there have been 337 licences issued.

Plant Pathology Laboratory:

In 1972 Gary Platford was appointed as Plant Pathologist. Laboratory facilities were established in the newly constructed Agricultural Services Complex on the University of Manitoba Campus. The plant pathology laboratory included facilities for culturing and identifying disease causing organisms from all types of crops and ornamentals in Manitoba. All elm tree samples suspected of having Dutch Elm Disease are analysed by the laboratory. In 1983 there were over 5,000 elm samples analysed.

Detection and Spread of D.E.D. in Manitoba

Dutch Elm Disease was first detected in Manitoba in 1975 where it was found in Winnipeg, Selkirk and Brandon. The initial identification was done by Gary Platford and Vern Hildahl. Cultures were confirmed as being *Ceratocystis ulmi*,

causal agent of Dutch Elm Disease by Dr. Ed Kondo of the Canadian Forest Service, Great Lakes Research Station at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

1976 — The incidence of the disease increased dramatically in the Selkirk area where 557 trees were confirmed to be infected with D.E.D. There were small localized outbreaks and individual diseased trees recorded north of Selkirk and in the Beausejour area. The outbreak of D.E.D. also became more widespread in Winnipeg and Brandon.

1977 — D.E.D. was detected in southeastern Manitoba around Sprague; considered an extension of the Minnesota, U.S.A. outbreak. It also continued to spread in the Eastern Region and was recorded in the Interlake Region for the first time.

1978 — The most significant new occurrence of the disease was south of Winnipeg between St. Norbert and Emerson. This was the first record of the disease in the Red River Valley south of Winnipeg.

1979 — There was a dramatic increase of D.E.D. in the Brandon area. There was an increase in the outbreak of the disease along the Red River mainly in the Rural Municipality of Ritchot. The number of diseased trees in Selkirk decreased, reflecting a reduction in the elm tree population in the town. Dutch Elm Disease was found in only 93 trees in Winnipeg.

1980 — There was a 3-fold increase of D.E.D. in Winnipeg with 315 infected trees confirmed. There were new outbreaks in the central region of the province at Carman and Miami.

1981 — There was another substantial increase in D.E.D. in Winnipeg from 315 to 757. The majority of the new infections were in the south Winnipeg area along the Red River in native stands. The disease continues to be very severe in the eastern region of the province and new outbreaks were recorded at Souris, and Hartney along the Souris River. Dutch Elm Disease was found for the first time in Saskatchewan in Regina where one infected tree was detected, which was removed.

1982 — The number of D.E.D. infected trees in Winnipeg

increased to 1,100 from 757 in 1981. Infections continued to be a problem in south Fort Garry and St. Norbert along the Red and LaSalle Rivers. These trees were mainly in the native stands. There were 286 trees confirmed as having Dutch Elm Disease in Brandon. In addition infected trees were found for the first time in the south central Manitoba towns of Morden, Altona, Gretna and Plum Coulee.

1983 — The incidence of D.E.D. infected trees in Winnipeg was 1,569, mainly in the problem area along the Red River in south Winnipeg. Dutch Elm Disease was confirmed for the first time in 6 municipalities in central and western Manitoba. To date the outbreaks in western Manitoba have tended to be isolated trees whereas in eastern Manitoba the disease is very widespread in native stands along the major rivers. D.E.D. was found for the first time in Riding Mountain National Park in 1983 on the eastern side of the park. D.E.D. has up to the end of 1983 been found in 53 municipalities and local government districts as well as in the Cities of Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg and the Town of Selkirk.

Department of Natural Resources:

In 1980 the D.E.D. control program was transferred to the Department of Natural Resources. A separate D.E.D. Act was passed under authority of the Minister of Natural Resources. Al Jeffrey acted as the Provincial Manager of Forest Protection and Dutch Elm Disease. Vern Hildahl coordinated the D.E.D. research and surveillance programs. Terry Boyce, who was first hired as a D.E.D. Inspector by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in 1975, moved to the Department of Natural Resources and for several years he supervised the D.E.D. surveillance crews. Al Jeffrey left the Department of Natural Resources in October 1981 and Vern Hildahl assumed the position of acting Provincial Manager to the end of October 1982. Geoff Munro was appointed Chief of Forest Protection and Dutch Elm Disease in 1982.

A Technical Advisory Committee was established in 1980 with responsibility for making recommendations on D.E.D. control. The Chairman of this committee was initially Al Jeffrey and since November 1982, Geoff Munro. Other

members of the committee are: T. A. Sandercock and G. Platford representing Manitoba Agriculture; Dr. C. C. Bernier from the University of Manitoba; M. Benum, City of Winnipeg; Dr. E. Kondo, Canadian Forestry Service; V. Hildahl, Manitoba Department of Natural Resources.

Tree Removals — Cost-Sharing Agreements:

From 1975 until 1980 Reg Curle administered the contracts and cost-sharing agreements with rural municipalities and Cities of Winnipeg and Brandon. Since 1980 this function has been carried out by the staff of the Department of Natural Resources.

There were also diseased trees removed by Manitoba Parks Branch between 1976 and 1980. These tree removal crews were supervised by Art Carrier who moved with the program to the Department of Natural Resources in 1981 and continues in this capacity. John Bissinger, Forester, Parks Branch, Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs was responsible for the tree removal program prior to 1980.

Within the City of Winnipeg boundaries tree removals to date have been carried out by the City of Winnipeg, Department of Parks and Recreation. The Government of Manitoba has cost-shared this control program.

The D.E.D. control program in the City of Winnipeg, Department of Parks and Recreation has been carried out by the direction of M. Benum, but has involved several individuals who directly managed the program (John Hreno, 1977-1981; A. Jeffrey, 1981-1982; John Jansen, 1982-1983)

Tree Injections:

A method of injecting elm trees with a fungicide for prevention and control of D.E.D. was developed in the 1970's by Dr. Ed Kondo at the Canadian Forestry Services Great Lakes Forest Research Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. In Winnipeg, Earl Swayzie of St. James Tree Service and later Save-A-Tree developed improved injection equipment for applying fungicide to elm trees. This program has limited use in Winnipeg mainly because of the time involved and cost per tree.

The preceeding reports indicate the wide scope of interests covered by the horticultural extension staff. The horticultural section is a part of the Soils and Crops Branch of the Department of Agriculture. It is of interest to note that no other section of any government department has had as few changes of personnel as the extension section. The team approach was initiated by F. J. Weir and continues to function well to this day. It is the function of horticultural extension to have its finger on the pulse of all horticultural endeavor and to help sustain and speed up this pulse.

STAFF HORTICULTURAL SECTION — 1983

T. A. "Bert" Sandercock, Chief, Horticultural Section, Policy & Administration

Garth E. Stone

Potato Specialist and Chairman, Board of
Directors' Elite Seed Potato Farm
Ornamental Specialist and Secretary-
Treasurer, Manitoba Horticultural
Association

Reg B. Curle

James D. Portree

Les R. Allen

Dinah Ceplis

R. Gary Platford

Fruit and Greenhouse Specialist

Specialist, Vegetable Crops

Northern Horticulturist

Plant Pathologist, Director, Provincial Plant
Pathology Lab.

Rhonda M. Kurtz

Mardith L. Desjardins

Pat Vouriout

Sharon Jones

Supervisor, Plant Pathology Lab. Operations
Lab Technician

Secretary

Secretary

CHAPTER XII

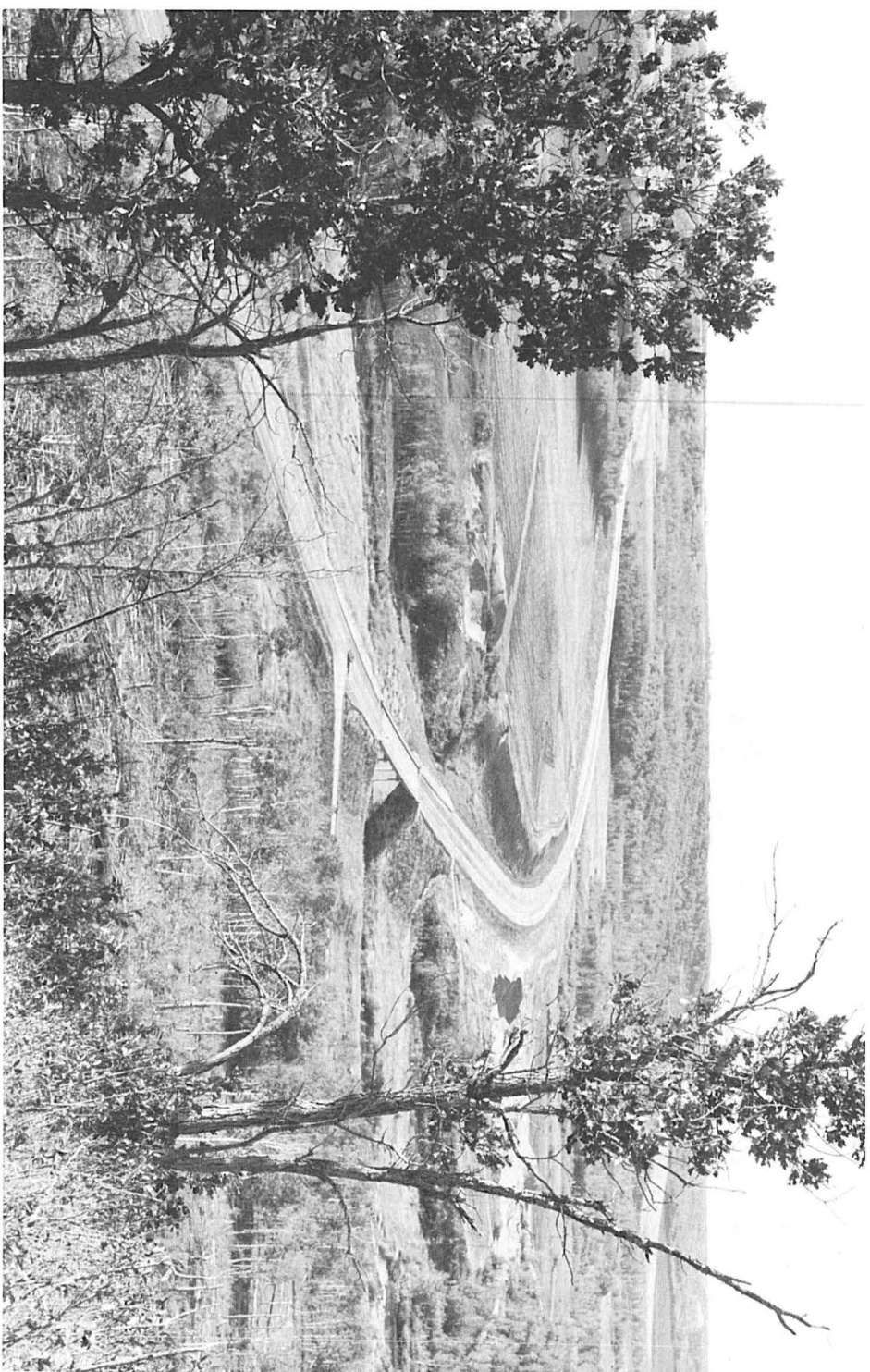
PROFILES OF NOTED HORTICULTURISTS

Foreword

"Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them." History is a record of the accomplishments of men. The following is about people who, during the past century, gave time and effort towards making Manitoba a better place in which to live. Many of them, without thought of self gain, in the face of close to unsurmountable conditions, contributed all they knew to build, by trial and error, a type of horticulture to our then unknown requirements. From many distant corners of the world they obtained plants and seeds to test and to hybridize, so as to meet the severe effects plants face during our adverse seasons. The work is not finished and who knows, in this fast changing world, how much horticulture will be needed or used to soften the harshness of brick, concrete and pavement in our everyday lives. Sufficient to say at present, "The good that men do lives after them".

by J. R. "Bob" Almey

Of all the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture over the years, none had a greater interest in and was more supportive of horticultural development in this province than **J. H. Evans**. Mr. Evans occupied this position from 1916 to 1949. He knew the province and the active horticulturists of the time. It was in 1948 that Mr. Evans addressed the delegates at the M.H.A. convention in Winnipeg. His speech is reproduced in its entirety. The reader might be well advised to have a map of Manitoba on hand so as to follow the journey with Mr. Evans. His address is entitled:



Down Memory Lane . . . Photo Courtesy Man. Govt.

DOWN MEMORY LANE OR PIONEERS IN HORTICULTURE IN THE STRICTEST SENSE

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow", has an apt significance when quoted to illustrate the growth and development of horticulture in Manitoba. The invitation extended to address you this evening very greatly lessened the task involved through a submission of my subject. Added to this invitation was the suggestion that the length of my service as your Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Immigration in some measure at least qualified me for the task. My residency in Manitoba extends to forty-two years. With the possible exception of two, one of whom has gone to his reward prior to my residence in Manitoba, I have known rather well all the pioneers in horticulture whose work I shall comment on.

In order to avoid any attempt at allocating priority to anyone, I shall adopt a method of approach which will require that you accompany me throughout Manitoba and through the trail of memory, and with the clock conveniently turned back, to accomodate the occasion and the distance travelled at the same rate of speed as that in common use in fairy books. It will not prove difficult. "If but the will be firmly bent, no stuff resists the mind's intent".

Mr. W. B. Hall

Early beginnings in any line make fascinating studies. Particularly true is this where nature is the active and, frequently dominating partner in the undertaking. The first survey party had W. B. Hall as one of its members. He settled on Lot 1 in Headingly. One of his first acts of domestication was the development of a garden and a small orchard. In the minimum of time that tilling of soil and growth of plants would permit, he had substantial quantities of raspberries, gooseberries and currants for sale in Winnipeg. He was, as far as I have been able to learn, our first tree fruit commercial gardener. As an aside, Mr. Hall has a daughter who resides in Charleswood today, Mrs. Helen Vialoux.

We must not delay our tour any longer. So we travel southwest through Carman and south past Jordan Siding and eventually west to what was once known as Nelson and is frequently called that today. The now name is Dunston, a name derived from Duncan and Stevenson, two of the older settlers.

Mr. A. P. Stevenson

Mr. Stevenson is generally conceded to have been the father of horticulture in Western Canada. He was affectionately named "Sandy Stevenson" by his friends. He was a typical pioneer. What typifies a pioneer? Well, first and foremost, tenacity of purpose. Enjoyment and sorrow are the warp and woof of life in pioneering days. Sandy Stevenson had his annual brush pile each spring, which he doggedly but pleasantly consigned to his local cemetery for unfulfilled bones. He had a jovial disposition, a merry twinkle in his eye when he smiled and was a practical jokester among intimate friends. His greatest achievement was in the field of apple culture. He, however, explored the field of horticulture in the capacity of a nurseryman. This naturally broadened his field of horticultural influence. His name is commemorated in a wider sphere through "The Stevenson Memorial Award", awarded periodically, when warranted, for meritorious service to horticulture. He was endowed with the qualities of a pioneer.

Morden Experimental Station

We must wind our way along and our next stop is the Morden Experimental Station. Here one sees, as no where else in Manitoba, what man achieves in co-operation with nature. I recall its early beginnings and the setting out of what is currently referred to as the 1916 nursery. Today one marvels at the complete transformation from prairie to a beautiful and practical landscape, rich in vegetables, fruits, flowers and ornamental shrubs, and trees of many, many varieties. A truly great achievement in one generation. I pay tribute to each and every individual associated with it from the earliest beginnings. One can never visit this beauty spot without experiencing a new faith in the horticultural future

of our province and a moving and profound respect and admiration for those who conceived this venture into an unexplored realm of production and achieved such marked success.

Mr. C. C. Milne

The town of Morden owed much to C. C. Milne and his family. He was held in high esteem by all who know him and his influence was quite widespread and substantial. While an all round horticultural enthusiast, he really excelled as a grower of sweet peas. In this field he was a recognized authority and his judgement in varieties was accepted without question. His next choice was probably gladiolus and here again he excelled.

Mr. Wellesley White

As one travels west over the hill from Morden, our first call is south of Thornhill at the home of Wellesley White. I had the pleasure of nominating him for the degree of Master Farmer. His lawns and flower beds were always a pleasant sight and his garden, immediately south of his residence, was well balanced and nicely arranged. It generally met the needs of the home in due season.

One feels like reporting that there was nothing spectacular about these pioneers and their work. They were priests and prophets among the people of their communities. The spread of the gospel of horticulture was very largely through example. Seldom did they deliver talks or eulogize their work and its success.

Mr. John Wiener

Further north we reach Miami, a little town well named. Here one would see, three miles west of town, John Wiener, best known as a seed grower. His example and influence in the field of horticulture is equally significant. He had spent some time at Brandon, prior to settling down at Miami. Here he became closely attached to Dr. S. A. Bedford and Mr. H. L. Patmore, of whom more will be said later. When John Wiener arrived in Miami, his appetite for horticulture was keener than for seed growing. In 1981 our Department organized a farmers' institute meeting at Miami and the

speakers were J. J. Ring of Crystal City and Samuel Larcombe of Birtle, the former an enthusiast on farm shelterbelts and the latter on vegetable gardens. A fine team; one was Paul and the other Apaulus. One did the planting and the other did the watering. It was here that John Wiener received the encouragement that sent him on his way rejoicing. Who can estimate the influence of the spoken word and who can say when it will make itself felt?

Mr. Harold Orchard

Mr. Harold Orchard who lives north and west of John Wiener, on the slope of the hills, travelled even further on the road toward horticultural fame and became a professional nurseryman who widened his field of influence. There are six Orchard families in Miami and the influence of these early settlers has been so marked that a garden and an orchard is a commonplace scene on almost every farm in this beautiful district.

The Women's Institute in the early days undertook to beautify the resting place of those who had gone to their reward. I was greatly impressed by their work; it reflected very favorably on the character of the living in that community.

Mr. Wm. Shepherd

Our next stop is south and west of Rathwell at the home of William Shepherd. His visits to my office were always refreshing. He took a great deal of pleasure from his work and passed it on to others. Someone said to me one day, "There is enough truth in that statement to completely divorce it from the realm of fiction". Mr. Shepherd had been deprived of the use of an arm — a serious handicap in carrying out a very particular class of work. This, however, did not deter him in his labors. His exhibits of apples and fruits of all kinds in Winnipeg exhibitions were the envy of us all. He was a true disciple of Mr. A. P. Stevenson.

Mr. Thos. Greenway

Our next call is Crystal City. Immediately southwest of this little town are the barns which housed that great short-horn herd of the late Thomas Greenway, one time Premier of

this province and one of its Ministers of Agriculture. Those were the days when James Yule was his herdsman and his son, Charles, judged shorthorns in the Perth Show and Sale this spring, a great honor for anyone and a Canadian in particular.

Mr. J. J. Ring

Immediately southwest is the home of J. J. Ring. One is immediately attracted by the well-arranged shelterbelt, a real necessity in this country, winter and summer. Mr. Ring was a man of medium stature, quiet and unassuming, yet forceful of his convictions, and his great sincerity and unquestioned integrity rendered him a force for good in our province. He was a staunch advocate for agricultural education. His family partook of it and his son is still on the old farm. The last I saw of my old friend was at Nelson, when the Stevenson Memorial Medal was presented to Dr. Frank Skinner. It was a great day for me meeting so many men and women, who had meant, and still mean, so much to Manitoba. I can still see many of them: Dr. A. B. Baird, Chas. Midwinter, Mr. F. Pinglund, Dr. E. Cora Hind, J. J. Ring, Prof. F. W. Brodrick, Fred Pugh, Geo. Chipman, and many others I would dearly love to record, but time says no.

Mr. H. E. Walker

We pass through Killarney and see Harry Walker, whom I first met on entering the old Manitoba Agricultural College and found him working for Professor Brodrick. He was the only real horticulturist in our year at College. He was in charge of the small provincial horticultural farm at this point, and carried out his work conscientiously and well.

Dr. R. S. Thornton

We pass on to Deloraine and there Dr. Thornton greets us with an engaging smile. For many years he held the portfolio of Education in this province with dignity and an inborn tenacity of purpose of Scotch origin. He fathered the beautiful park in Deloraine and his horticultural disciples in the district were many, but none more ardent than Mr. Chas. Sankey.

Mr. C. A. Sankey

Mr. Charles Sankey came to Canada as an English sailor boy and developed into a useful and highly respected citizen of Manitoba.

Mr. Alidor Andries

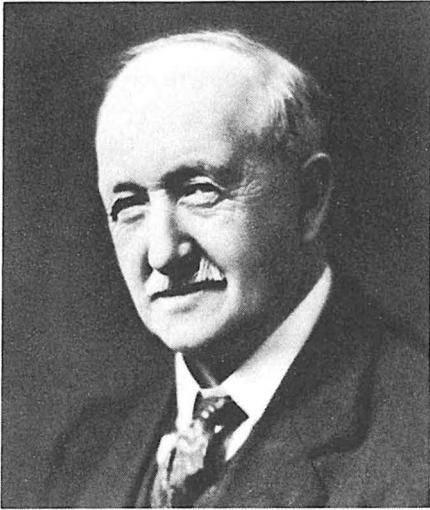
Ten miles south of Deloraine, on the side of the hills, a farmer from Belgium established a home in the truest sense. While a renowned breeder of Belgium horses and a very good farmer, Mr. Andries was better known for the beautification of his home surroundings. Few people visited that home without an inward unexpected resolve to go home and do likewise. Andries never delivered a speech on horticulture that I know of, but he convinced and influenced many to follow in his footsteps and do likewise.

Dr. S. A. Bedford

As we leave southwestern Manitoba we travel north and arrive in Brandon. Here existed a horticultural society before the Manitoba parent was born. I shall mention two names only in Brandon. The first is that of Dr. S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of the Brandon Experimental Farm, the first of its kind in Western Canada. While his professional life was that of agronomy, he was a very great lover of horticulture, in fact all things beautiful, and not the least of them human character. He was a man among men. I was one of his many students and he preceded me in the office I now hold. While the Brandon farm has not specialized in horticulture as Morden has, it certainly cannot be said it was entirely neglected there either. Dr. Bedford never neglected an opportunity to further the interests of vegetable production, the growing of fruits, flowers, and shelterbelts in particular. Manitoba was much the richer because Dr. Bedford lived and labored here.

Editor's note: Dr. Bedford was Superintendent of the Brandon Experimental farm from 1888 to 1905. He next was on the staff of the Manitoba Agricultural College, then became Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and finally the Chairman of the Manitoba Weeds Commission from 1915 to 1923.

Mr. H. L. Patmore



H. L. Patmore.

The second Brandon man I want you to meet is Mr. H. L. Patmore. Mr. Patmore was the secretary of the Brandon Horticultural Society for many years. His profession was that of a nurseryman. He cannot be accredited with the attributes of a keen business man. His whole being was so saturated with the milk of human kindness that he constantly handed out too many specimens from his nursery free of charge, to qualify as a keen business man. This very tendency throughout his life, has endeared him to those who knew him. His memory will be kept green through his innumerable kind deeds; and what finer tribute can anyone merit?

Mr. W. "Billy" Girling

As we travel north we pass through Rapid City and on to Basswood. Before we reach this latter town we pass by a little yellow home on the east side of the road, where the landscape gardening attracts our attention and pleases the eye. This is the home of Mr. Girling. He came from England, part of "an island musical with birds that sing and never cease." (Wordsworth) He today has turned over to his son the running of his farm and at the ripe old age looks after his shrubs, flowers, etc. and exhibits them to his many admiring friends who call. His life matures in the finest setting that mankind can ever find, namely the beauty of nature.

Mr. S. Larcombe

As we went our way along we approach Birtle. We turn off the highway on the right hand side and follow a crooked trail in to the farm yard of Samuel Larcombe, another son of Old England, and a living replica of the artist's concept of John Bull. His farm borders the Birdtail River from which Birtle derives its name. The land is rough, stony, and the better soil covered with bush. It is here Mr. Larcombe became renowned as a seed grower and was at times called the Wheat King. But so many Canadians claimed this title that it lost, at least in large part, its significance. In his earlier days, however, vegetable growing was his chief attraction to our rural settlers. I am referring to the late eighties and nineties, when he was a popular speaker on vegetable growing at institute meetings throughout Manitoba.

Have already made reference to his meeting with J. J. Ring at Miami in "91". As the years advanced he was a member of agricultural societies, judged at seed grain fairs, and was a witty after-dinner speaker to boot, which enhanced his popularity greatly. The day he was laid to rest many Manitobans turned out to pay their respects, a great tribute to a man who had none of the advantages of education, yet was an educated man and served a useful purpose in his fields of endeavor. I enjoyed an intimate relationship with him, knew first-hand his trials and tribulations, and appreciated his many sterling and admirable qualities. He will not be replaced. He was a type not easily imitated.

Dr. Frank Skinner

One can only stay so long in the company of any of these grand old men, so we pass on to one of the less mature years. The trail takes us through the Assissippi Valley, always pretty, but beautiful in June and September. We find now Dr. Frank Skinner east of the highway, both farming and managing a nursery.

(Editor's note: This story is abbreviated as Dr. Skinner's complete story is found in Chapter IV)

So we leave Dr. Skinner for Roblin found near the Duck Mountains. In these mountains, in my capacity of Chief

Game Commissioner, I found beauty spots untouched and unspoiled by man as yet. May we pray for sufficient common sense and decency to preserve them intact for generations yet unborn to admire and enjoy.

Dr. John R. Gunne

From Roblin we travel to Dauphin. Here we immediately make for the home of Dr. Gunne, a member of one of Manitoba's oldest families. Dr. Gunne, an imposing and attractive personality, was one of the most acceptable co-workers one could ever hope to be associated with. Agriculture? Yes, but horticulture definitely qualified for his untiring interest. He was a born leader in this community.

Mr. D. D. McDonald

One of his most ardent admirers and fellow citizens is D. D. McDonald, whose work among youth is well known and greatly admired. A glimpse at the homes of the two men supplies ample evidence as to their practical interest in horticulture.

Mr. W. T. Boughen

Valley River is only a short distance away and here we find another nurseryman by the name of W. T. Boughen, a real oldtimer in the business and known throughout the province. His nursery is located on the banks of Valley River.

One leaves Dauphin area for the Riding Mountain over a road that recalls my early trips when becoming stuck or traversing corduroy roads was a rather steady diet for a game guardian.

Last year Mrs. Evans and I spent a Sabbath day at Clear Lake. We arrived there very early and parked under shade trees, much to the comfort later on for the whole party. Those responsible for the laying out of roads and streets, with accompanying landscape work, are entitled to a great deal of credit for foresight, enterprise and ingenuity. I predict that this appreciation will grow with each succeeding generation. My experience in this area prior to this work enables me to say that the changes by the hands of man have, if anything, improved its appearance and very greatly enhanced its value to mankind. We left one of Canada's

really attractive spots at dawn and our exit was the Norgate road. One involuntarily stops at this first point of decline to the lowlands ahead. Here one gazes in silent amazement at the scene ahead and below. It is one of the really attractive sights on a clear day in Manitoba. Eventually we reach that solid town of Neepawa. The Hotel Hamilton has been remodelled and now more closely approximates the first owner's dreams of what he intended it to be. The late Don Hamilton was a priceless character, one of those who, unfortunately, are passing one by one and are not being replaced.

Mr. David J. Patterson

One continues on until one reaches Westbourne and immediately prior to crossing the White Mud River, and to the west, lives David Patterson. Dave has developed very attractive home surroundings out of a natural setting. It is not an old undertaking. Hence is still in the development stage. It is, however, attracting a great deal of favorable comment and attention.

Editor's note: David Patterson developed "Perry Park" along the abundantly treed banks of the Whitemud River. It is a fairyland-like Lilliput village with church in the wild-wood, wishing well, lighthouse, fireplace, playgrounds, picnic facilities and conveniences. It is one man's gift to an appreciative public and an inspiration to all home-makers. Patterson was one of the first Golden Boy Award recipients in 1960 in recognition for distinctive citizenship.

As we leave Westbourne and arrive at a point two miles east, we reach a district, the northern part of the MacDonald area, where farms exist which can rarely be equalled and where practically every acre can be brought under the plow. We are now on the Portage Plains and approaching the city.

Colonel B. C. Wallace

Our main attraction in Portage la Prairie is the "Island Nursery", its owner Col. Wallace. Nowhere on this journey have we encountered anyone who could measure up to the Colonel in eloquence and unbounded enthusiasm for Manitoba's horticultural possibilities, and his own enjoyment in this field. A natural habitat for a nursery; soil which cannot

be improved upon and in one of the best farming areas anywhere.

Mr. D. W. Buchanan

Travelling east from Portage la Prairie and through Headingly we come to St. Charles. This was the home of another pioneer nurseryman, D. W. Buchanan, director of Buchanan Nursery Co., St. Charles, Man. He wrote a book entitled "Horticulture in the North". I recall that he was a very fine character and appeared to enjoy helping young people on their way through life.

Mr. Fred Pugh

One of our first points of horticultural interest in Charleswood is the home of Fred Pugh. He has never tired in his efforts to further the interests of better horticulture.

Editor's Note: Fred Pugh was Director of Research, T. Eaton Co., and was a valuable member of the M.H.A. from 1914 and on. He published articles on garden subjects and distributed them free. His firm sponsored garden displays. His acreage in Charleswood was noted for its output of asparagus and for its home grounds. Mrs. Pugh and Mrs. Brodrick were sisters.

Mr. George Chipman

We next encounter Chipman Nurseries. Its owner, Geo. Chipman, was awarded the Stevenson Memorial Medal posthumously.

Editor's Note: See Mr. Chipman's profile in the chapter on the Stevenson Memorial Board.

Mrs. Wm. Dumbrell

Once in Charleswood, one's mind instantly turns to Mrs. Wm. Dumbrell, whose life was freely given to making Charleswood a finer and more attractive district to reside in.

Mr. C. James

C. James and his family have also shared in this noble work and have been equally untiring in their efforts and deserve a lot of credit.

Mr. Frank E. Ball

We have now reached City Park and our first reaction is to bless and praise everyone who has had anything to do

with bringing our city parks into being. My thoughts run to Mr. Frank Ball and his contribution to the area he owned in Winnipeg in the early days. He was the Florist of Assiniboine Park Conservatory and helped select many of the park sites in the city.

Mr. John A. Flanders

His son-in-law, John Flanders, has been chairman of the Parks Board and has carried on his father-in-law's work with renewed vigor.

Editor's Note: Mr. Flanders was an M.H.A. director for many years. He was also the President of the Motor Country Club and while he held this office, the grounds of Lower Fort Garry were at their most beautiful. **William Knowles**, a former market gardener, took on the beautification work at the Lower Fort. The combination of Flanders and Knowles developed the Lower Fort grounds and golf course into a lovely setting.

Mr. George Champion

While at City Park we think reverently of George Champion and his efficient and unselfish work as head of our park system for many years. Then we think of the thousands of families who have no automobiles to travel to summer resorts but who can and do enjoy our city parks. I wonder how many of us realize the influence these pleasant surroundings have exercised on the thinking and disposition of the people who visit these parks and the help given in making better and more contented citizens of them.

Editor's note: Mr. Champion was Superintendent of the Public Parks Board from 1907 to 1935. It was during his term in office that the now mature elms were planted on Winnipeg streets. As director and president of the M.H.A., he shared his knowhow and enthusiasm with many people.

Prof. F. W. Brodrick

I never think of George Champion without thinking of Norman Ross, late of Indian Head, and Prof. Brodrick, three great souls, self-efacing and men who actually blushed when receiving compliments. One cannot think of Prof. Brodrick without affectionately remembering Thomas Jack-

son, who was his right bower at the Manitoba Agricultural College. What a privilege to have been a student of and associated with such fine characters.

Mr. John de Jong

Some time later John de Jong joined the M.A.C. staff. He and his brother, Klaas de Jong, and Peter Daman, all came from that little country, Holland, world-renowned for its horticulture.

The story of our horticultural pioneers is a great story when properly told, a story of vision, of courage, of ability to encounter defeat and rise to greater achievement. Yes, enjoyment and sorrow were the alternating currents of their very existence.

Our nurserymen and market gardeners, while in the commercial field, gave on the whole sound leadership and dependable service. Think what Winnipeg would be each summer without the displays of bedding plants of high quality placed at our disposal each spring!

It has been a great privilege to have known these men and women and to have this opportunity to pay them a well merited tribute, although imperfectly done. Manitoba is richer and a finer province as a result of their efforts. "IT MATTERS NOT HOW LONG WE LIVE, BUT HOW". — Bailey, "Festus".

Editors's note: Here ends Mr. J. H. Evan's fascinating journey down Memory Lane.

Dr. D. A. Brown, Brandon

Another horticulturist of note, now living in retirement in Brandon, is Dr. D. A. Brown. Dr. Brown began his horticultural career at the Morden Experimental Station. From there he moved to Brandon as officer in charge of Illustration Stations. He promoted fruit growing, farmstead shelterbelts and landscape adornment on all units. His writings and addresses were and are full of grist and practical help. He was a strong supporter of the horticultural societies and the Manitoba Horticultural Association. The M.H.A. presented him with an Honorary Life Membership in 1962. The Brandon University conferred an Honorary Doctorate

Dr. D. A. Brown.



on him, thus recognizing his prolific contributions over the years.

Dr. Brown travelled widely in the province and met up with many of the old-time horticulturists in many areas of the province. The M.H.A. asked him to present a paper at its annual convention in 1949. This paper was entitled, "Horticultural Efforts in Manitoba". In it he named many contributors to horticultural development in this province. Many of the people mentioned have already been covered in the paper by Mr. J. H. Evans. Short excerpts about other horticulturists, as presented in Dr. Brown's paper, follow.

CONTRIBUTORS TO HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (1949)

by Dr. D. A. Brown

- * At Manitou the flower garden of **Mrs. R. B. Smith** is appreciated greatly. In the same district the floriculture of **Reeve F. W. McIntosh** is also contributing to the advancement of rural horticulture.
- * At Cartwright **E. C. Lumb** has for a number of years grown flowers and fruits with sufficient success to inspire his neighbors to do better gardening.

- * A call at Boissevain naturally leads us to the home of **J. R. Hutchinson** who, while he was on the farm, did splendid work as a tree fruit experimentalist and floriculturist. The farm home of **Leslie Holditch** at Boissevain illustrates a bit of the English countryside. Tree shelters, drives, entrance posts of brick, hedges, flower borders and shrubbery impart a sense of something grand and lasting to this progressive farm dwelling place.
- * **Mr. James Bennie** on his open prairie farm, two miles west of Waskada, has in recent years demonstrated that, under the most trying conditions in Manitoba, many varieties of tree fruits, bush fruits, trees, hedge plants and flowers can be made to flourish and make home life cosy.
- * In 1936, **G. H. Edgar** and his wife, then a young couple, had just started up on a farm bordering Lyleton village. The same year the Edgars undertook Illustration Station work. The cooperative efforts of the Brandon Farm, the Indian Head Nursery and the owners produced a landscape design that was followed. Today this farm home displays one of the finest horticultural accomplishments in Manitoba. There is a large fruitful orchard, wind breaks deluxe, hedges, flower borders, lawns and shrubbery.
- * As we turn north, a pause should be made at Pipestone to call on Miss Rhea Forder and see evidence of the fruits of her late mother's hard work. Here, on a very light soil exposed to the four winds, **Mrs. William Forder**, who loved flowers and trees intensely, planted and grew a heart warming garden year after year for forty years.
- * **John Rankin** of Oakner, in sixty years of work, has established a farmstead beautified by wise planning and planting that leaves an imperishable impression.
- * The same can be said of the **A. D. A. Dickie** farm one mile north of Crandall.
- * Swan River Valley is known to its citizens and others kindly disposed as the best natural garden area of our province. Here we shall visit the **Banks** farm home at Benito; the **Palmer, Harvey Brothers**, and **McLlroy** farm homes at Durban; and the farm homes of the **Shaws, Andersons** and **McLearys** in the Lidstone-Minitonas dis-

trict. All are well known for their fruit gardens, flowers, shrubbery and gorgeous windbreaks. At Kenville, **Art Douglas** had a 900 tree fruit trial orchard for 18 years. Douglas proved that an eastern slope in Swan Valley can compete favorably with the warm plains of Miami and Morden for tree fruit production.

- * Let's next fly over 150 miles of woodland, lake and swamp to visit the **R. W. Allen** homestead, 27 miles north of The Pas. Mr. Allen, in twenty years of work, has proved that vegetable gardening can be pursued here with success. Dr. Brown states that he has never seen or tasted such strawberries and raspberries as grown by Mr. Allen.
- * Going south the grand little trial orchard of **G. H. Best**, makes us exclaim, "Tree fruits are now available that, when well cared for, can be grown in all our farm gardens".
- * At Ochre River we recall that the late **John Rose**, just south of this town, gave expression to his farm home by landscaping that simply delighted all who visited him.
- * At McCreary we pause to see where the late **B. L. Tedford** conducted greenhouse and garden production that made him a noted plant growing artist.
- * The contribution to the development of hardy fruits and to landscaping by the late **Magnus Wilson** of Gladstone should be recorded.
- * Likewise the orchard work of **George Davey** at Westbourne.
- * The outstanding home grounds and trial orchard on the **A. E. Walker** farm at Katrine invites a visit.
- * Out on the **George and Angus McVicar** farms, the suitability of the Plains for the production of flowers, fruits, trees and shrubs and vegetables is well demonstrated.
- * A short stop at the home of **Monsieur La Porte** at St. George, on the Winnipeg River, is imperative so that we may see how La Porte has transformed an eastern slope of three acres into a garden of bush and small fruits.
- * And finally our journey takes us to the gladiolus farm of **John Strachan** and his son **Alfred Strachan**. They also grow numerous other plants in quantities sufficient to

have enabled them to merchandize home grown seeds, bulbs and corms in larger volume than any other firm in this province.

Editor's Note: This ends the excerpts from Dr. Brown's paper. The rest of this chapter is devoted to profiles of over forty Manitoba horticulturists. It begins with the story of J. R. Almey and ends with the profile of F. J. Weir, two of the most prominent horticultural stalwarts of this province.

Other Horticulturists in Alphabetical Order

J. R. Almey



Mr. J. R. Almey.

The Order of the Buffalo Hunt was instituted in 1957 specially to honor persons who have made distinctive contributions to life in this province. J. R. Almey was made a Captain of the Order by the Honorable Philip Peturrson, Minister of Cultural Affairs, on February 13, 1970, at the annual convention of the M.H.A., for his distinctive contributions to prairie life since he came here in 1921 to be the first Provincial Horticulturalist.

Bob Almey was a lad of 16 years when he accompanied his family to Canada from Leicester, England. On his arrival

he started a long and useful career in his chosen field with Johnson Brothers, orchardists near Forest, Ontario. He followed as a student in horticulture at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. During his summer holidays, spent with the Horticultural Department of O.A.C., he worked alongside Miss Isabella Preston, noted originator of new plant varieties. She later joined the staff of the Central Experimental farm in Ottawa.

In September, 1917, during his third year at Guelph, he joined the Royal Flying Corps as air cadet. The First World War ended in November, 1918, and he took his discharge as Second Lieutenant in December of that year. He returned to the Ontario Agricultural College and graduated in 1921 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. After his graduation he went west and joined the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. His duties that year included the distribution of two carloads of certified Irish Cobbler seed potatoes to farmers. He also directed control measures against that year's very heavy grasshopper infestation.

Seven years later he joined the Canadian Pacific Railway as Chief Horticulturist, Western Lines — Thunder Bay to Vancouver Island. The Department had been organized in 1908 to have charge of the railway's park and garden work and to advise officials and employees on station garden plantings and on trees for shelterbelts along the railroad's right-of-way. He was made General Agricultural Agent, combining both agriculture and horticulture, and continued in that post until his retirement in 1960.

Bob Almey has been involved with the Manitoba Horticultural Association ever since he came to Manitoba. He was secretary of the M.H.A. from 1922 to 1928. In 1931 he became a director of the Association and served in that capacity for many years. He was president of the M.H.A. in 1938. In 1956 he was made an Honorary Life Member. Many are the committees he has served on. When the Stevenson Memorial Board was formed, Bob became a life member of that body. The M.H.A. Home Grounds Competitions had Mr. Almey as one of its judges for many years. The Provincial Slide Competition was often judged by him. For a period

of years he served the Association as ex-officio director. Then he became its Honorary President, a position which he relinquished in 1981.

There were other organizations that knew Bob as an active participant. He is an honorary member of the Western Canadian Society of Horticulture and was its president in 1952. Honorary Life memberships were given to him by the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, as he was active in both of these over the years. He was also a director and president of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society, which also made him an Honorary Life member. The Winnipeg Gladiolus Society knew him as a director and its president in 1965.

But Bob was also a grower of note. On his small holding at Libau he grew thousands of gladiolus and originated many fine varieties. Bob and wife Olive were also keen exhibitors and won many awards. He was recognized as a gladiolus expert and was president of the Canadian Gladiolus Society. But his expertise in growing also held with other crops. He loved potatoes and grew some of the finest Spanish onions one will ever see.

The widely famed Almey Rosybloom Ornamental Crabapple, rated best by Dr. W. R. Leslie of Morden, was named in J. R. Almey's honor. A fitting tribute this for one of the finest horticulturists this province will ever know.

Bob and Olive Almey live in a pretty little home on Balfour Avenue in Winnipeg. The editor just discovered that Mr. Almey very recently received a gold medal from the American Gladiolus Society. This is just one other recognition of the contributions he made to horticulture.

Ches Chesnut

Ches Chesnut, author of the Winnipeg Tribune's garden column for 28 years died in Victoria at the age of 79. Ches was born in Toronto in 1900 and joined the armed forces at the age of 14 to serve in the First World War.

He opened a radio repair shop after the war and later held a number of jobs in radio stations, eventually managing several stations. Mr. Chesnut launched the garden column part-time while managing a station in Victoria in 1951. He

continued to write it after he was transferred to Winnipeg as national advertising manager for his company, All Canada Radio Systems.

In 1957 he retired from his radio career and devoted full time to the column. He moved back to Victoria in 1967. At the time of his death the column appeared in three newspapers. His daughter Helen is continuing the Chesnut column.

Dr. A. B. Baird

Dr. A. B. Baird was a Presbyterian missionary before the railways tied up Edmonton with "The Forks" (Winnipeg). He revelled in travelling across the great saucer which was a sea of grass . . . dotted with flowers and spiced with worm-wood and other bewitching scents. He was a handsome sturdy sept with a fine voice, excellent presence, and went to turn a gracious phrase when describing his experiences.

He became President of Manitoba College, and later of United College . . . when Manitoba and Wesley Colleges joined . . . in tune with union of the two churches.

He was a keen gardener and an enthusiastic member and officer of the horticultural organization which functioned under several names before becoming the Manitoba Horticultural Association. The Rev. Dr. A. B. Baird was president 1897 to 1905. Among his close associations were A. P. Stevenson, Norman M. Ross, Dr. H. M. Speechly, George Batho, J. J. Ring, Professor F. W. Brodrick. He was elected an Honorary Life Member 1920.

Dr. Baird had a cottage and garden at the lake and was noted for his success in growing prize-winning strawberries and flowers. He had a home garden in the City and was recognized as a skilled horticulturist and excellent lecturer. He was the local authority on garden roses for years.

George Batho

Records show that George Batho was a director of the Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association in 1911. He was a keen plantsman and a brilliant writer. For many years he was the editor of the Nor'west Farmers Journal. After that he was director and editor of the Associations annual publications. His monthly notes were screened to make up the

annual "Manitoba Horticultural Yearbook." He played an active and prominent role at all meetings. His poetry is worthy of being preserved for future generations to enjoy. His was a poetic soul.

S. A. Bedford, Brandon, Manitoba



Dr. S. A. Bedford.

Born in Sussex, England, in 1851, S. A. Bedford came to Canada at the age of about twelve years, his family settling near Goderich, Ontario. In 1877, he homesteaded near Darlingford, Manitoba and was not only employed by land companies to examine land, but acted as guide to new settlers who were selecting farms. Later, he farmed in the Moose Mountain area of Saskatchewan, and became a member of the first legislative assembly in the North-West Territories. In 1888, he was appointed the first superintendent of the newly established Experimental Farm at Brandon, a position which he occupied until 1905. At this time he decided to enter business, but in 1908 was appointed professor of field husbandry at the Manitoba Agricultural College, becoming Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the province in 1912. After serving in this position for three years, he was appointed chairman of the Manitoba Weeds Commission and retired from public service in 1923. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him in 1921 by the

University of Manitoba, and a year later his name and portrait were added to the honor roll of the Manitoba Agricultural College, which also conferred its diploma upon him.

His name is associated with the development of horticulture in the prairie provinces, because of his activity at the Brandon Experimental Farm during the first twenty years of its existence, in securing, planting and distributing very large numbers of fruit plants to all parts of the area served by the Institution. It was his recognition of the importance of shelter, and gardens and beauty in the lives of the early settlers, and his efforts to provide encouragement and the help needed, which fixes his place firmly among those early public servants who contributed to the success of newcomers in an undeveloped country.

Dr. Bedford was an active supporter of the M.H.A. and received the Honorary Life Membership of that Association in 1931.

F. W. Brodrick, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Professor Brodrick came to the Manitoba Agricultural College in 1906, as lecturer in horticulture and forestry, teaching entomology as well. He was a native of Lincoln County, Ontario, and was raised in the St. Catharines area. Professor Brodrick remained at the College during all of its lifetime as an independent institution and for four years after its amalgamation with the University of Manitoba. Aside from teaching work and under-graduate classes, Professor Brodrick's contribution to horticultural development in Manitoba was most effective in the extension field. During the summer months the College took charge of a travelling demonstration school, and from this activity, as well as from demonstration orchards and variety trials, together with short courses and field days, came a great deal of successful extension work. Out of the variety trials came the varietal recommendations widely used in the early years. Professor Brodrick was a valuable and constant worker in the Manitoba Horticultural Association.

James (Jim) Gibson Connery (1907-1965)

Jim Connery's father died when he was five years old.

His mother then married William Plantje. Jim left school at the age of 11 and worked full-time on his stepfather's farm at Birds Hill and later on Ferry Road in St. Vital. When Jim was 20 years old he formed a partnership with Charles H. Paul. The next year he married Charles Paul's daughter Dorothy. In 1929 the partnership was dissolved and Jim and Dorothy bought 15 acres at Lot 160 in St. Vital and proceeded to raise vegetables and two children, Eileen and Edward James.

Jim was an excellent, aggressive, innovative and informed grower. He attended many American Vegetable Growers Conventions and visited growing areas in the States. Jim built the first drive-in root house, had one of the first coolers and also was the first to build a sash-type greenhouse. The quality of his vegetables was high and he was adept at showing it at fairs. When he was still with his stepfather, they won a trophy for cauliflower at the Toronto Royal. Jim was a perennial winner at the St. Vital Agricultural Society's fairs and also at the Winnipeg Society's show. He achieved a high reputation for his produce.

Marketing was a problem of those early market gardeners. Jim was a member of the Manitoba Associated Growers, a marketing pool formed by Peter Daman. It was this group that registered the "Peak of the Market" brand. In 1947 this group helped form the Winnipeg Gardeners Co-op which became Gardeners Sales Ltd. in 1956. Jim was vice-president of both of these groups. He also fully supported the V.G.A.M. Peter Daman and Jim Connery were two of the strong supporters of orderly marketing.

In 1959, Jim and son Ed bought the first Scott Urshel carrot harvester in Western Canada. In 1960, J. Connery & Son branched out to Portage la Prairie, the first of many growers that were to follow. Jim died in 1963. His son Ed carries on an enlarged operation at Portage la Prairie trying to maintain the high standards that his father set for him.

John H. Coulter

Many immigrants changed their professions when they came to Canada. John Coulter was born in Renfrew, Scotland in 1889 and had the double profession of school teacher and professional football player. When he came to

Canada in 1904, John became a market gardener in Kildonan along with his father William Coulter. John married Eliza Scott Swain, also from Scotland, in 1913. When father William moved to Vancouver in 1917, John and Eliza purchased the farm from them.

At first the Coulters supplied vegetables and potatoes to the hotel trade in Winnipeg. Then they specialized in seed potatoes and were the exclusive suppliers of certified seed potatoes, seed peas, beans and onion sets for the T. Eaton Co. They developed the potato eye business and for a time these were distributed all over Western Canada. John also grew tons of pickle onions, cauliflower, cucumbers and dill weed for David J. Dysons and Raymore pickles. He developed a variety of rhubarb which was registered as Coulter Rhubarb and sold exclusively through Eatons. Both John and Eliza loved to display their fine produce at fairs at Toronto, Brandon and locally and won many ribbons. These are on Display in the municipal offices of East Kildonan.

John was very community minded and served on the Councils of both East and North Kildonan. He loved to work for and with young people and built a hockey rink in the field along the side of his house. He flooded the rink and transported his team, the "Nifties", to and from games. His wife would feed the players and serve them with hot drinks.

The Coulters had three children, William, Mary Ann and James. John died in 1941, while Eliza lived to the age of 88. The erstwhile teacher from Scotland had become an exemplary and successful market gardener in Manitoba.

H. E. Cox

Mr. Cox came to Manitoba as a boy from England but with a record for active service in the Boer War. He worked for Mr. Whellams, a truck gardener in Winnipeg. As Head Gardener at the Manitoba School for Boys, Portage la Prairie for a number of years, he was a busy supporter of the local horticultural society as well as renowned for his institutional gardens. He moved to Morden to be Foreman of the Experimental Station. He filled that busy post for 14 years (when he reached retirement age) with efficiency and enthusiasm.

Pieter Daman



Mr. Pieter Daman in 1952.

One of the leading Dutch gardeners was Pieter Daman of St. Vital. He was born in Holland in 1896 and came to Canada in 1910 to homestead with his parents at Ashern, Manitoba. He moved to Winnipeg in 1918 and gardened with a brother on McIvor Road until he married in 1920. Then he struck out on his own, first gardening on rented land and finally on his own property on Frobisher Road in St. Vital. He was an excellent gardener and the first grower to use irrigation. Here he gardened until his death in 1953.

Besides being an excellent grower, Pieter Daman found time to involve himself in community activities. He served on the school board and was on the executive of community clubs. The M.H.A. knew him as a director and its president in 1942 and honored him with an Honorary Life Membership in 1953. He served on the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and also on the Flood Board in 1950. Besides this he was a long time member of the Vegetable Growers of America and attended many conventions in the United States.

Pieter Daman could be called the father of organized marketing and promotion. During the war he along with James Connery, Klaas Anema, J. Daman and Sons, and K. Daman formed a marketing pool. It was this group that

registered the "Peak of the Market" brand which was later adopted by the Winnipeg Gardeners' Co-op of which he was founder. This Co-op honored him with a beautifully inscribed plaque that lauded his great contributions to organized marketing in Manitoba. Another noteworthy honor came to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Daman in 1946 when they were named Mr. and Mrs. Canada No. 6 by the Montreal Standard. The noted writer, Kate Aitkins, wrote a five page article about the Daman family in that paper.

Klaas de Jong

Of all the early market gardeners, the story of Klaas de Jong and his wife Betje is one of the most interesting. In the book "Cauliflower Crown", (a book everyone should read) the fascinating details of this pioneer gardener come to life. It recounts the life story of Klaas de Jong, a Dutch immigrant who came to Western Canada in 1893. His struggle for survival in a strange new environment of climatic extremes and diverse new peoples reflect his buoyancy. Klaas eventually settled in Winnipeg on Lot 64 which was situated near the present boundary line between east and north Kildonan. Here he went into gardening, his life long dream. It soon became evident that he had the proverbial green thumb. Here he developed a variety of tomatoes suitable for shipping and also his own strain of corn. His cauliflower crops were prime examples of his expertise in growing crops. The climax of his career came in 1920 when he won the North American Cauliflower Crown. He won it for three consecutive years. He received prizes at various fairs, citations of merit from agricultural departments and visits from local and foreign agricultural specialists. In 1928 Klaas was made an Honorary Life Member of the Manitoba Horticultural and Forestry Association. Visitors to the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature can see the buggy Klaas de Jong used for delivering his excellent produce to his customers. In 1959 this gardener passed away at the age of 86. His last act was to will his eyes to the eyes bank. His last words were, "I've had my bread". Truly a remarkable man.

Henry Downing, Winnipeg

In the period between 1925 and 1928, as a Director of the Manitoba Horticultural Association, and Chairman of the membership committee, he solicited memberships in Greater Winnipeg in an untiring fashion. He was largely responsible for 400 to 500 members in this area. This was the period when premiums were given to all members, consisting of such items as peony roots, fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, dahlia tubers, sweet corn seed, etc. It was a selling point he used, combined with his unending enthusiasm for the benefits of the home garden in the city. The Winnipeg Horticultural Society had not been organized, and an individual direct membership could be held in the Manitoba Horticultural Association.

Dr. Samuel Wheeler Edgecombe

Dr. Samuel Wheeler Edgecombe, of Oakville, after graduating from the M.A.C. became extension horticulturist in Iowa. He was professor of horticulture, University of Manitoba, 1942-1944. He resigned to become Director of Research, Fordhook Farms, W. Atlee Burpee, Boylestown, Pennsylvania. After a time at State College, Logan, Utah, he joined the staff of the American University, Beirut, Lebanon. Dr. A. C. Ferguson was on his staff for two years. Sam was energetic and contributed much to Manitoba Horticulture.

Dr. A. C. "Fergy" Ferguson

Fergy was born and educated at Morden. After taking his Grade XII in 1932, he began work at the Morden Experimental Farm. A guarantee of summer work at that institution made it possible for him to attend the University of Manitoba from which he graduated in 1939 with a B.S.A. degree. He joined the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1940 and served overseas till 1945, attaining the rank of captain.

Next came graduate studies in 1945 at the University of Minnesota. In 1946 Fergy joined the W. Atlee Burpee Seed Co. of Colorado as onion breeder, at the same time completing his M.Sc. majoring in plant breeding. From 1948 to 1955 he was Associate Professor of Horticulture of Colorado A &

Dr. A. C. Ferguson.



M College, Fort Collins. In the meantime, he had completed a Ph.D. degree at the University of Minnesota in 1951.

In 1955, Dr. Ferguson joined the American University at Beirut, Lebanon as Professor of Plant Science. Two years later he assumed the position of Head of Horticulture of the Plant Science Department of the University of Manitoba, a position he held to his retirement in 1978. Besides teaching students in diploma, undergraduate and graduate levels, Fergy conducted research in vegetable crops and turfgrass. His plant breeding projects resulted in the naming of two tomato cultivars, Summit and Ping Pong, and one sweet red pepper cultivar — Earlyred. He became a recognized authority on turf grass for golf courses and has Honorary Life Memberships from the Golf Course Superintendents Association (1974) and the Southwood Golf and Country Club. He received further recognition awards from the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, the Manitoba Golf Association and the V.G.A.M.

At the University he actively participated in the faculty of Agriculture Studies, Curriculum, Diploma Museum and Archives, and Negotiating committees. Some professional activities include:

Canadian Society for Horticultural Science — President 1975
Western Canadian Society for Horticulture — President 1967
Manitoba Horticultural Council — President 1969
Manitoba Horticultural Assn. — Director (20 years)

Great Plains section A.S.H.S. — President 1959
International Peace Garden — Board of Directors and Planning Committee
(10 years)
International Turfgrass Society — Director 1974-77
Manitoba Golf Assn.
Prairie Garden — Editorial Committee (10 years)

Some community activities include:

Metro Parks Board — elected member (3 years)
Fort Garry School Trustee — elected member 1963-73

The Order of the Gate — (Fort Garry) was presented to Fergy in 1973 for volunteer services to the community.

Fergy is married and his wife, Maybelle, is an educator in her own right. Dr. Ferguson is well qualified to be remembered as a noted horticulturist of Manitoba.

Thos. Frankland, Rockwood

Mr. Thos. Frankland spent twenty-six years in the Rockwood District, 1878-1903. His name appears in the first report of the Society as reading a paper of tender varieties which eventually died out. Mr. Alfred Andrews, Deleau, purchased plum trees from him in 1897 which proved satisfactory after many failures from trees obtained from Ontario sources in 1891 and 1894. Frankland also supplied plum pits or wild plum trees, probably both, to N. E. Hansen, Agricultural Experimental Station, Brookings, South Dakota. The Assiniboine plum, named in 1908 by Hansen, was from Franklin stock. In 1899 he was fruiting and recommending the growing of de Soto, Forest Garden, Rollingstone, Weaver, Hawkeye and Cheney Plums.

Harold S. Fry

Mr. Fry, a former professor, editor of farm journals, owner of a bookstore in Regina, is to be remembered as the father of the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture. As editor of the Country Guide, a national journal, he paid much attention to home building. When the heavily damaging winter of 1942-43 came, he asked the staff at the Morden Experimental Station to arrange a meeting wherein the various workers in prairie horticultural research gather to pool their findings and interpretations. Dr. M. B. Davis and Dr. E. S. Archibald agreed and the group assembled in Regina,

November 11-12, 1943. As president of the Society, he headed up the compilation of the Historical Review of the Development of Horticulture on the Canadian Prairies, a volume of 184 pages. Harold Fry contributed much substance to gardeners of the Great Plains before he retired to Beamsville, Ontario. His was a poetic soul and his passing left a void in many a heart.

Gus Hendzel

One of Manitoba's self-educated and highly respected horticulturists was friendly Gus Hendzel of Brandon, Manitoba. He was born and educated in that city. He entered the C.P.R. work force at an early age and rose to the rank of engineer. It was in Brandon that he and his wife Helen built their home. Besides his work, Gus had two loves in his life. One was for his family, the other for the beauty of horticultural plants. He was willing to forgo further advancement in his job in order to be close to his family that was struck with illness. His spare time was spent in beautifying his home surroundings. In the late forties he built his first little greenhouse in order to grow his own plants. Gus had the proverbial green thumb. He read a great deal and experimented even more. How many neighbors and friends benefitted from his extra plants and his free advice. His home grounds became a show place. Many were the awards for his home grounds in the Brandon Horticultural Society's competitions. One year he won the top award for the best city home grounds in the M.H.A. Provincial Home Grounds Competition.

The word of his prowess spread. He was a much sought-after lecturer in horticulture. The newspapers, radio and T.V. made use of his capability. For several years he operated the Botany Department's greenhouse of the Brandon University. He put on demonstrations for the students and also the public. At the same time he kept up his now enlarged greenhouse at home. It came as a great shock when Gus suddenly died in 1979.

It was most fitting that the University of Brandon honored this native son and excellent self-made horticulturist by

posthumously bestowing on him the Honorary Doctor of Science Degree at its convocation in 1980. His wife Helen and their three children greatly appreciated this honor for the man they respected and loved. Their appreciation was shared by all of Manitoba.

Thomas Jackson

Thomas Jackson was head gardener of the Manitoba Agricultural College in the early days. Most of his work centred around the conservatory and greenhouses, and many students in Horticulture left the College richer in the art of gardening due to his kindly and efficient guidance in their first attempts. He worked closely with Bob Almey, the Provincial Extension Horticulturist when the Extension Service moved to the College campus. Thomas provided generous quantities of bulbs and tubers for premiums distributed by the Manitoba Horticultural Association. When the late J. H. Evans, then Deputy Minister of Agriculture, organized a group of the agricultural staff to plant the elms which form the Memorial Boulevard into the University from Pembina Highway, Mr. Jackson was one of the group that dug the holes and planted the trees.

Professor V. W. Jackson



Prof. V. W. Jackson.

Prof. Jackson of the Department of Botany, was broadly influential from the time he came to the Agricultural College in 1913 until his retirement. For 16 years he had weekly nature talks over CKY. He had young and old looking with seeing eyes at the plants, birds, insects, stones and fungi around and about them. He started the first local arboretum and built a pond garden with marsh plants as furnishings. His presence at meetings and as a host to visiting horticulturists brought tone and zest to the occasion. He was of great worth as an inspirer as well as a vivid informer. The college museum was mainly his and in it he placed many unique exhibits carried from Australia and New Zealand, where he was engaged for four years in establishing Nature Studies.

W. J. Kellaway, Killarney

W. J. Kellaway was the first president of the Killarney Horticultural Society. He acquired his love for horticulture from his father. Beginning during the twenties, a garden of trees, consisting of some 20 varieties, was planted. Encouraged by the late H. A. Walker, Superintendent of the Provincial Demonstration Farm, Mr. Kellaway made his first small planting of fruit trees in the early thirties. It consisted of nine fruit trees, of which two were plums and the others apples and crabapples. With the helpful advice of Dr. Leslie from Morden, more fruit trees and shrubs were added over the years.

A lover of beauty, rather than of utilization, and an experimenter and tester, rather than a breeder and originator, Mr. Kellaway has valued every mistake. Most revealing perhaps is his comment: "Planting and replanting our orchards and home grounds over 35 years, I have made many mistakes and have been forced to go back and start again, but it has been a happy and rewarding experience and I would not have had it otherwise". To him gardening was living.

Br. T. Laflamme, C.S.V., Otterburne

This vivacious and dynamic man was with the institution La Maison Saint-Joseph in Otterburne. In order to supply the institution with fruit, Brother Laflamme asked

Dr. Leslie of the Morden Experimental Station for assistance and the first small fruit plants were set out in the spring of 1930. By 1940, the institution was growing 16 acres of fruit trees, mostly propagated and grafted at the school. In the same year the school began to supply friends and customers with surplus trees and small fruit plants. In 1938, assisted by members of the Extension Service, many hundreds of plants were supplied to boys' and girls' garden clubs. Since 1945, and for many years after that, five to six acres were maintained in nursery stock.

Brother Laflamme was transferred to Eastern Canada and has since passed away. While in Manitoba, he instilled a love for horticulture in many of his students and friends.

Harmon A. Loat, Kenville

The Loat family came from Grimsby, Ontario. They were used to the many fruit varieties grown in the Niagara Peninsula. Harmon's enthusiasm for fruit growing almost flagged when their experiment with native fruits was just about a complete failure. It was the late Geo. Chipman of the Country Guide that revived the spark. Harmon established three acres of orchard. In 1946 he signed a contract with the Experimental Farms Service as an Illustration Station operator. Morden sent up a large number of fruits, flowers and ornamentals for trial. The experiment was a success. In all, nine varieties of big apples set fruit in 1955. One fall close to five tons of fruit was disposed of. Ornamentals such as flowering crab, Toba hawthorn, honeysuckle, flowering almond, *Prunus triloba*, horse chestnut, butternut, elderberries, different kinds of evergreens and a number of natives seemed to be doing first rate. Talking about plums, Harmon had this to say, "We now have a fairly hefty list of decent plums, including among others: Bounty, Norther, Dandy, Radisson and Ptitsin No. 10".

The experiment has been discontinued and Mr. Loat is no more. His example stirred interest and enthusiasm for fruit growing in his area.

Hector Macdonald

One of Frank L. Skinner's sources of seeds, plants and

Mr. Hector Macdonald.



information was the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, an institution with a reputation in many countries for the good men who had trained there. In the spring of 1924, through correspondence with the Garden, Skinner brought from Scotland Hector Macdonald who had completed his training there as horticulturist. Macdonald stayed seven years at Dropmore, and Skinner reported in his book, "Horticulture Horizons", that he learned much from him, especially on the importance of proper labelling and recording of plants.

Macdonald next was appointed to the permanent staff of the Winnipeg Board of Parks and Recreation, on June 1st, 1931, with a special assignment to develop and have charge of a native plant collection in the St. Vital Park. He travelled widely in the province and gathered 300 specimens which he identified and planted. The native plant garden was abandoned after the outbreak of World War Two in 1939.

The Parks Board on October 1st, 1941 moved him to Assiniboine Park, on the west outskirts of Winnipeg and the city's principal park, where he stayed as assistant supervisor until on May 31st, 1944, he was transferred to Kildonan Park, as supervisor. Nine years later, on May 31st, 1953, he was

given charge of Assiniboine Park and remained there until his retirement in 1964.

Macdonald in 1959 was elected to life membership in the Manitoba Horticultural Association after four years as a director representing the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. In 1961, Honorable Errick Willis, Lieutenant-Governor, presented him the Province's Golden Boy Award, for "exemplifying Manitoba as a better place to live in". On August 26th, 1966, the Mid-Continent Regional Parks and Recreation Conference, at a meeting in Winnipeg, honored him with their Award of Merit for that year. He was a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society.

He was vice-president (1954) and president (1955) of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society, and on November 20th, 1957, was elected an Honorary Life Member. He is a life member, too, of the St. James Horticultural Society. After retirement, he compiled, identified and illustrated with drawings a list of 420 native Manitoba plants in a hundred page booklet published by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in April 1967 under the title *Manitoba Plants in Bog, Bush and Prairie*, Publication No. 452. He has been a frequent contributor to *The Prairie Garden*, the annual publication of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society.

Mr. Hector Macdonald died a few years ago. His outstanding contributions to the horticultural beautification of Manitoba will never be forgotten.

Robert E. Marshall, Miami, Manitoba

Robert was born in 1880, near Hamilton, Ontario, where his father later developed a peach orchard of substantial size. He came west in 1904, eventually acquiring a quarter-section of land in 1909, and marrying in 1915. His first fruit trees were planted in the spring of 1925, although some butternuts and walnuts had been set out in 1920. Mr. Marshall had been encouraged by the abundance of fruit and nut plants which he found in sheltered locations in the vicinity of the Pembina Hills region. Originally, his aim was to develop a home garden, but within four years of planting his first fruits he had planted about double the necessary area, and added promising varieties. Introduced to the Morden Station

through John Walker, he was urged to exhibit fruits and "took prizes most years since". He won the T. Eaton cup for the most points in fruit classes, for six years at the Provincial Fruit show. In all, Mr. Marshall has tested more than 150 varieties of fruits. His principal interest has been in developing a method of overwintering tender and semi-tender plants, with the aid of mulching

Mr. Marshall received the M.H.A. Honorary Life Membership in 1955. His son, Dr. Henry Marshall, is presently an M.H.A. director.

Gladys P. Matchett, M. A.

Miss Matchett was an elder daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Matchett. She was born in Carman, Man. She attended Manitoba College. She graduated from the University of Manitoba, a gold medallist in French, with her B.A. degree. She later received her M.A. degree, also from the University of Manitoba. She did her post graduate work in Minnesota, Harvard, and Columbia Universities. For many years she taught on the Winnipeg School Board staff. She was a very active and life member of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society. She was a past president of the Winnipeg Waugh Shield Children's Garden Committee and a life member of the Winnipeg African Violet Society, Miss Matchett was also a member of the Winnipeg Sketch Club, the Women's Committee of the Arts Society, the South Women's Conservative Club, and the Retired Teachers' Association.

Nick Pankiw, Dufrost

Very few men accomplish in their lifetime what Mr. Pankiw has at Dufrost. With very few coins in his pocket he arrived from the Ukraine in the early 1900's. Out of packing cases he made up some bee keeping equipment, as he had training in bee keeping in his native country. From those first two hives he built up as many as 400 colonies. At the same time, his homestead was surrounded with trees, shrubs and flowers. Adjoining that were several acres of orchard, growing many varieties of tree fruits he had raised from seedlings. Hardy improved native grapes were grown in abundance. In

addition, his farming operations, in partnership with his son, was extensive. Very few farmers grow the number of horticultural varieties found on this farm. To enter his bee-wintering storage building, where hundreds of colonies of bees were kept, was a revelation to the uninitiated.

The editor fondly remembers Nick for his many entries in the Provincial fruit show. The M.H.A. presented him with an Honorary Life Membership in 1961. When Nick died, his son Roman took over the farming operation.

Harry Paul

Harry Paul was born in England in 1889 and came to Canada in 1910. He worked for a grocery store for a while and then tried market gardening from 1914 to 1916. Then he entered service with Winnipeg Transit and worked with the firm for more than 40 years. He died in 1969.

It is for his horticultural pursuits that Mr. Paul is remembered. Harry took an active part in the work of the St. Vital Agricultural Society. He was a strong supporter of the Manitoba Horticultural Association and was awarded the Honorary Life Membership of that Association in 1961. The Manitoba Good Roads Association sponsored home grounds competitions and used Mr. Paul as a competent judge. He further served as chairman of the St. Vital Parks Board. The Harry Paul Park in St. Vital enshrines the memory of this publicly minded horticulturist.

Harry's son, C. J. Paul, became a market gardener and greenhouse operator in St. Vital until his death in 1949. He had five children of which two, Bill and Jack, became market gardeners and greenhouse operators in 1934. Their main line of work was in bedding plants. They were in this business for 42 years ago and Jack Paul is retired now.

F. C. W. Rice

Although a lad of 6 years when he came from Ontario, Fred and his multitudes of friends and associates consider him to be very much Manitoban. After a couple of years in Treherne, the family lived in Winnipeg. As a member of the 61st Battallion he won the provincial championship in swimming. Upon return to Canada from France and Belgium he

joined the staff of the Soldier Settlement Board. From 1935 until retirement in 1955, a period of 20 years, he served as Assistant Superintendent for Manitoba of the S.S.B. and the Veterans Land Act.

Endowed with exceptional capacity for leadership, imaginative planning, and resolute accomplishment he enjoyed aiding thousands of Veterans, on farms and on small holdings, plant shelter and beauty on their properties. The benefits continue as shown impressively on the smaller group settlements at Morris, Carman, Morden, Neepawa, and Selkirk; the medium sized groups at Brandon and Dauphin; and the large settlements, Roblin Park, Charleswood, Rivercrest, West St. Paul, and St. Vital. Fred used all his talents with telling effect in the International Peace Garden as Executive Director, 1959-1957. He was a Director and Life Member. A past President, Winnipeg Horticultural Society, and a retired Director of M.H.A., he and his plant-loving wife Ann, maintained a prize-winner home grounds and a number of championship trophies for apples, roses, flowers, and tomatoes in River Heights. He is remembered by many for the summer program he built up for CBC in 1963 as live television shows for backyard gardeners.

David Schellenberg, Gretna

Gretna, may be considered as the trail-blazer of tree planting on Manitoba farmsteads. Before 1880, as an immigrant boy living along the "post road", one mile north of the international border, David brought shade trees, wild fruit trees and bushes, and vines from the nearby Pembina Hills and from the river bottoms to comfort, adorn and make fruitful the farms and home grounds of prairie properties. He was an inspiring leader until his passing after ninety years.

Dr. A. L. Shewfelt

Lorne Shewfelt was born and raised on a farm near Somerset, Manitoba. He attended the University of Manitoba where he earned the B.S.A. and M.Sc. degrees. Soon after graduating, about the year 1947, he was appointed head of the newly constructed food products research laboratory at the Agriculture Canada Research Station at Morden. In the

year 1949 he earned a Ph.D. degree at Oregon State University. In his position as food technologist, Dr. Shewfelt devoted time to research and development of new combinations of food products of interest to the commercial vegetable canning industry. He emphasized the varied uses of vegetables and fruits grown in Manitoba. His studies in fundamental or basic research were devoted to enzymology and the classification of enzyme function in food preparation and preservation in relation to storage time and temperature variables. His research results were recognized by personal invitations to present technical papers at several international and Canadian science meetings and at seminars conducted at the universities in Manitoba, Minnesota and Oregon.

Dr. Shewfelt left Morden about 1970 to accept a position as Head of the Food Technology Department, University of North Carolina. His passing was mourned by his many Manitoba friends.

Harvey Sparling Q. C.

Of all the thousands of horticulturists the editor of this book has met, none was a better and closer friend than Harvey Sparling of Portage la Prairie. Harvey was a retired magistrate of note whose avocation in his retirement years was orcharding and rose growing. He excelled in both. He had an orchard where he grew some fifteen varieties of apples, numerous varieties of plums, apricots, pears, grapes, raspberries, strawberries and still more fruits. He succeeded in growing apples on dwarfing malling root stocks. It was a pleasure to see him come to the Provincial Fruit Show. Often he entered more than a hundred plates of fruit. Whenever he entered, he carried off most of the top awards. He was a gentle, kindly soul whose greatest pleasure came in helping others. He greatly enriched the flower shows of the Portage la Prairie Horticultural Society with his entries of roses and fruit. This editor shared a love for spoken poetry with him. His passing left a void in many a heart.

Dr. H. M. Speechly, Winnipeg

In the early twenties Dr. Speechly was Director of the

Dr. H. M. Speechly.



Manitoba Horticultural Association. He practised medicine at Pilot Mound for a number of years before coming to Winnipeg, and during that period developed a garden of perennials well known to the countryside. To have him agree to undertake some work for the Association was to know that it would be accomplished quickly and well. Bob Almey first met him in the winter of 1922 at his first Manitoba Horticultural Association annual meeting held in the Y.M.C.A., Winnipeg. These conventions were not like the M.H.A. conventions of today. Except for the evening meetings an attendance of 20 to 25 would often be the full total. From such a small attendance as there was in that year, in forty-five years the association has grown into the strong organization it is today. Dr. Speechly, to most Winnipeggers, was the man who in the early thirties sought and brought into effect control measures for mosquitoes. To him they were pesky little devils that destroyed his and many others' enjoyment of an evening stroll through the garden.

Dr. Speechly was a power of strength in the Manitoba Naturalist Society.

H. J. Stanbra, Balmoral

Oldtimers in Balmoral may remember H. J. Stanbra who

lived in this district for many years and practised orcharding on his stony land. After plowing his land in 1940, he began by planting windbreaks of lilac, caragana, elm and ash. His first fruit crops were raspberries and strawberries. Then came apples, crabapples and plum. Black currants, red currants, gooseberries and vegetables were planted between the rows of fruit trees. His best success was with Beta grapes. He was fond of flowers and his beds of annuals and perennials, together with his lilies and shrubs put on a fairly good show. Stanbra and his wife were among those pioneers who just had to add touches of beauty and utility to their home place. The province salutes their memory.

Alfred John Strachan (1915–1978)



Alfred J. Strachan.

The little town of Hope, near Hamiota, was the birthplace of Alf Strachan. In 1925 his father, John Strachan, moved to Carman with his family. Here Alf was educated and then attended the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1938 with a degree in Agriculture. From 1938 to 1941 he was employed by the Brandon Experimental Farm and was put in charge of the experimental plots at the Melita Reclamation Station. The next two years were spent as Agricultural Representative at Minnedosa. In 1943 Alf joined his dad at Carman and became part of the Strachan Seed Co. From 1966 to 1978, when he died as the result of a car accident, Alfred

Strachan worked as Fertilizer Representative and later as Feed Specialist for Federated Co-op Ltd.

Thus reads the statistical record of Alf's employment. Greater by far are the contributions he made to Manitoba as a livestock specialist and judge, as a booster and promoter of 4-H clubs, as a sports enthusiast in his community, as an active participant of Carman in the establishment of the Boyne Lodge and the Carman-Dufferin Library, as a devoted worker and official of the Carman United Church and as a long time director of the Dufferin Agricultural Society. Space does not permit to list the many positions he held in the various organizations.

Alfred Strachan's top achievements and contributions, however, are to be found in the fields of horticulture. Alf simply loved gardening and loved showing his prize specimens at fairs and exhibitions, not only in Manitoba, but throughout Canada, the United States and also in Britain. This book nominates him as Manitoba's Top Showman of the century.

It is in the culture, breeding and exhibiting of gladiolus that Alf was an expert. Nobody ever won as many ribbons and championships in gladiolus as he did. One could list Saskatoon, Vancouver, Grand Forks, N.D., Rochester, Minn., London, England, Carman, Brandon, St. James, St. Vital, Charleswood, many other Manitoba shows and, of course, the International Flower Show in Winnipeg as places where he exhibited. In 1978 he won 66 prizes at the International, including the Grand Champion and the Grand Aggregate. Both Alf and his wife, Nina, were much sought-after judges of flower shows.

Alf was active in many horticultural organizations. At the time of his death he was President of the Carman Horticultural Society, Vice-President of the Winnipeg Gladiolus Society and a board member of the International Flower Show. Two posthumous awards came his way. In 1979, the town of Carman proclaimed him as the Citizen of the Year. In 1980, the M.H.A. presented Nina with a posthumous Honorary Life Membership for Alf. These were honors well deserved, but late in coming.

Nina, his wife and co-worker, has every reason to be proud of her husband's achievements. The Strachans have three children: Bonnie, Della and Neil. All are married. Bonnie is an accomplished soloist, Della was a top 4-H member who became a teacher, and Neil, also a teacher, is a prominent staff member of the Carman Collegiate. Eight grandchildren make up the fourth generation of Strachans at Carman.

L. A. Stuckey

Lawrence Stuckey is a native son of Brandon. Here he received his education. His love for trains led him to work for the C.P.R. where he rose to the position of engineer. After a stint in the army during World War II, he returned to the railway. His avocation was for nature. He was a keen observer of nature's beauty as he guided his train across the prairies. Soon he began to take pictures of what he saw. He became so enthralled with photography that he gave up railroading and bought a photo studio. Every spare hour was spent in taking pictures of flowers and plants. It was hard to classify these pictures without knowing their names and the families they belonged to. Henry Marshall suggested that he study botany and taxonomy. This he did with a will and became a most knowledgeable naturalist as the result. His photographic excellence and artistry were unique. Horticulturists have been enriched enjoyably by the many illustrated lectures on the native plants of this province, and also plants of the Rockies and other areas he has visited. Over the years he has gathered most complete data on the flowering dates of our native plants. This is a work that ought to be published. Both, Lawrence and his good wife Mavis, are keen conservationists. Both have been heavily involved with the horticultural societies, the Manitoba Naturalist Society and many other organizations. Manitoba has been and continues to be enriched by Lawrence Stuckey's horticultural pursuits. The Manitoba Naturalist Society made Lawrence an Honorary Member in 1977.

W. J. Tanner

Few horticulturists of the Winnipeg Horticultural Soci-

ety have given as many years of dedicated service as Bill Tanner. He was born in Ireland in 1897. The First World War found him in the Irish Fusiliers. In 1920 he came to Canada and settled in Winnipeg. This is where he and his wife Mabel, whom he married in 1930, established their home. His occupation was that of Grain Exchange Broker.

Bill and Mabel shared a love for horticultural beauty. He became a member of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society soon after it was formed, was elected a director in 1946, and was the president of the Society in 1948. From 1947 to 1955 Bill was the chairman of the flower show committee. In 1956 he was appointed secretary-treasurer of the Society and held this position almost up to the time of his death in 1975. When the Winnipeg International Flower Show board was formed in 1956, W. J. Tanner was its first secretary and president of the board in 1963. He continued on that board as a member from 1956 until 1966. His work with the Red River Exhibition flower shows was invaluable. At all times he was ably assisted by his good wife Mabel.

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society presented an Honorary Life Membership to Mr. Tanner in 1952. The M.H.A. also recognized his great contributions to horticulture with its Honorary Life Membership presented to him by Prof. John Walker in 1968. Few people knew as many horticulturists as Bill Tanner. Few people have served horticulture as long and as well as Bill Tanner. His African violet growing wife, Mabel, his children and grandchildren are justly proud of the heritage he left behind.

Dr. J. F. Taylor, East St. Paul

Before the days of the Winnipeg Horticultural Society in the mid-twenties, Dr. Taylor was one of a small group of flower enthusiasts who banded themselves together to be known as the Winnipeg Garden Club. Others in the group were **L. T. Chadwick, Vic Hurst, Dr. B. S. Bailey, Wm. Stubbs** and **F. C. Cave**. Each one more or less specialized in one kind of flower. Peonies were more numerous. Dr. Taylor's specialty was dahlias, and his collective exhibits were seen at most of the principal horticultural shows. In those

days residential lots in the suburbs were very much larger, labor was easily obtained, and a plot of one hundred peonies or iris plants was not an uncommon sight. The Club held its own peony show for a number of years.

A. E. Theobald

Mr. Theobald was one of the ablest and most versatile plantmen to garden on the prairies. From the C.P.R. he became landscape gardener at the Manitoba Agricultural College in 1915. In 1917 he joined W. R. Leslie at the Northern Ontario Plant Breeding Station, Fort William, Ontario and remained until that institution was moved eastward in 1922. After several years at the Morden Experimental Station, mostly in the new arboretum, he accepted the position of landscape gardener for the Greater Winnipeg Waterways, Waugh, Shoal Lake. He adorned the grounds and built a famous rock garden in an old rock quarry. A fine musician as well as an accomplished speaker, Arthur Theobald was an important performer at meetings.

Milton J. Tinline, Brandon

Milton J. Tinline was an agronomist by profession and a horticulturist by avocation. He was the Superintendent of the Brandon Experimental Farm from 1929 to 1946. He also was the Superintendent of the Scott Experimental Farm in Saskatchewan for a time. From 1949 to 1959 he was the Superintendent of the International Peace Garden. Those were the years when most of the planting was done in the Peace Garden. Besides this work, Mr. Tinline found time to get involved with horticultural societies and the work of the M.H.A. This Association recognized his contributions to horticulture by making him an Honorary Life Member in 1957. The Province of Manitoba honored him with the Golden Boy Award. Milton Tinline served this province well.

Dr. W. F. Tisdale

Dr. Tisdale, a medical practitioner, adds an unusual tone to the horticultural scene. His specialty was the wilderness, and his devotion was to the fine possessions we've inherited from nature primeval. Although keenly appre-

ciative of cultivated gardens, he left the borders and shrubberies to the care of his greatly talented wife, Mary. Their gardens in Winnipeg and at the Sheiling, West Hawk Lake, are renowned. Dr. Tisdale wrote and spoke eloquently on matters concerning conservation of natural resources, the woods, the flowers, birds, animals, soils, and waters. As president of the Manitoba Museum of Natural History he planned for the modern institution that pays due heed to plants and their welfare.

A. B. Tobias, Morden

"Toby", husband of Mrs. Elsie Tobias, of Morden, was for years the playboy of annual M.H.A. meetings and auctioneer at sale of plants and materials. Albert, affectionately known as "Toby", was a priceless wit and humorist, infusing merriment at every event. One of his distinctions was a green beard under a head of red hair, roofed with a stubby derby. His highly colored vest, over baggy trousers, blended in well with the tone of his remarks.

Dr. C. R. Ure

C. R. Ure.



Charles Raymond Ure was raised on a farm near Innisfail, Alberta. After obtaining a B.S.A. degree in Animal

Science, he changed his avocation to Horticulture and earned the M.Sc. degree. Both degrees were awarded by the University of Alberta. Soon after obtaining his Master's degree, he was appointed Provincial Horticulturist by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. He served in this capacity until 1943 when he accepted the position of head of the fruit research section of the Canada Research Station at Morden, Manitoba.

Developing new fruit tree cultivars takes many years. In spite of this Ray produced a number of named dessert type cultivars. The first were the Collet and Carroll apples. He was instrumental in the selection and naming of the dessert apple Goodland. This was selected out of seedlings grown by a farmer-horticulturist near Goodlands, Manitoba. Another apple named Luke was selected under his direction from apple crossbred seedlings on a farm near Notre Dame des Lourdes. These seedlings were from crosses originally made by R. Wilson, formerly in charge of fruit work at Morden. Hume, another dessert apple, came from a private Manitoba orchard and was selected and named by Ray Ure. About the year 1956, Ray earned a Ph.D. degree at the University of Minnesota.

Norland and Parkland, recently named apples at the Morden Research Station, were from Ure's original crosses. It was on his initiative that the Prairie Cooperative Fruit Breeding Project was begun about the year 1960. He selected the parent cultivars for all the many crosses involved and directed the planting and evaluation of superior seedlings at a number of Federal research stations and Provincial test sites in the Prairie Provinces. Dr. Ure crossed raspberries and named one seedling Killarney. But the best of this work was the cultivar named Boyne. This is a superior type where plant hardiness and good berry type are required.

Dr. Ure left Morden in 1972 for the position of Superintendent of the Colorado State University Regional Fruit Research Station, Grand Junction, Colorado. This is where he died a few years ago. Manitoba remembers him with fondness.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred van Slyck

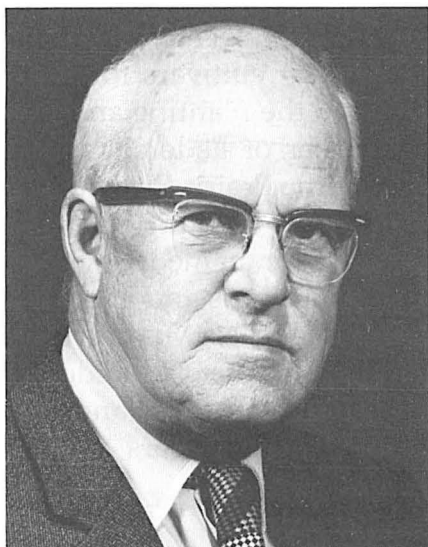
The van Slycks are Dugald's best known couple. Their beautiful home grounds have been the site of many a garden party. Visitors often marvelled at the floral artistry displayed in their landscaping. Geraniums, grown as standards, stood four feet high and were crowned with volumes of blooms. No wonder that they won awards in the Provincial Home Grounds Competitions of the M.H.A. They were the Champions of the Farm Home Grounds competition in 1971, 1972, 1975 and 1976. Both Wyn and Fred have the proverbial green thumbs when it comes to gardening.

A second reason that Wyn is mentioned in this book is that she is an accomplished artist. Many a home has a water color painting of flowers hung in a place of honor. Her pictures beam with beauty and life.

There is also a third reason why the editor included their story. For many years now, Mrs. Wyn van Slyck has been collecting heritage costumes and artifacts. Together with a group of dedicated people, she worked towards establishing a Costume Museum. The Dugald Costume Museum, a \$700,000 structure, will be opened in June 1983. It is one of a kind in Canada and will stand as a memorial to this horticultural artist and her husband Fred.

Stanley John Westaway

Stan Westaway.



Stan Westaway was born at Cornwall, England in 1961. He came to Canada with his parents as a young lad and the family settled in the Strathclair district. After finishing high school, Stan attended Brandon College and later received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University in Hamilton.

The dirty thirties saw Stan working as a plasterer in Winnipeg, as a logger, carpenter, miner, and finally as a liberty boat builder from 1940 to 1945.

In 1946, he was employed by the Patmore Nursery for a year before joining the staff at the Morden Research Station as gardener until 1953. At that time he was hired by the Plant Science Department of the University of Manitoba. Here he worked in the conservatory, greenhouses, arboretum, campus landscape and bred hardy chrysanthemums.

Gravel-voiced, genial Stan is perhaps best known for his 'show and tell' gardening program on CBC. Hired because he would show rather than preach, he first appeared on TV in February, 1955. He continued to give a weekly program known as 'Gardening with Stan' until the spring of 1976.

Stan often lectured to horticultural societies and other amateur gardening groups. He had memberships in the A.I.C., M.I.A., W.C.S.H., and C.S.H.S. He received the 'Actra' award and Honorary Life Memberships in the M.I.A. and the W.C.S.H.

Stan married Betty Patmore from Brandon. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. Now retired, they live in an apartment block in Fort Garry.

R. M. Wilson, Gladstone, Manitoba

Born and raised at Gladstone and now operating the home farm there, Mr. Wilson spent about 20 years as horticulturist, first at the Morden Experimental Station, and between 1929 and 1925 at the Experimental Farm, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. An interesting sequence of events concerns the apple variety Mantet discovered in a seedling row at Morden one day. It was shown the following day to the late Dr. W. T. Macoun, then Dominion Horticulturist, who had inquired about any promising apple seedlings.

After biting into one of the fruits, which was in prime condition, with its crisp, juicy, tender flesh and aromatic and pleasing flavor, Dr. Macoun exclaimed, "Man! There is a real apple". The seedling was named Mantet without further trial, and is regarded highly in Minnesota. Curiously enough, at the 1955 Provincial Fruit Show in Winnipeg, Mr. Wilson won the prize for the best plate of apples in the Show, with a plate of Mantet.

While at Indian Head, Mr. Wilson named the variety Reward because of its extreme hardiness. The crabapple variety Renown, which he also named at Indian Head, is on the recommended lists of the three western provinces. Its naming is also worth recording. His predecessor at Indian Head, John Walker had set out a row of crabapple seedlings. When these reached the fruiting stage they were raided on one occasion by 30 to 40 boys from an adjacent home for orphaned children. Filling their pockets gradually as they moved down the row from tree to tree, the boys emptied all their pockets when they reached a certain tree, and filled them with fruit from that tree. With this evidence of consumer preference to support his own judgment, Mr. Wilson named the seedling Renown. Also while at Indian Head, he hoped to develop a suitable muskmelon of acceptable quality for the prairie provinces. In 1933, seeds from several crosses of a low quality but very early melon, with later, higher quality commercial varieties, were planted. Only the cross containing Golden Champion parentage showed sufficient earliness in a rather unfavorable melon year, and a selection from this cross resulted in the naming of Farnorth, which is today on all the recommended vegetable lists of the prairies. A seedling named a few years ago, Braebest, has been propagated by one nursery and is under test at several stations.

Mr. Wilson was made an honorary life member of the Saskatchewan Horticultural Societies Association in 1945.

Joe Wojciechowski

Joe Wojciechowski never gave a talk on horticulture, he never wrote anything about gardening, he never bred any new variety and never did any landscaping. Joe was a simple

man. At one time he was institutionalized. But Joe loved nature. John Cholakis, who ran the greenhouse operation for Broadway Florists, gave Joe a chance to work for him. Grant Churcher and later Roger Brown took pity on him and employed him in cutting government lawns. This was so meaningful in Joe's life. He felt that he was part of horticulture. He learned the art of budding and grafting. The editor, who was Fruit Specialist at the time, would often listen to Joe's story about his last grafting effort. Joe had a good camera and took excellent pictures. Horticultural society members will remember this somewhat unkempt man at the meetings and conventions and flower shows. He loved to talk to people about budding and his pictures.

But why is he mentioned here? The therapeutic value of horticulture gave Joe's life the only meaning it ever had. It is to the credit of those who employed him that Joe felt that he, too, was a useful member of society. Horticulture can be used as a tool in enriching the lives of handicapped people. Joe died as a result of a fall in April, 1983. His presence at horticultural meetings will be missed by many.



They number by the thousands
The gardeners of this land
Who beautified this country;
Their monuments still stand
In shelterbelts they planted
Around so many a farm,
And in the avenues of trees
That give our cities charm.
They planted more than flowers
They planted many a heart
With love for Nature's beauty,
With joy in Nature's art.
They did not seek for honor,
They did not look for fame;
They're gone and it is sad to say
We can't call them by name.
They are the unknown gardeners
Who tilled the prairie sod;
Yet, I believe, their names are found
In the register of God.
This ode's to unknown gardeners
Who died, yet they're not gone;
For beauty is immortal
And in it they live on.