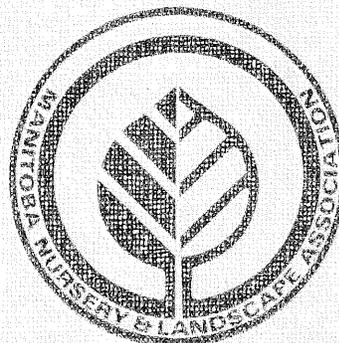


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The Development of Manitoba's Nursery & Landscape Industry



1957~1982

The Development of Manitoba's Nursery & Landscape Industry

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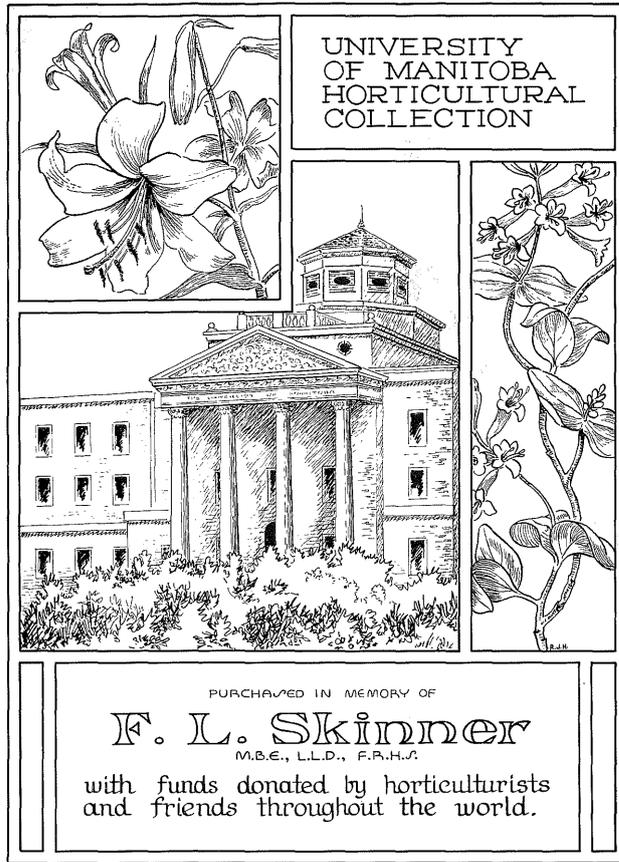
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1957~1982

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Foreword

The publication of a historical record of the founding and activities of the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association was proposed as a twenty-fifth anniversary project. This concern led to the "MNLA History Project" which has developed into a broader history of the "Development of Manitoba's Nursery and Landscape Industry". This review, from pioneer days to the present, records the role of numerous individuals, institutions and nursery and sod companies.

This history owes its existence to numerous individuals who have contributed information and prepared sections. John Steel deserves special mention as the individual who first took up the project and conducted an early survey of members. More recently he led the financial drive to obtain sponsors and to complete the history on the sod industry.

Dorothy Lynch, MNLA secretary from 1968-1980, prepared highlights of MNLA activities from 1957-1975. Dave Vanstone prepared the membership details for active, associate and horticultural members. Other individuals who assisted in preparing sections include Lynn Collicutt (Chapter 1), Henry Marshall and Reg Curle (Chapter 3), John Steel (Chapter 10) and Jake Driedger (Chapter 11). Others too numerous to mention have assisted in providing photos and information. Mel Reimer gave valued assistance in processing a number of the photographs.

A special thanks is due to Edrie Legary who typed early and final copies of this history. Barbara Craig and John Steel thoroughly read the typed manuscript and made many constructive improvements.

It has been my duty to write most of the history review on pioneer nurseries and on the 25 years of MNLA history. This has proven a most interesting challenge.

This history has of necessity required selective choice of material although no important circumstances have been knowingly passed over. May it serve as a reminder of our heritage and the efforts of pioneers who laid the foundation on which we build today. May it serve, too, as a tribute to the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary.

W. G. Ronald
Chairman and Editor

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Boughen Nurseries Valley River Ltd., Valley River, Manitoba.
Consolidated Turf Equipment (1965) Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Even-Spray and Chemicals Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
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F. J. Grootendorst and Sons B. V., Boskoop, Holland.
Ful-Flo Industries Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
The Greenskeeper Nursery, Headingley, Manitoba.
Gusta Seed and Sod Farms, Stead, Manitoba.
Harvey's Gardening Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
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James Richardson and Sons Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Jeffries Nursery, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.
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Lach Bros. Landscaping Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Lach Landscaping Supplies Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Manitoba Pool Elevators, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
McEwen Bros. Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
McEwen's Garden Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Monsanto Canada Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
Morden Nurseries Ltd., Morden, Manitoba.
Otto Pick and Sons Seeds, Ltd., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
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Poulin's Tree Service, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
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CHAPTER 1

Development of Manitoba — Settlement, Geography, Climate and Early Nurseries

Settlement

Manitoba's earliest people were the roving native tribes which hunted, fished and trapped throughout much of the province. These native people utilized native fruit and trees to survive the harsh natural environment of the province.

The first English and French in Manitoba were associated with the thriving fur trade and its trading companies. However in 1812, Lord Selkirk founded the first agricultural community at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. The Selkirk settlers experienced nearly every natural calamity possible but by 1870, this settlement had become well established and the provincial status was attained. Winnipeg which had begun to grow as a trading center was the largest settlement although 95% of the Manitoba population still lived in rural Manitoba, primarily along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Large scale foreign immigration was encouraged to develop the country and its economy. Mennonite and Icelandic groups were assigned land by the government and immigrated to Manitoba from 1874 to 1880 bringing with them plants and the knowledge of how to grow them. About the same time immigrants from Ontario brought the knowledge that ornamental plants could indeed be grown in Canada, as evidenced by their homesteads back east.

Populations increased further when the first railways were built in the late 1870's, establishing easier access to Manitoba. Between 1901 and 1911 there was a great immigration of European and American immigrants into Manitoba. Urbanization also increased, so that by 1911 only 50 to 60% of the population lived in the country. There was a net movement of people into Manitoba until 1921, after which most of the agricultural land was occupied and immigrants travelled further west to acquire land.

Table 1. Population of Manitoba from 1871 to 1981 (Manitoba Bureau of Statistics)

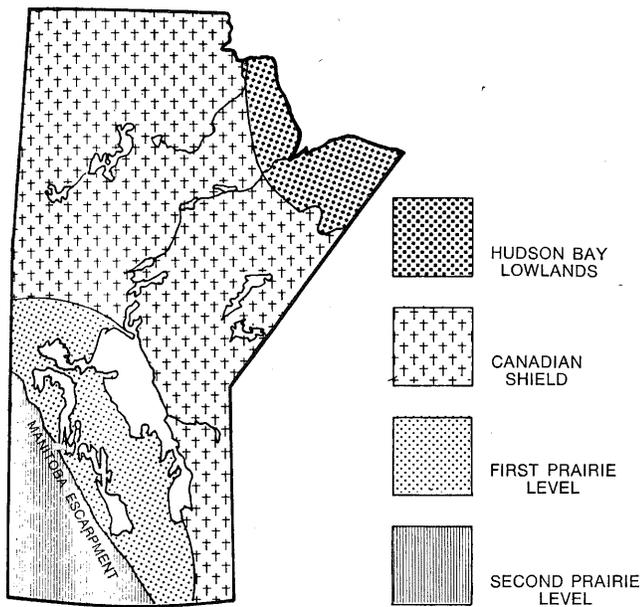
Population of Manitoba	
1871	25 228
1881	62 260
1891	152 506
1901	255 211
1911	461 394
1921	610 118
1931	700 139
1941	729 744
1951	776 541
1961	921 686
1971	988 000
1981	1 026 000

Poor economic and climatic conditions, combined with the effects of the Second World War, contributed to the slow population growth during the 1930's and 1940's. A period of increased population growth followed this slump and was supported by the development of other resources in Manitoba. Urbanization increased as farms became more mechanized, large trading centers dominated small, and the demand for labor in cities increased so that by 1956 only 40% of the population lived in the country.

The bulk of Manitoba's population settled in the southern part of the province which was suitable for agriculture. The densest area of settlement was, and still is, the Red River Valley, with the Pembina Triangle and the Assiniboine River Valley also supporting large populations.

Geography and Climate

Manitoba extends across two main land form areas, the Canadian Shield to the north and east and the Interior Plains to the south and west. The Canadian Shield is not suitable for farming due to the predominance of rocks, lakes, rivers, swamps, marshes and forests. The vegetation is primarily woodland and known as the Boreal Forest Region. The Interior Plains comprise about 30 percent of the province's area and, with the exception of the small "clay belt" in the shield, contains all the arable land suitable for agriculture. Vegetation here was mainly



Manitoba's natural regions. Manitoba: Profile of a Province. K. Wilson. 1975. Peguis Publishers Ltd., Winnipeg.

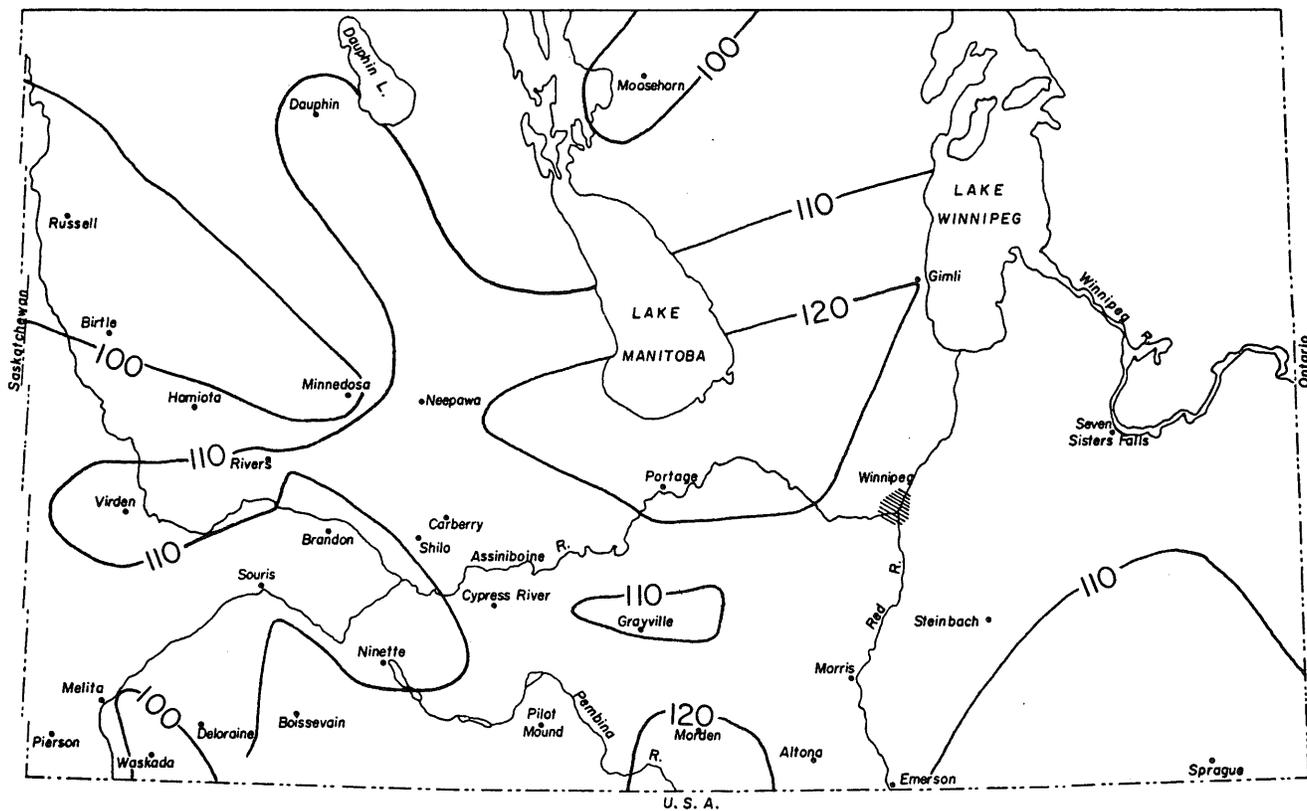
grassland except for wooded river valleys and the Manitoba escarpment. These areas are the source of most of the native trees such as ash, elm, oak and the native fruit. A small area of southeast Manitoba contains a few trees such as Large-toothed aspen,

Red pine and White pine which are components of the Great Lakes Forest Region.

The soil of the Red River Valley is a fine textured clay and one of Manitoba's most productive regions. The Interlake Region includes many areas too wet or too stony for cultivation. Large areas of peat bog exist in the southeast region of the province due to poor drainage. The southwest area of Manitoba is comprised of some soil favorable for agriculture use, major exceptions being the rough, stony highlands. Soil of the Assiniboine delta varies from coarse sand to sandy loams. The Valley River area near Dauphin has good silt soils deposited by the river which flows through the valley.

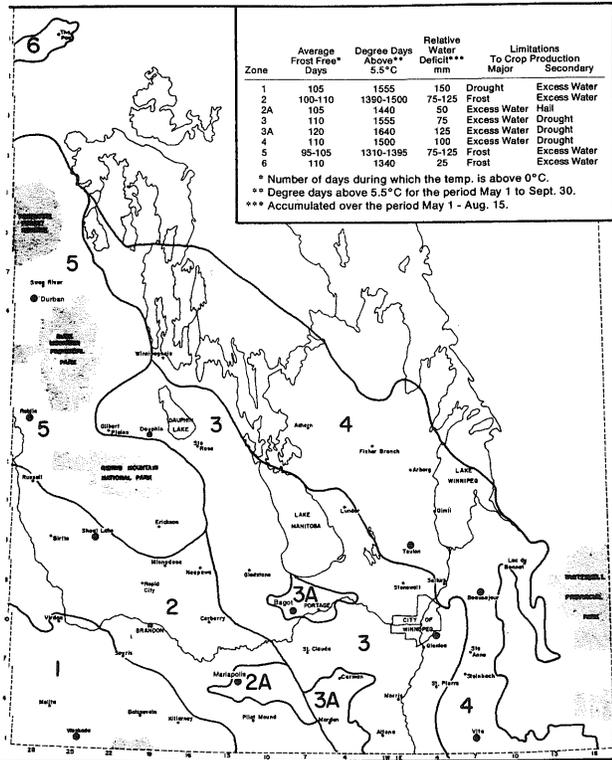
The climate of Manitoba is that of long cold winters and short hot summers with annual precipitation of about 51 cm (20 inches), occurring in the southern half of the province and slightly less in northern areas. This type of continental climate no doubt thwarted and frustrated early attempts of the settlers to grow the horticultural plants to which they were accustomed. Hardiness and crop zonation maps have now been developed to show regions of adaptation for plants.

The northern half of the province proved more difficult for agriculture due to the short growing season, cold winter temperatures and low precipita-



Regional variation in frost free days in southern Manitoba. Southern Manitoba's Climate and Agriculture. J. Dunlop and C. F. Shaykewich. 1982. Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

CROP VARIETY ZONE MAP FOR MANITOBA



● CROP VARIETY ADAPTATION TRIALS.

Climate suitability for crop production in Manitoba. Southern Manitoba's Climate and Agriculture. J. Dunlop and C. F. Shaykewich. 1982. Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

tion. The south central area of the province has the longest growing season and is most favorable for farming. The southwestern highland areas generally have a shorter growing season due to higher altitudes.

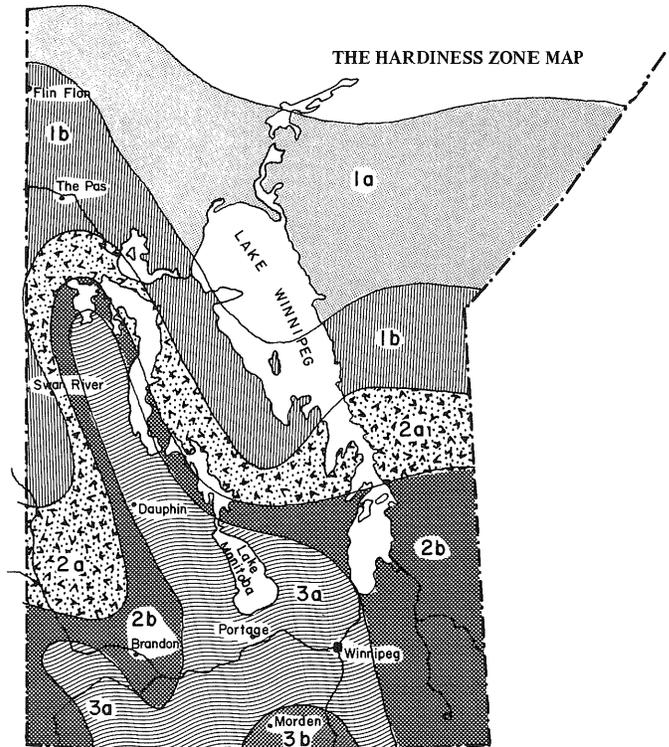
The Red River Valley area, part of the Assiniboine Valley and the land extending along the lakes, except for a strip in the Interlake area, have the second highest growing season. These two river valleys are flat and fertile, explaining the establishment of farming communities in these areas.

The central and eastern portions of the southern half of the province receive the second highest amount of precipitation, only the southeast corner having higher amounts.

Early Nurseries

The pioneer nurseries in Manitoba did not originate in any one localized area but tended to be located in regions suitable for agriculture in the southern half of the province. Some nurserymen such as A. P. Stevenson (Pine Grove Nursery, Morden) chose specific sites for their nurseries, while others including Stevensons' (Morris) and Skinner (Roblin) grew from family farm holdings.

THE HARDINESS ZONE MAP

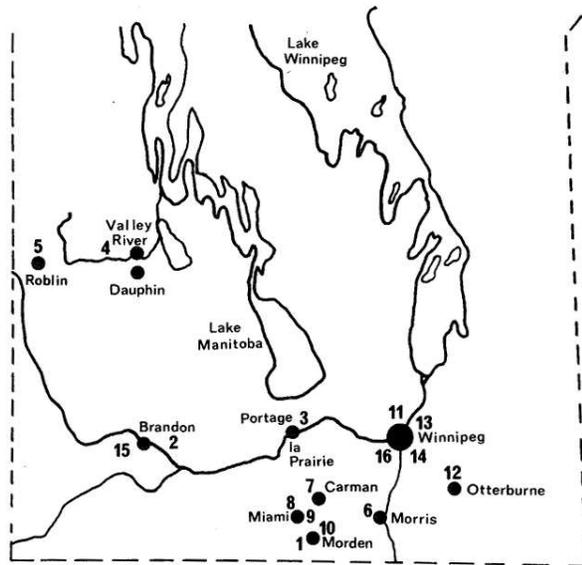


Hardiness zonation map for landscape plantings in Manitoba. Canada Department of Agriculture Publication 5063.

The Canadian Plant Hardiness Zone Map is used to provide an interpretation of the hardiness of the woody trees, shrubs, climbers and ground covers in this list. All the plants have a hardiness zone rating indicating the areas in which they can be expected to grow satisfactorily under normal landscape conditions.

Hardiness is governed by many factors including minimum winter temperatures, amount of rainfall and snow, wind conditions and frost-free period. For example, within hardiness zones, local 'islands' of greater severity due to exposure or less severity due to protection may result in variation of plant adaptability and/or survival. Often a low growing plant that is continually protected by snow cover during the winter, will grow well in a colder zone than indicated. It must be stressed that the zone given is the coldest area for any particular plant and is only a guide and many plants may well thrive in a colder zone.

The Pine Grove and Patmore Nurseries had their beginnings in the 1800's and the Patmore Nursery is now celebrating its centennial. The influx of immigrants in the early 1900's and rapid urbanization promoted the initiation of several new nurseries particularly in the heavily populated southern agricultural areas. If a generalization is to be made summarizing the location of Manitoba's nurseries one can say that most are located in the south central region of Manitoba. This development resulted from the presence of fertile land and the most favorable climate for growing plants, as well as the greatest population and easiest access to transportation. The bulk of early nursery stock was sold through the mail order system. The advent of full service garden cen-



Location of early nurseries in Manitoba.

Prior to 1930

- 1. Pine Grove Nursery 1874-c.1950
- *2. Patmore Nursery Ltd. 1883
- *3. Wallace Nursery 1912
- *4. Boughen Nurseries 1913
- *5. Skinner's Nursery Ltd. 1925
- *6. Evergreen Nursery 1926
- *7. Aubin Nursery 1927
- 8. Glenelm Nursery c.1929
- *9. Glenorchie Nurseries c.1929
- 10. Morden Nurseries c.1929

Years 1930 to 1957

- *11. Shelmerdine Nurseries 1938
- *12. Maison St. Joseph c.1940
- *13. Sadok Nurseries c.1940
- *14. Wenham Nurseries c.1940
- *15. Poole Nurseries c.1950
- *16. Van Dungen Nurseries c. 1950

* Original charter members of MNLA 1958.

ters and urban nurseries led to a number of nurseries in the suburban areas. Many of these purchased plants for resale and for landscape work.

The nursery industry soon learned that the native plant material offered the best chance for adaptation to Manitoba. Plants were moved from river valleys and forested areas with good success. The Federal Experimental Farms and Tree Nurseries began to distribute shelterbelt material to farmers about 1900. Early pioneers including the world famous Dr. Skinner began to import and test plant material from Europe and Asia in the early 1900's. The best success was obtained with introductions from north east Asia including Manchuria and Siberia. This has given the source of many hardy fruit and trees. Further plant breeding work led to new plant introductions which were hybrids between native and introduced species. This plant breeding has developed a whole new series of plants for cold areas such as the Canadian prairies. Much of this work is related in later chapters which chronicle the work of Manitoba's horticultural institutions and its early pioneers.

Perhaps the greatest change to note in the nursery area has been the growth in landscape, sod and maintenance business. These segments of the industry have rapidly expanded as emphasis has increased on commercial landscaping and grounds maintenance.

The advent of the national and regional nursery-landscape associations such as the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) did much to expand the contacts and improve the educational level of nurserymen. With these organizations have come strong regional magazines and conferences. These have helped Manitoba to remain competitive in nursery stock production. Manitoba and its nursery industry are relatively young. The progress in this short time span has set the pattern for the future years. Tremendous changes have been made in the past 100 years of nursery history and the past 25 years of MNLA history. The future holds promise for similar progress.

CHAPTER 2

Pioneer Nurseries of Manitoba

Aubin Nurseries Ltd. — Carman

Aubin Nurseries was founded in the spring of 1927 by the late Gerald Aubin. From the time he was a boy his dream was to own a nursery. After working at the Morden Research Station for two years and then for a while in partnership with the late Bob Stevenson whose father grew the first apples in Manitoba in the 1800's, he was ready to start his own nursery. Mr. Aubin chose Carman because of several factors including the productive soil ideal for nursery crops and the availability of water from the Boyne River. Carman at that time was served by two railroads and situated only 50 miles from the City of Winnipeg.

Hard work, sweat and tears were the order of the day in the early years. The original nursery site consisting of 75 acres had been a sheep ranch which was in bush, shrub and pasture. All of the land had to be cleared by hand in order to make way for the growing of nursery crops. Most men would have given up, but with his strong determination and ambition he was able to see his dream come true.

During the early years at Aubins, vegetables and small fruits were grown and sold along with the nursery stock in order to survive. In those days, 90% of the nursery stock sold was at the wholesale level, except for a brief period from 1946-1949 when door to door salesmen were on the road. From 1950 to 1960 the business continued as a primarily wholesale operation.

Upon the sudden death of the founder in 1958, his son Lawrence Aubin returned home from Niagara Falls to take over the family business. He had just completed a three year course in horticulture at the Niagara Park Commission School of Horticulture which proved its worth in the years to come.

Aubin Nurseries Ltd. has greatly changed from the original operation in the early years. In 1961, an irrigation system was installed capable of irrigating the 75 acre farm. In 1962, the first outdoor mist propagation beds were constructed. This simply meant that the nursery was approximately 80% effi-

THE AUBIN NURSERIES

GERALD J. AUBIN, Prop.
P. O. BOX 155

CARMAN, MANITOBA

RURAL TELEPHONE
No. 166-2

DEALERS IN
HARDY NURSERY STOCK, FRUIT TREES
AND BUSHES, ORNAMENTALS
AND PERENNIALS

"COURTESY WITH SERVICE."

Write For Price List

September 13th, 1935.

Mr. Harry Colpits,
Carman, Man.

Dear Mr. Colpits:

As requested I am giving you herewith list and price of the stock you wish planted next spring.

5	Apple Trees.....	\$ 2.50
5	Cherry Trees.....	2.50
2	Opata Plums	
2	Sepa "	
2	Yambina "	
2	Underwood Plums.....	6.00
100	Eve'bearing Strawberry Plants.....	5.00
6	Gooseberry bushes.....	1.00
1400	Lilacs at 05¢ each.....	70.00
		<hr/>
	Cost of Planting.....	\$ 87.00
		10.00
		<hr/>
	Total Amount.....	\$ 97.00

If this amount is paid in full this fall I will be glad to give you a 10% discount on the total amount, making it \$87.30.

Yours very truly,

THE AUBIN NURSERIES,

GJ:A.

Per. *G. J. Aubin*

Reproduction of a nursery stock quotation from Aubin Nursery.

cient in the capabilities of producing their own nursery stock from tiny cuttings to a finished plant ready for market. In 1966 a modern packing and cold storage facility was constructed in order to store nursery stock under a controlled environment throughout the winter months. This building which is completely refrigerated and humidified is responsible for quality control during the time of storage. Another similar facility was added in 1976.

In 1968 an additional 18 acres were acquired adjacent to the home farm which was immediately put into nursery production. In 1972 another 127 acres, which is known as the Strachan farm, were



Aubin Nursery display at Brandon Horticultural Society Show in 1939.

purchased half a mile away from the home farm. Additional irrigation equipment was purchased in 1976 to facilitate adequate growth at this new location. At the present time out of the total of 220 acres approximately 170 acres are in nursery production. In 1975 a modern sales and office building, along with an adequate parking lot was built in order to keep abreast of the ever increasing business. In 1976 a new outdoor sales area was constructed so that customers could browse in comfort at their leisure to pick and choose the plant material for their specific needs. This area is now complete with asphalt parking and pathways.

In 1978 two greenhouses were erected, one 20' x 100' and the other 40' x 100'. These were built primarily for perennial, evergreen and hardy rose production. In 1979 and 1980 two irrigation guns were added to provide complete irrigation coverage to all growing areas while reducing labour and time needed to apply irrigation water.

In 1981 an additional farm of 150 acres was added to the operation primarily for the production of caliper trees and bare root shrubs. This farm will be known as the August farm. In the same year a new bare root cold storage building was erected for deciduous stock. This will enable the company to house all of its material which will be offered for sale in the current spring, thus providing delivery to customers

on time, a very important factor in the nursery business.

At the end of 1981, a new greenhouse, 100' x 40' was built. This will be primarily used to pot nursery stock during the month of March before the spring rush begins. This will allow material to leaf out in time for spring sales in order to have better sales appeal to the customers.

The company has a permanent staff of twelve employees and at peak periods hires between 25-30 additional people. The management team at present is made up of the General Manager — Lawrence Aubin, the Assistant Manager — Clarence Major, Superintendent of Field Operation — Eric Warburton, Propagator — Michel Touchette and Pierre Ouellet, who looks after Storage and Landscaping.

Nursery stock for the company is marketed in various ways, such as through chain stores, landscape contractors, nurseries and garden centres from the Lakehead to British Columbia. In addition to this Aubins supply and direct-mail all of the nursery products from the famous T & T Seeds Co. of Winnipeg. T & T Seeds have a catalogue circulation of over 200,000 in Canada from coast to coast. The company also enjoys a viable retail business of their own both from mail order and drive-in sales at the nursery. The company has enjoyed steady growth over the last 20 years and it is the objective to expand



The old versus the new in transplanting of evergreens.

its wholesale market, not only to the prairies, but also to the northern U.S.

Staff of Aubin Nursery have been extensively involved in the executive and activities of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association (MNA) and MNLA. The late Gerald Aubin was a charter member and executive member of the MNA at the time of its formation in 1957. Upon his untimely death in September, 1958, his son Lawrence Aubin then completed his term. Lawrence remained on the executive almost continuously from 1958 to 1976. During that time he served two terms as president (four years in total). He was Manitoba representative to the CNTA board for two terms. He was elected chairman of the National Growers Group for the year 1976. In 1980 he was elected chairman of the newly formed Western Nursery Growers' Group and still holds that position. He has been a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation for the past five years.

Mr. Eric Warburton joined the staff at Aubins in 1975. Prior to this he had been employed with Searle Nurseries of East Selkirk. During his employment with Searles he had served on the executive of MNLA. While at Aubins he became president of MNLA in 1975 for a two year term.

Mr. Michel Touchette joined the staff at Aubins on a permanent basis in 1979. He holds a degree in Horticulture from the University of Guelph. He was elected to the MNLA executive in November of 1980. Having served only one year he was then elected as president for the 1982 year.

Boughen Nurseries Ltd. — Valley River

Boughen Nurseries was founded by William James Boughen some time about the year 1900. Mr. Boughen came to the Valley River area in 1891 and settled as one of the early pioneers.



Tree under-cutting using a team of six horses.

A letter found in the family Bible written by W. J. Boughen to his mother and brothers back in Ontario in 1891 tells something of the conditions at Valley River and about ice break-up in the river close to the cabin they had built. He described the wild ducks, so tame that they would only swim a short distance when a rock was thrown at them. Deer and bear tracks were common in mud along the river. He wrote about the three day walk from Neepawa carrying a bag of goods as a real ordeal, and of stopping overnight at a home of one of the pioneers. The house, not completed, was full of mosquitoes, so many that no one could sleep. The lady of the house made a smudge and had everyone choked and the children crying.

Wild fruit grew in abundance in some locations and in two or three years he had transplanted some into his garden and neighbours came to pick the fruit.

William James Boughen was a dedicated plantsman and maintained contacts with many horticulturists throughout his career. He was made a Life Member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society in 1916. In 1920 he was appointed Horticultural Explorer for the Dominion of Canada. Possibly that planting of wild fruits in his garden could be described as a start to the Boughen Nurseries, although the first catalogue was printed in 1912.

From 1920-1926 W. J. Boughen showed fruit at the Winnipeg Garden Show and after winning the top trophy for the most prizes, seven years in a row, the cup was presented to him to keep and remains in the possession of Boughen Nurseries.

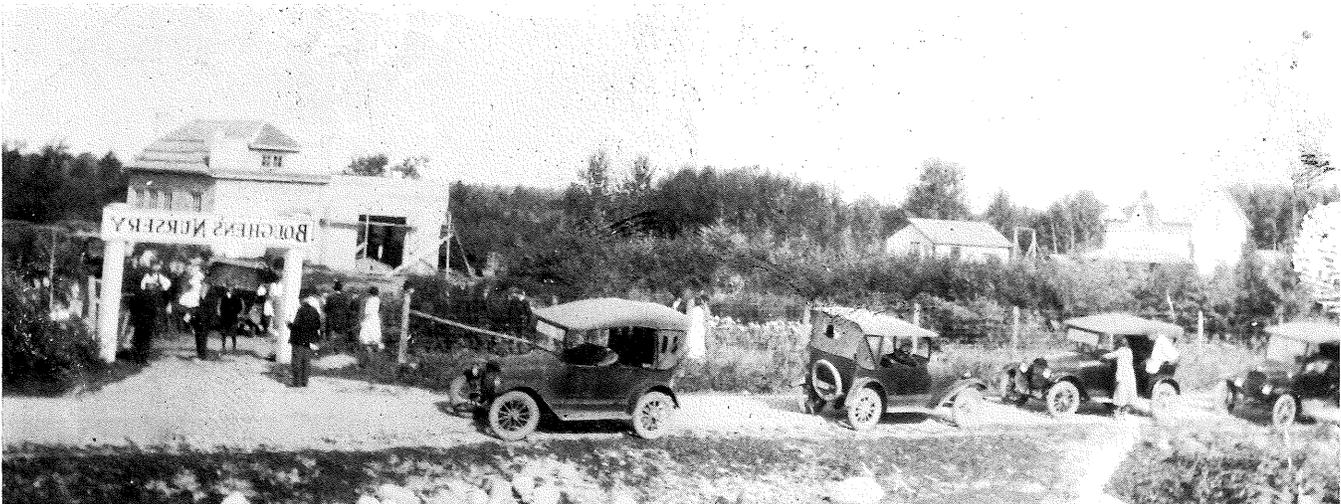
Among the introductions Mr. Boughen produced over the years was the 1927 introduction of the 'Boughen Phlox', a pink bud sport from the Pyramid white phlox. He found a yellow chokecherry 'Boughen Yellow', growing wild in 1929. Other introductions are 'Adam', 'Pattie', 'Quality',



Mr. W. J. Boughen with fruit trees.

'Dauphin', 'Blush' and 'Severn' crabapples; all were very good at the time and some are still being sold. Boughens also introduced the 'Battleford' apple and later the 'Convoy' cherry. The 'Pink Beauty' shrub which is still very popular came as seed from Siberia.

The earliest catalogue on file at the nursery, number 17 dated 1930, listed apples, crabs, plums, cherries, raspberries and perennial flowers. There was also a large selection of vegetable and garden flower seeds, packages of bees, bee equipment, and even Holstein calves and sweet clover seed. Following the



Early photo of buildings and customers.

PLUMS

PATTIE—An extra good yielder. Several trees of last year's growth bore over 40 on last year's growth on end of limbs. It is a sweet-red-striped fruit, making sweet water white cider. Sugar saver. \$1.25.

GARNET—Purplish late crab of flattened shape. Strongest tree of all. Impossible to break limbs off the trunk. Fine for grafting a lot of kinds on it. One man has 27 varieties on one Garnet at his back door. Fall only.

OSMAN—Midseason, strong grower, dark red. Edmonton customer says one tree produced a value of \$5.95 in 1943 at a cost for the year of 86 cents. \$1.25 each.

SEVERN—Our own introduction. Best yielder at Edmonton University. Yellow. Best preserver in quality. 2-year only, \$1.25.

FLORENCE—One of the finest and most beautiful commercial or home use crabs. \$1.25.

DAUPHIN—Earliest eating crab. Eats like an apple. Children love it. Young yielding. \$1.25 Sold out.

ANTONOVKA—A large apple of Russian origin. Was our first apple to fruit. Worthy of trial, \$1.25 each.

MOSCOW PEAR APPLE—An elongated form of apple. Mild, sweetish flavor. Hardy at Winnipeg. \$1.25 each.

DR. BILL and SONNY—Two high quality apples, originated at Lethbridge Experimental Station and recommended in Southern Alberta. \$1.25 each; the two together \$2.25.

RED DAUPHIN—Hardest and strong growing tree, with pink blossoms and 1-inch purple fruits in profusion. Very ornamental. Useful for jelly.

A Home Orchard adds to Health and is also a Remedy for the high cost of living. Nothing is more tasty than one's own apple sauce.

We want every Boughen customer to succeed with his planting. We will give you FREE advice and additional information whenever requested.



MR. W. J. BOUGHEN

Boughen Fruit trees bear earlier than most others because they are grafted only on roots 2 years older than the tops. The roots grow in alluvial clay soil that develops good root systems. Then these trees are dug with a U shaped digger, 18 inches wide, that gets all the roots. With this tree for a start your cherries will bear the year after planting (over nine tenths of them do here), and crabs and apples bear usually the second and third years

after planting. Not long to wait surely. The Dauphin crab should be available to every school child. I will give one free crab, our choice, with every \$10 order for fruit trees, if you mention it. The Dauphin will likely bear the next year. You can't grow too many. They sell easily for 4c to 8c a lb. in any locality, and pay better than any other use you could put the land to. We guarantee that every one will live the first year, or we shall be glad to replace free with next order from you. That is—**the next order for fruit trees only.**

Plums are valued for eating and preserving everywhere. The list of good ones is steadily growing, but all are not "the best ever." We praise or knock them as we find them here. I heard a Supt. of Experimental Station state Dandy and Bounty were reliably good all across Prairie Provinces. I prefer Dandy, maybe I am prejudiced.

BEAVER—Just named, but an old standby here. Large yellow with pink bloom. Midseason. Great yielder of large fruit. Good for preserving. Assiniboine Seedling, \$1.50.

DANDY—Our best plum, hardy as any, most prolific, bearing on last year's wood like a Sandcherry, finest quality, eating or for cooking. Beautiful and good size when not overloaded, bears early, early ripening. Assiniboine Seedling. Some 1 year trees planted here in 1940 had over 200 plums each in 1942. Quality, best of the Natives, and approved by all who use it. \$1.50 each.

VALLEY RIVER—Early and early bearing on last year's wood. Firm, red and yellow, fair size. These two, as one of our customers says: "Make the most beautiful ornamentals in Saskatchewan." This, and 2 next are natives and therefore absolutely hardy. \$1.50.

OLSON—Found in 1920, a later plum, but of good quality; pure native, deep red. Great yielder. Some prefer it to any other plum. \$1.50 each.

WILSON RIVER—Big red plum, strong and healthy tree, very fair quality and very attractive. Should be planted where hardiness is required. \$1.50.

TECUMSEH—A very early plum hybrid. Large. Red. Of good flavor. Only a few trees, \$1.50 each.

MINA—A seedling of Pembina, and better to preserve. Heavy yielding, very red, large fruit. Tree sprawls somewhat. \$1.50 each.

PEMBINA—Dr. Hansen's venture, crossing California Plums with natives of Manitoba. Probably our finest looking red plum, of large size. Bears at 4 years, and usually heavily thereafter. Great for selling or eating as it has the California "Red June" flavor. Plant lots of these. \$1.50 each.

OJIBWA—A somewhat similar hybrid of Manitoba plum. Great yielder of red plums. Coloring red, long before ripe. Extra good preserving. Early bearer of good size fruits. Rather late and very desirable. \$1.50 each.

BOUNTY—A very good hardy plum. Red and nice. \$1.50 each.

NORTHER—A later arrival here, not fruited. Samples I've seen at Morden were large and good.

MANDARIN—A Salacina plum from Asia. Introduced by Dr. Frank Skinner of Dropmore. First year it fruited here. Always was hardy. Extra sweet and of finest flavor. None till fall of 1948. \$1.50 each.

BROOKS No. 40 and No. 41 SALACINA PLUMS—Extra fine qualities. One is black and one is yellow. Mandarin is red, fairly large. \$1.50 each. None till fall of 1948 Order **now** and they will be reserved for fall or spring.

GRENVILLE—Ottawa Canadian Experimental Farm Origination, finest large plum ever grown here. Not for severe locations. We have 50 on hand, fine trees, \$1.50 each.

Page five from Boughen's 1948 catalogue illustrates the abundant selection of fruit cultivars that characterized the early nursery growers.



Fruit harvest at Boughens. Russ Boughen is at left.

depression period the seed portion was dropped. In 1948 the catalogue was printed for the first time with colored pictures, but as this proved very expensive the color was dropped after one year.

As the nursery grew so did the numbers of bee hives, until over 200 were in production. In 1960 the nursery portion of the business really started to move ahead and the bee hives were sold. Many buildings have been added at the nursery, however, one that is still standing, was built from lumber which Mr. Boughen cut from logs from the Duck Mountains.

The nursery has grown from those few native fruit plantings by a pioneer to the nursery's present size of 240 acres devoted to growing hardy nursery stock. The nursery is presently owned and operated by Russell and Ada Boughen, and their sons Ron R. and Chris W. Boughen.

The owners operate a mail order business, putting out a catalogue each year and sending northern Manitoba nursery stock to every province in Canada, Yukon and N.W. Territories. Up until ten years ago numerous shipments were made to Alaska, however, the paper work involved led to selling in this state being discontinued.

Approximately fifty percent of the stock grown is wholesale with most of this being contract growing. Propagation is by mist, both in greenhouse and outside beds. This production area has been doubled for 1982. Buildings consist of a greenhouse, two packing sheds, maintenance building, several storage buildings, as well as three deep storage cellars and a fourth is in the process of being built.

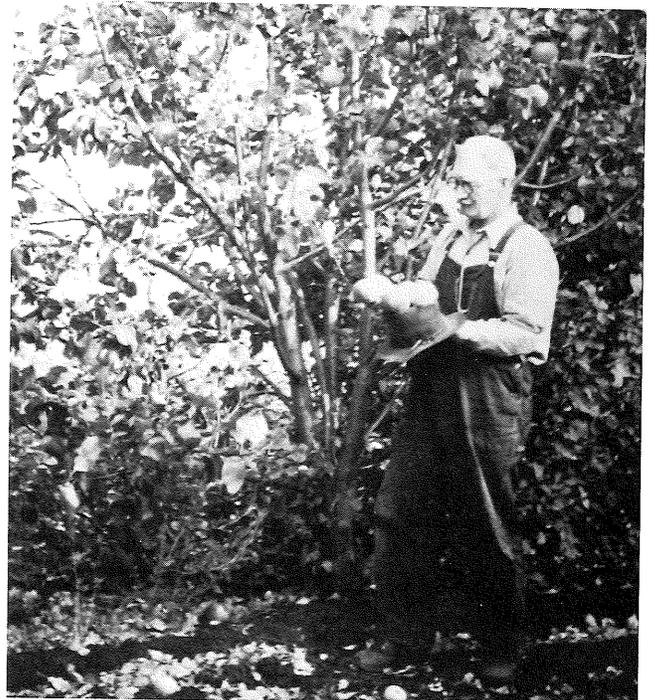
Boughen Nursery was a charter member of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association and has maintained continuous membership. They have contributed significantly to Manitoba horticulture and the province's nursery industry.

Glenelm Nursery — Miami

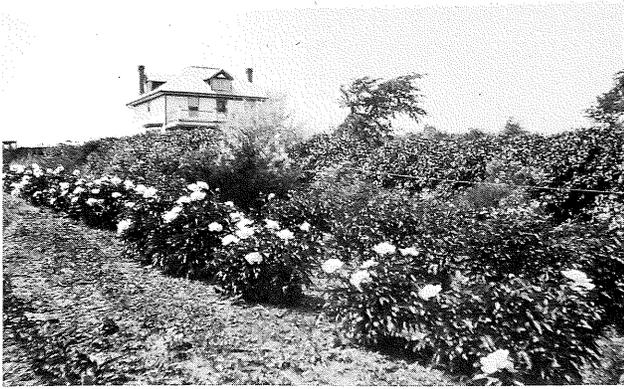
The work of Mr. Harold Oakes was commercialized in the Glenelm Nursery of Miami. Like Mr. A. P. Stevenson and Mr. Harold Orchard of the same general area, Mr. Oakes developed a number of specialty fruits, many of which were improvements at that time but were later to be replaced by newer developments. Mr. Oakes' series of "Glen" strawberries were once widely grown in the prairie region. He exchanged stock with other horticulturists and promoted fruit growing widely. Many of his fruit trees are no doubt still growing and fruiting in the Pembina Hills. The orchard area Mr. Oakes developed is still maintained by several family members.

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,



Mr. Harold Orchard displays large fruit samples of Mount apple.



Wind-blown plantings around the Orchard home illustrate the difficulty faced by the early nurserymen in settlement. This location today is heavily treed and bears little resemblance to this pioneer scene.

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 was an active MNLA member until retiring to B.C. in the early 1970's.



Mr. Murray Orchard with a small shrub under-cutter.

Morden Nurseries Ltd. — Morden

The Morden Nurseries located 4 miles east of Morden was founded by Mr. Albert Spangelo in 1928 and was carried on by Mr. Njorg Spangelo until 1963 when it was purchased by Mr. Herman Temmerman. Mr. Albert Spangelo obtained his nursery training as Orchard Foreman at the Morden Experimental Farm. He concentrated his activities in growing many of the new fruit cultivars which were developed in southern Manitoba.

Mr. Spangelo developed a number of fruit cultivars but with the passing of time these have been displaced by the newer improved types developed largely by Government Research Stations.

Morden Nurseries was not a founding member of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association but after

2

Plant List & Prices - Morden Nurseries

OUR SPECIALTY IS TREE FRUITS

The varieties offered include the leading newer things that have proven adapted to all conditions. We feature varieties recently introduced by the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba, and by other Government Experimental stations of Canada, Minnesota, North and South Dakota. These new fruits have been developed especially to conform to prairie soils and weather. Note they are made available to you at
MODEST PRICES

All our Stock is propagated and grown by ourselves. We guarantee trueness to name, and hardness of root. Stock is low branched to conform to prairie needs. If possible visit our nursery and choose your own trees.

MORDEN INTRODUCTIONS

3 to 4 ft. Study Trees on Hardy Crab Stock
at 50c, 5 for \$2.00, 10 for \$3.50

REDANT—A dessert winter Apple, white flesh, smooth, tender, juicy, sweet, sub-acid. Seedling of Antonovka. Strong growing tree. Standard size, medium to large.

OSTEM—A seedling of Ostrakoff. Pale green with red blush; flesh greenish white, fine, smooth. Very juicy, sweet, pleasant. Season to March. Size, medium large.

MORTOF—Seedling of Tetofsky. Medium size, tender flesh, melting, aromatic, pleasant sub-acid. Season, autumn until early in new year.

MANITOBA—A seedling of Duchess. Strong, healthy tree. Fruit over 2½ inches. Yellow blushed with red. Texture smooth, fine flesh, juicy, melting, pleasant sub-acid, aromatic. Season to January. One of the good dessert apples.

MANTET—Seedling of Tetofsky. Medium size to large. Heavily washed red, very attractive; tender melting flesh, aromatic, pleasant. A good dessert variety during September. Strong branch union.

MANAN—Antonovka seedling. Strong growth. Fruit large and well washed with deep red. Fine grained, smooth, juicy, somewhat tart. A good January apple.

GODFREY—Seedling of Patten. Strong, vigorous, with stout crotches. Fruit 2¼ inches, yellow, heavily washed with bright red; fine texture, crisp, juicy, aromatic, flavor sweet, sprightly. Season to March.

SPANGLER—A seedling of Crusoe. Large strong tree, rather upright form and fruitful, hardy; large attractive fruit, measuring close to 3½ inches. Heavily washed with bright red. Flesh fine, smooth, juicy, sweetish, pleasant mild sub-acid. Season, early winter.

The second page from the catalogue of Morden Nurseries in 1939-40 listed a large number of apples. Prices were also a small percentage of those today.

MORDEN INTRODUCTIONS—Continued

BREAKEY—Seedling of Blushed Calville. Strong vigorous tree. Large attractive apple, flesh fine, juicy, very pleasant, sprightly, mild sub-acid. Season, early Fall.

TOBA—Rosilda x Angus. Fruit large for crab, often measuring 2 inches in diameter. Color, rich all red. Flesh crisp, tender, juicy, aromatic, sprightly, pleasant; jells readily. Excellent for pies.

M341—Seedling of Antonovka. Large attractive apple. Pleasant, juicy, crisp; eating and cooking. Season, late Winter.

M342—Patten seedling. Medium to large. All rich red, very attractive, crisp white flesh, fine texture, pleasant. Winter apple.

M313—Hoadley seedling. Large, red, attractive, juicy, pleasant. Season, mid-winter. Medium hardy plant in favored spots.

19-46-18—Ostrakof seedling. Strong vigorous tree. Fruit medium to large, yellowish, medium juicy, sweet. Very good to eat from tree. Season, late Fall.

M318—Anis seedling. Hardy. Very large red blushed fruit, juicy, smooth, good texture. Season, mid-winter.

M343—Seedling of Patten. Fruit medium to large; pleasant, sub-acid, juicy, tender. Good cooking and eating. Season, mid-winter.

M311—Crusoe seedling. Medium to large, red, crisp, pleasant, and good cooking apple.

5022-F2—Seedling of Charlamoff. Medium sized, attractive apple. White flesh, crisp, juicy, tender. Pleasant to eat from tree.

5031-F2—Anisim seedling. Medium size, rich red apple, mild acid, white flesh, crisp, pleasant. Also good cooking.

M321—Seedling of Blushed Calville. Strong tree. Medium to large attractive apple. Fine texture, juicy, crisp, pleasant. Season, early Fall.

APPLES

CHARLAMOFF—Strong growing tree. Hardy. Fruit medium to large. White flesh, crisp, juicy, aromatic. Pleasant to eat from tree and good cooker as a harvest apple. Season, early Fall.

BLUSHED CALVILLE—Of Russian origin. Fruit large, yellow with slight blush. Excellent cooker and very pleasant to eat from tree, being crisp and juicy. One of the best for an early harvest apple.

MELBA—Seedling of McIntosh. Large fruit, attractive. A splendid early dessert apple. Crisp, juicy, pleasant, aromatic, early bearing. Recommended for planting in favored spots.

HARALSON—Originated at Minnesota University. Comes into heavy bearing very young. Large red apple, firm, pleasant, good cooker. Keeps till following spring.

PATRICIA—From Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Not a large apple. Very good keeper. Excellent for eating. Strong growing. Plant also in favored spot.

OSTRAKOFF—Of Russian blood. Medium to large. Good keep-

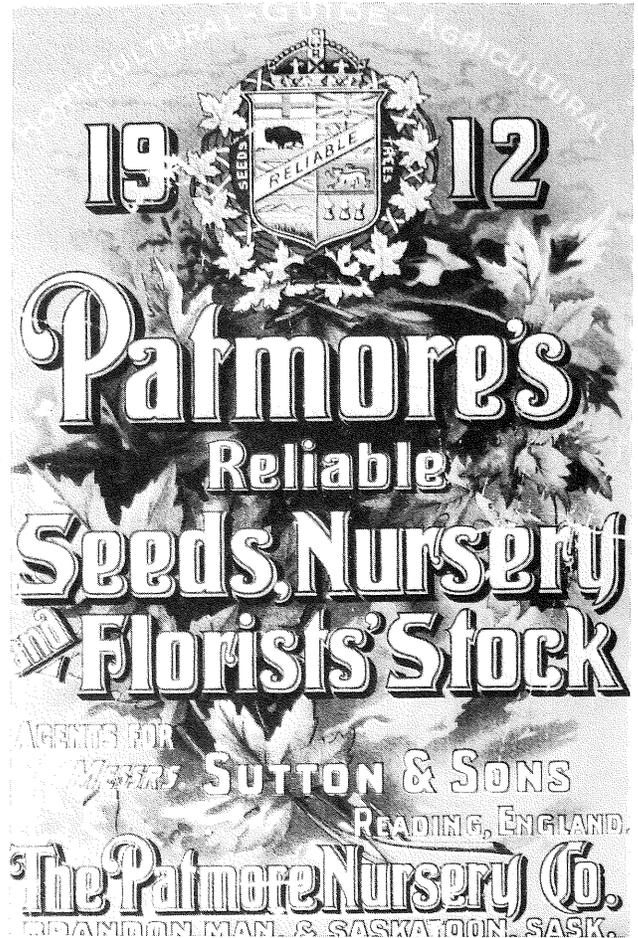
The third page from the catalogue of Morden Nurseries in 1939-40 listed a large number of experimental apples.

Mr. Temmerman purchased the nursery it became a member. Mr. Temmerman also served as an MNLA director for several years.

Patmore Nursery Sales — Brandon

This pioneer nursery of Western Canada was established in 1883 by Henry Lewis Patmore at Brandon, Manitoba. This places them among the oldest of the nursery operations in Western Canada and one of the few to operate continuously for 100 years.

Henry Lewis Patmore, the founder of Patmore Nurseries Ltd., was born in Saffron, Walden, Essex, England in 1861. He attended the Newport Grammar School and on graduating joined his father's business on the family farm where they grew nursery stock and flowers for the London market. At eighteen



Cover picture of Patmore's 1912 catalogue.

young Henry was off to London where he read of Brandon House and the rich loam of the prairies and the park lands of Manitoba. As soon as the C.P.R. reached Manitoba he came west to Brandon. The picturesque country around Brandon must have reminded him of his Essex homeland, and the first impressions of Brandon nestled in the Assiniboine Valley made him decide to make the city his home.

He was associated with Dr. S. A. Bedford in starting the Experimental Farm at Brandon. He started a nursery of his own in 1883 which he purchased from J. A. Brock. He experimented with different trees and shrubs to determine which species could tolerate the extremes of temperature and the climatic conditions experienced on the prairies.

The opening of the West and the great influx of settlers created a great demand for windbreaks, shrubs, fruits and ornamental trees. Business expanded rapidly and a small catalogue was used in 1890. As branch lines of the railways were built across the prairies, trees were shipped into all parts of the west.

Settlement brought solid progress. Gradually ex-

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS (Continued)

ELDER

(Black Elder) (Sambucus Nigra)

A free growing shrub in this climate. It takes the place of the snowball bush, being more hardy and very free flowering, producing the well-known elderberries in clusters during the summer months. 2 to 3 ft. bushes..... Each, 50c

(Golden Elder) (Sambucus Aurea)

A beautiful variety, with golden-yellow foliage but in all other respects is the same as the foregoing. It should be planted especially in shrubbery and border, as it makes an excellent contrast. The tips kill back and need trimming each spring. 1 to 2 ft. Each, 50c

FLOWERING CURRANT

A yellow-flowering variety of compact growth. The foliage is of a deep shiny green. 2 to 3 ft. bushes..... Each, 50c.

GINNALA MAPLE

Ginnala or Japanese Maple.—This is undoubtedly one of the hardiest and most beautiful of shrubs and is well adapted for general cultivation throughout the North-West country. The leaves are small and fringed, turning to deep colored hues in the autumn. It is a shrub or dwarf tree valuable to plant singly, or in hedges. 2 to 3 ft. bushes..... Each, 50c
4 to 5 ft. bushes..... Each, 75c

HONEYSUCKLE

The Tartarian bush varieties are very hardy, and are, perhaps, the most satisfactory of any shrubs we can plant, as their growth is early and vigorous and they bloom profusely each year, the bushes being simply covered with small pink or white flowers.

The climbers are not so satisfactory, only the native varieties being hardy and they are slow growers when cultivated.

Bushes, 2 to 3 ft. high, pink or white varieties. Each, 50c
Specimen bushes, 4 to 5 ft. Each, \$1.00

SUMACH

(Rhus Elegans)

A valuable addition to our native hardy shrubs, with its large, deeply-lobed leaves, which change in the fall to many shades of crimson and yellow.

Height 2 to 3 ft. Each, 50c

PYRUS BACCATA

(Flowering Crab)

The delicate pink and white blossom of the Flowering Crab followed in season by the small highly colored fruit, which can be utilized for preserves, has already made this tree popular with all garden lovers.

Height 4 to 5 ft. Each, 50c

PHILADELPHUS

(Syringa, Mock Orange)

This beautiful flowering shrub may be said to be a little tender, but we find that if planted in a sheltered place it will winter well and be covered in the summer time with its beautiful pure white Mock Orange flowers Each, 50c

RUSSIAN OLIVE

(Elegans Argentea)

This shrub has white, downy leaves, producing a silvery effect. It is of close and erect growth and is, therefore, a valuable hedge plant of distinct and effective appearance and should be in every collection. 3 to 4 ft. Each, 50c

SNOWBALL

(Viburnum Opulus Sterilis)

Snowball or Guelder Rose.—This is a well-known and very popular shrub, but it does not seem to flower so well here as it does in the east, and is sometimes liable to winterkill.

2 to 3 ft. bushes..... Each, 50c

August 28, '17

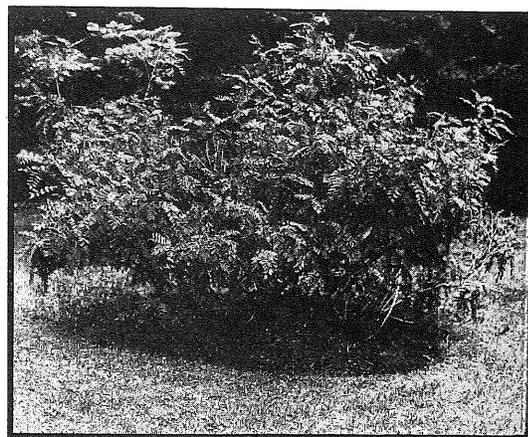
The Patmore Nursery Co.,
Brandon, Man.

Dear Sirs:

The little trees which you sent me last spring have all succeeded fine. Amongst them were four Lilacs which started to flower, but in June we had a bad frost which killed the flowers; otherwise I would have had to show my friends a fine example of what quality the goods are, delivered by The Patmore Nursery Company.

Sincerely yours,

Langenburg, Sask. REV. JOHN P. G. VORST.



AMORPHA
Hardy ornamental shrub

A page from a 1918 catalogue shows the wide variety of ornamentals grown.



Exhibit at the Land and Apple Show, Winnipeg, October, 1913 shows the wide range of fruit grown at that early date.

pansion became necessary and in the 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, which were the starting point of the business, comprised but a few acres in the early days; these have been increased to an area at the present time of some 400 acres of cultivated land. From the beginning a small greenhouse was necessary for raising bedding and vegetable plants, but the big demand for this variety of stock made enlargements necessary, and in 1909 the greenhouses were incorporated into the business. We bought half a block of land right by the C.P.R. Station, on which were 5 greenhouses. These have been entirely remodelled during the past few years, and it is from here that all shipments of cutflowers, floral designs and house plants are made, the location of the premises being ideal for the quick handling of this class of stock. Our business soon outgrew the capacity of this plant, and in 1913 we added five more large green-

houses and ten acres of land to this section of our business so that now our total area of glass is some 66,000 square feet. These last houses keep a constant reserve of cutflowers on hand, so that no matter what demands are made upon us, we are always sure of something with which to fill rush orders. Only once in 15 years have we had to refuse an order on account of being out of cutflowers, and that was during the influenza epidemic.

The seed store and warehouse, being so closely allied to the two branches mentioned above, soon



Nursery workers at Patmore Nursery about 1930.



Three photos of the 10 horse tree plough used for undercutting large trees.

became a logical addition, and was commenced in a small way in 1909. Our efforts to supply fresh new seeds of the highest germination at a reasonable cost met with unexpected success, so that in 1914 we had to enlarge our housing capacity. About this time we became connected with the firm of Messrs. Sutton & Sons, of Reading, England, a seed house whose fame is world wide. We are still their sole agents in Western Canada and claim that the seeds offered by this firm in their original sealed packets (of which we always have a stock) are the best it is possible to obtain anywhere. We might add that all the seeds we use in our own business are of exactly the same class and quality that we offer to the public, so that we know from our own crop exactly what can be expected from the seed."

Nursery employees numbered up to one hundred on payroll during the busy spring season. Included among these were a large number of Doukhobor labourers who came to Canada with the assistance of Count Leo Tolstoi in the 1890's.



Mr. H. L. Patmore behind a 'Sylvia' crabapple growing in the nursery.



Sutton seed display for Patmore.

Dick (Richard) Henry Patmore was the second generation and he was always interested in the nursery business. On leaving school he studied accountancy, and then attended Brandon College graduating in 1934 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Economics. On graduating he entered business with his father. He became increasingly interested in propagating hardy varieties and introducing and testing different varieties of evergreens and ornamentals. Dick compiled a list of all introductions of Patmore Nurseries over the years and this list follows.

'Brandon Pyramidal' cedar — A dense columnar pyramidal cedar, adapted to the cold, dry climate of prairie Canada. Originated as a selection grown at the Brandon Experimental Farm which was established in the 1880's. Selected by Patmores and put into large scale production by them, and now being grown by other Canadian nurseries, including growers in B.C. and Ontario. Despite its unfavourable location at the Brandon Farm the original tree of Brandon cedar has thrived and done well.

'Ascending' elm — A Patmore selection from a native elm stand growing in the Brandon area. Possesses a dense upright form covered with numerous small branchlets. Widely grown on boulevards in

Western Canada to the extent that some municipalities will not plant any other American elm.

Black and green ash selections — Selections made by Patmore, for apparent resistance to the unsightly flower gall. The green ash are male trees to avoid the seed bearing specimens. These are now under test for desirable shape, non seed bearing and resistance to flower gall. The best green ash selection was named 'Patmore' in 1975. It received an Award of Merit from the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture.

'Plumosa' Scots pine — A selection of Scots pine of northern Finland origin. It does not turn yellowish as do other Scots pine and is also somewhat resistant to sun scald.

Patmores have also put into production by grafting, the 'Morden Blue' spruce, 'Medora' columnar blue juniper, 'Sutherland' Siberian larch, a selection of the European little leaf linden, and 'Montgomery' dwarf blue spruce.

Many honors have come to the Patmores for their work in horticulture. Mr. Henry L. Patmore was made a Life Member of the Manitoba Horticultural Association in 1934. Mr. Richard Patmore received

an Honorary Life Membership in the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association in 1978.

The Patmore family carried on the nursery business until June 1970 when it was sold to Mr. Jacob (Jake) J. Driedger. Since then the business has been carried on as Patmore Nursery Sales and expansion and relocations have been made. Mr. Driedger's son John and son-in-law Ed Krueger are now fully involved in the business. Mrs. Jake Driedger (Mary) plays a large role in the greenhouse production of annuals and perennials.

Patmore Nurseries was a charter member of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association. They have continued to support the MNLA through the years and have made very valuable contributions in each aspect of their business. Jake Driedger served as CNTA director from 1977-1982.

Shelmerdines Nurseries and Garden Centre Ltd. — Winnipeg

Shelmerdine Nurseries and Garden Centre Ltd. first commenced business in the year 1937, as Shelmerdine Nursery, under the able hand of Walter Shelmerdine. With the start of World War Two in 1939 nursery operations were shelved. Beginning again in 1944 on a very modest scale, Walter concentrated mainly on the production of fruit trees, which were sold mostly to farmers in the surrounding areas.

The next step in expansion saw Walter Shelmerdine increasing his market by knocking on doors during the winter months and offering to draw landscape plans for prospective customers. His good wife, Ollie, shared in the work by spending long hours at the phone with customers.

The first catalogue offered by the company was in 1953, consisting of a simple mimeographed sheet



Tillage operation in 1938 at Shelmerdine Nursery using a small power tractor.



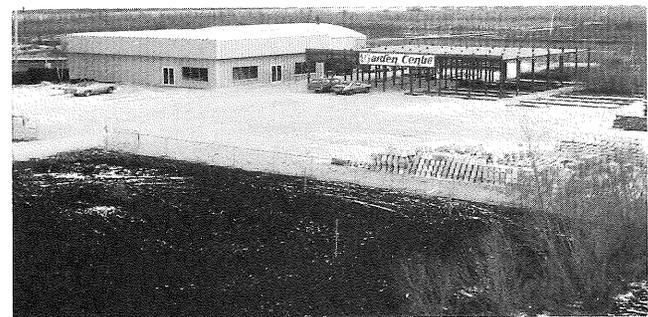
Shelmerdine's Roblin Boulevard sales station in the 1960's.

which was followed in 1954 by a printed two page folder. Distribution of a catalogue started an avalanche of people to the nursery and Shelmerdines were "on the way".

The same year, 1954, saw Carl Pedersen join the company. Newly arrived from Denmark, with a thorough grounding in horticulture, Carl took over the job of propagation and field management. Other than the home site, occupied by the Shelmerdine's home and a packing shed, nursery property consisted of nine acres of land along the Assiniboine River in Charleswood, where most of the nursery stock was produced.

Slowly but surely the nursery progressed and in 1958 undertook its first commercial landscape contract. Because of the increased volume of traffic through the nursery additional staff was required, and in 1959 Gordon Lawrie became a permanent member of the company. His main area of concern was the drawing of landscape plans and preparation of the catalogue, which had now developed into a four page booklet.

By 1966 things had progressed to a point where contract work required Carl's full attention and



Newly developed sales area in Headingley opened by Shelmerdines in 1974.

Charles Gerlach joined the company to take charge of all field operations. Long hours and attention to detail by Mr. Gerlach placed the production end of the business on a truly systematic basis for the first time. This left Walter free to oversee all aspects of the nursery operation and plan for future improvements and expansion.

The company reorganized in the year 1967. Carl, Gordon and Charlie acquired ownership from Mr. Shelmerdine, retaining Walter on a consulting basis for a five year period. This also allowed him to assume a more leisurely work pattern and enjoy the fruit of his early labours.

The next milestone in the history of Shelmerdine Nursery was in 1974, and saw the addition of two more permanent members to the nursery family, when Brian Duncan and Burghard Wohlers were taken in as partners. Brian had been with the company as a schoolboy during the summer vacations and, after graduating from high school, joined the company on a full time basis in the landscaping department. He divided his time between landscaping, office and sales yard. Like the other partners he was able to function in any of the nursery operations. Burghard, or Bo as he is known to all, came from Germany with a formal education in nursery work and landscape architecture. His main sphere of activity was landscape planning but, like Brian, was equally at home running a landscaping crew or helping a customer in the garden centre.

The year of 1974 was one of major expansion. The original office site in Charleswood was sold and a large, modern garden centre was established at the 80 acre growing area in Headingley.

In keeping with a pattern of careful steady growth, a second outlet was officially opened in April, 1979. This 30 acre site is located on St. Mary's Road, just south of the perimeter highway, in the south east section of the city. It borders on an area of heavy residential expansion and continues to offer all of the same facilities and services that have made Shelmerdines a successful and respected name in the nursery and landscaping industry in the province.

This second garden centre is a slightly smaller replica of the head office on Roblin Boulevard, occupying a front corner of the property, with paved paths through the shade house and display areas and generous parking adjacent. Much of the acreage has been put into the production of specimen trees. These are primarily for use with the tree digger, with harvest dates some 5 to 10 years down the road.

In the fall of 1981, there came a major change in the ownership of Shelmerdine Nurseries. With the retirement of Carl and Gordon, Charlie, Brian and Bo became the major partners of the company. Com-

pleting the circle, the new junior partner is Jan Pedersen, Carl's son. Jan comes into the business with the practical knowledge obtained from working at Shelmerdines for several years, and also has a degree in Commerce from the University of Manitoba.

The steady growth of Shelmerdine Nurseries and Garden Centre Ltd. is due to continuing hard work by all concerned, the early guiding hand of its founder, Walter Shelmerdine, and the high business ethics which he insisted upon and instilled in his successors.

Shelmerdines have supported the MNLA since its formation. Walter Shelmerdine, who was active in the formation of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association, served as its president in 1958 and 1959. Walter led the reorganization that resulted in formation of the MNLA and served as president of this new group in 1963 and 1964. He was made an Honorary Life Member in 1982. Brian Duncan and Bo Wohlers both served on the executive with Bo serving as MNLA president in 1979 and 1980. This long association of MNLA and Shelmerdines is indicative of the mutual regard between the industry and this leading firm.

Skinner's Nursery Ltd. — Roblin

Frank Skinner came from Scotland to the Dropmore district of Manitoba with his family in 1895. In 1901 he took a homestead and began farming with his brother William. They raised cattle and grew grain. Frank had an early interest in plants and gardening and he began gardening as a hobby. The availability of plants that would grow in the harsh prairie climate was very limited. He began collecting native plant material. By 1918 he had made contact with many prominent horticulturists in Canada and the U.S. and began introducing exotic plant material for trial at his northern Manitoba farm. This was the beginning of his development of an extensive network of correspondents around the world.

In 1924 Frank Skinner decided to commercialize his hobby and in 1925 founded the Manitoba Hardy Plant Nursery. It was primarily a direct mail order business and was operated as a mail order nursery until 1975. In 1947 the business was incorporated as Skinner's Nursery Ltd.

Frank Skinner's contributions to horticulture are extensive. He developed and introduced over 140 improved varieties and introduced many species and cultivars to Canadian prairie gardens. Many of these have gained wide acceptance by gardeners and are grown by nurseries in Canada, the United States and Europe. Frank Skinner's plant interests were broad, ranging from perennials such as lilies and chrysanthemums to trees such as larch and basswood. He



Aerial view of Skinner's Nursery formerly of Dropmore Post Office address now of Roblin Post Office address.

did, however, make his greatest number of introductions in lilies (31), lilacs (26), roses (21) and chrysanthemums (20). The record of Dr. Skinner's life work with plants is chronicled in his book "Horticultural Horizons: Plant Breeding and Introduction at Dropmore, Manitoba" which was published by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in 1967. Because of the absence of plant patent regulations in Canada, Dr. Skinner received very little financial compensation for his very significant contribution to the Canadian horticultural industry.



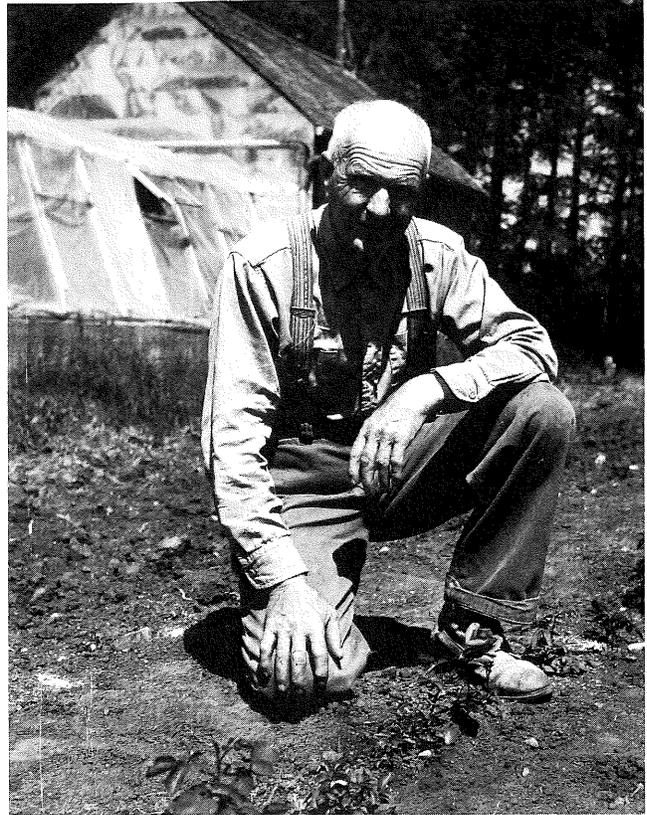
The Skinner home in 1947 showing the extensive experimental plantings.

While Dr. Skinner did not receive great financial rewards, he did receive recognition in the many awards, citations and honorary life memberships he was given. Some of his more prized awards were the Cory Cup presented by the Royal Horticultural Society "for the best new hardy plant of garden origin shown to the Society in the course of the year", for *Lilium* x 'Maxwill', an M.B.E. awarded to him by King George VI in 1943, an honorary LL.D. from the University of Manitoba in 1947, and an Order of the Buffalo Hunt, Manitoba's highest award presented to him in 1967. He was made an Honorary Life Member of many societies including the Western Canadian Society for Horticulture, the International Plant Propagators Society and the Agricultural Institute of Canada. Dr. Skinner died on August 27, 1967. He has since been named to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame and the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame.

In 1977 Hugh Skinner began a complete renovation of the nursery. The mail order service was closed in 1976 and Hugh has aimed at developing many superior hardy plants for a wholesale market. He has increased the nursery's capacity to produce rooted softwood cuttings and has pioneered the use of underground trickle irrigation in Manitoba. Hugh has at-



Frank Skinner receiving the Stevenson Memorial Medal in 1932.



Dr. Skinner in front of his research greenhouse circa 1960.



Frank Skinner with fellow prairie nurserymen about 1960. Back Row, Left to Right: Bert Porter (Parkside), George Krahn (Saskatoon), Ted Lord (Calgary), Walter Shelmerdine (Winnipeg). Front Row: Dr. F. L. Skinner (left) and Murray Orchard (Winnipeg).



Dr. Skinner receiving Order of the Buffalo Hunt from Premier Duff Roblin in 1967.



Mrs. Skinner and Hugh Skinner at unveiling of commemorative plaque at Skinner's Nursery in 1981.

tempted to preserve as much of the valuable plant collections as limited maintenance resources will allow. It is hoped that this nursery will continue and that Plant Breeders Rights legislation will lead to adequate financial returns to private plant breeders such as Dr. Skinner.

Skinner's Nursery Ltd. was a founding member of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association, later to become the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association, and an active role has been taken in the organization by Dr. Skinner, former nursery manager D. Burke McNeill and at the present by Dr. Skinner's son, Hugh.

Stevenson Pine Grove Nursery — Morden

Mr. A. P. Stevenson was one of the first pioneers to establish a fruit orchard and nursery in the prairie provinces. Mr. Stevenson, originally from Scotland, settled in the Dunston district approximately 6 miles northwest of Morden, Manitoba where he began the first plantings in 1876. He had earlier (1874-76) tested fruit in the vicinity of Winnipeg.

Mr. Stevenson first tested fruit trees from eastern Canada but soon concluded these were lacking in adaptation. He then began testing a number of Russian introductions and many of these proved to have sufficient hardiness. By 1921 he was growing and packing commercial quantities of apples; his crop for that year amounted to 300 barrels. Due to Mr. Stevenson's success the Federal Government founded the Morden Experimental farm in 1915 and concentrated its fruit research at that location. The founding of the Morden Farm was to have a salutary effect on prairie fruit growing and this institution was instrumental in introducing many new cultivars to the prairie region.

The nursery work of Mr. Stevenson was commercialized as the "Pine Grove Nursery". This was the



Mr. A. P. Stevenson, Manitoba's pioneer nurseryman and orchardist.



Picking fruit at Pine Grove Nursery about 1900.

first commercial nursery in Manitoba and the prairie region. The 1922 catalogue, the earliest on file at the Morden Research Station, lists 11 hardy apples for sale as follows: 2 yr. trees — .50, \$5.50 per doz.; 3 yr. trees — .75, \$8.00 per doz. This early catalogue also listed a wide selection of other fruits, trees and shrubs. One important fruit introduction was the 'Mammoth' plum selected by Mr. Stevenson. After Mr. Stevenson's death in the 1930's the nursery was operated by a son, Robert Stevenson until the 1950's.

To commemorate Mr. A. P. Stevenson's contribution to Manitoba, the Manitoba Horticultural Association created the Stevenson Memorial Board in 1934 and established a fund to support an award known as the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal. This medal has been presented on over 15 occasions to recognize significant individual contributions to prairie horticulture. Dr. Skinner was the first recipient in 1932 and in the years since the award has gone to individuals from all three prairie provinces.

Although Pine Grove Nursery was no longer an active nursery when the MNLA was formed in



The Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal given for "conspicuous achievement in the field of horticulture" in honor of Mr. A. P. Stevenson.

1957-58, nurserymen in Manitoba and throughout the prairie region owe a great deal to the pioneer efforts of the Stevensons of Morden. They pioneered in the growing of fruit and fruit trees and, more than anyone else, they demonstrated that fruit production in the prairie region was certainly a home garden possibility as well as a semi-commercial business.

Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery — Morris

Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery was founded in 1926 by the late M. J. Stevenson and his two sons Charles and Bronson. The three operated the nursery until 1943 when M. J. Stevenson passed away. Charles and Bronson continued until late December,



The yard of Mr. A. P. Stevenson shows well developed horticultural plantings in existence prior to 1922.

1969 when Charles passed away very suddenly. His widow, Lillian, and Bronson (with Bronson as general manager), continued until 1974 when Neil (Bronson's son) purchased Lillian's share. In January, 1975 Delmer (Bronson's eldest son) purchased his father's share, and they have continued to operate the business. Delmer and Barbara Stevenson have two young sons who are potential fourth generation nurserymen.

The story of Mr. M. J. Stevenson's founding of the nursery is perhaps typical of the establishment of several early nurseries. The following account is taken from the fiftieth anniversary catalogue put out by the nursery in 1976.

"In the year 1872 M. J. Stevenson was born in the village of Beachburg, Ontario in the upper Ontario River valley. He was the eldest son of Matthew Stevenson, a blacksmith in the village. The family emigrated to the Red River valley to a farm five miles north of Morris, Manitoba, in the Silver Plains district in April, 1883. He was eleven years old at the time and his love of trees was quite evident even then as he told his father that unless he could grow trees on the prairies he would not stay. His first plantings were trees brought from the bush along the Red River and planted on the old farm. Some of these elm and ash trees are still alive today. He was married to Mary Blackwell in December, 1895. She was the daughter



Digging white spruce at Stevensons' in 1947.

of Irish immigrants who came to the Holmfield district near Killarney, Manitoba. She was a school teacher and came to teach at the Silver Plains School. They lived with his parents until the spring of 1896 when they moved into a small house they had built on the banks of a small coulee on the present site of the nursery, about two miles from the old farm.

In the early years it was the custom to haul firewood, fence posts, etc., from the woods thirty to forty miles east of the Red River with a team and sleigh, representing a three day journey. The first conifers Mr. Stevenson planted at Morris were chopped out in the winter, brought home and planted in the spring. Between the years 1902 and 1906



Aerial view of Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery in 1964.



Measuring evergreens for a large shipment to Calgary in the early 1960's at Stevensons'.

several trips were made in the spring with team and wagon until a plantation of about two acres was planted. Some of these trees are sixty to seventy feet tall at the present time.

In February, 1926 he attended a short course on horticulture at the Manitoba Agricultural College, now the University of Manitoba. Many of the people attending the course realized his love and knowledge of trees and urged him to go into the nursery business. This was the turning point and shortly thereafter he with Charles and Bronson decided to start an evergreen nursery. The name chosen was Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery.

The first seed beds for evergreens were planted that spring. Starting an evergreen nursery proved time consuming as it took four to six years to produce most 12" evergreens from seed. Business was slow at first. It was thought by many people that evergreens would not grow on the prairies. The first spruce sold were peddled door to door on a four wheel trailer made from a Model T Ford car and pulled by a 1926 Chevrolet car. The trees were usually planted and guaranteed to grow. After a few years when it had been demonstrated that evergreens could be successfully grown on the prairies it was no longer necessary to peddle them."

M. J. Stevenson was a member of the Manitoba Horticultural Association for many years. He was



Mr. Bronson Stevenson balling and burlapping Colorado spruce at Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery.

also a Life Member of the Minnesota Horticultural Society until his death and he had several articles published in their year books. Charles and Bronson also were members of the Manitoba Horticultural Association for many years. They were awarded Honorary Life Memberships in the M.H.A. in 1970. The nursery has been a member of the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association since its beginning. Mr. C. S. Stevenson served on the executive in the early years and in recent years both Delmer and Neil have been active in the MNLA and Del served as president in 1978. The fiftieth year of continuous business for Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery was observed in 1976 and the nursery is now well towards its 60th year of operation. The Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery has made significant contributions in demonstrating evergreen production in Manitoba and the prairie region and in promoting the use of a wider range of evergreens for prairie landscapes.

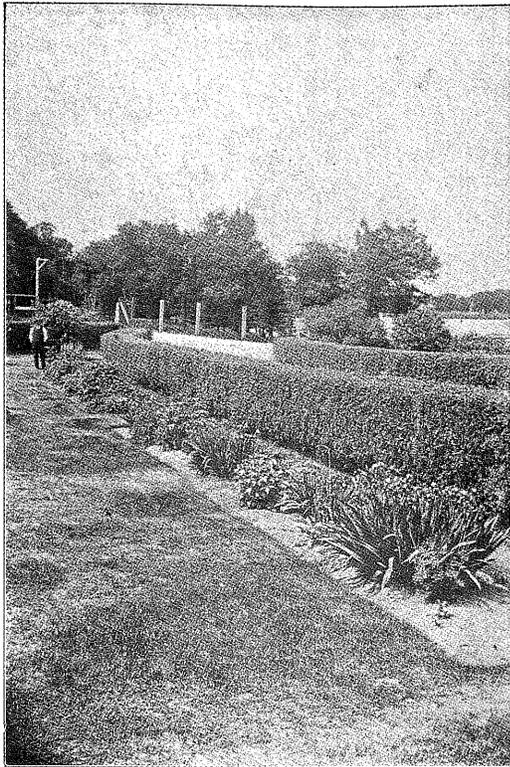
Wallace Nurseries Ltd. — Portage la Prairie

The Wallace Nurseries on Island Park rate 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 WALLACE NURSERIES LIMITED

ISLAND PARK, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MAN.

AND
1932 FALL



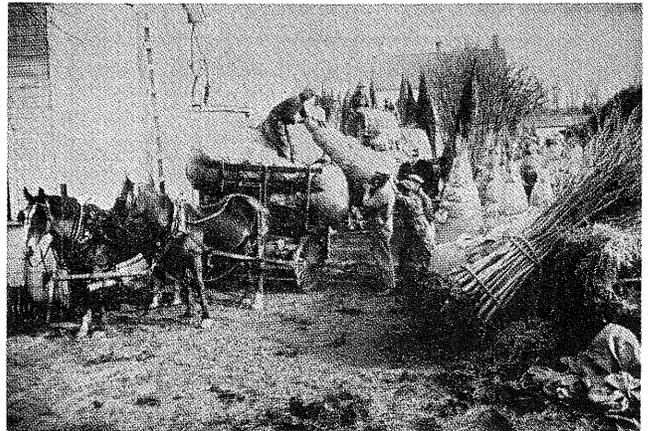
The above cut is a photograph of the entrance to The Wallace Nurseries, with its beautiful rows of hedges and perennial flowers, overlooking Crescent Lake. The above is a sample of what can be done by using our shrubs and flowers.

Entrance to Wallace Nurseries on Crescent Lake, Portage la Prairie.

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. This



Delivering trees from Wallace Nurseries Island Park. These three bales weigh over a ton.



Daily shipment from Wallace Nurseries in the spring of 1934.

strain of silver maple was recognized as a hardy northern adapted strain.

Mr. W. Linden took over the Wallace Nurseries in the fall of 1968 and has carried on the business with emphasis on landscape work and garden centre sales.

Wallace Nurseries 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.

CHAPTER 3

Horticultural Institutions in Manitoba

Brandon and Morden Research Stations

Two Research Stations at Brandon and Morden, Manitoba have made direct significant contributions to the nursery industry of this province. Both stations are a part of the Federal government's Agriculture Canada, Research Branch. Originally these stations were known as Experimental Farms. They were set up by an act of Parliament in 1887 and started with the Central Experimental Farm and four branch farms, including Brandon, in 1888. Prairie farms at this time were largely on a subsistence level and the quality of life left much to be desired. In the horticultural field, shelter for the new farmsteads and fruit and vegetables for better diets were urgently needed.

The Brandon Research Station

One of the first projects undertaken by Dr. S. A. Bedford, Superintendent at the new Experimental Farm at Brandon, was to plant 650 native maples on what is now Bedford Drive. In 1888 he seeded $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of native ash, basswood and maple but these were destroyed by frost in the spring of 1889. By 1891 trees and shrubs of all kinds from eastern Canada, Iowa, Nebraska, northern Ontario, Russia, Siberia, and north eastern Asia had been planted to a total of 111,316 plants. This included several hundred fruit trees and bushes.

Large numbers of these soon died but others became the basis from which many millions of shelterbelts, ornamental trees and shrubs were propagated. In 1901, ten acres of maples and elms were grown for the newly-formed Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior and in 1903 this had increased to 1,500,000 trees. More trees were grown in 1904 but these were distributed by the Forest Nursery Station at Indian Head, Saskatchewan.

The propagation and distribution of ornamental trees, shrubs, fruit trees and bushes has usually been by the nursery trade. The Experimental Farm had a strong effect by demonstrating and recommending suitable species and cultivars. A further effect on the

trade was that Henry Patmore, founder of one of the first prairie nurseries and one that still exists, worked with trees at the Experimental Farm before starting his business.

For about 20 years after the Farm was established several hundred packages of shelterbelt, ornamental and fruit seeds were distributed each year. Reports on the performance of these seeds led to investigation of better methods of propagation. Many hedges were planted for shelter purposes, both trimmed and untrimmed, and the experience helped to establish the value of caragana, maple, poplar and willow for field and farmstead shelter.

Many fruit trees were imported from eastern Canada and by 1981 a total of 2,954 fruit trees and bushes had been planted at the Farm. These importations were strongly influenced by Dr. Bedford's friend A. P. Stevenson of Morden and by the Director of Experimental Farms, William Saunders of Ottawa. Even at this time it was noted that "the seedlings raised at Ottawa from seed procured in Russia are very promising".

By 1894 none of the 300 varieties of apples tested had been found hardy. Likewise, there were no plums except the native species and no cherries except native sandcherries. On the other hand there were currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and some strawberries. Several strains of Siberian crab had come safely through the winter but fruits were too small for use. By 1902 seven sandcherries and four native plums had been named. All of these early introductions have been displaced by later developments.

Saunders' first crosses between Siberian crab and larger apples began to arrive in Brandon in 1898 and continued for a few years. Most of these were destroyed by fire-blight in 1901. Little further fruit work was done at Brandon but a crabapple was named 'Bedford' in 1916 and it is still available. It has been recommended, along with 'Columbia', as a suitable parent for seedling apple rootstocks.

After the first two decades of horticultural work at Brandon it was recognized that the climate at

Brandon was more severe than at Morden where A. P. Stevenson was having better success with apples. This led to the establishment of the Experimental Farm at Morden in 1915. From this point, with the exception of two periods, most horticultural work was left to the new Farm at Morden. During the dry depression years of the 1930's when agriculture again descended to the subsistence level, M. J. Tinline of Brandon distributed hundreds of rhubarb roots and thousands of packets of flower and vegetable seeds. A further exception was from 1946 to 1970 when H. Marshall, a transplant from Morden, often in cooperation with Morden, developed and introduced five vegetables, two willows, two roses and 17 herbaceous perennial flowers. Marshall and his work were transferred to Morden in 1970 but the work that he began at Brandon on the Parkland rose series ('Assiniboine', 'Cuthbert Grant'), hardy monardas and coral bells will remain as a tribute to the value of the Brandon Station to Manitoba nurseries.

The Morden Research Station

The Experimental Station at Morden started in 1915 with the purchase of 300 acres east of Morden and only a few miles from the home of A. P. Stevenson, pioneer fruit grower, nurseryman and the first commercial apple orchardist on the Canadian prairies. More land was purchased in 1929 and small parcels more recently so that the Research Station now occupies 640 acres less the railway right of way for one mile.



Dr. W. R. Leslie, Director, Morden Research Station, 1921-1956.

At the outset the emphasis was 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 more favorable climate than elsewhere on the prairies. While horticulture was the main concern for many years, other crops and animal husbandry were important parts of the operation from the beginning. Animal research ended in 1960 with the dispersal of the Ayrshire herd. While horticulture is still an important part of the work at Morden it has been de-emphasized since 1956 in favor of work with special crops, some of which were horticultural until they reached field scale.

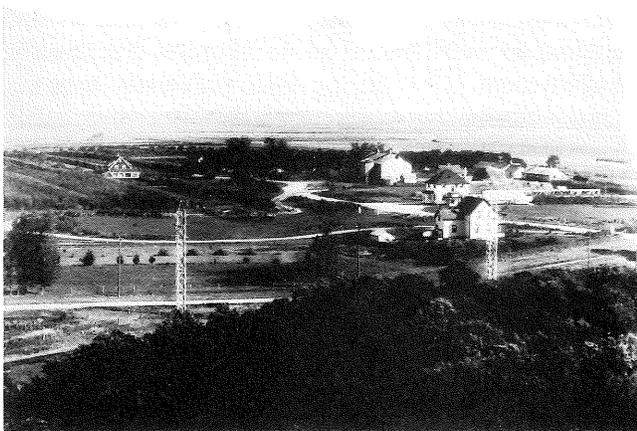
The history of horticultural work, at Morden and throughout the prairie region, was strongly influenced by W. R. Leslie who was superintendent from 1921 until 1956, 35 years beginning six years after the founding of the Station. His knowledge of northern horticulture and enthusiasm for its development had a profound effect on horticulture work at Morden. The gardeners, Wm. Godfrey (1924-46) and H. F. Harp (1933-69), largely determined the development of the grounds, flower beds, lawns and hedge areas. A substantial part of the work with fruit was developed by W. L. Kerr (1931-42) and C. R. Ure



Dr. W. A. Cumming, Researcher, Morden Research Station, 1955-1976.



An early view from the 1920's of the Main Office at the Morden Research Station.



A later view of the grounds and orchards at the Morden Research Station.

(1943-62). The arboretum, begun by Leslie and Godfrey as a collection of hardy trees and shrubs, was reorganized by W. A. Cumming (1955-76). A great many other technical and support staff contributed to nursery development through the years. Both Drs. Ure and Cumming were involved in the formation of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association and Dr. Cumming was a speaker at many of the annual conferences. Dr. H. H. Marshall (1970-81) developed several new ornamentals as did Dr. W. G. Ronald (1968-82). Dr. D. E. Vanstone (1977-82) made contributions in nursery production and management procedures. Directors of the Morden Station have served as Ex-officio members of the MNA and MNLA boards since 1958.

Fruit

Fruit breeding started in 1916 with the planting of 25,000 apple seedlings from W. T. Macoun at Ottawa. Further large numbers of apples, plums and other fruits were planted in 1917, 1918 and succeeding years. Horticultural crops occupied 240 acres in

1929 and the first apple cultivar Mantet was introduced. Some controlled crosses in fruit were produced in 1922 and expanded under W. L. Kerr and C. R. Ure. The climax was probably the establishment of the Prairie Fruit Breeding Cooperative (PFBC) project in 1946. Many thousands of apple seedlings were provided for selection at several institutions across the prairies. Just over 50 selections from this material were entered in the final evaluation of the program. A total of 47 new fruit cultivars have been introduced consisting of 29 apples and crabapples, 16 plums, cherries and apricots and 2 raspberries. The most recent apple introductions were 3 cultivars developed through the PFBC initiated some 30 years earlier.

Ornamentals

The Research Station at Morden has become a show place with its broad lawns, flower borders, demonstration hedges, and specimen trees. In the 30 hectare arboretum many kinds of trees and shrubs have been tested for winter hardiness, disease tolerance, longevity and their uses in modern landscaping. The arboretum is arranged in botanical groups which facilitates study by staff, visiting scientists or gardeners. Large numbers of people visit the Station in the growing season. The Morden Station has hosted several MNLA field days, the national CNTA in 1964, Prairie Association of Nurserymen summer tours and Western Nursery Growers' Group tours.

Long years of work and numerous disappointments have gone into producing these results. When new trees and shrubs were first introduced they were planted in the order in which they were received. Losses due to winter killing and other problems were so severe that a natural arrangement would have been impossible. Since this is not a satisfactory arrangement for a permanent collection much more time had to be spent on repropagating and rearranging those



Aerial view of the developed plantings at the Morden Research Station in mid 1970's.



A view of the outstanding hedge collection at the Morden Station.

that were of interest. It was desirable at the same time to use the better types in landscaping the grounds as a public demonstration of their value. In recent years a street tree project has sought suitable trees to broaden the base of available street trees and to replace the American elm which is being lost to Dutch Elm Disease.

Breeding and selection has produced over 50 new cultivars in more than 15 genera of trees and shrubs and over 50 in 6 genera of herbaceous perennials. Many of these have not been successful over a long term but a number remain highly popular on the Canadian prairie and adjacent U.S.A. More than 20 cultivars on Manitoba's recommended list of woody ornamentals and a similar number of recommended perennials were developed at the Morden Research Station. The 'Almey' rosybloom crab named as Canada's centennial tree was developed at Morden. The Morden lythrum series is internationally known. In addition to breeding new cultivars, the Research Station has been involved in acquisition and testing of numerous plants from other regions of the world. For example, since 1963 this list of accessions numbers over 4000. Many of these accessions have found a place in the nursery industry.

The change in ornamentals and in fruit has been substantial since the settlement of the province. Most towns, cities and farmsteads are now treed and have an attractive setting for a home. The ragweed hedges are mostly gone. Production of fruit and ornamental plants by nurseries is a multi-million dollar enterprise. Strawberries and apples are being produced in pick-your-own plantations and this might be extended to a few other fruits. It is true that horticulture is not a large business by comparison with grain growing or animal husbandry, however, it does bring a large measure of satisfaction to millions of Canadians. Remember that in ornamental horticulture the final product is seldom harvested and sold but is

available for the enjoyment of all with eyes and noses.

It is difficult to measure the full impact of the founding and work of such institutions as the Brandon and Morden Research Stations. Suffice it to say that horticultural research, in the short space of less than 100 years, has produced high quality apples which bear only a slight relationship to the hardy Siberian crabapple foreparent. Secondly, the range of suitable plant material has been vastly extended through acquisitions from foreign lands and by a program of breeding and selection. Thirdly, procedures have been developed for propagation and culture of many of the plants unique to the prairie region.

Another factor which is difficult to measure was the effect of the Morden Station on past and present horticulturists and nurserymen. Numerous horticulturists were to come to Morden for summer employment often during their university training. This includes men such as W. A. Cumming, H. H. Marshall, W. H. Cram, Stan Westaway and the recent Morden staff. Other horticulturists, such as Les Kerr, spent part of their career at Morden and then moved on to other assignments. Several nurserymen spent time training at Morden including John Wallace, Norman Mountain, Andy Young and Gerald Aubin, just to name a few. All of the above factors have greatly benefited the nursery industry and general public.

Fruit Introductions — Morden Research Station

Apples		Applecrabs	
Mantet	1929	Toba	1936
Manton		Kerr	1952
Mortof			
Manan	1930	Apricots	
Moris		Scout	1937
Spangelo		M-604	1946
Godfrey	1931	Westcot	1982
Manitoba		Cherries	
Manred		Coronation	1937
Watts	1931	Drilea	1938
Manitoba Spy			
Stevenson		Cherry plums	
Breakey	1935	Mansan	1935
Russett		Dura	1942
Manbee	1936	Mordena	1943
Ostem		Manor	1945
Redant		Pear	
Mount	1937	Ure	1978
Goodland	1955		
Miami	1959	Plums	
Carroll	1961	Mordel	1930
Collet		Mina	1934
Garland		Bounty	1936
Luke		Norther	1943
Norland	1979	Raspberries	
Parkland		Boyne	1960
Westland		Killamey	1961

Sandcherries	
Manmoor	1929
Mando	1931

**Ornamental Introductions —
Morden Research Station**

American cranberrybush		Fathers of Confederation	
Manito	1947	series:	
American elm		Archibald	1967
Morden	1939	Brown	
Flowering plum		Cartier	
Muckle	1952	Galt	
Forsythia		Howe	
Northern Gold	1979	Macdonald	
Autumn asters		McGee	
Sunup	1951	Tilley	
Crimson	1953	Tupper	
Lavender		Whelan	
Purple		Morden Delight	1974
Cupid	1959	Morden Eldorado	1975
Fay		Morden Everest	
Marine	1969	Morden Fiesta	1976
Velvet		Morden Gaiety	1979
		Morden Garnet	
Black ash		Gladiolus	
Fallgold	1975	Maid	1935
Boxelder maple		Nasturtium	1939
Baron	1982	Hackberry	
Caraganas		Delta	1977
Tidy	1944	Hawthorns	
Walker	1975	Toba	1949
Colorado spruce		Snowbird	1967
Morden Blue	1944	Honeysuckle	
Coral bells		Miniglobe	1981
Northern Fire	1979	Japanese elm	
Creeping juniper		Jacan	1977
Prince of Wales	1967	Lilacs	
European red elder		Royalty	1936
Redman	1929	Coral	
Lindens		Freedom	
Morden	1968	Nocturne	
Wascana	1982	Swanee	
Flowering almonds		Redwine	
Prairie	1947	Beacon	1937
Manitoba	1954	Dawn	
Morden		Miss Canada	1967
		Minuet	1972
Garden chrysanthemums		Lythrums	
Morden Gold	1953	Morden Pink	1937
Morden Skyline		Morden Gleam	1953
Morden Bronze	1959	Morden Rose	
Morden Carmine		Manchurian ash	
Morden Chestnut		Mancana	1982
Morden Primrose		Mockoranges	
Morden Ruby		Silvia	1947
Morden Tan		Audrey	1962
Morden Albatross	1961	Marjorie	
Morden Amber		Monarda	
Morden Aurora		Miniota	1970
Morden Bonfire	1962	Physotegia	
Morden Blanche		Morden Beauty	1975
Morden Brightness		Pincherry	
Morden Cameo	1964	Stockton	1929
Morden Canary			
Morden Candy			

Poplar		Rosy bloom crabapples	
Tower	1979	Almey	1945
Roses		Sundog	1947
Prairie Sailor	1946	Garry	1962
Prairie Wren		Selkirk	
Prairie Youth		Kelsey	1969
Prairie Charm	1959	Silver maple	
Prairie Dawn		Northline	1982
Prairie Maid		Weigela	
Metis	1967	Centennial	1967
Adelaide Hoodless	1972	White ash	
Morden Amorette	1977	Autumn Blaze	1982
Morden Ruby		Willow	
Morden Cardinette	1980	Prairie Cascade	1981
Morden Centennial			

University of Manitoba

The nursery industry has enjoyed numerous contacts with the University of Manitoba, particularly with the former Horticulture and Forestry Department and more recently with the Department of Plant Science. In its role of education, research and extension, the university has interfaced with numerous students, nurserymen and the general public. Most of the horticulture staff in Manitoba have received part



Prof. John Walker who served in extension, research administration and teaching for Manitoba and Federal governments and university.

or all of their training in Manitoba; several students are now employed in the industry. Department staff have made numerous presentations to nursery meetings and have assisted in field days and joint research.

Three individuals in particular have made important recent contributions. Prof. John Walker's work in propagation and plant materials was of assistance to growers. Several of his introductions have become important, especially the 'Coronation Triumph' potentilla. Prof. A. C. Ferguson (1957-1978) contributed to the establishment of the sod industry in Manitoba and his work on turf research was broad-based and included management, cultivar testing and diseases. He contributed many reports and assisted in field days and annual meetings. Prof. L. Lenz joined the Department in 1964 and has worked with the industry to develop a woody test plant arboretum on campus. His other interests have included propagation and breeding work with potentilla.

The nursery industry has sought to expand the educational opportunities for horticulture in Manitoba. It has worked with the University to develop the Horticultural Diploma option. This program and other joint programs indicate a continuing beneficial relationship of the University to the landscape industry.

Manitoba Department of Agriculture

The most significant development of horticulture from the Department's point of view was the appointment of a Provincial Horticulturist in 1921. In the years from 1921 to 1982 six people have held this position as follows:

1921-1929	J. R. Almey
1929-1937	John Walker
1939-1943	C. R. Ure
1946-1947	M. R. Bevan
1949-1976	F. J. Weir
1976-	T. A. Sandercock

The role of the Provincial Horticulturist in the early years was divided among many fields — Horticultural Society activities and promotion, vegetable production, and all of horticulture in its broadest sense. The role of the Provincial Horticulturist as described in Professor Ellis' book included "activities of the Manitoba Horticultural Association and affiliated societies, which involved the services of the current extension specialist to a greater or lesser degree included the holding of annual fairs and exhibitions; school grounds beautification, home grounds improvement and garden competitions; field days, general and study group meetings; essay competitions; town beautification, boulevard plantings and establishment of parks; and the packaging, wrap-

ping and mailing of bulbs, perennials, shrubs and tree seedlings which were, for a time, given as premiums to paid up members until individual societies, which continued the activity, made arrangements with local nurserymen for distribution of the plant premiums".

In 1927 the Plant Pests and Diseases Act required that all plant nurseries in the Province be inspected and registered. This was the responsibility of the Provincial Horticulturist. J. R. Almey in 1924 established fruit demonstration plantings at Gilbert Plains, Deloraine, Rapid City, Foxwarren, Pinawa, Poplarfield and Treesbank. Horticultural programs and services up to 1964 were handled through the Extension Service of M.D.A. After that point these programs and services were under the jurisdiction of the Soils and Crops Branch.

Enlargement of the horticulture staff of Manitoba Department of Agriculture in the 1950's enabled the Provincial Horticulturist, F. J. Weir, to devote more time in the ornamental horticulture area and more assistance to individual nurseries as well as the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association. Mr. Weir was instrumental in the formation of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association which was the forerunner to the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association



Mr. F. J. Weir, Provincial Horticulturist, 1949-1976.

and acted as its first secretary-treasurer. As Provincial Horticulturist, Mr. Weir helped organize and promote the annual meetings of the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association.

Over the past decade Manitoba Agriculture departmental policy has placed more emphasis on commercial horticulture. This has enabled staff to become more actively involved with commercial

nursery and sod growers. Assistance in program planning, field days, preparation of recommended variety lists, demonstration projects, and overall nursery promotion are areas of involvement in the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association by Manitoba Agriculture staff. This assistance will no doubt be carried on in the future.

CHAPTER 4

Formation of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association (1957)

The First 5 Years — 1958-1962

In the middle 1950's, a number of men engaged in the nursery industry in 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 and an interim executive committee of Walter Shelmerdine, Murray Orchard, Gerald Aubin and Bro. Laflamme was charged with preparing a slate of officers and a constitution. This formative meeting holds such an important place in the history of the nursery industry in Manitoba that it is well to reproduce the agenda, minutes of the discussion and a supportative talk given by Dr. C. R. Ure who was then head of the Fruit program at the Morden Farm.

AGENDA

MEETING OF MANITOBA NURSERYMEN

Library, Experimental Farm, Morden, Manitoba

Friday, November 8th, 1957

Chairman — Fred J. Weir

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks:
Dr. C. C. Strachan, Supt., Experimental Farm, Morden.
2. Outline of Activities in Other Provinces:
F. J. Weir, Provincial Horticulturist, Winnipeg, Man.

3. Some Advantages of a Nurseryman's Organization:
C. R. Ure, Horticulturist, Experimental Farm, Morden.
4. Discussion Period:
Leader of discussion — Dr. C. C. Strachan.
5. Decision on Whether to Organize:
6. Election of an Interim Executive:
7. Appoint Committee to Draft a Constitution:
8. Other Business:

MINUTES AT MEETING OF THE MANITOBA NURSERYMEN

Held: Library, Canada
Experimental Farm,
Morden, Manitoba

On: November 8th, 1957

At: 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. F. J. Weir acting as chairman

Present:

Mr. G. J. Aubin	Carman	Mr. S. Juskow	Winnipeg
Mr. C. S. Stevenson	Morris	Mrs. S. Juskow	Winnipeg
Mr. Ed. Robinson	Wawanesa	Mr. W. Shelmerdine	Charleswood
Mrs. Ed. Robinson	Wawanesa	Mr. Van Dungen	St. Vital
Mr. H. M. Orchard	Winnipeg	Mr. Wenham	St. Vital
Bro. Laflamme	Otterburne	Mr. Reg Poole	Brandon
Bro. Lamaire	Otterburne	Mr. F. J. Weir	Winnipeg
Mr. H. H. Marshall	Brandon	Provincial Horticulturist	
	Canada Experimental Farm		

and the following members of the Morden Experimental Farm:

Dr. C. C. Strachan	Dr. C. Walkof	Mr. C. R. Ure
Mr. W. A. Cumming		Mr. H. F. Harp

Mr. W. A. Cumming was summarily appointed as recording secretary for the meeting by the Chairman.

Mr. Weir introduced those present and read letters from Dr. F. L. Skinner and Mr. R. H. Patmore, regretting their inability to attend the meeting and

stating that they were in sympathy with an attempt to organize the Manitoba Nurserymen.

The Chairman then called on Dr. C. C. Strachan, Superintendent of the Morden Experimental Farm. Dr. Strachan extended a hearty welcome to the nurserymen on behalf of himself and his staff. He briefly stressed the importance of the work in ornamentals and fruits in progress at the farm. The Morden Farm is considered by the Experimental Farms Division to be their main Horticultural Research Institute for the Prairies. Nurserymen were invited to take full advantage of the work being carried on. He stressed the value of a nurserymen's organization from the standpoint of workers at the Farm. It could serve as a medium to bring problems which required research to the attention of those working in the field. It would also make the orderly introduction of new material much easier and more effective. Nurserymen could be advised through their secretary of the intention to name certain new plant material well in advance so that they would have the opportunity if they so desired to propagate such material.

Dr. Strachan stressed the following points which he thought should accrue from the formation of a Nurserymen's Association.

- (1) Service to the nurserymen themselves and to the general public.
- (2) Discussion of common problems and the value of a united front in presenting these problems to governments and other authority.
- (3) An association brings you face to face with others in the business and makes for better understanding.
- (4) Affords a much better opportunity of acquainting the consuming public with the industry and of stressing the importance of stock being grown in the locality in which it is to be used.
- (5) Prices and fair trade practices can be adopted and standardized.

In summing up his remarks, Dr. Strachan forecast an accelerated opportunity for nurserymen basing his contention on improved living conditions, more new homes and more leisure time for the average citizen.

In conclusion he wished the nurserymen every success in their undertaking.

The Chairman reviewed the activities of other associations. Constitutions of the Canadian Nurserymen's Association and the Alberta Nurseryman's Association were on hand. As far as is known, Saskatchewan is working on the formation of an organization and held their preliminary meeting in August at the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station. Mr. Weir read letters he had received from Mr. E. J. Lord, Secretary of the Alberta Association, and from Mr.

Stan Sheard, Saskatchewan's Provincial Horticulturist, on the status of their respective associations.

Mr. Weir then called on Mr. C. R. Ure, Horticulturist in charge, Fruit Crops, Morden Experimental Farm, to address the gathering. His topic was "A Possible Advantage to be gained from the formation of a Nurserymen's Association". Mr. Ure's talk was both interesting and thought provoking. A copy of the text of his address is attached hereto.

The Chairman called upon Mr. H. H. Marshall, Head Gardener, Brandon Experimental Farm, who briefly outlined the horticultural work being carried on there. Special mention was made of his work with heuchera and chrysanthemums.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion with Dr. Strachan acting as Discussion Leader.

Mr. Aubin thought that one of the big jobs was to find ways and means of combatting misleading advertising. Mr. Harp thought that counter-advertising was the answer. It was the opinion of several of those present that this could only be accomplished through organized effort. Mr. Shelmerdine voiced the opinion that the important need at the moment was to decide whether or not to organize. On a show of hands it was unanimously decided to settle this question before any further discussion took place.

Dr. Strachan turned the meeting back to Chairman Weir.

Moved by Mr. Murray Orchard

Seconded by Mr. Walter Shelmerdine

"That an organization of Manitoba Nurserymen be formed".

Carried Unanimously

The meeting then proceeded to elect an interim executive. It was decided by a show of hands that three men should constitute this committee.

Mr. W. Shelmerdine nominated Murray Orchard and Gerald Aubin.

Mr. C. Stevenson nominated Walter Shelmerdine.

Mr. W. Shelmerdine nominated Bro. Laflamme.

No further nominations were received. After a little discussion it was decided to enlarge the committee to four members and the Chairman declared the four men named above as constituting the Interim Committee.

This committee was charged with:

- (1) Preparing a suggested state of officers.
- (2) Drafting a constitution.

Mr. Weir volunteered the services of his office for stenographic and other assistance during the formation of the association.

It was suggested that preliminary organization work be completed in time to hold a general meeting at the time of the Manitoba Horticultural Association annual meeting in February.

After some discussion it was moved by Mr. Van Dungen and seconded by Mr. Aubin that the suggested annual fee be \$25.00 due January 1st and payable on or before May 15th of the current year.

Carried

At the request of the meeting, Mr. Weir read the constitution of the Alberta Nurserymen's Association. It was pointed out that their constitution was essentially the same as that of the Canadian Nurserymen's Association.

Moved by Mr. Poole

Seconded by Mr. Robinson

"That the name of the new association be "The Manitoba Nurserymen's Association".

Carried

The Interim Executive agreed to meet in the Legislative Buildings, Winnipeg, at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 14th.

The meeting was turned back to Dr. Strachan as Discussion Leader.

Considerable discussion took place on the matter of guarantees for nursery stock. From the experience of those present it would appear that the only guarantee that was feasible was to guarantee the stock at point of delivery as to its good condition, quality, well packed and true to name. Mr. Weir announced that special tags for shipping nursery stock to B.C. were available from his office. He also told the meeting that officers of the Dominion Government Plant Protection Division were cooperating with the Provincial Department in making nursery inspections under the Manitoba Plant Pests Act. In connection with this Act, Bacterial Ring Rot of Potatoes is to be removed from the list of plant diseases applying to nurseries.

A discussion on the disposal of excess stock ensued and the general concensus of opinion was that an Association could assist members in realizing sales for such stock.

Mr. Weir moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Strachan and the members of his staff. Mr. Aubin moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Weir for his interest and efforts on behalf of Manitoba Nurserymen. Both motions were suitably and enthusiastically endorsed by hearty handclaps.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

W. A. Cumming,
Recording Secretary for the
meeting.

POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES TO BE GAINED FROM THE FORMATION OF A NURSERYMAN'S ASSOCIATION

Certain advantages are made possible when indi-

viduals or businesses organize or band together for the good of their particular industry. If individual selfish motives are the sole objective, then it is better that no organization be attempted for its chances of success are endangered from the start. There are at least four or five rather distinct and broad types of advantages. These will be dealt with briefly and I am sure everyone here could add others.

1. It provides a medium for nurserymen to get together to discuss ways and means to further their industry and to deal with its problems. There is much value in simply being able to come together; fears and suspicions are quickly erased, problems have a habit of appearing less formidable, and an industry that can speak with a united voice is more likely to be heard and achieve success.

It is through the sharing of knowledge that an industry advances. As the industry as a whole advances so is there a greater opportunity for its individual members to go forward. There are many ways by which knowledge can be shared and used to further the nursery business. To mention only a few, one might list convention speakers, round-table discussions, panels, bull sessions, films and pictures, articles in trade journals or association publications, books and visits to research institutes, or to fellow nurserymen in other parts of the country.

We wish to emphasize again that when organized you are able to speak as one voice when the occasion requires. That occasion may be some desired legislation; a demand for some piece of research work to be done; publicity against undesirable trade practices; or even against the wrong type of publicity. Your chances of being heard are certainly greater than several small voices crying in the forest, or among the bushes.

2. Projects

As an association there are many projects or programs that could be undertaken for the benefit of the nursery industry as a whole and for its individual members in particular. Here are a few that come to mind.

A. Short courses, or refresher courses, for the purpose of learning the latest in propagation techniques, latest in sales methods; possible new outlets; ways and means of increasing business; use of pictures in promotion; or to keep up to date on newer varieties. For example, the Canadian Nurserymen's Association hold an annual short course, which was held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario in August of this year.

B. Field days and demonstrations at meetings are another possibility. In August of this year such a day was held at the Forest Nursery Station,

Sutherland, Saskatchewan. It proved to be very profitable to those present, and was a fine demonstration on nursery practices followed at that station. Still another possibility would be to hold a joint day once a year with nurserymen from the three prairie provinces. This would be easier to accomplish if each of the three provinces were organized, as Alberta and Saskatchewan presently are. At regular meetings, qualified speakers might be brought in to present the latest on the business end of the Industry or on the production end. Although most Association meetings would be strictly business, the occasional one could be social in nature, probably including tours.

- C. Development and adoption of "Trade Practice Rules" might be undertaken. The American Association of Nurserymen have adopted such rules and the Canadian Nurserymen's Association are considering doing likewise. At least a Manitoba Association would be in a better position to deal with any unethical business practices and would feel freer to do so as an Association rather than would individuals.
 - D. Encourage additional sales outlets. In time an Association might move in the same direction as the A.A.N. and actively encourage formation of garden centers, as additional sales outlets. Quite conceivably other promotional schemes could be developed to increase sales.
 - E. Publicity: General publicity might be placed before the public extolling the advantages of local grown, hardy varieties of ornamentals and fruits. Sell your public on the advantages of well-grown, local stock of proven adaptability, which in many instances could be picked up at the nursery and planted shortly afterwards with greater chance of survival. Publicity is one tool you can use to great advantage. Another possibility is that an Association might publish a bulletin two, three or more times a year to keep the membership informed on Association activities and recent developments. This might include pertinent information on insect or disease control, weed control by chemicals, new varieties introduced, or any suggestions on improved methods of culture or propagation. The Minnesota Fruit Growers Association use this technique to splendid advantage.
3. Governments and Research Institutes prefer to work with organized groups rather than individuals, when it comes to introducing and distributing new varieties of fruit or ornamental plants. Certainly, we at the Morden Farm would like to be able to notify an Association through its secretary or President when a

new variety is ready to be introduced to the public, provide a description and cultural procedure, plans for introduction and offer to supply propagation wood. This would be done one or two years in advance of formal introduction to the public and would enable any interested nurseryman to build up a stock. Upon receipt of such notification, the secretary would advise the membership and they in turn would write for propagation material if interested.

We would prefer also to see our own Manitoba or Canadian Nurseries take locally introduced varieties, propagate them, promote sales to the public rather than have their counterparts across the border in the United States do it. This means, of course, that local nurseries will have to be on their toes to pick up new things of promise and later follow up with wide publicity.

4. A Nurseryman's Association may discuss and have a general understanding on prices to be asked for various kinds and grades of nursery stock, but it is suggested that price and price setting should not be the principal aim of such an Association. Occasionally this concept creeps into an organization and where it becomes the dominating feature only leads to failure.

5. Bright future for nursery business:

Generally the future of the nursery business is bright and should encourage very definite plans to be made and thereby benefit more fully from that prospect. The following factors are a few which contribute to a brighter prospect.

- a. The population of Canada and the prairies is increasing rapidly.
- b. New homes are being built at a rate never before experienced.
- c. Provincial and Federal Governments are building vast new networks of highway. Many stretches are being and many more should be, beautified with trees and shrubs.
- d. Comparatively new market outlets are being found in industrial landscaping.
- e. Canada and the prairies are gradually coming of age. The older a country becomes the greater its appreciation of beauty. During the early settlement period of a new country, energies are largely spent on developing its resources, and making a living. Gradually the desire for pleasanter surroundings develops.
- f. In cities and towns at least, incomes are becoming higher; work hours per week or day are growing shorter; nearly everyone has more leisure time; and more and more people are learning that working with living plants is a healthful tonic and a fascinating hobby.

All the foregoing conditions provide potential

new outlets for sales. You as nurserymen have to find ways and means of developing them. The most effective way to serve the public is the surest way to expand the total volume of sales. It becomes the duty of everyone to seek additional ideas to improve the industry. Those who know some better way of producing merchandise or doing business should pass it along to others, and then they, too, are able to do a better job. The more widely such knowledge is disseminated the more good it will do.

C. R. Ure

October 31, 1957.

In reading the above accounts 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)	Directors 3 years
H. M. Orchard (V.P.)	
G. Aubin	Directors 2 years
Bro. T. Laflamme	
D. B. McNeill	Directors 1 year
C. S. Stevenson	
F. J. Weir	Secretary-Treasurer

The newly-elected president and vice-president were destined to play a key role in the Association in the early years. Mr. Walter Shelmerdine, owner of a Winnipeg nursery and garden centre, was an effective organizer and a strong proponent of the MNA. Mr. Murray Orchard, also a Winnipeg area nurseryman, came from a well known Miami, Manitoba family with strong nursery interests. Mr. Fred Weir served as the volunteer secretary-treasurer during 1958 and 1959 and enabled the Association to operate on the small budget available. Without this support the Association would not have survived without higher dues nor would it have had the well written newsletters that Mr. Weir sent out from the Association Office.

The original 13 members of the MNA came from all regions of the province and represented a large

percentage of the nursery industry in Manitoba. These charter members, of which 7 have maintained continuous membership from 1957 to 1982, were a stable influence in the association.

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
 Stevensons' Nurseries — Morris
 Van Dungen Nurseries — St. Vital
 Wallace Nurseries — Portage la Prairie
 Wenham Nurseries — St. Vital

The charter membership remained intact during the first 5 years with several additions. New members included Portage Plains Nursery (1959), Hoods Nursery and Rosewood Nursery (1961), and Kackenhoff Nurseries (1962). An associate membership category was formed in 1961 with a fee of \$15.00 with an additional \$10.00 entrance fee. Four companies, Brett-Young Seeds, T & T Seeds, Wallingford Press and Gardeners Sales joined as Associate Members in 1962.

As indicated earlier, the financial capability of the MNA was small during the 1958-62 period. Revenue from the fee schedule rose from \$325 (1958) to \$485 (1962). This revenue covered the stationery, mailing and miscellaneous costs of the Association. As long as a volunteer served as secretary-treasurer the finances were sufficient but with the introduction of a modestly paid part-time secretary-treasurer at an honorarium of \$200 per year the finances soon were strained, particularly at certain times of the year. This led to an additional assessment of \$10 per membership in 1961 which provided an additional \$160 to meet the year's commitments. One particularly large commitment was to the regional Prairie Association of Nurserymen (P.A.N.); dues totalling \$180.00 were paid in 1962. The records for those early years showed a closing balance of 344.94 (1959), 199.80 (1960), 250.61 (1961) and 30.74 (1962). Funds reached a low point in 1962 which called for drastic action; either expanded membership or higher dues were needed to service the basic financial requirements.

Several changes evolved in the MNA executive during the first five years. Mr. Fred Weir continued as a volunteer secretary-treasurer until the end of

1959 but at that time pressures from other commitments led to his suggesting of Mr. F. C. W. Rice as an alternative. Mr. Rice took up his duties Jan., 1960 and remained until Dec., 1961 at a salary of \$200 per year. Mr. Donald C. Denison replaced Mr. Rice and was to remain until July, 1963.

The tragic loss of a director, Mr. Gerald Aubin, in 1958 was softened by the fact that his son Lawrence Aubin filled in his executive position for the remainder of the year. This began a long period of service by L. Aubin and several of his staff.

Two new directors, Mr. A. Young and Bro. T. Laflamme, were elected at the 1959 annual meetings and C. S. Stevenson was returned. In 1960, Henry Van Dungen was elected and Bro. T. Laflamme was returned, in 1961 M. Orchard and W. Shelmerdine were returned and in 1962, L. Aubin was elected and C. S. Stevenson was returned. Following Bro. Laflamme's transfer to Quebec, Mr. R. H. Patmore was elected in August, 1962 to complete the remainder of the term. W. Shelmerdine served as president for 2 years (1958, 1959) with H. M. Orchard as vice president followed by Mr. Orchard as president (1960, 1961) and C. S. Stevenson as vice president. In 1962, L. Aubin became president with C. S. Stevenson as vice president. Three Ex-Officio directors were named in 1959, the Superintendent of the Morden Experimental Farm (Dr. C. C. Strachan), the Head of the Horticultural Division, University of Manitoba (Dr. A. C. Ferguson) and the Provincial Horticulturist (Mr. F. J. Weir). This started a tradition which has been carried on until the present.

Activities

The activities and concerns of the MNA in its first five years were varied, contentious and in many cases very difficult to solve. The subject of replacement guarantees was raised at the 1958 meeting and a motion was passed that replacement value of 50% maximum be given. The issue of government tree distribution was of concern and this issue has remained a concern through the years. Credit rating was a topic of concern and ways were investigated to identify bad accounts. The Association began the practice of having educational speakers at annual meetings deal with topics such as landscaping, propagation and business concerns. The Association pressed for Unemployment Insurance coverage for workers which was obtained several years later. Concerns were raised regarding Dutch Elm Disease and

these concerns had much to do with the very forward legislation which Manitoba developed in subsequent years. An early concern involved public information on how to plant and care for nursery stock. This led to the MNA co-ordinating and printing well over 100,000 "How to Plant" booklets in the 1960's. These booklets found a wide usage throughout the three prairie provinces. In 1959 a motion was passed supporting Plant Patents, a topic which in 1982 is before the Parliament of Canada. Chain store selling of nursery stock was questioned and the value of service and sound information provided by nurserymen was said to be an effective counter. By 1960 the MNA was active in support of the regional P.A.N. Interest in the national nursery organization (CNTA) was expressed but no affiliation took place during this period although 1 or 2 members did attend CNTA conventions. New cultivars were publicized and distributed particularly from the Morden Experimental Farm later known as the Morden Research Station.

Publicity was a major interest of MNA and the Association sponsored exhibits at the Red River Exhibition and International Flower Shows. Membership growth was encouraged by provision of the Associate membership class in 1961. Four new members joined in this class in 1962. In 1962 a new Gestetner was purchased which served the Association both for reproducing minutes and newsletters and was also used to reproduce nursery price lists for a small charge. In 1962 the MNA presented a gold watch to W. A. Cumming in recognition of his contributions to the industry.

Perhaps the most important role of the MNA was to improve communication and trust among those involved in 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.

Toward the end of its first 5 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.

These landscape companies were closely allied to the nurserymen and a combined group could potentially double the strength of the current MNA . . . this was the path that lay open ahead.

Letterheads Through the Years

MANITOBA NURSERYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Buy Manitoba Hardy Nursery Stock"

F. J. WEIR
Secretary-Treasurer
153 Legislative Building
Winnipeg 1, Manitoba

Members

AUBIN — Carman
BOUGHEN — Valley River
GLENORCHIE — Old Kildonan
MAISON ST. JOSEPH — Otterburne
PATMORE — Brandon
POOLE — Brandon
SADOK — West St. Paul
SHELMERDINE — Charleswood
SKINNER — Dropmore
STEVENSON — Morris
VAN DUNGEN — St. Vital
WALLACE — Portage la Prairie
WENHAM — St. Vital

January 14th, 1959.

MANITOBA NURSERYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Buy Manitoba Hardy Nursery Stock"

AUBIN, Carman - BOUGHEN, Valley River - GLENORCHIE, Old Kildonan - MAISON ST. JOSEPH, Otterburne - PATMORE, Brandon
POOLE, Brandon - PORTAGE PLAINS, Portage la Prairie - SADOK, West St. Paul - SHELMERDINE, Charleswood
SKINNER, Dropmore - STEVENSON, Morris - VAN DUNGEN, St. Vital - WALLACE, Portage la Prairie - WENHAM, St. Vital

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
185 Ash St.,
Winnipeg 9, Man.
Feb. 17, 1960.



MANITOBA NURSERY and LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

"BUY MANITOBA HARDY NURSERY STOCK"

248 Elm Street, Office of the Secretary
Winnipeg 9, Man.,
July 16th, 1965.



Letterheads Through the Years



**MANITOBA NURSERY and
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

THE REGIONAL AFFILIATE OF THE CANADIAN NURSERY TRADES ASSOCIATION

272 CLARE AVENUE, WINNIPEG 13, MANITOBA

PHONE GR 4-1993 AFTER 5 P.M.



**MANITOBA NURSERY
AND
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

{ "BUY
MANITOBA
HARDY
NURSERY
STOCK" }

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY: 294 AMHERST STREET / ST. JAMES / WINNIPEG 12, MANITOBA



**MANITOBA NURSERY
AND
LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION**

{ "BUY
MANITOBA
HARDY
NURSERY
STOCK" }

9 Roslyn Crescent,
Winnipeg R3L 0H6,
November 19, 1974.



Manitoba
Nursery
and
Landscape
Association

CHAPTER 5

Re-organization of the MNA to form the Manitoba Nursery & Landscape Association

The Second 5 Years - 1963-1967

The 1962 November MNA convention had started the course of re-organization which was to mark the period of history from 1963-1967. It requested that a committee study the future of the Association and establish a working relationship with the landscape gardeners. Several meetings were held culminating in the March 30th, 1963 meeting at the premises of Gardener's Sales. The following report by then secretary D. A. Denison tells of the progress at the meeting.

REPORT OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE MANITOBA NURSERYMEN'S ASSOCIATION, LANDSCAPE GARDENERS AND SUPPLIERS WHICH WAS HELD SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH, 1963, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASSOCIATION WHICH WOULD WORK FOR THEIR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

1. The following were present:

L. E. Aubin	D. H. Cramer
K. Fegol	S. Corrigan
A. Hood	G. A. May
E. Kackenhoff	J. From
H. M. Orchard	R. Duncan
W. Shelmerdine	H. Lach
C. S. Stevenson	M. MacDonald
Manager, Gardeners Sales Ltd.	J. R. Cuthill
D. C. Denison	J. A. Thompson
	W. B. Zonco

2. Mr. J. A. Thompson was elected Chairman of the meeting and reviewed the negotiations which have been going on during recent months between the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association and the Landscape Gardeners. Mr. Orchard reviewed the proposed fee structure of the Canadian Association of Nurserymen and it was suggested that an annual fee of \$50.00 would be required.

3. The Manager of Gardener's Sales Ltd. outlined the benefits which would be gained by working through a strong association. He stressed the fact that we are living in an organized society and the individual has little chance of succeeding on his own. He

indicated that legislation could be expected at both provincial and federal levels of government and that only by working through an association could members expect to have a say in formulating the legislation which might cover such things as work standards, tariffs and duties, and other factors of importance to individual members.

4. Mr. Thompson reminded those present that they could gain more recognition from architects and assist in establishing necessary educational courses if they were working together in an association which was concerned with the interests of all its members.

5. The benefit to be derived from getting to know and understand each other was also stressed.

6. A show of hands indicated that those present desired to continue organizational planning and they signed the following statement:

"I agree to join and support an organization which will work for the mutual benefit of all members. I agree to pay a fee of \$50.00 per year and will make an initial payment of \$10.00 by April 15th, cheque made payable to the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association, 319 Montgomery Avenue, Winnipeg, 13".

7. The following committee was established to continue organizational planning:

Chairman: Walter Shelmerdine
Secretary: Donald C. Denison
Members: J. A. Thompson
G. A. May
J. From
L. E. Aubin
H. M. Orchard

8. This committee will hold its first meeting at 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 17th, to consider a draft constitution, name for the new association, and outline a program for the first year's activities.

9. Interested members are requested to forward suggestions or recommendations on the points mentioned in the above paragraph to the Secretary, in writing.

10. And, as a further indication of their interest and support, those interested in joining the members listed in paragraph one in establishing a new association are requested to forward their cheque for \$10.00 payable to the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association, 319 Montgomery Avenue.

11. The Planning Committee is aiming to call a General Meeting approximately June 15th to decide on the name and pass the constitution of the new association.

Donald C. Denison,
Secretary,
Planning Committee.

By April 6th Secretary Denison mailed out a draft constitution and reported he had received \$10 deposits from 9 prospective members. A release entitled "Manitoba forms new Horticultural Trades Association" told of further progress at a June 15th meeting.

"On June 15th, 1963, a second General Meeting was held and the draft constitution was approved. It was also agreed that the new 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, 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 sup-

pliers in the Province of Manitoba and have a reputation for trustworthy dealings which must be maintained as a condition of membership".

On September 6, 1963, President Shelmerdine could report the following in a letter to members:

"You will also note that we are now the Manitoba Horticultural Trades Association. This was done to bring all workers in this field together into one organization. We have increased our membership to 28, and hope that it will go much higher. Creating this organization has not been easy, and it will require much additional missionary work. We are, therefore, asking for your cooperation and encouragement. We can certainly use it".

The formation of the Manitoba Horticultural Trades Association resulted in a small increase in membership and in higher yearly dues raising the total annual fees to the vicinity of \$1000. Most importantly, individuals such as Mel McEwen, J. A. Thompson and Harry Lach added new energy and were to play significant roles either as future directors or presidents.

The summer of 1963 brought a change in secretaries as Don Denison was transferred to Africa by the Army leading to the hiring of Mr. P. L. Ford. In his first newsletter Mr. Ford reported on several activities including the recommended list of ornamentals, new membership certificates and plans for hosting the 1964 national CNTA conference in Winnipeg, July 12-15. A further November newsletter detailed 8 general and executive meetings that were held as part of reorganization and activity planning. An alternative name to MHTA was suggested namely Manitoba Nursery/Landscape Institute. This was finalized as Manitoba Nursery & Landscape Association in November and this has remained the Association's name.



Early tour (about 1960) of Morden Research Station by prairie nurserymen.

While membership in the newly-found MNLA moved upward in 1963 and was reported as 28 Active and 4 Associate for 1963, it appeared to decrease to near the level of the former MNA membership before showing an increase towards the end of the five years under review. Although 16 landscapers had made a membership deposit in 1963, several of these did not complete the fee payment necessary for membership. This problem of late or missed fee payments was a characteristic of many of the landscape companies who did not have the permanence associated with the land and stock of nursery companies. Membership for 1965, 1966 and 1967 stayed in the vicinity of 20-26 Active members with 2 Associate and 1 Horticultural member. A review of the 26 Active members in 1967 shows that about 18 of these were nursery orientated along the lines of the original MNA while about 8 were landscapers whose memberships were on account of the MNLA formation. Thus in retrospect it could be concluded that the formation of the MNLA, while a definite forward move, did not result in the marked membership increase that was expected at the formative meetings.

The financial situation during the five year period 1963-1967 started out on a very bleak note. The year opened with a balance of \$30.74 and receipt books show "gifts" to MNA of \$40.00 in late 1962. Collection of 1963 dues began as early as August 1962 so that in reality the Association was living on next year's income. The serious financial condition led to 3 member "loans" of \$70 each from Aubin, Stevenson and Shelmerdine Nurseries. By April of 1963, advances of \$10 were taken for the new Association and the higher dues of \$50 led to a year end balance of \$275.46.

Records for early 1964 show dues of \$1125 from 20 members. Active member dues began at this time to be dependent on sales volume so that two members paid \$100 (class 3), one paid \$75 (class 4) while 16 paid \$50 (class 5). Associate dues were \$50. With disruptions of secretarial services in 1964 it is not clear if further dues were collected from delinquent members. After affiliation in 1964, one-third of dues were sent on to the national CNTA organization resulting in additional financial commitments. Also the cost of sending a delegate to CNTA meetings was an added expense of which Manitoba shared 50%. The 1964 year end balance was \$443.99. The rapid changeover of secretaries, Ford (until Aug. 1964), May (temporary in Sept. 1964), McCombe (Oct. 1964), led to a period of poor financial records in late 1964 and it was not until March 1965 with the appointment of Mrs. Helen Atkinson, that dues were collected for 1965. The closing balance for 1965 was reported as \$897.42 and for 1966, \$615.76. Dues

collected in 1966 were \$962.00 which was less than that collected in 1964. In the light of the CNTA costs and inflation, the MNLA had not prospered financially as expected. In late 1967 the Association was again without a secretary as Mrs. Atkinson moved to B.C. Although Miss Margaret Wharrie was appointed in October, 1967, the secretary's position was again shortly vacated. This led to difficult times in which the Association was in doubt about its ability to provide a sufficient salary to secretarial staff so as to retain them.

The changes in secretarial staff from 1963-67 have been outlined in relation to financial concerns of the MNLA. At the close of this period the Association was without a secretary. MNLA executives were to show considerable changes during the 1963-67 period. Upon the organization of the MNLA in June, 1963, Mr. Walter Shelmerdine replaced Mr. L. Aubin as president. Mr. Shelmerdine continued as president for 1964 and was followed by Mr. J. A. Thompson (1965), Mr. Ernie Kackenhoff (1966) and Mr. Mel McEwen (1967).

Activities

Following the re-organization of 1963, the MNLA carried on many of the concerns of the former MNA and added new programs of interest to landscapers.

Much of the effort for 1964 centered on the CNTA meeting in Manitoba. This meeting attracted members from across Canada who were treated to several useful talks and to a one day bus tour of southern Manitoba including the Morden Research Station and Aubin Nurseries at Carman.

In 1965 the MNLA arranged for a landscape course which was taught at the University of Manitoba. Fifteen individuals took this course which ended with a banquet. Members had selected the 'Almey' rosybloom as the Centennial tree in 1963 and by 1965 they were concerned about the availability of stock for the Centennial Commission.

Numerous activities were on the agenda in 1966. MNLA endorsed the 'Miss Canada' rose, a Canadian introduction. A new logo was approved consisting of a green maple leaf with the letters MNLA superimposed in white. Truck decals were obtained and distributed. MNLA requested the provincial government to appoint a plant pathologist. The MNLA constitution was revised and a standard procedure laid out for obtaining and using plant propagation stock from the Morden Research Station. The 1966 Prairie Association of Nurserymen meeting was held in Manitoba. The long sought goal of unemployment insurance for the nursery industry was obtained.

In 1967 the nursery industry received approval

for the 60 hour work week and it was also noted that Workmen's Compensation was available to those in the industry. Association members were offered budwood of a new double flowered crabapple (later named 'Kelsey') so that stocks could be increased for Manitoba's Centennial in 1970. MNLA discussed the formation of the Skinner memorial library as a tribute to the memory of Dr. F. L. Skinner. CNTA plant standards were distributed and a notice to prohibit propagation of barberry was publicized. Concern

was expressed regarding sales tax and an effort was begun to have it removed from nursery crops. Several members assisted in providing stock to the newly initiated arboretum at the University of Manitoba.

At the close of the 5 years under review, the MNLA was squarely dealing with the issues of the industry, membership hovered around the 25 mark, finances were not in the best of shape and difficulty was had in retaining continuity in the role of a secretary-treasurer.

CHAPTER 6

The MNLA — Towards Financial and Membership Stability The Third 5 Years — 1968-1972

The re-organization of 1963-64 had not put the Association in the sound position that had been expected. The period 1968-72 began on the same uncertain financial base as had earlier years. Fortunately MNLA fortunes were soon to be characterized by better times. The appointment of a new secretary-treasurer in the person of Mrs. Dorothy Lynch in 1968 began a sustained period of growth characterized by sound fiscal management and office service. Dorothy, with her husband Gerry, developed a strong interest in the MNLA and helped to strengthen the annual meetings and social gatherings.

Membership growth during this period was relatively stable for the first 3 years but showed a marked increase in 1971 and 1972. The CNTA National Conference combined with a local membership drive brought in many new members so that membership in 1972 was almost double that of 1967. Strong growth took place in the Associate and Horticultural member classes due no doubt to a strengthened exhibit and educational program in conjunction with the CNTA and MNLA conferences.

The financial position of MNLA was to show constant improvement in the 5 years under review. In November, 1968 a balance of \$212.29 necessitated stringent economic measures and a search for membership growth. The budget for 1969 showed a slight improvement but it was the profitable CNTA 1970 convention which helped put the Association on a firmer footing with assets of \$1,840.31 in November 1972. This profit was due to a well run trade exhibit, good attendance and hard volunteer work. MNLA also gained from the interest and enthusiasm associated with a national convention.

The 1968-72 period showed wide membership participation in the MNLA executive. Presidents included Murray Orchard (1968, 1969), Lawrence Aubin (1970, 1971), and Bill Linden (1972). Both Mr. Orchard and Mr. Aubin had served in this same role in earlier years, however, Mr. Linden was a newcomer having taken over the Wallace Nurseries at Portage la Prairie in 1968. The CNTA representatives

were Mr. Aubin (1968, 1969), Mr. Orchard [1970, 1971 (Sept.)], and Mr. McEwen [1971 (Sept.), 1972].

Activities

Considerable increase in scope of MNLA activities accompanied the growth in membership, particularly towards the end of the five year period.

In 1968 the first of a series of new annual membership certificates was printed. Also at this time executive minutes were circulated to all members so as to increase the level of communication among members. MNLA began working on a guide "Specifications for Landscaping in Manitoba". MNLA also moved to fully reimburse the CNTA delegate for travel expenses. The annual meeting held in 1968 at the Montcalm Motor Hotel was well attended by 38 people.

The 1969 year was marked by several events including preparations for the February, 1970 CNTA convention in Winnipeg with L. Aubin as convention chairman. The annual November conference was a one day annual meeting event while the educational sessions were kept for the February conference.

Several new membership services were discussed in 1969. Bulk purchases of Ogallala strawberries were arranged with good results. An informal credit reporting system was discussed to lower the levels of complaints in collecting accounts. The Centennial Commission tree planting objectives proved very minimal although the MNLA had earlier expected considerable activity.

The addition of a director from the Associate membership was an important move initiated in 1969. Mr. John Leedham was the first to occupy this position and, like those who followed, was to make significant contributions.

At the annual meeting several concerns were expressed as to nursery needs including guidance for use of herbicides, proper classification of landscapes, dumping of surplus material and volume of trade by discount garden centres.

The major event of 1970 was the CNTA national

convention in Winnipeg's International Inn. The convention was a tremendous success and brought a wide cross section of Canada's nurserymen to see the exhibits and to hear several outstanding speakers. Although the financial success of the convention was a major concern to the MNLA sponsors, it turned out to be a profitable meeting for the MNLA. Other events in 1970 included three sessions on herbicide use arranged by Mr. John Leedham and a very successful field day held at Morden in August. The MNLA donated \$230.00 to the Skinner Memorial Fund in honor of its own Dr. F. L. Skinner.

With the financial success and activities of the 1970 year to look back on, MNLA moved forward with several new projects in 1971. They met with the tree pruners, who were then receiving training and licensing from the Provincial government, to explore joint concerns and encourage MNLA membership. A membership drive showed results with 12 new memberships accepted in June, 1971. Four educational seminars were held under the general chairmanship of Ernie Kackenhoff and a successful summer field day and picnic was held at Morden on August 27. Promotions included new decals which were ordered to display the MNLA crest and the use of Green Survival material. Constitution changes included those to give an Associate member the opportunity to serve on the board of directors, with full voting privileges, but without the right to hold office as

president, vice-president or secretary-treasurer. The term of CNTA representative was increased to 3 years to give continuity of service. The 1971 annual meeting was the most successful held to date with 45 people in attendance the first day.

The 1972 MNLA program included a strong educational series of several meetings on a wide range of nursery and landscape concerns. These programs were very successful due to the many new members who had joined in the past two years and who wished to expand their knowledge of practical procedures.

MNLA continued to press for automatic government approval of a 60 hour work week for the busy season but this option continued to receive government sanction only on an individual basis. Another concern was the expansion of the new Unicity government into several work areas that had been served by private contractors. MNLA's booth at the Consumer's Fair at Polo Park served to give the industry public exposure.

The end of the third period (1968-72) in the MNLA history closed with the Association showing a healthy financial position and membership at about the 50 level. This favourable picture stands in contrast to the position of 1968. The Association had truly prospered from a period of stability in the secretary-treasurer position filled by Mrs. Lynch and from a period of sustained economic growth.



MNLA Executive about 1968: Left to Right, Top Row: Herman Temmerman, Lawrence Aubin, Mel McEwen. Bottom Row: Murray Orchard, Ernie Kackenhoff.

CHAPTER 7

The MNLA — Horticultural Cooperation

The Fourth 5 Years — 1973-1977

The MNLA highlights of the 5 year period 1973-1977 included increased cooperation at both local and national levels. MNLA jointly sponsored "Horticultural Industry Days", a combined educational and trade show, with other segments of the Manitoba industry. Nationally, MNLA sponsored the CNTA convention in 1975 and the National Growers summer meeting in 1976. Stable secretary-treasurer services were provided and the MNLA financial situation constantly improved. The first Honorary Life Memberships were given to two well known individuals, a new membership plaque and logo were designed and distributed and MNLA was able to gain considerable advantage for the industry by legislation concerning classification of the industry as agricultural.

Membership in the 1972-77 period showed a slow continued growth. In 1973 there were 52 members consisting of 38 Active, 4 Associate and 10 Horticultural members; in 1977 there were 65 members consisting of 42 Active, 8 Associate, 13 Horticultural

and 2 Honorary Life Members. The trend in this period was to see more interest in Associate and Horticultural memberships possibly as a result of the successful Horticultural Industry Days educational and exhibit programs. The presentation of the first HLM certificates to Dr. W. A. Cumming and Mr. F. B. Stevenson in 1976 recognized that the MNLA was coming of age. It was recognizing those who had made a significant contribution to the good of the Association.

The 1973-77 period showed a widening participation of newer members in the executive. These "second generation" members were now making a significant contribution to the MNLA. Presidents included Mrs. Doreen Cristall (1973), Mr. Eric Warburton (1974), Mr. Ernie Kackenhoff (1975, 1976) and Mr. Barrie Hutchison (1977). CNTA representatives were Mr. Mel McEwen (1973-1975), Mr. L. Aubin (1976-1977-part) and Mr. E. Kackenhoff (1977-part).

Activities

The years from 1973-1977 were active years for MNLA executive and members.

At the annual 1972 meeting, members honored Mr. Murray Orchard, one of the founding members of the Association. As some of the older founders were retiring many new faces were filling their places. A winter workshop on tendering procedures for landscape projects was held at the University of Manitoba with 35 in attendance. A summer student was hired under the S.T.E.P. program to conduct a summer work program sponsored at Kackenhoff Nursery. The summer meeting of Prairie Association of Nurserymen held in Manitoba was attended by about 100 people and proved very successful.

The 1973 annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Vegetable Growers' Association of Manitoba under the 'Horticultural Industry Days' banner. This began a cooperative educational and exhibit program which was subsequently to take in the strawberry, greenhouse and wild rice growers and was



MNLA Executive 1974. Left to Right, Top Row: Ernie Kackenhoff, Andrew Young, Harry Lach. Bottom Row: Doreen Cristall, Eric Warburton, Dorothy Lynch.



MNLA Executive 1975. Left to Right, Top Row: Eric Warburton, Harry Lach, Andrew Young, Wilbert Ronald. Bottom Row: Ernie Kackenhoff, Doreen Cristall, Dorothy Lynch, Brian Duncan.

occasionally expanded to include regional turf conferences. The following new fee schedule was approved in 1973 which would enable MNLA to expand and move forward with improved financial backing:

Active Membership:

Gross Annual Sales	Fee
On sales over \$300,000	\$450.00
On sales of less than \$300,000 but more than \$200,000	\$280.00
On sales of less than \$200,000 but more than \$100,000	\$190.00
On sales of less than \$100,000 but more than \$50,000	\$135.00
On sales of \$50,000 and under	\$100.00
Associate Member	\$100.00
Horticultural Member	\$ 25.00

The fee schedule also contained the following provision: with respect to Active membership where gross sales are under \$50,000, if a person wishes he may request, on submission of his gross sales records, a reduction in fees. Upon sufficient evidence regarding these records, the executive can decide what the fee will be for that particular member.

Several new initiatives were begun in 1974. An educational course for training students for the industry at the R. B. Russell Vocational School was investigated but this did not prove practical for implementation. The yellow pages advertising campaign under the MNLA logo was placed on a firm basis. Moves were begun to have the industry clearly designated as agricultural for tax purposes and to remove taxes on sod equipment. A draft of nursery specifications was completed and forwarded to CNTA. Constitutional changes included making the term of president a 2-year term and adding two non-voting directors from government and universities to the executive. Mr. Reg Curle and Dr. Wilbert Ronald filled these positions. As a result of the revised dues structure MNLA membership fees for the year totalled \$5485.00 resulting in a surplus of \$2104.70 for the year. With plans for the CNTA conference in Winnipeg, members were busy with planning and the annual MNLA meeting was limited to a 1 day business meeting.

The 1975 year was highlighted by the CNTA conference which saw 150 nurserymen register. The Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation annual meeting was also held in conjunction with the CNTA conference. Several ongoing projects of MNLA were continued including emphasis on a course for a hor-



Opening ceremony for 1975 CNTA convention in Winnipeg.

tical diploma at the University of Manitoba. A course outline was developed and meetings held with University officials all without firm progress resulting. 1975 also saw the development of a new logo and new membership plaques. A move was initiated to begin a history of the MNLA with a view to the 25th anniversary in 1982. The fall 1975 annual meeting was provided with a brief regarding taxation and steps were initiated to meet with Hon. S. Uskiw, Minister of Agriculture.

In 1976 membership plaques were distributed and a new maintenance guide printed. Progress was made in taxation matters following a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture. The first major concession, the exemption from Provincial sales tax for all equipment and parts used in sod farming, was announced to members in the minutes of April 2, 1976. Minutes of June 21, 1976 indicated that the Municipal Assessment Act would be revised. This was based on a letter from Mr. McNairney, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. The National Growers meeting was held on July 12, 13 and 14th and included tours of Carman and Morden areas. It was at this meeting that the first MNLA Honorary Memberships were presented to two long-term MNLA supporters.

Several projects were continued in 1977 including some which were brought to successful conclusion. The Group Insurance Plan offered by H. L. Staebler and Co. Ltd., was approved for MNLA members. A promotional brochure on MNLA was



Ribbon cutting for 1975 CNTA Trade Show in Winnipeg.



Exhibits at 1975 CNTA convention.

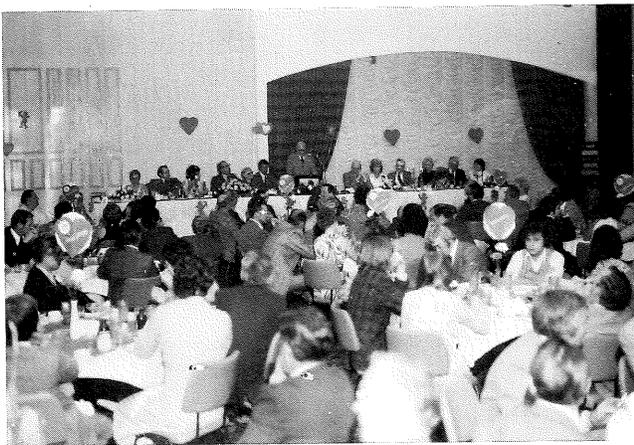
prepared. Constitutional revisions were begun with the major difficulty proving to be the status of the provisional or probationary membership category which stated that new members must go through a two year trial period prior to full membership. This membership class was finally deleted since it proved difficult to enforce with any consistency.

Several projects were continued including the development of a horticultural training course and a landscape award program. With the increasing activities of the MNLA office the annual honorarium and expense account for the secretary-treasurer was increased to \$3000.

The MNLA had made continued growth during the 1973-77 period. It was in a stronger financial condition than at any time in its history. Membership was broad based between landscape, nursery and horticultural supply firms. The position of secretary-



Head table at 1975 CNTA convention.



Banquet scene from 1975 CNTA Convention.

treasurer was more demanding and remuneration was more in line with responsibilities. The MNLA now offered a strong educational conference and had gained from cooperation with other grower associations. The successful appeals to the Manitoba government in matters of tax legislation had proven the value of an industry association such as MNLA. This certainly strengthened the degree of membership support and put the Association in the strongest position it had ever held.



Award of Red River Cart to Dr. W. A. (Bill) Cumming at 1975 CNTA Convention.

CHAPTER 8

The MNLA — Regional Cooperation and A New Relationship with CNTA

The Fifth 5 Years — 1978-82

Recent events are often the most difficult to place in a historical context for they have not been mellowed and sifted by the passing years.

The last five years of the Manitoba Nursery and Landscape Association have witnessed a renewal of prairie regional associations and a new federation system for the national CNTA. Local efforts have been directed towards improved communication amongst members, increased membership growth and sponsorship of a number of summer research projects.

Membership has continued to show a steady increase during the recent 5 year period. This has been due firstly to the "Introductory Membership" class with its reduced rate and secondly to increased emphasis on membership recruitment. These efforts have led to current membership levels approaching a total of 90 members in all classes.

The MNLA presented four additional Honorary Life Memberships to individuals who formerly made significant contributions. These included R. H. Patmore (1978), Murray Orchard (1979), Doreen Cristall (1979) and Walter Shelmerdine (1982). All four had served on the executive and contributed long years of service to the trade.

The MNLA has remained financially strong during recent years due to careful stewardship and to successful annual meetings.

During the 1978-82 period a major change occurred with the resignation of Dorothy Lynch who had so ably served as secretary-treasurer for over 12 years. Dorothy, in her usual thoughtfulness, gave sufficient advance notice to permit recruitment of Barbara Craig who worked with Dorothy from March 1-March 15, 1980. As a tribute to Dorothy's service, a farewell dinner was held in March, 1980 where Dorothy and Gerry Lynch were given a presentation. In addition to this change, several new faces served on the executive. All of the presidential incumbents have been members of recent standing including Del Stevenson (1978), Bo Wohlers (1979,

1980), Harvey Levandoski (1981) and Michel Touchette (1982).

Activities

The highlights of several major MNLA activities are based on regional cooperations of the three prairie associations. The formation of the Western Nursery Growers' Group (WNGG), which was a reconstruction of the Prairie Association of Nurserymen, took place at a September 7, 1979 meeting in Manitoba. This organization was formed to provide Western Canadian growers with a means to deal with regional interests such as research and promotion. Out of this cooperation has come three successful summer field days and the new colored poster series of prairie landscape plants. This poster set was truly a joint project of the WNGG, the three prairie nursery landscape associations and the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation. These five groups were able to sponsor this large project, something which would have been difficult for any single association. Similarly, the three prairie associations have worked together to expand the original "Landscape Alberta" magazine to "Prairie Landscape Magazine" with contributions from the three prairie provinces. Beginning in 1980, MNLA has offered this magazine as a free membership service.

Manitoba has continued to work with the CNTA in its newly developed federation role. This has meant a reduced financial contribution to CNTA while at the same time placing increased responsibility on regional associations to provide more of the membership services.

On the local level MNLA has endeavored to stimulate exchange of information within the industry by several activities. A joint seminar meeting with landscape architects in 1978 was aimed at improving the understanding of problems related to design specifications. Summer field days at Morden in 1978 and 1979 were held to acquaint the industry with research developments. In 1980 a bus tour of landscape sites in Winnipeg and of sod farms in the



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shelmerdine on the occasion of the presentation of a HLM to Mr. Shelmerdine in 1982.

Stead area was conducted. In 1981 a van was used to take members to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area for a tour of nurseries and garden centers. In 1980 and 1982 one day seminars were held in Winnipeg on irrigation and general nursery-landscape concerns and a two-day summer tour was held in cooperation with the WNGG in 1982.

In legislative matters the MNLA undertook to have the sales tax removed from taxable nursery crops and sod. Two meetings were held with Ministers of Finance in 1980 and 1982 to explain the beneficial role of nursery plants to the environment and to energy conservation.

The development of the history project of the landscape industry in Manitoba gained momentum as the 25th anniversary date approached. The project, started in the mid-1970's as a history of the nursery association, was expanded to include a history of pioneer nurseries, institutions and MNLA members. In 1981, Dr. W. G. Ronald took on the



Tree planting at Government House with the Lieutenant-Governor, Mrs. Pearl McGonigal.

responsibilities to complete the project. New requests were sent out to obtain member input and responsibilities were assigned to additional individuals for specific input. Funding was obtained from a number of industry sponsors who willingly responded to assist the history project.

In the late 1970's a new role developed for MNLA as a sponsor of joint Federal-Provincial funded research projects. These "Agro-Man" projects were begun in 1979 and have continued with up to three projects sponsored per year. Also in 1980 MNLA sponsored an additional student to work in research at Morden. All of these projects have assisted in conduct of new research and in training of a number of students.

As the MNLA reaches the end of its fifth five 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 MNLA members to take up as the Association begins its second quarter century of service.

MNA-MNLA Presidents

Mr. W. Shelmerdine	1958, 1959	Mr. W. A. Linden	1972
Mr. H. M. Orchard	1960, 1961	Mrs. D. Cristall	1973
Mr. L. E. Aubin	1962, 1963 (June)	Mr. E. Warburton	1974
Mr. W. Shelmerdine	1963 (June), 1964	Mr. E. Kackenhoff	1975, 1976
Mr. J. A. Thompson	1965	Mr. B. Hutchison	1977
Mr. E. Kackenhoff	1966	Mr. D. Stevenson	1978
Mr. M. McEwen	1967	Mr. B. Wohlers	1979, 1980
Mr. H. M. Orchard	1968, 1969	Mr. H. Levandoski	1981
Mr. L. E. Aubin	1970, 1971	Mr. M. Touchette	1982



Mr. W. Shelmerdine



Mr. H. M. Orchard



Mr. B. Hutchison



Mr. D. Stevenson



Mr. L. E. Aubin



Mr. E. Kackenhoff



Mr. B. Wohlers



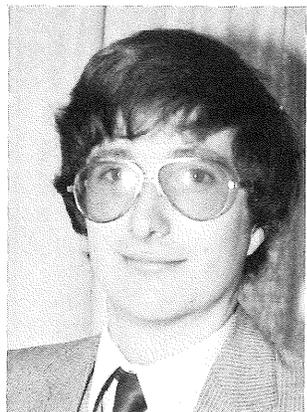
Mr. H. Levandoski



Mrs. D. Cristall



Mr. E. Warburton



Mr. M. Touchette

MNA-MNLA Secretary-Treasurers

Mr. F. J. Weir	1958, 1959
Mr. F. C. W. Rice	1960, 1961
Mr. D. C. Denison	1962, 1963 (July)
Mr. P. L. Ford	1963 (Sept.)-1964 (Aug.)
Mr. J. R. McCombe	1964 (Oct.)
Mrs. H. Atkinson	1965 (Mar.)-1967 (Sept.)
Miss M. B. Wharrie	1967 (Oct.)
Mrs. D. Lynch	1968-1980 (Mar.)
Mrs. B. Craig	1980-1982



Barbara Craig, current MNLA secretary.



Dorothy Lynch was the center of the gathering at the farewell in honour of her service as MNLA secretary, 1968-80.

CHAPTER 9

MNLA Current Members

Active Members

Atlanta Landscaping, 118 Ruby Street, Winnipeg, R3G 2C9.

Atlanta Landscaping started in 1977 by Ludwig Dreher is primarily a landscape maintenance business. Ludwig did mainly residential jobs when he first started business. He now undertakes both commercial and residential maintenance with the help of 6 seasonal employees.

Aubin Nurseries Ltd., Box 268, Carman, R0G 0J0.

Aubin Nurseries has been a continual producer of nursery stock since 1927. A complete report of its founding, growth and contributions to the nursery trade is given in the chapter on pioneer nurseries. Its present management staff includes Lawrence Aubin as president, Clarence Major as assistant manager, Eric Warburton as field crops supervisor, Michel Touchette as propagator and Pierre Ouellet in charge of storage and landscaping. Aubin Nurseries presently grow over 200 species and cultivars of fruit and shade trees, evergreens, roses, hedge plants, shrubs, and perennials on 70 hectares of irrigated land. They sell to over 550 accounts across Canada and within the northern plains of the U.S.A. In addition, they move trees, design landscapes, and sell retail and by mail order. They presently have 6,000 cu. m. of controlled temperature storage and 1020 cu. m. of greenhouse propagation facilities.

Baie St. Paul Gardens, Box 216, Headingley, R0H 0J0.

Baie St. Paul Gardens, established in 1975 as a part-time interest of Cheryl Whitehead, is owned by Cheryl and her husband Michael. Cheryl's interest in the nursery-landscape industry was developed by her father, Ken Gorrie, who owned Assiniboine Landscaping. Baie St. Paul Gardens has 1 hectare of nursery stock from which a general line of plant material is offered to retail customers. A landscape design service has become an important component of this business.

Beausejour Nursery, Box 128, Beausejour, R0E 0C0.

One of our newest active members, the Beausejour Nursery established on January 1, 1980, is a partnership between Ron Griffith and Veronica Green. Currently active in landscaping as well as growing, the owners' objective is to grow a large number and variety of perennials and evergreens for the Manitoba market.

Bernie's Yard Care, 108 Crawford Avenue, Winnipeg, R2H 1X7.

Backed with various horticulture short courses, Bernie Leclair began his yard care business in 1980. His business is 80% residential and 20% commercial and provides full time employment for 2 people.

Blue Grass Sod Producers Ltd., R.R. 1, Grp. 6, Box 6, St. Norbert, R3V 1L2.

Ed Hackie began growing sod in the early 1970's on the peat soils in the Stead area. He now has 130 hectares in production and harvests about 25% of that area each year. Like other sod growers, Ed witnessed the advent of automatic sod harvesters in the mid 1970's and purchased a harvester for his own needs.

Boughen Nurseries Valley River Ltd., Box 12, Valley River, R0L 2B0.

This nursery is one of the truly pioneer nurseries dating back to 1906. The full coverage of the changes and contributions experienced by three generations is outlined in detail in the chapter dealing with the pioneer firms. Boughen Nurseries Valley River has progressed from uncleared virgin land to one of the foremost growers of fruit trees and other nursery stock in the prairie provinces. They have an integrated wholesale, retail and mail-order business.

Chuckry's Stead Sod Farms, Box 147, R.R. 5, Winnipeg, R2C 2Z2.

Back in 1964 Steve and Peter Chuckry began experimenting with sod production as a sideline to their other horticultural interests. Chuckrys pioneered production on peat soils in those early years.

They initially experienced strong market resistance to sod grown on peat which resulted in very low prices. However, peat grown sods have now become widely accepted due to continual promotion and the establishment of high standards of quality. Chuckrys have actively tested new blends of seed and have in recent years produced bluegrass for seed. Since Peter passed away in 1969, Steve and his family have taken responsibility for the sod business. A great step forward came in 1975 with the purchase of an automatic sod harvester.

Devlin Nurseries, R.R. 2, Devlin, Ontario, POW 1C0.

Les Paterson, with a degree in Forestry, and his wife Ethel, with a true green thumb, were looking for a part-time retirement business in 1973 when they started Devlin Nurseries. Business has grown to the point where the Patersons are run off their feet retailing containerized nursery stock and providing lots of good advice. The Patersons feel that they have benefited greatly from the M.N.L.A. educational programs and talks with members.

Elm Tree Nursery Ltd., 814 Erin Street, Winnipeg, R3G 2V1.

Jeffrey Chipman was just finishing school when he started selling nursery stock at a summer retail outlet on Waverley Avenue. That formed the beginning of Elm Tree Nursery which was to undergo various developmental changes in the succeeding years. During the years 1977-81 Jeff spent full-time with the aid of seasonal workers, doing landscaping jobs in Winnipeg in close co-operation with Aubin Nurseries. 1982 marks another significant change. Jeff plans to discontinue landscaping and to develop a small growing range and retail outlet on a part-time basis along the Assiniboine River just west of Winnipeg.

Fill-Bar Nursery Sod Farms, Box 234, St. Anne, R0A 1R0.

Fill-Bar Nursery Sod Farms have pioneered the growing of sod in the St. Anne area since the early 1970's.

Forester Landscaping, 315 Westwood Drive, Winnipeg, R3K 1G4.

Dennis Roerick, B.S.A. (1973), established Forester Landscaping in 1981 after working for another landscaping firm for 4 years. Forester Landscaping has 2 full-time and up to 6 seasonal staff. Seventy percent of landscape jobs are residential and the remainder are commercial. The landscaping of Coleridge Park along the Assiniboine River is a major credit to this young company. Two to 3 hectares of nursery production are located west of St. Andrews at

a site known as Wolf Farms. A unique retail feature there is the merchandising of bearing fruit trees in 15-gallon containers.

Fort Garry Nurseries, Box 8, Grp. 27, R.R. 1, Winnipeg, R3C 2E4.

Ed Swirsky started planting nursery stock in 1978 in his empty fields across from Lower Fort Garry and called his part-time business Fort Garry Nurseries. Ed now has 2 hectares planted to shade trees and shrubs and plans to begin retailing from a 7 m x 10 m sales area. This nursery is still operated as a part-time family business.

R.W. From Landscape Gardeners, Box 11, Grp. 50, R.R. 1, Lockport, R0C 1W0

J. H. From established this landscaping firm back in 1944 and developed it into one of the foremost in Western Canada, hiring up to 130 employees in the peak season. Although Mr. From had no formal training in landscaping, he became an innovator in the industry and was consulted by city and government officials about top soil mixtures and landscaping problems. Many current landscapers in Manitoba received their start in the business by working for Froms. Froms obtained the first soil crusher and screener in Winnipeg which led them into major deliveries of top soil in the mid 50's. They also started cutting sod in the early years, not with a mechanical sod harvester but by putting a 1 foot by 3 foot board on the sod and digging around it. Using this pioneering technique, they would cut and lay up to 100 sq. m. per day. Mr. From passed away in 1973 at which time his son, Ray (R.W.) took over the business, having completed horticultural courses at night school. From Landscape Gardeners have many commendable landscape jobs to their credit including the Winnipeg International Airport, Manitoba Telephone System headquarters on Portage Avenue and their own private resort at Spy Hill, Saskatchewan.

Gabers' Valley Nursery, Box 721, Roblin, R0L 1P0.

Byron and Devron Gaber were raised on a farm near Skinner's Nursery. Their interest in horticulture was sparked from separate periods of employment at Skinner's Nursery and their decision to start a nursery was made on advice from Hugh Skinner. Their horticultural knowledge has been gained through experience, reading and consultation with others in the industry. Gabers' specialize in the production of prairie-hardy seedlings. Their seedbeds initially covered 2000 sq. m. but have now expanded to over 1 hectare. They have recently installed a drip irrigation system and a regular crop rotation schedule to ensure

good seedling growth. James Gaber was also taken into the business in 1980.

Gateway Gardening Ltd., 175 MacAuley Cresc., Winnipeg, R2G 0P6.

Larie Sawatzky formed Gateway Gardening in 1973. With the help of 3-5 employees, he operates as a landscaping contractor working mostly in Winnipeg but taking on some out-of-province contracts as well.

Gould's Nursery, R.R. 2, Kenora, Ontario, P9N 3W8.

Eddie Gould was formerly a telegraph operator with an interest in plants. In 1980, Eddie and his wife, Ruth, opened a small retail sales area at their picturesque home setting and began some landscaping in the Kenora area. Since then, they have expanded their sales area, have added a 6 m x 12 m shade house and have received horticultural diplomas from Ontario's Humber College.

Great Plains Lawn Maintenance, 942 Burrows Avenue, Winnipeg, R2X 0R5.

Great Plains specializes in lawn maintenance service in the Winnipeg area.

Green Acres Landscaping Ltd., 82 Ashgrove Blvd., Brandon, R7B 1C6.

Green Acres Landscaping was started in 1967 by H. Melchuk who shortly thereafter sold the business to Jim McLachlan. Business has grown steadily since the beginning and now employs 2 full-time and up to 15 seasonal workers. Landscaping is comprised of 20% residential, 75% commercial and 5% maintenance. In addition, Green Acres produces sod and supplies soil. An outdoor shade house and a new office were constructed in 1980.

The Greenskeeper Nursery, 8935 Roblin Blvd., Headingley, R0H 0J0.

Steve Dankewich started The Greenskeeper Nursery as a residential landscape maintenance business in 1966. He continued this as his main line of service until 1972 when he started planting liners for growing into caliper trees. Since then he has developed a good inventory of large caliper trees. Steve also began landscaping and landscape design in the early 1970's. His diversified business has attracted several major park development and maintenance projects such as Genstar's Lindenwood Park. One of the unique components of this business during the past few years has been the manufacturing of nursery equipment such as tree spades, U-blades, planters and other specialized machinery. Steve has manufactured 8 different tree spades which he used in his own landscaping projects. One of his most recent de-

velopments is the mounting of a tree spade on a crane. Steve suffered a major setback in 1980 when his office and workshop were destroyed by fire. Plans are currently underway for a new office, workshop and garden centre complex which will replace that which was destroyed and will provide expanded retail facilities. Steve currently has 2 full-time employees and up to 25 part-time employees during spring and fall.

Gusta Seed and Sod Farms, Box 68, Stead, R0E 1Z0.

Ed Gusta and his father, Michael Gusta, have farmed in the Stead area for many years. They seeded several acres to Kentucky bluegrass and first sold it in 1969 to landscape contractors who then came to the fields and cut their own sod. This was only the beginning of Gusta Seed and Sod Farms which in less than a decade have become one of Manitoba's foremost sod producers. They purchased their first Ryan sod cutter in 1972 and harvested about 4 hectares that year. Every year marked increased production which necessitated the purchase of a second sod cutter and a change to the practice of piling sod on pallets in 1975. Things really moved forward in 1976 when Gustas bought their first Brouwer sod harvester. This was followed by a second harvester in 1978 to accommodate an annual harvest of 60 hectares. Until then, their sod was sold primarily in Winnipeg. Marketing in recent years has reached more distant destinations and has enabled Gustas to maintain stable production despite a general slowdown in Manitoba's economy.

Harvey's Gardening, Box 171, Postal Station "A", Winnipeg, R3K 2A1.

Harvey's Gardening was started in 1965. It has always been owned and operated by Harvey and Edith Levandoski. Through the guidance of his horticulturally inclined father, Harvey was directed into employment with the Winnipeg Parks Board where he gained experience in landscaping and where he had the privilege of learning from Hector Macdonald, Head Gardener at Assiniboine Park. After 8 years with the Winnipeg Parks Board, Harvey started his own small residential landscape maintenance and snow removal business. In 1972, he began slowly to expand into landscaping. In 1976 he sold the residential maintenance part of his business to two of his employees who have carried on under the name of Great Plains Lawn Maintenance. Meantime, Harvey continued in commercial maintenance, landscaping and snow removal and in 1978 began supplying soil as well. During the late 70's Harvey employed 4 to 6 full-time employees plus additional summer workers. Just recently he has laid off all full-time employees and has reduced summer staff to 2 employees

in order to keep Harvey's Gardening a true family business. Harvey has served on the MNLA board for a total of 14 years and served as president in 1981.

Jay-Mar Sod Supplies Ltd., 412 Aldine Street, Winnipeg, R3J 3B4.

Jay-Mar Sod Supplies is a company which developed in 1977 from Dokken Landscaping which was a small residential landscaping business belonging to Mark Schultz. When Jay-Mar was formed, the landscaping was discontinued and the new business consisted of buying, selling and hauling sod. Jay-Mar now uses 2 or 3 semi-trucks to haul sod to their customers within Manitoba and in adjacent provinces and states.

J.D.T. and Son Enterprises, 247 Devon Avenue, Winnipeg, R2G 0C4.

In 1978, Jake Toews, having farmed and worked for a landscaping firm, began a retailing and tree moving business along with his son, Bill. J.D.T. and Son retail seasonally from the parking lot on a major shopping centre. They currently own 2 tree spades which are used extensively in tree moving operations.

Jeffries Nursery, Box 402, Portage la Prairie, R1N 3B7.

Jeffries Nursery was started as a retirement business for Ernie Jeffries in 1978. Mr. Jeffries' training was in business but he had acquired a self-taught knowledge of horticulture. He successfully established a local greenhouse operation (Riverbend Greenhouses) which he sold prior to establishing his nursery. His nursery has developed in 4 years from vacant fields to a small wholesale and retail operation. Mr. Jeffries passed away in 1981, and the nursery was subsequently purchased by Dr. Wilbert Ronald. Although a general line of nursery stock is grown on the 6 hectares in production, the specialty and objective is to develop a production operation of shade trees and fruit trees utilizing the land and water resources available in the Portage area.

Dr. Wilbert Ronald has been a horticultural member of MNLA since 1970 and has been actively involved on the board of directors since 1975. Wilbert has provided valued leadership to MNLA. He has generated ideas and carried projects to completion. He took responsibility for rewriting the constitution in 1978 and for preparing this present history. He has helped host various field days and has advised nurserymen. His career as a plant breeder at the Morden Research Station has resulted in the introduction of various ornamental cultivars including 'Tower' poplar, 'Northern Gold' forsythia, 'Fall-gold' black ash, 'Jacan' Japanese elm, 'Delta' hack-

berry, 'Miniglobe' honeysuckle, and five new introductions in 1982.

Jensen Nursery and Landscaping Ltd., 191 Campbell Street, Winnipeg, R3N 1B4.

Kurt Jensen started landscaping in 1966. Today, this business which he and his wife operate with the help of 10 seasonal employees, is still primarily landscaping, although a small 1 hectare holding nursery and retail sales area have been added. Two notable landscaping jobs which Jensens have undertaken are: Cummins Diesel, Oak Point Road and Old Dutch Potato Chips, Mountain Avenue.

Kackenhoff Nurseries Ltd., Box 2000, St. Norbert, R3V 1L4.

Ernie Kackenhoff struck into business in 1959 as a recent emigrant from Germany where he had grown up as the third generation in a family of nurserymen and where he had apprenticed in the nursery business. Ernie concentrated on residential landscaping during his early years in business. He then branched into growing and selling nursery stock, firstly, retail and then wholesale. The present operation contains departments for landscaping, growth and production, retail and wholesale sales and horticultural supplies and seeds. Shortly after starting business, Ernie was married to Susan who has worked closely with the business over the years. Ernie served as president of MNLA from 1975 to 1976 during which time MNLA was successful in having the Municipal Act amended to exempt nurserymen from building assessment.

Lach Brothers Landscaping Ltd., Box 15A, R.R. 2, Sturgeon Road, Winnipeg, R3C 2E6.

Gerry and Harry Lach began landscaping together in 1953. Having taken winter employment elsewhere, Harry soon became separated from landscaping leaving it to his brother Gerry who has continued since then. Lach Brothers Landscaping has concentrated on commercial landscaping jobs hiring up to 20 seasonal employees in peak season. The Coca-Cola Building (Inkster Blvd.), Notre Dame Park, MacMillan Bloedel, Strathcona School, Garden Grove School and Victoria Hospital have all been landscaped by Lach Brothers Landscaping. This firm purchased 30 hectares of land on Sturgeon Road in 1975 and started Lach's Nursery in 1981.

Lach Landscaping Supplies Ltd., 1249 College Avenue, Winnipeg, R2Z 1B8.

Lach Landscaping Supplies was started by Harry Lach in 1954 after he had dissolved a partnership in a landscaping business with his brother Gerry. Harry began by cutting sod with a Ryan sod cutter and hauling sod for other growers. The Ryan sod cutter

was a relatively new innovation at that time and served to replace the spade and edger. As sod cutters grew in numbers and the demand for sod was increasing, it became inevitable that there would be a shortage of prairie sod. Harry responded in 1965 by purchasing 32 hectares of land and seeding his own sod. He presently operates 280 hectares for sod production and 300 hectares for grain and grass seed production. By 1968, Harry started using an irrigation system which has been expanded now to include a wheel move on 128 hectares and a Brouwer big gun which is moved from field to field as needed. Lach Landscaping Supplies has quickly adapted to new varieties and new equipment as they became available. For instance, they were the first in Manitoba to haul sod by semi-trailer (1958), to harvest sod using a Brouwer sod harvester (1974), and to load sod using a Spyder loader (1976). These innovations have truly revolutionized the sod industry. In 1958, it took a whole day for 2 men to cut 200 yards of sod and load it by hand onto the truck. Today, that same sod could be cut and placed on pallets in 10 minutes ready to be picked up by fork lift. Harry has not only looked after his own business but has contributed freely to MNLA over the years.

**Lawn Clinic Ltd., 1205 Alexander Avenue,
Winnipeg, R3E 1K7.**

Lawn Clinic Ltd. was founded by Doreen Cristall along with a partner, Mr. H. Narog in 1964. In 1965 Mr. Narog left Winnipeg to form his own company under the same name in San Francisco. The idea of using "greenskeeper" methods on residential and commercial properties was conceived when Mrs. Cristall, an ardent golfer, watched the benefits of thatchers and aerators at Glendale Country Club golf course. The first year or so of Lawn Clinic's existence were not easy. The public had to be educated regarding the methods used and benefits derived. After hard work the idea caught on with the public and the competitors too, and the power rake or "thatcher" became a household word. The first job the Lawn Clinic worked on was Deer Lodge Hospital. This proved to be very advantageous as a large crowd gathered to watch and resulted in good advertising due to the fact that a member of the media was present and published an article in the former "Tribune" daily. Lawn Clinic Ltd. is now operated and owned by Robert and Audrey Combot who, by their efforts, have earned a highly respected reputation in the field of horticulture.

**Mr. Verne McComas, 43 Briarcliff Bay,
Winnipeg, R3T 3H8.**

Verne is an employee of the University of Manitoba. He has operated a small general nursery as a

hobby during the past few years and has grown caliper trees on an acreage in Saint Norbert.

**McEwen Bros. Ltd., Box 13, Grp. 15, SS 1,
Winnipeg, R3C 2E8.**

M. F. (Mel) and W. O. McEwen began landscaping in the early '60's with the benefit of a farm background. They incorporated McEwen Bros. in 1963 and through hard work and sound business decisions have progressed to become one of the major landscaping firms in Manitoba. They are noted for landscaping the Winnipeg Library, Winnipeg Mint, the North East Regional Park and many other major jobs in Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Calgary, Saskatoon and elsewhere. McEwen Bros. has 4 to 6 full-time employees and 50 to 75 seasonal employees. Mel McEwen has become the major shareholder of this firm and several related businesses. He served as president of MNLA in 1967 and as president of CNTA in 1971 and 1972.

**McGurran's Landscaping, 156 Avalon Road,
Winnipeg, R2M 2C6.**

While still working in his profession of teaching, Danny McGurran and his partner, brother Edward, have operated a greenhouse, nursery, garden centre, and a landscaping and grounds maintenance business since 1978. Their nursery and garden centre are located on St. Mary's Road, one-half mile past the perimeter.

**Morden Nurseries Ltd., Box 1270, Morden,
R0G 1J0.**

Morden Nurseries was founded in 1928 by Albert Spangelo and remained with the Spangelo family until 1964 when it was purchased by Herman Temmerman. Shortly thereafter the original owner died and the Spangelo family became removed from the Manitoba nursery industry. One of the sons, Dr. Lloyd Spangelo, became Director of the Beaverlodge Research Station in Alberta and has contributed in that way to horticulture on the prairies.

Prior to his purchase of the nursery, Herman Temmerman had received extensive practical training in nursery culture and management in Holland. In addition he worked as plotsman and technician at the Morden Research Station, a position which he held until 1980. Morden Nurseries propagates and grows on 18 hectares all of its own fruit trees, evergreens, shade trees, and shrubs for its thriving retail trade. New and expanded facilities have been added in recent years including a 15 m x 22 m steel storage shed (1980), a 7 m x 27 m greenhouse (1981) and a new office building (1981). Employment is provided for 2 full-time and 12 seasonal employees. Morden Nurseries joined MNLA in 1965. Herman served on

the Board of Directors for several years and has been a reliable source of sound horticultural advice. Further coverage of the Morden Nursery history is given in the chapter on pioneer nurseries.

A. J. Murphy Nurseries Ltd., Lot 200, Box 30, St. Francois Xavier, R0H 1J0.

This small nursery and landscaping business located on 2.8 hectares of land adjacent to the Assiniboine River was started in 1972 by Walter Shelmerdine as a retirement project and was purchased by Dr. Allan Murphy in 1979. Allan holds a Ph.D. in crop physiology and has experience in teaching an ornamental plant materials lab at the University of Manitoba. Allan has a keen eye for color, form and design in the landscape. Landscaping and landscape design of residential and commercial sites accounts for one half of total business and retailing from an outdoor shade house accounts for the other half. Allan is building a display garden which should prove to be a unique feature as it develops. Allan served as vice-president of MNLA in 1981 and 1982.

Norquay Nurseries and Garden Centre, Box 116, Portage la Prairie, R1N 3B2.

Bill Bruinooge with formal training and experience in business administration started this nursery in 1972. He has specialized in the production of fruit trees so that today he has a wide range of large apples. Caliper shade trees and Colorado spruce are also important in this operation. Beginning with 4.8 hectares, Bill has expanded production to 32 hectares. Eighty percent of the stock is sold wholesale and the remaining 20% is sold retail. To facilitate retail trade an attractive 36 m x 45 m shade house has been constructed. Although Bill does not do much landscaping, he provides landscape designs. He has taken a leading role in the development of public gardens at Island Park at the site of the old windmill.

Patmore Nursery Sales, Box 582, Brandon, R7A 5Z7.

Patmore Nursery Sales is the oldest nursery operating in Manitoba today. Established in 1883 by H. L. Patmore, it was passed on to R. H. (Dick) Patmore and then sold outside the family to Jake Driedger in 1970. Since Jake took over the nursery, a son and son-in-law have joined the business. A complete coverage of this nursery with its introductions and contributions is given in the chapter on pioneer nurseries.

The business is integrated to include nursery production, landscaping and retailing. Twenty-six hectares are in nursery production on which a complete line of evergreens, shade trees, fruit trees, shrubs and perennials is grown. Two specialties include Patmore

ash and cut-leaf peonies. Patmore Nursery Sales has modern storage facilities, 725 sq. m. of green house space and 1000 sq. m. of indoor and outdoor retail sale areas. The retail sales season is extended throughout summer by containerization and by offering a good selection of "hard" gardening aids.

Pembina Landscaping and Sod Limited, Box 193, Winkler, R0G 2X0.

Always on the look-out for new trends, Abe Epp has established a "U-pick" strawberry acreage on his farm in addition to doing residential and commercial landscaping, operating a greenhouse to grow perennials and annuals, and installing the Rainbird line of underground sprinklers as well as Frost-link fences in commercial and recreation areas. Pembina Landscaping and Sod Ltd., serving southern Manitoba, was formed in 1975.

Penndale Nursery, Box 126 'F', R.R. 5, Winnipeg, R2C 2Z2.

Jake Penner started Penndale Nursery in 1963 and has operated it ever since then. Penndale Nursery is essentially a retail nursery having an attractive lath-house and potted sales area. A small garden centre for sale of chemicals and tools is adjacent to the plant sales area. Penndale Nursery operates a holding nursery containing 100,000 plants of 85 cultivars. Penndale's specialty is dwarf evergreens. Until 1977 landscape maintenance was done as a supplement to nursery sales.

Portage Plains Nursery, 11 Bridge Road, Portage la Prairie, R1N 2Z4.

Portage Plains Nursery was started in 1947 by Andrew (Andy) H. Young and has been operated since then by Andy and his wife, Aileen. Andy is well known in the nursery trade for his enthusiastic participation at meetings and for his friendly manner. He obtained horticultural training through previous education and employment at Olds College, Brooks Horticultural Centre and Morden Research Station.

Portage Plains Nursery began production on 4 hectares of productive soil along the banks of the Assiniboine River; production was expanded to 16 hectares and then during the past 3 years has been reduced to about 7 hectares. Andy's specialty is budded ornamental and fruit trees, although shrubs are also grown from time to time. One of the unique phases of this nursery is the indoor forcing of pussy willows for early spring trade.

Poulin Tree Care Service, 24 Marion Place, Winnipeg, R2H 0S9.

Don Poulin started in the exterminating business in 1938 and in 1972 established Tree Care Service as a

separate department. Poulin's has offices from Thunder Bay to Vancouver with head office in Winnipeg. Claude Clement served as general manager of Tree Care Service from 1972 to 1981. Since then, Mrs. Dee Hunter has held that position. She operates with a full-time staff of 8 to 10 employees and has up to an additional 15 seasonal employees. Poulin's Tree Care Service offers a complete service including fertilizing, spraying, pruning and removing trees, cutting lawns and sterilizing the soil.

Prairie Seed and Sod Farms Ltd., Box 7, Grp. 1A, SS 1, Winnipeg, R3C 2E8.

Prairie Seed and Sod Farms has been formed as an operating division of the McEwen Bros. operation. The company supplies sod and is a pioneer in the field of hydro mulching.

Prairie Shade Nursery, Box 31, Treherne, R0G 2V0.

Prairie Shade Nursery was started with the planting of 4 hectares to shade and ornamental trees by Rick Durand in 1980. Rick came into the Manitoba nursery industry with a degree in Forestry and a keen eye for native trees. Since becoming a nurseryman he has manufactured a small cart used to ease the laborious nature of budding and weeding.

Rene's Trucking, St. Francois Xavier, R0H 1J0.

Rene's Trucking, owned and operated by Rene Regnier, has been supplying top soil, lawn dressing and sand and gravel for patios since 1962. The business expanded to include several trucks of various sizes, 2 soil crushers, a drag line and up to 5 employees. Recently, some equipment has been sold and staffing has been reduced.

Scenic Landscaping Co., R.R. 1, Box 3, Winkler, R0G 2X0.

Jake Neisteter, formerly an employee of Canada Post, began a small landscaping business in 1976 as a semi-retirement project. Having taken short courses in horticulture and worked part-time at a nearby nursery, Jake found that landscaping was an interesting challenge. His son, Ron, subsequently came into the business and has recently taken the more active role in landscaping. Landscaping is divided 70% residential and 30% commercial. Scenic Landscaping has the following two examples of jobs to their credit: Winkler Civic Centre and Our Lady of the Prairie Monastery, Treherne.

Shelmerdine Nurseries and Garden Centre Ltd., 7800 Roblin Blvd., Headingley, R0H 0J0, and 2901 St. Mary's Rd., St. Germain, R0G 2A0.

Shelmerdine Nurseries and Garden Centre got its

start just before the Second World War through the hard work of Walter Shelmerdine. The business grew steadily through the years until today Shelmerdines do a thriving trade in landscaping, retail sales and some production at two locations on the outskirts of Winnipeg. Walter played a leading role in the formation of the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association and served as its first president. A full account of the progress and changes in ownership of Shelmerdines is given in the chapter on pioneer nurseries. The extensive contribution of Mr. Walter Shelmerdine is recorded throughout the early years of the MNA and MNLA history.

Skinner's Nursery Ltd., Box 220, Roblin, R0L 1P0.

Skinner's Nursery was established in 1925 by Dr. F. L. Skinner. Upon Dr. Skinner's death in 1967, the nursery was maintained by his widow, Helen B. Skinner until 1977 when their second son, Hugh, joined the nursery. Hugh has a Bachelor's degree in agriculture and related experience at the PFRA Tree Nursery, Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Contributions of this nursery are highlighted in the chapter on pioneer nurseries.

Skinner's Nursery Ltd. began operations as the Manitoba Hardy Plant Nursery and was incorporated in 1947. It became internationally known for hardy plants and mail order shipments across North America with special material being sent to New Zealand and Northern Europe. Complete renovation of the business was begun in 1977 so that Skinner's Nursery is beginning again to supply plant material of superior hardiness through wholesale and local retail markets. The nursery now specializes in liners of trees, shrubs and rock garden perennials.

Approximately 20 hectares of nursery stock was maintained during the years from 1930 to 1967. Since the renovation of the business, the production area has been reduced to 6 hectares and management practices have been intensified. Trickle irrigation was initiated in 1979 to overcome drought conditions and water shortages.

St. Andrews Landscaping and Supply Ltd., Box 21, Grp. 6A, R.R. 1B, Winnipeg, R3C 4A3.

This is a new firm started in 1980 by Art Stoller. Art provides year round employment for 2 people and seasonal employment for an additional 4 people. Art served on the MNLA Board of Directors in 1982.

Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery, Box 613, Morris, R0G 1K0.

Stevensons' Evergreen Nursery established in 1926, has been owned and operated continually by Stevensons throughout three generations. Back as

early as 1910, M. J. Stevenson grew evergreens from seed. Seedlings and liners of spruce and pine have been the specialty of the nursery. Production has increased from 1.2 hectares in the beginning to 8 hectares at present. Approximately 300 sq. m. of lathhouse accommodate the coniferous seedbeds. The present owners, Del and Neil Stevenson have served MNLA as president and director, respectively. The nursery has introduced a selection of Siberian fir and Canada yew to the trade and other contributions are recorded in the pioneer nursery section.

Superior Soil and Sod Supply Ltd., 773 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg, R3E 1J4.

Starting in 1978 with "two wheelbarrows and a shovel", Reg Goritz has built his residential landscaping and landscape supply business and intends to see it continue to grow. With the motto, "If you can't see it, ask for it and we'll get it", he opened a selling yard at Gateway and Springfield in 1980, merchandising flowers, shrubs, garden tools and hardware, as well as renting garden tools and machines (e.g. a hand sod cutter for use by the home gardener). One of the next goals is to establish a display garden where Reg can show customers how various horticultural materials can be used to beautify the home.

SWAT Professional Exterminators Inc., 65 St. Anne's Rd., Winnipeg, R2M 2Y4.

Joel Gosselin established his company in 1975 to develop a garden centre service, grounds maintenance, tree pruning, spraying and pest control. His staff currently numbers 4 full-time and one part-time employee.

T.A.B.* Tree Service and Nursery, 42 Dundurn Place, Winnipeg, R3G 1C2

*Trees Are Beautiful

What began as a partnership of three in November, 1973, is now a family operation run by Michael R. Moskal. Michael's wife, Rene, manages a retail plant stand at the Family Fair Store, Westminster and Maryland, in addition to the nursery, grounds maintenance and tree pruning and removal aspect of their business. What does the future hold? Michael hopes to extend their tree pruning and removal capacity and have a retail sales outlet for horticultural goods and nursery stock at the nursery located at LaSalle.

Vanstone Wholesale Nurseries, Box 670, Portage la Prairie, R1N 3C2.

This company was established by Dr. David Vanstone in 1982. From 1977 to 1982 Dr. Vanstone conducted nursery crops management research at Morden Research Station. He has served on the MNLA board of directors and has served as secretary-treasurer of the Western Nursery Growers'

Group since its founding in 1979. Dave has contributed his many talents to the preparation of this history and to the publication of the new colour poster series issued in 1982.

Wacker Farms, Box 119, Poplar Point, R0H 0Z0.

Wacker Farms founded by Heinz Wacker in 1978 as an investment opportunity, grows grain and sod. Ed Alderson, who is farm manager, has experience in sod farming from southern Ontario. Wacker Farms is growing approximately 30 hectares of sod on mineral soils and is just beginning to enter the market place.

Wallace Nurseries, Box 565, Portage la Prairie, R1N 0L5.

Wallace Nurseries was formed by Col. Wallace in the early 1900's and, therefore, represents one of the pioneer nurseries of Manitoba. The present owner, Bill Linden, purchased the nursery in 1968 and since then has emphasized landscape contracting sales. A complete profile on Wallace Nurseries is given in the pioneer nursery chapter.

Westman Tree and Yard Services, 1159 Russell St., Brandon, R7A 5J8.

This firm has recently been purchased by Gilles Maynard who has changed the name from Westman Exterminators. They are involved in landscape construction, maintenance, pruning, rentals, insect control and extermination. They have 3 full-time employees and as many as 10 in busy seasons.

White Horse Plains Tree Farm Ltd., General Delivery, St. Francois Xavier, R0H 1J0.

This company was established in 1974 by Gunter Korell and Mel McEwen and is still maintained by the original owners as an integrated business of shrub and tree production, landscaping and retailing. The original production of 8 hectares has been expanded to 16 hectares. A variety of landscaping materials is grown but the specialty comprising 90% of the production area is individually pruned caliper shade trees. Seventy-five percent of the production is marketed by wholesale and the remainder is sold retail through an affiliated company, McEwen Garden Centre. White Horse Plains Tree Farm is a major supplier of landscaping materials for McEwen Bros.

Associate Members

Bailey Nurseries Inc., 1325 Bailey Road, St. Paul, Mn. 55119, U.S.A.

Bailey Nurseries is a large midwest wholesale grower of nursery stock which supplies part of the

Manitoba market. Baileys have hosted MNLA members and have provided valuable technical information to the local trade.

Blaine-Lynn Farms Ltd., Box 22, Grp. 13, SS 1, Winnipeg, R3C 2E8.

A holding company, President Russell Graham is associated with McEwen Bros. Ltd.

Brett-Young Seeds Ltd., Box 99, St. Norbert, R3V 1L5.

Brett-Young is a well-known name in the seed trade. They supply a range of garden, grass and lawn seeds as well as associated supplies.

Campbell's Garden Supplies Ltd., Lot 3, Waverley Street, SS 4, Winnipeg, R3T 2E7

Owned and operated by Bill Campbell, Campbell's Garden Supplies sells garden tools, bagged soil and general horticultural supplies to the homeowner and the nursery trade.

Consolidated Turf Equipment (1965) Ltd., 972 Powell Avenue, Winnipeg, R3H 0H6.

Consolidated Turf Equipment are major suppliers of power turf equipment and recreational equipment representing leading manufacturers. C.T.E. sells through a chain of independent dealers from Thunder Bay to the Alberta border. C.T.E. has been an associate member of MNLA since 1969 and their former vice-president of sales, John Steel, served on the MNLA executive for several years.

Enns' Bros. Ltd., Box 40, Oak Bluff, R0G 1N0.

Enns' Bros. is a John Deere dealership which supplies garden tractors and related small equipment to landscapers and nurserymen.

Even-Spray and Chemicals Ltd., Bay 2 — 851 Lagimodiere Blvd, R2J 3K4.

Even-Spray and Chemicals specializes in supplying sprayers, sprayer parts, agricultural chemicals and irrigation equipment especially for the horticultural industry. This company is also an agent for Plant Products Co. through which many horticultural accessories are supplied. Its founder, Ed Lovelace, was associated with horticultural supplies for many years with Gardeners' Sales. Since Ed's untimely death in the summer of 1982 his former partners Doug McEwen and Jim Shiells are carrying on the company. Jim Shiells is the current Associate Member director on the MNLA Board.

Ful-Flo Industries Ltd., Box 31, Grp. 200, RR 2, Winnipeg, R3C 2E6.

Ful-Flo Industries is an engineering firm which specializes in designing and supplying components for the agricultural, home and turf irrigation indus-

try. The company is owned and operated by Howard Kortz and Jim Sinclair.

Golden West Seeds Ltd., 915-23 Ave., S.E., Calgary, Alta. T2G 1P1.

Golden West supplies seeds and horticultural supplies to the greenhouse and nursery trade. In Manitoba, Mr. Clare Ferris of Wawanesa serves as regional representative.

Henderson Power Equipment Ltd., 1090 Kenaston Blvd., Winnipeg, R3P 0R7.

Henderson Power Equipment supplies agricultural and industrial Ford equipment to the Winnipeg area. The Ford equipment line is extensively used in the industry and powers many of the turf harvesters.

Lawyer Nursery Inc., 950 Highway 200 West, Plains, Montana, 59859-9706, U.S.A.

This large nursery supplies seeds and seedlings of shrubs and trees suitable for the northern plains of the U.S.A. Association with MNLA provides business contacts with the Manitoba trading area.

Mandem/Industrial Division of Asamera Corp., 21 Murray Park Rd., Winnipeg, R2Y 2E1.

Mandem, established on April 1, 1979, began in 1923 in Winnipeg as Mumford Medland Ltd. At one time they marketed turf equipment such as mowers, but recently nurserymen and landscapers look to them for Vermeer Manufacturers tree spades, stump cutters and brush chippers. Ralph Eades represents his firm in the MNLA as the newest Associate member.

Mori Nurseries Ltd., RR 2, Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0.

Mori Nurseries is a large grower of fruit trees, shade trees, evergreens and shrubs in southern Ontario and has recently joined MNLA. Principal owner, Leno Mori, has been actively involved with both the Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association and the Canadian Nursery Trades Association.

Mutchler Nursery, RR1, Box 165A, Northwood, N.D. 58267, U.S.A.

Tim Mutchler has recently started production of trees and shrubs in this nursery. Due to the similarity in climate between North Dakota and Manitoba, Tim benefits from business contacts gained through MNLA.

Otto Pick and Sons Seeds Ltd., Box 4, Grp. 200, RR 2, Winnipeg, R3C 2E6.

Otto Pick and Sons supplies certified lawn grasses to sod growers in Western Canada and has just recently joined MNLA.

**Prairie Equipment Ltd., 88 Fennell Street,
Winnipeg, R3T 3M4.**

Maybuilt Radiators was formed in 1921, subsequently changing its name to Prairie Equipment and Radiators, Ltd., and in the 1970's shortening it to Prairie Equipment, Ltd. The firm supplies Massey Ferguson Industrial lines and Clark Michigan front-end loaders to the nursery and landscape industry in Manitoba and N.W. Ontario.

**Rech's Landscape Design Service Inc., 122
Riverton Avenue, Winnipeg, R2L 2A6.**

Ken Rech prepares exclusive individual landscape designs and supervises installation in the Winnipeg area. He was trained in landscape architecture at the University of Manitoba.

**Walter Van Vloten Nurseries Ltd., 17616 Ford
Road, Pitt Meadows, B.C., V0M 1P0.**

This company is a major grower and broker of nursery stock for the prairie market. Walter Van Vloten Nurseries supplies a full line of nursery stock in containers.

**Van Waters and Rogers Ltd., 2030 Notre Dame
Avenue, Winnipeg, R3H 0J8.**

Van Waters and Rogers is a major supplier of industrial and agricultural chemicals across Canada. The company's interface with MNLA results in its sale of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides to MNLA members.

**Westcan Horticultural Specialists Ltd.,
1900-11th Street S.E., Calgary, Alberta,
T2G 3G2.**

Westcan Horticultural Specialists provides horticultural supplies and seeds wholesale to the industry in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Westcan was founded in 1970 by Bob Ernter, Anne Kelmpa and Jens Hansen. Shortly after, Jens left the company and Al McNees joined. Bob took a leading role in the formation of the Prairie Landscape Magazine and is presently chairman of the editorial board.

**West-Can Sprinklers Ltd., Bay 5-1081 Keewatin
Street, Winnipeg, R2X 2Z3.**

West-Can act as a distributor for several lines of which Rainbird Sprinklers, Berkley and Monarch Pumps and Phillip High-density Polyethylene Pipes are most commonly known in our trade. Founded in 1973 by Vic Lesser, West-Can Sprinklers Ltd. designs and installs irrigation systems and are proud of the work they have done, particularly on golf courses in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Horticultural Members

**Mr. G. Bitney, 1143 Fleet Avenue, Winnipeg,
R3M 1K8.**

Gerald Bitney, a member of MNLA for several years, teaches gardening to students in the Winnipeg School Division. His efforts have greatly enhanced the horticultural awareness of inner-city students.

**Mr. R. Curle, Manitoba Department of
Agriculture, 908-401 York Avenue, Winnipeg,
R3C 0P8.**

Reg Curle is Manitoba Agriculture's Nursery Crops Specialist who has worked closely with MNLA since 1969. He has served as an academic advisor on the MNLA Board of Directors since 1974. Reg provides valuable liaison with Manitoba Agriculture, Manitoba Horticultural Association, Manitoba Forestry Association and other groups. Reg also takes a major responsibility for the organization of Hort Industry Days, administers Agro Man projects, organizes industry displays and certifies registered nurseries. Reg's involvements with MNLA have given much-needed continuity to the functioning of the association.

**Mrs. Christine Dube, 240 Rideau St., Brandon,
R7A 5N5.**

Christine is employed at Patmore Nursery Sales. She holds the Degree B.Sc.(Ag) with a major in horticulture.

**Mr. Michael K. James, St. James Collegiate,
1900 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, R3J 0J1.**

Michael James is a biology teacher who has a keen interest in horticulture. He is currently pioneering attempts to introduce general horticulture to the high school curriculum. He has built a small greenhouse at St. James Collegiate for students' use.

**Mr. Allan Jeffrey, C.I.F.C., 210-301 Weston St.,
Winnipeg, R3H 3H4.**

Prior to being named the City Forester of Winnipeg in 1981, Allan held several posts with the Province of Manitoba, his last being Manager of Forest Protection and Dutch Elm Disease. This fall Allan has been appointed the head of the newly formed C.I.F.C. in Winnipeg.

**Prof. L. Lenz, Plant Science Department,
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, R3T 2N2.**

Professor Lenz has developed a career in ornamental horticulture at the University of Manitoba through which he has taught courses, trained gradu-

ate students, developed the University arboretum and conducted research. He has interacted freely with amateur horticulturists and backyard gardeners providing valuable advice on selection of cultivars. He has been a member of MNLA for several years.

Mr. B. Richards, Winnipeg Parks and Recreation Dept., 2799 Roblin Blvd., Winnipeg, R3R 0B8.

Bruce Richards is manager of Design Services, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Winnipeg. He is a landscape designer who has provided a communication link between the City of Winnipeg and MNLA on the development of King's Park (Washington Estates).

Mr. G. Schupke, 271 Morgan Crescent, Winnipeg, R2Y 0C9.

Gunter Schupke is employed as a regional supervisor with the Parks and Recreation Department, City of Winnipeg.

Mr. John Steel, 94 Wordsworth Way, Winnipeg, R3K 0K3.

A former Parks Superintendent in the City of St. James-Assiniboia, and later associated with Consolidated Turf Equipment (1965) Ltd., John is currently working as a consultant. He has been an Association Director for twelve years, and this year is Chairman of the Legislation Committee. He has led two recent delegations to the Minister of Finance requesting removal of the 5% sales tax on plant materials. He has been active in the preparation of this history and has devoted untold hours to securing sponsors to help defray the publishing costs.

Mr. B. Zirk, Box 295, Bird's Hill, R0E 0H0.

Mr. Bruno Zirk, an M.Sc. graduate in Plant Science, has maintained an interest in horticulture for the past 15 years. He formerly co-owned a range of greenhouses in the Lockport area. Since selling the greenhouses, he has begun seedling propagation of nursery stock on a part-time basis. Although he is currently Research and Development Representative for Chemagro Ltd., Bruno plans someday to have his own full-time business in horticulture.

Honorary Life Members

Mrs. Doreen Cristall, 25-525 Cathcart St., Winnipeg, R3R 0S6. (1979)

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.

Dr. W. (Bill) A. Cumming, Box 175, Morden, R0G 1J0. (1976)

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 trade and made many advances in plant propagation.

Mr. Murray Orchard, 502-2050 Nelson St., Vancouver, B.C. V6G 1N7. (1979)

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.

Mr. Walter Shelmerdine, 740 Renfrew St., Winnipeg, R2N 1K2. (1982)

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, R0G 1K0. (1976)

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.

CHAPTER 10

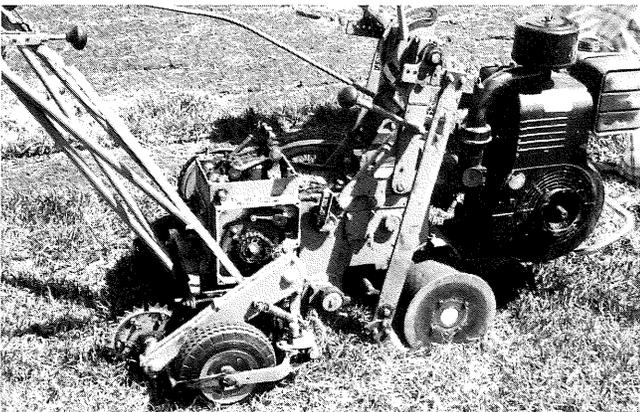
The Sod Industry in Manitoba — An Overview

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 world-wide 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 marketplace in which seeding remained the common method of establishing 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 R. W. From Landscape Gardeners 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



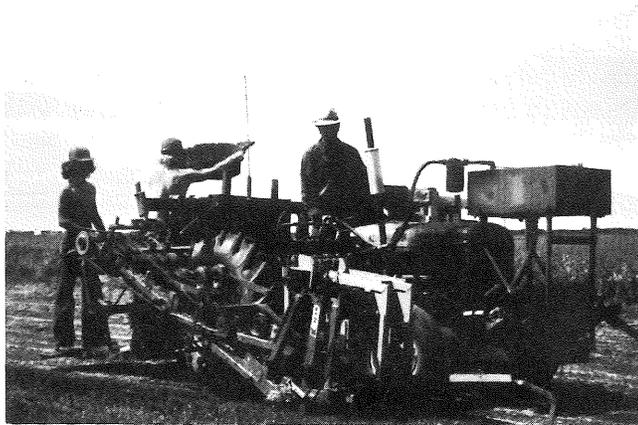
Early sod cutting equipment.



Loading flat sod at Lach Sod at Lach Sod Farms in 1959.

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 for 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 were 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, he is back in the sod business. Prairie Seed & Sod Farms also were the first growers to use a “tow-along fork lift”.



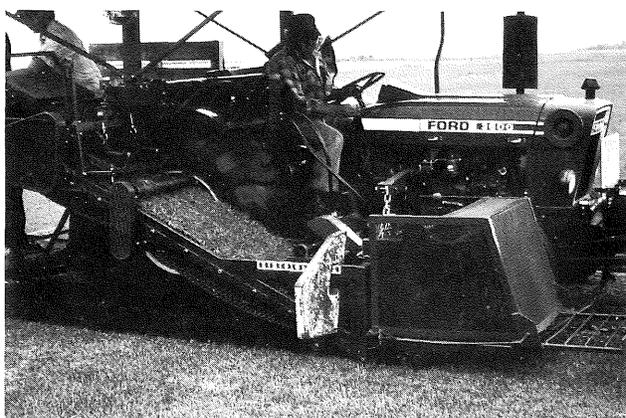
First Ryan sod harvester in operation at Lach Sod Farms.

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 Brouwer for delivery in 1975. Soon others followed. The flexibility of hydraulic operation in altering cutting speeds of the Brouwer Harvester, like the converted Ryan, works well in the heavy Manitoba soils.

Gusta Seed & Sod Farms operated by M. J. Gusta



Brouwer sod harvester in operation in late 1970's.



Close up of Brouwer sod harvester.

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 Producers 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.



Loading sod pallets with multi-tired vehicle on peat soils at Stead.



The "Spyder" pallet loader for sod loading.

1958 was a proud and memorable year for the Manitoba Turf Industry. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Manitoba, after numerous discussions, formed a committee 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.

The Turf Plot Research Program was established to research turf grass varieties and evaluate fertilization, disease, weed and pest controls in 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 continuing 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 believed 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.

Prof. Ferguson, his research assistant, staff, and undergraduate students (some who have pursued their Masters and Ph.D. degrees) have provided the Manitoba turfgrass industry with experimental data which is continually being applied to provide more pleasant living conditions for all. In a paper presented to the Alberta Turf School in Olds, Alberta, in 1974, Prof. Ferguson stated, "Most varieties of turfgrass have appeared in the trade within the last two decades: the reason being that until the big move towards urbanization in the U.S.A. and Europe after World War II there was little demand for amenity grasses with improved quality. Also, the wide acceptance of Merion Kentucky bluegrass and its obvious superiority over the common types in many areas stimulated interested in turfgrass improvement. The trend is indicated in the following table:

	No. of Varieties	
	1954	1968
Bentgrass	4	18
Kentucky Bluegrass	2	38
Fine Fescue	4	16

Most of these new varieties have come out of Western Europe (Sweden and Holland) through private seed companies but more recently Agricultural Research Institutions in the U.S.A. have released improved varieties. Work in Canada to this end has been practically non-existent because despite the

need for varieties specifically adapted to the various growing conditions in Canada, the cost of producing a new variety is considerable and the total demand for new seed is small".

The sod industry in Manitoba has shown a rapid evolution and has developed as an essential part of

the nursery and landscape industry over the past few years. This rapid development owes much to a spirit of cooperation between sod farmers, greenskeepers and research staff. This industry spirit has produced a very healthy segment of the landscape industry and promises a bright future.

CHAPTER 11

MNLA Trends and CNTA Relationship — An Overview

In order to get a better view of the MNLA today, we need only look back a few years. It's twenty five years since thirteen nurserymen with a common interest got together to begin the Manitoba Nurserymen's Association which was the forerunner to the MNLA. The reasons for the Association were varied but the over-riding concern was for joint action. Why pioneer alone when it's easier to do it together? Those who have been members for a few years are grateful to the Association. The contact with other members has been a source of learning. The social aspect has been a bonus. The many hours spent in discussing certain propagating methods has been most interesting and stimulating. Since many of the growing techniques are experimental, there is a temptation to withhold a good method and allow a fellow grower to continue on with an older, sometimes costlier, method. In the earlier years of the Association there was a tendency to withhold information at times. This does not seem apparent today.

In 1967 MNLA had grown to twenty six members. This figure rose to about forty in 1977 and to about eighty in 1981. We are trying to reach the grand total of one hundred in this our anniversary year.

Special mention should be made regarding Mrs. Dorothy Lynch, who for many years served as secretary of our association. When interest in the association seemed to dwindle, Dorothy encouraged us to continue on. Dorothy was a continuing inspiration to the members of our association.

Many interesting events have served to stimulate interest in our industry. Some of these have been field trips, meetings at Morden Research Station and seminars. "Hort. Industry Days" have been a strengthening factor for our association.

The MNLA has been affiliated with the CNTA for many years. Our member contribution to the CNTA went as high as \$70.00. Many of our members questioned the effectiveness of the CNTA. The question, "What are we getting from CNTA for seventy dollars?" was a constant reminder that a change was due. After much discussion at an annual CNTA meet-

ing in February of 1977 in Quebec City, it was decided that the office of full time executive director in Ottawa would be terminated. The office would be combined with a regional office. The work would be done on a part time basis by the executive secretary of the region. Strong emphasis was placed on the commodity groups with CNTA acting more as an umbrella for commodity groups. Strong representation would continue in the trade and tariff area from CNTA to Ottawa. The trade magazine would be self sustaining. The fee from the regional association was reduced to \$25 per member. This change gave the regions a greater sense of individuality plus many more dollars to carry on a better program at home. Since this change in the structure of CNTA, the constitution has been revised and the new format has functioned very efficiently.

What have been some of the noticeable trends in the nursery industry? Just ten years ago pasture sod, which often included weeds and other undesirable qualities, was quite common. Today no landscaper uses pasture sod. Instead a high quality peat or mineral sod is utilized.

Nurserymen are becoming more quality conscious. Trees are straighter and the general quality, including the root system, has improved. Prairie growers are particularly conscious about hardiness. The growing of hardy cultivars, suitable for a particular region is an ongoing effort.

Landscape architects are no longer suggesting material that is unsuited to a region. Quality and size is also checked and sometimes replacements have to be made where specifications are not met.

Many chain stores have added nursery stock to their already diversified lines and this will spread the dollar spent on trees and shrubs much thinner. The grower who is also a retailer has some advantages in that he can give good advice on tree care based on experience. Competition needn't be a detriment since our country has always improved when competition was keen. This end result of competition usu-

ally produces a better product and much better service.

Another trend which has expanded rapidly is the use of larger trees. Landscape specifications will call for a 4" or even 5" caliper tree. Retail customers are reluctant to buy a whip. People want an instant landscape effect. This, of course, is part of the trend today. With the tightening of the dollar we may see a slow-down in the use of large trees. How does the large tree demand effect the grower? Larger and better equipment more suited to large tree handling is required.

The high cost of freight has become a major expense item for the garden shop operator. Related nursery supplies must be shipped in from the east or west. The cost of shipping nursery stock has encouraged local buying.

The nursery and landscape industry has always been labour intensive. Today there are many people who are looking for work but some are not seriously intending to work. Since our industry relies on workers for seasonal jobs we are subjected to many who work for one day or maybe a week and then quit. The good worker doesn't want seasonal labour. The more labourers we can occupy right through the year the easier it will be to develop a skilled staff.

Winter packaging, bench grafting and snow removal may be a few jobs that would offset the cost of keeping a worker through the entire year. Usually a good employee is not interested in being laid off in the fall. At this time only two nurseries have been unionized and these are both in B.C. The largest nurseries are located in Ontario where it is unlawful to organize a union in a nursery.

Competition in the wholesale nursery trade has become more noticeable. Price and quality are influencing factors when it comes to buying. At present large amounts of nursery stock are still imported from the U.S. and some from Holland. Prairie growers are experiencing more competition from growers, particularly in B.C., who benefit from more favorable climatic conditions. The U.S. over-production of container grown evergreens may spill over into Canada and depress the market.

The future of the MNLA rests with all its members, both large and small. The smaller landscaper or maintenance member may not find MNLA as challenging as the grower. However, the trades are related and meeting the various people will serve in the end to benefit those who want to belong.

It is encouraging to see quite a number of the younger generation nurserymen. We now have many examples of nurserymen's sons working with their fathers. We have a unique occupation that seems to stimulate and challenge its participants.

To the grower and landscaper it would appear prudent at this time of high interest rates to expand with caution. Some diversification might be the proper direction to take. There are so many phases and so many opportunities in our industry that the future looks bright.

As MNLA members today in this anniversary year, we are indebted to those nurserymen who were the founders of the MNLA 25 years ago. By continuing to work together we can each benefit and strengthen our own businesses and the MNLA. This is the challenge we must take up.