

THE POPLARFIELD & DISTRICT  
MILLENNIUM ALBUM

1900 ~ 2000



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*The  
Poplarfield & District  
Millennium Album  
1900 ~ 2000*

*By  
Edward M. Ledohowski  
under the sponsorship of  
The St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish  
of Poplarfield, Manitoba*



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# *Poplarfield & District Millennium Album*

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## *Poplarfield & District Millennium Album*

This book is dedicated to Poplarfield's 100 years, and to those who endured with Grace and with Courage, the rough and hard life of the pioneer. We all stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us. We will not forget them.

*"Each knew that there would be no honor or glory for them. Nor would people remember the toil and the suffering that went into building the road, or their bones that would lay beneath it. But each knew that only after they broke the stone and cleared the way, would people walk this road. "*

*...Ivan Franko*

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*Poplarfield & District Millennium Album*



SHARING THE MEMORY  
SHAPING THE DREAM



**Heritage Grants  
Program**





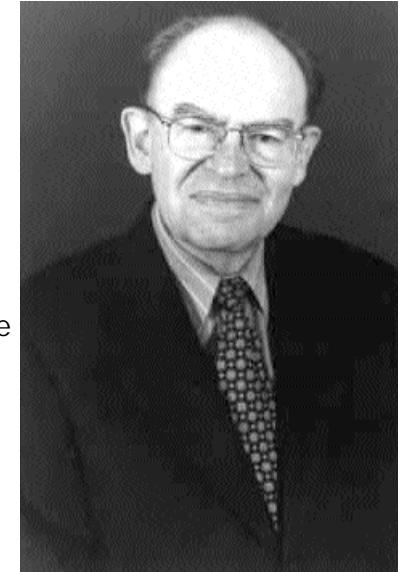
**Message from the Honourable Herb Gray, Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister responsible for the Government of Canada's millennium initiative  
The Poplarfield and District Millennium Album**

Congratulations to the Ukrainian Catholic Parish of St. Nicholas on the publication of this album documenting your community's heritage. This album of historical photographs gives us a visual look at the community's development over the past one hundred years.

Canada's foundations are based on the cultural diversity found throughout the country. Slavic-rooted communities have played an important role in the development of the country, and the Poplarfield and District Community is no exception. Through the rich prosperity of its early years to the hardships of the recent, the pride the residents feel in their heritage is well placed.

I am pleased to be involved with many projects relating to Canadian history. I believe that it is important to pass historical knowledge to our children. This album is a great example of your wish to pass your heritage on to the next generation.

The Government of Canada is proud to support this album of historical photographs with a financial contribution through the Canada Millennium Partnership Program. Appearing as it does at the turn of the millennium, when we reflect on our past and contemplate our future, this publication is timely. This album will leave a lasting legacy in the spirit of our national millennium theme, "Sharing the Memory, Shaping the Dream."



The Hon. Herb Gray, M.P.  
Deputy Prime Minister

# Preface

The publishing of a 'Pictorial History' for any community or ethnic Canadian group is a deviation from the usual historical approach. To treat properly the 'pioneer years' becomes a challenge. This period is difficult because artistic collections and photographs of early life are hard to obtain. In spite of these difficulties, Edward Ledohowski has been able to meet the challenge admirably.

Mr. Ledohowski carefully selected photographs that represent the life of the small Interlake community where he grew up. He is well acquainted with life and progress of Poplarfield through his own experiences and from listening to the stories of Ukrainian pioneers. Yes, it is the history of land-hungry Ukrainian settlers who after 1902 began to build homes in the wood-ed-marshy lands. He collected some fine photographs which illustrate the approaches used by Ukrainian pioneers to make new homes in the Interlake bush country.

Soon after settlement a community centre was established, as was a general store and a Post Office. There was no railway. The C.N.R. line didn't come until ten years later. When the highways finally came, the settlement was bisected, with a 'new' Poplarfield emerging.

Organization of schools, their naming, the organization of a municipality, the growth of the community, and the election of Mr. N.V. Bachynsky as the first M.L.A. of Ukrainian extraction, are all brought into focus.

Edward Ledohowski belongs to the new generation of Ukrainians in the community. After his high school education he received a diploma in Agriculture and a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the University of Winnipeg, before gaining a Master of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba. His research on ethnic settlement groups for his Master's Thesis prepared him well for selecting photographs and writing of commentaries about life in Poplarfield and District.

The Ledochowski's came to Canada in 1903 from the village of Stubno, Poland and were among the first to settle in the Hamrlik P.O. District located on the Principal Meridian. Michael and Anne Ledohowski were born in Poplarfield, where they owned and operated a garage and later a grain farm, and were active leaders in the community.

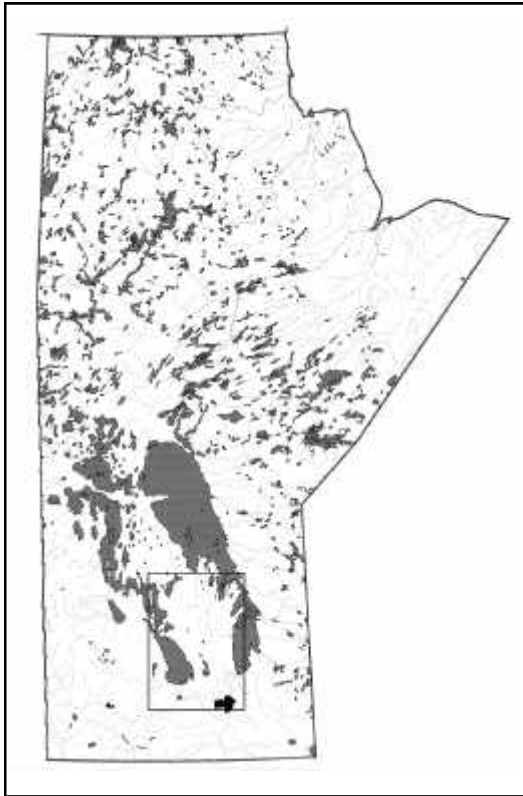
Edward Ledohowski offers his readers a carefully prepared documentary on life in Manitoba. His 'Millennium Album' shows how the redoubtable Ukrainian settlers succeeded amid difficulties and adversity.

- Michael Ewanchuk

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# Poplarfield & District Millennium Album

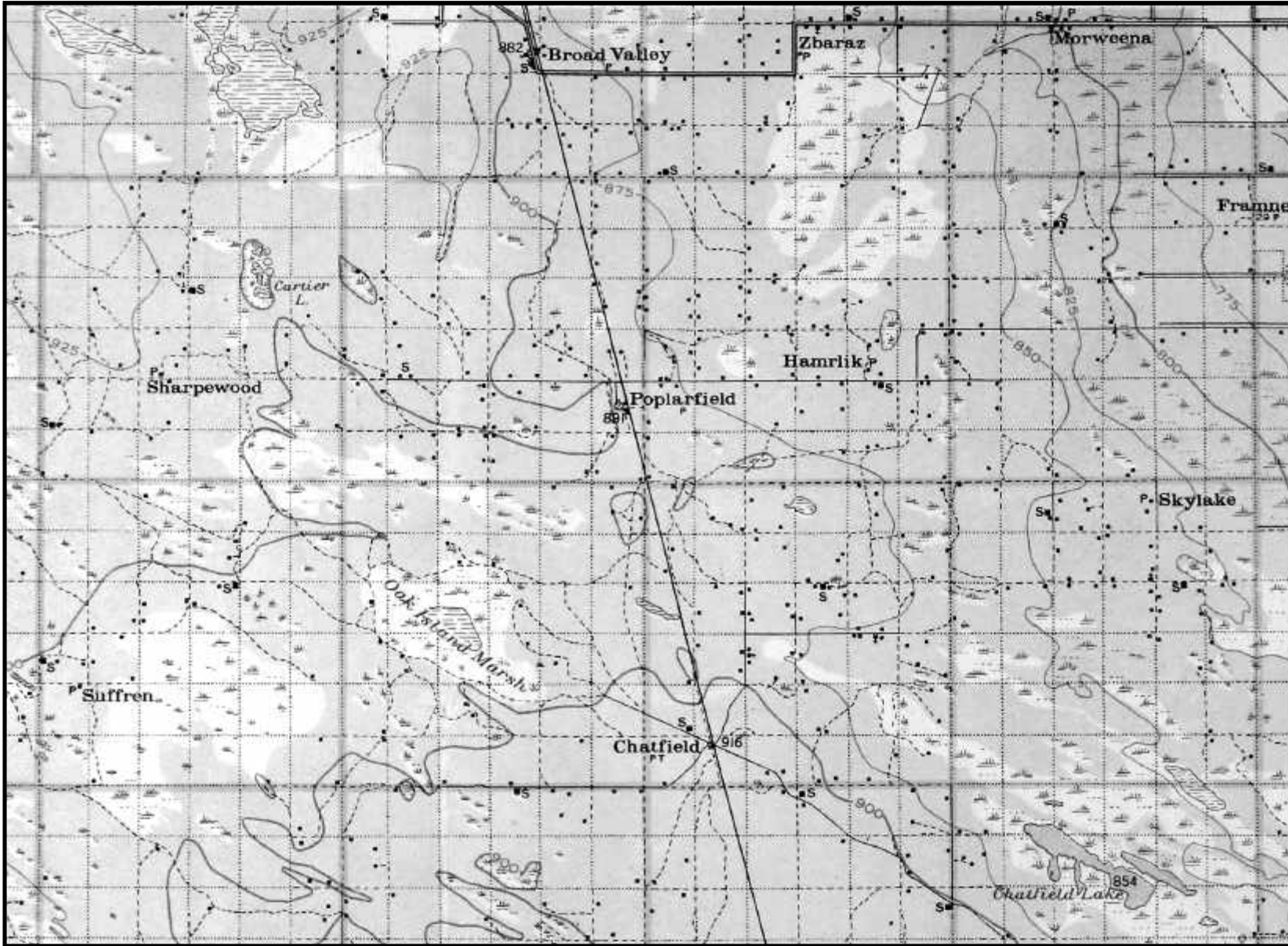


Above: Key map of Manitoba showing the location of the area detailed at right.



Right: Portion of a Provincial Trunk Highways map showing the major roadways and communities in the Interlake Region c1990 and the location of Poplarfield, 120 km north of Winnipeg in the Interlake region of the Province of Manitoba. Map-021.

## Poplarfield & District Millennium Album



Left: Detail from a 1929 topographic map of the central Interlake region, showing: elevation contours, township survey grid, railways, trails, building locations, lakes and sloughs, and Post Office outlets. The region was close to it's population peak at this time. Map-036.



# *Acknowledgements*

*This publication would not have been possible without the generous assistance of a large number of individuals and agencies. Their contributions will be noted and described in the forthcoming pages, but an 'upfront' collective thank you is hereby extended to the following:*

*Firstly, for their generous financial assistance, particular thanks to: the Canada Millennium Partnership Program, the Manitoba Heritage Grants Program, the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, Canad Inns Corporation, Ben & Janet Ledohowski, Mike & Anne Ledohowski, David & Ghistaine Wallach, and Ms Sharron Nosal. Your generosity paid all the 'hard' costs of production.*

*Critical also was the contribution made by all the families who came forth and offered their precious old family photographs to be copied when the call was put out for images. Their contributions were critical to the success of this project. Thank you for taking the time and making the effort, on very short notice, to hunt down these photos and provide the descriptive information that accompanied many of them.*

*The work of the small band of volunteers who gave of their time to this project also was absolutely critical. Special thanks to the members of the Poplarfield Reunion Committee. It was largely their persistent 'digging' that resulted in the identification of the vast majority of many, many faces that appear in this publication. A photograph is far more interesting and insightful if you know who the people are - even much more the case for a 'family' album. Particular thanks to Mr. Laurie Klump for his extraordinary efforts in this regard.*

*Acknowledgements and thanks go to the board members of both the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish of Poplarfield for sponsoring the applications for financial assistance, and for hosting the two Poplarfield 'Photo Fairs' held at the Poplarfield Community Centre. And finally, to the Canad Inns Corporation, the Manitoba Historical Society, and Odyssey Lodge for providing office and meeting space.*

*Special acknowledgement is extended to the family of Jacob Melnyk for allowing us to access what survives of his once extensive collection of photographs of the Poplarfield region. Also special mention to the family of Andrew Malofie, whose love of photography and extensive collection of Fisher Branch both augmented and inspired the creation of the Poplarfield Collection.*

*There are many other individuals that assisted in their own manner and contributed to the creation of this unique historical document. I must also thank my parents and many distant relatives, who showed me that history is important, and set me upon a path. Finally, and most importantly, this publication would not have been possible without the support, understanding, and love of my wife Monique and our daughter Lindsay. Thank you all.*

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## Poplarfield & District Millennium Album

# Contributors

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Zuk, John & Anne

### INSTITUTIONS & ARCHIVES

- Canadian National Railway Archives.
- Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Tourism, Historic Resources Branch.
- Opportunities For Youth, 1974 student project files.
- Provincial Archives of Manitoba: J.W. Sisler Collection, Malofie Collection, Foote Collection, School Inspectors Albums, Half-year School Attendance Records, Cartographic Collection.
- Ukrainian Cultural & Educational Centre.
- University of Manitoba, Manitoba Tribune Collection.

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- Canad Inns Corporation
- Ben & Janet Ledohowski
- Mike & Anne Ledohowski
- David & Ghistaine Wallach
- Ms Sharron Nosal

### VOLUNTEERS & IN-KIND DONATIONS

Canad Inns  
Northern Plains Heritage Company  
Manitoba Historical Society  
Odyssey Lodge

Poplarfield Reunion Committee: Marilyn Daulat, Peter & Sonia Genyk, Norman Klowak, Laurie Klump, Ed Ledohowski, Peter Moroz, Ed Ozubko, Norris & Jenny Pawlychka, Laura Renolds.

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish Board: Helen Horodecki, Harry Leochko, Sharron Nosal, Stella Roschuk.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish Board: Evelyn Pomanski, Pat Rindall.

Others: Frances Blahey, Gary Dickson, Lorraine Hebert, Olga Kulyk, Monique Ledohowski, John Lehr, Joanna Marko, Karen J. McClland, Lawrence Suchar, Roy Surminski, Joan Wachs, Mike Zorniak.

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## *Poplarfield & District Millennium Album*

# *Introduction*

by  
Edward M. Ledohowski

The community of Poplarfield is located at the very heart of the Interlake region of Manitoba. It came into being just after the turn of the century, and slowly but surely grew as settlers, primarily of Ukrainian and Polish origin, took up homesteads in the surrounding region. As in many similar communities located in the prairie-fringe areas of Manitoba, despite numerous initial hardships, the Poplarfield area took hold, grew, and enjoyed a very exciting period of economic and cultural vitality. In the early 1960s, the combined effects of rural electrification, farm mechanization, and centralization of services lead to widespread rural depopulation - and the slow decline of the community and its hinterland. The community is now but a shadow of its former self.

Poplarfield itself was never more than a minor player in the overall history and development of Manitoba. There were likely only 150 residents in town at its peak, but it had a unique character and a colourful history. It was my hometown and it was a great place to grow up. I recall fondly playing hide and seek in and around the buildings along the main street; during the spring, running matchstick boat races along the streets and playing oilcan cricket with a sponge ball; exploring the empty buildings in the 'old' town site, or the glass-covered ruins of the old lime-quarry kiln; and building tree-forts in the bush which surrounded the town. Everybody really did know everybody, and all seemed quite comfortable with one another. There were social events of all kinds to attend, concerts, weddings, socials, banquets. There was always something of interest going on. Today the town site is a neat, but sleepy little crossroads, belying its vibrant and colourful past.

Unfortunately, for those who share my fondness for the community, Poplarfield never produced a local history book, as have many communities throughout Manitoba. Years' worth of research and documentation undertaken by students attending Dehowa School were destroyed when the town's second school burned to the ground in 1953, and another attempt at documenting the community history was never made. Given the community's colourful past, I had grown to feel that it would have been truly unfortunate if all this history were to pass into the annals of time completely undocumented. With the passing of the pioneering generation many decades ago, the opportunity for a good general accounting of the community's history had long since past. The bulk of what remained of the early days survived in the photographs located in the many family albums stored away in corner cupboards or basement shelves. Only a collective picture

album of some type was now possible. With the sons and daughters of the pioneers well into their twilight years, the opportunity to produce even that was quickly diminishing as well. Very few personal family albums contain accompanying textual information, noting the people or the situation in the pictures - that information was stored away in the memories of those with personal connections to those times and events. The final opportunity to record something of what Poplarfield clearly had arrived. With the coincidental events of the dawning of a new millennium in world history, and the centennial of Poplarfield as a community, a personal decision was made to attempt to produce a community album of some type to mark these events, and to honor those who came before us and helped shape our lives.

### **Photographs and Local Histories**

The use of archival materials, particularly photographs, as a way of preserving and portraying history is well accepted in the heritage community. In recent years, some excellent pictorial and illustrated histories have been produced. However, in terms of local community histories, the illustrated history approach has been little utilized. The typical 'local history book', as it has come to be known in Manitoba, is largely comprised of personal family histories, and the histories of organizations and agencies. They are excellent sources of personal family information. However, explanations of general trends and district-wide situations are often lacking. With only a few exceptions, photographs are generally used in these volumes only sparingly, and to augment a story, rather than as a way of telling the story. There are undoubtedly many photographic treasures hidden away in small museums and personal albums throughout the Province. If thoughtfully brought together, these pictures could relate stories, and take readers to places and times, in a manner that no family history book could - visually. There is likely a whole new branch of local history located in the old family photo album, just waiting to be utilized. One of the goals of this book is to show some of the possibilities which exist in using archival photographs and other illustrative material to document, preserve, and appreciate local history.

### **Poplarfield Community Photo Collection**

The sequence of events that ultimately led to the preparation and publication of this 'annotated album' deserves explanation. How it came to be, determined the final result. It will become clear why the images that are included - were included, and why there are some obvious gaps in some of the themes and the chronological use of the images. Also, the sources

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of the images used in creating this album, and the contributions by individuals and agencies, were many and generous. These have been acknowledged above, however, some also merit discussion.

Accumulating the images which now make up the complete Poplarfield community photo collection began as a chance encounter in 1974, and resulted in a copy of a photo of the Bailley Bros. Store located in 'old' Poplarfield being donated to the author. This was the first image in a personal journey and a photographic collection that currently stands at over 1,375 images. Over the next 25 years from that initial acquisition, the collection would be added to in bits and pieces through more chance meetings, until a sufficient number of images were amassed to create a collection portraying all the major themes in the history and development of the community.

### **1974 Opportunities For Youth Project**

The Poplarfield community photo collection received its next dozen or so images as a result of a student employment program entitled "Historical Enquiries into the Central Interlake". During the course of that summer ten students and recent graduates of Fisher Branch Collegiate recorded and transcribed the early recollections of approximately 40 senior citizens from districts and communities throughout the central Interlake. The author was involved in the project, and among other duties, was responsible for making copies of various photographs to augment the stories. About 200 photographs were copied using a standard 35 mm reflex camera fitted with a macro lens, and fine grain black and white film. The copying technique was hand-held, and the amount of information recorded for each photo was minimal, but in all over 200 images were copied. The materials collected during that summer were later used in the production of the Chatfield, Fisher Branch and Hodgson local history books. The Poplarfield interview transcripts and about 25 photographs of mostly farm scenes, along with some maps and documents, remained in the author's possession and were added to the 'community collection'.

### **Malofie Family Collection**

The discovery of the Malofie family photographic collection occurred during the OFY'74 project, but ended up as a project onto itself. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Malofie of Fisher Branch had been two of the seniors interviewed by the OFY project students. They brought forth several albums, full of photographs of all types, some going back to the construction of the railway through the District in 1914, taken by the three Malofie brothers, Nick, Dan and Andrew. Most were hand-processed and printed.

Mr. Malofie then proceeded to retrieve, from the barn, a shoebox overflowing with medium format negatives, amounting to several hundred images, many without surviving prints. The superb technical quality and wide range of subject matters portrayed in these images made them outstanding and worthy of preservation. The author instantly recognized their historical value. Staff from the Provincial Archives photographic section were consulted, and over the next several years, over 250 of the best of the Malofie family collection photographs were identified and copies added to the PAM Still Images Section. Approximately 25 of the Malofie images related in some way to the Poplarfield area and were copied. These images became the third significant addition to the Poplarfield collection. More important than the 25 images themselves, however, the discovery of the Malofie Collection proved to be the spark and inspiration behind the creation of the Poplarfield community album collection. The author was immensely impressed by the superb quality of the images, the wide variety of the activities captured, and the fact that the Malofie family members took the time to record various details and background information for many of their photos in a journal. These were truly photographs worthy of a public exhibition, and in chancing upon it, the author was moved not to miss any opportunity to copy and document photos that portrayed the people and events of the Poplarfield District, and of the extended Ledochowski family. It was not evident at the time, but two life-long projects began in the Malofie kitchen, when Mr. Andrew Malofie presented the author with that shoebox and remarked, "If you liked that, take a look at this!"

### **Ledochowski Family Collection**

Inspired by the Malofie Collection and the interesting transcripts of the OFY'74 project interviews, I resolved to actively investigate my own family history. This work has become a personal lifelong interest. At the time I thought perhaps the reason why the Ledochowski family name had least three different spellings would be revealed, or why there seemed to be so many families with the name in the District. Slowly over the years, while at social and family functions, contacts were made and names, dates and parentage information were recorded and charted. As well, a goal was set early to obtain at least one picture of each and every extended family member. It was soon discovered there were six major branches of the Ledochowski family who homesteaded in the District and involved some rather large-sized families, such as the 16 members of the Fred and Anne Leduchowski family. Consequently the objective of one photo for each member of the family tree has become a slow on-going process. In terms of the Poplarfield community collection, in the pursuit of purely personal pictures, a few images showing a particularly good view of an interesting building or activity, were invariably encountered. These were

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copied as well and resulted over the years in the addition, now and again, of a handful more photos to the collection.

### **J.W. Sisler Collection**

When the early settlers of the Poplarfield District arrived, they came virtually without capital; it was only by sheer determination and sweat of brow that they survived and then prospered. A camera was a luxury item few could afford. There were few photographs taken by the District residents during the difficult first few decades. The few that were taken tended to be of personal family groups and were often of fairly poor quality. Very fortunately, in terms of this album, just after the turn of the 19th century, a Provincial School Inspector by the name of J.W. Sisler, in making his assigned rounds assessing the needs of administering a rapidly growing rural population, photographed the day-to-day lives of many of the Ukrainian pioneers who settled only slightly earlier and slightly south of the Poplarfield District. His collection is now held at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba, and its discovery by the author filled another major thematic gap in the Poplarfield collection. The individuals in the photographs may not have been from Poplarfield itself, but their buildings and lifestyles were very much the same.

### **Jacob Melnyk Collection**

Jacob Melnyk grew up on the family homestead a few miles north east of Poplarfield. He was one of a handful of eccentric 'characters', which every community possessed. Among other traits, he would receive unusual types of literature in the mail, was fond of relating unusual facts and stories, and was said to have knowledge of the 'black arts'. During the 1960s he could be frequently observed walking along the District roads with his ever-present pack-sack, and one or more cameras in hand. He would take pictures of anything and everything, and was not timid to stand in front of a crowd, or approach and photograph someone. He lived to be 103 and passed away in 1997. In 1998, an elderly sister was contacted through the efforts of Sonia Swarychewski, a neighbour and friend of Jacob's, to see what had become of his pictures. We were informed that Jacob had given away the bulk his pictures over the years, and that only a small box of pictures of mostly town buildings survived. These were generously given to us. With that acquisition, another major theme was now well represented in the community collection. Despite this success, we were saddened by the loss of access to the bulk of Mr. Melnyk's collection of photographs. Those that have been located and copied show that, while the technical skill evident in the Malofie Collection was lacking, the range of subject matters photographed made for many very interesting and informative images. It was most unfortunate that his collection did not survive intact; it was likely a local history treasure trove.

### **Poplarfield Reunions 1992 & 1997**

In August of 1992 a group of residents and former residents of the Poplarfield District organized a two-day homecoming, with a Social evening in Winnipeg on Saturday, and special religious services and a community picnic and dance on Sunday. The event was an overwhelming success and was repeated five years later on a slightly smaller scale. At both events, a small budget was made available for copying archival material for display purposes, and included copies of maps, school attendance records, and photographs. During these events several individuals came forth offering the use of 'community activity' type photos contained in their personal albums. Among the handful of albums reviewed, three were especially useful. These belonged to Sylvia Hryciuk-Torbiak, John & Rose Baydock, and Elizabeth Bailley-Trychnewicz. With Sylvia and the Baydocks having been teachers in Poplarfield, many images of school groups and community social events were in the albums. And as a bonus, a number of the class pictures had the names of the students written on the back. The scope of the community collection again progressed significantly with these additions.

### **The Millennium Album Project**

By 1997, the cost in personal time and resources of advancing the growth of two photographic collections, one personal and one community, was becoming difficult to maintain. A decision was made to 'box up' and donate to the Provincial Archives of Manitoba, what then amounted to a collection of about 250 images in the Poplarfield Collection, and to concentrate on the family project. Fortunately, procrastination resulted in still being in possession of the collection when the Manitoba and Canada Millennium programs were announced. It was decided that with sufficient funding and one final coordinated push, the remaining major thematic gaps in the collection could be filled and an album of photographs produced.

Two advisory committees were struck: one based in Poplarfield consisting of the standing parish board members for St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Churches; and a second based in Winnipeg consisting of the current members of the Poplarfield Reunion - Winnipeg Committee. It was proposed that, acting as the project coordinator, I would make applications for funding to cover the production costs and a portion of the printing costs for 1000 copies of a 400-page community album. After expenses all profits from the project would be gifted to the local church parishes for restoration and maintenance of the two church buildings, both designated municipal heritage sites and requiring of regular upkeep and a program of restoration. As part of the funding agreements, a sizable portion of the total costs was to be borne by the

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local groups. Volunteer hours and in kind donations of various types were solicited and agreed to by the members of both committees, several organizations, businesses, and individuals.

A detailed project budget of \$35.0 and a work plan was prepared and submitted to Canada Millennium Partnership Program, the Manitoba Heritage Grants Program, the Taras Shevchenko Society, and several prominent businesses with ties to Poplarfield, requesting assistance. By early summer of 2001, with principal funding forthcoming from the Canada Millennium Partnership Program and the Manitoba Heritage Grants Program, and all other aspects of the project seemingly in place, a collective decision was made to commit and proceed. Of major concern in deciding to proceed or not, was the short timetable available to undertake and complete the project. Funding agency deadlines required that the album had to be fully produced and ready for press in slightly less than ten months. The collection at that point consisted of roughly 250 photographs. We knew it was going to be a real challenge, but the importance of succeeding took precedence over doubts.

### A Call for Photos

To advertise the project, a handbill was prepared describing the project and the album concept, and requesting permission to copy and use any photos, which had good general interest qualities. It also included a mail-in form for reserving copies of the publication. The pamphlet was mailed to the 250+ names on the Poplarfield Reunions 'ticket buyers' lists. Individuals who contacted the project were visited and their photographs examined. A select number were copied and basic background information was recorded. As well, an interview and a newspaper article was arranged and appeared in the Interlake Spectator, similarly describing the project and putting out a call for donations. In both items information and dates were provided inviting the public to attend two "Photo Fairs" held in the Poplarfield Community Centre during the summer and autumn of 2000. Copies of the photographs in the growing collection were displayed on tables and those in attendance were invited to contribute information regarding the peoples' names and situations in the images. As well, any personal photographs brought to the event were copied 'on the spot', so that the owners did not have to entrust their often very precious photos to relative strangers.

### Photo Selection

To keep the final publication interesting to a wide range of readers, it was decided to restrict use of 'family portrait' type of photos. As well, it wouldn't be fair to those families unable to locate and submit images simply because of the short notice of the request, while a lucky

few got their family pictures in early. Photographs were requested which showed family members, or anybody, engaged in some type of typical activity, or a good view of an interesting structure or piece of farm machinery. Early family portraits were accepted if they included original homestead holders. These were added to the collection, with the thought that a "Faces of the Homesteaders" type of chapter might be possible if sufficient suitable photos were received. Also, some images were purposefully sought out, such as views of several important structures, Second World War Veterans and local politicians, and maps of various types.

### Image Copying and Handling

Given the nature of the project and its timing, it is somewhat appropriate that the copying, handling and storage of the images were undertaken using digital technology on a fairly standard home computer. It is new technology preserving the work of old technology. In its digital form, the collection is potentially available to anyone, anywhere in the world, and the information can be easily and quickly accessed with a minimum of computer equipment. In the interest of those who might consider duplicating some of the procedures used in this project to copy and process the images, a brief description is offered. Anyone not particularly interested in 'technical-talk' may skip to the following section.

All the photographs and documents were scanned using a standard inexpensive flatbed scanner, in this case an Artec-AS6E. Images copied 'on site' were photographed on fine grain black & white film, using a copy stand and a basic Pentax K-1000 35mm reflex camera fitted with a macro lens. Three bracketed exposures were taken of each image, to have a choice in terms of tonal quality and for easier handling and filing. After processing, the 'best' exposure on the negative was then scanned to floppy disk using a negative scanner. All images were stored as TIFF format files. Resolution was adjusted at the time of scanning to obtain a file size of between one-half and one megabyte each. For filing purposes, each image was given a code number based on its content theme and the order in which they were received. After each image was filed to hard drive, they were listed on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program in numeric order along with the owners name, date, location, and basic identification. For general reference purposes, 'master reference pages' were then prepared. Using Microsoft WORD, an initial caption was written, along with code number, and a copy of the image 'pasted' on the page. Two images per page worked the best. The resulting collection of 'reference pages' were circulated among volunteers for identification, and proved very useful during the manuscript layout stage for locating and selecting images. The photographs used in the album were also 'corrected' using

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## *Poplarfield & District Millennium Album*

Adobe Photoshop, Ver.5. Where required, horizon line tilt, brightness & contrast, and grain sharpness were adjusted. As well, the masking of spots and cracks was undertaken, and the image cropped for compositional balance. In a number of group photos, ID numbers were added to aid in the identification of individuals. The computer equipment in this project consisted of a PC home computer possessing 10 Gigabytes of hard-drive memory, 128 RAM, a Pentium II processor, and a Re-writable CD-ROM burner. Software used included Microsoft WORD and EXCEL, Adobe Photoshop, and QuarkExpress.

### **The Annotated Album Concept**

The intent behind the project was to produce a 'family album' type of document - the family being the community of Poplarfield. The goal was to portray, in pictures, scenes of the growth and development of the greater Poplarfield District from its initial settlement beginning around 1900 to the present day. To portray the broad trends in the community's history, the photographs were organized in general chronological order according to sub-theme within one of 12 different thematic chapters. In this way, the general evolution of the District could be portrayed, and thus the changes could be better understood and appreciated. As a general interest album, it was considered important that as many typical community and family oriented activities as possible be portrayed. Also, because it was to be a 'family' album, it was also considered essential that as many as possible of the individuals pictured in the images were identified by name. As an 'annotated album' it was also important that contextual information be provided throughout the album, just sufficiently so as to add insight and meaning to the overall 'look and the feel of the community' as portrayed by the images. Ultimately, the hope was to receive and use images representing as many different Poplarfield area families as possible. However, the prime consideration in selecting photographs for the collection was that they show typical activities, community events, and familiar structures - there had to be something more than just people. Who was in a picture was not as important as what it illustrated.

### **Identification & Nomenclature**

Identifying, working with, and keeping track of several hundred people with Slavic names proved to be a bit of a challenge, to say the least. Both the visual identification of people and the spelling of their names, in almost all cases was obtained as a result of someone's personal recollection of times often long since past. Identification of some individuals often shifted back and forth with different reviewers. In other cases, despite a concerted effort, some individuals just could not be identified with any certainty. In terms of names, many variations in the spelling of peoples' family names were regularly encountered, even in official

records. Also, several families changed the spelling of their names. All possible care was taken in providing accurate information in the photo descriptions, however it must be accepted that there likely will be some mistakes in identification and nomenclature. Corrections and additions were being made right to press time.

### **The Final Result**

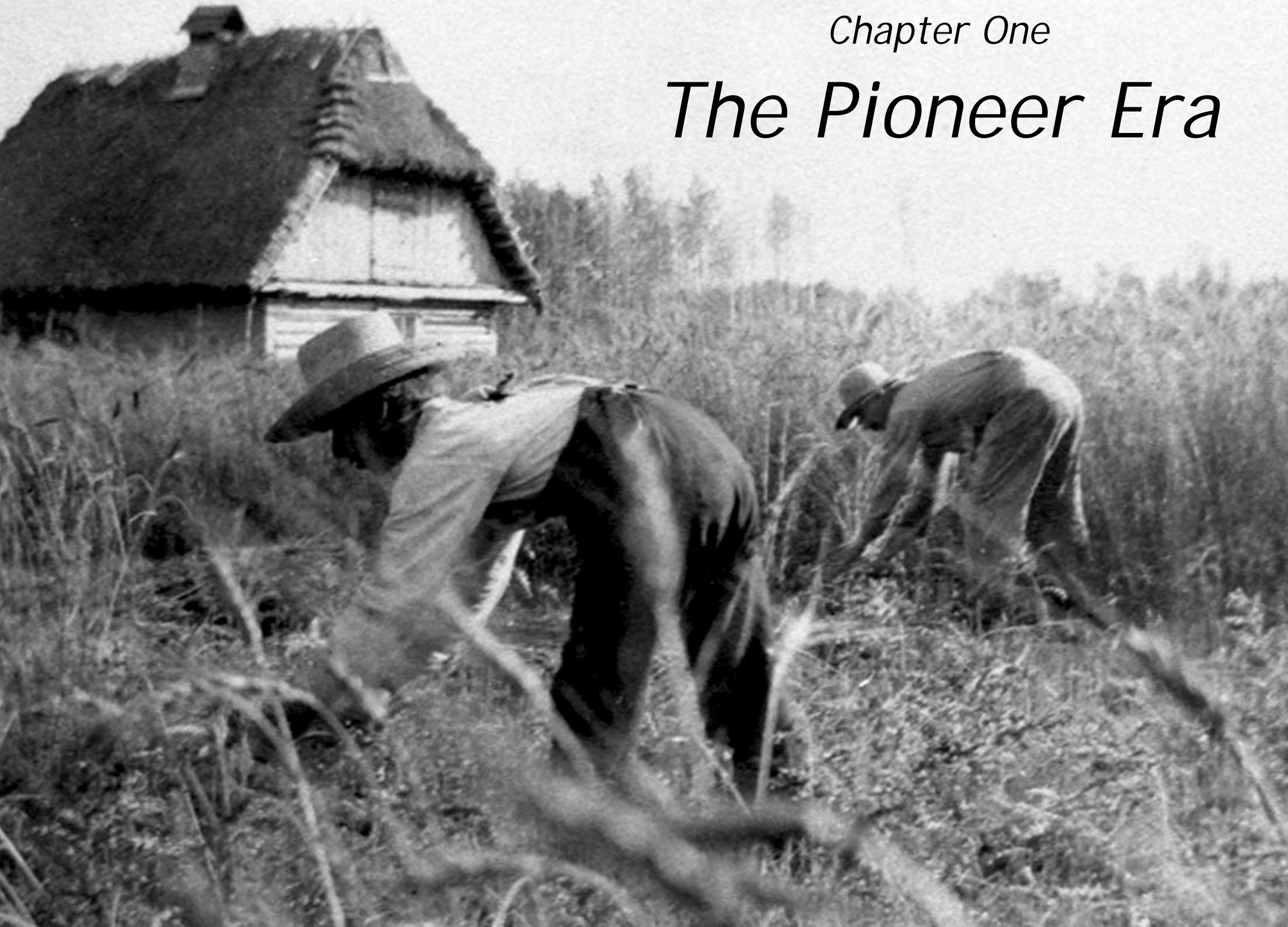
On June 1, 2000 when the project officially commenced, the Poplarfield Community Collection consisted of approximately 250 images. On December 31, 2000 when submissions of photographs simply could no longer be accepted, the Poplarfield Community Photo Collection contained 1,375 images. Ninety day later, at the conclusion of the project, virtually all had been identified by date, situation, names, and owner. Many were accompanied by contextual information containing personal memories relating to the situation in the image, or some related historical or economic observation. Numerically, the project was hugely successful. Thematically, it was only slightly less so. There are some obvious gaps still in the coverage within each theme. A number of notable structures and events are poorly represented or not at all. There is an acknowledged bias to the 1930s and 1940s, when photography suddenly became affordable and popular in the District. Nevertheless a good cross-section of the history of the Poplarfield District has been successfully documented. The vast majority of the photos submitted, appear in the album, so that any gaps in the coverage were the result of images not being available, rather than an editorial decision.

### **And In Conclusion**

What follows in the upcoming pages of this document was the result of intensive work by a small number of dedicated individuals over a very short period of time. It is a little bit of what Poplarfield was, what it looked like, its places and its people. It is not the complete story. It is but a mere 'snapshot' of what the community once was, and continues to be today. Given more time and resources, a much more detailed and polished product could undoubtedly have been produced. The participants are, however, satisfied that a job well done has been achieved. Every close-knit family should possess a photographic album of times past and loved ones no longer present, to share with visitors and relatives, and for personal reflection. Together with those who assisted in the production of this unique document, it is my great pleasure to present to the members of the Poplarfield community something of itself - The Poplarfield & District Millennium Album.

*Chapter One*

# *The Pioneer Era*







Above: A view of the village of Onut located on the banks of the Dniester River, which acted as the northern border between the Austrian provinces of Galicia and Bukovyna, c1900. Many of the settlers in the Poplarfield region hailed from villages of this type and from this general region in the Ukraine. Note the type and uniformity of house styles. PE-001.

160 акрів = 130 моргів австр.  
 \* ВІЛЬНОЇ ЗЕМЛІ \*  
 200 мільонів акрів під управу в західній  
**КАНАДІ**  
 ДЛЯ КОЖДОГО ОСЕЛЕНЦЯ

North Atlantic Trading Company advertisement beckons Ukrainians to Canada.

Above: "North Atlantic Trading Company advertisement beckons Ukrainians to Canada." Adverts of this nature were widely distributed in Ukraine by Canadian and European travel companies in the early years of the century. PE-004.

Right: Canadian government immigration pamphlet printed in the Ukrainian language for overseas circulation by immigration agents. PE-003.

ЗАХІДНА  
**КАНАДА.**

MANITOBA,  
 АСИНИБОЯ,  
 АЛБЕРТА,  
 САСКАЧЕВАН.

Canadian government immigration pamphlet in Ukrainian.

(STEEERAGE)  
 Inspection Card for Immigration Officer at Port of Arrival in Canada

Name of Immigrant: *Semen Kicenka*  
 Name of Ship: **PISA** Sailing from: **ROTTERDAM**  
 Date of sailing: **29 MEI 1911** Country of last residence: *Austria*  
 Name appears on Manifest, page: **20** line: **8**

Medical Examination Stamp: *88*  
 Civil Examination Stamp: **DOMINION GOVERNMENT JUN 10 1911**  
 Inland Exchange Order: **CANADIAN**

**VACCINATION PROTECTED**

**English.** This card should be kept carefully for three years. It should be shown to government officials whenever required.

**Bohemian.** Tato karta musí býti držána přes tři léta. Na požádání má být předložena při odjezdu.

**Russian.** Карту держителю выдать妥善保管, выехать три года. На запрос соответствующих государственных чиновников.

**Ruthenian.** Ця карта має бути збережена три роки. Її треба показувати при в'їзді до Канади.

**German.** Diese Karte muss drei Jahre sorgfältig aufbewahrt werden. Wenn immer Regierungsbeamte dieselbe verlangen, muss selbe vorgezeigt werden.

**French.** Cette carte doit être conservée soigneusement durant trois ans. Elle doit être montrée aux Officiers du Gouvernement lorsque requis.

**Dutch.** Deze kaart moest drie jaar goed bewaart worden. Deze kaart moet getoond worden wanneer een ambtenaar daar verzocht wordt te worden.

**Hungarian.** Ezen kártyát három évre át kell megőrizni. Mindig megmutatandó annak hivatalnokainak a kártyát az illetőnél.

**Swedish.** Detta kort bör väl förvaras i 3 år. Det bör uppvisas till Regeringens tjänstemän vid anförfragan.

**Polish.** Ta kartka musi być trzykrotnie przez trzy lata. Takowa ma być pokazana urzędnikom państwowym, żądającym przez siebie.

**Italian.** Questa carta deve essere conservata per tre anni. Deve mostrarsi agli ufficiali del governo quando domandola.

הארץ דרום קרובת ארבע שנים. הארץ דרום קרובת ארבע שנים. הארץ דרום קרובת ארבע שנים.

Left: Vaccination Card issued to Sam Kicenka for his passage on the S.S. "PISA" sailing from Rotterdam, Holland, May 29, 1911. On the back of the card is a message in twelve languages indicating that the card must be safely kept for a period of three years. PE-048, PE-049.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO PURSERS.**  
 Each passenger should be given a card indicating the number of sheet and line on which his name is to be found on.

**SCHEDULE A.**  
*Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May -*

513501

**PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO THE VESSEL.**

*Sofran Lechko*  
*Ryan - 1 45*  
*PMO 12<sup>30</sup> am Complete*

VESSEL'S NAME <i>S.S. "Montezuma"</i>	MASTER'S NAME <i>C. S. Bruchman</i>	TONNAGE <i>5357</i>	FROM WHAT PORT OR PLACE <i>Antwerp</i>	Total number of superficial feet in the several compartments set apart for Passengers, other than Cabin Passengers.	Total number of Adult Passengers, exclusive of Master, Crew and Cabin Passengers which the vessel can legally carry.	WHERE BOUND.						
<b>IMMIGRATION</b>												
MAY 15 1906												
RECEIVED.						<i>Quebec &amp; Montreal</i>						
PORT OF EMBARKATION <i>Antwerp</i>												
DATE OF SAILING <i>25<sup>th</sup> April 1906.</i>												
<b>NAMES AND DESCRIPTION OF PASSENGERS.</b>												
N.B. - Cabin Passengers must also be included in this Schedule after the other Passengers. "The Immigration Act," Chapter 65, R. S. C.												
No. of Passengers	NUMBER OF RAILWAY ORDER <i>✓</i> <i>De sea Ticket</i>	Amount of Cash. To be filled in by Immigration Agent at Port of Landing.	NAME OF PASSENGER.	AGE OF ADULTS. Children under 14 years of age.	Able to			Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	Nation or Country of Birth.	Countries in British Isles from which Passenger came.	Place of ultimate destination of Passengers excepting "Tourists and returned Canadians" who are to be so described.	
					Read.	Write.	Married or Single.				Birth at Sea.	Deaths at Sea.
23	<i>A 26079 10<sup>00</sup></i>	<i>✓ Wasyl</i>	<i>Wyrstiuik 43</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Austria</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
24		<i>✓ Anne</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
25		<i>✓ Josef</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Austria</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
26		<i>✓ Oleksa</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
27		<i>✓ Marie</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
28		<i>✓ Iwan</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
29		<i>✓ Justyna</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
30		<i>✓ Dorwa</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
31		<i>✓ Kesina</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
32		<i>✓ Petro</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>N. A. T. C. Bonus Allowed.</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<i>Pol</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Excerpts from the passenger manifest of the Hansa-Line's "S.S. Montezuma", departing from Antwerp, Holland bound for Quebec City and Montreal, Canada. Arrival in Quebec on Friday, May 11, 1906. On board: Wasyl 'Wyrstiuik' (Werstiuik), age 43; Annie Wyrstiuik, age 37; with eight children: Josef 17; Oleksa 12; Marie 13; Iwan 9; Justyna 7; Dorwa 4; Kesina 3; Petro 8/12. Nation of birth: Austria - Galician. Occupation: Labourer. Cash on hand at arrival: \$10.00. The Werstiuik family was part of a second group of families to arrive in the Poplarfield township (22-2W) in 1906. It included Sofran Lechko, Wasyl Ozarko, and Mike Jarama and their families. After making their way to the wilderness of the central Interlake region, Wasyl Werstiuik selected a homestead which would later become part of the Poplarfield townsite. Misc-031.



Above: Two pages from the passport of Michael Kucharski who came to the Poplarfield area from Chortkow province of Ukraine, during the second wave of Ukrainian immigration, after World War One ended. He arrived in the Poplarfield area in June of 1925. PE-044.

Above right: Newly arrived Ukrainian immigrants on the street near the CPR station in Winnipeg, c.1910. Note the clothing and head-gear. PE-050.

Right: A group of immigrants disembarking at the Winnipeg C.P.R. station. Photographed on February 23, 1927. Very much the same scene was played out on this site, hundreds of times with thousands of new immigrants to Manitoba. PE-030.

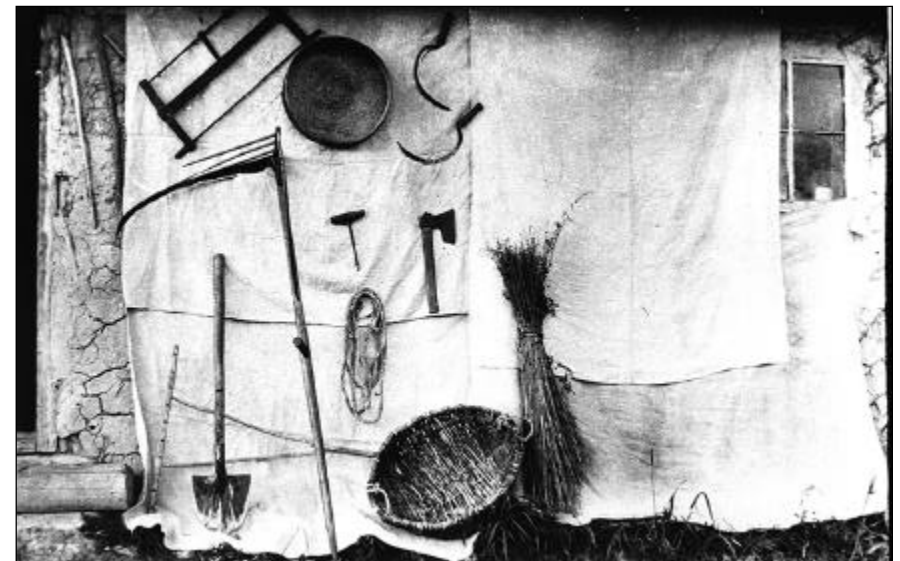
Right: A humble start for a new life in Canada. A rare photograph showing a Ukrainian immigrant family at their newly claimed homestead, taking shelter in a hastily built tent-like structure constructed of Poplar poles and sod. Called a "budda", such structures were sometimes more carefully constructed, coated with mud plaster and used as living quarters for the first winter or two, until a yard site could be cleared, logs cut for the first house and perhaps a simple stable or two. PE-005.



Above: Clearing out a site and beginning a new life, with nothing more than a few dollars and a few hand tools. PE-006.

*"Most of the timber here is clean straight poplar. The axe and saw were the only tools used. Trees were cut close to the ground, then cut into cordwood. Stumps and roots would rot in two or three years; branches were burned. It is a slow process but many a good quarter section has been cleared in this way. Some pity the women who had to do such work, but they were strong, healthy, and did not mind the hard work. I only wonder when and how they did their housework."* - J.W. Sisler, 1906.

Below: Most of the Ukrainian settlers who settled in the Interlake region, came with almost no capital. Many of the basic tools were hand made using materials found on the homestead. School Inspector J.W. Sisler photographed this collection of hand implements in the Foley area near Gimli, south-east of Poplarfield, around 1908. PE-037.



A Humble Start





Left: "This house was not as well built as most of them were but it shows the method of construction and particularly plastering with the clay found on the farm. As in many of the districts in the west, there was clay subsoil here. A circular hole about four feet in diameter was dug, the topsoil to a depth of a foot or so was removed and discarded. The clay was then dug and left in loose lumps. Some short straw or hay was scattered on them. Water was then poured over the whole mass, which was next trampled and mixed by the bare feet of men, women and children. The finished product was then applied to the logs by using bare hands as trowels. Such a mud wall would last for some years." - J.W. Sisler, 1906. PE-011.

Right: Photograph of a typical first home constructed by Ukrainian settlers in Manitoba. Usually quickly and roughly built, such initial structures were not meant to last more than a few years. Most were made in one summer using a few simple hand tools, a handful of hardware, and a few panes of glass. Among other things, this interesting little home exhibits: a roof of loose hay held in place by criss-crossed poles; home made boards used in making the gable front over the entranceway, permitting access to the attic; and a thick, smooth coating of mud plaster mixture. Note also the poles being used as a clothesline, and the home-made ladder. PE-002.





Above: A good and proper settler's home, in this case the Ewanchuk family, near Gimli. It is a good example of a well constructed second-generation type of Ukrainian farm residence. With some-what more time and resources to prepare and purchase building materials, most of the buildings which replaced the initial shelters were larger, better constructed, and very much in the familiar 'old country' style. The logs were carefully selected, allowed to dry, and hewn square with a broad-axe. The walls were coated on both the inside and outside with mud plaster, with a finishing layer of fine clay painted with whitewash to harden the surface and deter insects. The roof was made of uniformly bound thatch sheaves. Rye made the best thatch, but swamp-grass was an acceptable alternative. There were often some purely decorative touches made, such as the painted strip along the base of this house, and the blossom sprigs attached to the eaves seen in this photograph. PE-028.



Above right: Ukrainian pioneer drawing water from a crib-well using a 'sweep', or counter-balance. Note the well crafted platform with its squared logs and dovetail corners, and hinged top. PE-015.

Right: A Ukrainian pioneer woman poses for a photograph with her daughter, beside their 'pich' or clay bake oven. Such items were almost universally found on Ukrainian homesteads and were made of willows and clay, with small stones embedded within to help hold the heat. PE-012. *"The old oven had broken up after fifteen years use. The family was living in a good log house and had a new modern cookstove. This housewife found that she had baked better bread in the old clay oven so a new one was built. The thatch is wheat straw and as the clay is not yet hardened, the thatch will protect it from the rain. The small opening is for a dog to enter the kennel within the foundation of the oven - quite an original idea."* - J.W. Sisler, 1916.





Left: A good example of a typical Bukovynian style house photographed in the Vita area of south eastern Manitoba. Note the "komora", or tool & harness storage shed, this one with an open walled section, likely for parking the farm wagon. PE-034.

There were two basic styles of farm homes which Ukrainian settlers constructed. Those from the province of Galicia tended to build two-roomed houses with gable roofs. The entrance would be located on the smaller, left-hand side room which acted as the kitchen and main activity area. Settlers from nearby Bukovyna tended to build a three-roomed house with a central entranceway and a hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves. Both styles were oriented to face the south, for greater sunshine, but also so that the end wall of the bedroom faced to the east, and upon which all religious items would be hung.

*"My husband, Panko built our two room house on our homestead by himself in 1907. It took only two weeks. When the logs walls were up, willows were nailed two inches apart across the walls and a mixture of clay, straw, mud, and manure mixed by stomping around bare-footed in the hole which held the mixture. We used this mixture to plaster and seal the walls. With this same material an outdoor oven was constructed for baking purposes. All furniture was roughly made. The first bed was a wooden frame laid on the dirt floor and filled with straw. Tree stumps were used for chairs and a rough wooden table was made from a large stump. This first house burnt down around 1930 when sparks from the tin stove pipes started the straw bed on fire. The second house was also built of logs, but soon after lumber siding was added." - Mary Zasitko.*



Above and lower left: Good examples of well-crafted 'old country style' farm yard structures. Note the superb job of thatching, on both structures, and the nice straight walls and plaster finish on the two-roomed barn. Clearly, skill, time and effort went into the construction of these pioneer farmyard buildings, suggesting how important the livestock was to the early settlers. PE-019, PE-035.



Right: For most pioneer families in the Poplarfield area much of the work was done by hand, owning horses or equipment was a distant dream. Here a father and son use scythes to cut winter hay for the livestock. Foley district, c1914. PE-031.



Below right: "Ukrainian-style" wheat stooks on a Ukrainian homestead, c1914, Foley district Gimli. Before mechanized threshing equipment could be purchased or hired, many crops were cut and threshed by hand. Note the old country style 'pole and willow' fence and 'sweep-well' poles in the background. PE-013.

Below: Ukrainian woman using a sickle to harvest grain. If there weren't children old enough to look after the 'young ones' it was necessary to take them out to the fields, such as those sitting patiently in this c1914 photograph taken near Gimli. It could be very dangerous to leave young children at home alone; even small accidents often had serious consequences. PE-014.







*"Young men from the Ukrainian settlements on the way to Winnipeg seeking work, 1915. These men were on the road near Stonewall. They had homesteads, 50 to 60 miles NW of Winnipeg. They will get work with farmers in the older sections of the province, on railroads, in mines, or as labourers in building construction. Going out to earn "cash money" during the summer has been the regular practice of all settlers of this region - Anglo-Saxon, German, Slav, Icelanders. This then helped them to get established in their new homes." - J.W. Sisler.*  
PE-054.

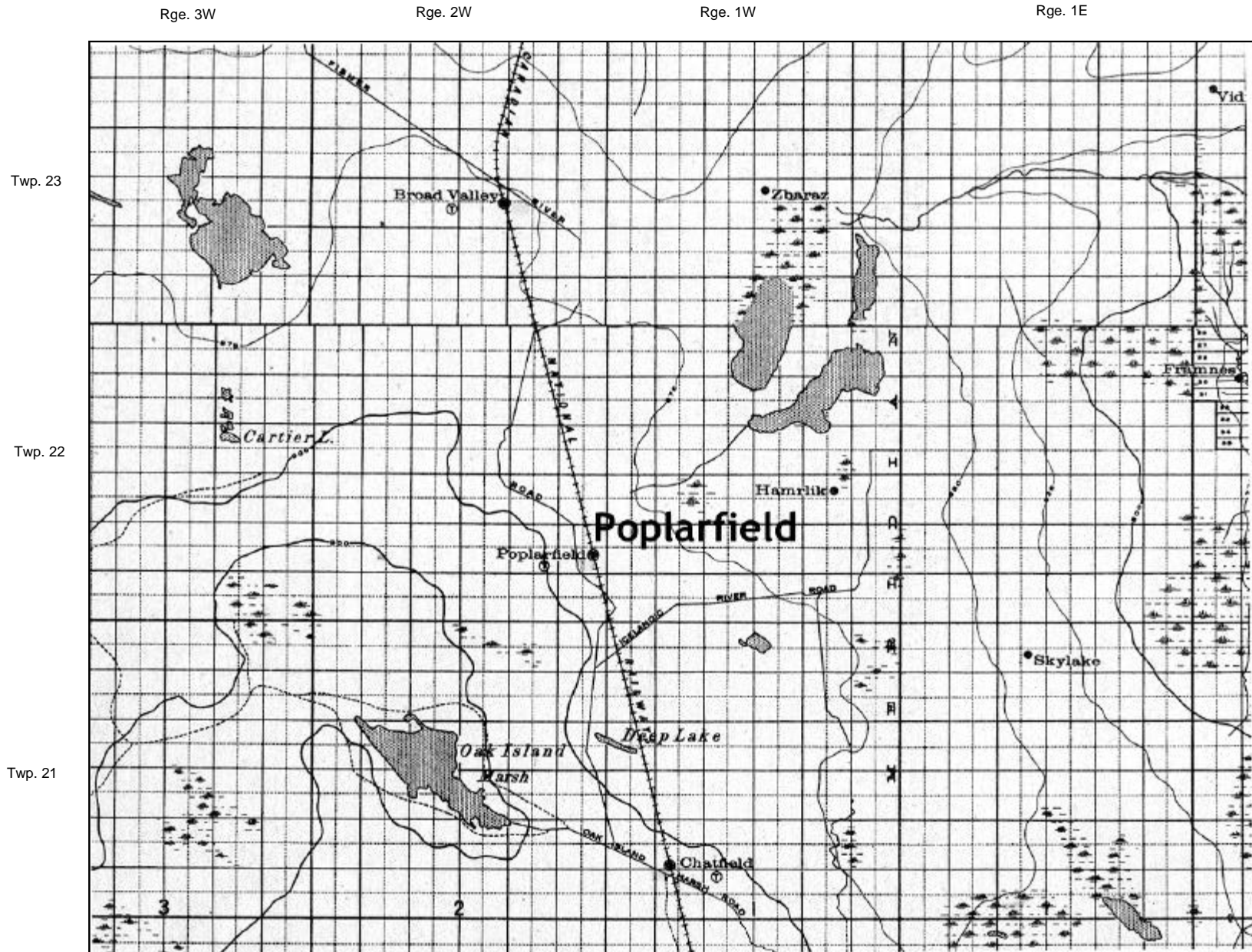


Above: Ukrainian pioneer woman walking home from the store with provisions. For the first five to ten years, walking was the main transportation mode for most settlers in the Poplarfield district. PE-053.

*"For the first few years, the closest store was in Teulon, 50 miles away. It was quite common for people to walk the whole way. There were no roads except for some small trails. The men often would carry a sack of '4X' flour on their backs all the way home. Almost everyone walked, and after a few years they went by oxen, and wagon, and quite a few years later by horse and buggy. Arborg had a railway connection in 1910, but few from Poplarfield could get to Arborg because of the lakes and swamps. I recall once when I was a little girl my father took me to the store in Teulon. There were bananas there, and I had never seen bananas, so I didn't know what they were. I thought they were oxen horns." - Mary Zasitko.*



Above: Laying track north of Poplarfield, 1913. The building of the Canadian Northern Railway's Inwood Subdivision' branchline marked the end of the difficult pioneer period for the Poplarfield area settlers, when a trip to the store often meant an all day task, and going to Winnipeg entailed walking most of the way. More importantly, with a rail connection to outside markets and suppliers, cash could now be earned by shipping cream, eggs, cordwood, farm animals and poultry raised on the homestead. As well, a larger variety of supplies and provisions could now be found at the local stores. The family heads and teenage boys still regularly headed out to the bush-camps of the north and harvest-gangs of southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan to earn cash, but with the railway it was no longer the only source of family income. The isolation was now over. PE-059.



Above: A township grid map of the central Interlake region, c1920. Indicated are: the routes of some of the main trails in the region; the railway right of way; 25 foot height of land contour lines; and surface water. Note the many areas of marsh and open water to the east of the Poplarfield area. Each township contained of 36 sections. A homestead consisted of a quarter section of 160 acres. Townships were numbered north from the United States border and East of West of the Principal Meridian, and shown on this map. Map-011.

				Michael Klimchuk 9-7-13		Petro Pawluk 3-5-22	Peter Uhrnyiuk 27-6-04	Stefan Hryciuk 27-6-04		
31		32		34		35		36		
Marcelyn Hushek 14-11-22						Esmanuel HUDSON'S Hutzulak 6-3-12	Harry Lysak 1-12-11	Harry Porcina 11-11-09		
30	Stefan Hushek 5-10-14	Nykola Hetman 1-5-14	29	28	27	26	BAY COMPANY	25 Harry Stecki 9-10-14		
	Gabriel Rudyk 30-4-14	Peter Sowtas 10-11-15	George Haluk 10-5-21		Emil Hutzulak 6-3-12	Stanley Marykuca 21-6-17	George Tonilski 10-6-30	John Wyporowich 27-11-05	Kuama Kartussyn 27-11-05	
19		Harry Zasitko 16-1-23	20 Samko Navosny 13-3-13	21 Steve Stasiuk 10-5-21	22 Stas Zajac 10-6-12	23 Stanislaus Klischuk 31-1-12	24 Jaroslav Dumny 11-7-16	25 Andrew Haliuk 15-4-16	26 Henry Wyporowich 1-8-10	27 Michal Jarena 19-6-06
Panko Zasitko 3-12-12	18	Michael Lapka 3-5-21	17	Alexander Semotiuk 20-6-11		John Marykuca 21-10-08	Sam Beley 24-6-11	Hryc Pawluk 1-8-06	Hryn Marykuca 16-7-13	Sawka Haliuk 8-3-13
Mike Zasitko 21-5-29	John Zasitko 30-9-14	Wasył Leochko 20-6-13		16	15 Onifry Troschuk 24-6-11	14 Hryn Dobrowolski 21-11-10	13 Wasył Gidyk 15-8-06	12 Wasył Ozarko 14-5-06	11 NEW POPLARFIELD	
John Werstiuk 14-6-21	John Shwaluk 9-5-12	High Plains School HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY		Michael Obisic 7-11-11	Fred Zasitko 18-12-10	Ivan Stawychny 29-9-13	Tymko Zasitko 9-7-07		Michael Werbeniuk 14-11-13	John Gidyk 30-10-12
7	Alex Koralyk 9-5-12	8	9	Joseph Stasiuk 7-11-11	10 Alec Kawka 19-12-11	11 Senko Zasitko 12-3-08	12 Onysko Troschuk 27-1-14	11 POPLARFIELD	10 Mykola Lisowecki 23-8-16	9 Danylo Torbiak 27-4-06
		Wawzeniec Kopec 16-8-17	Peter Wynohradnyk 17-7-12	Wasył Pytasnyk	Dnytro Stasiuk 18-7-10	Julian Stasiuk 27-11-12	Alexander Czobaniuk 27-11-12	Fred Zazuliak 27-11-12	Aleksa Werstiuk 22-11-13	
6		John Spik 14-6-17	5	4 Mike Bidochko 8-7-15	3 Fred Zasitko 11-7-21	2 John Fuz 7-1-11			1 Hnat Ozarko 29-7-12	Sofron Lewochko 2-7-10

Right: Map of Township 22 Range 2 West, showing homesteader date of entries, the railway, and local trails, for the Poplarfield township. This map shows homesteader date of entries for those settlers eventually "proving up" their claims and receiving "patent" or legal ownership. It does not include those homesteaders who cancelled their first homestead and claimed another elsewhere, or those who purchased their farms. Map-004.



Pawlyk School

John Uhrynuk 12-12-13	Joseph Szaikowski 21-2-13			Jurko Cirz 24-4-13	Agata Duda 17-10-14	Mike Yacjuk 30-9-14	Petro Huk 5-3-14	John Metzke 29-10-13
				Tom Rabski 15-7-12	John Rabski 16-8-16	Mike Samorodny 12-6-16		
Joseph Kubas 21-11-11				Peter Masur 22-12-10	Wojciech Masur 5-3-15	John Ozubko 15-10-27	HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY	Martin Praibicki 25-4-14
Danylo Choma 28-12-07				Nichal Sakulski 14-4-06	George Kowalyk 1-12-15	Theodor Polny 22-1-15		
Stefan Kwassczuk 7-7-10	Annane Melnyk 9-9-10	Matij Melnyk 19-8-11	Stefan Skrabyk 10-6-07	Mike Husiak 18-11-12	Sam Kicenko 22-1-15	Mike Hnatiw 17-9-14	John Sumka 26-8-10	George Basilewich 24-8-10
Martyn Lyzubski 17-8-11	Oleksa Kiedyk 7-10-08	Wasył Dorasz 22-9-09	Joseph Skrabyk 4-12-16	Fred Meleszko 2-11-10	Harry Orfinski 7-5-10	Wasył Skrabyk 26-9-07	Michal Skrabyk 14-7-06	Konstant Kachmark 14-4-10
								Henry Marko 5-12-08
Stefan Didyk 5-6-11	Danylo Haluk 24-4-06	Sam Bysyszczuk 14-1-14	Michael Swarychewski 5-3-15	Wasył Swarychewski 13-7-14	Wasył Pododworny 16-7-06	Theodor Pynilo 15-4-13	Iwan Samorodny 17-11-06	Fred Ponik 3-12-07
Michal Klowak 27-4-06	Hawrylo Klowak 24-4-06	Andrew Klowak 2-8-12	Mike Swarychewski 13-7-16			Michal Kochan 2-11-10	Alexander Oszubko 14-12-06	John Kochan 14-12-06
								St. John's Church
Kobe Ma ykuca 2-9-13	Nykola Kucy 7-11-11			Paul Verdant 2-2-12	Mike Grygorasz 23-12-12	Kyrilo Zuk 24-11-08	John Gonyk 5-11-06	Alexander Duda 24-4-07
								John Wochek 30-7-07
Wasył Werstiuk 15-9-09				Alek Potakewich 24-9-12	Walter Byczek 12-5-21	Nykola Tanasychuk 1-6-16	Mike Rybinski 19-11-15	Calvin Snyder 7-11-03
								John Smerak 3-11-14
Joseph Dudar 16-3-15								Anton Iwanicki 5-5-14
Manan Horodecki 2-7-07								John Martin 8-11-17
								Peter Kolacki 29-5-11

Map of Township 22 Range 1 West, showing homesteaders. Map-010.

		Ernest Swanson 17-12-14	Joseph Stansell 7-10-14	Fred Stansell 10-10-14	S.S.B. of C.	S.S.B. of C. John 13-10-14	Albert Dudley 15-5-16	John Thomson 22-2-26 S.S.B. of C.	S.S.B. of C. 11-9-14	Gorden Later 11-9-14	
31 Edward Wilson 3-12-23		32	Hjalmar Stron 1-10-14	Karl Swanson 3-10-14				35	36		
Napoleon Thibault 27-4-14	William Lock 28-9-14	SCHOOL LAND	John Cameron 13-10-14	David Leonard 3-10-14	Archibald Leonard 13-10-14	Mathias Westberg 6-11-16	HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY	John Werbeniuk 21-8-28		25	
James Sullivan 9-8-14	Arthur Payne 18-2-18	Macdonald Fenwick 2-9-14		James Walker 15-7-16	Sharpewood School			Alexander Werbeniuk 25-4-27	Michael Werbeniuk 18-12-28		
William Gibson 25-7-16	19 Willis Boutillier 19-7-15	Edward Milligan 2-9-14	Ernest Hodgins 7-12-23	Charles Randell 23-9-14	John Horn 23-9-14	22		23 Stefan Werbeniuk 11-2-14	Stefan Hushek 17-9-19	24	
John Gibson 26-7-16	Walter Boutillier 19-7-15	John Boutillier 19-9-21	Ronald Funnell 18-10-23	Stefan Leduchowski 22-8-14	George Steggall 18-1-16	Fred Sharpe 11-9-17	James Innis 14-9-14	Alexander Innis 20-10-14	Dmytro Werbeniuk 2-7-14	Paul Senotiuk 29-11-13	Andrew Chuba 16-4-29
18 William Boutillier 14-8-16		17 Amy Ritchie 24-8-14	Michael Sharpe 23-9-14	16 John Innis 21-6-15	Robert Sharpe 14-9-14	15 William Innis 28-9-14		14 Afanasi Jaromich 9-4-15	John Zesitko Jr. 15-4-30	13	
Peter Conacher 12-9-14	Samuel Wheatley 20-11-15	HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY	Serrit Poppenk 14-9-14	Albert Kastner 14-9-14	SCHOOL			SCHOOL	George Shelest 9-10-14	John Kohut 7-3-28	
Annie Reynolds 22-9-14	James Reynolds 22-9-14		Frederick Orchard 14-7-16	S.S.B. of C.	10 LAND			11 LAND	Afanasi Jaromich 11-3-30	Fedor Prhowicz 26-1-15	
2 Alfred Annis 10-5-15	Benjamin Dearlove 16-9-16	Fred Bowman 25-9-14	S.S.B. of C.	S.S.B. of C.	S.S.B. of C.	Norman Sharpe 6-4-18	Norman Sharpe 6-4-18	Dmytro Werbeniuk 15-4-30			
William Shepherd 1-10-17	6 S.S.B. of C.	5				James Pascoe 9-10-14	3	2	1		

Map of Township 22 Range 3 West, showing homesteaders. Map-018.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY 31 31-12-07	John Gulowaty W of W <sub>2</sub> 3-1-08 Wasył Procyssyn W <sub>2</sub> of E <sub>2</sub> 23-6-14 Michael Chonica E <sub>2</sub> of E <sub>2</sub> 21-12-10	Johan Iwanusiw 7-12-10 Wasył John Blahey Kybsulj 2-2-12 15-11-09	Hrymko Jakiemow W of W <sub>2</sub> 21-11-16	Peter Ledu- chowski 7-3-13	Mike Ledu- chowski 22-6-12 Fred Ledu- chowski 10-2-10	Josef Srutwa 29-11-06 Alex Iwanusiw 9-10-11	Andrew Martiniuk 8-8-11 36
Iwan Nykytyn 7-6-11 30 Petro Nykytyn 1-5-11	SCHOOL 29 LAND	Jacob John Homica Dydyluk 29-12-09 25-7-04 Thomas David Bright Buskell 2-6-03 3-12-03	Nykela Michal Chonica Kowal 24-11-10 4-2-10 Wasył John Kowal Dudyck 18-7-10 10-4-15	HUDSON'S BAY 26 COMPANY Wheathill Sch. 12-6-06	John Moore 26-5-03	Stas Jan Iwanusiw Drosda 5-6-11 16-1-14 John 25 Moore Klyn 26-5-03 5-6-11	Jan Drosda 16-1-14 Harylo Klyn 5-6-11
CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY 31-12-07 CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY 22-4-29	Maksym Michal Gadowsky Kolopyniuk 19-6-08 24-9-06 Nicholas Kerle Onufrij Pecoy Bilych Ssehur 22-4-29 20-9-09 27-9-06	Nykyta John Kolopyniuk Gulka 21-8-09 25-6-09 Nykola Shushky- wick Gulka 24-8-09 25-6-09	Joseph Anton Dudyck Iwanusiw 18-4-12 7-12-10 Dmytro Pete Gulka Daciw 14-7-06 1-6-11	Peter Kempa 6-7-10 Iwan Kempa 6-7-10	23	Mychanto John Choniak Choniak 25-10-11 3-5-21 William William Moore Moore 19-5-03 2-1-06	John Choniak 3-5-21 William Moore 2-1-06
Thomas Armstrong 7-8-17 Levi Mary Annie Brown McCune 13-1-16 1-4-15	Bartko Senko Slobodskian Hrusowecz 18-3-10 16-2-09 William John Kibsey Gulowaty 6-5-13 24-0-09	Andry Tinko Shushewich Wolchuk 4-7-07 24-10-05 John Dmytro Wowchuk Halyk 30-5-06 6-11-12	Stefan Mike Wolchuk Kempa 5-1-15 30-10-14 Jakub Jay Iwanusiw Dudyck 15-9-14 16-8-27	Andrij Michal Kempa Dudyck 28-12-10 4-7-11 Rudolph 14 Febiger Zarowski 11-4-24 9-5-03	14 Danylo Leschyshyn 27-11-13	Frank Iwan Skibitsky Husyk 26-6-20 24-8-14 Stanley 13 Satogryn 8-11-13	Iwan Husyk 24-8-14 Dmytro Satogryn 8-11-13
C.N.R. 31-12-07 7 C.N.R. 5-3-09	HUDSON'S BAY 8 COMPANY 12-6-06	Michal 9 Hudzik 21-6-11	Andry Wowchuk 18-12-07 Frank 10 Cipura Ptashynski 8-9-14 11-2-08	SCHOOL 11 LAND	Charles Wasył Sommer Husyk 20-3-15 14-7-14	Wasył Husyk 14-7-14	
Angus MacMaster 15-8-17 Axel 6 Henrikson 17-1-12	John Hodgins 22-8-17 31-12-07 4-5-09 5 C.N.R. 31-12-07	Nathan Emmanuel Thorne Hirsikorn 9-1-04 29-4-13 Nathan 4 Samuel Thorne Steene 9-1-04 5-10-09	Edward Emil Gundrum Schultz 4-12-12 2-6-13 Fedko 3 Johann Ptashynski Schultz 27-9-10 30-5-11	Wasył August Harasyn- czuk Brandes 28-7-03 8-6-03 2 Iwan Albert Lucyk Zacks 17-11-05 26-7-13	1 Panko Kowal 17-6-11	Sam Tatryn 13-10-14 Dmytro Kowal 6-6-12	

Map of Township 21 Range 1 West, showing homesteaders. Map-024.

					Wasył Protz 4-12-29	John Pork 3-8-21 Edward Deloise 13-3-19	Peter Koryok 8-11-15	Andrew Dwolinsky 2-7-24 Harry Chorny 7-9-21	Jacob Frus 27-12-15 Paul Shumawski 24-11-15	Yurko Palowyj 21-10-10 Elko Capor 2-12-10	Joseph Dubowski 15-8-16 Sawko Lapka 21-10-10		
31	32	33									Bartlett		
	Fisher River Road												
30	Alexander Louve 4-11-12	29		S.S.B. Alexander of C. 12-4-16	28	S.S.B. Alexander of C. 12-4-16	27	S.S.B. of C. S.S.B. of C.	26		Peter Huyorski 13-12-20	Elyk Sawchuk 22-12-24 25 Peter Buchko 17-9-21	
	Joseph Lavallee 23-10-13	Joseph Poncelet 11-6-12	Joseph Protz 26-7-15	21	Zenon Berard 10-4-23	22		Emil Pellard 14-4-17	Joseph Beauchamp 16-8-27		Mike Skibinski 1-6-27		
19	Agoput Desilets St. Hebert School 17-8-12	Felix Hobert 15-7-14	Pierre Beaupre 20-6-12	20	Arthur Beaupre 20-6-12	21		Edward Jones 11-11-21	23		Niki Gensach 22-5-30	24	
	Arthur Bernardin 22-10-13	Bustache Lavoigne 30-12-16	Robert Lavallee 27-4-14	Edmond Poirier 16-7-12		Edward Lavallee 6-3-24	Broad Valley 15	Albert Beck 11-6-23			Proc Senotiuk 5-10-14		
18	S.S.B. of C. 28-11-12	David Smith C. 8-4-14	S.S.B. of C. 28-6-15	17	Joseph Leterte 28-6-15	16	S.S.B. of C. 15-2-16	Louis Kachmar of Mayfair C. 17-7-23	14	Edward Testier 17-7-23	13	Martin Woloszyn 20-5-10	
	S.S.B. of C. 9-7-14	Adolph Bocek 9-7-14						Paul Hujwan 17-11-15	William Pritchard 7-8-15			Michael Szczypow 18-8-03	
7								Steve Gagaluk 8-5-23	10	Jon Denenfeld 18-4-13		12	
6		S.S.B. of C. Ernest Thevenot 23-10-16	5					Anton Gagaluk 18-5-14	Steve Icoski 2-9-14	Joseph Kostynuk 25-3-14	Bela Va- dockoviv 27-6-22	Charles Lavigne 10-5-22	Tocka Beauchamp 25-3-12
								Kasimir Klimchuk 23-4-13	3	Wasył Madricany 27-6-10	2	Daniel Tretiak 8-6-09	Lucas Struc 18-5-22
													Dmytro Warynyk 30-12-05

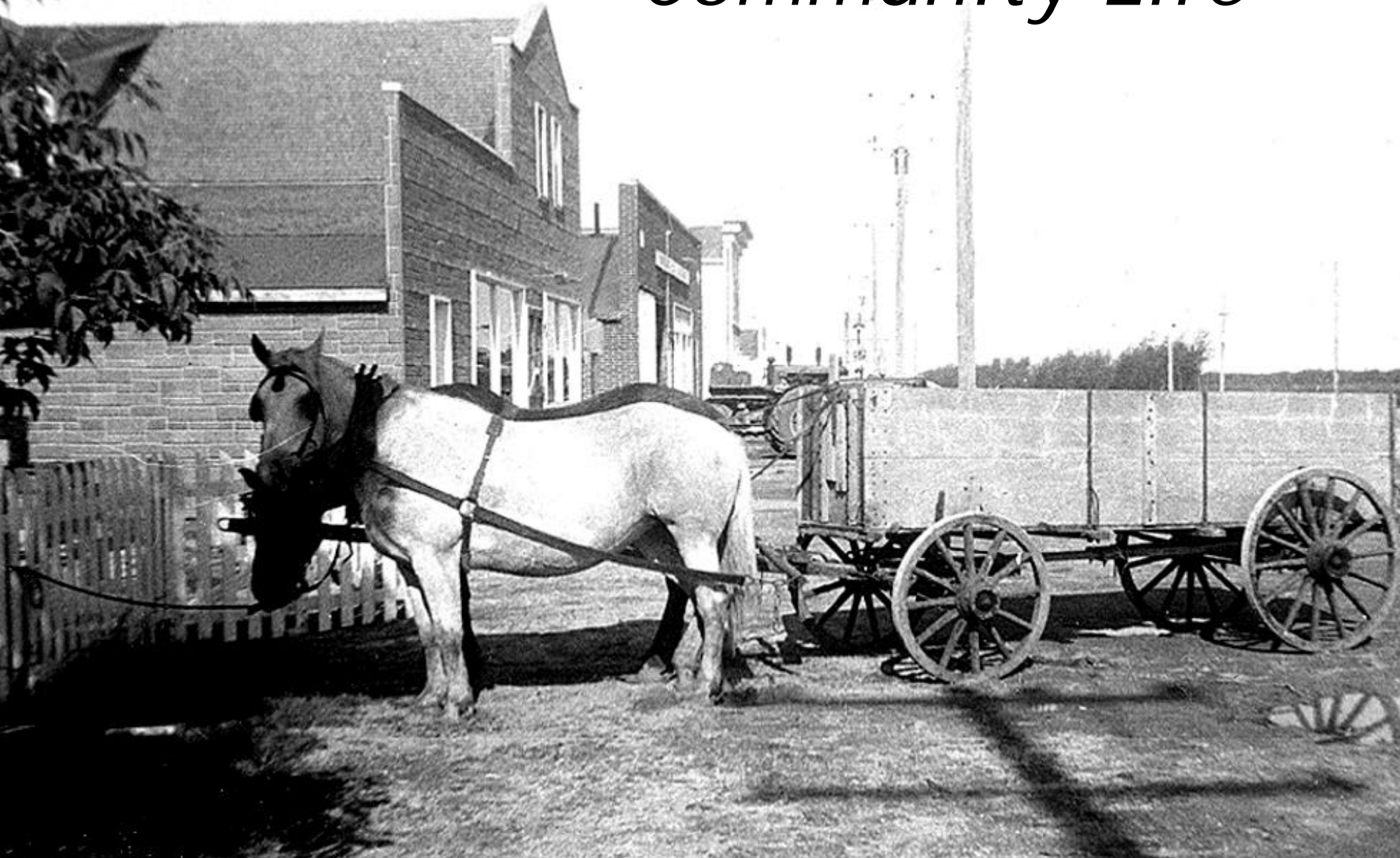
Map of Township 23 Range 2 West, showing homesteaders. Note the presence of homesteaders of French extraction in this township and township 23-1W. Map-017.



CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY 31 31-12-07	John Gulowaty 4 of W of S 3-1-08 Wasył Procyssyn W of E of S 23-6-14 Michael Chomica E of E of S 21-12-10	Johan Iwanusiw 7-12-10 Wasył 33 Blahey 2-2-12	John Kybsulj 15-11-09	Hrymko Jakliemow W of W of S 21-11-16	Peter Leduchowski 7-3-13	Mike Leduchowski 22-6-12 Fred Leduchowski 10-2-10	Josef Srutwa 29-11-06 Alex Iwanusiw 9-10-11	Andrew Martiniuk 8-8-11		
	Iwan Mykytyn 7-6-11 Petro Mike Mykytyn Mykytyn 1-5-11	SCHOOL 29 LAND	Jacob Homica 29-12-09 Thomas Bright 2-6-03	John Dydylyuk 25-7-04 David Buskell 3-12-03	Nykela Chonica 24-11-10 Wasył John 18-7-10	Michal Kowal 4-2-10 John Dudyck 10-4-15	HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY John Moore 26-5-03 Wheat Hill Sch. 12-6-06	Stas Iwanusiw 5-6-11 John Moore 26-5-03	Jan Drozda 16-1-14 Hamrylo Klyn 5-6-11	
CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY 31-12-07	Maksym Gadowsky 19-6-08	Michal Kolopyniuk 24-9-06	Nykyta Kolopyniuk 21-8-09	John Gulka 25-6-09	Joseph Dudyck 18-4-12	Anton Iwanusiw 7-12-10	Peter Kompa 6-7-10	Mychanto Chomiak 25-10-11	John Chomiak 3-5-21	
	Nicholas Psocoy 22-4-29	Kerls Bilych 20-9-09	Onufrij Sachur 27-9-06	Nykola Shushkywick 24-8-09	Nykola Gulka 25-6-09	Dnytro Pete 14-7-06	Iwan Daciw 1-6-11	William Moore 19-5-03	William Moore 2-1-06	
Thomas Armstrong 7-8-17 Levi Brown 13-1-16	Bartko Slobodsiian 18-3-10 William Kibsey 6-5-13	Senko Hrusowecz 16-2-09 John 24-0-09	Andry Shushewich 4-7-07 John Wovchuk 30-5-06	Pinko Wolchuk 24-10-05 Dnytro Halyk 6-11-12	Stefan Wolchuk 5-1-15 Jakub Iwanusiw 15-9-14	Mike Kempa 30-10-14 Jay Iwanusiw 16-8-27	Andrij Kempa 28-12-10 Rudolph Febiger 11-4-24	Michal Dudyck 4-7-11 Danylo Zarowski 9-5-03	Frank Skibitzky 26-6-20 Stanley Leschyshyn 27-11-13	Iwan Huzyk 24-8-14 Dmytro Satogryn 8-11-13
C.N.R. 31-12-07 C.N.R. 5-3-09	Erna Bauder 3-3-20 C.N.R. 4-3-09	HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY 12-6-06	Michal Hudzik 21-6-11	Andry Wovchuk 18-12-07	Frank Cipura 8-9-14	Ivan Ptashynski 11-2-08	SCHOOL LAND	Charles Sommer 20-3-15	Wasył Huzyk 14-7-14	
Angus MacMaster 15-8-17 Axel Henrikson 17-1-12	John Hodgins 22-8-17 C.N.R. 31-12-07	Chatfield C.N.R. 4-5-09	Nathan Thorne 9-1-04	Emmanuel Hirzikorn 29-4-13	Edward Gundrum 4-12-12	Emil Schultz 2-6-13	Wasył Harasyn-czuk 28-7-03	August Brandes 8-6-03	Sam Tatryn 13-10-14	
			Nathan Thorne 9-1-04	Samuel Steene 5-10-09	Fedko Ptashynski 27-9-10	Johann Schultz 30-5-11	Iwan Lucyk 17-11-05	Albert Zacke 26-7-11	Panko Kowal 17-6-11	Dnytro Kowal 6-6-12

Map of Township 23 Range 1 West, showing homesteaders. Map-024.

*Chapter Two*  
*Community Life*





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Above: Detail of a high altitude aerial photograph, taken over the original Poplarfield townsite in 1949. North is to the top. Building outlines can clearly be seen, and at the time include, along the south side, L-R: the foundation of the former Shevchenko Society Hall; Nick Lisowecki house and yard; across the road is the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church and Parish Hhall; Mike Torbiak residence; Mike Torbiak Garage; Danylo

Torbiak Store and residence; George Haliuk Butcher Shop; railway grounds and buildings; Panko Legin, and Nosal residences. North side L-R: Mike Werbenuk Store and residence; Dehowa Schoolyard; Bailley Bros. Store; Mike Bailley residence; Katherine Torbiak residence; the Chatfield Municipality building; and outside the station grounds and back from the street, is the Wasyl Didyk store. Misc-006.



Two of the earliest known photographs of the Poplarfield townsite. They were taken in November of 1922, by a Professor Bobowsky, a dignitary from Ukraine, who was visiting Ukrainian communities in Canada, and speaking to the community leaders. His collection of photographs is now held by the Manitoba Ukrainian Cultural & Educational Centre.

Above: The Taras Shevchenko Society Hall. The hall was the first facility for the district's social and cultural functions. It was destroyed by fire c1937, amid much talk and speculation concerning the culprit and reason. The evening before it burned, there supposedly had been an altercation between some of the district youths at a social in the hall, and that its destruction later that night was an act of revenge by one of the victim's father. CL-061.



Above: A view looking east from a point just south of the main street, on the "half-mile" road. At the far right is St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, half painted; to the left is the Mike Torbiak residence; Emile Bailley Store, the church belltower; and the Dehowa School teacherage at the far left. Given its location, the building at the far right is likely one of the original Torbiak family pioneer log structures. CL-001.





The sign reads: D. Torbiak, General Merchant, Poplarfield Man. Danylo Torbiak led the first group of homesteaders to settle in the immediate area of what would become the community of Poplarfield. The group arrived in April of 1906 and included the families of Stefan Didyk, Sofron Leochko, Stefan Grywinsky, and others. By 1911 Danylo and his wife Katherine were operating a small store and from a log building on their homestead. Supplies were obtained overland from Arborg, which by then had a railway connection. In 1914, when the Canadian Northern Railway was constructed just a few hundred feet to the east, the store was turned to face the tracks and was soon replaced with a large wood frame structure which included attached living

quarters. Danylo Torbiak was appointed postmaster for the Poplarfield Postal District in 1913, and administered the mail until 1940, except for four years in the mid-1930s. For many years, the Torbiak store was a major focal point of the "Old" Poplarfield townsite. Going for the mail was rarely left to the children. It was a dress up event, and an important social and community outing. As well, Danylo Torbiak and Mike Werbenuk were great economic and political rivals, and the two of them were the centre of much of the activity and talk in the community. When Danylo's health began to decline in the late-1903s he then transferred the store business and post office to his son Peter. The Torbiak store was destroyed by fire in 1955. CL-062.



Mike Werbenuk arrived in Canada in 1903, settling in Vita, Manitoba. In 1911, After working in a smelter in British Columbia for five years, he established a store in Vita. In 1913, hearing that the CNR was building a line through Inwood up to Hodgson, he came to check out the district, and decided to establish a store in Poplarfield. By the time the trains began running in 1913 he had a store built and ready. With the help of his brother-in-law Paul Semotiuk, everything in Vita was sold. The goods and the family arrived on one of the first trains on the newly completed line. Mr. Werbenuk later bought Mr. Fargy's store in Chatfield and helped his son Alec establish a merchant business there. Later he started a mill in Fisher Branch in partnership with Mr. Nick Prygrocki, a good friend of his. In 1933, when the Liberal government was

defeated, Mr. Werbenuk was appointed Post Master, and his son Harry managed it. At this time brother Alec also had the post office in his store in Chatfield. Beside the store was a large warehouse built by Mr. Lisowecki, for storing flour and feed, lumber, shingles, wool, seneca root and grain. The floor was tin-lined and was said to be rodent-proof. There was a small feed mill chopper in the warehouse for making feed for hogs, cattle and poultry, and a large wood yard for storing cordwood brought in by the farmers. Behind the store, was a sizable wood-frame barn where the family housed cattle and other farm animals. A short time after Mr. Werbenuk passed away in the late 1940s, the store was closed. It stood empty for about ten years before it too succumbed to fire. CL-064.



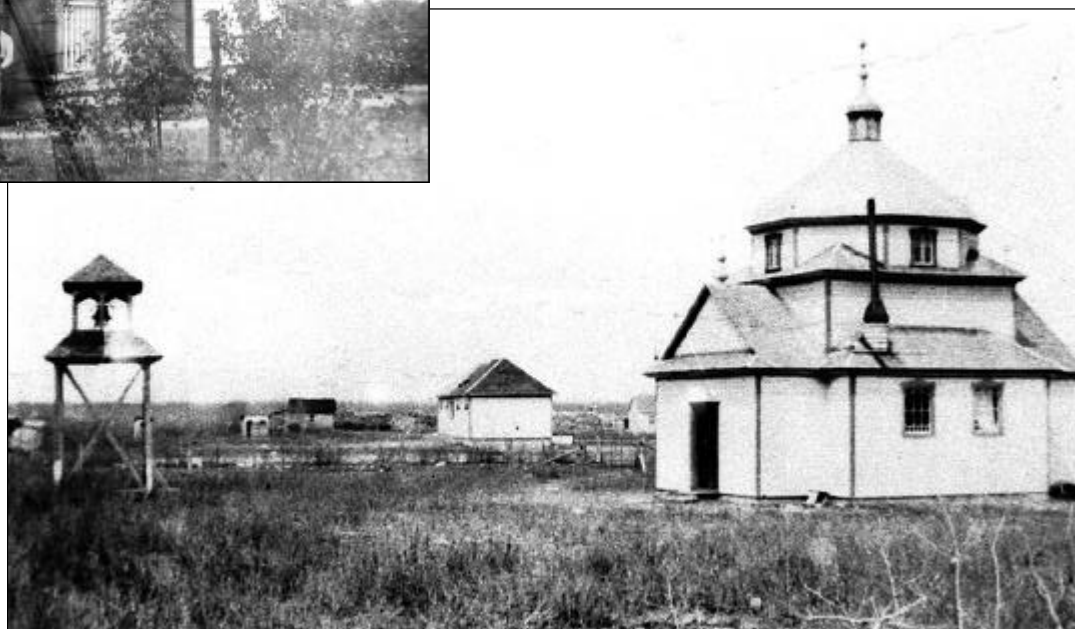


Left: An early view of the 'crossroads in Poplarfield, looking north, early 1930s. The Mike Werbenuk store can be seen in the right background; at centre, is the former Werstiuk pioneer's cabin; and at the far left is the residence of Nick Lisowecki and family. The log house with the unusual 'hip & gable' appears to have been the original homesteader's cabin which Wasył Werstiuk constructed in 1906 when he applied for entry on a homestead at SW 12-22-2W. Apparently several families passed the first winter in this small two-roomed building. Within a year or two, Mr. Werstiuk transferred his claim to slightly better land a half mile to the east. The homestead was later taken up by Nick Losiwecki, his son-in-law. CL-008.

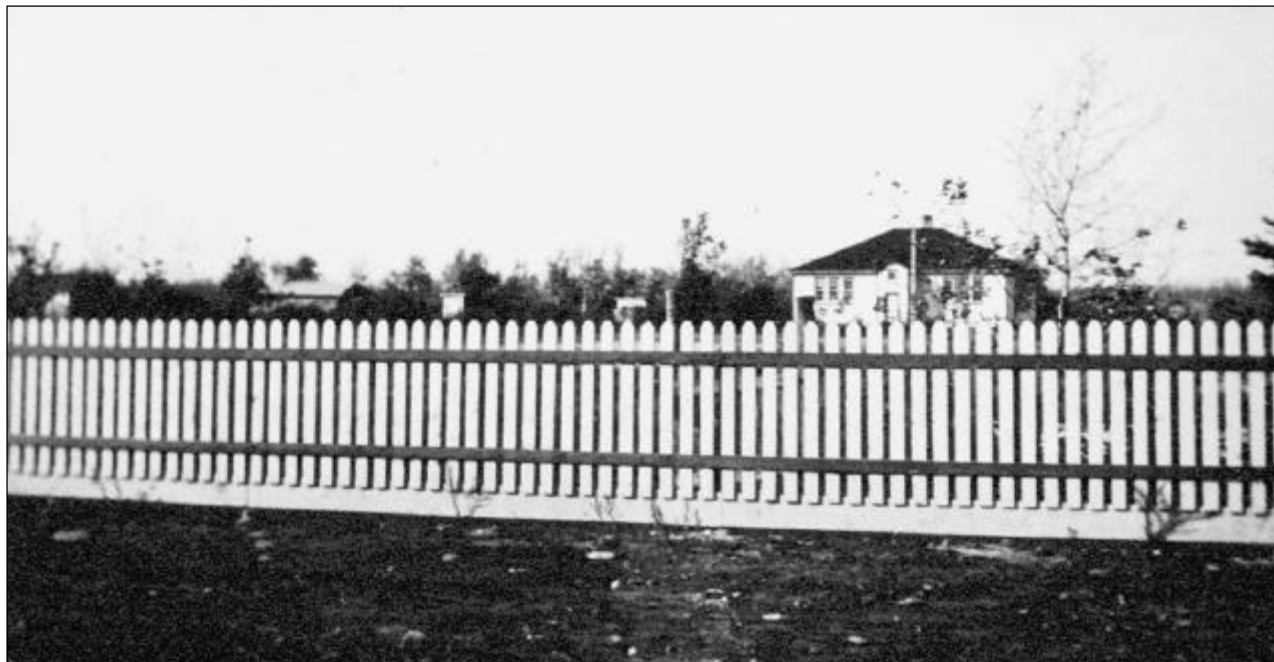


Left: The Nykola Lisowecki house located at the west end of the town, on the south side. Mr. Lisowecki was one of the main carpenters in the Poplarfield district, and constructed many of its schools, churches, stores and homes. He, and wife Justine, raised a family of five girls and a son, and kept a small dairy herd for extra income. This photo was taken during the early-1930s. Sitting on the front steps are Olga and Peter Lisowecki, and 'Skipper'. CL-005.

Right: Looking north from the back end of the churchyard, mid-1930s. St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic church at the right; the Dehowa schoolhouse at centre, at the time with its new second room; and the church bell tower at the left. CL-003.



Right: Dehowa School, c1935. The Dehowa School district was established in 1908, but the first one-roomed school wasn't constructed until 1913. During the 1920s, Nick Lisowecki was hired to construct a one-room 'mirror-image' addition. During the winter of 1937/38 the school was destroyed as a result of a faulty stovepipe. By the autumn, a new structure was built and ready for use. SC,DE-003.



Left: The new Dehowa School as it appeared in November of 1938. This view of the second Dehowa school shows the impressive five foot high wood picket fence which was built around the south and west sides of the school yard. The remainder of the yard was enclosed with metal link sheep-fencing. SC,DE-044.



Left: The Bailey Bros. General Store, c1925. The Bailey Bros. Store was constructed around 1920 and operated by Mike and Emile Bailley. During the 1930s the store was rented out and operated as the Poplarfield Co-operative Store. In 1947-48, while Mike Firman was principal of Dehowa School, the lower storey of the store was used as a classroom for grades 9, 10 and 11. A few years later, Emil and wife Anna Bailley dismantled part of the structure and used the lumber to construct a new store on a site in new Poplarfield. The car in the photo belonged to Mike Bailley. CL-009.

Right: A view of Poplarfield taken by a visiting Dan Malofie of Fisher Branch on September 25, 1938 looking east towards the tracks from the middle of town. L-R: Emile and Mike Bailley store/residence; Stefan & Katherine Torbiak home; the Chatfield Municipality Building; and the Danylo Torbiak store/residence at the far right. CL-003.





Left: The Chatfield Municipal "Hall" was originally constructed as a store around 1915 by two individuals from Bender Hamlet. It only operated for a short time before Danylo Torbiak purchased it, and soon after sold, it to the Chatfield Municipality for use as an office building. William Hryciuk was the municipal administrator for many years. His daughter Silvia was a teacher at Dehowa School during the 1930s and 1940s. In this view, note the large piles of split firewood inexplicably unloaded in front of the building, virtually blocking the entrance. CL-046.



Above: Poplarfield, old town, c1940. A view looking west in the old town showing the north side of the main street. LR can be seen: The Bailley Bros. Store, Steve and Kay Torbiak's residence, and the second Dehowa Schoolhouse in the distance, at the far right. CL-050.



Above: Mr. William Hryciuk, Chatfield Municipality administrator, c1947. After the Municipality was dissolved during the early 1930s, Mr. Hryciuk carried on as tax collector, and as administrator when the new Local Government District of Fisher was formed. In 1946, Carl Josefchuk took over the position and a few years later the office was moved to new facilities in Fisher Branch. CL-035.



Left: Wasył Didyk store/residence, c1940. Mr. Didyk closed his Poplarfield business around 1942 and set up a new store north of Hodgson at Koostatak. The building was occupied by a number of renters during the 1940s and 1950s, often newly married local couples just getting established. During the late 1940s, some of the female students attending High School classes located in the former Emil Bailley store, lived in the store wing of the building, going home to the farm on weekends. The last occupants of the building were the Pagee family during the early 1960s. CL-071.



Right: Poplarfield rail baggage and passenger shed as it appeared in May of 1964. Because the building was normally left unlocked, for many years it was a favourite meeting place and hideout for the local children. CL-054.





Left: The Poplarfield "CNR section manager's residence" as it appeared in 1947. CL-085.

*"In 1936 George Klowak was transferred to Poplarfield by the Canadian National Railway to serve as the section manager overseeing the repair and maintenance of the Poplarfield section of track. He remained the section manager until 1966, retiring not long before the railway line was shut down. During this period, he was a very prominent and active member of the religious and cultural life of Poplarfield. The initial residence provided to the Klowak family was simply a railway bunkcar removed from its wheels. A few years later a second car was added and the structure renovated into a comfortable little residence for his wife Katherine and children, Luba, Norman, and Benny. On September 20, 1947 Luba Klowak married Peter Bailey, the cars in the photo are decorated for the occasion."* - Norman Klowak.

Right: A view of some of the buildings located on the Poplarfield Station grounds during the early 1960s, showing a bunkhouse, a garage, the section manager's residence and a track-side toolshed CL-037.







Left: Aerial view of Poplarfield townships, 1949. The old town site in the SW corner of SE 12-23-2W and the new town site in the NW corner, which would become the crossroads of PTH #17 and PTH #68. Because the original townsite was located in the centre of the section, away from the surveyed road allowance grid, the streets were not registered roadways, or maintained by the Government until 1940. Misc-001.



Left: The "Modern Trading Store", first building in New Poplarfield, as it appeared on September 25, 1938. The store was first owned and operated by Walter Chimchak. In the spring of 1938 Mr. Chimchak announced his intention to construct a store and hotel in Poplarfield, together with his brother and brother-in-law. Apparently, after much negotiating, they could not come up with a satisfactory arrangement for suitable sites near the railway tracks, so they purchased and surveyed building lots a half mile northeast of the old town. The store was the first structure erected. Carpenter Nick Lisowecki was hired for the job. Mr. Chimchak instructed him to build the "same kind of store" that had just been built in Teulon. CL-063.

Right: The Coronation Hotel in the 'new' Poplarfield townsite, as it appeared shortly after its construction during the winter of 1938-39. The Coronation Hotel was the second building to be constructed in New Poplarfield. It was built for Steve and Mary Chreptyk, who at the time were in partnership with Walter and John Chimchak. John and his wife operated a store in the adjacent lot. CL-048.





Above: High altitude aerial view of the 'new' Poplarfield townsite in 1949 showing the building development along the single street, later to be called High Plains Road. The railway and the 'half mile' road leading from the old town site can be seen at the left. In the ten years since the first structures went up in 1938, the townsite has now grown to 16 occupied building lots. Its location at the crossroads of Provincial Roads #17 and #68 gave it a major strategic advantage over the old townsite. Misc-014.



Left: A number of structures were erected in the new Poplarfield townsite in 1939. The National Garage was built and operated by Mike Ledohowski, whose father Stefan was one of the initial homesteaders in the Sharpewood district. The year before, Mike spent a memorable six months in Chicago taking a mechanics course. CL-010.

Right: Store owned by Alex Werstiuk, Poplarfield, new town. Mr. Werstiuk constructed the store in 1939 and lived in the rear living quarters, but never actually operated the store. Instead it was rented out to Ed Winestock who had a store in Chatfield. Mr. Winestock hired Roy Shushkewich and Ighes Folta, as well as others, as clerks to help him run the operation in his absence. Mr. Winestock would come by train from Chatfield twice a week to check the business and help out. CL-055.





Above: New Poplarfield buildings located along the north side of 'High Plains Road' pictured during the winter of 1939-40. Partly visible at far left is the Orthodox Church Hall; Marko Kawka residence; Alex Werstiuk Store, which was operated by Ed Winestock; John Chimchak's store; the Coronation Hotel, at this time still a Chimchak/Chreptyk partnership; and partly visible on the right edge is Mike Zasitko's Texaco Station. This photo shows that the Kawka residence predated the store, which, within the year, would be constructed on the lot between it and the hall. CL-012.



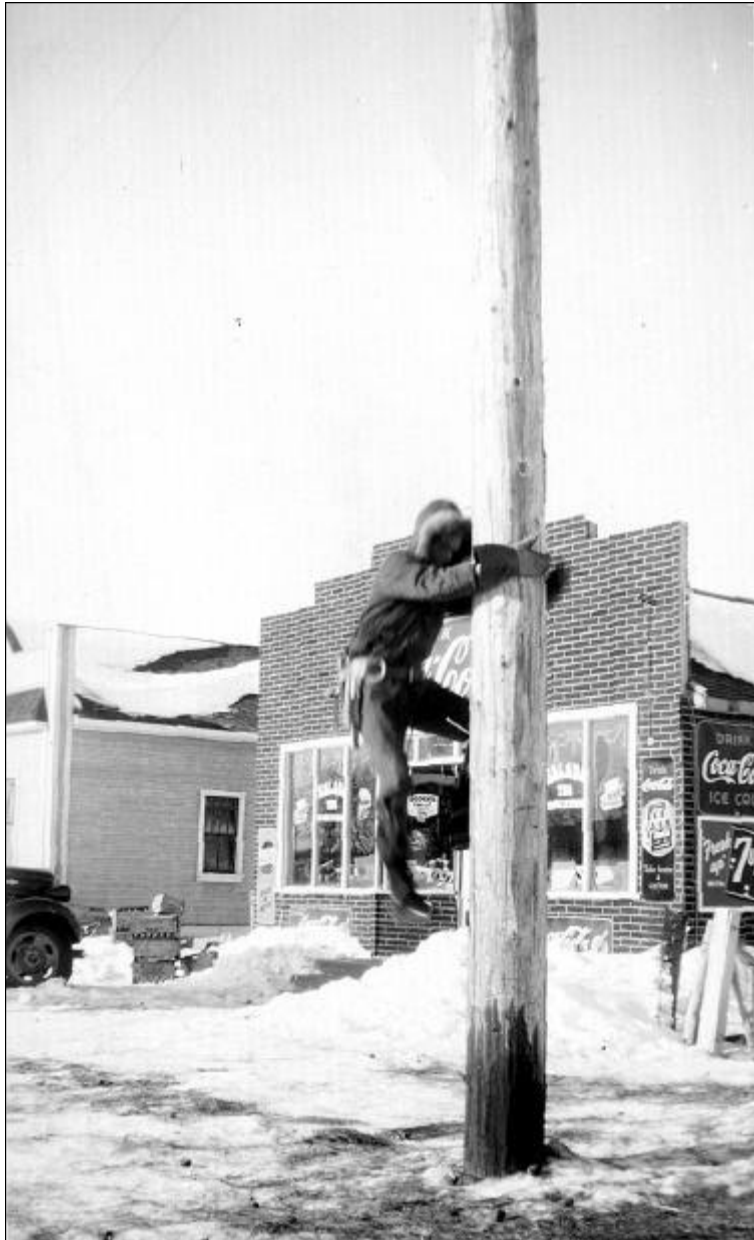
Upper right: Mike Zasitko's Texaco service station at the cross-roads in new Poplarfield, c1963. Constructed in 1939, the business functioned until the early 1970s. CL-022.

Right: The hardware store constructed by John T. Zasitko around 1942. Note the old hand-operated gasoline pump and the long row of firewood along the property line. The small house in the background belonged to Mr. George Yanicki. The presence of a hydro pole in the picture indicates it was taken after the arrival of electricity in 1949 but before the store's destruction by fire in 1953. CL-013.





Below: Hydro electricity comes to Poplarfield, 1949. Kawka store in background. CL-025



Above: Hydro electricity comes to Poplarfield, winter of 1949-1950. Holy Trinity Ukrainian Greek Orthodox church in background. The rural areas were connected to the provincial power grid a few years after the town-site. Needless to say, after 50 years of coal oil lights and stationary engines, the introduction of electric lights, motors, etc., completely changed the daily routine of living and working in the district. CL-027.





Above: The National Garage as it appeared in 1947. When Mike Ledohowski returned from W.W.II, he purchased the old Chimchak store and converted the feed shed into a one-vehicle service bay, which is pictured here. In 1949, a large shop area was constructed along the west side of the structure and the single bay incorporated back into the building. CL-007.



Right: Mike Ledohowski and Metro Melnyk at the front counter of Mike's National Garage in new Poplarfield, mid 1960s. CL-040.



Right: The new, expanded, National Garage, c1953. The Ledohowski family lived in quarters at the rear of the structure until 1961, when a new family home was constructed along the recently surveyed and constructed Bayne Street at the west end of town. CL-020.

Right: Mary Skrabek at the door of 'Roy's Cafe & Pool Hall', late 1950s. In addition to operating the pool room and cafe, from the 1940s to the 1970s Roy's place was the Grey Goose bus stop in Poplarfield. He also rented out a space for a barber's chair. Thus, Skrabek's was a centre of much activity in the community for many years. CL-072.



Left: Roy Skrabek playing billiards in his pool room, c1965. There were two ornate slate snooker tables and a large billiards table in the front hall. The cafe area with its long counter and pedestal stool seating, and an antique Juke Box, occupied the central portion of the building. Living quarters were at the rear. SR-001.



Above: View of Dan and Doris Kawka's General Store and their residence, May 1964, new Poplarfield. CL-090.



Above right: Interior view of Kawka's General Store, June 1964. L-R: Dan Kawka, Elizabeth Ptashnyk; Marusia Ptashnyk, and Doris Kawka. CL-091.



Right: Dan Kawka behind the front counter of his store in Poplarfield, new town. Note the well stocked shelves; paper roll and cutter; weight scale; and glass-fronted cooler. CL-089.

**NEW POPLARFIELD**  
 PETER BAILLEY, Agent  
 Day Service

Andrychuk Nick ne 16-22-1w	302-r-3
Bachynsky N W res nw 6-22-1w	301-r-2
Coronation Hotel lot 2	9
Horodecki B PL 4577	1
Hoslak Harry res nw 21-22-1w	303-r-12
Joe's Texaco Service Govt rd Allowance	2
Kawka Don gen store lot 4	5
Kicenko Steve res ne 21-22-1w	303-r-4
Kochan H res sw 15-22-1w	302-r-4
Kowalyk M res se 28-22-1w	303-r-3
Ledohowski M garage	6-r-2
Res Boyne	6-r-3
Leschyshyn Joe lot 1	14
Leschyshyn Mike garage Govt rd Allowance	10
<b>Manitoba Government</b>	
Department of Public Works	
Highway Branch	
Manitoba Hydro sw 18-22-1w	8
Manitoba Hydro sw 18-22-1w	15
Marko John J res sw 27-22-1w	303-r-2
Mazur J res nw 28-22-1w	303-r-21
<b>MID-WEST RENDERING LTD Winnipeg</b>	
Call Long Distance (No Toll Charge) and ask for Zenith 5-3100	
Moroj J res sw 14-22-1	302-r-14
Ostryzniuk W res Poplarfield	301-r-11
Ozubko Mike general store lot 3	4
Podajma Leo res ne 7-22-1w	302-r-12
Pododworny Harry res ne 16-22-1w	302-r-13
Poplarfield Transfer Govt rd Allowance	3
Poplarfield Turkey Co nw 7-22-1w	11
Rabski John res sw 33-22-1w	303-r-22
Rozak Peter res se 18-22-1w	302-r-23
Skrabek J res se 20-22-1w	303-r-23
Skrabek R ne 12-22-2w	7
Sokulski Peter res sw 28-22-1w	303-r-13
Surminski Roy se 13-22-1w	302-r-6
Swarychewski John se 17-22-1w	302-r-21
Swarychewski Wm res Poplar	12
Swarychewski Wm res ne 8-22-1w	302-r-2
Torbiak M res Poplarfield	301-r-3
Wallach Joseph general store Govt rd Allowance	13
Zuk Fred nw 7-22-1e	302-r-22

Above: Telephone listing for New Poplarfield, 1963. Misc-019



Above: Mike & Annie Ozubko's store as it appeared during the early 1960s. CL-074.



Above: Interior view of Mike & Annie Ozubko's General Store, Poplarfield, new town. c1962. L-R: Ed Ozubko watches as Johnny Shawliuk and Eddie Ledohowski discuss which treats they should purchase before heading back to a wedding reception being held at the community centre. CL-059.



Above: Coronation Hotel, c1955. The new hotel owners Mr. and Mrs. Frank Genshorek, their two sons, and a few friends pose for a photograph on the front steps of the hotel. L-R: Mrs. Anne Ledohowski (neighbour), Frank Genshorek, John Kowal, Jean Genshorek, and sons Eddie and Bobby Genshorek. Frank and Jean owned and operated the Coronation Hotel for six years, having purchased it from Walter and Anne Ledohowski in 1954 and selling it to Mike and Joyce Nevakshonoff in 1959. CL-049.

Above right: Walter Ledohowski and sons, Ben and Leo photographed on the steps of the Coronation Hotel, Poplarfield, new town, around 1948. Walter & Anne owned the hotel from 1947 to 1954. The family would remain in the hotel business and eventually became major hoteliers, establishing the Canad Inns Hotel chain. CL-041.



Below right: On the steps of the Coronation Hotel, 1953. Anne Ledohowski (in print dress) and daughters Jane and Carol, Anne's sister-in-law Ablina Buchko; her daughter Sylvia (in white dress). CL-042.

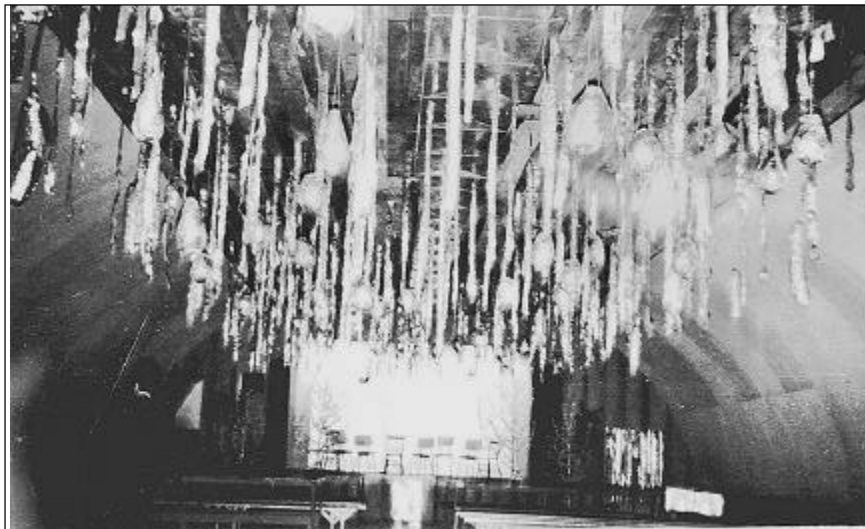




Left: The Poplarfield Community Centre was incorporated on March 6, 1959. Its purpose was to construct and operate a modern, community based hall to accommodate the many social, cultural, and political activities of the community at large. Funds were raised by bingos, a membership drive, and promissory notes for funds and labour, and in short time a large 'D-ring' frame structure had been erected. Signing the Articles of Incorporation were: Mike Ledohowski; Bill Swarychewski; Bill Horodecki; Joe Chudy; Mike Ozubko; Frank Genshorek; Peter Zasitko; Harry Pododworny; Peter Stasiuk. The signatures were witnessed by Joe Zasitko. The Poplarfield Ladies Aid were major contributors to the all aspects in the operation of the hall, including the wonderful meals from the kitchen. CL-014.

Below left: Interior of the Poplarfield Community Centre, decorated with silver tinsel for an upcoming function. View looking north towards the stage area. CL-016.

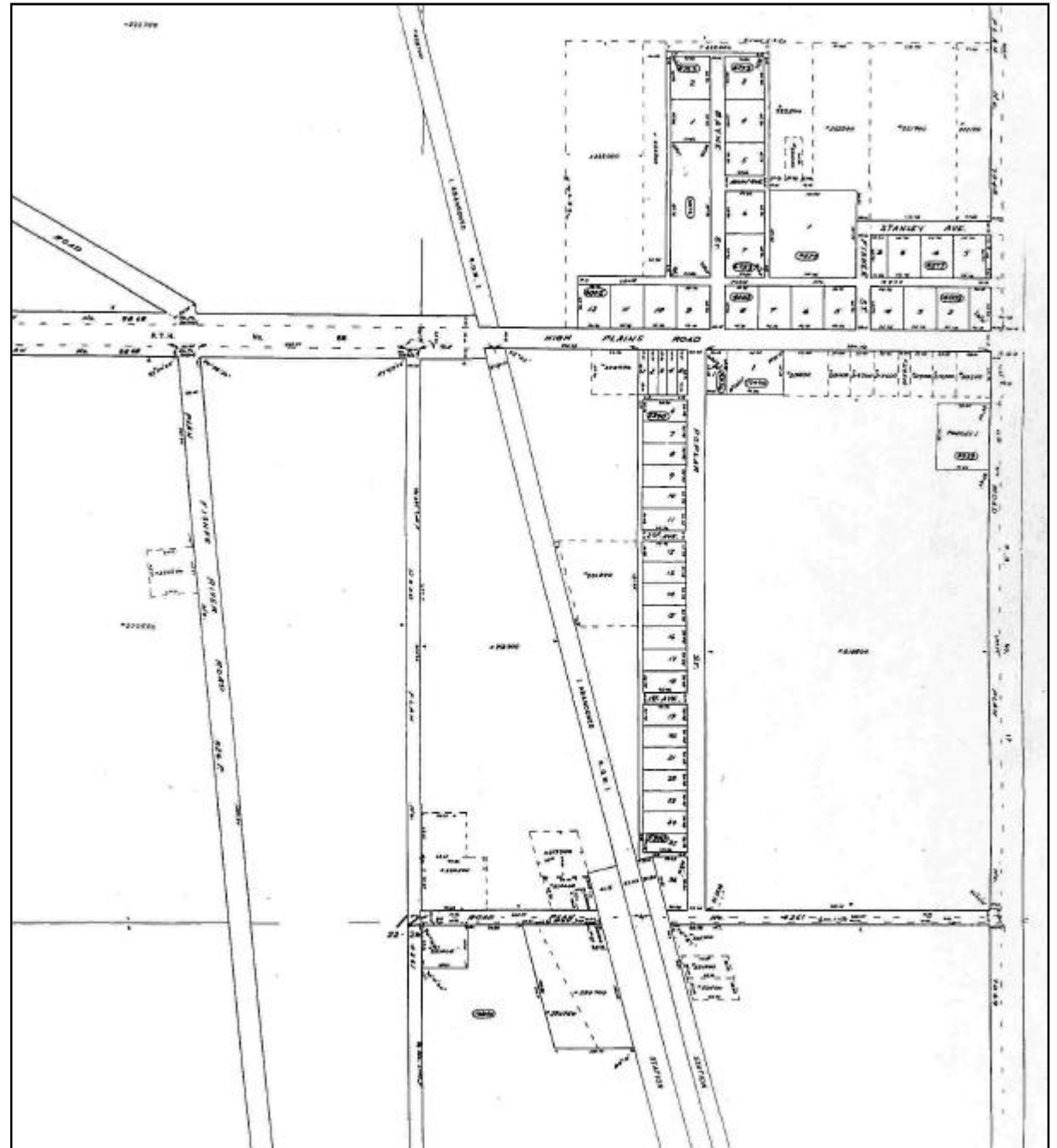
Below: View from the dance floor centre looking south towards the dining wing. CL-015.







Left: An aerial view of the Poplarfield townships around 1985, showing several items of interest. Note that the new town has expanded significantly over the 1949 aerial view seen earlier. Also evident is the development along the north half of the new connecting street, 'Poplar Street' which was surveyed out and constructed for Mike Bailley in 1951. At the far left is a surviving stretch of the old "Fisher River Road", better known locally as "The Colonization Trail". The St. Nicholas Parish Cemetery can be seen midway down its length. The old townsite, still possessing a number of buildings, both occupied and unoccupied, is at the lower left. Mike Torbiak's old garage being the dominant remaining structure in that location. Misc-002



Right: A plan of survey of the Poplarfield townsites area, showing lot lines and rights-of-way, c1985. One of the more interesting items it reveals is that the large bay circling the Community Centre yard, is not surveyed as such. 'Ann Avenue' and 'Fisher Street' do not meet on the plan. Also of interest is the lot configuration in the old town site. Map-013.



Above: Former St. Nicholas Church residence in old town site, c1964, photographed not long before it was moved to Fisher Branch. CL-017.



Above: Mike Torbiak residence in old town site, unoccupied, 1964. CL-018.



Above: Abandoned Municipal Building in the old town site, c1964. Former Didyk store in background.



Above: Abandoned Haliuk butcher shop and ice cream parlor in old town site, 1964. CL-039.



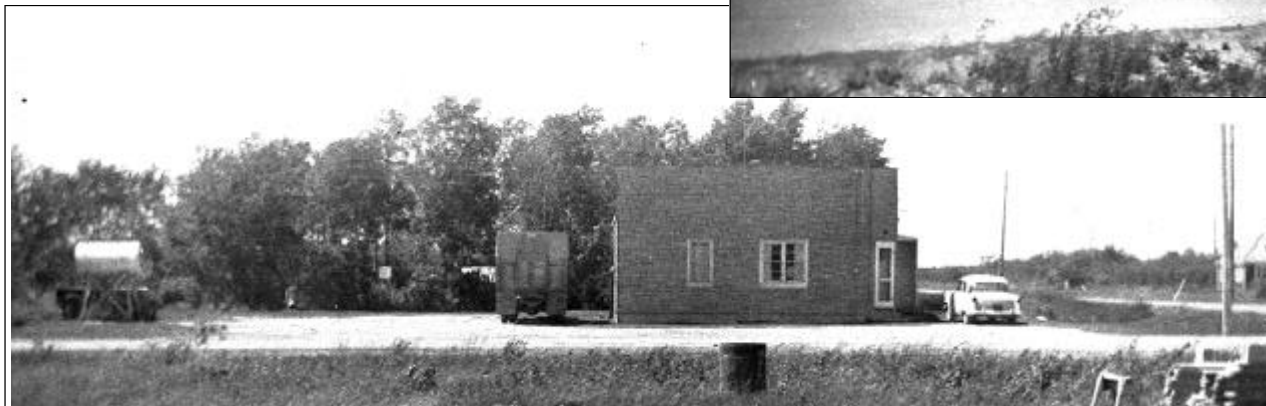
Above: View of the third Dehowa School, constructed c1954, and the Poplarfield Collegiate building, constructed 1962, in the background. SC,DE-034.



Above right: The Royal Mail truck parked outside the Poplarfield Post Office c1963. From 1959 to 1965 Bill & Julia Ostryzniuk operated the post office from this little building located on Poplar Avenue just south of the new school grounds. CL-019.



Right: Residences on Poplar Street, 1963. L-R: Harry and Ksenia Marykuca's retirement home, and the 1½ storey house originally built for Walter and Anne Ledohowski. Despite its 1930s style and size, this house was apparently constructed of recycled logs, and was not a lumber frame building. CL-084.



Left: View of Peter & Elsie Zaitko's residence and Poplarfield Transfer shed, located at the corner of High Plains Road and Poplar Street. CL-051.

Right: A view looking west along the north side of High Plains Road during the mid 1960s when the town was at its peak of economic development. Visible from R-L are: Mike Zasitko's Texaco Service Station; Coronation Hotel; M. Ledohowski's B/A Service Station; and Mike Ozubko's General Store. CL-002.



Left: High Plains Road, 1963. The south side of Main Street looking southeast: L-R: Perras store and telephone switchboard; Joe & Myrtle Wallach store & cafe; Roy and Mary Skrabek Pool hall, cafe & bus stop. The little two room residence at the far right was occupied Mr. Wm. Roschuk. CL-021.





Left: New Poplarfield, July 1963, corner of High Plains Road and Fisher Street. R-L: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church; Mike Leschyshyn's Imperial Oil "Esso" service station; the new community centre in the distance; and the Orthodox Church Hall. The Esso station was constructed by Mike Leschyshyn. It was later purchased and operated by Rudy Kowaluk. Max Lapka, Frank Boychuk, and Frank Wallach were later owners of the building. For a time the Poplarfield Credit Union operated out of the building. It was finally demolished by Frank Wallach during the mid 1990s. CL-047.

Right: L-R: the Holy Trinity parish hall; Dan Kawka store; and Kawka residence at right. CL-044.



Below right: View of some of the buildings located along the middle section of High Plains Road. In the distance L-R: Bill Pawluk residence; Onysko Troschuk residence; Stanley Kolakowski retirement home; Nick & Francis Luty residence; Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church; Mike Leschyshyn garage. CL-103.

Below: View of some of the buildings located along Fisher Street and Ann Avenue, 1963. L-R: Poplarfield Community at left, in the distance is the Philip and Olga Horodecki residence; Bill & Helen Horodecki residence; Panko & Mary Zasitko residence. On the right: the Michael Lapka, and the Mrs. Antonia Stasuik retirement homes. CL-102.





Above: Mike Torbiak garage in the old town site, visited by Nick Lisowecki, its builder, in 1974. Mr. Torbiak gave instructions that there were to be no supporting posts in the front showcase and counter area. It was the largest free-span attempted by Mr. Lisowecki and, after completion, was inspected and easily passed by a structural engineer. CL-131.



Above right: View of the aftermath of the fire which destroyed the M.A. Troschuk General Store, c1963. Note the Manitoba Hydro transmission station in the centre background. CL-053.



Above: The newly completed Manitoba Telephone System building in 1964. With the installation of automatic switching equipment, the manually operated switchboard first installed in Peter and Luba Bailley's store was removed, and Poplarfield lost its local operator service. Mr. & Mrs Bernie Perras were the last to provide operator service in the Poplarfield exchange district. CL-068.



Left: This building was originally built as a store in the Hamrlik district for James Skrabek around 1920. James died two years later. In the winter of 1923 a Mr. Stadnyk from Arborg was hired to move the building to Poplarfield by sled. An early melt during the trip resulted in the building sitting for almost a year on the side of the road allowance. The Skrabek family was forced to live in the building for that period. The move to Poplarfield was completed the next winter. The building was never used as a store in its Poplarfield location. Before long it was sold to Emile Bailley and was soon sold again to Nick Lisowecki. During the 1930s and 1940s it functioned as the Klump residence. It was still standing in the winter of 2000. CL-124.

Right: The retirement home of John and Annie Rozak, High Plains Road as it appeared in 1963. Constructed by Mike Troschuk, it had been owned by Mike & Stella Troschuk, and Stella Ptashnyk previous to the Rozaks. CL-052.



Below: The retirement home of Mr. and Mrs Nick Luty in New Poplarfield as it appeared during the early 1970s. Francis Luty stands in her flower garden at the front of the cottage. This log house apparently was originally located on the Werbenuk property in the old town, and had many temporary occupants, including the village blacksmith and later Mr. Dan Kawka, Harry and Anne Werbenuk and family. The Luty's, who homesteaded in the Zbaraz district, purchased the house in 1957, and lived in it for twenty-one years. CL-087.



Right: Retirement home of Stefan and Katherine Ledohowski, Sharpewood district pioneers. The home was constructed around 1948 after the old homestead and machinery were sold by farm auction. It was destroyed by fire about ten years later. Mrs. Stanley Leschyshyn later lived in a cottage constructed for her on the same lot in new town. CL-025.



Above: Aerial oblique view of Poplarfield, old townsite, 1973. Besides the surviving structures, eleven other buildings existed at one time within this same view. CL-077.





Left and below right: Aerial view of the eastern and central sections of High Plains Road, Poplarfield, new townsite, 1973. CL-079, CL-078.



Left: Aerial view of the west end of High Plains Road, and a portion of Fisher Street, 1973. CL-132.





Left: Winter time view of the St. Nicholas parish hall as it appeared during the late 1970s. By this time it was infrequently used. CL-111.

Right: View of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic church during the early 1970s. CL-033





Left: The Coronation Hotel as it appeared during the mid 1960s, when it was owned by Mike & Joyce Nevakshonoff. The Nevakshonoff's purchased the hotel from Frank and Jean Genshorek in 1959 and ran it for ten years. During this period an addition was constructed on the west side of the building to expand the beverage room to include a separate ladies' beverage area. CL-073.

Below: Destruction of Coronation Hotel on January 9, 1975. The last owners of the hotel were George, James and Ruth Mason. They purchased it in 1971 from Nick, Andrew, and Mary Natrasany. CL-076.

**Poplarfield Hotel:**

- 1939 - 1941: constructed and owned by John Chimchak, Steve Chreptyk, and Wm. Chimchak.
- 1941 - 1945: Owned by J.W. Chimchak and Wm Chimchak.
- 1945 - 1946: Owned by Nicholas Kassian.
- 1946 - 1947: Owned by David Skrypetz.
- 1947 - 1954: Owned by Walter and Anne Ledohowski.
- 1954 - 1959: Owned by Frank and Jean Genshorek.
- 1959 - 1969: Owned by Mike and Joyce Nevakshonoff.
- 1969 - 1971: Owned by Barrie and Pearl Henderson.
- 1971 - 1972: Owned by Nick, Andrew and Mary Natrasany.
- 1972 - 1975: Owned by George, James and Ruth Mason.

The Coronation Hotel was destroyed by fire on the morning of January 9th, 1975. To this date, it would prove to be the last of a large number of buildings in Poplarfield to 'go up in smoke'.





Above: Mail truck being unloaded during the winter months of 1984. CL-032.

Right: View of post office lobby, c1984. Post Master, Anne Ledohowski awarding Slim Leochko with a Canada Post mailbox bank for providing the closest guess as to the length of the string contained within the ball. The string was saved over a number of years, collected from pamphlet bundles, and roughly measured as the ball was wound. CL-082.

Poplarfield Post Office



Left and above: Mike and Anne Ledohowski pose beside the Poplarfield Post Office during a come-and-go tea held in 1984 to mark their 20th year as the community's Post Masters. For a few years in the early 1960s the post office was located in a space within the National Garage building, and later moved to a prepared space in the garage of their residence on Bayne Street. The two-wheeled cart containing the mail bags was originally used by Danylo Torbiak in the 1920s and 1930s to carry the mail and packages from the train station shed to his store, where the post office was located. CL-08, CL-094.

Poplarfield Post Masters

- Danylo Torbiak:  
1913 - 1933
- Mike Werbenuk:  
1933 - 1937
- Danylo Torbiak:  
1937 - 1940
- Peter Torbiak:  
1940 - 1958
- William Ostryzniuk:  
1958 - 1965
- Michael Ledohowski:  
1965 - 1979
- Anne Ledohowski:  
1979 - 1984
- Bob D. Wallach:  
1984 - present





Above and right: Two views of the construction of the Poplarville Seniors' Residence on High Plains Road in Poplarfield in 1984. CL-109, CL-010.



Above: Poplarfield ladies preparing a Christmas meal for the residents of Poplarville, Christmas 2000. CL-102



Above: 'Poplarville' Seniors' Residence as it appeared during the winter of 2000. CL-119.



Above: Aerial view of the residential section of new Poplarfield, in the area of Bayne Street and Ann Avenue, c1990. CL-105.



Above: Aerial view of the business portion on High Plains Road, c1990 looking to the northeast. CL-029.

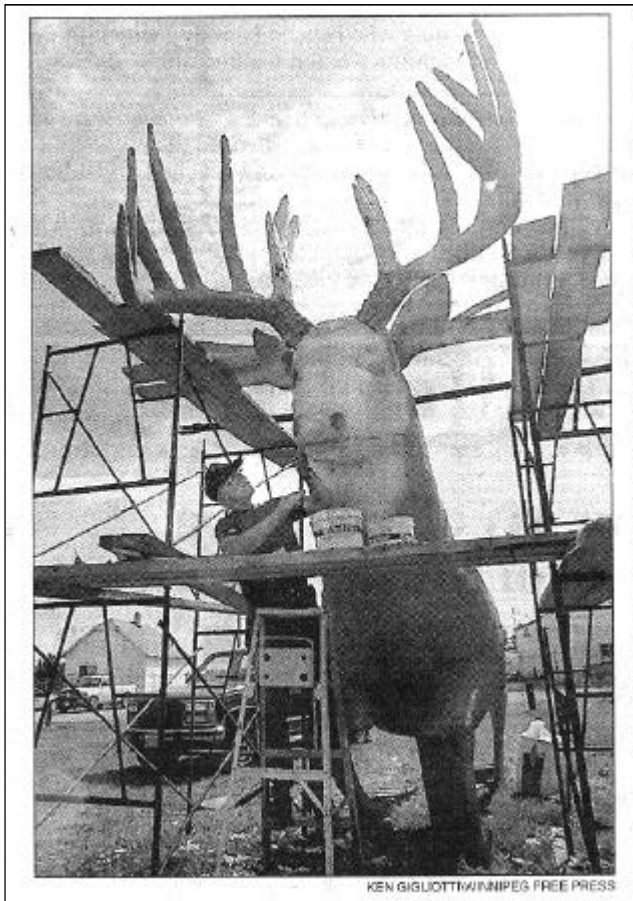
Below: Composite view of High Plains Road looking west from the 'cross-roads' in 1998 prior to the removal of the former Ozubko store on the north side, and the Wallach Store & Cafe on the south side. CL-029, CL-030.







Above: Plastic deer garden ornament and sign saying "Watch This Boy Grow" occupying the future site of the King Buck.  
Left: Arrival of the Poplarfield King Buck statue, 1991. CL-106, CL-107.



Above: A clipping from the August 21, 1999 issue of the Winnipeg Free Press. "Mike Stasiuk touches up The King Buck of Poplarfield". CL-075.



Above: View of the 'King Buck' statue, erected by the community in 1991. It stands 7½ meters high and is of fiberglass construction. Commissioning of 'town symbol' statues such as The King Buck was popular in the Interlake region during the 1980s and 1990s, and include the Inwood Garter Snakes, Meleb Mushrooms, Kormarno Mosquito, Lundar's Canada Goose, and the Ashern Grouse. Visible in the distance is Bob & Irene Wallach's King Buck Inn, 1997. CI-056.



Above and right: The Poplarfield Apiaries, photographed in the autumn of 2000. The structure was originally constructed as the Poplarfield Turkey Company processing plant, but only operated for a few years. It was then purchased by Cecil Fast who converted it into a honey processing plant, taking advantage of the many alfalfa crops being grown in the area during the 1970s. It continues to operate as an apiary, with Leonard Heinrichs as the owner-operator. CL-117, CL-118.



Above left and above: Derell Lazarak and gas-jockey Glenda Heinrichs, and Caren Lazarok photographed on the job at the Poplarfield Groceteria in December 2000. CL-122.

One of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Poplarfield, this building was constructed around 1940 and has been continuously operated as a store by a succession of families, including: Marko Kawka, Dan and Doris Kawka, Wally and Anne Tycholis, Wally and Evelyn Pomanski, and the Lazoraks. CI-121.



In the mid 1990s Ron and Karen Chekosky purchased and converted the former Poplarfield Collegiate into a small hotel and conference facility, under the name of Odyssey Lodge. The large gymnasium was converted into a mezzanine eating area overlooking a large pool, and the four classrooms were converted into an executive suite, three standard rooms, a bunk room and a meeting room. Ron operated a hunting outfitting business, Big Antler Outfitters, throughout the 1990s, and accommodated many of his clients at 'The Lodge', which was also open to the public. CL-095. Below: Ron and Karen Chekosky with their children Kurt and Kaila. VIP-061.





Above: Poplarfield's "King Buck Inn" located at the crossroads of Highway #17 and #68, as it appeared during the winter of 2000. Owned and operated by Bob & Irene Wallach, the cafe/convenience store is a popular gathering place for both the locals and highway travellers. Bob is also Poplarfield Post Master with the community post office located in the building. CL-115, CL-116.





*Chapter Three*  
*Farm Life*





Left: Clearing of the trees. PE-006. *"In the early years, many crops weren't seeded because there wasn't much broken land. A farmer would seed about an acre or two because the bush was too heavy to do any more. Sometimes it took a whole day to chop down two trees, dig out the roots and stumps, work it up the ground with a pick axe, and haul away the stones that were dug up as a result. Most of the poplars were large at that time, 18-20 inches in diameter, not like now. When the logs were taken to the mill, they would sometimes get about 10 boards out of one tree."* - Joe Stasiuk.

Right: Initially all land clearing was done by hand using a grub-hoe, shovel and axe. As this photo shows, often the whole family helped out. The work was slow and back-breaking. FL-216.





*"To get the patent for father's homestead we had to first clear seven acres of land. We did this two different ways. The better trees were cut down and used for buildings. We borrowed a stump puller from our neighbour, Mr. Gagaluk. It was hooked up to the stumps and the oxen were driven around and around, and the stump was uprooted. The other trees were uprooted by tying a rope to the top of the trees and the roots which were cleared of soil were chopped as the rope was pulled. The tree would come out roots and all. The trees were then cut and hauled to the farm yard for firewood. Branches and roots were burned on the field. During the plowing the rocks were thrown onto the furrows and later picked up by wagon and hauled to the fences bordering the farm." - Bill Pawluk.*

Above: Ploughing with oxen on the Malofie homestead near Fisher Branch. Oxen were very powerful animals and horses were no match for pulling loads through bush or ploughing new land. However, they were not as easy to handle or train. PE-052.

Right: *"In clearing, the trees were converted into cordwood, fence posts or lumber. Stumps were pulled out by horses or oxen. The woman driving and the man holding the plow is the reverse of the usual practice. Roots and stones made the plowing a difficult job. Most of the timber was clean straight poplar. The axe and saw are the only tools used. Trees were cut close to the ground, then cut into cordwood. Stumps and roots would rot in two or three years; branches were burned. It was a slow process but many a good quarter section was cleared in this way. Some pity the women who had to do such work, but they were strong, healthy, and did not mind the hard work. I only wonder when and how they did their housework." - J.W. Sisler. PE-056.*





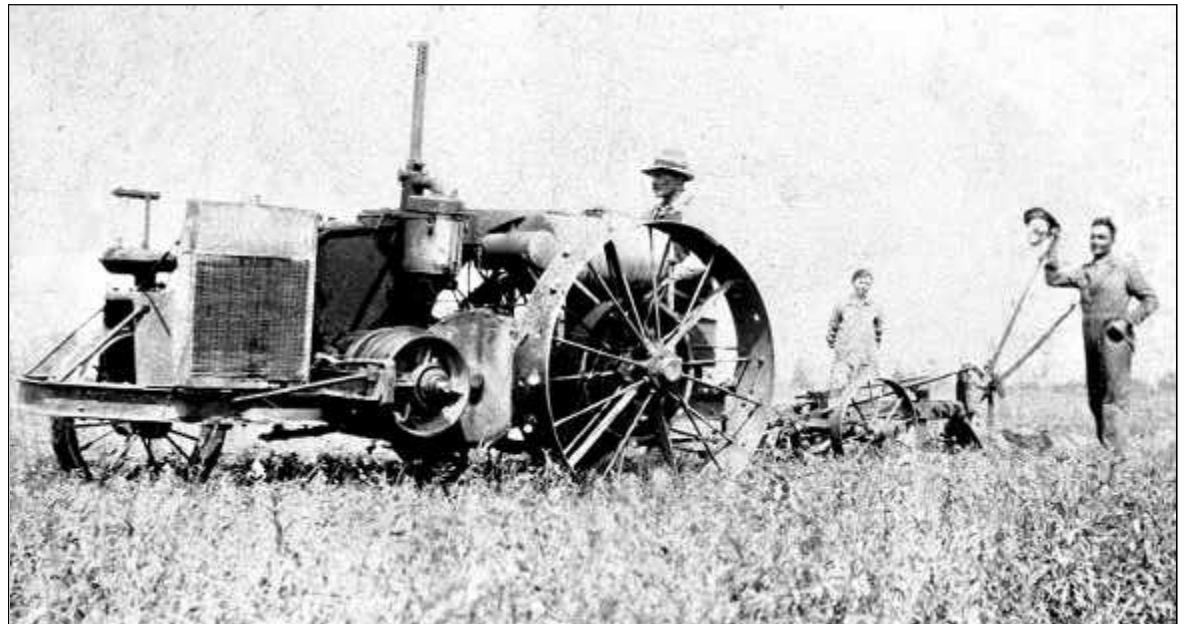
Left: Breaking pasture land with a Case steamer on the home-  
stead of Fred Leduchowski, south east of Poplarfield, c1928.  
These huge machines had tremendous power rivalling that of  
some of the largest modern tractors. To produce this power  
they could burn coal, wood, and some could even burn straw.  
A good water supply was also necessary. FL-072.



Right: Breaking land on Osioway farm with three teams of  
horses, early 1940s. Wheathill School District. Frank Osioway  
(right) and friend Bill Dodaec (left). FL-038.



Right: Sharpewood area pioneer Stefan Ledohowski plowing with a 3-wheeled gas distillate fueled Case tractor, on his homestead ten miles west of Poplarfield, 1928. Brother Mike assists with the plow, while wife Katherine watches the progress. FL-069.



Below and below right: John Bazilewich is visited by his nephew while breaking new land in the Hamrlik district with a McCormick Deering steel-wheeled tractor and single-blade breaker plow, early 1940s. FL-147, FL-148.





Above: Pulling roots on Pyziak farm, Zbaraz district. The helper is attaching a logging chain to a large stump. Root pulling was done after the ground was first broken with a heavy duty plow, and usually done by hand using an axe and grub hoe. Whole families worked together in removing these off the field and piled for burning. FL-023.



Above: Stopping for a lunch break while piling roots and stones on the John Sotious farm, New Star District, 1938. The many low ridges in the district were full of stone, which had to be picked not only during land breaking, but almost every year due to frost action pushing the stones to the surface. FL-015.



Above: The Zorniak Bros. hauling their 'bulldozer' to the next work site. RTM-008.

Right: John Zorniak Jr. breaking land with a caterpillar and breaker plow. John and brother Mike did custom land clearing for district farmers during the late 1930s and early 1940s, first with a TD-35, and later with an International TD-9. RTM-007.





Above and left: Peter Zasitko at work on his Allis-Chalmers caterpillar brushing new farmland. Peter and his brother Joe undertook custom brushing for the district's farmers from about 1949 to 1953. RTM-054, RTM-055.



*"In the 1940's post-war period, the Federal government offered subsidies to farmers who wished to expand their crop acreage by clearing new land. Many applied for this in our area, and by the time all work was completed, the countryside had changed very significantly. All but the most stony land in the region being brushed and cleared for either crop or pasture purposes. Heavy bulldozers cleared large trees and stumps and moved rock piles while other "cats" with brushcutters made short work of second growth brush. This marked the beginning of the period where the local economy moved from mixed farming to more specialized land use." - Lawrence Suchar*

Left: Clearing land in the Poplarfield district with an International TD-A Caterpillar, c1970. Note the heavy crashbar which is fitted to the machine when it is being used to up-end and pile heavy brush. RTM-076.

Right: Seeding on the Mike Husiak farm: Mike Husiak with six foot John Deere seeder, son Roy on the cultivator. FL-012.



Above: Roy Husiak operating a forerunner of the deep tiller on his father Mike's farm in the New Star district, c1930s. It usually required four horses to pull and had large wheels on each side. FL-017.

Right: In the fields - 1939 - Seeding with a team of horses and a six foot John Deere seed drill, operated by Nick Luty, Zbaraz district. FL-027.







Left: Mike Marko and five year old niece, Bernice, pose for a quick photograph during a break in plowing, c1942. Mr. Marko is pulling a 5-bottom disc plow. These plows were heavily constructed and without hydraulics, it required a strong operator to lift the discs on turns. This piece of machinery was more commonly known as a "one-way", as it was almost impossible to back up. Note also, the full quarter section depth of open field in the distance. Beginning in the late 1920s, the large marshes located between the Hamrlik and Zbaraz districts began to be drained, giving rise to some excellent, largely stone-free, cropland. FL-024.



Above: Discing on Peter Mazur homestead with son, Joe, on the 1940 Model D-80 John Deere tractor. Tractors such as this one were the most commonly used types during the late 1930s and 1940s. McCormack Deering, Hart-Parr, and Case tractors of a similar type plowed up a great deal of the newly cleared, or drained, land and enabled farmers to finally have grain as a major source of farm income. These machines burned a petroleum product called distillate. FL-088.



Above: The "wide-level" disc was introduced into the area during the early 1960s along with diesel fueled and rubber tired tractors. Standing here with a good example in 1965 are Ernie LeTexier, John Swarychewski, and Walter Verdant. FL-222.





Above: A Ukrainian pioneer cutting an early crop of barley using a cradle scythe. Note the three small children waiting patiently by, c1907. PE-055.

Above: The sickle and scythe were universally used during the initial years after settlement. Many pioneers made their own tools except for the metal blades. It was said that the best of the blades had been brought from the old country. PE-029.

Right: Sheaves in stooks awaiting harvest during the coming winter. Foley district, c1907. PE-013.

*"Building into sheaves by hand was a laborious method. They took a handful of straight straw, divided it into two parts, crossed the parts at the heads, and bent the heads about each other. This band was then laid on the ground. A good bundle was then laid on top of the band; ends were pulled tightly over the bundle or sheaf and was held firmly by twisting the ends and then pushing them under the tight band. A sheaf properly tied in this way would never loosen until the band was cut or untied, ready for threshing with the flail. In about ten to twenty years, the 'binder' was adopted, and progress to more modern methods was very rapid, finally keeping pace with the older settlers throughout the west." - J.W. Sisler.*



## Harvest Time



Above left: Woman separating the chaff from the seed by 'winnowing' with a screen and a gentle breeze. PE-033.

Above: Threshing grain with a flail on frozen ground. PE-017.



Left: Harvest scene in Fisher Branch area around 1916. Notice the oxen hitched to the farm wagon, and the newly constructed railway in the background. FL-001.



Left: Mike Osioway operating his binder using a four horse team on his Wheathill area homestead, 1930s. The binder was a heavy and complex harvesting machine. One large lugged wheel turned all moving parts through an assembly of gears and drive chains. Four horses had a tough time pulling in heavy going. FL-060.

Below: Operating a binder on the Mike Husiak farm, using newly acquired mechanical power, New Star school district. Bill Husiak on tractor, and Harry Husiak on the binder. The tractor was a McCormack-Deering 15-30 purchased used in 1937. FL-053.

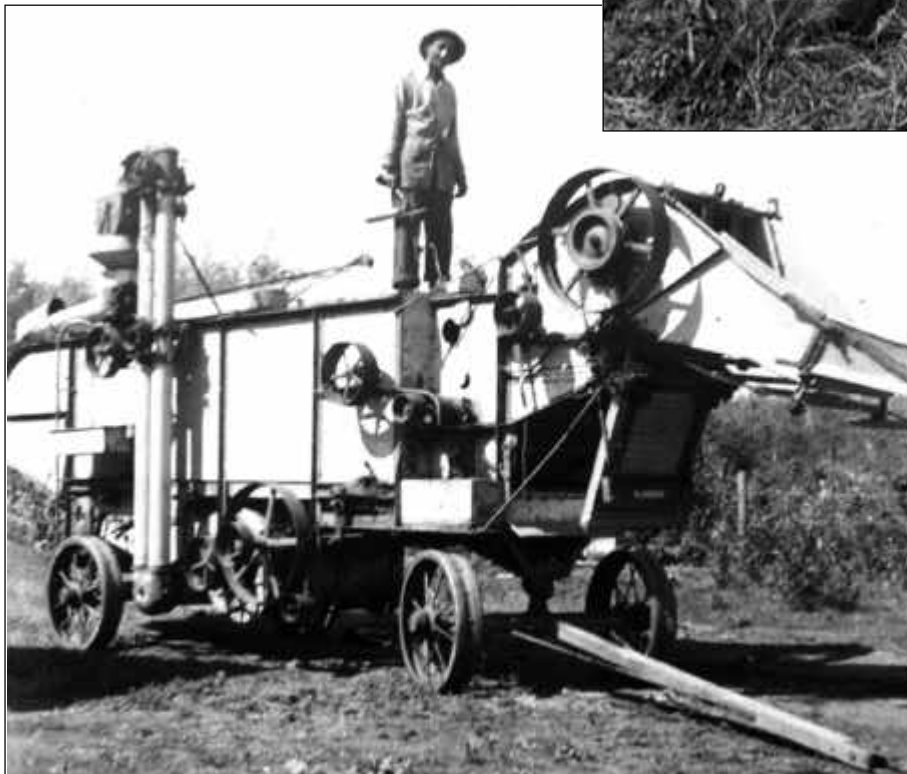




Left: John & Helen Bazilewicz stooking wheat sheaves on their farm, 1956. Hamrlik district. At the end of August or beginning of September the grain was cut with a binder. The sheaves were then stooked, six or seven to a stook. After a few weeks of drying, they were picked up and brought to the farm yard and piled up in large cone shaped stacks and covered with hay. At the end of October or November the threshing gang would come and set up their machines near the stacks for the threshing operation. FL-189.



Left: Frank Chyz was hired on by neighbour Peter Sokulski to help with the autumn stooking. Rate of pay was \$7.00 a day, c1939. FL-117.



Left: Wasył Ostryzniuk checking to make sure his threshing machine is in good operating order as the harvest season approaches, Zbaraz district, c1936. Threshing machine owners also threshed grain for their neighbours and operated on a tight time frame. Machines required a minimum of four rack teams to provide a continuous supply of sheaves from the fields. No one could afford 'down time' so these machines had to be in top shape for harvest. Efficient operators were in high demand. FL-138.



Below: Mary Moroz stooking sheaves in August 1957. Note that all are wearing hats. FL-079.





Left: Threshing scene at Mike Husiak's farm, New Star School District. L-R: Mrs Katherine Husiak; Marie Kell (daughter); Rose Luty; Bill Kell with son Gerald; and Roy Husiak. Note the hugh pile of straw being built up in back-ground. FL-016.

Right: Henry and Bill Stawychny feeding sheaves, from separate wagons, into a threshing machine on the Stawychny homestead, High Plains School District. 1940s. FL-162.

*"The early threshers needed three men just to feed the machine. The sheaves were tossed off the stack to a man below, who cut the bands. Another man stood by to pick up the bundles and feed them into the separator. Another man would stand on the wagon and hold a sack under the pipe where the grain was flowing out. The first machines did not have a blower to blow the straw into a pile, so another man was needed there. Later threshers had band cutters and straw blowers. The straw was used mostly for bedding or the stacks were used for shelter for the cows and horses. Most of the grain was oats and barley. They were mixed together and ground to make chop which was used to feed the hogs. Oats was fed to the horses. Wheat was taken to a mill to be ground into flour. Other by-products were cream of wheat and bran. Bran was very flakey and was usually fed to the chickens." - Peter Moroz.*







Above: Threshing at Stefan Ledohowski homestead, 1928. Sharpewood district. FL-154. "This is threshing wheat on my Dad's farm in Sharpewood with Albert Kasner's outfit. Mr. Kasner had the first threshing machine in the area. He's wearing the knit hat in the centre. We would haul the stooks and make stacks in the field and we would thrash from the stacks. And we hauled the grain to the granary in sacks. After, we would take it to town and sell it, and with the money we'd pay off the threshing outfit. And of course, we kept some of the grain for ourselves, for milling in Fisher Branch. Although Eriksdale was closer, it didn't have a flour mill at that time. I remember going with my Dad to Fisher Branch. We used to stay overnight, put the horses in the livery barn and stay in

the Frenchman's hotel there. We would go there with raw wheat and out of that wheat we would get flour, cream of wheat, shorts and bran. In this picture, by this time we had quite a bit of land cleared already. Yea, we used to have as many as twelve stacks waiting to be threshed. Also, I remember mother used to make wine from dandelions, chokecherries, and pin cherries. At harvest time, after work, she'd bring out a big barrel of wine and the workmen would sit around the barrel and have a few drinks. They liked that, I remember. The others in this picture are: Charlie Monk on the wagon. And on the left, that's my mother Katherine, and the kids are Ed, Helen and Sabina. That's my Dad and me on the stack, feeding the thresher." - Mike Ledohowski.



Left: Panko Zaitko loading grain into wagon during threshing operations at Victor Wallach's farm, High Plains School District. FL-163.

Below: Threshing at John Bazilewich farm, Hamrlik district. Note the one rack is almost empty and the second preparing to get into position beside the thresher. FL-146.





Above: Last harvest at Bill Karlicki's farm, located five miles west and a half mile south of Poplarfield, High Plains School District, October 1953. By the early 1950s, small multi-use tractors had replaced horses at the wagons. L-R: John Segin, Joe Zasitko, Bill Marykuca (sitting), Bill Karlicki, Pete Yanciw, Adam Kolach, and Bill Zasitko. FL-124.



Left: Harvest scene on Mike Osioway farm. The threshing outfit belonged to John Blahey who purchased one of the first threshing machines in the Wheathill district and did custom threshing for the area farmers for a number of years. Mike Osioway is at left pitching stooks into the feeder, son Frank bagging the grain in the box of the family's Ford Model-T truck. FL-041.



Left: View of an early International 3-wheeled, pull-type combine being used on the Pyziak farm, Zbaraz district, late-1940s. FL-044.



Above: New Cockshutt combine in operation on Skrabek farm, Hamlik district, 1962. FL-119.

Left: Joe Swedlo readying his combine for harvest, September 1963. This was one of the more serious and important jobs to be done on the farm. Farmers could not afford down time due to mechanical failure during harvest. FL-168.



Above: Combining during the 1970s. David Zuk adding gasoline to the combine fuel tank. Hamrlik district. FL-029.



Above right: John Bazilewich using an early model CCIL 500 self-propelled swather, Hamrlik district, 1965. The swather was used to cut the crop and lay it down in rows. After the less mature plants were sufficiently dried, anywhere from a couple of days to weeks, the crop would be combined. FL-172.



Right: Steve Kicenka's new swather, 1979. FL-103.





Above left: Steve Kicenko and new International combine, 1979. Note also the newer model grain-truck in the left background. FL-102.

Above: Harvest time on the Kicenko farm. Dale, and sister-in-law Diane Kicenko 'working the auger', autumn 1973. During the fall grain harvest, the girls regularly handled the job of running the grain trucks to the farmyard, augering the grain into the bins, and dashing back out to the field where the combines would be already waiting with full hoppers. FL-120.



Left: Metal grain bins and augers on Fred Zuk farm, Hamrlik district. FL-164.



Above: Lunch stop and equipment check at Mike Ledohowski seed farm, c1979. The third combine belonged to Joe Chudy, who often assisted Mike after his own combining was completed. FL-002.



Right: Grain trucks lined up in front of the Pool elevator at Arborg, 1973. Both the Broad Valley and Arborg elevators were the usual buyers of the district's cereal crops. Some farmers grew 'registered' pedigreed seed grain under contract with seed companies. These crops had to be free of weeds such as wild oats, and usually had to be 'roughed' by hand and cleaned before the crop inspector arrived late in the summer. During the 1970s many a district youth earned extra dollars roughing the registered seed crops in the area. FL-173.



Above: Two teams of oxen hitched and ready for work. Fisher Branch area. FL-166.



Above: Jacob Melyn and his father with team of oxen and hay wagon. The Melnyks were one of the last in the district to keep oxen. FL-057.



Above: During the early decades a few horse-drawn 'stationary-engines' such as the one depicted above powered threshing machines and saw mills in the district. The self propelled Case steam-engine was more versatile but more expensive to purchase. RTM-033.

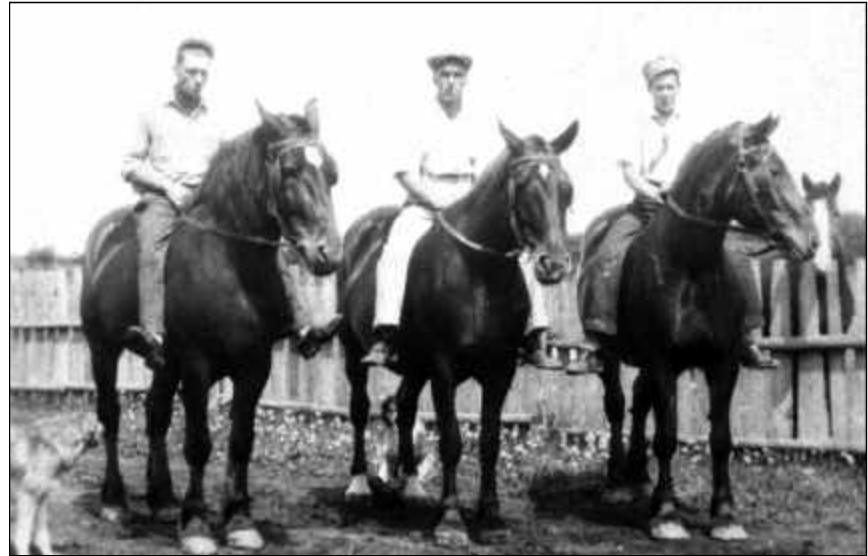
### Farm Power



Above: Showing off the horse power on the Sam Kicenko farm, New Star School District. Note the small log farmhouse in the background with its picket fence. FL-077.



Above: Mr. Tony Melnyk of the Sky Lake district south east of Hamrlik making the rounds in the district with his stud horse, pictured in this case in front of the Mike Swarchewsky farmhouse, near Poplarfield. Note the long line of cordwood piled along the front fence line. FL-068.



Above: The Zasitko brothers, Bill, Fred, and Peter are taking their horses for a run, as spring is here, seeding begins, and horses have to be in good shape, as there are many acres of land to be seeded. FL-139.



Above: Steer and horse pulling sled on Osioway farm, c1938. Mike Osioway owned five horses, but at times four were used by the Osioway boys to haul cordwood from the bush, leaving only one for yard work. The steer was taught to pull a sled and was used for several seasons before a sixth horse was acquired. In the early decades, particularly, farmers often had to resort to this type of mixed-team if one of the horses died. FL-042.



Above: Breaking pasture land with Case steamer on the homestead of Fred Leduchowski, south east of Poplarfield, c1928. This engine figured prominently in the Hamrlik and Wheathill districts well into the 1940s. FL-073.





Above: Fred Zuk turning the sod with a disc-plow on his father's Hamrlik district home-  
stead. Early 1940s. Fred was quite an innovator and inventor. He designed and built a  
number of major pieces of equipment for shop and farm use. In 1946 he installed rub-  
ber tires, lights, and a battery charging unit on his father's tractor. FL-134.



Above: Panko Zazitko running a belt-drive from his Massey-Harris tractor. By  
the early 1950s most of the steel wheeled tractors were being replaced by  
models on rubber tires. FL-127.



Above: Almost out. Joe Walashek's caterpillar tractor bogged down in some soft  
ground on the Mike Swarchewski's farm, 1940s. Poplarfield district. FL-090.



Above: Out with horse power and in with Massey-Harris diesel power at the  
Swarychewski farm, 1948. Understandably, there's a big smile on John's face.  
FL-221.





Above: A new Cockshutt tractor photographed at Husiak's farm in the early-1960s. Harry Husiak on the tractor, Bill Tycholis standing. This general size and type of tractor appeared in the district during the mid-1960s and was used by the area farmers for the next 20 years. FL-014.



Upper right: A mini version of the modern four wheel drive tractors, this one was owned by Fred Zuk c1990. Hamrlik district. FL-205.



Right: Steve Kicenko's new 4-wheel drive Cockshutt tractor. Introduced to the district in the 1980s, such huge tractors allowed a single farm family to handle hundreds of acres, whereas the old cleated tractors could only effectively manage 50 to 100 acres of land during a single season. FL-100.



Below and left: Ukrainian pioneer couple cutting and hauling marsh hay by hand, Foley district, 1907. "All work on this little farm was done by man and wife. No farm implements, oxen or horses were used." -J.W. Sisler. PE-008, PE-009, PE-010.



Right: Father and son using scythes to cut hay for the precious livestock. Foley district, c1914. PE-031.



Right: Mowing hay with team of oxen and hay mower. Very few of the Poplarfield area settlers used horses for farm power for the first 10 to 15 years after settlement. PE-058.



Left: Tea break in the hayfield, Chatfield district, 1920s. The oxen in this photo appear to be the true breed of animals known as 'oxen'. According to one Hamrlik senior, the poorer pioneers used castrated local animals (steers) as oxen, some even harnessed cows. Note the harnesses and steering assemblies, the fancy tea pot, the pioneers attire, and child's dress. Two dogs were a common number on the farm, as well. FL-065.

Right: Lunch break during haymaking on John Moroz homestead, 1950. Hamrlik district. Steve Hradowy and Lawrence Fedowich having lunch, John Moroz resting by the hay rake. Note the large stack in the background. Mr. Moroz was known to take great pride in the height and stability of his hay stacks. FL-081.



Left: Harry & Bill Bazilewich working with horserake on their father's farm, Hamrlik postal district. c1940. FL-170.



Left: Nick Lisowecki and children, Peter and Olga, help to put up the winter hay for the small herd of dairy cattle the family kept in the summer of 1946. In the wintertime, when the hay supply stored in the barn loft began to get low, the stacks left in the hayfield would be moved to the farmyard. Mr. Lisowecki's primary occupation was as one of the district's principal carpenters. FL-018

Right: Cutting hay with a team of horses and a hay-mower was a very common sight in the district during the 1930s and 1940s. In this view John Swarychewski takes a photo break while mowing on the family farm, a mile and a half east of town. The lower land in this area provided for much better farmland than the land lying to the west of Poplarfield, which is up upon a large low ridge. FL-220.



Making Hay.



Below: View of hay rack on John Bazilewich farm, Hamrlik postal district, c1940. Harry Bazilewich and his father George are the first two men standing on the hayrack and second son Bill in left foreground. FL-169.



Above: Frank Osioway hauling baled hay in winter with double team and sled. Note the heavy duty home-made sleigh, used also by Frank for hauling cordwood, Wheathill School District, c1937. FL-156.

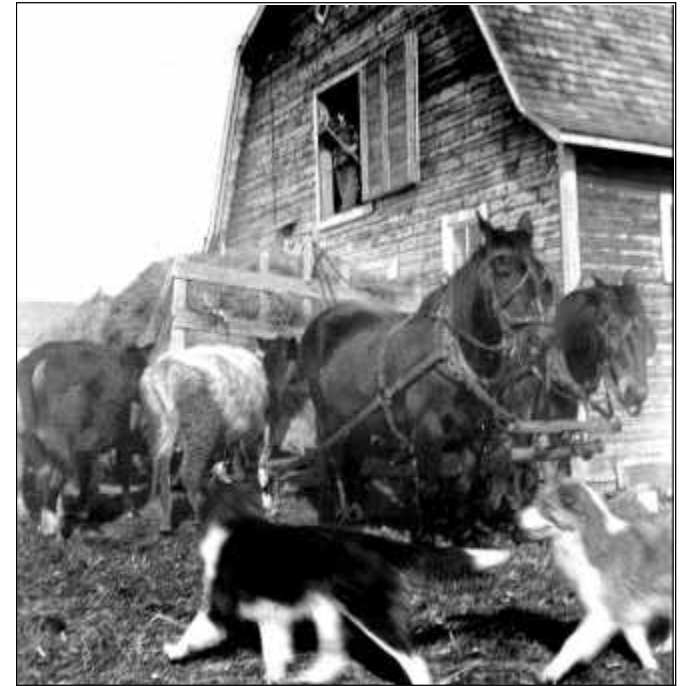
Right: Home made hay sweeper of the type pictured here were a common item during the late 1950s and early 1960s, just before the coming of the square baler. Here, three of Mike Kochan's six children are building a hayfield stack, in 1960. Olga is pitching from the ground. Harry is operating the tractor and sweep. Nick is working the top of the stack. Nick apparently always worked 'the top'. FL-228.





Left: A hay-sling in action. The hay sling was fitted on a few of the larger barns in the district. The cable and pulley mechanism was a great labour saving device if you could afford one. FL-075.

Right: Unloading a hay wagon into the barn loft on the Jerry "J.A." Leochko farm in 1950. Notice the cows seizing the opportunity for a quick snack. The fellow in the open loft door is son, Bill Leochko. The dogs are Teddy and Tippy. Like the Ledochowski and Zasitko families, there were several branches of Leochko's in the district and some shared the same full name. FL-010.



Below left: Frank and Josie Osioway pitching hay from the hay wagon into the barn loft on the Mike Osioway farmstead, Wheathill district, in the summer of 1938. Later that same year lightning struck a newly erected metal weathervane on the barn roof, and the barn and 30 tons of loose hay were destroyed by fire. FL-155.

Below right: Terry, Gary, and Carol Leochko unloading hay from rack onto a haystack being made behind the barn on the Jerry & Olga Leochko farm, in 1976. FL-225.



Haying Time



Above: Baling hay with a horse-powered stationary baler in Mike Osioway homestead, SW19-21-1E. March 16, 1938. L-R: Mike Osioway, and son Frank. Horses were "Jim & Tommy". The team of horses travelled in a circle providing the power for the baler to compress the hay. Bales were bound with wire. During the "Dirty Thirties" there was a shortage of hay in Saskatchewan and, as did other area farmers, the Osioway's baled hay for sale. The bales were sold to local dealers who shipped them out by train. Loose hay could not be transported by rail, only bales. The first balers in the Poplarfield region were purchased for shipment of hay not for domestic farm use. FL-039.

Right: Louis Osioway loading bales onto his 1½ ton Federal truck for transport to the railway siding at Chatfield. FL-157.





Above: Large load of square bales at the Zuk farm, Hamrlik district. L-R: Mike Ozubko (friend); Fred Zuk, sons Danny, David and Bob. One of Fred & Pauline's nephews on top of the bales. FL-135.



Above: Baling scene on Zuk farm, Hamrlik district. Fred Zuk on tractor. 1970s FL-030.

Right: Hayfield of square bales. "A frequent scene during the 1960s. Square bales stacked in piles of seven. It was common practice when using a square baler during the 1960s for the handler receiving the bales to stack them onto a 'stone-boat', a flat sheet of metal, slightly turned up in front. When the pile was four or five layers high it was pushed off the stone boat with a firm, but careful push. If done right, the pile would usually stay intact. The bales would later be cleared off the fields by 'pitching' them onto a hay rack. During the later sixties a motorized apparatus was used, which mechanically stacked the bales into a pyramid shaped stack of 6 bales, freeing up the operation to a one-man job. The 1980s saw the introduction of the large round baler, which further expanded the tonnage a single operator could manage." FL-174.





Above: Mike Stasiuk using a round baler to bale timothy straw for use as winter bedding in his cattle operation. FL-175.

Right: Hauling round bales on a flat bed trailer, c1980. Poplarfield district. With this type of modern equipment haying had become an efficient, one-person operation. FL-165.







Left and below: John Iwanusiw mowing and raking hay, 1973. John was one of the last people in the Poplarfield region to keep and use horses for fieldwork. Old rubber tires were commonly placed on the inside of the main wheels to keep the hay from plugging up the wheel hub mechanism which powered the gears used for lifting the rake teeth and dumping the hay into mounds. FL-101, FL-126.





Left: Carrying cream to town for shipment to Winnipeg. With the railway coming to Poplarfield in 1914, the pioneers could now send out their farm products to market. Cream and cordwood became the first, and most important commodity to come out of the region. FL-007.

Right: A somewhat over-dressed Stella Zorniak helps out with the milking chores during a wedding "piplavinia" at the Zorniak farmstead, 1947. FL-004.

Below: Until the 1950s cattle were allowed to roam free on road allowances and on crown land. One cow in each herd would have a distinctive bell to alert its location to their owners for the daily roundup. The wives and children often walked many miles to bring home the cows at milking time. Usually the cows came home in the evening by themselves, but if the pasture was abundant and water plentiful, they did not always cooperate. FL-026.



Above: Eleven year old Helen milking a cow on her father, Peter Ledochowski's farm, 1942. Hamrlik district. FL-191.



Above: Mike Zorniak and Nick Skrabek pose with the truck they used to haul cream to the Chatfield Creamery during the early-1930s. RTM-045.



The Alex Werstiuk truck which was used to haul local cream production, primarily from the High Plains district to the Eriksdale Creamery, late 1930s. RTM-009.



Above: Several creameries were established in the region by the 1930s, in Arborg, Chatfield, Fisher Branch and Eriksdale. These businesses would have trucks picking up the cream at the farms. Mike Zorniak started hauling for Chatfield in 1936. He first converted a 1928 Model T car into a light truck, and then moved up to a 1937 International 'half ton'. Here Mike was joined in a photograph by Harry Kochan, who often helped out. RTM-005.



Above: Henry Stawychny collecting farm cream for delivery to the Chatfield creamery. He hauled cream for more than 15 years, and was a well known character. FL-180.



Above: Chatfield Creamery, 1936. Notes on back of Creamery photo: "To my good friend Ralph Tonsaker. This picture of Chatfield Creamery was taken by Professor Brown B.S. A and M.S.A. Professor of Dairying at Manitoba Agricultural College in 1936. Under the supervision of H.G.B. Hawkins the creamery was built entirely by local labour in late fall and winter of 1933-34. The foreman carpenter was Fred Johnson, who was paid 35 cents an hour - assisted by carpenters Emil Johnson and Peter Holm, who was paid 30 cents an hour- so called unskilled labour were paid 20 cents per hour. In each case all employees had subscribed for a share in the creamers - no cash down - but 10% of wages deducted and credited to even cost. Green

cordwood - white poplar, 50% split and piled and measured in Creamery yard - \$1.00 a cord - seasoned \$2.00 a cord. In that Interlake area all skills were available. Note the professional job of sign painting - that was done entirely by Ralph Tonsaker. Together with my beloved wife and son Charles, I spent seven years operating the creamery. In that milk rich country, among very friendly people, we made a host of friends and, I trust, no enemies. After an absence of nearly 30 years - it is nice to know I am not forgotten by those I cannot forget. - Harry Hawkins, April 21, 1970." NC,CH-008.





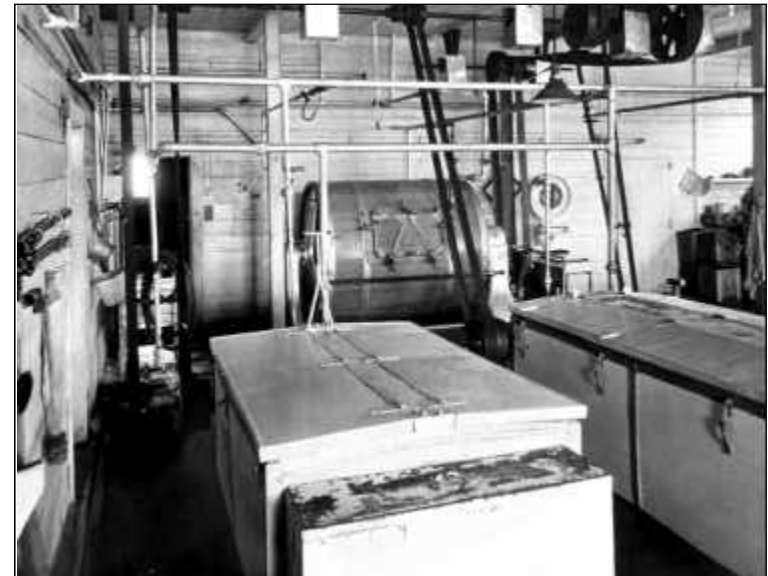
Above: Fisher Branch Creamery, summer 1934 showing one of a small fleet of vehicles, used for picking up the daily cream from district farmers. NC,FB-024.



Above: Interior of Fisher Branch Creamery, second view. NC,FB,021.



Above: Fisher Branch Creamery, summer 1934. Mathew Ciupak, owner and proprietor in centre front between the two pasteurisers. Ladies are Mrs. Ciupak (at right) and Miss Eugenea Pachulak, her sister, at left. NC,FB-023.



Above: Milk vats located in the Fisher Branch Creamery. 1936. NC,FB-020.





*"As part of mixed farming, pioneers kept a few cows for their own milk, butter and cheese. By the early 1930s, in response to urban demands, creameries were built in Chatfield, Fisher Branch, Inwood, Eriksdale, and Arborg. Farmers followed by expanding and improving their herds and weekly cream cheques became a very substantial source of family income. By the 1950s, some farms specialized in this area, and huge barns throughout the countryside symbolized this industry. Before too long, margarine began to compete with the butter, and once allowed by the government to be sold in texture and appearance like butter, it seriously undermined this type of farming." - Lawrence Suchar.*



Above: With farm animals come chores, but even chores can have their pleasures. One of the Stawychny children feeding a young calf on the Stawychny farm, High Plains district. FL-181.

Right: Henry Stawychny with new born calf, High Plains district. FL-182.

Right: Holsteins on the Stawychny farm coming to the water trough, High Plains district. Note the little Ford farm tractor in the background. FL-183.





Left: Bill & Henry Stawychny with the family's top bull, 1945, High Plains district. The Stawychny family went into dairy production, during the late 1940s at the same time many of the High Plains area farmers went into beef production. FL-192

Right: Bringing home the cows from milking at Husiak's, New Star district. FL-011.



Below left: Myrtle Stawychny milking a cow on the family farm in the High Plains district, early 1940s. FL-224.

Below: Small herd of milk cows kept on the Leochko family farm in 1976. The family was one of the last to keep cows, and were one of the last local sources for the much loved 'farm-cream', that was almost as thick as honey. FL-226.





Above: House and turkey barns at Leo Podaima's turkey farm, during the early 1960s. One mile east of Poplarfield. CL-034.



Above right: Leo & Pearl Podaima in front of one of their early turkey barns, c1963. The Leo Podaima family began large scale turkey raising in 1959, and continued until 1981, when he retired and sold the operation. For a time during the early 1970s, they also raised chinchilla rabbits on an experimental basis. FL-177.

Right: Flock of black turkeys and barns at Leo & Pearl Podaima's turkey ranch, c1963. Turkey ranching became a large scale specialized business in the 1960s and a small turkey processing plant was built and operated in Poplarfield at that time. Flock sizes were counted by 1000's. FL-176. Bill Swar, John Swarychewski, Leo Podaima, Steve Kicenko, and Bill Uruski were among the 'big operator' turkey ranchers.





Above left: Disaster. Steve Kicenko surveys his flock during the difficult summer of 1975. FL-048.



Above: 1960s - Kicenko turkey barn. In 1961 Steve and Ruth Kicenko turned their efforts from keeping dairy cows to turkeys. The old barn built in 1934 for Steve's father Sam was added to and converted and housed 3000 turkeys in the wings and the loft area. FL-047.



Lef: Steve & Ruth Kicenko Turkey Ranch, 1970. "A view of our fenced turkey 'range' with its feeders and shelters in 1970, showing a flock of 10,000 'Nicholas Whites'. These were all 'Toms', all males. In 1950 we kept 100 turkeys. Later on we began to raise more and more. One thousand, five thousand, up and up, finally to 23,000 which was the most we raised in any one year. We kept mostly Nicholas Whites. We also kept breeder Hens and Toms for egg sales to the hatchery. During the 1975 flood year we had to pull 5,500 turkeys out of the water and mud when the range flooded. We lost 1,500 turkeys that year". - Ruth Kicenko.





Above: Loading turkeys at Bill Swar's "Gobble Gobble Turkey Ranch". Margie Swar and brother-in-law John Swarychewski share a laugh as the last of this year's turkeys are loaded up. FL-084.



Above: Mike Ozubko's semi truck fully loaded with turkeys and about to leave the Steve Kicenko farm for the trip to the Canada Packer's plant in Winnipeg, 1965. FL-049

Below: Flock of turkeys at Steve Kicenko turkey ranch. FL-093.

*"Small flocks of turkeys were kept by some farmers starting in the 1930', but the really large turkey farms began operating in the late 50's. By the end of that decade a Winnipeg firm, Dominion Poultry, built a turkey plant at Poplarfield, just south of the intersection of Highways 68 and 17. This plant was not equipped to eviscerate the birds, and as demand came for this type of dressed turkey, the plant shut down and live turkeys were shipped to Winnipeg. By the late 1960s, turkey ranching expanded to the point where Poplarfield became known as the Turkey Capital of Manitoba. Flocks of 10,000 birds or more became quite common, with some as high as 27,000 and 28,000. A year-round operation was also carried on where the owners raised breeding stock and shipped over 100,000 eggs yearly to hatcheries; this in addition to raising several thousand turkeys for the market. By the 1970s, however, Poplarfield started to lose its status as a top production. A quota system was established in the Province, which reduced most flocks, and with diminishing returns, many farmers turned to other enterprises, or retired from full-time farming."*

- Lawrence Suchar



## Turkey Ranching





Above: Sonia Swarychewski inspects and stamps turkey breeder eggs prior to packing and shipping to Charison's Hatchery at Gunton. Son Orest looks on, c1967. FL-032.



Above: Turkey breeder eggs, packaged, and ready for shipment, c1967. FL-033.



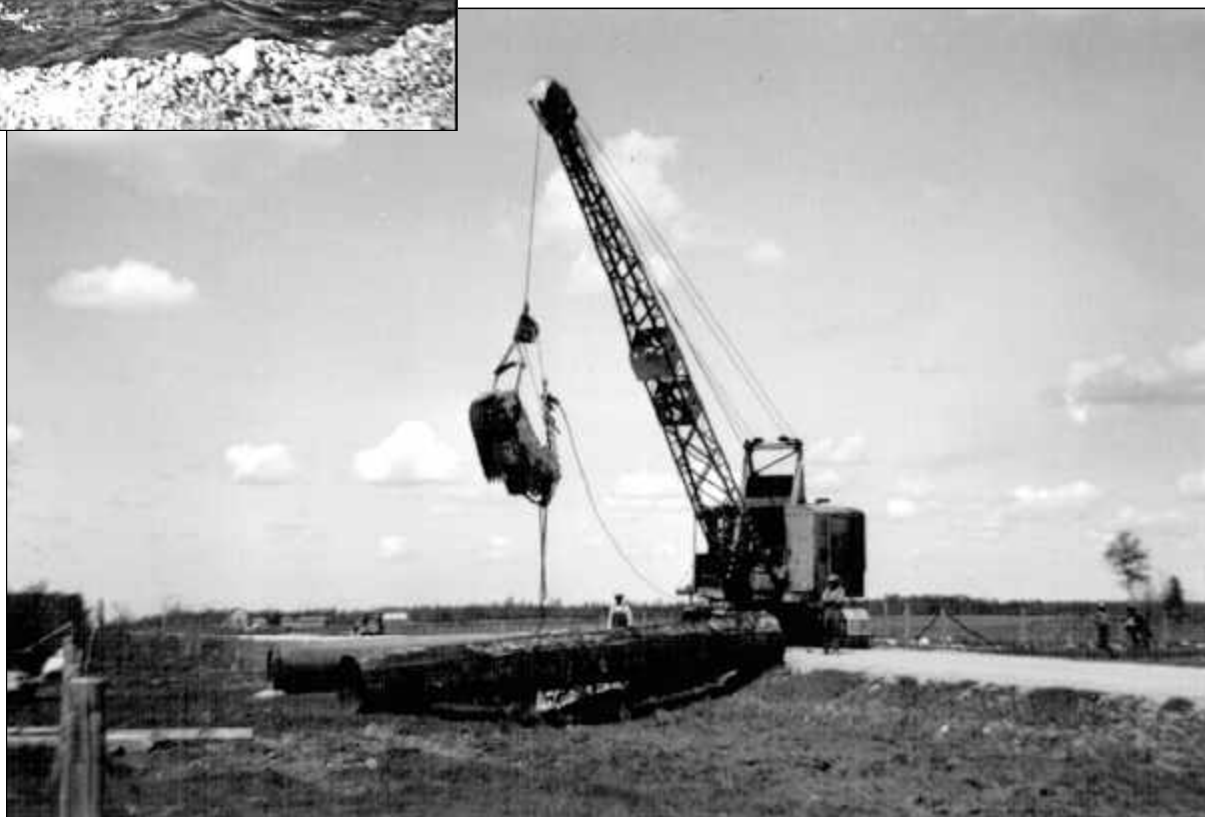
Left: Kicenko family with some of their turkeys, September 1973. Steve Kicenko holding a good example of one of his "Broad Breasted Bronze" turkeys. The Kicenko's raised as many as 23,000 birds in a single season, and shipped breeder eggs. During the summer laying season, turkey ranching was a non-stop, seven day a week job. FL-093.



Left: Spring runoff in the newly enlarged Buffalo Lake drain where it passes under PTH #68 two miles east of Poplarfield. Late 1950s. RTM-031.

Below: Dragline installing culvert where the Buffalo Lake Drain, crossed under PTH #68, two miles east of Poplarfield. To several generations of children, it was simply called "the drainage" and was a major attraction and time diversion. RTM-027.

*"Draining the Land in Hamrlik. The first organized drainage work in the Hamrlik district was undertaken by local people working with horse-drawn scrapers in the late 1930's. With the help of a small government grant, short sections of a long natural drainage route were dug to facilitate water flow on its way from the northeastern Chatfield area to the Icelandic River to the North. Two persons were required for each scraping team, one driving the horse team and another holding the scraper handles. In 1938, the pay was 25¢ an hour for the driver and 15¢ for the team. By 1945, the drain route was extended and deepened using a dragline, a monstrous machine of its day. Brought into Manitoba in 1922, it was also used to pull huge stumps in the building of Highway No. 68 in 1938, and in 1946 for digging the major drainage that crosses through the New Star district." - Lawrence Suchar.*





*"The newly constructed drainage ditch brought district farmers a greater chance that their fields would be dry in time for seeding in spring or for harvest after a wet summer. It also drained some of the wetland areas of prairie that previously could not be hayed. One of the unexpected changes it brought, in early spring, was fresh fish to within walking distance of many local farmsteads. Before, you could get frozen jackfish, whitefish and bass from the Icelandic fish peddler coming around just before Christmas and the stores in Poplarfield sold pickling herrings. But that was all the fish we ever saw. Before the ditch, for hundreds of springs past, suckers from Lake Winnipeg swam up the Icelandic River during their annual spawning cycle. When the drainage system was built, the suckers continued their run against the fast current, leaving the Icelandic and entering the new system to spawn in spring run-off waters. We nicknamed them Poplarfield Salmon." - Donna Sokulski*

Above: The low level areas found in the Hamrlik district were prone to flooding, even after the initial drainages were dug during the 1920s and 1930s. During the mid 1940s and early 1960s the drain was enlarged and extended eventually all the way to Buffalo Lake located south west of Poplarfield. FL-076.

Right: For many years the district youth entertained themselves by catching suckers in the government drainage ditch during the spring months. While the fish were not generally very good eating as fillets, they were eaten in a number of the local farm homes in canned form. In this photo Peter Sokulski checks out an old fishing 'wier' in the drainage during the autumn low water. FL-116.

*"Severine Sokulski's recipe for Poplarfield Salmon: "Make children catch and scale suckers. Gut and clean. Cut up and pack meat into sealers. To make brine, add to each jar: 1 1/2 tbsp. oil; 1 tbsp. ketchup or tomato soup; 1 1/2 tbsp. vinegar; pinch of salt. Seal jars and place in boiler. Cover jars with water and boil for 3 hours. It was really quite good!"*  
- Severine Sokulski.



The Buffalo Lake Drain



Above: Helen, Charlie and Anne Wallach showing off the water depth in the family pasture during the High Plains flood of 1955. FL-187.



Above: Bazilewich children checking out the floodwater during the Hamrlik flood of 1954. L-R: Shirley Bazilewich, cousin Suzanne Willis and Henry Bazilewich. FL-186.



Above: Scene of some of the flooded fields in the High Plains district in 1955. FL-188.



Above: During the flood of 1953 John Bazilewich had to take his children by boat across the flooded lowlands more than half a mile to where the children could continue their daily trip to school by foot. The land remained flooded for two months. FL-185.



Above: A truck navigating a flooded road one mile north of Poplarfield during the spring flood of 1974. Note stakes marking the location of the road. Despite the wet start, most farmers were able to put in a crop by early summer. FL-107.



Above: District farmers survey the damage on a local timothy crop after 8 to 10 inches of rain fell in a single mid-August night in 1975. Two weeks of intermittent showers followed, and soon over 2,000 farmers and ranchers in the north central part of the Interlake were facing financial disaster. FL-153.



Above: Ron Chekosky checking the water depth in his wheat crop after the August 1975 rainstorm. In a desperate bid to get some of the crops off, a number of farmers adapted their combines to dual-tire and even tracked drives. Some even went so far as to hiring a rice-harvesting combine from the United States. FL-184.



Above: Spring flood of 1974. Flooded hayfield with bales floating about. FL-110.





Above left: John Wallach with one of his short-horn bulls, 1930s. High Plains District. FL-193.

Above: Nick Werstiuk with "Rusty" his range horse. The large low ridge located west of Poplarfield became largely cattle country as the homesteads were sold off during the 1940s and 1950s. The Werstiuk brothers owned and leased a number of sections of land in the area, and were "cowboys" in every sense of the word. Mike's saddle was purchased for \$500.00, a large sum for the time, but given the hours spent in the saddle it was well worth the price. FL-143.

Left: Mike Werstiuk with "Goldie" his range horse. The Werstiuk, Wallach, Kuklica, Zasitko, and Fuz families were among the first of the High Plains district settlers to go from mixed farming to beef production. FL-144.



Above left: Mike Stasiuk on horseback about to leave on a range ride to check out his cattle herd, 1980s, High Plains District. FL-196.

Above: Some of Mike Stasiuk's farmyard buildings, 1980s, High Plains District. FL-195.



Left; Mike Stasiuk's cattle herd grazing in field, 1980s, High Plains District. FL-194



Above: Aerial view of the cattle pens at the John Wallach farm, 1990s. High Plains District. This winter view shows the surrounding forest covered in hoar frost. FL-198.



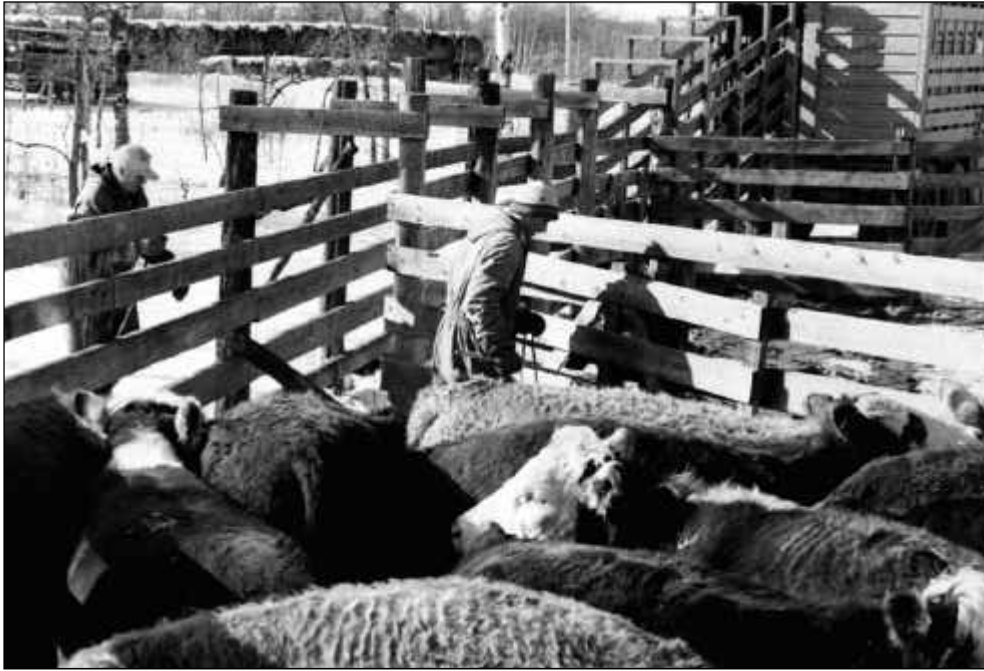
Above: Aerial view of a typical feed lot operation in the Hamrlík and Sharpwood districts. In the more recent decades such operations were owned by the Devlin, Kopec, Stasiuk, and Leschyshyn families. This view of Charlie and Beatrice Wallach's yard shows a typical yard setup, and two generations of the family's farm homes, 1990s. High Plains District. FL-200.



Above: By the 1980s cattle ranching in the region had become a highly mechanized business venture. In this photograph Charlie Wallach is at the controls of a tractor fitted with a front end hydraulic fork, on his way to pick up another large round bale of hay for the cattle in his feedlot. FL-217.



Above: Charlie Wallach branding a steer at his feedlot operation in the High Plains District, an old ranching tradition still an intricate part of modern day operations. FL-218.



Above left: Charlie Wallach and son David marshalling steers for loading and shipment to the United States, c1990. High Plains District. FL-197.

Above: Horsemanship in the district was not restricted to the men. Jinny Wallach and her horse "Rana" won a number of riding awards throughout the Interlake including the 1991 Circuit championship. They also competed in the 1992 Manitoba Summer Games. FL-219.

Left: 'Beaver' and 'Patty', the family dogs on the Victor Wallach farm, enjoyed tormenting 'Chasie' one of the family's horses. High Plains District. The dogs didn't always get the best of Chasie. FL-201.



Right: Sheep on Hnatiw farm, Hamrlik district, c1930s. Sheep farming started in the 1930s and continued through the 1940s. Flocks were relatively small, going as high as 70 or 80 animals. Most wool was sold locally but there also were buyers from Winnipeg who came out to the farms. Lambs that were not needed for the farm were marketed at the Winnipeg stock exchange. Note the long stone-pile along the edge of the field in the background. FL-214.



Above: Sheep on Mike Swarychewski farm, Poplarfield district, 1940s. FI-064.

*"In the late 1920s there was a growing demand for wool. So in 1927, I acquired a large tract of land, ten quarters, and got started as a sheep farmer in the High Plains district. The land that I got was stony and not good for grain farming. My father got the people who owed accounts at his store to pay off debts by helping with the page-wire fencing. The small lake there also had to be fenced in areas, so sheep wouldn't drown, but just could come for drinking water. We also built a 100 foot viewing tower, and a large two-side watering trough - one side for washing and the other side for drinking water. For winter housing, a large sheep barn was built and a well drilled for water supply. At first we used hand clippers, but in time we purchased a machine with one man turning a hand crank to power the clippers. This made it easier and faster, but by the time shearing was finished I was so tired I could hardly stand up. We also shipped our lambs in freight cars that had a two-tier arrangement. When we turned out the sheep to pasture, we had losses from dogs and coyotes. The coyotes were crafty fellows. While you were chasing one that was trying to get a lamb, the other fellows would come on the other side of the flock and grab one. Soon the thirties were upon us and wool prices fell to three cents a pound and lambs would get about 90 cents a piece. And with all the hired help I needed, there was no profit at that price. However, I did succeed if one is to judge success by the number of sheep I had. It became a sizable flock of 2300 sheep. Finally, I sold out and moved to Fraserwood to run a hotel."*  
 - John Werbenuk





Above: Constructing a sheep barn with straw bales on the farm of Mike Swarychewski, 1940. FL-092.



Above: The completed sheep housing building constructed of straw bales and loose hay. FL-066.



Above: John Swarychewski and sister Olga pose with two sheep from the family head. FL-062.



Above: Sheep on the Husiak farm. L-R: Kay Husiak, Marie Kell with son Gerald and Rose Luty. Farm families in all the local districts raised a few sheep, primarily for wool to make mitts, socks and toques for winter wear. FL-052.



Above: Original farm house of Konstantine Marykuca, and in the distance the original home of Mike Klowak. FL-037.



Above: Large log barn on Pyziak homestead nearing completion. Note the fearless individual standing upon the ventilator on the barn roof. FL-043.



Below: George Bazilewich and son Bill beside original pioneer home and barn in 1939. Hamrlik district. FL-149.



Above: Bill Pawluk putting the finishing touches on repairs to a log building on the family homestead, Broad Valley district, 1930s. The noticeable sag in the old logs and the large horizontal cracks in some of them suggest Bill was not undertaking new construction when this photograph was taken. FL-071.



Above: Log barns on the Peter and Katherine Ledochowski's Hamrlik P.D. homestead. Structures of this type were typical of the first permanent set of farm buildings constructed by the pioneer families. FL-130.

Below: An impressive set of a dozen 'old country' style Ukrainian farm buildings constructed on the homestead of Mike Swarychewski, two miles east of Poplarfield. The farmyard buildings, which eventually replaced these, were also notable for their appearance. FL-067.





Above: Original log home of John Samorodny Sr. Mr. Samorodny was among the early settlers in Hamrlik district; his homestead was registered on December 17, 1906. Descendant Mary Richardson photographed here inspecting the old family homestead farmhouse, still standing in May, 1976. FL-097.



Above: A very well known local landmark. This unusual little shed with its oversized 'hip & gable' roof was located two miles east of Poplarfield along PTH#68. Belonging to Jacob Melynk, it was frequently photographed and survived until 1998. FL-098.



Above: Flailing grain on the Yaramus farm, c1930s. In this case, it was not for harvesting the grain, but to prepare thatch for repairing a shed roof. Flails were a fairly common item among the pioneers and were still in use during the 1930s and 1940s for garden crops like beans and peas. FL-028.



Above: Typical log barn of the 1920s and 1930s era, this one is the original Swarychewski barn, now possessing a North American style 'gambrel' roof. FL-092.





Above: Homestead of Danyla and Natalia Haliuk, located two miles NE of Poplarfield, as it appeared during the 1940s. The house is typical of many homes in the district constructed in the traditional Ukrainian style, upgraded during the 1920s or 1930s with wood siding and wood shingle roof, replacing the thatch roof and mud plastered exterior walls. Natalia seated and daughters Justina and Pearl in rear. FL-078.



Above: Nick & Francis Luty farmhouse, Zbaraz district as it appeared during the early-1940s. The structure was constructed by Mike Stocski for \$45.00, and stood for 75 years. Note the fenced garden located adjacent to the house, the planted trees and rail fencing along the front of the yard. FL-051.



Above: Original Zasitko farmhouse and summer kitchen photographed shortly before it was demolished and replaced with a new frame structure. c 1930. FL-056.



Above: St. John's Church parishioners attend a church dinner at a local farmyard after Sunday mass. Among those in attendance this day were Mike and Katherine Kochan (centre, in white with purse, and centre with white shirt and suspenders); Mrs Mike Ozubko (at far right). House in background is typical Ukrainian style house with wood siding and shingles having by that time replaced the original thatch roof and mud-plastered white-washed walls. FR-058.





Above: Sam and Frances Kicenکو farmhouse, New Star school district, as it appeared during the 1940s. FL-055.



Above: Zasiłko farmhouse, High Plains district. Constructed by Nick Lisowecki in 1933. FL-054.



Above: Nick Lisowecki constructed many of the district's homes, businesses and commercial buildings, beginning in the early 1920s and continuing until the 1960s. VIP-006.



Above: Original, 'Galician style', pioneer log cabin and second home located on Leo Podaima turkey farm, c1965 Poplarfield district. FL-058.



Above: Mr. John Zasiitko and his wife, Pearl, are having a barn built by Mike Troschuk with the help of their sons, Fred and Bill. Bill Zasiitko and carpenter Mike Troschuk standing on top of the barn, Fred and Peter Zasiitko are on the lower level. The barn was completed in 1945. The loft of this barn was the scene of a number of rollicking barn dances during the late 1940s. The John Zasiitko farm was situated five miles west of Poplarfield. FL-136.

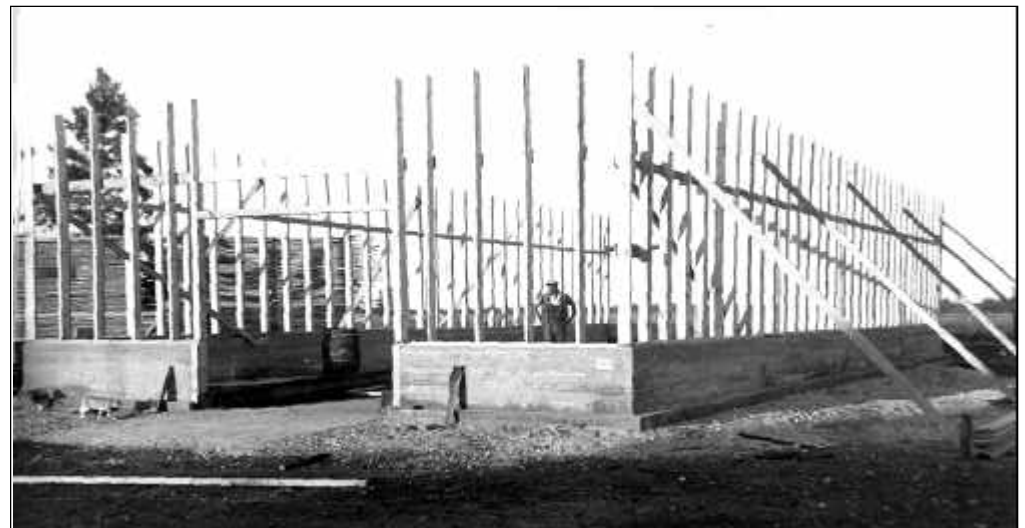


Above: Mixing cement by hand at a construction site at the Philip Horodecki farmstead, High Plains district. L-R: Joe Tycholis, Mr. Horodecki, Anton Pawlowski, Tony Tycholis, Steve Horodecki. FL-128.



Above: Mike Troschuk, the district barn builder and supervisor over the construction of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Poplarfield. VIP-034.

Right: Mike Troschuk constructing a large frame lumber barn on the Mike Swarychewski homestead. Mike was responsible for the construction of a number of large barns in the district during the 1930s & 1940s. FL-152.





Above left: Iwanusiw barn, 1973. Located two miles south east of Poplarfield along PTH #17, the Iwanusiw barn was one of the larger barns in the district and a well known landmark because of its highly visible location. For many years this farmyard was well known also for the huge amounts of old farm machinery and metal scrap that Mr Iwanusiw purchased at farm auctions and stored there. His yard was a favorite among district farmers as a source for old parts and metal pieces needed for machinery repair. FL-025.

Above: Barn building bee on Osioway farm, Wheathill district, 1930s. When the original barn was struck by lightening and burned in the late summer of 1939, and with a fairly large milking herd, the Osioway family was in desperate straits. The neighbours helped out with a barn raising bee and by winter there was shelter for most of the cattle. FL-210.

Left: Constructing a frame lumber shed on Osioway farm, Wheathill district, 1930s. Locally milled lumber was used for most construction in the early-1950s. FL-209.



Above: Salvaging the barn roof after the storm, 1946.

*"The storm hit in the middle of the night. The wind was blowing from the north. Then there was a noise like a train passing through our yard, and the house shook as if it was about to fall apart. We heard a big bang. We thought that our chimney had broken in the wind and fallen on to the roof of the house. That's what we thought the big bang was. We fell back asleep. The next time I woke up was just as daylight was breaking. The storm was over. Peter was still asleep. I stepped outside, looked up, and saw that the chimney was still where it was supposed to be. It was a relief. I looked in the direction where the turkeys usually roosted for the night. They weren't there. I turned, and that's when I saw the barn. I could hardly believe it. I ran into the house to wake Peter. He didn't want to get out of bed, he didn't want to see it, when I told him. We were lucky. We had been keeping a*

*cow penned in the barn, getting her ready for shipping. We had shipped her the morning just before the barn fell. When the storm struck, there was only a chicken, sitting on eggs, in the barn. She was killed. Peter found the turkeys and their clucker, dead, spread over the hayfield where the wind had carried and dumped them. Peter braced up the roof and strung cables width-wise across the lower part of the roof to hold it together. What was left of the walls had to be stripped and dragged away. The kids helped. In fall, the neighbours came to help. The men brought their tractors. Someone gave the signal, and all at the same time, the drivers hit the throttles and rolled the roof over skids back on to the foundation. It was done! The hayloft was gone, but we still ended up with a barn for the cattle for winter." - Severine Sokulski. FL-013, FL-112, FL-113.*





Above: Aerial view of Mike Husiak farm, 21-22-1W, New Star School District, early 1960s, looking to the southwest towards the wooded ridgeland of the Poplarfield district. This aerial view shows how the land, that used to be covered with spruce and swamp, now resembled the flat cropland of southern Manitoba. Note also that farmyards have planted trees for windbreaks and landscaping. FL-086.

Above right: Sofran Leochko farmhouse constructed by Nick Lisowecki during the 1940s, 1 1/2 miles south of Poplarfield. Mr. Lisowecki and Susan Leochko in this 1974 photo. FL-212

Right: An interesting view of the Mike and Katherine Kochan farmyard, SW 15-22-1W, Hamrlik District. Mike's homestead was registered on November 11, 1910. Both sets of farmbuildings can be seen, the original pioneer log structures and the 'new' barn and house built during the 1940s. Note the choice of a yardsite in a large spruce bluff, which were common in the Hamrlik district initially. The field in the distance was likely the edge of a large marsh, now dry and cropped. FL-225.







Left: Part of an Interlake Spectator newspaper article on John & Sonia Swarychewski, provincial winners of the best farmyard grounds competition in 1985. FL-105

Far left: John & Sonia Swarychewski, provincial winners of the best farmyard grounds competition, 1985. They were winners in a number of other categories during the early 1980s. FL-104.

Below: During the mid-1970s a number of large bungalow style farm homes were constructed in the region, largely in the area east of Poplarfield where the better crop land existed. John & Sonia Swarychewski's, located along PTH #68 possessed award winning grounds. FL-223.

Below: Another example of a number of large ranch-style bungalow homes constructed in the district during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. This one was constructed for Steve & Ruth Kicenko around 1970 in the New Star district. Bill and Margie Swar were one of the first to construct and own a home of this type. Housing in the region certainly improved substantially from the pioneer's first log homes of 75 years earlier. FL-050.





Above: Frank and Louis Osioway using the Oil-pull Rumsley's Tractor to power the feed mill on the Mike Osioway homestead, Wheathill S.D. , c1940. FL-167.



Above: Duck pond and original farmhouse of John Ozubko in Hamrlik district, which was later used as a barn, c1950. FL-082.



Above: The fall hog killing at the Peter Sokulski farm, c1946. Helping Peter Sokulski on this occasion are Walter Verdan and Jacob Melnyk. Hydro did not come to the farms until the early 1950s, so butchering had to wait for nature's deep freeze. FL-118.



Above: John Moroz and son Peter killing and cleaning chickens, 1960s. Before electricity and freezers, farm families depended upon chickens, especially the young roosters, for their meat during the hard-work months from June to October. FL-083.



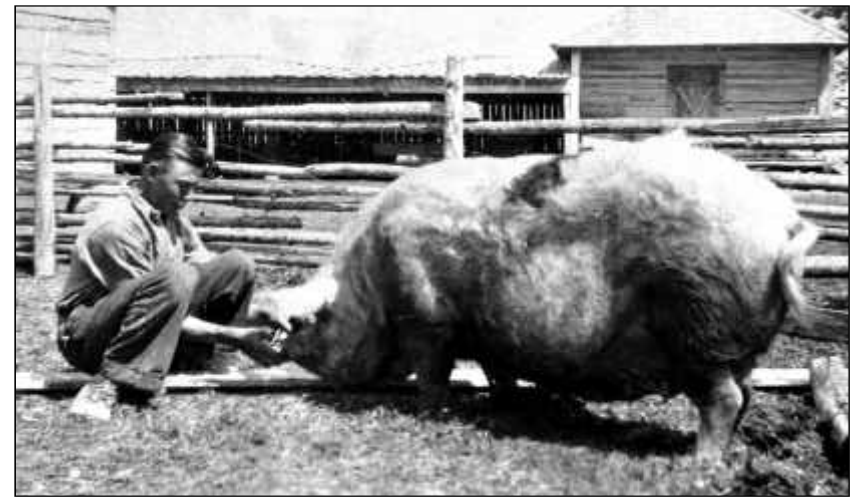
Above: The chickens had to be fed every day regardless of season or weather. FL-045.



Above: Francis Luty tending to some of her farm animals, c1930. Feeding and tending to a variety of farm animals and poultry was a daily ritual. It was also an important one, the farmyard stock being the principal source of meat for the family, as well as providing produce for trade. FL-031.



Above: Stefan Ledohowski feeding the farmyard poultry on his Sharpwood district farm, c1944. A wide variety of birds are visible, including chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. FL-215.



Above: John Swarychewski poses with a hog of unusual proportions, c1942. While hogs were raised by most farm families, few grew to the 550 pound size as this one did. FL-091.



Above: Helping "Baba" to dig potatoes. Sofia Uruski, daughter-in-law Mary Uruski, and her son Billy in the potato garden. FL-095.



Left: Helen Horodecki in her garden showing off a nice crop of carrots. FL-208.

Below: Irene Zorniak and son Harry making potato planting rows in the family garden using the first hand plough, purchased years earlier by John Zorniak when the farm was first homesteaded. Very large vegetable gardens were common sights as pioneers with large families had to be virtually self sufficient. For the off-season, vegetables were canned, dried, pickled or stored in cellars. FL-005.



Above: Christina Hrydowy with daughter Catherine & grand children in her large vegetable garden, August 1957. After her children and grand-children were grown up and moved on, Christina would donate much of the produce from her garden to other families in the community. FL-080.







Above: Ukrainian pioneer feeding ducks. PE-057.



Above: Gardens were important sources of produce and food. Many early farm gardens were large and lush, given the talents and attention given to them by most Ukrainian 'Babas'. It was not uncommon to have two or three vegetable gardens at different locations around the farmyard as well as two separate raspberry patches. This more recent example in the photograph was located on the Wallach farm in High Plains. FL-230.



Above: "Mike Ostryzniuk was a beekeeper and was very interested in working with bees. Together with his wife, Katherine, they both inspected carefully each frame, to see if the combs were filled with honey and sealed ready to be extracted, then continue the process till it's ready for human consumption and private sale. Many visitors came from near and far away, usually asked for a tour of his colony of bees which he kept near his home on 1/2 acre of land near the garden. Visitors enjoyed the tour, and he was proud of his hobby, 1930 to 1945." - Sonia Torbiak. FL-137.

Left: Mary Hnatiuw digging out the chicken coop after a blizzard, Hamrluk district. FL-213.

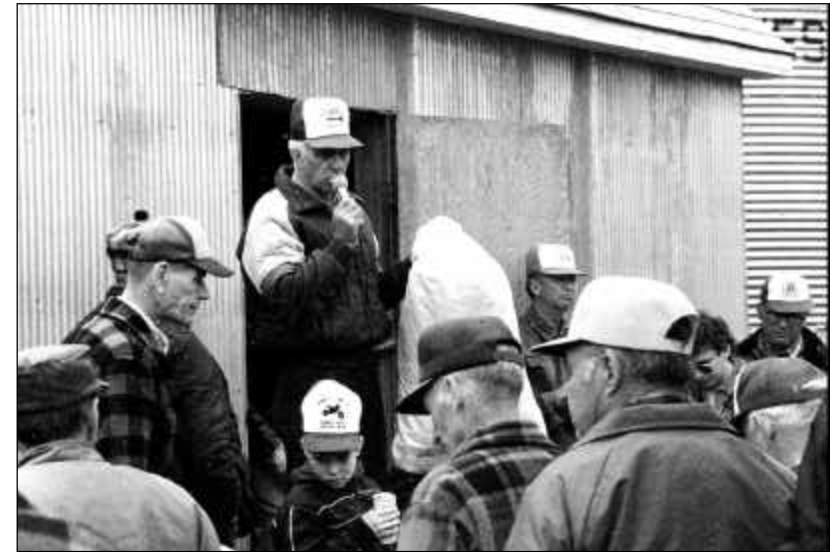




Left: Elsie Ledochowski getting the shovel ready before going to dig Seneca roots. Elsie & Michael Ledochowski homesteaded in the Hamrlik district, as did most of the extended Ledochowski family, except for brother Stefan who moved to a homestead in the Sharpewood area, when it first opened for settlement c1909. FL-142.

*"From my early teens to middle teens, my only spending money was earned from digging Seneca roots. All that was required was a sack tied around your hips and a sharp spade. The Seneca roots grew wild and were dug out of the ground when they were in full bloom in the months of May and June. They were clearly visible with their white buds. To many of the local residents, digging and selling Seneca root was an important source of family income. The roots were sold in two forms, 'green' and 'dried'. In the 1940s a buyer or buyers would travel around the Interlake area purchasing roots from the local residents. At the time they paid 50 cents a pound for green, and \$1.75 for dried. It takes about three*

*pounds of green to make one pound of dry. The Seneca roots were sold to buyers throughout Canada, United States, and Europe. The use of the roots was many, such as cough syrup, herbal teas, and to treat asthma, sore throat, ear aches, and colds. My Seneca root spade was made by the local Blacksmith, Mr. Matalski, who operated a shop to the east of Torbiak's store. As a kid I often helped him out by turning the handle of the furnace, to fire up the coals. I was paid a few pennies for the work. He made a nice sharp little shovel with a special foothold on the right side for thrusting the blade into the ground". - Laurie Klump.*



Above: Charlie Gard photographed in a familiar setting, trying to get the best price for everything, at one of many farm auctions he conducted in the north central part of the Interlake region, during the 1970s and 1980. FL-229.

Above and right: As the size and efficiency of farm equipment increased, farms continued to be bought up throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and auctions were commonplace event in the Poplarfield district - as they were throughout the prairies. Photographed here is the farm auction at John and Sonia Swarychewski's, two miles east of Poplarfield in June of 1991. FL-231, FL-232.



Overleaf: Composite view of the scene at the Mike Ledohowski farm auction in 1984. FL-121, FI-122.



The Farm Auction



The Farm Auction





Above: Arnold Swedlo spending time with his pet rabbits, c1942. FL-233.



Above: 'Bucky' was found in 1967 by Shirley and her dad Jerry Leochko while digging seneca roots in the Chatfield area. It soon became the family pet. Three years later Bucky and Shirley were photographed together with family friend Vickey Tycolis and baby Gerald. Note that all four appear to be very calm and comfortable. Bucky is particularly handsome with his velvet covered antlers. Misc-021.

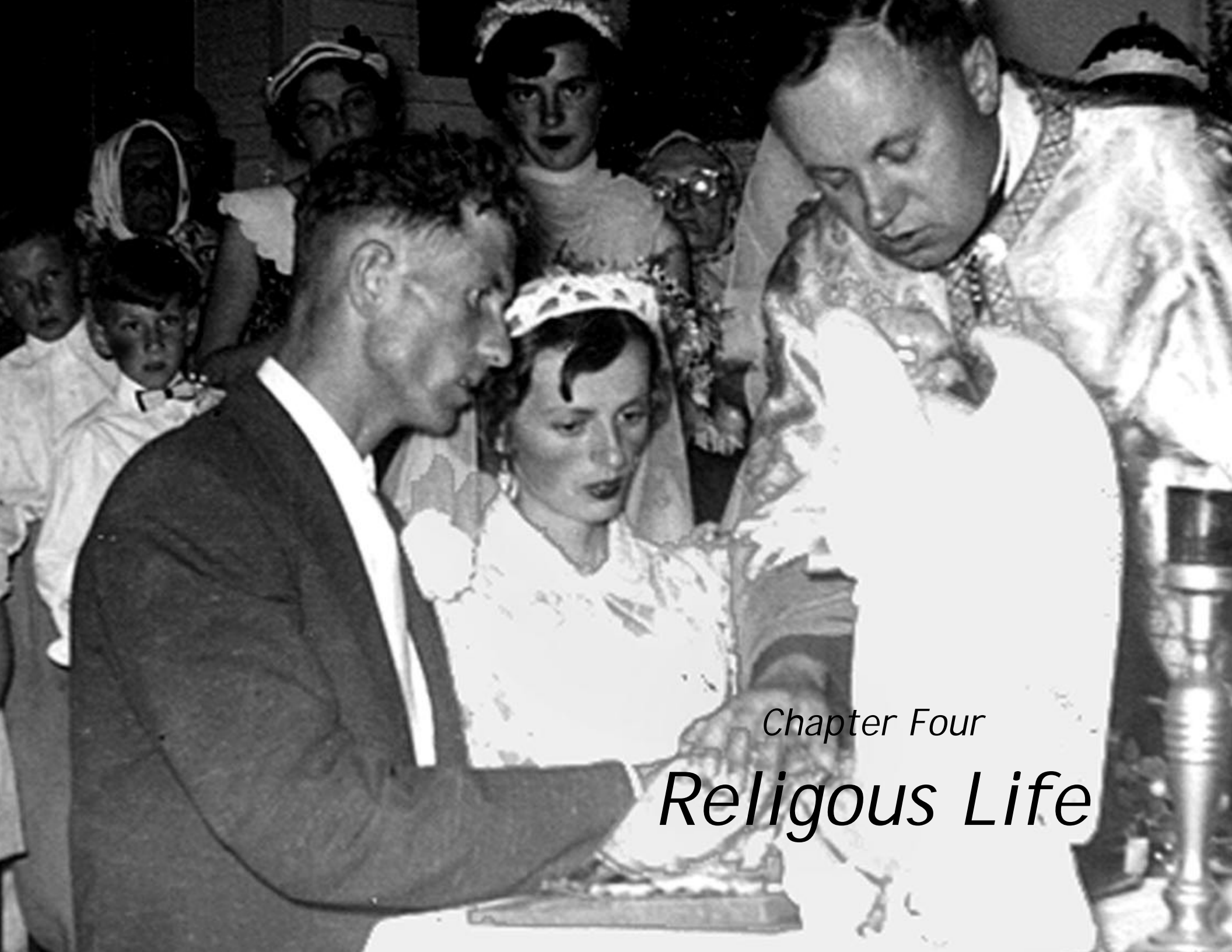


Left: Virtually every farm family owned one or more dogs at any one time. They would have almost free roam and follow the activities of all the members of the farm family. Here Tom Ledochowski and his four-legged partner pose for a photograph at their Hamrlik area home, c1935. Misc-044.

Right: Pat Sokulski and her horse Prince, 1956. Prince was said to be intelligent and mischievous, the 'rebel' of the farmyard, except when it came to Pat. The two of them shared a number of memorable excursion into the surrounding countryside. Horses were kept at the Sokulski farm until the mid-1960s. MISC-020.







*Chapter Four*  
*Religious Life*



Left: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church and the second Dehowa schoolhouse in background, c1939. St. Nicholas Church was constructed in 1913 by Konstantine Marykuca. He also supervised the construction of the catholic churches in Fisher Branch and the High Plains district. The ornate metal cross crowning the church was designed and built by John Fuz. Church records list the family heads of the first members of St. Nicholas in Poplarfield as: Danylo Torbiak, Harold Klowak, Daniel Haliuk, Stefan Didyk, Wasyl Didyk, Ivan Marykuca, Wasyl Werstiuk, Wasyl Ozarko, Stefan Grywinski, Peter Semotiuk, Kuzma Kartushyn, Ivan Weperowich, Nicholas Kucy, Gregory Pawliuk, and Sofron Leochko. FR-034.

Right: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church and Parish Hall as they appeared on September 25, 1938 when Andrew Malofie from Fisher Branch visited Poplarfield and took a few snapshots. The church was constructed in 1913. The parish hall was constructed c1937. A small house had been purchased and moved to the site. Then Nick Lisowecki was hired to build a front addition and complete the transformation into a much needed hall. The Shevchenko Society Hall, which was to the west of this location, was destroyed by fire the previous year. FR-033.



St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



Above: Kartushyn funeral. The mourners in attendance at Kuzma Kartushyn's funeral on his homestead located two miles north of Poplarfield, c1935. From 1933-36 Father Kyrlo Lotocky was assigned to the Parish of St. Nicholas in Poplarfield, and was likely the priest in attendance. Mr. Kartushyn was among the early settlers in the Poplarfield district having registered his homestead, NE 24-22-2W, on November 27, 1905. It was not unusual during the early years to photograph the deceased surrounded by friends and family. Identified are: Jerry Leochko with son Mike in arms, at far right; Nastia Dobrowolski is the lady with the white kerchief; Mrs. Walter (Kay) Kartushyn holding her son Bill; behind her in the suit is Mr. Hryciuk, the local administrator; the two women to the left of the deceased are Anna Klowak and Natalika Haliuk. The smiling little lady at the extreme left is Mrs. Kwafchuk, who was known as the "Button Lady" for her love of wearing lots of buttons. Lady in white kercheif left of Father Lotocky is Mrs. Mary Yarema. In front of her is Andrew Klowak. FR-009.



Above: During the 1940s many of the initial pioneers passed away, and the community was slowly turned over to the second generation of residents. Pictured here is Justina Lezubski funeral at St. Nicholas Church, c1942. FR-001.



Left: Funeral in 1941 for Anna Werstiuk, one of the original 1906 settlers. FR-003.



Above: Holy Communion group at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Poplarfield old town. 1939. BR: Stanley Haliuk, John Klowak, Ben Klowak, Walter Klowak, Mike Klowak, Frank Haliuk, Mike Klowak, Dan Haliuk, Morris Klowak, Walter Klowak. 3R: Lovey Klowak, Anne Marykuca, Anne Besaschuk, Mary Klowak, Helen Ledohowski, Olga Leschyshyn, unknown by, unknown Nun. 2R: Mrytle Stawychny, Jenny Torbiak, Elsie Kucy, ? Zorniak, Lovey Klowak, Anne Kartushyn, Elizabeth Torbiak, Walter Leschyshyn, Norman Klowak. FR: Sandra Klowak, Liz Kucy, Dan Torbiak, Kay Klowak, Marusia Didyk, Peter Torbiak, Alice Haliuk, Jenny Haliuk. Note the three sets of common names. The priest is likely Father Vasyl Borys. FR-037.



Above: First Communion at St. Nicholas Church, Poplarfield. c1946. Reverend Jaroslaw Holowaty poses with four children receiving their first communion: L-R: Elizabeth Bailey, Nettie Nosal, Elsie Torbiak, Gloria Firman. Note the cut tree branches placed near the church door, and the Parish Hall in the background. FR-006.



Above: Father Emilian Pilkiw; two unidentified Nuns, and the catechism class of 1961, pose for a photograph in the St. Nicholas Parish Hall. FR-075.



Above: Father Holowaty and the 1944 First Communion group at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, old Poplarfield. L-R: Elsie Leochko, Elsie Haliuk, Jean Marykuca, Olga Nosal, Danny Torbiak, Joe Bailey, Andrew Ledohowski, William (Jimmy) Marykuca. FR-049.





Above: Rudachuk Brothers ordination at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Poplarfield, 1950, a view from the roof of the Parish Hall. The brothers were not from the Poplarfield District, but requested a small community church for their ordination into priesthood. The Bishop chose St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Poplarfield. FR-067.



Left: Rudachuk Brothers ordination second view. Note that the entire altar and a number of church icons were moved outside for the event. FR-008.







1891-1951 ~ 60 Years,  
Ukrainians in Canada

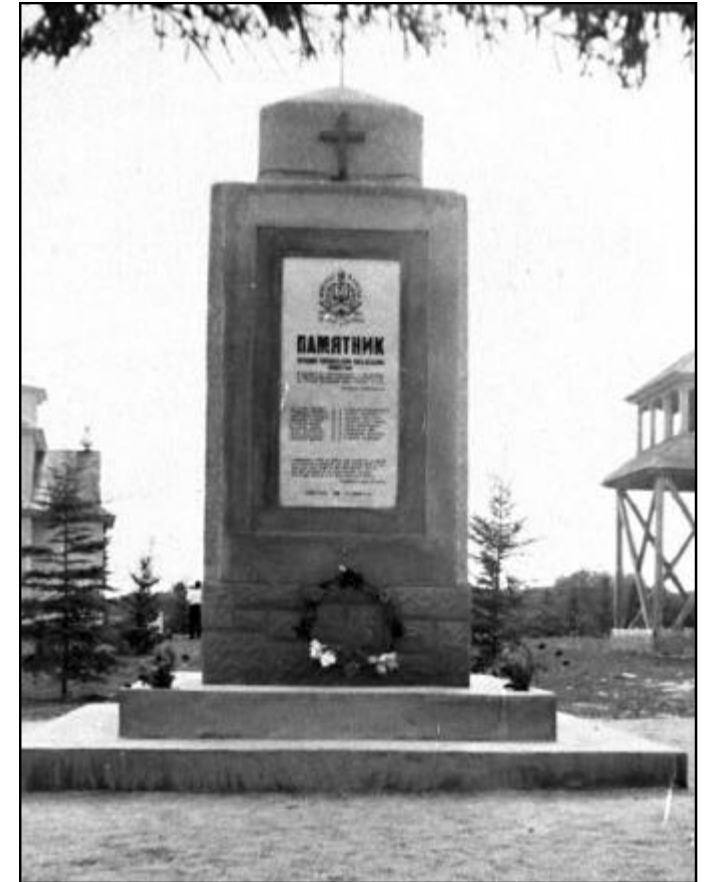
1906-1951 ~ 45 Years,  
Ukrainians in Poplarfield

In Memory of the Ukrainian Pioneers of Poplarfield,  
Manitoba, with love and in recognition of their hardships  
and their efforts. ...the local citizens

Daniel Torbiak Harold Klowak Michael Klowak Stephan Didyk William Didyk John Marykuca Michael Yarema William Ozarko	Stephan Grywinski Peter Semotiuk William Werstiuk Kuzma Kartushyn John Wyporowich Nicholas Kuzy Gregory Pawliuk Sofran Leochko
--	---

*"Each knew that there would be no honor or glory for them. Nor would people remember the work and the blood that went into building the road, or their bones that would lay beneath it. But each knew that only after they broke the stone and cleared the way, would people walk this road"* ...Ivan Franko

Forever In Their Memory



Above: The monument to the Poplarfield area pioneers photographed on the day it was unveiled, 1951. FR-004.

Left: "1951 August 5 - His Honour Lieut. Gov. R.F. McWilliams discusses the 60th anniversary festival of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, held in Poplarfield, with Most Rev. Bishop Maxim Hermaniuk following the dedication ceremony at the marble monument to the early settlers. Chairman of the celebration, J. Kozoriz, president of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood, standing to the right of the Lieutenant Governor, while parish priest Rev. O. Chymenec next to the Bishop and Rev. S. Izyk of Winnipeg, look on. Also attending the 12 hour ceremony and concert, were Manitoba Premier D.L. Campbell; N.V. Bachynynski, Manitoba legislature speaker; W.W. Wall, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Council; and Prof. J. Rudnickyj and Prof. P. Yuzyk, of the University of Manitoba Slavics Department. In red, white, and blue Ukrainian costumes, the Ukrainian SUM Male Choir of Winnipeg, under the direction of G. Tkatch, enthralled the listeners with their renditions of Ukrainian song." - Winnipeg Tribune, Tues, Aug. 7, 1951. FR-036.



Above and right: Two views of the wedding service for Peter Bailey and Luba Klowak, September 10, 1947. Among those identified are L-R: Cantor: Mr. Dudych. Standing for the Groom: Ben Marykuca; Bill Bailley; and Peter Klowak. Conducting the Wedding Mass, Father Jaroslaw Holowaty. Maids of Honor: Elizabeth Torbiak; Natalie Bailley and Luba Zasitko. Flower girls: Nadia Marykuca and Elizabeth Bailley. FR-051, FR-035.

Right: Mr. Jerry Leochko escorts his daughter Sonia into St. Nicholas Church, August 20, 1960. In the background can be seen the bell tower; the small garage located behind the priests residence; and in the distance the Nick Lisowecki residence. Within a few short years, the garage, the bell tower, the church, and the hall would be all moved to the new town. The Lisowecki residence survived to witness the new millennium. It stood vacant but unharmed for 40 years. FR-024.





Left & below: Two views taken during the wedding service for John Sachowski and Anne Leochko on July 23, 1955, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. Father John Lehky conducting the service. FR-018 & FR-023.



Above: Left: Wedding of Sonia Leochko and Peter Genyk. St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Poplarfield, old town site. L-R: Eddy Ewanisiw, Peter Genyk (the groom), Sonia Leochko (the bride), Father Stephen Kulak, Patricia Genyk, Ann Lezubski, Myrtle Sachowski, Linda & Iris Kuryk (flower girls). FR-025.



Above: Sachowski Wedding Party pose for photos at St. Nicholas Church, 1955. The Ladies: Sonia Leochko, Violet Zabrowsky, Elizabeth Skrabek, Myrtle Sachowski, Tina Leochko, Elma Leochko - (flowergirl). The bride and groom: Ann Leochko and John Sachowski. The men: Mike Lischinsky, Norman Leochko (the ring bearer), Mike Sachowski, Mike Leochko, Steve Uruski, Walter Tycholis. FR-022.





Above: The local young ladies in traditional Ukrainian dress for a Green Holiday celebration, old town site, 1958. L-R: Elaine Grywinski, Elsie Torbiak, Tina Leochko, Elizabeth Bailley, and Pat Sokulski. Note the church bell tower and priests' residence in the background. FR-048.



Above: A view of the 1958 Green Holiday celebrations at St. Nicholas Church. Identified are Mr. Yaciuk and Harry Leochko, at front, carrying banners. George Klowak is at the right holding the bible. FR-039.

Right: Original Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Selo Dehowa, Ukraine, constructed 1775. FR-052.



Far right: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church and Parish Hall as they appeared just before being moved to the new town site, c.1960. The architectural similarities with the design of the home church in Selo Dehowa, Ukraine is quite evident. FR-054.







St. Nicholas Church in its new town location, as it appeared during the mid-1970s, now with a covering of white stucco. Note also that the belltower had been enclosed. FR-021.

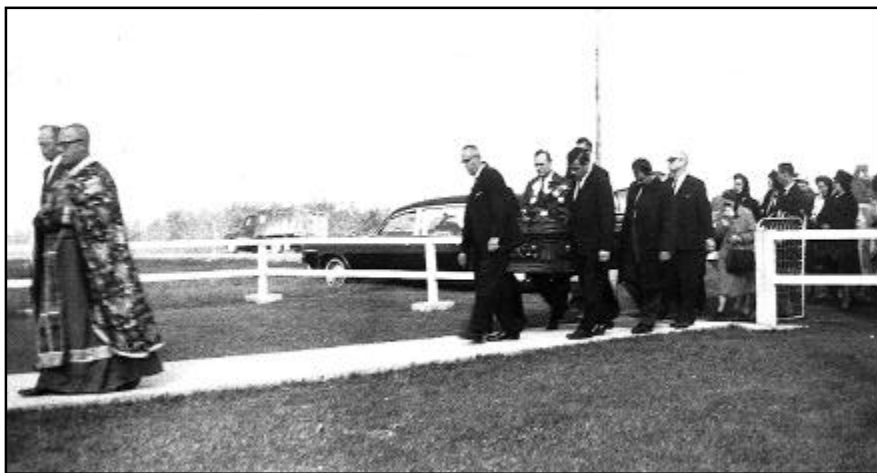


Above and right: Three views of the consecration ceremony of St. Nicholas Church at its new town site, conducted by Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk on July 16, 1964. The new chosen site was at the far west end of development along the High Plains Road "strip". FR-041, FR-042, FR-043.



Some of the Clergy assigned to the Poplarfield / Fisher Branch parishes.

- 1928-33 - Apolonarij Aluzhnacky
- 1933-36 - Kyrylo Lotocky
- 1937-38 - Stephan Borys
- 1939-40 - Vasyi Charney
- 1941-42 - John Perejma
- 1943-44 - Theodore Kocaba
- 1943-50 - Jaroslaw Holowaty
- 1950-51 - V. Chymynec
- 1951-52 - Ljutosslav Kussey
- 1952-56 - John Lehky
- 1956-60 - Evhen Olynyk
- 1961-78 - Emilian Pilkiw
- 1978-85 - Gregory Oliynyk
- 1985-87 - Ernest Hafichuk
- 1987- Bohdan Borowec



Above: Father Emilian Pilkiw leading a funeral procession into St. Nicholas Church, 1965. New Poplarfield location. FR-017.



Above: Reverend Emilian Pilkiw conducts a funeral service at St. Nicholas Church, at its New Poplarfield location in September of 1965. FR-012.



Above: St. Nicholas Church, Ladies Altar Society, May 1960. Standing, L-R: Anne Lapka, Helen Blahey, Julia Ostryzniuk, Pearl Bailley, Mary Skrabyk, Mrs. Andrew Grywinsky, Myrtle Wallach, Luba Bailley. Seated: Mary Rabsky, Doris Stawychny, Mary Leochko (Jerry), and Mary Leochko (Harry). FR-010.



Above: Leeland area children photographed at a Bishop's visit to St. Nicholas Church, in 1970. Father Pilkiw was the parish priest at the time. Some of those in attendance were L-R: Andy Marko (with hands in pockets), Vince Kowalyk (with bent elbow), Dale Marko, Mark Kowalyk and Wayne Kochan, (alterboys), Cindy Swarychewski (little girl with basket). FR-038.



Above: Views of St. Nicholas Church and Parish Hall, c1985. By the late 1970s and early 1980s because of the declining rural population, the hall was infrequently used, except for the weekly bingo night which went on for a number of years. By 1985 the hall had been permanently closed and its contents auctioned off. FR-028, FR-032.

Above right: In 1997, its roof restored to wood shingles. In 1997, the R.M. of Fisher designated St. Nicholas as a protected municipal heritage site under The Heritage Resources Act. With assistance from the Provincial Government, and the Thomas Sill Foundation, the roof was repaired and shingled with wood shingles. FR-076.



Above: A wide angle view of the highly ornate interior of St. Nicholas Church. The large main mural depicting Christ the King and the twelve Apostles was painted by noted icon painter, Jacob Maydanyk, in 1938. FR-077.



Above: His Grace Metropolitan Michael Bzdel and Deacon Peter Chorny presiding during 85th anniversary of the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Poplarfield, July 19, 1998. Note the "Koroval" bread prepared by Katherine Klowak, wife of the late George Klowak, CNR section manager and long time supporter of the parish. FR-071.



Above: Three views of the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish Cemetery, 1992. The quarter mile long road to the cemetery is a rare surviving piece of the original "Fisher River Road" which was the main artery into the region during the settlement period. FR-078. FR-079, FR-080.

*85th Anniversary Celebration*  
*in honour of*  
*St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church*  
*Poplarfield, Manitoba*  
*Sunday, July 19, 1998*  
*Pontifical Liturgy 10:00 a.m.*  
*Dinner - Poplarfield Community Centre \$10.00 per person*



Left: Scene at the St. Nicholas Parish Cemetery during the 85th anniversary, July 19, 2000. FR-084.





Above: Parish President Helen Horodecki at the podium, Dan Torbiak, emcee at left during speeches at the banquet held in the Poplarfield Community Centre. FR-088.



Above and left: Three views of the ceremony in which Archbishop Metropolitan Michael Bzdel unveiled a new monument to the pioneers of the Poplarfield region on the St. Nicholas Church grounds, August 27, 2000. FR-061 to FR-063.

**UKRAINIANS IN POPLARFIELD  
1906 – 2000**  
**UKRAINIANS IN CANADA  
1891 – 2000**

**MILLENNIUM 2000  
MEMORIAL**

IMMIGRANT FAMILIES CAME FROM UKRAINE IN 1903 – 1906 AND SETTLED IN THIS DISTRICT CREATING THE COMMUNITY OF OLD POPLARFIELD, NE12-22-2W. WITH THE BUILDING OF NEW POPLARFIELD THE ST. NICHOLAS CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS MOVED THERE IN 1961. AFTER THE CLOSURE OF THE RAILROAD PEOPLE GRADUALLY MOVED TO THE NEW SITE.

**THE FIRST FAMILIES TO SETTLE WERE**

DANYLO TORBIAK	KUZMA KARTUSHYN	IVAN MARYKUCA
HAWRYLO KLOWAK	IVAN WYPOROWICH	AMBHAYLO YAREMA
MIKHAYLO KLOWAK	NYKOLA KELYC	WASYL OZARBEK
DANYLO HALIUK	HRYPORI PAWLIUK	STEFAN GRZYWINSKI
STEFAN DIDYK	SOFRAN LECYCHKO	PETRO SEMOTIUK
WASYL DIDYK	KONSTANTIN MARYKUCA	WASYL WERSTIUK
	MAMMAN HORODECKI	

**HIGH PLAINS DISTRICT**

TYMKO ZASITKO	OLEON STASIUK	IVAN KOHLIT
SEMKO ZASITKO	PETRO WYNORADNYK	IVAN FUZ
ONDREY TROSCHIK	WASYL PTASINUK	IVAN STAWYCHNY
	HRYPORI DOBROWOLSKI	

**HAMRLIK DISTRICT**

IVAN GONYK	IVAN KOKHAN	MICHAEL DANYLUK
IVAN SAMORODNY	ALEXANDER OZUBKO	ALEXANDER DUDA
JOHN HAMRLIK	GREGORY LITOCHOWSKI	MYKHAILO TAKIMYI
CALVIN SNYDER	FRED PONIK	

**NEW STAR DISTRICT**

MICHAEL SOKULSKI	MICHAEL SKRABYK	YAKIM SKRABYK
WASYL PODDOWORNY		STEFAN SKRABYK

DEDICATED WITH LOVE AND HONOUR TO THE POPLARFIELD AND DISTRICT PIONEERS WHO RAISED A UKRAINIAN MONUMENT IN 1951 AT OLD POPLARFIELD WHERE IT STILL STANDS. THE ST. NICHOLAS PARISH EXTENDS GRATITUDE TO ALL DONORS FOR THIS MILLENNIUM 2000 MEMORIAL PROJECT.

Below and below right: Dan Torbiak at the podium introducing Katherine Bailey who provided a much appreciated musical interlude during the luncheon in the community hall after the ceremony. FR-087.



New Pioneers' Monument





Above. Interior view of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, looking towards the sanctuary and showing the intricate three-level iconostasis, and the tabernacle on the altar, beyond the Royal Doors. FR-091.



Right: Two views of the marriage service for John Pernerowski and Jane Leochko on August 5, 1950 at Holy Trinity Church. The wedding party included, Maid of Honour: Lena Leochko. Best Man: Nick Chaplinsky. Bridesmaids: Myrtle Zolkewich and Lovey Lapka. Best Men: Mike Pankiw and Walter (Slim) Leochko. Flower girls are the daughters of John Wynohradnyk. FR-044, FR-047.

The Holy Trinity Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Poplarfield was founded in 1918. The members met in homes and local halls until 1942, when resources were pooled and a church building constructed in the new Poplarfield site. It was built by local volunteers under the supervision of Michael Troschuk. The team worked with no plans, the only design guide was a photograph supplied by Michael Lapka of a church in the Fraserwood district. The colourful and detailed iconostasis was largely the work of the congregation women, under the supervision of noted Ukrainian religious artist Hnat Sych. Holy Trinity served a wide area, including Chatfield, High Plains and Leeland districts. With the general depopulation of the 1970s and 1980s, the size of the congregation was greatly affected, and eventually regular services were curtailed. The structure has, however, continued to be lovingly maintained by current and former parishioners. FR-091.





Above: Funeral for Klaudia Shaliuk-Zasitko at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. April 1957. Included in the group are L-R: Mrs. Jean Shwaluik, Sam Stawychny, Steve Shwaluik (in glasses), John Shwaluik (in Grey by Steve), Frank Uruski, Wally Pomanski (in brushcut), behind Frank is Alex Dobrowolski, MLA Nick Bachinsky, (in front) is Sam Stawychny, Art Harris, and Stephe Stasiuk (on right). Children are Donna and Darcia Kawka. Mr & Mrs Pilhovich retirement home in the background. FL-055.

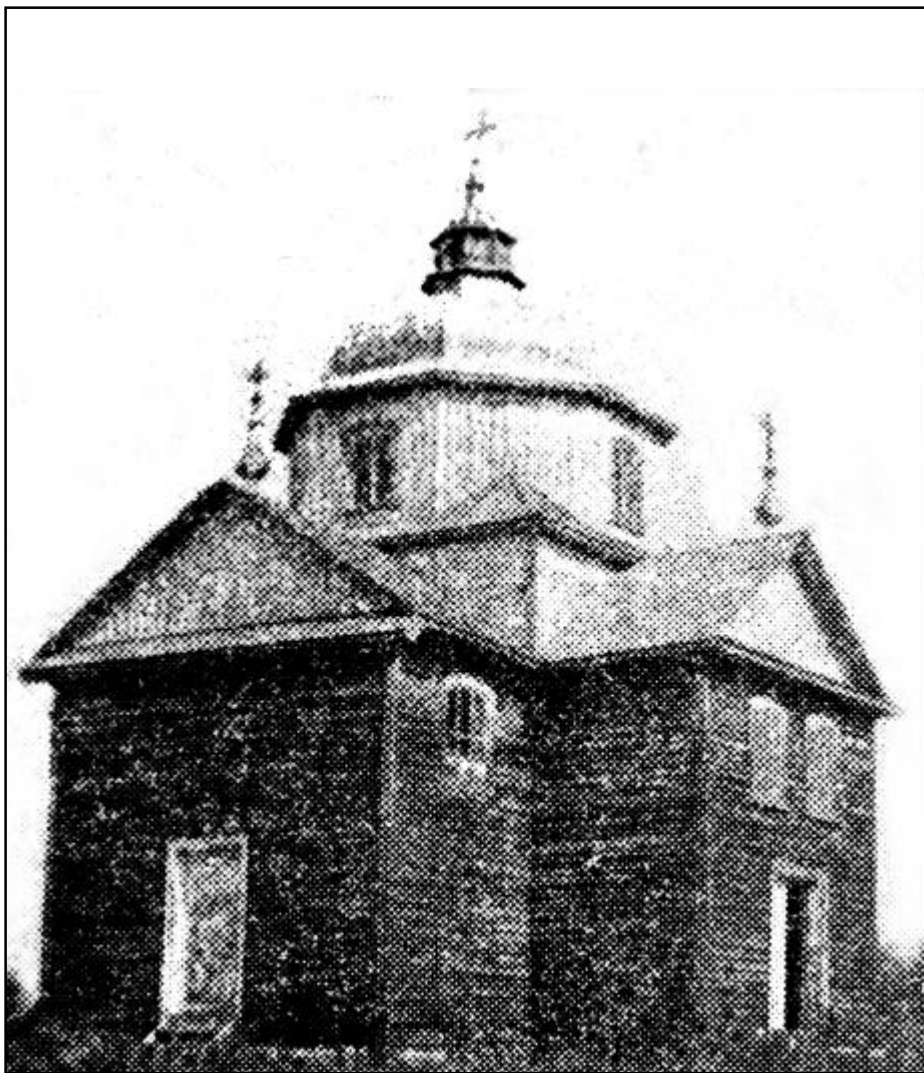


Right: Visiting Orthodox Priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, New Poplarfield - August 5, 1950. FR-046.

Right: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was designated a protected Municipal Heritage Site by the R.M. of Fisher in 1989. A program of structural reinforcement and exterior restoration was completed in 1997, and the church re-dedicated by Metropolitan Archbishop Waslyly, Greek Orthodox Primate of Canada, with a service, program and plaque unveiling. FR-057.



Holy Trinity Church Greek Orthodox Church



Above: Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, High Plains District. Constructed 1914, it was destroyed by fire c1950. FR-069.



Above: Four High Plains district young ladies pose for a photograph in traditional dress on the steps of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, High Plains District, 1939. L-R: Helen Ledohowski, Sevrine Podiuk, Anne Zasiitko, and Anne Fuz. FR-060.



Right: Pioneer memorial cairn located in Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, High Plains District, 1992. FR-085.



Above: A few of the ladies in attendance at the 1974 Patron's Day service, Hamrlík district. L-R: Olga Kochan, Betty Zorniak, Olga Fedowich, Sadie Zorniak, Olga Moroz, Helen Gregorash, Mary Moroz, Jenny Shymko, Pearl Gregorash. FR-059.



Above right: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hamrlík. The first church was built in 1934. It burned down and was replaced with the present building in 1936. FR-081.

Right: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church parishioners pose for a group photo after a Sunday mass, c1952.



- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Peter Danyluk       | 2. Mike Gregorash  |
| 3. John Moroz          | 4. Mary Danyluk    |
| 5. Elsie Samorodny     | 6. Rose Samorodny  |
| 7. Mary Samorodny      | 8. Peter Samorodny |
| 9. Katherine Danyluk   | 10. Mary Martin    |
| 11. John Martin        | 12. Steve Hrydowy  |
| 13. Mrs. Hradoway      | 14. Mrs. Chomiak   |
| 15. Mrs. John Chomiak. |                    |
- FR-090.

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hamrlík





Left: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hamrlik. Mike Chymy and Mary Hnatiw wedding, 1947. Flower Girls are Bernice Marko and Mary Samorodny. This was one of only a small number of wedding services held in this little country church. FR-068.



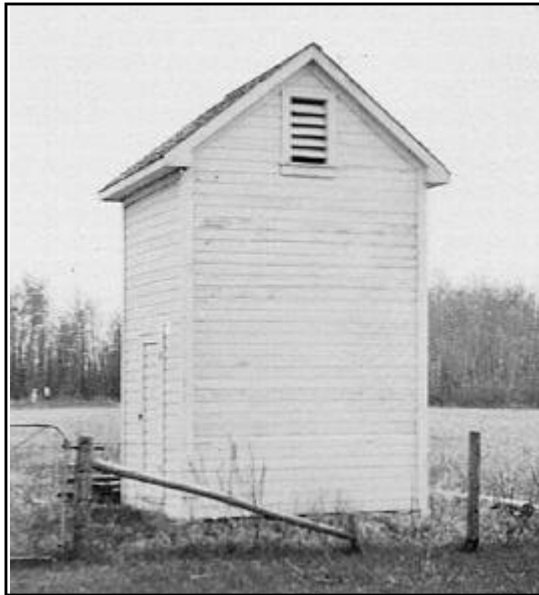
Left: View of the altar at St. John The Baptist Church, Hamrlik, c1998. FR-074.



Above: Green Holiday procession at St. John The Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hamrlik, c1999. FR-073.



Right and below: St. Anthony's Polish Roman Catholic Church, and bell tower, Zbaras District. The man in the 'coach-mans' cap was un-named. FR-030, FR-031.



Left: St. Anthony's Polish Roman Catholic Church, Zbaraz district. First Communion group, 1939. FR-089.

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Vicki Malenchak | 2. Emily Obszarski  |
| 3. Mary Chickora   | 4. Francis Chikiora |
| 5. Zopotochnay     | 6. Ann Podaima      |
| 7. Joe Golas       | 8. Joe Obszarski    |
| 9. Ed Malenchak    | 10. Steve Podaima   |
| 11. Helen Walashek | 12. Frank Golas     |
| 13. Paul Golas     | 14. Matt Golas.     |

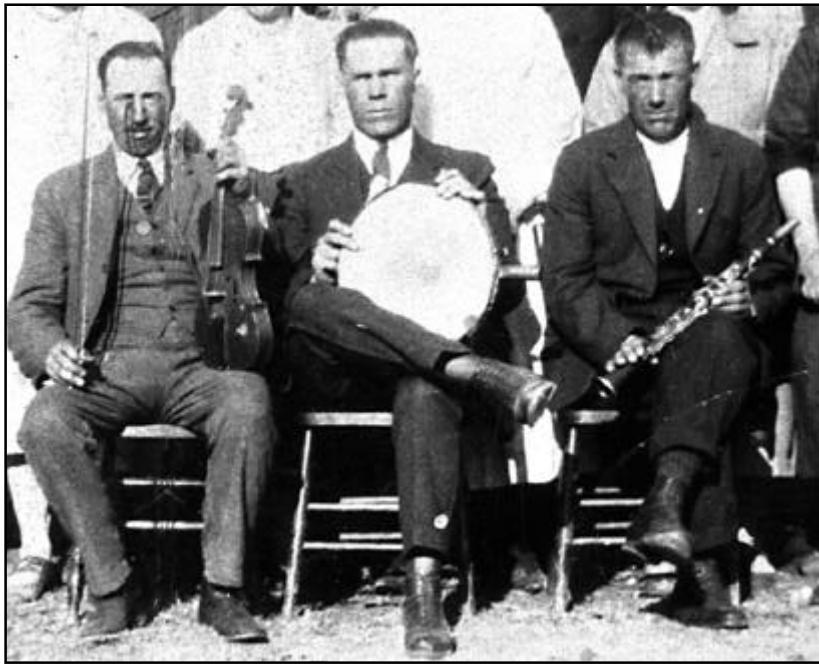


Above: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church and Hall, 1984. A familiar landmark along Highway #17 between Poplarfield and Chatfield, St. Demetrius was constructed three miles north east of Chatfield in 1910, on land donated by Andrew Shyshkewich. Parishioners were served by the Redemptorist Fathers from Komarno until 1923 after which priests from Poplarfield, and later Fisher Branch, served the parish. By the mid-1980s the church was closed and the district served from Poplarfield. On December 15, 2000, Father Mark Gnutel and Deacon Churchery held a closing service at the church, and two weeks later, because of their deteriorated condition, the buildings were put to the torch. All artifacts and sacred items were removed to the St. Volodymyr Museum at the Ukrainian Catholic Chancery. FR-056.



*Chapter Five*

# *Culture & Social*



Left: 1920s musicians. L-R: Mike Ostryzniuk, Mike Kerelchuk, and Nick Luty, photographed at a Ukrainian "Zabava" (social) in the Zbaraz district. CS-015.

*"Mr. Luty's pet hobby was music, and not long after establishing his homestead he formed a band and began to play his clarinet at weddings, dances, and anniversaries. His band partners were Mr. Mike Ostryzniuk on the fiddle and Mike Kerelchuk on the drum (richito). Walter Yakimew later played the banjo and Mr. Stonoga also alternated on the drums. Their take would be \$3.00 or \$4.00 for the night. Weddings could last for as long as three days. They usually netted extra money because people would drop coins into the violin case for playing the wedding march. Later, their sons and daughters followed in their footsteps and formed a band during the 1940s to 1950s and played at many barn dances, weddings, midnight dances and dance halls."* - Con Luty.

Below: Bill and Mike Grywinski as young teenagers, already playing at weddings and social functions. CS-004.



Left: Bill Werbenuk with his accordion at the age of 13, around 1935. CS-050. *"Bill Werbenuk's love of music began at the tender age of four. Beginning with the mouth organ, he soon learned to play the violin and accordion and later the mandolin, saxophone and guitar. Bill performed with many local musicians including his brother John Werbenuk, Bill Chimchak, Paul, Steven and Sophie Ostryzniuk, Andrew, Julius and Connie Luty, Bill Marykuca, Harry Torbiak, and Mike Leochko, among others. During the Second World War, he also played at dances held at the popular Moonlight Hall in Gimli and the Winnipeg Beach Pavilion. Bill was still active musically well into his seventies particularly with fiddling contests. Bill is also an avid collector and maker of old violins, at one time owning a collection of more than 300."* - Laurie Klump





Above: The Luty brothers and their band mates pose for photograph before leaving for a 'gig'. L-R: Con Luty, Steve Podaima, Steve Ostryzniuk, Paul Ostryzniuk, and Julius Luty. Andy Luty and Sonia Ostryzniuk missing from this photograph. CS-014.

*"During the early days in the High Plains District, most of the weddings took place in the homes. People brought presents of bread or chickens, etc. and presented ten to twenty-five cents. Weddings then were three day affairs. On the first evening everyone went to the woods to collect the creeping Ground Ivy which was used to make two wreathes which were customarily hung from the ceiling above the heads of the bride and groom. The second day involved the service and a supper held in honour of the young newlyweds. The food consisted of Ukrainian dishes such as holubtsi (cabbage rolls), borshch, heshtke, fried koorka, perogies, and homebrew. Dancing took place after the supper. A common band in the area consisted of the Stasiuk brothers, Joe who played the violin, Metro who played cymbala, and Steve who was the drummer. The third day involved the post-wedding festivities or the proprovina." - Panko and Mary Zasitko.*



Above: "This group of musicians are welcoming the wedding guests by playing a Wedding March as they arrive to the marriage of Annie Obszarski to Bill Boychuk in spring of 1942, at the farmstead of Mr. & Mrs. Chas J. Obszarski in Zbaraz district. L-R: Sonia Torbiak (Ostryzniuk) on 2nd violin; Paul Ostryzniuk on lead violin; Nick Polscy on drums; Andy Luty on clarinet; and missing but present was Julius Luty on guitar. The musicians would play almost continuously till the wedding was over." - Sonia Torbiak. CS-002.





Above: Rosie and Steve Ostryzniuk were rehearsing for an upcoming house party when someone suggested they pose for a photograph. The two followed in their father's footsteps as musicians. Their dad, Mike Ostryzniuk was very well known throughout the Interlake for his skills with the violin. CS-066.

Right: Struc Bros. Band at the wedding reception for John Zuk and Anne Ledochowski, March 31, 1948. L-R: Tom Struc, Sam Struc, George Struc, and Nick Struc. Tom went on to own a chain of music studios in Winnipeg under the name "Ken's Accordion Studio". CS-016.



Below: Paul and Helen Ostryzniuk entertaining at a house party at John Struc's. Despite having lost two fingertips in an accident on his left hand, Paul continued to play in a 'Don Messer fashion', until his death. The broad smiles all around indicate that a good time was being had by everyone. CS-067.



*"In the 1920s and early 1930s, major social events (mainly weddings) were held on homesteads during the summer months. The whole community would be invited. A dance platform was constructed outdoors and music was provided by local groups. For several days prior to the occasion volunteers from the community would help prepare the food. Festivities would start in the early afternoon and continue till the morning hours, with much dancing and group singing. Guests would return on Sunday afternoon for more celebrating. Depending where the bride and groom were from, it was quite common for their communities to have two wedding receptions, one weekend at the bride's and the next at the groom's. This was a custom brought over from the old country." - Lawrence Suchar.*



Right: A few of the boys picking up a supply of beer from the Coronation Hotel for a social function during Easter of 1946. L-R: Billy Bailley, Mike Klowak, Mike Homick, and Ben Klowak. CS-051.



Below: A crude still set up in the backwood of the Poplarfield district. Some of the local operations were said to have been quite sophisticated. CS-053.



Above: "Homebrew still set up in a house attic. SR-099. *"Many people made homebrew. Our neighbour made it in a 45 gallon drum. He would mix the sugar, grain, fruit, potatoes, etc. in the drum. And because it would smell so badly, he would lock it in the barn and leave home for seven days, less, if the weather was warm, while the mash fermented. Then he would come home and distill it. On weekends when there were parties we would load four gallons of it on his bike and head for the party where he would sell it later in the evening at 15 cents a glass full. He would never let us drink any of this stock. After the parties we would go to his place for a little of the better stock."* - Bill Pawluk.



Above: Wedding reception for Peter Bailey and Luba Klowak at St. Nicholas Church Hall, old Poplarfield location, September 20, 1947. Recognizable are L-R: Peter Haliuk; Peter Klowak and Bill Bailley in (dark suits), Ben Marykuca (in light suit), Roy and Mary Skrabyk, Elsie Bailley (at bottom right). CS-044.



Above: Wedding Social for Joe Mazur and Eileen Dutkywich, 1959. St. Nicholas Hall, Poplarfield. Flanking the bridal couple are Joe's parent's Peter and Kay Mazur. The musicians are tuning up in the background. CS-058.

Right: Presentation scene at an unidentified wedding reception during the 1940s. Wedding presentations were always lively events, and a challenge for the bands, who had to play fast-paced kolomaykas and polkas constantly, sometimes two to three hours without a break. CS-029.





Above: Podaima Bros. Band - 1940s. The Podaima Bros. Band was a local favorite in the Poplarfield region during the 1940s and early 1950s. L-R: Mike Uhryniuk on violin, John Podaima on saxophone, Felix Podaima on drums, Steve Podaima on saxophone, and Tom Struc on accordion. CS-010.

"Settlers of the first two decades brought their music, songs, and dance from the 'old country,' and a few came with their instruments. Some of these instruments, such as the 'cymbalia', gave these first bands unique characteristics and sound. As the children of the pioneers grew up, they adapted and modified their music to the Canadian setting including use of instruments common on the national scene, such as the piano accordion and large drum sets. By the 1940s, there were several local bands performing at socials and at the new locale - the country barn, which became immensely popular with young people. Most of us are likely to remember the Zasitko barn in High Plains, which was a gathering place on Saturday night for people from several communities. During the late 1940s and 1950s, there were two significant changes in band playing: female musicians joined in the bands, and musicians began playing from notes on a regular basis. Some undertook formal music studies in Winnipeg and moved on to play in major bands at the provincial level." - Lawrence Schuar.

# DANCE

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DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_\_

---


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WILL SUPPLY

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---

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---

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Left: The "MTJO" Boys band c1960. The Mike, Tony, John & Orest band. L-R: Tony Fuz on accordion, John Swarychewski on drums, Orest Pododworny on guitar, Mike Chudy on violin. The fellows in this band played together from 1955 to 1962. CS-011.



Right: Photo taken at the graduation party for Tina Leochko at the St. Nicholas Parish Hall in July of 1959. Note the stove pipes marking where the wood burning stove had stood, prior to the installation of an oil-burning furnace. Elsie Torbiak and Tina Leochko dancing in the foreground. In this photograph the hall is still in its old town location. CS-052.

Right: The presentation scene at the Peter Genyk & Sonia Leochko wedding reception, August 20, 1960. The 'Silvertones' provided the music for the Genyk reception. The two musicians in the background are Alex Pawlychyn and Carl Josefchuk. CS-035.

*"During the wedding presentation portion of many Ukrainian weddings it was not unusual for guests to sing to the bride and groom, or just along to the music. Harry Leochko was known for his joyous singing during presentations. - Peter Moroz.*







Left: Some of the fellows from Poplarfield at social at the U.N.F. hall in Winnipeg in 1960. L-R: Johnny Torbiak, Eddy Skibinski, Mervin Zolkewich, Donny Bailley, Artie Johnson, and Eddie Ozubko. Note the hair and suit styles, and the long neck beer bottles - all Black Label. CS-045

Below left: Mike Grywinski band playing at the wedding reception of Walter Marykuca in 1947 at Inwood. Mike Grywinski on violin, Bill Kucy on Saxophone, daughter Elsie Kucy on accordion, John Grywinski on drums. John Roschuk in background. Mike Grwinski's band was prominent in the district from the mid 1940s to the early 1960s. CS-012.

Below: View in the dance hall portion of the new community centre, most likely during a wedding social, c1964. The two ladies at left with their arms folded are Darcie Kawka and her mother Doris. Others seated at right include, Peter and Sonia Genyk, and Marcia Friesen. CS-041.





Above: Mike & Kay Torbiak 25th Anniversary dinner at St. Nicholas Hall in Poplarfield, early 1961. CS-076.



Above: A kiss for the Bride at the wedding presentation for Peter and Bernice Kochan, Poplarfield Community Centre, August 6, 1960. This tradition was known as the "Darowanee" part of a traditional Ukrainian wedding. CS-018.



Right: Scene at an unidentified wedding reception dinner, in Poplarfield, c1948. CS-022.

Left: Frank & Jean Ferris celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary in the Poplarfield Ukrainian Parish Hall. CS-100.





Above: View of the dining area at the Poplarfield Community Centre during a wedding 'proprovina', the traditional Ukrainian day-after get together. At the table are a number of members of the Zasitko family, including Peter, Joe, Elsie, Kelly and Kim.



Above: Orest Pododworny and friends playing the traditional greetings as the guests arrive at the Poplarfield Community Centre for a 1980s wedding reception. Orest was a consummate Saxophone player and a longtime band member in Poplarfield. CS-001.

Below: View of the buffet line in the dining area during a wedding reception in the Poplarfield Community Centre, c1985. CS-084 .



Above: Another local custom. Terry Leochko gets his pockets emptied into the presentation plate, as Brenda, the bride, does her best to assist. CS-101.



Above: Mother's Day concert angels, 1925. BR: Olga Pawlowski, Annie Troschuk; Julia Skrabek, and Sofie Besaschuk. FR: Annie Lisowecki; Annie Leochko; and Mary Lisowecki. SC-080.



Above: Performers at a Mother's Day concert, St. Nicholas Hall, Poplarfield old town. 1930s. Standing: Anne Lisowecki, Olga Klowak, Pearl Sawchuk, Sonia Hryciuk. Sitting: Ellen Kostiuk, Sonia Lisowecki. Olga and Pearl danced the male parts as there were no men at that time able to perform. CS-046 .



Left: A ladies choir group performing at a Shevchenko Concert, during the 1940s. Note the decorated table with the portrait of Taras Shevchenko, the beloved Ukrainian poet. L-R: Kay Torbiak, Katherine Klowak, Anne Korpesho, Albina Torbiak, and Pearl Bailley. CS-047.

## Concerts

*"The first local hall to be built was Shevchenko Society Hall in old Poplarfield. It burned down in 1937. In Hamrlik, a hall was built in the early 1920s and was located one-half mile south of the cemetery. It was named after Ivan Franko, a patriot of the Western Ukraine in the second half of the 19th century, who dedicated his life to the betterment of the Ukrainian people. It was commonly referred to as the 'Chytnia', or reading hall. It became the centre of community life; plays, dances, meetings, informational and educational lectures, attracted not only local people but also young persons from surrounding communities. The building burned down in 1932 and was not rebuilt. Around 1936, another hall opened up at Poplarfield Old Town. This building was a house converted into a parish hall and it continued serving the community as the Hamrlik one had done. Later it also became the location for community weddings and other socials. Each year a major event was the celebration of an anniversary honouring Taras Shevchenko, a writer and political activist of the East Ukraine, in the first half of the 19th century." - Lawrence Suchar.*





Above: Girls from High Plains District doing Ukrainian dance: Mary Glitnak, Annie Kawka, Lovey Zazitko, Myrtle Zolkewich, Annie Wallach (hidden), Mary Palomar, Theresa Stawychny, and Clara Kuklica. CS-027.



Above: 1947. L-R: Bill Kartushyn, Dan Torbiak, Harry Shymko and Peter Torbiak in Ukrainian dress doing a Cossack dance on stage at the St. Nicholas Parish hall, in 1947. CS-028.

Right: Harold Surminski and cousin Natalie Surminski performing an accordion duet at a 1959 concert. CS-038.



Far right: Elsie Torbiak giving a recital at a function in the St. Nicholas Hall, 1948. CS-006.







Left: Cast and organizers of the 1949 Taras Shevchenko memorial concert. L-R: Men: Rev. Jaroslav Holowaty: Roman Dacy, Fred Meleshko, Ivan Haluk, Steve Horon, Hnat Horodecki, George Klowak, Mike Torbiak. Ladies: Anne Korpesho, Marusia Didyk, Justyna Haluk, Pearl Bailley, Helen Dacy, Kay Torbiak, Katherine Klowak, and Albina Torbiak. The little boy is Donny Bailley. Cut out but present is little Elsie Torbiak. The banner proclaims "Learn My Brothers". CS-007.



Above: Cast and performers at the 1949 Shevchenko Concert, held at the St. Nicholas Parish Hall. In March, it was customary to put on Taras Shevchenko concerts to commemorate the poet's birth. These concerts consisted of poetry recitations, songs and readings of his works. This was a community event involving all ages. Identified here are FR: Kay Torbiak, Anne Korpesho, Pearl Bailley, Alice Haliuk, Marcia Ozubko, Katherine Klowak, Albina Torbiak, Sandra Klowak. BR: Fred Meleshko, Steve Horon, Bill Bailley, Nick Ozarko, Peter Klowak (hidden), Hnat Horodecki, Peter Haliuk, George Klowak, Slawko Leochko. The little girl is Helen Torbiak. CS-043.



Left: Cast and organizers of the 1948 Taras Shevchenko memorial concert. Top: Father Vasyl Chimynec. L-R: Men: Steve Horon, Fred Meleshko, Peter Klowak, Bill Bailley, Peter Haliuk, Nick Ozarko, George Klowak, Hnat Hordecki, Harry Leochko, Harry Halabut. Ladies: Alice Haliuk, Kay Torbiak, Pearl Bailley, Jenny Shymko, Sandra Klowak, Albina Torbiak, Anne Korpesho, Katherine Klowak. Children: Marcia Ozubko, Donny Bailley, Margaret Ozubko, Elsie Torbiak, Ed Korpesho, Helen Torbiak, Nettie Nosal, Elizabeth Bailley, Elsie Korpesho, Johnny Torbiak. Front: Alex Kolakowski. CS-008.



Above: Comedy presentation at the Ukrainian Catholic Hall. George Klowak directing; in the scene is Marilyn Sokulski and Bill Haluk, 1964.

*"The gentleman is singing a love song to her. Antonia Podiuk brought the apron that Marilyn is wearing from the old country when she immigrated. Every winter, there were two or three plays presented at the Ukrainian Catholic Hall. I remember that, in one play, Bill Ostryzniuk took too long to die after being "shot". He repeatedly kept rising up from the floor of the stage on one elbow with more ad lib. Ad libbing at these plays was the norm. The packed audience began to shout "Die already!", and finally he was silenced. As a kid, I always thought he was a wonderful actor - he, Kashmir Roschuk, and Mrs. Klowak were my favorite Poplarfield actors. They made me laugh so much."*  
 - Donna Sokulski. CS-069.



Left: Poster advertising the "Ukrainian Double Male Quartet" from Fisher Branch, 1937. Concerts were popular during the 1930s and 1940s and the local talent would often visit neighbouring communities. By all accounts the boys from Fisher Branch were excellent singers. CS-042.

Right: Winter Festival Queen & Runner-up. 1957 Queen: Elizabeth Bailley, Princess: Elaine Grywinski. CS-048.



Below: St. Nicholas Parish Church crowns its Queen and Princesses as the top fundraisers. Winter Festival Queen, 1957. L-R: Father Evhen Olynyk, Tina Leochko, Elsie Torbiak, Jane Ledohowski and George Klowak. CS-075.





Left: Poplarfield area ladies choir, early 1960s.

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ollie Blahey;       | 2. Elaine Stonoga;                 |
| 3. Katherine Torbiak;  | 4. Marlene Podaima;                |
| 5. Stella Marko;       | 6. Mary Wallach;                   |
| 7. Eleanor Rabski;     | 8. unknown ;                       |
| 9. Pauline Marko;      | 10. Tina Leochko;                  |
| 11. Severine Sokulski; | 12. Rose Husiak;                   |
| 13. Helen Torbiak;     | 14. Patsey Stawychny;              |
| 15. Bernice Marko;     | 16. Patricia Bailley (little girl) |
| 17. Luba Bailley.      |                                    |
- CS-032.



Above right: Patricia Bailley, Linda Skrabek, Marianne Nosal, Marie Torbiak during the 1962 Mother's Day concert at the Orthodox hall in new Poplarfield. CS-059.



Right: Some of the participants at the 1962 Mother's Day concert.

L-R: Larry Skarbek, Gary Bailley, Tim Pomanski, Mary Jane Leochko, Janet Lapka. CS-081.



Left: The youth of Poplarfield on stage honoring their mothers at the 1962 Mother's Day concert. CS-082.



Above: Severine Sokulski performing a solo at a concert held at the Community Centre.

By the early 1970s the new community hall was used almost exclusively for most community events. The St. Nicholas Hall was used for a weekly bingo until the late 1970s before closing permanently. CS-062.



Above: New Star district Ladies Ukrainian Choir, c1975. BR: Julie Ostryzniuk, Severine Sokulski, Mary Basaraba, Milly Walashek, Myrtle Wallach. FR: Minnie Chyzy, Evelyn Pomanski, Mary Samorodny, Iris Kopsys, Pauline Marko, Stella Podaima. CS-077.



Right: Scene at the Mother's Day concert held at the Poplarfield Community Centre in 1970. CS-049.

Left: Tap dance recital. Poplarfield Community Centre. July 1962. While Kelly Zasitko was performing a solo tap dance presentation, little sister Kim appeared on stage and could not be coaxed to leave. Tap Dance, Accordion, Guitar, and Baton lessons were available at Arborg during the 1960s and a number of local children became involved. Concerts were staged annually in the local communities featuring the students. CS-025.







Above: Wayne Kochan and Cindy Swarychewski Ukrainian dancers extraordinaire, c1980. Cindy began Ukrainian dancing at the age of 4½ and Wayne at 6. They danced as a team for 16 years, performing throughout the Interlake region, in Winnipeg, and at the Dauphin National Ukrainian Festival. They choreographed many of their own performances, and also taught dance classes for several years. CS-020.

Below: Elaine Uruski leading a Ukrainian children's performance group in a song. Poplarfield Community Centre, 1980.

L-R: Jenny Emms, Dean Welsh, Jerri Emms, Kim Masiak, Andrea Masiak, Rochelle Marchuk, Joanne Grabos, Wanda Stasiuk, Crystal Rozecki, Leanne Kicenko, Robyne Roche, Melanie Nosal, Heather Roche, Nicole Samorodny, Glenda Sumka, Shannon Wallach, Holly Marchuk, Angie Uruski. CS-078.







Right: 1959 - The players of a theatrical production at St. Nicholas Parish Hall. L-R:

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. George Klowak     | 2. Stanley Kolakowski |
| 3. Andrew Pawluk     | 4. Bill Klowak        |
| 5. Julia Ostryzniuk  | 6. Katherine Klowak   |
| 7. Stella Marko      | 8. Steve Nosal        |
| 9. Elsie Zasitko     | 10. Bernice Kochan    |
| 11. unknown          | 12. Luba Bailley      |
| 13. Bill Ostryzniuk. | CS-030.               |

Theatre productions. "Every winter, one or two Ukrainian plays were presented at the Ukrainian Catholic Hall. George Klowak was the director and prompter. Over the years, almost everyone in our family at one time or other had acted on that stage. Dad was not an actor, but snowstorm or not, it was he who always managed to get whoever, usually Mom, to the rehearsals. The hall was always packed on performance night. Before I got to my teens, to free up extra seats, the parents allowed us younger kids to sit on the floor just in front of the stage. This was the best seat in the house because from this spot we could tune into and catch every nuance - the stage performance, the prompter in the back ground trying to keep the actors on track, laughter and activity taking place behind the scenes, and audience comments from behind us. To this day I can't imagine a better seat in any theater. A lot of ad libbing went on. George Klowak's wife was a pro at adlibbing. We'd overhear Mr. Klowak grumbling, trying to pull her back to the original script. It would

be sort of a contest between them. Sometimes he just gave up and started laughing. "Yeah, yeah, yeah, you old hag," we'd hear (roughly translated from the Ukrainian). In one play, Bill Ostryzniuk took too long to die after being "shot". Just when we thought he was "dead" for sure, he rose up on one elbow from the floor of the stage with one more adlib. A couple of times, the curtain had even starting coming down to end the Act and had to be quickly reversed. It was supposed to be a very sad scene. At the same time that the audience was roaring, we could overhear Mr. Klowak grumbling from his prompter's station. A few people in the audience began to shout, "Die already!". Finally Mr. Ostryzniuk stayed down, and the curtain closed. Bill Ostryzniuk, Kasmir Roschuk, and Mrs. Klowak were my favorite actors because they made me laugh so much, but there were many great actors on that stage." - Donna Sokulski.



Left: The players at a one of many theatrical productions put on in both parish halls in Poplarfield. No date or names provided with this early photo, likely taken during the late 1920s.

*"These Ukrainian plays were held in the St. Nicholas Parish Hall in Old Poplarfield as well as in the 'Narodny Dim', managed by the Orthodox community. Community leaders and interested teachers normally organized and directed these plays. Costumes were either brought from Ukraine or hand-made. There was also a variety of scenic backdrops in both halls. The 'plays' were popular winter pastimes for many years. Mr. George Klowak usually directed several plays a year - rollicking comedies, tearful tragedies and even operettas. Rehearsals often combined several generations of 'actors' and usually concluded with a snack, reminiscing, joking around and catching up on the news. Plays petered out in the mid-1960s but concerts continued to take place longer. During the early years, concerts were generally in March to commemorate Taras Shevchenko and in May for Mother's Day." - Donna Sokulski. CS-040.*

Right: The audience at the fall 'play' in the St. Nicholas Parish Hall. CS-065.

*"My happiest days in Poplarfield were when I became a member of the local dramatic club. We staged plays and even went to Fisher Branch to stage them there. We travelled by the railway pumper car - the men pumped the car and we girls rode on the push car."*  
- Mary Signatovich.





Left: High School Students from Poplarfield Collegiate Institute entertain the community with a play. CS-055.

Below: The cast of players at a c1965 production at the catholic hall. L-R: Elsie Torbiak, Joe Ptashynski, Linda Rindall, Iris Pododworny, Patrusia Torbiak, Eleanor Rabski, Richard Kowal, Ellen Annell. CS-054.

Below left: A scene of another Poplarfield Collegiate production in the St. Nicholas hall, c1963. Notice the number of 'babushkas' being worn by the women in the audience. CS-061.





Left: Ukrainian Christmas. New Star School grade 6 girls in Ukrainian costume.  
L-R: Elizabeth Skrabek, Bernice Marko, Helen Kowalyk, Pat Sokulski. CS-057.

*"Ukrainian Christmas was a three-day holiday, the second day being Carolling Day and the third St. Stephen's. One of these was set aside for church, and service, and serviced by an itinerant priest, who made his rounds of several communities. It was a time for much feasting and candling with neighbors and friends. By the 1930s, carollers from the different parishes, and later from the community centre, would visit all families to sing carols, and wish them well, and were rewarded with contributions to their organizations." - Lawrence Suchar.*

Right: Ukrainian Christmas Eve. CS-070.

*"This is my Dido", Dmytro Podiuk, entering his house with a sheaf of hay or "didukh", a symbol of the gathering of the family, and greeting us with a recitation and salutations expressing joy and thankfulness that our family was well and sharing another year's celebration of Christ's birth. Usually, we would have all just gathered there after attending church at St. Nicholas at Poplarfield. Dido then spread the hay under the supper table and led us in the Lord's Prayer. "Christ is born!" he would announce. "Let us glorify Him", we would reply. And then he began passing little bowls of "kutia" to everyone. As children, after supper, we played games under the table while the adults sang carols around the table, always beginning the singing with "Boh Predvichnay". Dido always picked the most sweetest smelling hay for our Christmas Eve didukh. We never received "presents" on Ukrainian Christmas, but it still always seemed to be more somehow special than English Christmas." - Donna Sokulski.*



# Кристос рождається

Right: Poplarfield ladies photographed at a "pyryna" feather bee at Mary Skrabek's. L-R: Helen Surminski, Stella Marko, Dorothy Fuz, Ann Stawychny, Pauline Moroz, Antonia Stasiuk. Sometimes as many as 30 ladies got together for one of these occasions. While the women 'stripped' feathers, they also sang, exchanged views and news. Feather bees were very popular wintertime events. The feather down was used to stuff quilts and pillows. The men would occasionally help, but generally gathered in the kitchen where they talked, played cards, and occasionally tested the local 'homebrew'. Children were often also brought to these 'Feather Parties', and played outside until food was served around 11:00 pm. CS-072.



Right: L-R: Myrtle Wallach, Lena Bailley, Bernice Kicenko, Elsie Sumka. CS-073.



Below: Marucia Ptashnyk and Gracie Kochan hard at it with the fingers at a feather bee held at Sonia Swarychewski's house. CS-085.



Left: Poplarfield ladies at a "pyryna" feather bee, third view. L-R: Mary Leochko, Gertie Koalyk, Margie Swar, Helen Surminski, Olga Fuz, Bernice Kochan. CS-074.



*The Spirit of Poplarfield ... A Reunion!!*

**DAY ONE**

**Dinner & Dance**

Saturday, August 1st, 1992

Garden City Inn - 2100 McPhillips Street - Winnipeg

Entertainment and Live Band  
Friendship Lounge - 4:00 p.m.

\$25.00 per person  
Cash Bar

\*\*\* ADMISSION TICKET \*\*\*

Dinner 6:30 p.m.



Right: Norman Klowak greets old friends in the lobby of Garden City Inn in 1992. CS-094

*The Spirit of Poplarfield ... A Reunion!!*

**DAY TWO**

**Poplarfield Homecoming**

at  
**Poplarfield, Manitoba**

Sunday, August 2nd, 1992

**EVENTS** Church Service at 11:00 a.m.  
Ukrainian Dancers \* Old Time Band \* Petting Zoo  
Horse Rides \* Bar-B-Que \* Ukrainian Food, etc.  
Beer Garden \* Food & Beverage sold on site!!

ADMISSION



Above: Sherisse and Colin Danish in Ukrainian dress preparing to perform the traditional 'pryvit', welcome ceremony at the 1992 Reunion. CS-092.

Below & right: Garden City Inn, site of day one of both the 1992 and 1997 Poplarfield Reunions. The hotel, part of the Manitoba Hospitality Corporation hotel chain, is owned by the family of Walter Ledehowski, whose first hotel, purchased in 1947, was the Coronation Hotel in Poplarfield. CS-095.





Above: View of a very small part of the large crowd assembled at the Winnipeg portion of the 1992 Poplarfield Reunion Weekend. CS-097.



Above: The 1992 reunion organizing committee members rise for the official toast. Visible in this view are L-R: Laura Reynolds, Norman Klowak, Jenny and Norris Pawlychka, and Jane Holm. CS-097



Above: Views of some of the crafts and artwork at the 1992 Poplarfield Reunion. CL-134.



Above: Guests inspecting some of the school student lists on display at the 1997 Poplarfield reunion. CS-090.



Above: Guests inspect some of the archival materials and photographs on display at the Poplarfield portion of the 1992 reunion weekend on Sunday afternoon. CS-091.



Above: Brad Klump and sister Marcie performing their personal version of 'My Home Town', during Poplarfield Reunion 1997. CS-088.

## The spirit of Poplarfield- a reunion

### Community gathering welcomes unexpectedly large crowd

BY LORRAINE STEVENSON

How do you plan a party, invite hundreds of people, and be sure everyone attending will cherish the occasion for the rest of their lives?

Ask the Poplarfield Reunion organizing committees.

Poplarfield was the scene of a huge repatriation of former area residents August 2 who came home to reunite with friends, relatives, and townfolk. Many had not returned to Poplarfield for five or six decades. Others came with babes in arms to visit a place only described to them as the place where their grandparents and great-grandparents settled.

The idea of a reunion, say organizers, has been talked about for years. Plans finally began to take shape last October when a group of Poplarfield residents, and another from Winnipeg representing former residents, began organizing a two-day reunion to be hosted in Winnipeg and Poplarfield.

"Everyone told us we'd need at least three years to plan a reunion," says Poplarfield resident Sonia Swarychewski, who was one of a 15-member committee in the village.

"But we did it in nine months."

"It" included hours of meetings and planning, cross-referencing school registries with voters lists, mailing hundreds of invitations, and making thousands of perogies and cabbage rolls. Pat Rindall, another organizer from Poplarfield, says the final outcome - the enormous crowd which arrived - far exceeded everyone's expectations.

"It was overwhelming. People said it was like a dream, seeing so many people that they knew."

Organizers expected between 500 and 700 for the entire weekend. But the tiny community (pop. 77) located on the crossroads of Hwys. 68 and 17 swelled to more than 1,500 during the second day of the event. Families came from as far away as Los Angeles and Nevada, and from every

corner of Canada. Over 500 people attended the dinner in Winnipeg the evening before.

"We contacted a member of every family," explains Rindall.

"But there was always someone who knew where someone else was."

#### Joyful

Throughout the weekend former schoolmates of the Newstar, Dehova, Leland, and High Plains school districts joyfully recognized and embraced each other. Families gathered at sites where remnants of grandparents' first homesteads still stand. Parents proudly introduced children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"All weekend there were smiles on people's faces," says Rindall.

"You would meet people's eyes, and know that you knew them. Then your eyes would travel down to the name tag."

The event included a dinner and evening entertainment at the Garden City Inn in Winnipeg on August 1, with the reunion carrying over into Sunday in Poplarfield with a church service, dinner, and afternoon entertainment. Norris Pawlychka acted as chairman for the evening in Winnipeg, with Clifford Kolach as master of ceremonies. Laura Reynolds officiated over the cake-cutting ceremony. Bill Uruski was master of ceremonies for the afternoon entertainment in Poplarfield which included the Chaika dancers from Fisher Branch, singers, and several much-loved local entertainers such as 79-year-old Mike Grywinski playing traditional fiddle music.

One of the most stirring moments during the two-day event was during the singing of Mnoha Lita, a song traditionally sung at Ukrainian celebrations. More than a thousand voices joined together to wish each other health, prosperity and long life.

Both young and old knew the words, a sign that those whose roots extend back to Poplarfield have not forgotten their heritage.

The song testified to the "Spirit of Poplarfield" being celebrated that weekend, a spirit keeping Poplarfield alive as a vast community extended far beyond the boundaries of the tiny village in the Interlake.

The two planning committees included Anne Tycholis, Diane Kicenko, Marusia Ptashnyk, Joe and Eileen Mazur, Pat Rindall, Beatrice Wallach, Evelyn Wallach, Mary Skrabek, Anne Chady, Evelyn Pomanski, David Wallach, Robyn Wallach, Sonia Swarychewski, Mike Stasiuk, and Helen Horodecki from Poplarfield.

Norman Klowak, Laura Reynolds, Cliff Kolach, Jane Holm, Leo Ledobowski, Edward Ledobowski, Peter Moroz, Ed Ozubko, Norris Pawlychka, Jenny Pawlychka, Marilyn Daulat, and Lawrence Suchar were on the Winnipeg committee.

"There was always someone who knew where someone else was."



Left: Chantal Pawlychka and Lindsay Ledohowski provided the traditional Ukrainian 'pryvit' welcome at the 1997 first day celebrations and banquet in Winnipeg. CS-087.

Right: Katherine Klowak poses with the special Ukrainian bread known as the 'korovai', which she prepared for both the 1992 and 1997 Poplarfield Reunions. The korovai was intricately made with many symbols and figures all made of bread. CS-079.

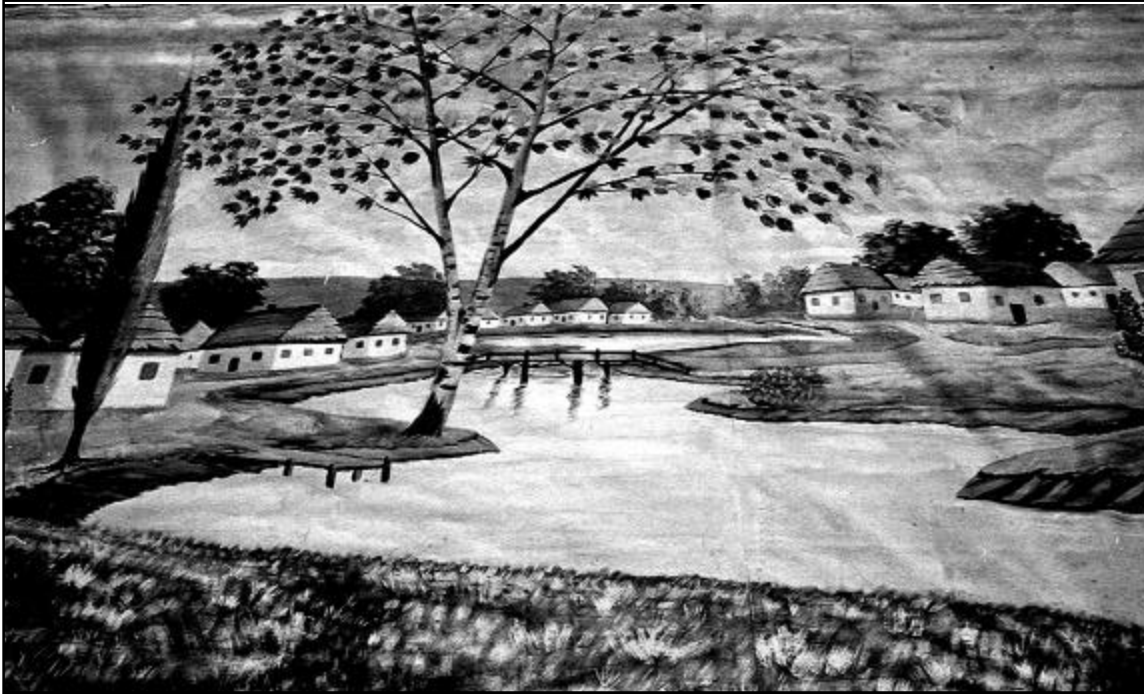


Below right: Many old friends met again at the Poplarfield Reunion. Here Bill Marykuca gives a hardy handshake to Mike Ledohowski, as wife Anne looks on. CL-133.

Below left: View of part of the crowd at the Day one festivities in 1997. CL-089.







Left: Stage curtain from the St. Nicholas Parish Hall. The building was originally constructed by the Taras Scevchenko Society, and the 10x20 foot curtain was likely painted and installed soon after the building was completed, c1939. Other stage props included stage-wings painted with full sized trees. Misc-036.

Right: Main stage curtain from the Holy Trinity Parish Hall. These murals were vivid reminders of the 'old country', and were highly visible within the community. To be photographed, these huge murals had to be laid out on the ground, resulting in a slight 'looking upward' effect. These unique pieces of Ukrainian-Canadians were donated to the Ukrainian Cultural & Education Centre in Winnipeg. Misc-037.







*Chapter Six*  
*Sport &*  
*Recreation*



Above: Baseball game being played during a picnic and carnival held in Poplarfield, 1960. SR-034.



Above: George Leduchowski as a teenager c1950. For more than fifty years, George was 'Mr. Baseball' in the Interlake region. SR-110.



Above: Poplarfield baseball team, 1943-44. B-R: Bill Bailley, Mike Klowak, Peter Horodecki, Peter Klowak, Norman Klowak, Mike Ptashnyk. FR: Peter Zasitko and Peter Bailley. SR-046.

*"The late 40s and the 50s will always be remembered as the great days of Interlake Baseball. Young men, who had spent hundreds of hours playing ball in town and local schools, moved up to join community teams and compete in regional tournaments every weekend. These became great sporting events with very large crowds of fans of all ages. Poplarfield had their own team - the Poplarfield Ukrainian Athletic Club (P.U.A.C.). Many great players came to play during these decades, including Manitoba Hall of Famer, George Leduchowski." - Lawrence Suchar.*



Above: Poplarfield Baseball Team, 1953. BR: John Sachowski, Walter Tycholis, Walter Podaima, Bill Leochko, Bill Kartushyn. FR: Peter Torbiak, Mike Leochko, Mike Sachowski, Danny Torbiak. SR-006.



Above: Chatfield baseball team, 1957. B-R: John Kempa, George Leduchowski, Joe Leduchowski, Norris Pawlychka, Paul Leduchowski, Art Levallee. FR: Dan Leduchowski, Gord Levallee, Eddie Iwanusiw, Peter Genyk, Steven Banera. SR-017.



Left: Chatfield Baseball Team, c.1952. BR: Joe Leduchowski, Fred Kempa, Fred Kibsey, Fred Masiak, John Kempa. FR: Steve Kowal, Harry Sushkewich, John Kowal, George Leduchowski. SR-003.

*"During the 1950s and 60s each town had a team. We had tournaments all summer long. In Chatfield we had at least three a summer, most of the other towns had at least one each year. Yea, I guess you could say I was Chatfield's principal pitcher, but there were others on the team that would help out and pitch a few games, guys like Fred Daciw, Fred Masiak and Ron Jeremy." - George Leduchowski.*



Left: Poplarfield Ukrainian Athletic Club Baseball team, 1947. BR: Churchill Klump, Norman Klowak; Walter Klowak; Bill Bailley (standing), Bill Klump, Eric Orlesky. FR: Peter Lisowecki, Ben Klowak, Peter Klowak, Peter Zasitko. SR-008.



Right: Baseball was not only a man's sport. During the late 1930s and 1940s a number of women's tournaments were organized. Here, a team from Wheathill district was photographed at a tournament in Oak Bank, Manitoba on July 1, 1940. BR: Anne Yanisiw, Lily Pawlychka; Nellie Swedlo; Anna Yanisiw, Anne Kempa, Frances Yaremus, Pauline Swedlo. FR: Nellie Kempa, Kay Leduchowski, Anne Yaremus. SR-055.





Above: Poplarfield "Cubs" Little League team photographed after a game at Riverton in 1963. Anne Ledohowski coached and managed the team, which played league games in several local communities during the early 1960s. L-R: Daniel Lapka, George Torbiak, Tony Genyk, Ed Ledohowski, Claude Todd, Gordie Leduchowski, Ron Chekosky, Bob Wallach, Ken Chekosky, Danny & Lenny Horodecki, Victor Wallach. SR-050.



Left: The winning team at the Poplarfield 1975 Community Picnic. BR: Ron Sumka, Ed Horodecki, Ed Ledohowski, Larry Swar, Michael Ostryzniuk. FR: Brian Podaima, Wayne Ledohowski, David Kicenko, Dennis Podaima. SR-058.







Above: The Poplarfield Eagles hockey team visiting the team from Hodgson, 1949-50. BR: Walter Horodecki, John Kuklica, Churchill Klump, John Roschuk, Alec Kolakowski, Laurie Klump. FR: Billy Kartushyn, Peter Torbiak, Mike Leochko, Danny Torbiak, Joe Bailley. The Poplarfield Eagles school team played teams from Hodgson, Fisher Branch, and Inwood. Mike Ozubko, Nick Korpesho, and Mike Torbiak provided transportation. The team was loaded onto the back of a 3-ton truck which was covered by a canvas top and heated with a small wood stove. SR-005.



Above: Poplarfield Panthers Hockey Team, 1962. BR: Harry Leochko, Ben Ledohowski, Leo Ledohowski. FR: Myrs Leochko, Bill Uruski, Mike Nosal. SR-010.

*"Panthers Victorious at Inwood. On Wednesday, January 24, 1962 the Poplarfield Panthers defeated the Inwood Saints, 3-0 in a well-matched contest. The first goal was scored near the ten minute mark of the first period by Myrs Leochko on a pass from behind the net. Jim Husiak scored several minutes later while Inwood was shorthanded by a penalty; he also scored the last goal of the game on a breakaway. Goalie, Bill Uruski, stopped 16 shots in gaining his first shutout of the season." Related in Vol.1 No.1 of "Campus Chatter", the Poplarfield Collegiate students newsletter.*



Left: Playing shinny on the ditches, late 1950s. OBR: Rudy Kowalyk, Jimmy Husiak, George Kowalyk. FR: Michael Sokulski, Orest Pododworny. SR-032.

*"The kids loved playing hockey. As long as they did their chores, I didn't mind because it kept them out from under my feet in the house. There wasn't much money then. The kids made hockey sticks from poplar limbs curved at one end. The puck was a frozen horse bun. My son Michael got his first real hockey puck for Christmas the year this picture was taken. We might as well have given him the moon - that's how proud he was. Just at the spot across the road from our place, the ditch was quite wide, and after a wet fall, it made a nice-sized "rink". The team kept the snow shovelled off. Jimmy Husiak was the goalie as he was the youngest. My husband Peter still had a few horses, and we had quite a few horse collars. One time the boys had stacked horse collars over top of Jimmy and then wound a mile of baler twine around him to hold them in place. Jimmy had a lot of guts to stand there while the rest shot the puck at him. All he could do was hold his stick and blink his eyes. If the puck knocked him off his skates, the boys cheerfully stood him up again. Those boys had so much fun playing hockey." - Severine Sokulski.*



Above Left: The Poplarfield hockey team of 1966 plays host to a team from Peguis. Notice the hockey uniforms, or lack thereof, the missing "boards", and the suspended lights for nighttime use of the rink. SR-012.

Above: Ken Chekosky and brother Ron practice their face-off skills in 1961, at the schoolyard hockey rink. SR-013.

Left: 1960, February- Poplarfield Hocky Club. BR: Johnny Torbiak, Mike Nosal, Ben Ledohowski, Harry Leochko, Ed Skibinski, Leo Ledohowski. FR: Myrs Leochko, Donny Bailley, Billy Uruski, Billy Sachowski, Jimmy Husiak. SR-011.

Right: Ron Chekosky, Assistant Captain, with the Fisher Blades senior hockey team, 1971. A promising career was cut short when Ron seriously fractured his leg in a fall caused by an errant hockey helmet screw on the ice. SR-057.





Above: Snowmobiles became increasingly common in the Poplarfield district during the late 1960s. Trail riding and bush parties soon became a popular winter pastime. Steve Kicenko poses with his new Ski-doo snowmobile in 1971. SR-027.



Above: Larry Leschyshyn illustrating the power of his racing snowmobile at a race meet held near Arborg during the late 1970s. Larry raced snowmobiles for several years, competing with the likes of the Villeneuve's from Quebec. SR-029.

### Snowmobiling



Above: Running the fencelines and cruising through the marshes on snowmobile was a great deal of fun, but risky, as it was easy to get completely bogged down in the deep soft snow. Ed Ledohowski was photographed in 1979 on one of the local sloughs. SR-026.



Above: Snowmobile party stop for lunch and a photograph, c1967. BR: Margie Swar, Pauline Zuk, Mike Ledohowski, Mary Surminski, Roy Surminski. FR: Bill Swar, Fred Zuk. Partially visible at the right rear is one of Mike's early homemade snowmobiles. SR-064.



Above: Snowmobile party at warm up hut, at Hecla Provincial Park, 1981. SR-085.



Above and below left: Poplarfield snowmobiling party encounters water laden snow while on a trip near Hecla Island. SR-059, SR-060.



Above: Larry Leschysyn cruising the fencelines with his snowmobile, c1973. The most challenging snowbanks were to be found along the fencelines where the stonepiles and scrub vegetation caused drifting on the leeward side. SR-062.



Above: Fred Zuk checking out the engine of his snowmobile during a winter outing near Poplarfield, c1975. Weekend 'ski-doo trips' were very popular with local enthusiasts during the 1970s and 1980s, and normally included a bonfire and lunch somewhere out on the trail. SR-061.

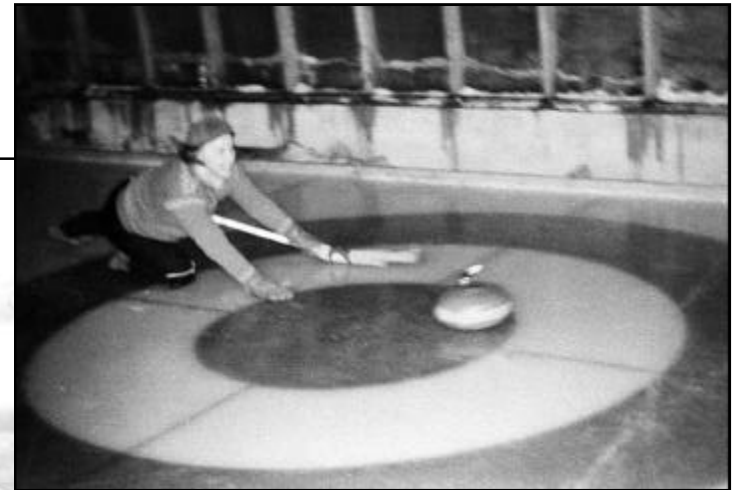




Poplarfield Community Centre and Curling Rink in 1992. CL-108.

**POPLARFIELD CURLING CLUB.** The Poplarfield Curling Rink was constructed in 1967 as the community's national centennial project, with assistance from both levels of government. Located immediately adjacent to, and connected with the community hall by a short hallway, It was a 2-sheet wood frame structure supported by laminated "D-ring" rafters. It had natural ice, so 'square draw' curling didn't normally commence until the ice was made and the circles painted, usually by mid November. Mike Ledohowski took an ice-making course in Winnipeg and was principal ice maker for most of the short history of the club. He was assisted by Joe Chudy, Joe Mazur and others. As did other communities with rinks, each year the Club sponsored an annual 3-event Men's bonspiel, a mixed bonspiel and several novelty 'spiels. It was a very lively place during the winter months throughout the 1970s and 1980s. With continued rural depopulation, and the growth of other winter pastimes, the club eventually folded due to lack of members and funds. The building was then used as an ice skating rink for the local children. The club's 'square draw' sheet lists the following 20 teams competing during the club's first season in 1967-68. "Surminski; F Zuk; M Ledohowski; J Chudy; M Stasiuk; M Nevakshonoff; R Chekosky; D Kicenko; D Ostryzniuk; H Pododworny; R Podaima; A Ledohowski; W Pomanski; Mrs Trachuk; M.A. Troschuk; V Buchko; M Ostryzniuk; R Yaremy; J Ostryzniuk and Olafson".

The Curling Club



Above: The only photograph in the community collection showing a curler in action at the Poplarfield Curling Rink. Anne Ledohowski was photographed in March 1969. As many women as men, curled at the club and the local bonspiel circuit during the 1970s and early 1980s. SR-037.



Above: Mike Nevakshonoff presents the Coronation Hotel Prize at Poplarfield's first Annual Curling Bonspiel, 1967. L-R: Doug Neighbour, Victor Buchko, Mike Nevakshonoff, Mike Homick, Tony Chudyk. SR-019.





Above left: Winners of the National Garage first event trophy during the Poplarfield Curling Club 1968 Annual Men's Bonspiel. Winners that year were the Don Cymbalisky rink from Fisher Branch. Mike Ledohowski presenting the trophy to: unknown, Brian Dion, Dennis Giasson, Don Cymbalisky. SR-067.



Above left: Nick Samorodny presents the Poplarfield Transfer trophy to the second event winners during the Poplarfield Curling Club annual Bonspiel. Winners were the Bob Smith rink from Fisher Branch. L-R: Bob Smith, unknown, Mr. Johnny Kuryk, and Eddy Konopatsky. SR-066.



Above: Dan Horodecki, Ed Kops, Len Horodecki and team mate show off their prizes for their placement during one of the Poplarfield Curling Club annual bonspiels. The top winners had first pick of prizes. By the time the third and fourth placed teams in each event had their pick, there was usually slim pickings left. The Saturday supper was always a much enjoyed highlight of the Poplarfield Annual Bonspiel, an outstanding meal was always in store for the curlers. SR-068.



Above: Karen Chekosky and daughter Kaila enjoying an indoor skate in the former Poplarfield Curling Rink, 1993. SR-106.



Above: Some of the local men go goose hunting in the autumn of 1959. L-R: Frank Wallach, unknown, Stanley Buchko, Bill Horodecki, Victor Buchko, Charlie Wallach. From the earliest days the countryside teemed with ducks, primarily mallards but also pintails and teals. With the great abundance of lowlands for nesting and feeding, great duck populations continued until the drainage programs started affecting them in the 1940s. Geese were not such a common sight. With the exception of migratory flocks, native geese could be found at larger and more permanent water bodies to the north and west of our communities. SR-042.



Above: Showing of the results of a good day of hunting Canada Geese in the Poplarfield area. L-R: Gary Leochko, Dennis Podaima, Clifford Klump, October 1991. SR-070.

Right: Len Horodecki and son Lyle showing off the results of their Poplarfield area goose hunt in 1999. SR-042.



Ducks & Geese



Above: Part of a large flock of Canada Geese making their way to a feeding site on a harvest grain field, Poplarfield District, 1975. SR-069.



Left: Four deer for a hunting party of six. Lots of meat this winter! L-R: Barry Henderson, Joe Chudy, Eddy Mazer (kneeling), Metro Daciw, Alf Jarvis (kneeling), and Mike Ledohowski, c1980. SR-077.



Right: A few of the boys from Poplarfield invited friends from Winnipeg and Dryden to a deer hunt in fall 1980. It appears that it was worth the trip. Identified are: Steve Kicenko and Mike Nosal (side by side at centre), Kazimer Roschuk (kneeling next to the deer), and John Kylyk, (with the beard). SR-021.



Above: A successful deer hunt in the Poplarfield area, 1978. BR: Corp. Gorden King, unknown, Joe Chudy, Steve Shwaluik. FR: Const. Tom Reimer, Fred Zuk. SR-071.



Above: A party of local hunters pose with their successful hunt of four Whitetail deer, early 1990s. Included in this party were, standing: Cliff Klump, Garry Kochan, Cecil Emms, Rudy Marko, Donny Leochko, Gary Leochko, and Andy Marko. Seated: Brian Hanna, Dennis Podaima, David Breland. SR-073.



Left and below: Hamrlik district men on an extended deer hunt in the Mulvihill district, NE of Eriksdale, late 1950s. Posing for a portrait are L-R: Harry Bazilewich, Mike Sumka, John Bazilewich and Bill Marko. The track assembly on John's 1950 Ferguson tractor was a kit purchased and installed for hunting and farmyard purposes. The little homemade shack, heated with a small wood stove, was where the hunters slept, and stored their gear. As one photo shows, cooking was done outside over a propane heater. SR-074, SR-075, SR-076.

*"Deer were not common in the early years. A species that thrives on land with second growth vegetation, they appeared once the heavy coniferous forests were opened up. By the 1930s, they were common and sons of pioneers hunted them for their meat. Hunting as a sport came much later, around the 1950s when local hunters went out to Sharpewood area to hunt for deer, and up north past Hodgson into the Red Rose area for moose." - Lawrence Suchar.*



Deer Hunting





Above: Three happy local young hunters. David Breland, Terry Leochko and Garry Kochan show off a very nice Whitetail deer rack in 1979. This one appears to be good enough to enter in the annual Fisher Game & Fish Assoc. banquet and trophy night. SR-102.



Above: Ron Chekosky and Daniel Lapka pose with three of a larger group of very satisfied foreign sportsmen who came up to the Poplarfield region to enjoy the chance at a good deer hunt. The large wildlife population of the region spawned a number of outfitting businesses. Big Antler Outfitters run by Ron Chekosky, King Buck Outfitters run by Larry Leschyshyn, and Rainbow Outfitters run by Terry Leochko are three such enterprises based right in Poplarfield. SR-103.



Above: Two well-outfitted, and very pleased, client hunters. Sportsmen from throughout the United States and Western Europe have hunted the Poplarfield district, bringing employment and a respected name for the district. SR-105.



Above: A view of a typical well-outfitted hunting camp in the Poplarfield locality. SR-104.





Above: Brenda and Terry Leochko showing off three beaver pelts trapped in Buffalo Lake in 1980. SR-101.



Above and right: With eleven boys in the Fred & Anna Leduchowski family of Wheathill, trapping and hunting was a natural. The view above shows Paul and George in 1948 "sighting in" the family's rifles. On the right, 11 years earlier, Paul and George watch brother John departing on a trapping trip to Fish Lake, six miles to the southeast. John used Blahey's 'haying cabin' as a camp. SR-107, SR-108.



Right: Terry and daughter Jenna Leochko standing in front of his 'fence' of 81 coyotes and nine fox pelts, 1991. The Leochko family was well known for being avid hunters and trappers. SR-100.





Above: John Bazilewich showing off the rewards of his winter's hunting and trapping activities. Included in the haul are coyote, fox, muskrat, and weasel pelts. Trapping and hunting for furs was an important income supplement for many families in the region. With the numerous sloughs and small lakes and extensive forest cover in the region, game and furs were plentiful well into the 1960s and 1970s. These particular furs were sold to the S.I. Robinson store in Winnipeg. SR-054.



Left: Jerry Leochko, Joe Chudy and Mike Ledohowski pose with Joe's first ever moose, 1956. SR-002. "Joe Chudy's first moose. Oh, that was quite a time. At that time, hardly anybody from Poplarfield had hunted moose, cause there wasn't any moose around here, they were all up north. We just hunted deer. And we decided to try and get ourselves a moose. So Joe Chudy and I drove up to Riverton and stayed at my cousin Sid's place. Then next morning the three of us drove up to the Beaver Creek area. We walked about nine miles into the bush, through swamps, with snow up to the knees. And we would have to walk across floating bog at times. Sid was out front, I was walking in the middle and Joe Chudy was walking behind me. I looked back at Joe, and all of a sudden he disappeared. I ran over and looked down and there he was hanging on to his rifle which was caught on the sides of a hole. Yea, he went through into an underground creek right up to his neck. So, we got him out and walked about three quarters of a mile to get into the bush. When we got there his clothes were all frozen hard. We made a big fire and had to help him take his clothes off. And we got him dried off.

We came back and walked again for a couple of days. We walked about twelve miles, each way. Joe saw a moose and fired, but missed. Anyway, we had been there longer than we intended and it was time I headed back home, so we went back to Poplarfield, empty handed. But Joe Chudy wanted to go back, especially since he had seen a moose there and he wanted to get one. He had never shot a moose before, he had never even seen one before. And so, he decided to make up a story that we had shot one but we couldn't get it out. So Bill Marko and Roy Skrabyk said they'd go back with him to Beaver Creek and help get it out if they got a share of the meat. Joe Chudy didn't say anything to them until they got right into the area. When he told them that there was no moose, Bill Marko

wanted to go back home. Joe said we're already here, let's at least stay for awhile. And within half an hour Joe Chudy got his moose. A big bull moose too! So now the story was true! There was a moose and they couldn't get it out. So they came back to town to get some help try and figure out how to get it out. And we decided to try using a horse to pull it out. We went to Fred Zuk's, as he had an old mare, and we figured we'd get the mare and an old farmsled and get the moose out that way. We then borrowed Ozubko's truck, put the horse on the truck and took it all the way up to Beaver Creek. But we couldn't even get near the moose, the horse kept breaking through the floating bog. We just about lost it once. So we had to turn around and take her back. Marko and Skarbek were sure that we'd never get that moose out, that it was probably eaten by wolves or ravens. But Joe said he didn't care what it took he was going to get it out.

So after some thought, Chudy phoned his brother Bud who had a mink ranch in Fisher Branch to ask him what we could do. He said that Vandersteen had a homemade snow toboggan that Steve Williams had built it for him. Bud Chudy then got Vandersteen to come and try to pull the moose out with this snow toboggan. Roy Skrabyk, Bill Marko and Joe Chudy went up there with Vandersten and they got the moose out. That machine pulled the moose and four men eight miles to the road where the trucks were. His charge was only fifteen dollars. All of us who were involved got a share of the moose.

Yea, Joe Chudy's got a picture of that first moose, it's hanging in his garage. That was his first moose. He almost drowned and froze to death getting it. But he got it. Yea that was a big deal, the whole town came out to see when they brought it in. Not many had seen a moose before and the story got around about this moose and the trouble we had. That was really something, everybody came to see. - Mike Ledohowski.

Below: Stan Troschuk presenting Nick Sandulak with a trophy during one of the annual Fisher Game & Fish Association annual awards banquets in Poplarfield, c1975. SR-080.



Above: Mike Ledohowski and friends show off the results of a moose hunting excursion to the Beaver Creek district in the winter of 1962. Mike Ledohowski, at centre front, Joe Chudy, Frank Wallach and Slim Leochko at the right. The children are: Paul Nevakshonoff, Wayne Ledohowski, and at the far right, Tom Nevakshonoff. Note Mike's homemade bombardier in the background. SR-078.



Left: Joe Chudy presenting Don Zembik with a trophy during one of the annual Fisher Game & Fish Association annual awards banquets in Poplarfield, c1975. SR-079.

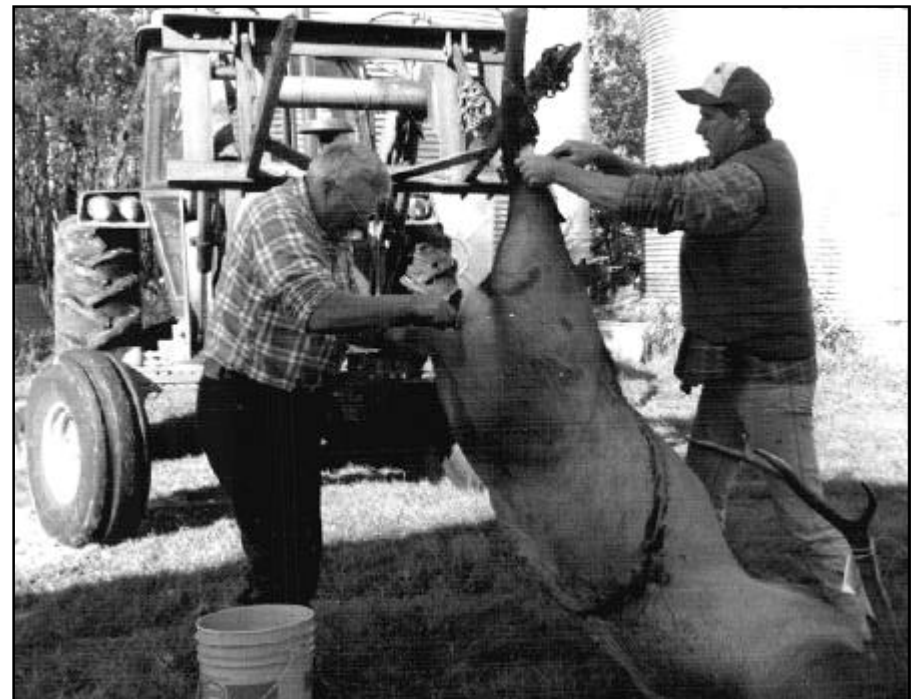




Above: Bill Horodecki and son Len show the elk they shot in the Poplarfield area, in 1998. Elk was reintroduced into the central Interlake in 1975, and before long grew to sufficient numbers that a limited hunting season for elk was introduced. SR-082.



Above right: Metro Daciw with the elk he shot in the Poplarfield area, 1981. Mike Ledohowski assisting with the skinning and meat cutting. Elk was reintroduced into the Interlake Region as a Provincial initiative, and the animals soon thrived making a limited hunt season possible. A mail-in lottery system is still used to select those sportsmen wanting an opportunity to hunt Elk. SR-083.



Right: Charlie Wallach and son David commence the task of skinning and cleaning the elk carcass. Elk is considered good eating and rarely is there difficulty in using up the entire supply. Often a variety of items were made from wild meat, including sausages of various types, jerky, hamburger, steaks and roasts. SR-108.

## Elk Hunting





Above: Mike Nevakshonoff and Joe Wallach show off some of the rewards of their visit to Mike's Aberdeen Lodge located on Lake Athapapuskow. Mike purchased the lodge, located near The Pas around 1965, and is still in the family, now managed by son Paul. SR-018.



Right: Ron Chekosky with an extra large Jackfish which he caught in Pigeon River in 1979. Ron's love of the outdoors prompted him to establish the Big Antler Outfitters Company during the 1980s, bringing sportsmen from around the globe to enjoy the rich hunting environment of the Poplarfield region. SR-084



Top and above: Mike Ledohowski and Fred Zuk ice-fishing, 1984. Mantagao Lake and Hecla Island were frequent sites for ice-fishing trips on snowmobile. SR-086.



Above: Mike Ledohowski and sister Sabina Feeley pose for a photograph after taking a spin around the district, 1981. In 1979 Mike took up flying lessons and at age 65 was the oldest graduate to come out of the Gimli Flying School. He flew actively until he was 75. SR-025.



Above: David Kicenko giving his first plane ride after obtaining his pilot licence in 1974. Airplane is a 185 Cessna. Photo: Steve & Ruth Kicenko. The lucky first passengers are Pauline Marko and David's mom, Ruth Kicenko. SR-022.



Above: A Piper PA-12 taking off from a farm landing strip. Note the rainshowers off to the east. SR-047.



Above: David Wallach with his Piper PA-12 airplane, c1990. High Plains District. SR-090.



SR-052.

*"I learned to fly when I was 15 years old, but had to wait until I was 16 to get my pilot licence. I started crop dusting in 1975 with a Piper J3 with a 90 hp engine. It had a 45 gallon tank installed where the rear seat would have been. In 1977 I bought Jim Gulay's 'Koolair' business and operated it until 1989. The aircraft was a Piper Pawnee PA-25 with a 235 hp engine. At first there was a lot of timothy crops being grown in the Interlake, and a majority of my early work was applying granular fertilizer on timothy at 200 lbs. per acre. My plane at the time only carried enough fertilizers to do two one-half mile passes before it had to be reloaded. On average I did about 40,000 acres a season. As the years went by, crop production changed. Alfalfa was increasingly being grown for seed purposes. This required an application of Roundup her-*



SR-053.

*bicide in the spring, several insecticides through the growing season, and in the fall the alfalfa had to be sprayed with a desiccant to make it easier to harvest. Sometimes, I was in the same fields about five times a season. Occasionally I sprayed yards for mosquito control, pastures for bush control, and wheat crops for general weed control. The busiest time would be when it would rain for days just at the time when the crops needed to be sprayed and the farmers were not able to get on their field with their ground sprayers. I would start at 3:30 am and finish at 11:00 pm, and I would still be 10-15,000 acres behind. After the spraying season, I was a flying instructor in Winnipeg for a time." - David Ostryzniuk.*



SR-091.



Above: Terry Podaima towing Ron Chekosky's airplane back to the runway along a swath cut into a grainfield for the purpose. While out flying in his brother-in-law's plane in 1980, the engine stalled and Terry had to make a delicate emergency landing in a grain field, only two miles from the home runway. Both passenger and plane made it down safely. SR-092.



Top: An airplane meet at Anama Bay for a day of ice-fishing. Mike Ledohowski, Fred Zuk, Ron and Kurt Chekosky from Poplarfield among the gathered. 1984. SR-088.

Above: Close call. During a misty early morning takeoff, the left wing of the spray plane clipped a hydro pole guideline, sending David Ostryzniuk and plane into the ditch and creating an unplanned stoppage in work, c1980. SR-093.

Left: Ron Chekosky and daughter Kaila beside Ron's float plane and one of his equipment boats, used in his Big Antler Outfitters business, c1995. SR-094.





Above: The Swarychewski family float during the 1970 Manitoba Centennial parade in Poplarfield. Orest Swarychewski at the wheel and sister Diane and cousin Jessie guests of honor on the float. Both 1967 and 1970 Centennials were well celebrated in Poplarfield with parades, picnics, and socials. CL-066.



Above: Mike Ledohowski and Joe Chudy representing the Community Centre board, leading the parade down High Plains Road, followed in this picture by local dignitaries in a convertible, and a team and wagon. CL-067.



Above and right: Poplarfield 4-H Clubs on parade in Selkirk, The Gay Gardeners, and the Timbleteens, c1963. During the 1960s a variety of 4-H clubs were functioning in the Poplarfield area. SR-004, SR-014.





Above: Enjoying an outing of 'smorshi' picking in the Poplarfield area. Eugene & Myrtle Ukrainice and Ann & Henry Stawychny show off the results of an afternoon of picking morel mushrooms. There was likely a good feast of smorshi fried up with butter and farm cream that evening. By the 1970s, with less and less land being cleared and burned off, the ideal 'post-fire' environment for the mushrooms was less evident, and good picking areas became closely guarded secrets. SR-038.



Above: Bill Horodecki showing some fine examples of the morel mushrooms or "smorshi". Morels such as these fine examples were highly prized delicacies. SR-043.



Right: 1985 was a bumper crop year for 'pidpenky' mushroom picking in the Poplarfield area. In one particular spot ten 5-gallon pails were filled in only four hours. Pictured here sorting and cleaning an impressive haul of the delicacy are Stella Rozak, John Swarychewski and Pete Rozak. SR-098.

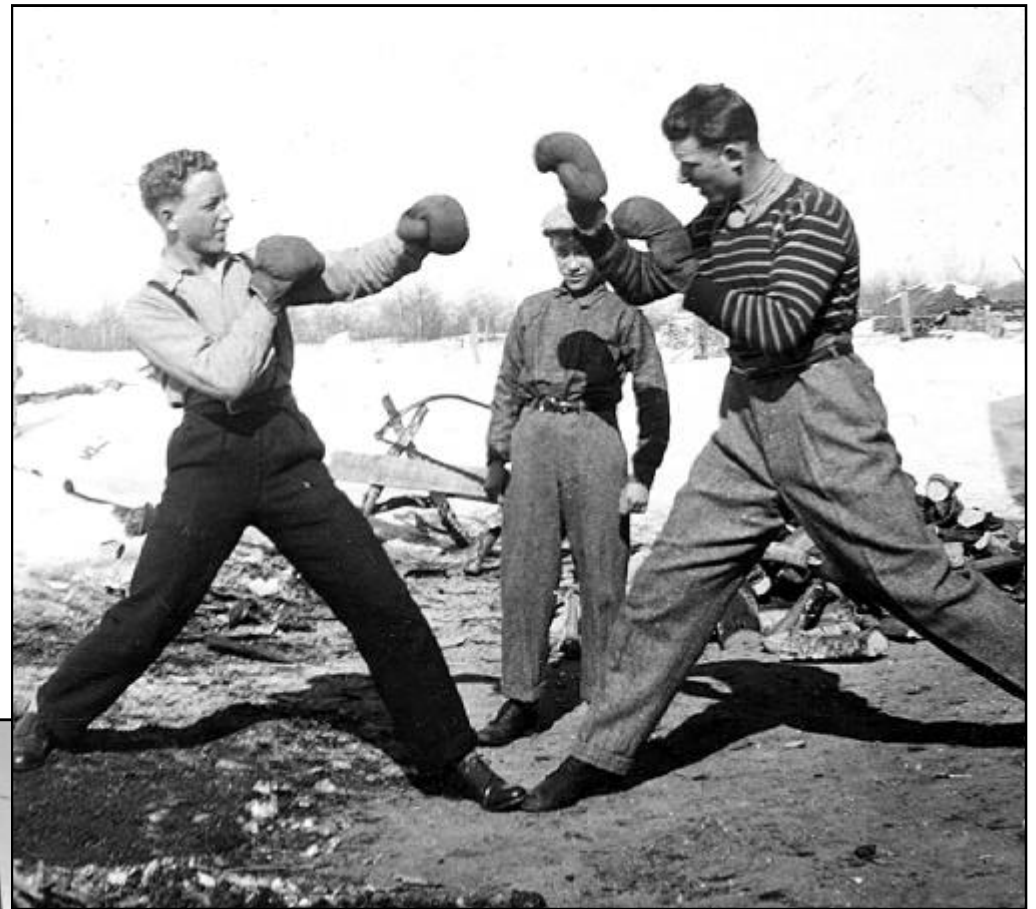
Left: Mushrooms yet to be cleaned and packaged are laid out on a bed sheet in the basement to keep them cool. SR-099.



Mushroom Picking

Right: Churchill and Bill Klump sparring in the spring weather. Brother Laurie Klump serves as referee. Judging by the well-worn toe-hold area, the boys were at it for awhile before this photograph was taken. SR-044.

*"The Klump brothers are hamming it up for the camera in this scene around 1945. All three went on to become members of our town's P.U.A.C. baseball team with Churchill pitching, Bill catching and Laurie at shortstop. Bill, with his uncanny abilities and love of all sports, went on to become one of the greatest athletes of the Interlake. A Jim Thorpe type of our time, he excelled in track and field, could play any position in baseball, and consistently hit the long ball, first with local teams and then in organized baseball in Winnipeg. He never had a chance to play high school football but went on to play with the St. Vital Bulldogs in the senior league; he was also a wrestler and a boxer who took on all comers at Winnipeg's 400 Athletic Club where Manitoba's finest trained in the 1950s, and at exhibition matches in Manitoba towns." - Lawrence Suchar.*



Left: Mike Sachowski pulling the starting rope on a go-cart being driven by Mike Ozubko. The cart was owned and built by Mike's brother Bill Sachowski, who regularly drove into town from the Sachowski farm in the High Plains District. Looking on is Myrtle Ukrainice. October, 1968. SR-039.



Above left: Orest Pododworny and Micheal Sokulski dressed as "Uncle and Aunt Jamima" for Halloween, c1950. CS-056.

Above: Poplarfield elementary students dressed for Halloween, 1970. SR-036.

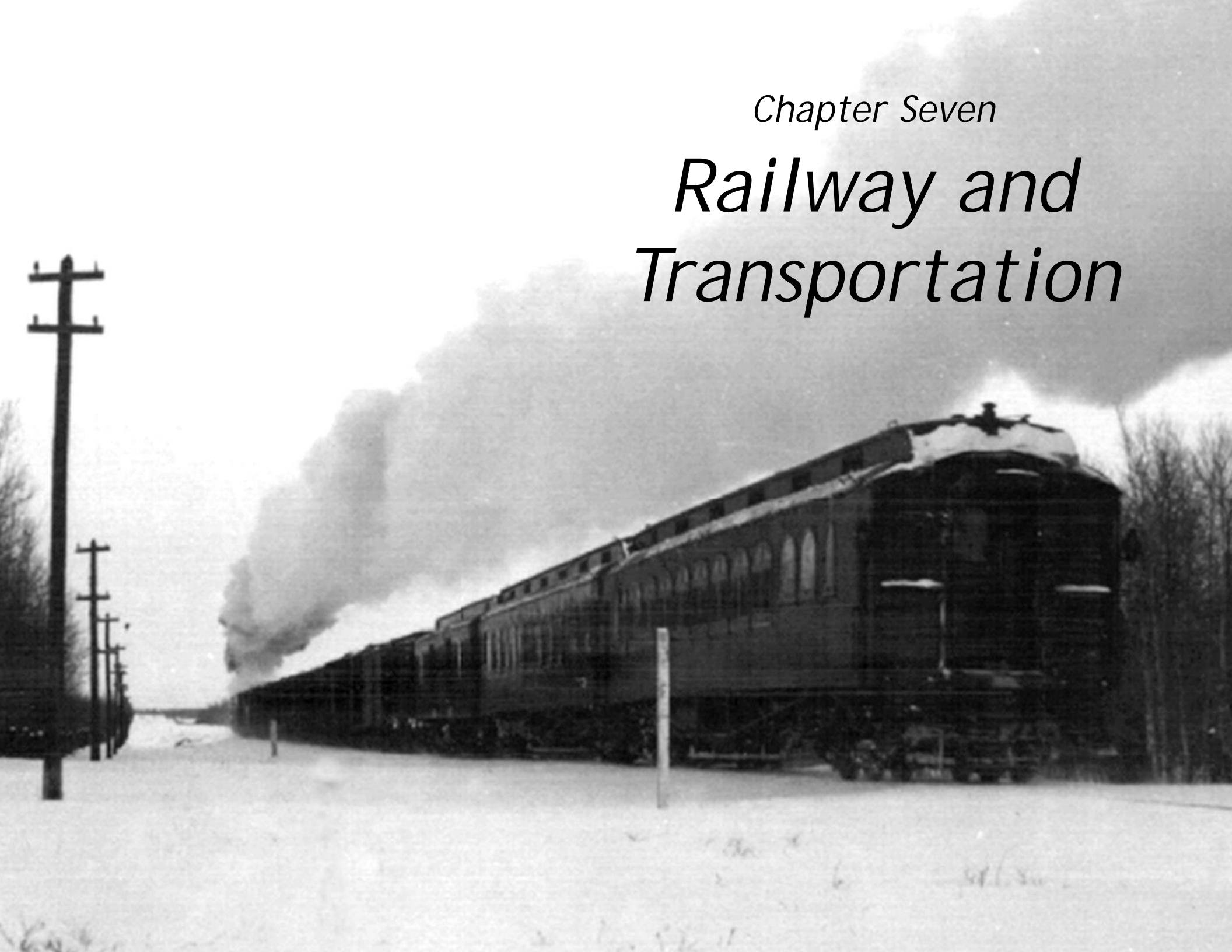
Left: Robin Hood and an anonymous penguin ready for the school Halloween party, 1962. SR-109.

Right: Some rather well-made costumes being sported in Poplarfield, 1960. SR-111.



*Chapter Seven*

# *Railway and Transportation*







Above: Supply train photographed bringing construction materials to the railhead during construction of the Canadian Northern Inwood Subdivision branchline, 1914. Note that the locomotive is pushing the flatcars to the work site, and also that only every second tie was placed into position during initial construction. Work crews would later fill in the gaps using the ties left along the grade. RTM-002.



Above left: Canadian Northern Railway employees using a motorized 'jigger' car to inspect a section of track along the Inwood Subdivision north of Poplarfield, c1916. A jigger going up and down the line with workers was a familiar sight and sound in the district for many years. RTM-065.

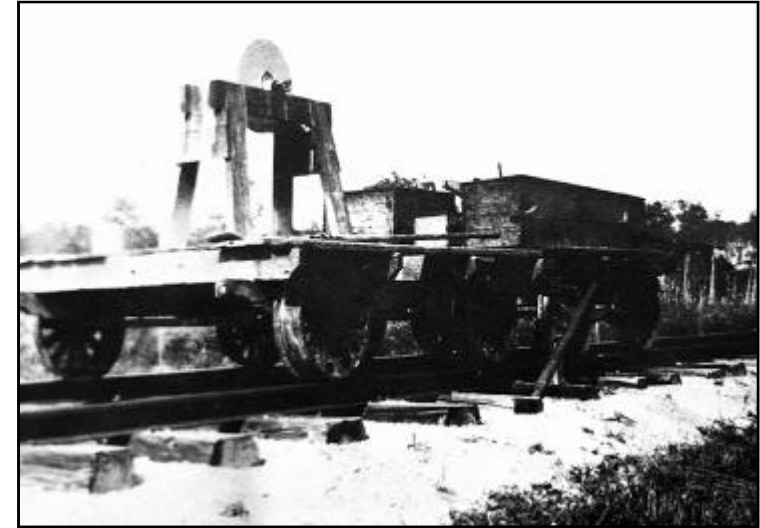


Left: A man in a suit, probably not a railway employee, trying out a rare one-man, hand-powered 'jigger'. Taken in Fisher Branch, c1916. The four person hand-pump jigger was more typical of early crew transportation. RTM-066.





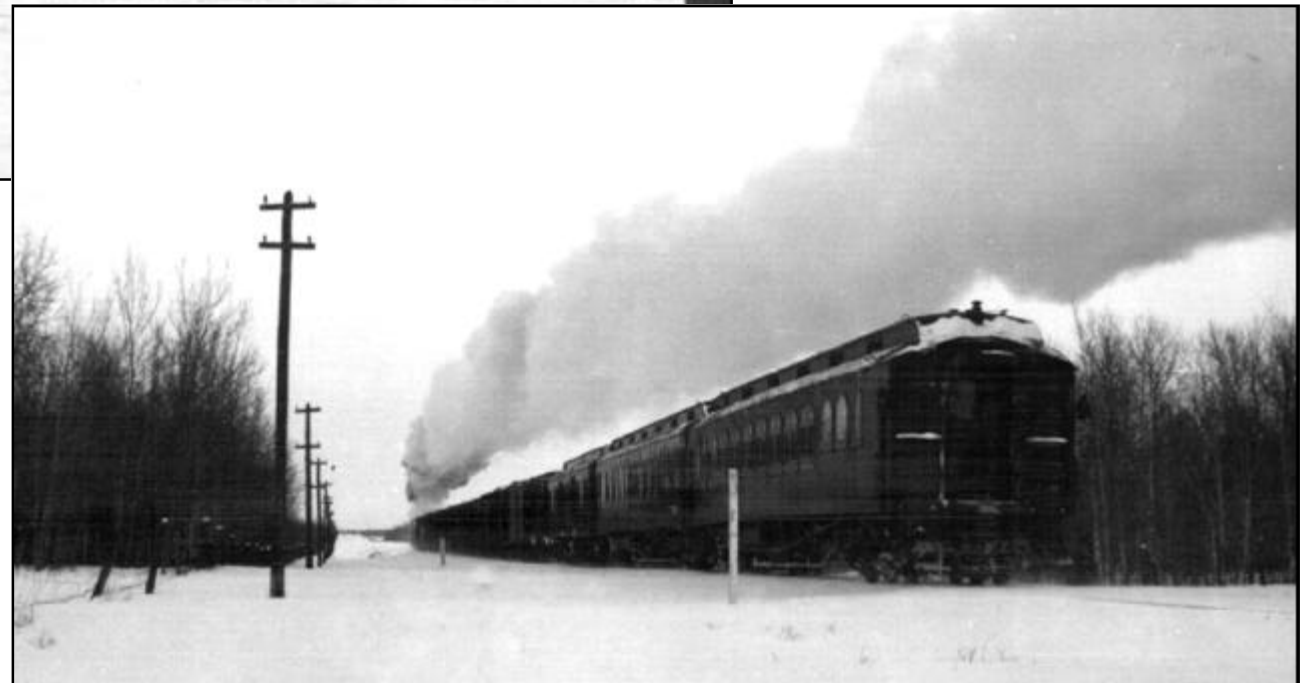
Above: View of a typical 'section gang' doing maintenance work along the right of way, in this case, it is the crew from Hodgson, July 19, 1929. L-R: Bill Mamchuk, Alec Rykunyk, Harry Porcina, unknown, and Mike Stefanec. The Poplarfield Section Gang was known for possessing a very distinctive home made cab on its the motorized "jigger" car used to transport the crews to work sites. RTM-028 .



Above right: Photograph of a grindstone in a home-made stand mounted on a railway 'push car'. This item would have been frequently used to sharpen the scythes and other tools used by the railway section gangs in keeping the vegetation down and the grade maintained along the railway right-of-way. RTM-010.



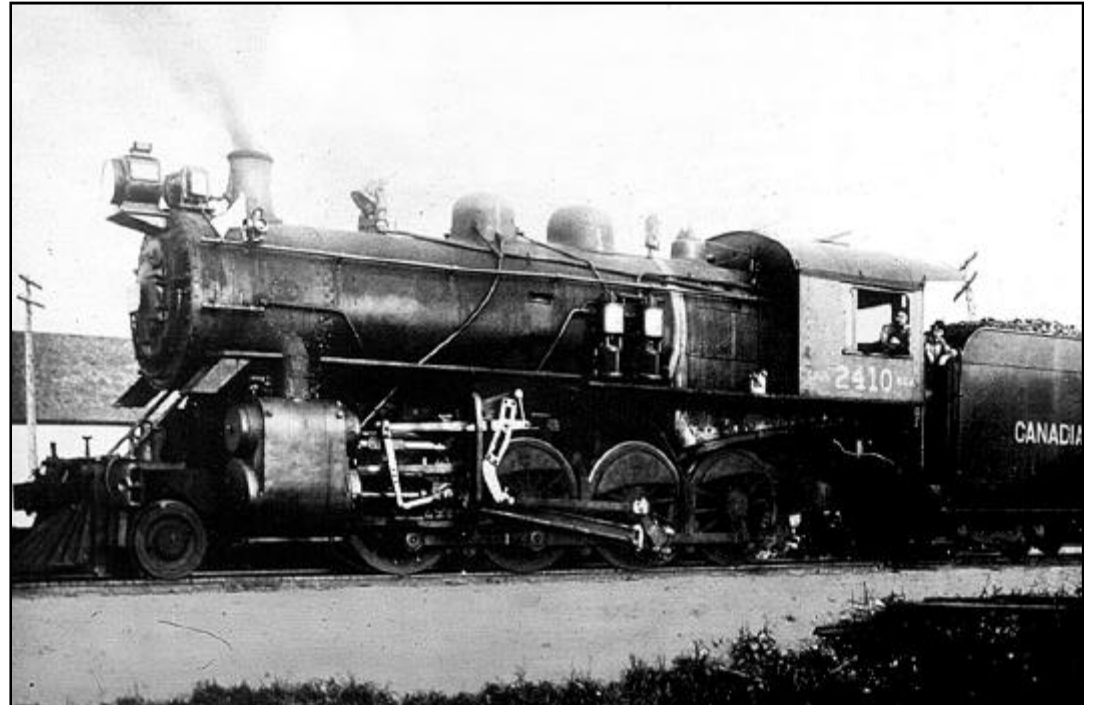
Right: A scene that was repeated almost daily for more than a half century, a 'section gang' riding the "jigger" to the day's work site. The distinctive 'puc-puc' sound of the engine could be heard for miles on quiet days. RTM-060.



Above and right: Andrew Malofie took these two superb photographs of a train as it passed by his father's farmstead near Fisher Branch, heading for Broad Valley, Poplarfield and points beyond, Ukrainian Christmas morning, January 8, 1941. RTM-024, RTM-025.

TRAINS ction		Miles from Grosse Isle	Water, Coal, Wye	INWOOD SUBDIVISION		Telegraph Calls	SECOND CLASS
129 Mixed / Tues. Fri.	STATIONS Telegraph Offices			130 Mixed Wed. Sat.			
9.55	0.0 W	GROSSE ISLE D G S	15.05				
		Jet. with Oak Point Subd. 4.8					
10.20	4.8	DRAKE	14.40				
		2.9					
10.35	7.7	ARGYLE	14.25				
		6.7					
11.10	14.4	WOODROYD	13.50				
		6.6					
11.45	21.0 W	ERINVIEW	13.15				
		9.7					
12.35	30.7 Y	INWOOD N D	12.25				
13.05		5.2	11.55				
13.31	35.9	SANDRIDGE	11.29				
		6.7					
14.05	42.6 W	NARCISSE T S	10.55				
		8.0					
14.45	50.6	CHATFIELD T S	10.15				
		6.4					
15.17	57.0	POPLARFIELD	9.43				
		7.5					
15.55	64.5	BROAD VALLEY T S	9.05				
		7.1	8.29				
16.31	71.6	FISHER BRANCH T S	7.46				
17.10		9.1					
18.00	80.7 Y C	HODGSON T S	7.00				
		CENTRAL TIME					
			130				

Above: Train schedule for the C.N.R. Inwood Subdivision. Date unknown. On the way up from Winnipeg the Poplarfield stops were Tuesdays and Fridays at 3:17 pm, and returning from Hodgson it was Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9:43 am. Note the 'Stone Quarry' at mile 65.5 or one mile north of Broad Valley. RTM-026.



Above: Canadian National Railway steam locomotive in Poplarfield. Building partially visible in the left background is the Chatfield Municipal Building, c1930s. By this time Canadian National had bought out all of the Canadian Northern holdings in Manitoba. Train day was always a busy time in Poplarfield, with people coming in from the surrounding countryside to pick up and ship items of all type. As a result, it was a big social event as well. Harry Werbenuk, who had grown up in Poplarfield, operated many of these locomotives as a Fireman and Engineer. He was known to blow the whistle, let out steam, and then spin his wheels, as his trademark, letting people in Poplarfield know it was him at the controls, on those days when he made the Gross Isle to Hodgson run. RTM-030.



Left: Track removal one mile north of Poplarfield, 1991. Throughout the 1970s railway traffic became less frequent and with fewer cars, when the train did come through. Canadian National finally shut down the line completely in 1982. RTM-083.

Below left: The old railbed shortly after the removal of the track, 1991. RTM-083.

Below: Trekkers and a cyclist meet up on the Prime Meridian Trail which runs atop the old railbed between Inwood and Fisher Branch, c1998. L-R: Adam Rehurt, Doug Mackie and his children, Derek and Dana, all from Winnipeg who came up for a fall trek. During the winter the right-of-way is a groomed snowmobile route. RTM-081.



The Railroad

Right: Oscar Carlson and his father pose for a photo in the Chatfield townsite, c1918. Ox teams were the first forms of transportation used by the early settlers. These animals possessed great strength and stamina and could pull heavy loads through swampy terrain or heavy snow. However, their slowness made them unsuitable for extended trips as compared to horses, so once roads were built farmers had to make a choice between the two, as they could not afford to have both. PE-026.



Left: Peter & Katherine Ledochowski with infant son William on a buckboard, dressed in their good clothes headed to town, or perhaps off to church, early-1920s. RTM-053.





Left: John T. Zasitko family members in farm sled. 1940s. From right: Bill, Tom and Annette Zasitko, Nancy Ostryzniuk, Rose and Fred Zasitko, Bill Phillips (married to Annette). RTM-056.

Right: Mike Zuk, Mary Zuk and their son Fred standing in a farm sled on their farm in the Hamrlik District. Children sitting in sled and in the background are other members of the extended family. RTM-057.



Right: Victor and Titanna Wallach and daughter Anne in buggy going to visit a neighbour, c1935. RTM-070.

Below: Olga Horodecki and daughter Jean in buggy about to leave Poplarfield to visit relatives in Zbaraz District. Note the blanket covering their legs, and the shoe box and potted plant in Mrs. Horodecki's lap. RTM-072.



*"Buggies were not too common due to cost of both the buggy and the light horse. A common alternative was to own a democrat, a 4-wheel light wagon with built-in seating similar to that of a buggy but capable of carrying several people. Mounted on leaf springs to soften the bumps of the road it was drawn by two horses, which usually were regular work animals. In many ways it was the "light pickup" of the 30s and 40s. In winter there were three modes of common travel. A light-weight cutter on one pair of thin runners drawn by one or two animals; blankets and heavy comforters kept occupants warm. A four-runner sleigh with a wooden "grain box" for hauling loads to and from town (on homeward trip, driver could bundle up and lie down in the box, and his horses would faithfully bring him home). A caboose mounted on a large sleigh, totally enclosed and heated with a wood stove pulled by two horses. Not a common vehicle, once built by a resident; others borrowed it for long and multi-day trips."*

- Lawrence Suchar.



Above: Sonia Lisowecki being driven from Poplarfield, old town, to New Star school in a one horse open sled. Sonia was teaching in New Star at the time and boarded in the area, but came home for the weekends, c1942. RTM-012.



Above: Team of horses hitched to farm sled and hay rack on the John Werstiuk homestead five miles west of Poplarfield. FL-145.



Above: Peter, Bill and Henry Stawychny on horse drawn farm sled, late-1930s. FL-140.



Above: Mike Sumka's team and wagon in Poplarfield in 1953. Mr. Sumka was one of the last people to regularly use a team and wagon for daily transportation. RTM-078.



Above: A long cold ride home. Peter Sokulski returning home his mother-in-law Antonia Podiuk and sister-in-law, Irene Emms after a visit with Severin Sokulski, in 1944. RTM-043.

*“Until my husband Peter bought the 1947 Internatonal 1-ton truck, horses were our winter transportation. Peter hitched up the box sleigh when we needed to go someplace. Up front, he had set in an old buggy seat and covered it with a horse blanket. The box sleigh let you sit out of the wind, and there was always a pyryna and old quilts piled in one corner if we needed them for staying warm. Hay in the bottom of the sleigh was mostly for the*

*horses. Just like today you wouldn't start out in a car without gas in the tank, then you never went anywhere without hay for the horses. This picture was taken just after a feather bee at our place. Usually when I had a special event at my place, my mother and sister who lived six miles west of Poplarfield, would somehow manage to come and stay for a couple of days. Usually they hitched a ride or walked to Poplarfield, and Peer would meet them there from our side. It was the same for getting them back home. In this picture, Peter is leaving in the box sleigh to take Mama and Irene home. The horses names were Jenny and Gerta.”* - Severine Sokulski.



Above: Bill and Helen Grushka, with daughter Deanna and nephew Fredrick with a team and grain box ready for a trip into town. Note the barn doors on the large new barn in the background. FL-129.



Above: Bill Zaitko on horseback with niece Marlene Phillips, 1953. Bill and his white horse were regulars in town on train day. FL-132.





Above: Nick Luty purchased a new car in 1927, a Ford Touring for \$275.00. Although it could only be used at certain times of the year due to the terrible local road conditions, he eventually was able to make trips to Winnipeg, a distance of 100 miles each way. Later the rear end was removed and the vehicle converted into a small truck. In 1958 it was sold to Joe Zaitko and became a fixture in the High Plains District. RTM-011.

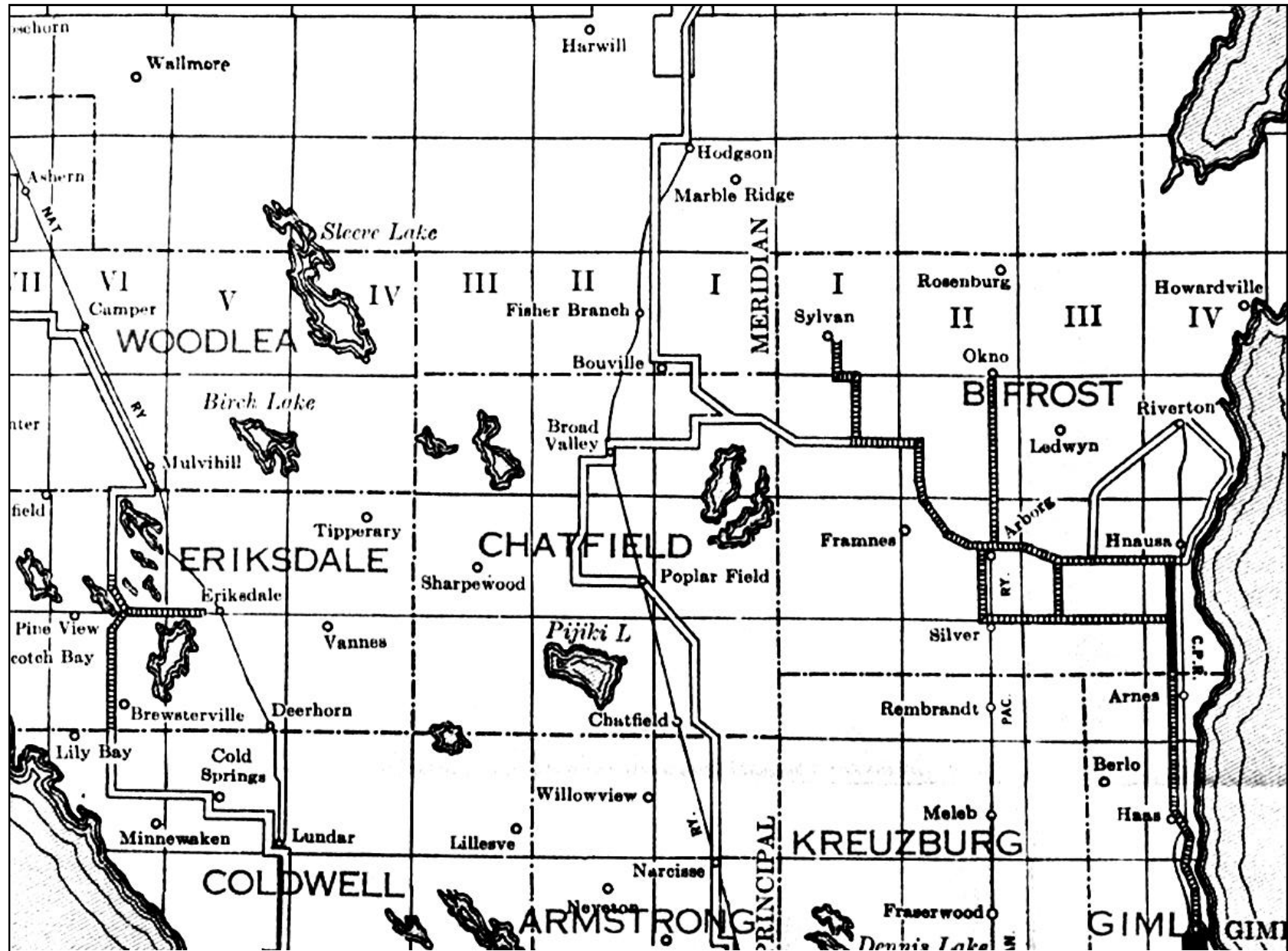


Above right: Mrs Peter Ledochowski (Katherine) and daughter Victoria pose beside the family car, a model T Ford in 1937. Hamrlik P.D. RTM-017.



Right: Danylo and Katherine Torbiak pose for a photo with the family automobile in front of their store. Wasyl Didyk store in background. Poplarfield, old town, early 1930s. RTM-059.





Above: Portion of a provincial road map published in 1930. Note that in 1930 a trip to Arborg still involved a route through the Broad Valley and Zbaraz districts to avoid the marshes and shallow lakes east and north east of the Poplarfield District. Note also that there was no provincial road between Poplarfield and Eriksdale, and that the Municipalities of Chatfield and Kruezburz were still in existence at this time. By 1932 they would dissolve due to a lack of tax revenues. Map-016.



Above: Nick Lisowecki working the engine of the family car, a 1936 Chevrolet, with daughter Irene's assistance. Note the wood kindling piled along the fence line behind them. RTM-001.



Above: Helen Bazilewich, centre, with daughters Nancy Willis (left) and Pauline Kanter (right). The automobiles are a 1947 Plymouth, which belonged to John & Helen Bazilewich, and a 1953 Nash which belonged to Fred and Nancy Willis. The Willis' drove the car to the Poplarfield District from Hamilton, Ontario. RTM-079.



Above: Tom Zasitko with his GMC 1-Ton truck around 1950. High Plains Postal District. RTM-061.



Above: Steve Hordoecki poses with his 1941 Chevrolet one-ton truck. RTM-048.



Above: Peter Zasitko loading wooden crates with turkeys onto his Poplarfield Transfer truck for the trip to the processing plant in Winnipeg, c1960. RTM-058.



Above: Poplarfield Transfer Truck c1940. Stefan Ledohowski, pioneer homesteader in the Sharpewood district, poses beside the first Poplarfield Transfer Truck. The transfer business was started up by his sons Mike and Walter. The Ledohowski family farmhouse visible in the background. RTM-047.



Above: Brand new 1951 Buick, purchased by Mike Ledohowski from Percy Barrett in Fisher Branch for \$3,789.30. Mike's little brother Andrew checking out the car. Mike Ozubko's store and Mike Ledohowski's National Garage at rear. RTM-018.



Above: Mike Leochko beside the family's 1952 International half-ton truck. RTM-020.

Below: Sadie Zorniak with her two-wheeler, photographed on the last day of classes at Leeland school, 1948. Also in the picture are classmates Mary Duda and Mike Dowhan. RTM-004.



Above right: A 13 year old Andy Ledohowski, on his bicycle on High Plains Road, c1947. Because older brother Mike Ledohowski had the National Garage in new town, Andy was a regular fixture in new town for several years. This view shows part of the hotel and a good look at the Mike Zasitko garage and service station in the background, at the cross roads. As well, further in the distance the Mike Klowak farmstead can be seen. CL-043.



Left: Walter Rozak & Roy Pich photographed with their two-wheelers in the spring of 1940, Hamrlik District. RTM-035.



Above: John & Bill Swarychewski showing off a somewhat upscale two-wheeler, which had fenders, lights, a speedometer, and lots of chrome. RTM-036.



Left: New Star School District bachelors hamming it up for the camera, c1936. L-R: Harry Husiak, Roy Husiak (with violin), Peter Sokulski, and Roy Skrabek (in rear with vest). Roy Skrabek playing "air guitar". Musicians were highly regarded in the community during the early years and many took up the challenge. Some simply played 'a little bit', while others excelled at their instruments. Roy Husiak apparently "sort of" played the violin. SR-023.





Left: Road construction in the Chatfield area, using teams of horses and hand-held scrapers, c1935. Prior to this period of road construction during the Great Depression, most roadways in the region were simple trails, level to the ground and very rough, making motor vehicle travel slow and difficult. The first raised and graded Provincial Roads were constructed with the 'statute labor' programs of the 1930s and provided the district with its first few proper roads. Truck transportation very quickly became commonplace once the road system began to develop. RTM-021.

Right: Another view of a road construction crew at work building up a roadway using only horses and scrapers, 1930s. RTM-029.



Below right: Many of the local landowners were required to work off their relief debts by providing labour in local road construction projects. RTM-023.



Trails and Roads. "The Fisher River Colonization Trail was surveyed by Dominion Government in 1902 to enable settlers who were coming in by hundreds to fill up the country. As the number of settlers in the community increased, the trails became rutted and muddy. The carts, wagons and buggies cut deep into the soft earth, making travel difficult. At first just the worst mud holes were built up. During the Depression repair work was done by settlers in proportion to the amount of land owned along the road. This was called "statute labor" and was compulsory. On an appointed day men gathered with oxen or horses which they hitched to a shovel-like implement with two handles. The implement was called a "scraper" or "slusher". It was the person's job to hold on to the handles and force the shovel into the ground to scoop up the dirt. The dirt was dumped where the road bed was low. It was a slow process but scoop by scoop the low areas were built up. When "slushers" went out of date a grader called a "fresnil" came into use. It was drawn by four to six horses. With this machine the first real roads were built." - OFY'74 Notes.





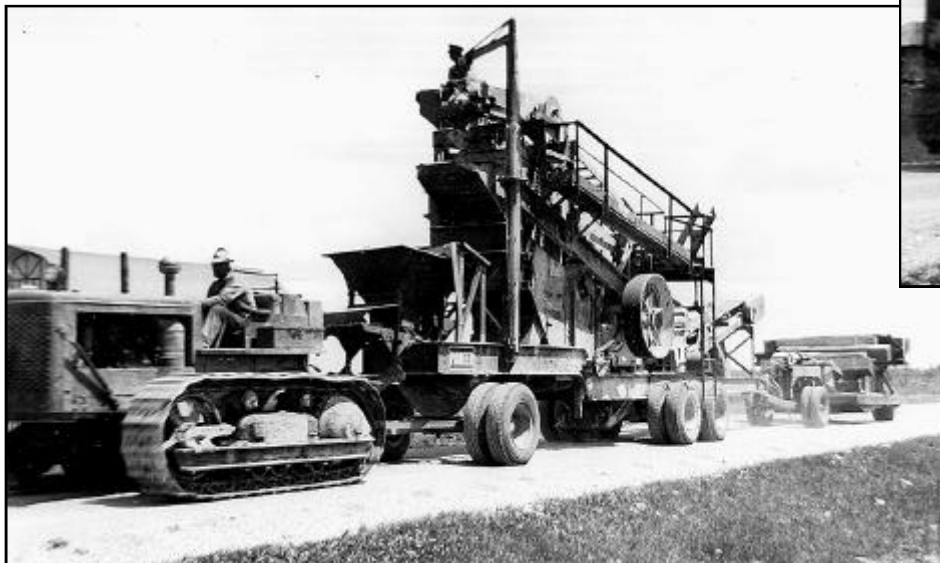
Above: By the 1940s the horse and hand scraper had been replaced with the dragline and bulldozer for most road construction jobs. Here a dragline was photographed in 1942 building up a roadbed in a large low-lying area between sections 35 and 36, in the Hamrlik township (22-1W). The earth was dredged from either edge of the road allowance using the dragline, and dumped along the centre of the right-of-way which was then spread and packed using a caterpillar, creating a raised 'all-weather' roadway. RTM-077.

Above right and right: John Zuk's dragline outfit photographed at a road building job site near Chatfield, about to depart to a drainage job at Lake St. George, 1952. The man in the cover-alls leaning against the truck is Paul Smolinski. RTM-014 & RTM-016.





Above and right: On higher ground, during the 1940s the dragline was not required for digging out the ditches for roadbed material. The job was normally done using a caterpillar and large four-wheeled scraper such as the one photographed in operation building up PTH#17 south of Poplarfield on July 7, 1942. RTM-068, RTM-069.



Above and left: Two photographs of some of the equipment in a road construction crew, as it travelled past the Mike Swarychewski homestead two miles east of Poplarfield, c1950. The large machine with the ramps is likely a material screener or asphalt mixer of some type. RTM-062 & RTM-063.



Above: By the 1960s and 1970s road building equipment had increased in both size and efficiency, and more and more of the farmyards in the region were connected to the 'main roads' with proper all weather section roads. Tom Ledochowski, son of Hamrluk pioneer Mike Ledochowski, owned a small road building operation and built many of the section roads in the region. He was photographed here in 1970 checking his crew as they worked on a job near Poplarfield. RTM-067.



*"During the late 1950s and early 1960s, roads in the New Star District were being raised and gravelled. Often, the construction outfit used all the rocks piled along the fence lines, all those rocks picked individually by hand off the fields over the years, to make a solid base for the road. Before the road improvements, you couldn't count on the roads. Dad might be able to drive to town, but if it started to rain while we were out, he either parked the truck, and we walked home from Highway 68, or he attempted an exciting (for us kids) dash for home before the roads got too wet. It was a judgement call on his part. Often it was like rolling a small snowball over more snow until it grew so big that you couldn't roll it anymore. The gumbo first stuck to the tires and then to itself to the point where wheels would no longer turn. Occasionally we made it all the way home. Mostly we bogged down in mud or slid off the road. Mostly we ended up walking home. Dad would have to go back with the horses and drag the truck home through the gumbo."* - Donna Sokulski.



Above: One of the pieces of equipment used to improve the roads in the New Star area. At the time, Steve & Ruth Kicenko were preparing to construct a new home, and hired the contractor to raise the yardsite by several feet to improve drainage and facilitate construction of a large full basement, c1965. RTM-042.



Left: Since the late 1950s the Provincial Highways Department operated a 'maintenance yard' in Poplarfield, which included a road grader and repair crew for minor road repair and similar jobs. With this equipment and full time work crew, the roads in the district were kept clear of snow throughout the winter months, mostly, and horses were no longer necessary for wintertime transportation, as they had been during the 1930s and 1940s, and soon were rarely seen. Here a grader with attached snow plow was caught in action just east of Poplarfield, c1965. RTM-022.



Above: Nick Ozarko at the controls of his Manitoba Highways Department grader. Nick was the grader operator in the Poplarfield district for many years, and he was always a welcome site to farmers as it meant that the local section road would be smooth and clean for at least the next few weeks. RTM-082.



Left: Mike Ptashnyk and Bill Horodecki, long time Highways Department employees, photographed in front of Bill's house in Poplarfield, 1958 with the last issue of the distinctive yellow Highways Department half-ton trucks. RTM-049.





Above: The only known photo of the 'snow-plane' constructed by Mike Torbiak during the early 1940s. Its propeller and airplane engine, it could be heard for miles when it was out travelling the countryside. In an unfortunate accident, Peter Torbiak Sr. was seriously injured when he was struck on the chin by the spinning propeller. RTM-046.





Clockwise from left: Mike Ledohowski and Bill Hordecki leaving for a winter test drive in 1963; Mike and son Wayne with the 'best of all the machines' loaded up on a home-made trailer and ready for a a road trip, 1978; at work on yet another vehicle, at age 84 in 1998; an all track vehicle from the early 1990s, and the model designed specifically for hunting trips, c1967.

Mike Ledohowski was a talented mechanic and took great interest in constructing various types of all terrain tracked vehicles, building and modifying a number of designs over the length of his life in Poplarfield. Several models were 'all-track' machines with 'clutch' steering, of the type used on caterpillar tractors. Others were 'half-tracks' with conventional steering. His 'bombardiers' were used extensively for hauling gear and equipment during the annual deer and moose hunting trips as well as for pleasure excursions in and about the area marshes.





*Chapter Eight*  
*The Wood Trade*





Left and below left: Hauling cordwood to Malonton, 1915. From the time of settlement to the late-1930s the selling of cordwood was a major economic activity throughout the region and a significant source of cash for the settlers. FL-009, FL-009.

*"The driver owns a quarter section on which the only cash crop is cordwood. He and his wife cut, split and piled two cords or more per day. They could also load and haul two cords of wood per day with their ox team. They got \$2.75 per cord. Ten years earlier settlers received only \$1.75 or less per cord and had to take in exchange goods supplied by the only merchant in town. Seventeen cords could be loaded in a boxcar. This wood was sold in Winnipeg for \$5.50 to \$6.00 a cord."* - J.W. Sisler.



Above: Sawing felled poplar trees into four foot cordwood lengths, with a cross-cut saw. These saws were heavy and difficult to use, and with their large course teeth, rattled across the frozen wood. They also took a long time to sharpen. When the Swede saw was introduced in the 1920s, some locals said it was like cutting through butter, such was the efficiency of this type of saw. The Swede saw was used for the next quarter of a century until the chainsaw was introduced during the early 1950s, and was the tool used to cut all the spruce bluffs which at one time covered the entire central Interlake region. WT-038.





Above and above right: A Ukrainian settler hauling about a half cord of poplar out of the bush using a sled pulled by a team of oxen, c 1916, Foley District. Often the trees would have been felled earlier in the year and left to dry out. The settler would then return in the winter to cut and load the lengths on a sled and haul them to the nearest town for sale. Both dry and 'green' wood could be sold. FL-008, WT-039.

*"To make money the whole family would cut cordwood. We took some of our cordwood to Broad Valley, which was 4.5 miles away. Poplar sold for 75 cents a cord but the price varied with the demand. The price for cordwood was usually a little higher in Poplarfield than in the other towns because of the competition between Torbiak and Werbenuk who bought cordwood at the time. If one paid a dollar, then the other would pay \$1.10, and in turn the other would raise his price 10 or 15 cents. At times we were paid as much as four dollars for a cord of spruce. Usually we visited both stores several times a week to learn of any price change." - Bill Pawluk*

Above: A pioneer woman photographed throwing lengths of cordwood into a railway boxcar. Loading a boxcar was an arduous task. With the husband often working away in bush camps or on harvest fields, much of this type of home labour was done by the women. WT-040.





Above and above right: Two views of Frank Osiway hauling cordwood with a double team and home-made heavy duty sled, March 3, 1939. Note the large out-rigger runners on the sled. WT-027.

Right: Fred Grushka loaded with 1 ½ cords of wood which he took to the store at Broad Valley in exchange for groceries. At the time, he likely received less than three dollars credit for his labours. WT-015.

*"A cord of wood would sell for \$1.25, about the same price as a 100 lb. bag of flour or a pair of overalls. Mom & Dad would cut cordwood one day and the next day they would load it on the sled, ready for going to town the following day. It was a long day to haul the cordwood to Arborg - a distance of 14 miles each way. Dad wouldn't get home till very late. Sometimes he fell asleep on the sled. The horses knew their way home. When the dog started to bark around 11pm, Mom knew he was home, and would go out to unhitch the horses and rouse him from his sleep. It took 3 days to earn \$1.25 but it was largely their only source of income, until Dad started playing his clarinet at weddings and social functions, and earned extra money as a musician." - Con Luty.*





Left: More than a dozen teams with sleds loaded with one cord of firewood each preparing to leave the railsiding in Winnipeg to deliver their loads, c1925. WT-006.

Below: Photo of thousands of cords of cordwood awaiting loading onto boxcars for transport to Winipeg. The location is identified as being Poplarfield, but the buildings and open field in the distance is more attributable to the Chatfield siding. Nevertheless much the same scene could be witnessed in communities up and down the rail line in the region. WT-010.

*"I remember Father's wood yard very well, as it was the largest in town. He had been buying from farmers that brought wood to the store while it was green and they would continue piling cord after cord to make long rows of wood. All this pulp and poplar had to dry before being shipped out as no one wanted to buy green wood. It took a long time for him to get his money back as the drying process took several years. Some people used horses, others used oxen for hauling cord wood that was cut green and was heavy in weight. If the farmer wanted to have it dry in his own yard, he would sell it to Father and direct loading would be arranged. Otherwise, when it was dried out Father had to hire someone to move all the wood from the yard to the railway siding for shipment. Each cord would have to be handled three times when loading a boxcar. I once spoke to a CN Superintendent by the name of Mr. Jim Cunningham. He mentioned to me that he had worked the Hodgson CNR for years and had done a lot of switching, such as picking up cars of wood and spotting the empty ones for loading. He claimed that it was the only place they had picked up so much wood."*

- Bill Werbenuk





Above: By the late 1930s trucks had largely replaced horses as the primary method of getting the locally cut cordwood to the railway. Within a few years heating oil would replace wood as the home heating fuel, and the cordwood trade quickly evaporated. Wood was still used as fuel in many farmhomes until the late 1950s. Here Louis Osioway was photographed on April 5, 1944 as he was about to take a load to sell in Chatfield with his 1938 Ford 2-ton truck. WT-026



Above: Roy Skrabek resting after having cut and piled one cord of wood into the standard pile measuring 4 feet, by 4 feet, by 8 feet. One cord contains 128 cubic feet. WT-012.

Right: 'Relief' wood being distributed in Winnipeg with trucks and horses during the Great Depression. Much of the cordwood during this period was purchased by the City of Winnipeg for distribution to families on relief. Many of those receiving relief worked off their debt by delivering to other families. In addition to the Interlake region, districts in south eastern Manitoba were the main sources of wood fuel for Winnipeg homes. WT-016.





Above: Rows of wood piled along the railway siding in Fisher Branch. This particular vantage point was obtained from the top of the railway water tower. NC,FB-002.

*"Thousands upon thousands of cords of pulpwood were cut over the years in and around the Poplarfield District, and by people from Poplarfield in the Lake St. George and Mantagao Lake areas north of Hodgson, Manitoba. It seemed that good pulpwood was readily available in this area. Most pulpwood was spruce and was cut into eight foot lengths, then transported to the nearest railhead where they were loaded onto railcars for furthering to the buyer in Winnipeg. The buyer would sell the pulpwood to a pulp and paper mill where it was processed into paper, primarily newsprint. Large pulpwood were kept as logs, and before the advent of modern trucks or tractors, logging operations were primarily carried out during winter. The snow and ice facilitated skidding the logs by horses to horse drawn sleds which were then transported to the sawmill. There the logs were sawed into rough lumber such as beams, joists, 2 x 4's, boards, lathes, etc. Some sawmills had a planer through which the rough lumber was passed giving it a smooth finish. This lumber was then used for the construction of various types of buildings, or was sold to others."*  
- Peter Genyk.

*"Pulp Cutting. In the 1920's, a paper mill was built in Pine Falls. This created a demand for pulpwood, and since almost all farmers of the Poplarfield area had heavy stands of spruce on their homestead, and much more available on nearby crown lands, cutting pulp during the winter months became a major industry, involving most members of a family. The spruce pulpwood was hauled to railway siding and loaded on cars as was the cordwood. This local industry continued till the 1940's."* - Lawrence Suchar.



Above: A Cat-train hauling pulpwood from Lake St. George was photographed as it pulled into Hodgson, the nearest railhead in January of 1938. NC,HO-002.





Left: Cutting fire logs with rip saw and stationary engine. These foot long lengths of wood were then split with an axe and piled for drying and storage until needed in the stove. The finished firewood was usually piled along the yard fence line or in large bee-hive shaped piles a short distance from farmhouse. Felling, sawing, splitting and piling wood was an annual ritual. Neighbours and friends regularly helped one another to complete the task. FL-040.

*"In the early days cordwood was a very important commodity, especially poplar which was used as a fuel to heat all the homes, business, etc. It was also used daily to heat a wood burning kitchen stove for cooking or baking. People would go out into the forest and cut poplar, both dry and green. It would be 'limbed' and piled. Later it would be brought to the yard where it would be cut into stove lengths, split and piled for winter use. Freshly cut poplar contains considerable water, which amounts from a third to half of the weight. All green poplar would be cut and thrown on a pile to be split in early winter as it was easier to split if frozen. After splitting the wood, it was piled in rows for seasoning. Seasoned wood is far more resistant to decay, is much lighter, and has a considerably higher heating value. A great deal of poplar cordwood was sold and shipped to Winnipeg, which was the main way the homesteaders could earn some money to live on. In the later years some people used lump coal to supplement burning of wood. The coal burned a lot slower and lasted longer, thus eliminating getting up in the middle of the night to stoke the stove or furnace. Then along came the space heater, which had a tank to be filled with heating fuel oil. This tank had to be refilled manually as needed. Finally, conversions of old furnaces or new ones installed eliminated the necessity of manual filling of the fuel tank. These furnaces came with a 250-gallon fuel oil tank with a copper line from the tank to the furnace pump, which stoked the furnace when called for by the thermostat. All you had to do is check that there was enough fuel till the next delivery. The above system is still used in many rural areas as well as electric heat furnaces or baseboard heaters, which are cleaner and easier to use." - Peter Genyk.*



Left: Frank Osioway and depression relief worker, Harry Hurburg cutting firewood logs on the Mike Osioway homestead using a Swede saw, 1937. Harry lodged and worked at the Osioway farm for three winters during the depression. In return for food and board, the government paid a small monthly sum to host families for taking in workers. WT-025





Left: Firewood, cut, split and piled, ready for the winter. Until the late 1940s, houses were not very heat efficient and large stockpiles of wood like this were necessary for winter heating. The original pioneer log homes with their small size and plaster coating tended to be fairly easy to keep warm, but many of the frame lumber homes built in the 1920s and 1930s often had little insulation and were quite cold. Sawdust was sometimes used as insulation in the attic or walls, but this material often attracted insects and mice so it was not very popular. FL-019.

Left: John and Pauline Moroz cutting firewood with a rip-saw powered by a belt drive connected to the tractor, c1950. Brother-in-law Martin Zuk helping out. Note the home-made cutting table with a sliding safety guard. Most firewood in the district was cut without the benefit of such a table. Sawing wood was a dangerous job and accidents often occurred, prompting many to build home-made apparatus of various designs to make the job safer and easier. WT-033.





Bill Pawluk sawing firewood with a one-cylinder stationary engine, by himself. Sawing firewood with a rip-saw is a difficult and dangerous job for one person. Here Bill, at 68 years of age, has managed to rip a large pile of firewood without assistance, as winter fuel for his little retirement house which he shared with brother Andrew. Circa 1973. RTM-038 to RTM-041.



Left: Stefan Ledochowski pictured as he was about to leave his Sharpwood District homestead on a trip to the Hamrlik area, and the sawmill operated by his brother's Fred and John, c1925. The 15 mile journey took a full day to complete, each way, and depending upon how many people were already at the mill, there would often be a two or three day wait before the logs could be cut into lumber and the return trip made. The job of obtaining a simple small load of rough lumber likely required a week of time and work. Notice the family pet deer with its hoof on the sled. FL-070.



Right: Scene at the Ledochowski Bros. sawmill site during the mid 1920s. The brothers ran a sawmill operation in the Hamrlik Postal District for several decades beginning in the mid 1920s. Note the lumber enclosure constructed around the Case steam-tractor powering the mill, to keep it clear of ice and snow. WT-017.



Left: A view of Mr. Gamache's sawmill site in the Broad Valley District, c1907. His was one of the earliest mills in the central Interlake region. "Gamache's mill was located near a fine stand of good spruce before fires swept this part of the country. Most of the lumber used within a radius of thirty miles was cut in this very efficient mill. This picture was taken by Mr. Bouchard who was checker and clerk at the mill. Buyers came from as far away as Lundar, Ericksdale and other villages. The teamsters usually travelled in trains of five to twenty sleds. One team would break trail for a mile or so, pull out to the side, then take its place at the end of the train. This was done in turn by each train so that everyone shared the hard work of breaking the trail. Mr. Bouchard told me of having his feet frozen on one such trip and had to spend a month in hospital. " - J.W. Sisler.



Left: Cutting railway ties at Davis' sawmill at Mantagao Lake area northwest of Fisher Branch, 1941. A tremendous railway expansion was taking place in Western Canada when our pioneers began arriving. With this, there was a great demand for ties. Once the rail tracks came to Arbrog (1910) and through Poplarfield (1914) local people were able to tap the large stands of tamarack growing on the low lands, and this became the first large-scale marketable product from their communities. In the later years the local loggers continued to supply ties as part of their mill operations. WT-001.

Below: Percy Barrett's caterpillar train, hauling railway ties along the Fisher River from the family mill near Lake St. George, ran into a little difficulty one January day in 1938, and was caught on camera. WT-002.



Above: A single team of horses hauling a large load of newly cut railway ties, Mantagao Lake District, likely early 1940s. Winter freighting was commonplace in the region for decades, and was not restricted to wood products. Almost any heavy load could be transported during winter by horse and sled, far more effectively than you could in summer using a team and wagon. Many farmers with a good team and sled hired themselves out during the winter months, freighting fish, lumber, logs, and bush camp supplies. WT-018.



## Chapter Eight ~ The Wood Trade 267



Left and below: Views of the Victor Wallach Sawmill in the Mantagao Lake area, 1940/41. Some of the men identified include: B-R: 1. unknown, 2. ? Swedlo, 3. Joe Swedlo, 4. Stan Skibinski, 5. Mike "Gowan" Ledochowski, 6. ? Skibinski, 7. Joe Skibinski, 8. John Ledochowski. FR: 1. unknown, 2. John Skibinski, 3. unknown, 4. the Timber Inspector, 5. Joe Wallach. By the late 1930s the commercial stands of forest in the Poplarfield region pretty well had all been harvested. At this time a few of the local mill owners moved their operations to the Lake Mantagao and Lake St. George areas, north and northwest of Fisher Branch. The virgin forests located along the Mantagao River were said to possess huge stands of trees that had few branches requiring almost no 'limbing', and could yield eight 12 foot lengths of log from a single tree. WT-022, WT-023.



Above: Stan Skibinski and Mike Troschuk showing off the camp horses at the Wallach Mill at Mantagao Lake, 1940/41. The log building in the background was the stable. WT-024.



Right: Charlie Walashek at the controls of a cat train of spruce mill logs, about to leave a mill in the Lake St. George area for home in the Hamrlik District. He had a 60 mile trip ahead of him, which took several days. The woman and children standing beside Charlie were among those in camp at the time and are unidentified. WT-031.



Below: Charlie Walashek pulling into the sawmill site operated by John & Fred Ledochowski in Hamrlik, 1942. Charlie at the controls, John Bazilewich standing in front. Note the sleeping 'caboose' at the rear of the train. WT-020.

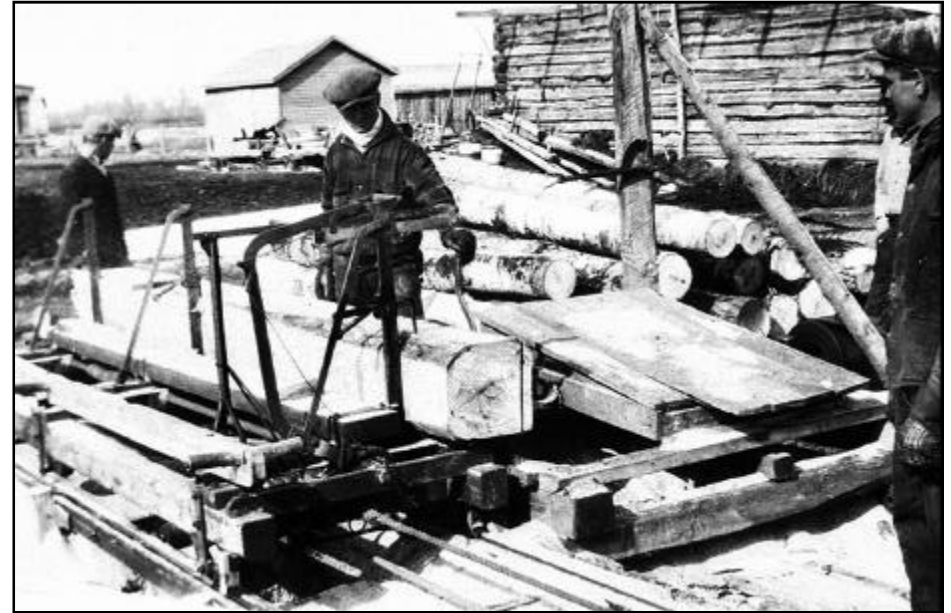


Below: A view of the operations at the Ledochowski Bros. mill in Hamrlik, set up at the time at the John Bazilewich farm. L-R: Charlie Walashek and John Bazilewich handling the logs. John Ledochowski operating the saw, 1942. Note that the old Case steamer is still powering the Ledochowski Bros. mill, some 25 years after it was first purchased. WT-021.





Above: Mike Torbiak sawmill in operation. The mill was set up just south of the Poplarfield townsite on the Torbiak homestead. Nick Lisowecki in the cap looking on while Bill Pawliuk and Mike Torbiak operate the saw. On this occasion they are sawing poplar logs. Note the large pile of 'slabs' in the background. WT-030.



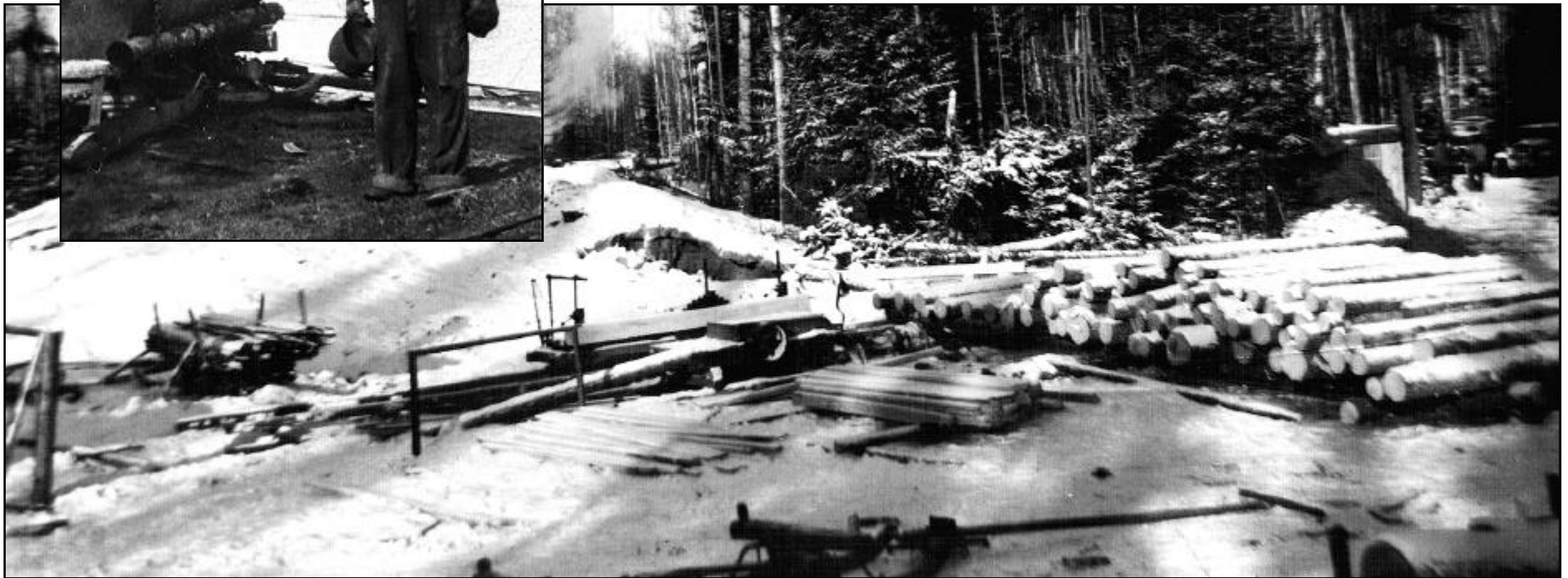
Above: View of the John Blahey sawmill set up at the Osioway farm. L-R: Harry Blahey, John Blahey and Frank Osioway tending to the work, April 1937. John Blahey operated a mill in the Wheathill District for over fifteen years before the local timber stands played out. WT-029.



Left: Scene at the Joe Skibinski sawmill, Broad Valley District, 1929. WT-035.

Right: Dan Kawka, Nick Ozarko and Mike Sachowski photographed at a timber camp in the Mantagao Lake District in 1952. WT-036.

Below and below right: Fred Leduchowski photographed at his sawmill operation in the Lake St. George area, which he moved from Hamrlik during the early 1940s, after all the good timber in the home region was exhausted. WT-032 & Wt-034.







Above: Dan Kawka and Nick Ozarko photographed on a large load of saw logs being transported by cat train in the Mantagao Lake area. Note the horse and cutter beside the caterpillar, which likely belonged to the photographer . WT-037



Above Left: Horse drawn sleds on a melting ice road , Fisher Bay area. Note the logs piled on next to the ice trail. No date recorded, c. 1930s.

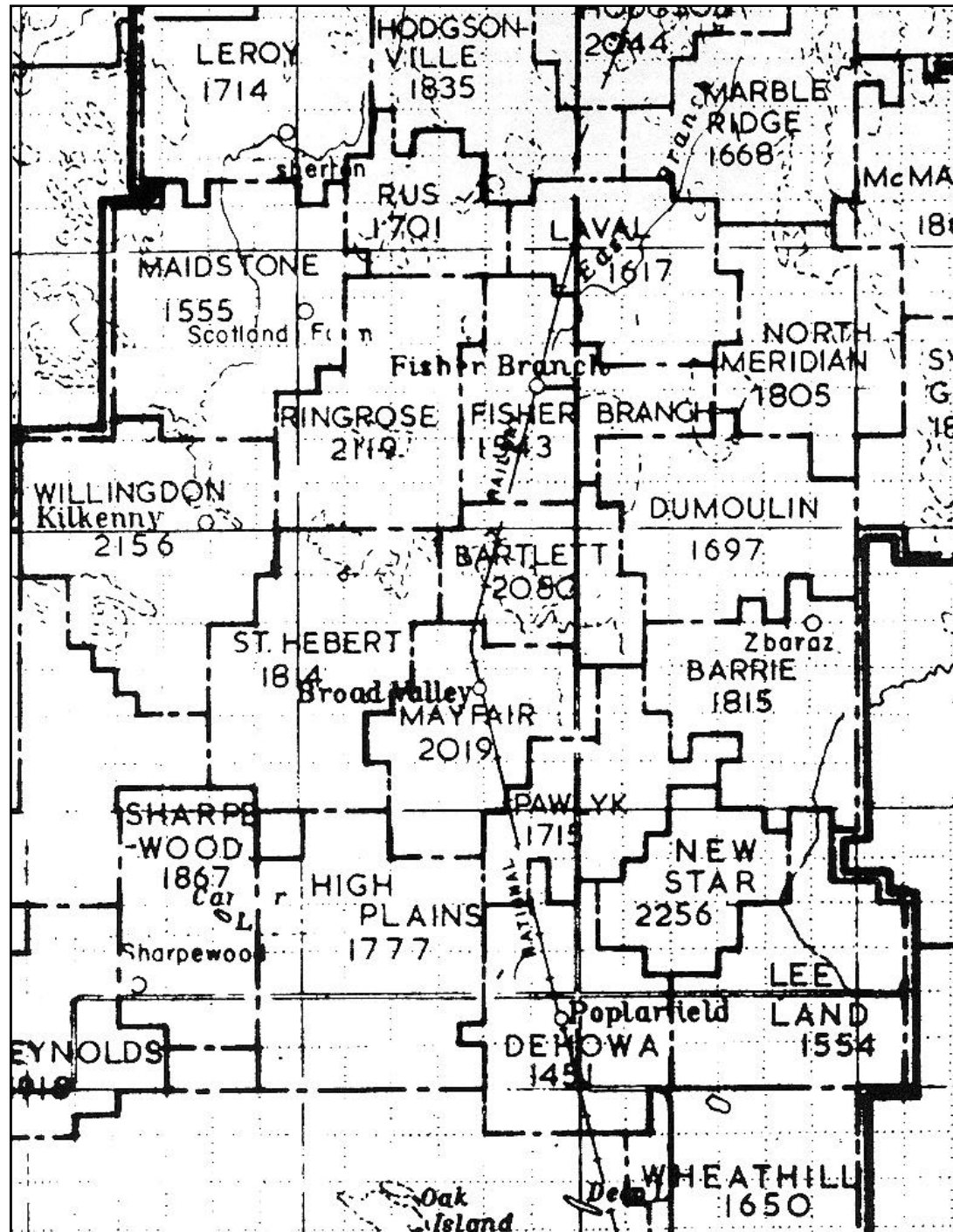
Above: Sawmill scene in Fisher Branch region, likely Montago Lake area. Note the simple structure built of slabs and poles in the background.



Left: Scene at the Barrett Mill. 1930s. Note that the three young boys using a cow to pull their sled.

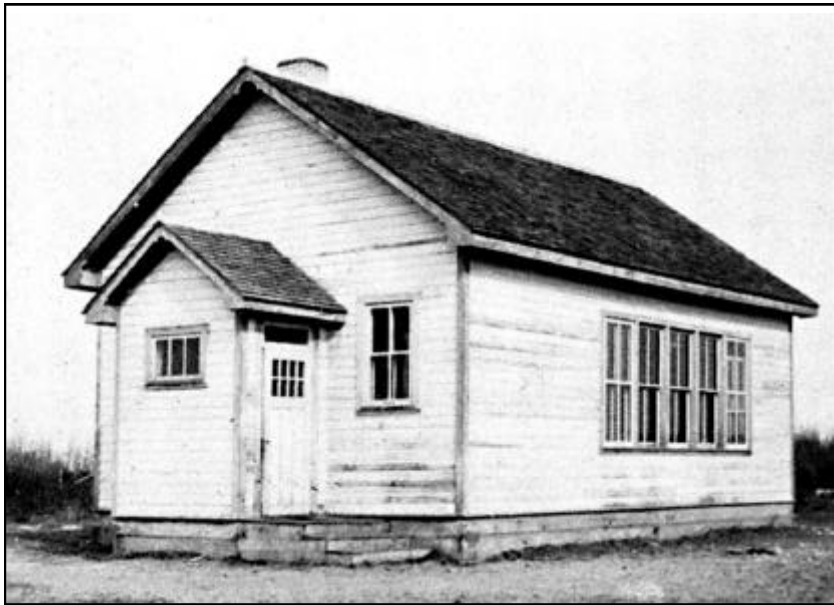


*Chapter Nine*  
*School Districts*



Right: Portion of a map showing the school districts in the central Interlake region in the years just prior to school consolidation in 1967. Spruce View School, located in Chatfield, and several other school districts which existed south and east of Chatfield are not shown on this map. School district boundaries often were altered as the number and location of area families fluctuated. It was not unusual for the school site itself to be moved, although this never occurred in the Poplarfield region. Maps-008.





Above: The initial school houses in the region were simple one room wood frame structures constructed to standard Department of Education plans. High Plains School, pictured here in 1922, was a typical example. SC,HP-016.



Above: Three young Ukrainian girls photographed by School Inspector Sisler walking to school along a newly cleared road allowance in the Foley District, c1916. SC,DE-012.



*0"As the Luty children grew up in the Zbaraz District, they walked each morning to Barrie School, a distance of four miles. On many occasions it would be blowing snow and bitter cold, but they would bundle up and not miss school. Later the children went to New Valley School because it was a half mile closer and our cousin, Martin Luty, lived right by the school so our children would spend a night there occasionally if the weather was really severe. It was a real challenge to get to the school, especially in the spring when they had to pass a number of swamps by jumping from one log to another to try and keep from getting water in their boots. Although the children learned some English, it was a long process initially, as all the children talked Ukrainian as soon as class was out, although the teacher spoke English only in the classroom." - Con Luty.*

Left: Once a year in the springtime, classes would be cancelled for Arbor Day, during which the school grounds would be "cleaned and spruced up". The students and teacher photographed at this Arbor Day at Bartlett School during the early 1920s appear to be undertaking some ambitious projects, including planting flower beds and a row of trees. SC,BA-001



*"Walking to High Plains School was often a happy time for us. There were about 12 of us walking every day, two and a half miles along a wooded path, the Fuzs, Zasitkos, Ptashnyks, Kuklicas, and the Stasiuks, all in one long row. In the winter time there were lots of rabbits to catch, different birds and nests to discover, and all sorts of winter fun. In summer we picked yellow and pink Lady Slippers, Cowslips, and Tiger Lilies for the teachers; the aroma was wonderful." - Ruth Kicenکو.*

Above: School Inspector, Wm. Paterson, and a public health nurse photographed during a visit to Dehowa School in 1948. Teacher Mrs. Huculak looks on while Irene Lisowecki undergoes some basic tests and measurements. Such visits often included being on the receiving end of the dreaded 'needle'. SC,DE-013.

Right: Elizabeth Bailley and Nadia Kolakowski share a laugh while Donny Bailley looks on, 1948. Note the old style 'two-seater' school desks. SC,DE-004.



Right: John Ewanusiw taking Wheathill students to Poplarfield for the Field Day event in the back of his farm truck. Mr. Synshyn was the teacher that year. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s riding in the 'box' of a farm truck was the standard method of getting groups of people to picnics and sporting events. SC,WH-012.



Left: Scene at the high jump pit during a school sports day, at the Dehowa School grounds, Poplarfield old town site, c1955. Elaine Grywinski and George Kowalyk are two of the individuals in the group at centre. SC,NS-012.

Right: Marching through Poplarfield, old town site, prior to beginning the athletic events at the annual Field Day gathering of the local schools, in 1950. Buildings from L-R: Haliuk Store, Dan Torbiak Store, and Chatfield Municipal Office at right. SC,DE-005.



Below: Participating schools at the 1950 Fields Day event, that year hosted by Dehowa School in Poplarfield, prior to beginning the athletic events. Three School banners are visible including Dehowa, High Plains, & Spruce View. At least two other schools are pictured and in attendance without a banner, likely Leeland, Bartlett, and/or New Star. SC,DE-010.







Above: Dehowa School students photographed at 1950 Fields Day held in Poplarfield. SC,DE-018

- |                      |                      |                       |                     |                      |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Steve Marykuca    | 2. Steve Uruski      | 3. Billy Tycholis     | 4. Billy Kartushyn  | 5. Dan Torbiak       | 6. Harry Shymko     |
| 7. Joe Bailley       | 8. Kay Antamanchuk   | 9. Marcia Ozubko      | 10. Mike Leochko    | 11. Olga Nosal       | 12. Sonia Leochko   |
| 13. Margaret Ozubko  | 14. Alice Nosal      | 15. Anne Leochko      | 16. Laura Klump     | 17. Jean Haliuk      | 18. Bill Leochko    |
| 19. Tony Leochko     | 20. Churchill Klump  | 21. Steve Atamanchuk  | 22. Laurie Klump    | 23. Peter Torbiak    | 24. Alec Kolakowski |
| 25. Peter Leochko    | 26. Walter Horodecki | 27. Sandra Klownik    | 28. Jenny Shymko    | 29. Alice Haliuk     | 30. Johnny Torbiak  |
| 31. Nadia Kolakowski | 32. Elsie Korpesko   | 33. Tina Leochko      | 34. Jane Ledohowski | 35. Sonia Troschuk   | 36. Irene Lisowecki |
| 37. Peter Roschuk    | 38. Mike Pawlowski   | 39. Elizabeth Bailley | 40. Elsie Torbiak   | 41. Benny Ledohowski | 42. Nettie Nosal    |
| 43. Kenny Hartle     | 44. Harry Leochko    | 45. Joe Roschuk       | 46. Leo Ledohowski  | 47. Leonard Skrabek  | 48. Myrs Leochko    |
| 49. Sally Roschuk    | 50. Billy Uruski     | 51. Peter Ozubko      | 52. Eddie Ozubko    | 53. Mike Nosal       | 54. Andrew Leochko  |
| 55. Judy Haliuk      | 56. Helen Torbiak    |                       |                     |                      |                     |



Above: High Plains School participants in Annual Field Day hosted by Dehowa School in Poplarfield, old town site. Early summer 1950. SC,HP-011.

- |                           |  |                     |                     |                   |                     |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. Roy White, teacher | 2. Mervin Zolkewich  | 3. Walter Segin     | 4. Joe Lapka        | 5. Clifford Kopec | 6. Sam Werstiuk     |
| 7. Mary Yanciw            | 8. Doreen Lapka  | 9. Irene Podiuk     | 10. Helen Glitnak   | 11. Rose Leochko  | 12. Helen Werstiuk  |
| 13. Theresa Zasitko       | 14. Yvonne Stawychny   | 15. Metro Yanciw    | 16. Mike Sachowski  | 17. Ann Wallach   | 18. John Kuklica    |
| 19. Lovey Zasitko         | 20. Rose Skibinsky   | 21. Mike Stasiuk    | 22. Terry Stawychny | 23. John Segin    | 24. Ostap Stasiuk   |
| 25. Eddy Skibinski        | 26. Bill Sachowski   | 27. Bill Grywinski  | 28. Steve Fuz       | 29. Ann Skibinski | 30. Elizabeth Kopec |
| 31. Elaine Grywinski      | 32. Myrtle Sachowski   | 33. Shirley Zasitko | 34. Clifford Kolach | 35. Pat Stawychny | 36. Jane Segin      |
| 37. Nettie Zolkewich      | 38. Steve Grywinski  | 39. Mervin Marykuca | 40. Alan Zasitko    | 41. Bill Yanciw   | 42. Michael Lapka   |
| 43. Lena Leochko.         | Missing from photo but also attending that term were: Clara Kuklica, Andrew Ledohowski, Elsie Leochko, and Yvonne Stawychny. |                     |                     |                   |                     |



Spruce View (Chatfield) School participants in 1950 Field Day. SC,SV-001.

- |                      |                       |                       |                        |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Steve Halabura    | 2. Marjorie Tait      | 3. Christine Halabura | 4. Stella Kowal        | 5. Bernice Emms      | 6. Joyce Todd                 |
| 7. Mabel Lindback    | 8. Irene Swanson      | 9. Irvin Lindstrom    | 10. Martin Shushkewich | 11. Marie Johnson    | 12. Mavis Todd                |
| 13. Allan Emms       | 14. Keith Lindstrom   | 15. Ken Lindstrom     | 16. Joe Sushkewich     | 17. Bernice Dutchka  | 18. Florence Shuhyta          |
| 19. Allan Lindback   | 20. Llyod Emms        | 21. Robert Emms       | 22. Elsie Chapman      | 23. George Shuhyta   | 24. Joe Ptashynski            |
| 25. Alvin Iwanusiw   | 26. Freddie Pawlychyn | 27. Barbara Chymy     | 28. Bill Sushkewich    | 29. Myrtle Pawlychka | 30. Robert Blahey             |
| 31. Peter Blahey     | 32. Beryl Tonsaker    | 33. Robert Hoborough  | 34. Janie Chapman      | 35. Diane Rindall    | 36. Gail Rindall              |
| 37. Margaret Swanson | 38. Lena Johnson      | 39. Teddy Jaremy      | 40. Eddy Iwanusiw      | 41. Brian Rindall    | 42. Margaret Richtik, Teacher |

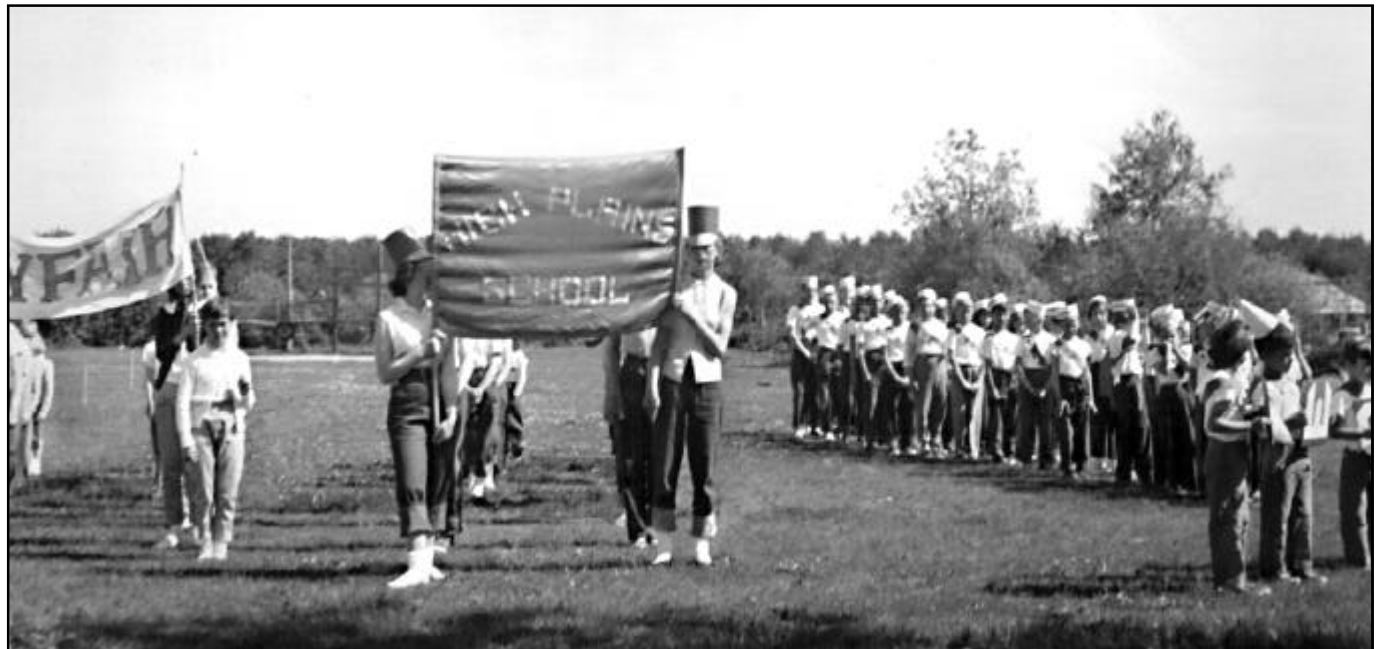
Missing from photo but attending school that term were: Bill Halabura, Ronald Jaremy, Norris Pawlychka, Vivien Tait.





The Dehowa School cheer leading chant was: "Rah-rah-rah, Dehowa, Boom-a-lacka, Boom-a-lacka, Bow-wow-wow, Chick-a-lacka, Chick-a-lacka, Chow-chow-chow, Boom-a-lacka, Chick-a-lacka, Who are we, Dehowa, Dehowa, Can't You See, D,E,H,O,W,A, Dehowa!"

Above: 1960 Field Day meet in Poplarfield old town. As part of the opening ceremonies, the students from the participating schools would parade through the town, then re-enter the schoolyard and marshal to assembly position for photographs and the opening speeches. Right: Mairfair, High Plains, and Dehowa enrolments waiting for the start of the day's activities. SC,DE-024, SC,DE-025.





By 1960 Dehowa School was no longer located in the old town. After the second school house burned to the ground in 1953, a new 3-room school was constructed along the new "Poplar Street" on neutral ground halfway between the old and new towns. While the school was being built, the students were instructed in temporary space within the Orthodox Hall in new town.



Two views of some of Dehowa students in attendance at the 1960 Field Day. Note the individual school "uniforms" made of crêpe-paper sashes, and cardboard hats.

Left: Identified among the mast-carriers at the front of the Dehowa column are: Lillie Torbiak and Yvonne Pagee (in front in white dresses), and Janet Lapka and Donna Kawka (centre, holding the letters D and E).

Above: The tall young man in the High Plains column is Stanley Troschuk. The students in the Dehowa column include, L-R: Ed Kuklica, Dennis Podaima, Ken Pagee, Ed Horodecki, Marie Torbiak, unknown, Pat Ptashnyk, Ed Ledohowski, Gary Leochko, Roy 'Boogie' Wallach, Marianne Nosal, George Torbiak. SC,DE-026, SC,DE-027.



Right: Two snapshots taken during a soccer game at the old hockey rink during recess at Dehowa, early winter, 1965. In action here are: David Kicenko, Garry Leochko, Michael Ostryzniuk, Ed Ledohowski, and Eddy Horodecki. SC,DE-048 & SC,DE-049.



Below: Winter-time recess at Wheathill School during the late 1930s. Jack Dudych farmstead in the distance. SC,WH-009.





Above: Skating rink made by the students at Dehowa School, Poplarfield old town, c1949. The building in the left background is the Werbenuk dry storage warehouse. SR-051.

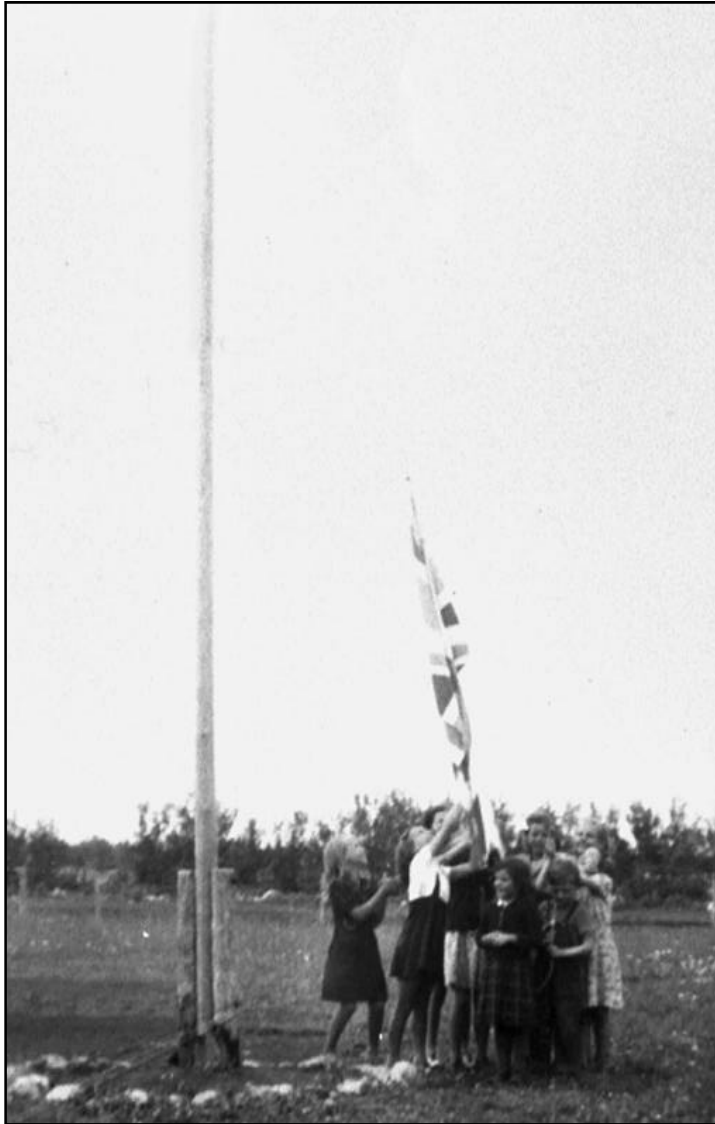
*"New Star School never had very many students. The small enrollment was an advantage of sorts. Whether the game was baseball, cricket, soccer, or fox and goose, or whatever, every kid at the school had to be recruited just to make two bare bones sized teams. There was no such thing as one kid having to sit out on the sidelines because he or she "wasn't good enough". If you couldn't hit the ball when you swung the bat, one of the older kids stepped in and helped you connect, and then everyone cheered you like crazy to first base. From grade one to grade eight, we ran, jumped, kicked, and threw every single day. We had lots of exercise, fresh air, fresh milk, and our mothers' cooking. Sometimes the older boys tried to sneak off into the bush in the school yard to smoke a cigarette, but they rarely got away with it for more than a day or so. One of the little kids would catch them and squeal to the teacher to stop them "from stunting their growth". - Donna Sokulski.*



Above: Ready for the pitch is Orest Pododworny, with Michael Sokulski hitting at the New Star Schoolyard around 1950. SR-031.



Above: Boys building a pyramid during John Baydock's 'physical education' class at Dehowa School, 1949. Johnny Torbiak at the tip of the pyramid. SC,DE-016.



Above: Some of the class of 1942 at New Star School help to take down the Union Jack at the end of the school day. Hoisting and taking down the flag was an important part of the daily ritual at all rural schools. SC,NS-007.



Above: "Arbor Day, clean up in May, piling wood to be used in school furnace next winter, High Plains School, 1948." L-R: the young ladies are: Helen Chuba, Theresa Stawychny, Yvonne Stawychny, Myrtle Zolkewich, and Verna Kopec. SC,HP-007.



Above: High Plains boys hauling firewood, early 1940s. Note the technique used to carry the maximum amount of wood each trip. SC,HP-014.





Above: High Plains School, Christmas Concert Nativity Scene - December 1946.  
 B-R: Annie Wallach, Lovey Zazitko, Elsie Leochko, Theresa Stawychny, Myrtle Zolkewich, Myrtle Sachowski (with star), Clara Kuklica, Walter Karlicki, unknown boy, unknown boy. FR: John Kuklica (with blanket over his head), Verna Kopec, Helen Gliitnak (clasped hands). SC,HP-006.



Above: 1958, December - Santa visits New Star School. L-R: Santa Claus (Steve Kicenko), Iris Pododworny, Donna Sokulski (looking at Santa), Jim Husiak (with bow tie), Marilyn Sokulski, Irene Solulski (in front), Debbie Archibald (white blouse), Elizabeth Kicenko looking at Debbie), Eleanor Rabski (at rear in white), Frances Kicenko (in front), David Kicenko, with sweater and bow tie, Stephen Rabski (at rear partially hidden), Paulette Pododworny, Sandra Archibald (in front in white), Joyce Skrabyk, Paul Pododworny. Teacher, Sonia Leochko. SC,NS-005.

Christmas concert at New Star School, c1951. "I remember we practised and practised so there wouldn't be too many goofs during the concert. A few days before the concert, our fathers came to build the stage and string wires for the curtains. I can't remember who donated what, it varied, but I know Mom usually donated white bed sheets for the curtains. The teacher was responsible for putting together the program. The teachers were all young, sometimes not more than sixteen or seventeen, when they were permit teaching. Sometimes Mom taught one of us a song or a recitation she still remembered from the old country. There would always be a nativity scene, some carols (English and Ukrainian), a recitation or two (English and

Ukrainian), a couple of short plays (English and Ukrainian), and a drill ..... "C is for Christmas, and H is for warm homes" ..... and so on. I don't think the school enrollment ever surpassed fifteen, so every kid, sooner or later, was a "star". At the end, we sang "Jingle Bells" and Santa Claus would ho-ho in from the cold. Santa would act the joker and make us laugh, pass out to each kid a small present and a brown paper bag containing candies, peanuts, and a Japanese orange, and then ho-ho out. We sang "God Save the Queen", all the lights came on, and everyone who came had hot tea with sandwiches, cookies, and cakes donated by our mothers." - Donna Sokulski.

*"Christmas concerts were a must, even in one-roomed schools. Every December, several men from the district would build a stage at the front of the school. Curtains would be bed sheets (usually flour and sugar sacks bleached and sewn together, and lent by the mothers of the students. After the concert, the men would take the stage apart and store the lumber in the attic for the next year. Teachers were very creative in combining up to eight grades for these concerts. They were truly community events." - Marilyn Daulat.*



Above: During the 1947 Christmas concert at High Plains School. One of the acts that year was an eight member 'pot & pan' percussion band. Note the proper kitchen attire sported by the boys, who were from grades one to four. Part of the presentation they recited was: "Oh, we are the cookie kids, with our kitchen rhythm band. We don't know how we sound, but we are sure we are grand!" Teacher Ann Nechwiediuk organized the concert that year. Identified are L-R: Joe Lapka, Steve Fuz, Eddy Skibinski, Walter Segin, John Segin, Cliff Kopec, Bill Sachowski, Mervin Zolkewich. SC,HP-009.

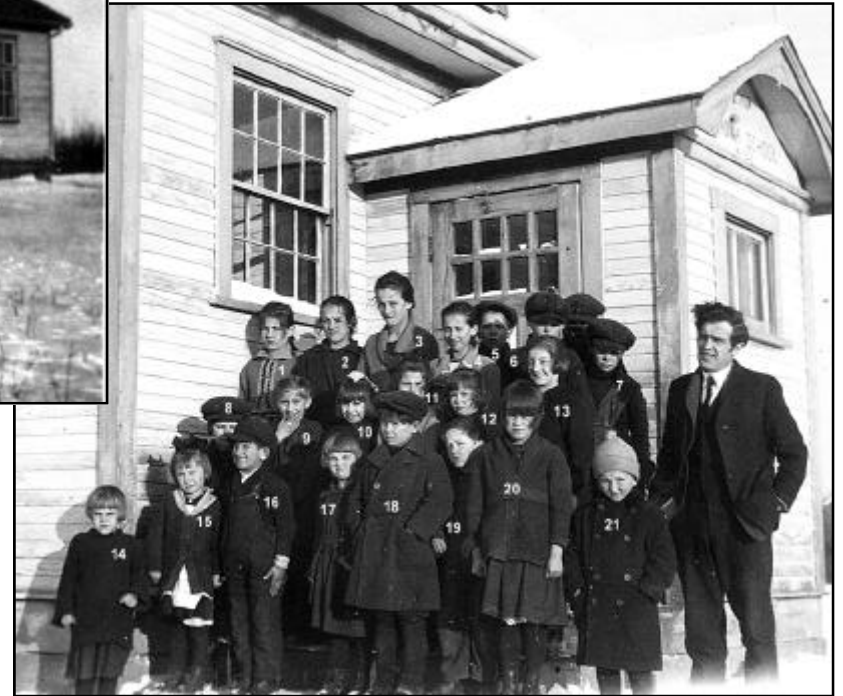


Left: Christmas bunnies appeared at the 1952 Dehowa School Christmas concert. L-R: Leo Ledohowski; Andrew Leochko; Myrs Leochko; Peter Ozubko. CS-021.



Above: Dehowa School as it appeared after the addition of a new room. The School District of Dehowa No. 1451 was established on April 30, 1908 by Inspector of Schools G. Best, in response to a petition signed by 17 families. This was two years after the first settlers arrived in the area. Records indicate that the petitioners were: Stefan Gzrywinski, Danylo Torbiak, Wasyl Werstiuk, Sofran Leochko, Hawrylo Klowak, Stefan Didyk, N. Zasitko, Tymko Zasitko, Semko Zasitko, Iwan Zasitko, Norman Horodecki, Danylo Haliuk, Hryc Pawluk, Jorko Korbutiak, Iwan Semotiuk, Petro Semotiuk, Mykyta Pawlorucz, Iwan Marykuca, Wasyl Didyk. They reported 41 school aged children among them, and 63 in the immediate district. In 1913 a schoolhouse was constructed, and the district boundaries altered to incorporate more recent arrivals. Dehowa was the name of the village in Ukraine from where many of these families originated. SC,DE-003.

*"Mr. Bachynski was a good teacher, strict, but he knew his work and, as he was well read, he was able to provide us with much general knowledge - and this was a good thing for children of the home-steaders who had little opportunity to see the outside world"*  
- John Werbenuk.



Above: Teacher, Nicholas Bachynsky and twenty-one of his students pose for a photograph on the steps of the original one-room Dehowa School House on November 23, 1922. A few of the children identified include: 2. Mary Haliuk, 3. Dora Klowak, 4. Christine Haliuk, 7. Mike Troshuk, 10. Nellie Haliuk. Attendance reports list 56 students attending Dehowa in 1922-1923 school year. School Board members were Stephan Torbiak - Secretary/Treasurer; and Trustees Michael Werbeniuk and Jaroslaw Dumny. Mr. Bachynsky would later become a prominent local politician, and the first speaker of the Manitoba Legislature of Ukrainian descent. SC,DE-001.

## Dehowa

### School District No. 1451

"Due to great demand, in 1947 a high school was needed. Emile and Mike Bailley's old store was renovated. On the ground floor a class room was established. Michael Firman was the teacher. Students were brought in from Hamrlik, Chatfield, Broad Valley and High Plains. In the first year there were 15 students in grade 9, six in Grade 10, and five in Grade 11. Many students walked long distances or cycled. Laurence Suchar cycled eight miles during the warm months. Laurence and George Lysak became teachers and later school principals. During the winter the students were billeted at Poplarfield. In the beginning of 1949, a class was established for adults to learn English. They had to have a quorum of 20. They had only 19, so George Klowak volunteered to fill the class. Mr. Baydock was the teacher." - Peter Moroz.



Above: Dehova School class, 1947-48. Senior Room teacher: John Baydock. Junior Room: Anne Huculak. SC,DE-017.

- |                     |                      |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sandra Klowak    | 2. Evelyn Uruski     | 3. Churchill Klump   |
| 4. Jennie Haliuk    | 5. Stefanie Tycholis | 6. Laurie Klump      |
| 7. Mike Leochko     | 8. Tony Leochko      | 9. Walter Tycholis   |
| 10. Orest Zazitko   | 11. Harry Shymko     | 12. Steve Atamanchuk |
| 13. Alec Kolakowski | 14. John Troschuk    | 15. Billy Leochko    |
| 16. Peter Torbiak   | 17. Alice Haliuk     | 18. Olga Nosal       |
| 19. Helen Fedorchuk | 20. Billy Kartushyn  | 21. Danny Torbiak    |
| 22. Steve Uruski    | 23. Joe Bailley      | 24. Billy Sawchuk    |
| 25. Peter Leochko.  |                      |                      |

Left: Dehova High School students pose in front of their temporary classroom, the Bailey Bros. store in 1948, which by this time was no longer in business. High School instruction, grades 11 and 12, was started in 1947, but there was no room available in the two-room schoolhouse. Boys L-R: Steve Banera, Steve Mykytyn, Mike Kartushyn, Peter Moroz, Norman Klowak, Morris Klowak, Andrew Stasiuk, Mike Lischinski, Ted Babiuk, George Lysak and Henry Kolakowski. Girls: Olga Dudar, Dolly Klump, Olga Tycholis, Lovey Lapka, Mary Sawchuk, Vicky Roschuk. Seated at front is teacher Michael Firman. Missing from picture: Mildred Baydock, Marusia Didyk, Ruth Kempa, Eric Orlesky, John Podaima, Mary Palomar, Antonia Rozak, Lily Suchar, and Lawrence Suchar. SC,DE-051.





Above: June 1946, Dehova School students, Grades 1-5. SC,DE-008

- |                              |                      |                      |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Elsie Torbiak             | 2. Gloria Firman     | 3. Peter Roschuk     | 4. Walter Sopiwnyk   |
| 5. Margaret Ozubko           | 6. Nettie Nosal      | 7. Sonia Troschuk    | 8. Tina Leochko      |
| 9. Sonia Leochko             | 10. Irene Lisowecki  | 11. Eddie Ozubko     | 12. Johnny Torbiak   |
| 13. Anne Leochko             | 14. Marsha Ozubko    | 15. Patsy Cherepak   | 16. Stella Roschuk   |
| 17. Elizabeth Klowak         | 18. Katie Atamanchuk | 19. Olga Nosal       | 20. Jenny Shymko     |
| 21. Alice Nosal              | 22. Bill Leochko     | 23. Nickie Sawchuk   | 24. Mike Leochko     |
| 25. Billy Tycholis           | 26. David Cherepak   | 27. Billy Kartushyn  | 28. Danny Torbiak    |
| 29. Steve Marykuca           | 30. Laura Klump      | 31. Jane Bailley     | 32. Mike Leochko     |
| 33. Peter Torbiak            | 34. Orest Zasitko    | 35. Steve Atamanchuk | 36. Laurie Klump     |
| 37. Joe Bailley              | 38. Bill Sawchuk     | 39. Steve Uruski     | 40. Harry Shymko     |
| 41. Peter Leochko            | 42. Jenny Haliuk     | 43. Sandra Klowak    | 44. Steffie Tycholis |
| 45. Alice Haliuk             | 46. Grace Grzenda    | 47. Churchill Klump  | 48. Tony Leochko     |
| 49. John Troschuk            | 50. Alec Kolakowski  | 51. Walter Tycholis  |                      |
| 52. Sonia Hryciuk - teacher. |                      |                      |                      |



Above: 1946 Dehova School students, Senior room.

- |   |                       |                    |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Myrs Klowak                          | 2. Mike Kartushyn     | 3. Jenny Torbiak   |
| 4. Mr. Firman                           | 5. Ann Kartushyn      | 6. Norman Klowak   |
| 7. Olga Tycholis                        | 8. Dolly Klump        | 9. Marie Horodecki |
| 10. Ann Uruski                          | 11. Marusia Didyk     | 12. Olga Dudar     |
| 13. Jarvis Kasian                       | 14. Henry Kolakowski  | 15. Vicky Roschuk  |
| 16. Mary Sawchuk                        | 17. Elsie Bailley     | 18. Katie Klowak   |
| 19. Gloria Firman (teacher's daughter). | 20. Dorothy Troschuk. |                    |
- SC,DE-007.



Above: The first Dehowa School was destroyed by fire the winter 1935-36. It occurred in the night as a result of a faulty stove pipe. By the beginning of the next school year a new building was erected in a different location within the school yard; and pictured above soon after its completion. Note the recently planted row of trees. This, and several other rows of trees, grew rapidly and before long completely obscured the public view of the building. SC,DE-043.

Below and right: Views of the second Dehowa Teacherage and School, old town site, c1949. SC,DE-046 & SC,DE-047.



Above: John and Rose Baydock beside the Dehowa teacher's residence. The Baydocks taught at Dehowa during the late-forties. The garage visible in the background was frequently used as a concession booth during picnics and other functions. SC,DE-037.



Dehowa School No. 1451





Above: Mrs Anne Huculak and her junior room students, 1947-48. The birthday boy with the suit and cake, and looking just a bit uncomfortable, is Mrs. Huculak's son Elmer. SC,DE-021

- |                      |                          |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Anne Huculak | 2. Billy Tycholis        | 3. Mike Leochko       |
| 4. Nicky Sawchuk     | 5. Anne Huculak, teacher | 6. Steve Marykuca     |
| 7. Stella Roschuk    | 8. Annie Leochko         | 9. Peter Roschuk      |
| 10. Johnny Torbiak   | 11. Jennie Shymko        | 12. Kay Atamanchuk    |
| 13. Sonia Leochko    | 14. Marcia Ozubko        | 15. Eddie Ozubko      |
| 16. Kazmir Roschuk   | 17. Tina Leochko         | 18. Alice Nosal       |
| 19. Gloria Firman    | 20. Margaret Ozubko      | 21. Elsie Torbiak     |
| 22. Nettie Nosal     | 23. Walter Sawchuk       | 24. Joe Roschuk       |
| 25. Marie Antonchuk  | 26. Elmir Huculak        | 27. Elizabeth Bailley |
| 28. Micheal Nosal    | 29. Jane Ledohowski      | 30. Peter Ozubko      |
| 31. Donny Bailey     | 32. Irene Lisowecki.     |                       |



Above: Dehowa School senior room students, 1947-48. SC,DE-052.

- |                      |                    |                     |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Alec Kolakowski   | 2. Walter Tycholis | 3. Peter Torbiak    |
| 4. Churchill Klump   | 5. Evelyn Uruski   | 6. Steffie Tycholis |
| 7. Jenny Haliuk      | 8. Orest Zasitko   | 9. Tony Leochko     |
| 10. Laurie Klump     | 11. Peter Leochko  | 12. Bill Leochko    |
| 13. Harry Shymko     | 14. Mike Leochko   | 15. Steve Uruski    |
| 16. Joe Bailley      | 17. Danny Torbiak  | 18. Bill Kartushyn  |
| 19. Alice Haliuk     | 20. Olga Nosal     | 21. Elmir Huculak   |
| 22. Helen Fedorchuk. |                    |                     |



Left: 1952-53 Junior Room students at Dehowa School. Teacher, Slawka Bejzyk. SC,DE-022.

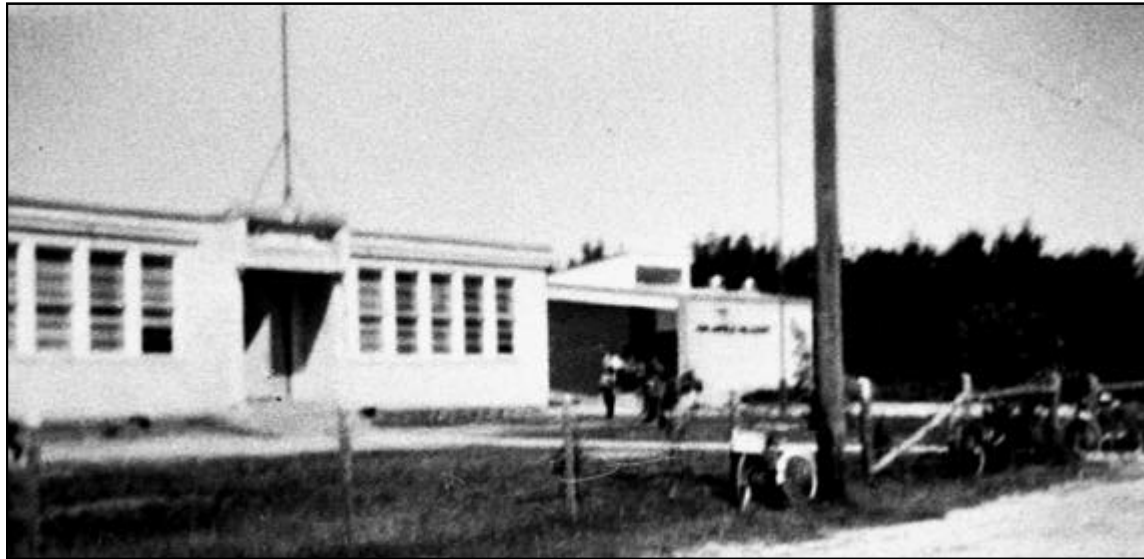
- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. unknown            | 2. Ernie Troschuk    |
| 3. Nadia Kolakowski   | 4. Myroslaw Leochko  |
| 5. Eddy Korpesho      | 6. Michael Pawlowski |
| 7. Diane Troschuk     | 8. Stella Hrycay     |
| 9. Marion Pawlowski   | 10. Leonard Skrabek  |
| 11. Michael Lapka     | 12. Dennis Hartle    |
| 13. Sally Roschuk     | 14. Steve Nosal      |
| 15. Leon Ledohowski   | 16. Billy Skarbek    |
| 17. Kenny Hartle      | 18. Ken Chekosky     |
| 19. Linda Korpesho    | 20. Rose Roschuk     |
| 21. Esther Ozubko     | 22. Anne Ozarko      |
| 23. unknown           | 24. Carol Ledohowski |
| 25. Helen Torbiak     | 26. Patricia Torbiak |
| 27. Sylvia Horodecki  | 28. Helen Ozarko     |
| 29. Evelyn Pawlowski. |                      |

Right: 1953-54, Dehowa Senior Room students gather for a class photo. SC,DE-023.

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Anne Chudy (teacher) | 2. Johnny Torbiak   |
| 3. Kazmir Roschuk       | 4. Mervin Zolkewich |
| 5. Sonia Troschuk       | 6. Marie Antonchuk  |
| 7. Michael Leochko      | 8. Sonia Leochko    |
| 9. Harry Shymko         | 10. Alice Nosal     |
| 11. Tina Leochko        | 12. Joe Lapka       |
| 13. Marcia Ozubko       | 14. Helen Glitnak   |
| 15. Doreen Lapka        | 16. Jennie Shymko   |
| 17. Eddie Iwanusiw      | 18. Steve Marykuca  |
| 19. Benny Ledohowski    | 20. Elsie Torbiak   |
| 21. Elsie Korpesho      | 22. Nettie Nosal    |
| 23. Jane Ledohowski     | 24. Joe Roschuk     |
| 25. Harry Leochko Jr.   | 26. Eddie Ozubko    |
| 27. Billy Uruski        | 28. Michael Nosal   |
| 29. Peter Ozubko.       |                     |







Left: A view of both schools from the road in front. Note the line of bicycles along the fence, which students living in both townships used to reach the new neutrally situated schoolhouse. SC,DE-034.

Right: View of Poplarfield Collegiate from the southwest c1972, prior to the addition of the gymnasium. SC,DE-033.



In 1951 the old and new townships were joined in a more direct manner by the surveying of lots and the construction of Poplar Avenue. In 1953, when the second schoolhouse burned, a lot was purchased half way between the new and old towns along Poplar Street and the third Dehowa Schoolhouse quickly constructed. During the mid-1950s the north half of Poplar Street saw several lots built on. In 1962 the Poplarfield Collegiate building was constructed on a site adjacent to the Dehowa Schoolhouse. Leading up to its construction, temporary space for the District's high school students was found in the new Poplarfield Community Centre and the Catholic Parish Hall, now located in the new town

site. In 1968 high school instruction was consolidated at an expanded Fisher Branch Collegiate. The region's elementary students were now bused to Poplarfield Elementary and the older students, 13 miles north to Fisher Branch. At this time, the Dehowa School District was formally dissolved, the school closed, and eventually sold and moved off site. Within a few years of becoming Poplarfield Elementary, a large gymnasium wing was added to the south side of the building. The elementary school was closed due to insufficient enrollment in 1991. Currently, the region's students attend classes in Fisher Branch or Arborg.



Left: An aerial view of the third Dehowa School and the Poplarfield Collegiate in 1974. By this time Dehowa School had been closed and the Collegiate building was functioning as the Poplarfield Elementary School. CS-DE-006.

Below: A scene looking from the back of the schoolyard near the railway tracks during recess around 1965. Note the elementary and high school students keeping to their own end of the schoolyard. A portion of the 'boards' circling the hockey school rink can also be seen at the right. CS-DE-006.





Left: Dehova Elementary Class, 1960. Mrs. Jean Grushka , teacher. SC,DE-019.

FR: Michael Ostryzniuk, Eddie Kuklica, Dennis Podaima, Ed Ledohowski, Roy Wallach, Garry Leochko, Larry Leschyshyn, 2R: Donna Kawka, Jessie Swar, Mary-Jane Leochko, Gailene Andruyshyn, Patsy Ptashnyk, Marie Torbiak, Janie Lapka.

3R: Leonard Pagee, Teddy Golas, Theresa Leochko, Willie Kuklica, Elizabeth Kicenko, David Kicenko, Marianne Nosal. 4R: Patricia Bailley, Carol Leochko, Larry Swar, Stanley Wallach, Shirley Leochko.

BR: Karen Podaima, Eddy Horodecki, Daniel Lapka, George Torbiak.

Right: Dehova Intermediate Class ~ 1960. Miss Shirley Zasitko ~ teacher. SC,DE-020.

FR: Joe Wallach, Norman Leochko, Danny Ostryzniuk, Brian Podaima, Johnny Nosal.

2R: Lilly Torbiak, Susan Leochko, Linda Skrabek, Helen Roschuk, Elizabeth Ptashnyk.

3R: Danny Horodecki, Bob Wallach, Irene Sokulski, Frances Kicenko.

4R: Brian Bailley, Victor Wallach, Kenny Pagee, G. Golas, Donna Sokulski.

BR: Ron Ostryzniuk, Terry Podaima, Leonard Hordecki, Marlene Podaima, Eugene Pagee, Margaret Ptashnyk, Yvonne Pagee.





Above: Frank Ferris, was a bus driver for Lakeshore School Division for 20 years, transporting the students from the greater Chatfield area, first to Poplarfield with a panel van, and later to Poplarfield and Fisher Branch with the familiar, large yellow school bus. SC,DE-056.



Above: Some of the Hamrlik and New Star School district teenagers being bused to attend high school at Poplarfield Collegiate. The panel-van' bus driver at the time was Bill Pawluk. L-R: Eleanore Rabski, Elaine Stonoga, Marvin Stocki, Dennis Zuk, Shirley Bazilewich, Marilyn Sokulski, Allen Swedlo, Peter Bazilewich, Ron Sumka. SC,DE-036.



Right: Students from Chatfield area going to high school in Poplarfield in 1961-62. Bus Driver - Frank Ferris. Students transported included: Larry Ferris, Stanley Ferris, Helen Demianiw, Stanley Bilinski, Marion Palsson, Paul Bilinski, Claude Todd, Donna Iwanusiw, Joey Ptashynski, Johnny Johnson, Freddy Demkey, Beverley Todd, Danny Jeremy, Claudia Rindall, Ellen Annell, Linda Rindall, Marvin Annell, Richard Kowal. SC,DE-057.

Left: The students from Chatfield area going to high school in Poplarfield in 1962-63. Bus Driver- Frank Ferris. Students include: Paul Demianiw, Michael Bilinski, Larry Ferris, Johnny Johnson, Helen Demianiw, Johnny Pawlychyn, Lorraine Ferris, Sharon Cruise, Joan Welsh, Ellen Annell, Kristine Palsson, Ronnie Johnson, Stanley Bilinski. SC,DE-058







Left: Some of the children comprising the last class of Dehowa School students, 1967-68. BR: Carol Leochko, Debbie Ostryzniuk, Mary Jean Leochko, Jessie Swar. FR: Donna Kawka, Janie Lapka, Diane Swarychewski, Margie Chudy, Veronica Chudy. SC,DE-030.



Left: 1967-68 Dehowa Students: L-R: Marianne Nosal, Elizabeth Kicenko, Pat Ptashnyk, Shirley Leochko, Jenny Chudy, Gailene Andruyshyn. Boys at the back are David Kicenko and Eddy Horodecki. SC,DE-031.



Right: 1967-68 Dehowa Students: BR: Willie Kuklica, Dennis Podaima, Ed Ledohowski; David Kicenko; and Ed Horodecki. ER: Tim Pomanski; Gary Leochko; Eddy Kuklica; Eric Cook. SC,DE-032.

Left: Jean Grushka at her desk in the elementary room in Dehowa School, c1963. This view shows a good portion of the interior of the third and last Dehowa School. SC,DE-029.





Left: Dehova School, 1963-64, grades 1-4. FR: Angela Mazur, Monica ?, Veronica Chudy, Kelly Zasitko, Darlene Podaima, Diane Swarychewski, Carol-Anne Leochko, Gladys Lapka. MR: Sharon Leschyshyn, Gary Leochko, Debbie Ostryzniuk, Dennis Podaima, Willie Kukclia, Leonard Pagee, Margie Chudy, Timmy Pomanski. BR: Paul Nevakshonoff, Terry Pomanski, Eddie Kucklica, Michael Ostryzniuk, Larry Skrabek, Tony ? , Wayne Ledohowski, Leonard Leschyshyn. Teacher: Miss Cholod. SC,DE-050.

Right: Poplarfield Elementary School, Grade 3 students, 1967-68. BR: Steven Stasiuk, Tom Nevakshonoff, Donnie Mazur, Kenny Emms, Robert Breland, Nicki Kochan, Orest Swarychewski, Roger Leduchowski. 2R: Lois Johnson, Rose Kochan, Henry Hacult, Robert Horodecki, Joe Kipling, ? Surminiski, Norman Kipling, Jean Sumka, Judy Ptashynski. FR: Linda Yaremus, Rose Marie Leduchowski, Shirley Marchuk, Virginia Haut, Sherry Leochko, Lynn Hacult, Mrs. Jean Grushka. SC,DE-059.

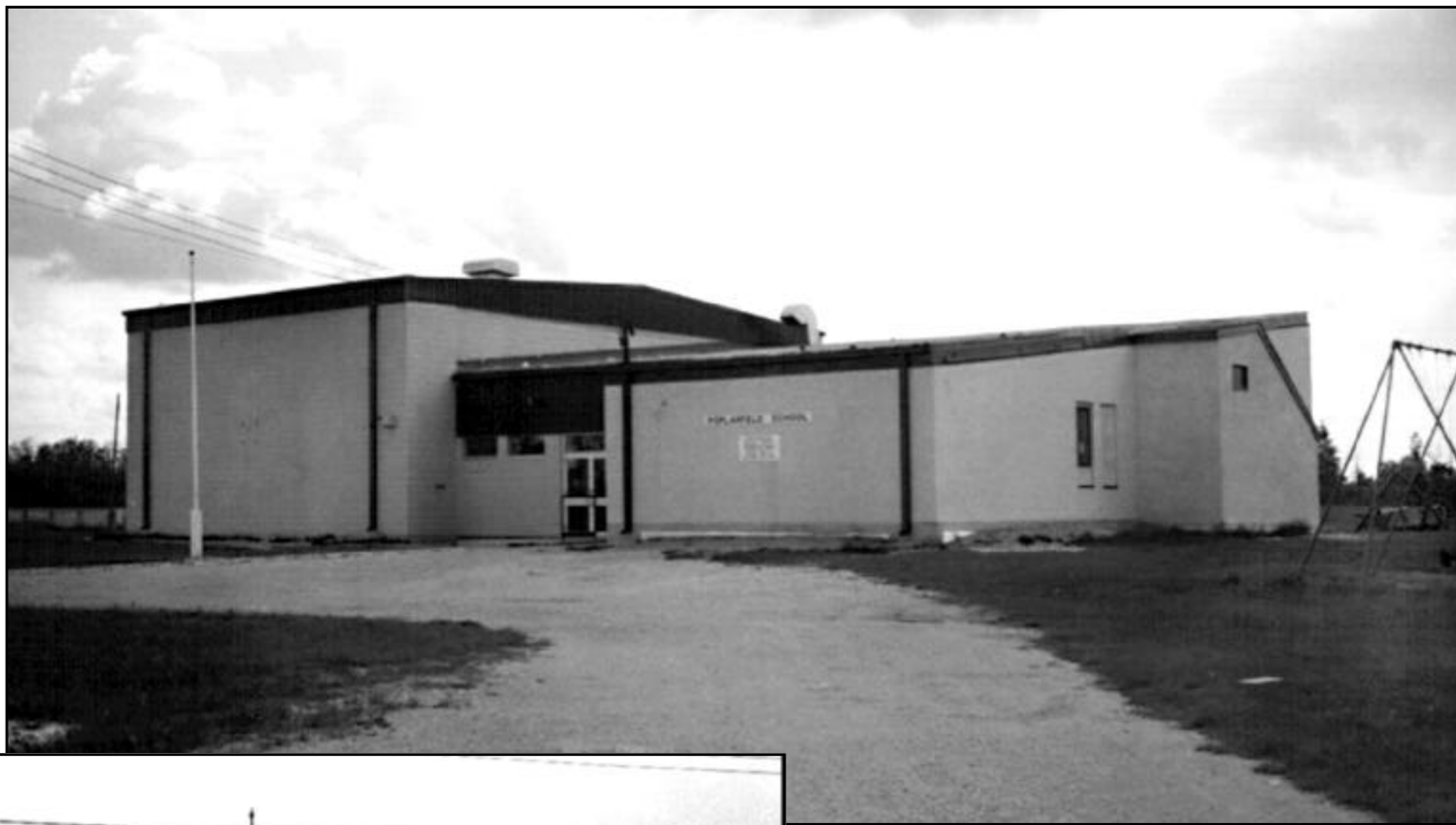




Above: Elizabeth Masiak and her grade one class visit the Poplarfield Post Office on May 23, 1984. The children include: Charla Wallach, Tekla Skrabek, Curtis Gesbrandt, John Kibsey, Calvin Fisher, Erin Nosal, Mary-Ann Kibsey, Hazel Tomson, Scott Heppner, Dennis Cruise, Kevin Kallstrom, Nathan Kicenko, Courtney Fischer. SC,DE-053.



Right: Mrs. Pat Marchuk and her elementary class visit the Poplarfield Post Office. Students are: Stephen Kibsey, Paul Wallach, Tina Neale, Susie Bogucki, Tanya Shirley. SC,DE-054.



Above: Poplarfield Collegiate building as it appeared during the mid-1970s. Just visible at the right rear is a large new ice hockey rink which the school students and townspeople used during the early 1980s. SC,DE-045.



Left: The former third and final Dehowa Schoolhouse. This photo shows the school around 1979, now empty with the elementary students using the former collegiate building. SC,DE-035.



## DEHOWA S.D. 1451 ~ TEACHERS

1912/17 - Paul Semotiuk  
 1917/18 - Theo Flora, E.L. Kerr  
 1918/19 - Wm. Wiwisiaryk, Wm. Hryciuk  
 1919/20 - Wm. Hryciuk  
 1920/21 - Wm. Hryciuk, Fred Humeniuk  
 1921/22 - Nellie Patterson  
 1922/23 - N.V. Bachynski  
 1923/24 - N.V. Bachynski, Olive Mayhen  
 1924/25 - N.V. Bachynski, Polly Cherniak  
 1925/26 - Polly Cherniak, N.V. Bachynski, Grace Woodsworth  
 1926/27 - Polly Cherniak, Walter A. Kostiuk  
 1927/28 - Mary Buzdygan, Walter a. Kostiuk  
 1928/29 - Mary Bilash, Theresa Demchuk, Eugenia Prygrocki  
 1929/30 - Theresa Demchuk, Eugenia Prygrocki  
 1930/31 - Helen Wellis, Alfred White  
 1931/32 - Olgar Chorneyko, Alfred White  
 1932/33 - Michael Hykawy, Michael Krepiakwich  
 1933/34 - Sylvia Hryciuk, Michael Krepiakwich  
 1934/38 - Sylvia Hryciuk, John P. Tanchak  
 1938/40 - Sylvia Hryciuk, John P. Tanchak, Leon W. Michalchuk  
 1940/41 - Sylvia Hryciuk, Leon W. Michalchuk  
 1941/43 - Sylvia Hryciuk, Helen Romaniak  
 1943/44 - Sylvia Hryciuk, Felix Tesarski  
 1944/46 - Sylvia Hryciuk, Michael Firman  
 1946/47 - Anne Aly Lainey, Michael Firman, William Gliitnak  
 1947/48 - Lovey Bailley, John Baydock, Michael Firman, Anne Huculak  
 1948/50 - Rose Baydock, John Baydock  
 1950/52 - Nancy Ostryzniuk, Frank Mikolayenko  
 1952/53 - Slawka Bejzyk, Anne Chudy  
 1953/54 - Jane Grushka, William Gliitnak  
 1954/55 - Jane Grushka, Matt Parypa, Frank Mikolayenko  
 1955/56 - Jane Grushka, Anne Wallach, Frank Mikolayenko  
 1956/57 - Stella Prystupa, Anne Wallach, Frank Mikolayenko  
 1957/58 - Stella Prystupa, Michael Kubas, Frank Mikolayenko  
 1958/59 - Irene Lisowecki, David Lypchuk, Antony Kozachenko  
 1959/60 - Sonia Leochko, Helen Buchkowski, Michael Andrusiak  
 1960/61 - Jane Grushka, Shirley Zasiatko  
 1962/63 - Margaret Mary Cholod, Anne Chudy  
 1964/65 - D. Kwyatkoski, Anne Chudy  
 1965/67 - Jane Grushka, Anne Chudy

## POPLARFIELD ELEMENTERY ~ TEACHERS

1967/68 - Ronald Sumka, Michael Shewaga, June Popowich,  
 Donna Jaremy, Jane Grushka, Anne Chudy, Gloria Bond  
 1968/69 - Anne Chudy, Emily Huzarski, Jane Grushka, Donna Jaremy,  
 Michael Shewaga, Ronald Sumka  
 1969/70 - Anne Chudy, Janice Arnott, Stella Michalopoulou,  
 Michael Shewaga, Patricia Marchuk  
 1970/71 - Anne Chudy, Jeanne Boisjoli, Donna Jaremy, Patricia Marchuk,  
 Michael Shewaga  
 1971/72 - Anne Chudy, Raymond Colegrave, Donna Jaremy,  
 Verna Sobkowich, Ronald Sumka  
 1972/75 - Anne Chudy, Donna Jaremy, Verna Sobkowich, Ronald Sumka  
 1975/76 - Anne Chudy, Donna Jaremy, Ronald Sumka, Patricia Marchuk  
 1976-79 - Anne Chudy, Patricia Rindall, Patricia Marchuk, Ronald Sumka  
 1979/84 - Anne Chudy, Patricia Rindall, Patricia Marchuk, Elizabeth Masiak,  
 Ronald Sumka  
 1984/88 - Anne Chudy, Ronald Sumka, Patricia Rindall, Patricia Marchuk  
 1988/89 - Ronald Sumka, Patricia Rindall, Patricia Marchuk  
 1989/91 - Cornelius Parado, Patricia Rindall, Patricia Marchuk  
 School closed - June 30, 1991

## POPLARFIELD COLLEGIATE ~ TEACHERS

1961/62 - Michael Andrusiak, Bob Ferris, Elsie Torbiak, Gordon McCurdy  
 1962/63 - Michael Andrusiak, Oswald C. Graham, Elsie Torbiak,  
 D.D. Maharaj  
 1963/64 - Michael Andrusiak, Herb Esau, Mr. & Mrs. Kwiatowsky  
 1964/65 - Michael Andrusiak, Lennox Harris, Jake Klassen,  
 William Korytowski  
 1965/66 - Michael Andrusiak, Sonny Dass, Mahadaeo Daulat,  
 Dirpaul Ramkisoon  
 1966/67 - Michael Andrusiak, Sonny Dass, Mahadaeo Daulat,  
 Dirpaul Ramkisoon  
 School Closed - June 30, 1967



Left: The High Plains School male students pose for a photograph in front of the original one-room schoolhouse around 1922. The initial building was constructed in 1915, and opened with an enrollment of thirty-five students, instructed by Mr. Paul Semotiuk. The name 'Highland' had been requested in the petition, but the name was altered to 'Highplains' by the Department of Education. The only one positively identified in this 1922 group is Mike Troschuk, who is the lad with the coveralls and black sweater. Mike would later be a well-known carpenter and barn builder in the region. The school was located five miles west of Poplarfield on SW 17-22-2W. SC,HP-001.



Above: The second, two-roomed, High Plains School which was constructed c1930 to accommodate the rapidly increasing enrollment, as family sizes grew. SC,HP-005.



Above left: High Plains teacher's cottage as it appeared soon after its construction during the early 1920s. Nick Lisowecki of Poplarfield was contracted to build the structure. It was his very first building job, having assisted an Icelandic carpenter in the Arborg District on one previous occasion. Mr. Lisowecki went on to erect many structures throughout the district over the ensuing thirty years. The long vacant building was still standing solid in 2000. SC,HP-012.

# *High Plains*

*School District No. 1777*



High Plains class photo 1943-44. SC,HP-002.

- |                     |                      |                    |                       |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Myrtle Zolkewich | 2. Joe Lapka         | 3. Clara Kuklica   | 4. Lovey Lapka        | 5. Mike Sachowski   | 6. Terry Stawychny   |
| 7. John Chuba       | 8. Annie Wallach     | 9. Rose Skibinski  | 10. John Kuklica      | 11. Michael Stasiuk | 12. Helen Lapka      |
| 13. Joyce Fuz       | 14. Mike Lishchinski | 15. Mike Leochko   | 16. Alice Leochko     | 17. Helen Glitnak   | 18. Nastasia Stasiuk |
| 19. Nadia Lapka     | 20. John Sachowski   | 21. Andrew Stasiuk | 22. Theresa Stawychny | 23. Rose Leochko    | 24. Joe Zasitko      |
| 25. Helen Marykuca  | 26. Bill Glitnak     | 27. Paul Zasitko   | 28. Myrtle Stawychny  | 29. Steve Marykuca  | 30. Stella Sachowski |
| 31. Walter Karlicki | 32. Bill Marykuca    | 33. Anne Kawka     | 34. Frank Wallach     | 35. Ruth Zasitko    | 36. Mary Glitnak     |
| 37. Tony Skibinski  | 38. Harry Werstiuk   | 39. Metro Yanciw   | 40. Steve Kuklica     | 41. Bella Ptashnyk  | 42. Nettie Werbenuk  |
| 43. Lovey Zasitko   | 44. Olga Zasitko     | 45. Elsie Didyk    | 46. Helen Chuba       | 47. Sam Werstiuk    |                      |

Missing from picture, but also attending school, Fred Leochko, Walter Segin, and Mary Yanciw.



Teachers Joseph & Sonya Hallis and their High Plains students in 1945. Joe and Sonya taught at High Plains from 1939 to 1945. He taught grades 5 to 11 and she, grades 1 to 4. Joe also taught Ukrainian, art and music. He could play the violin, guitar and mandolin. SC,HP-003.

- |                            |                              |                       |                    |                     |                     |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. John Sachowski          | 2. Steve Marykuca            | 3. Frank Wallach      | 4. Nadia Lapka     | 5. Helen Marykuca   | 6. Nastasia Stasiuk |
| 7. Stella Sachowski        | 8. Fred Leochko              | 9. Mike Lishchinski   | 10. Clara Kuklica  | 11. Olga Zasitko    | 12. Annie Wallach   |
| 13. Lovey Zasitko          | 14. Mary Glitnak             | 15. Myrtle Stawychny  | 16. Anne Kawka     | 17. unidentified    | 18. Billy Stasiuk   |
| 19. John Kuklica           | 20. Peter Leochko            | 21. Andrew Stasiuk    | 22. Harry Werstiuk | 23. Walter Karlicki | 24. Billy Marykuca  |
| 25. Mike Sachowski         | 26. Johnny Segin             | 27. Walter Segin      | 28. Sonia Stasiuk  | 29. Helen Glitnak   | 30. unidentified    |
| 31. Mervin Marykuca        | 32. Myrtle Zolkewich         | 33. Theresa Stawychny | 34. Alice Leochko  | 35. Mike Stasiuk    | 36. Metro Yanciw    |
| 37. Sonya Hallis - teacher | 38. Joseph Hallis - teacher. |                       |                    |                     |                     |





Left: High Plains School, Junior room in 1947. Ann Nechwediuk teacher. BR: Theresa Zasiatko, Doreen Lapka, Rose Leochko, Irene Podiuk, Bill Sachowski, Joe Lapka, Mervin Zolkewich, Sam Werstiuk, Mary Yanciw, Walter Segin. FR: Clifford Kolach, Mervin Marykuca, Steve Fuz, Myrtle Sachowski, Helen Werstiuk, Elizabeth Kopec, John Segin, and Ostap Stasiuk. SC,HP-010.



Right: High Plains School, Senior Room, 1947. Mary Kolach, teacher. BR: Andrew Ledohowski, Lovey Zasiatko, Ann Wallach, Clara Kuklica. 2R: Bill Marykuca, Theresa Stawychny, Helen Chuba, Verna Kopec, Walter Karlicki. FR: Helen Glitnak, Metro Yanciw, Alice Leochko, Anne Kawka, Myrtle Zolkewich, Stephe Kopec, Mike Stasiuk. SC,HP-015.

HIGH PLAINS S.D. 1777 ~ TEACHERS

1917/19 - Paul Somotiuk  
 1919/20 - Simon Junnovitch  
 1920/21 - N.V. Bilinsky, John Hawryluk  
 1921/23 - Josephus Lamb  
 1923/24 - Cecil Burrows  
 1924/25 - R.C. Green, Josephus Lamb  
 1925/26 - Josephus Lamb, Elias Evasiuk  
 1926/27 - Mary Cozy, John Chaills  
 1927/28 - N.V. Bachynski, Theresa Demchuk  
 1928/29 - Mary Melnychuk, F.N. Brisson  
 1929/30 - George Burrell  
 1930/31 - George Burrell, Leslie Grace  
 1931/32 - Leslie Grace  
 1932/33 - J.M. Hawryluk  
 1033/34 - Eugenia Prygrocki, Pearl Sawula  
 1934/35 - Pearl Sawula  
 1935/36 - Helen Klym, Pearl Sawula, Mary Bachewich  
 1936/37 - Donna Rutchko, Stephanie Malkowich  
 1937/38 - Olga Chimchak, John Chimchak

1938/39 - Annie Smigel, Jane Andrieshyn, Helen Tanchuk  
 1939/40 - Mary, Chreptyk, Jane Andrieshyn, Helen Tanchuk  
 1941/41 - Jane Andrieshyn, Adam Presley, Olga Chimchak  
 1941/46 - Sonya Hallas, Joseph Hallas  
 1946/47 - Lena Leochko, Martha Korotash  
 1947/48 - Ann Nechwediuk, Mary Kolach, Rosie Rozecki  
 1948/49 - Elsie Bailley, Lena Leochko  
 1949/50 - Lena Leochko, Roy White  
 1950/53 - Wm. Glitnak  
 1953/54 - Emily Dern  
 1954/55 - Michael Lischinsky  
 1955/56 - Thomas Dwernychuk  
 1956/57 - Michael Lischinsky  
 1957/60 - George Lysak  
 1960/61 - Peter Kubas  
 1961/62 - Sonia Genyk  
 1962/63 - Carl Galebiaski  
 1963/65 - Steven Fuz  
 1965/66 - John Stocki, Irene Woloshyn  
 1966/67 - Irene Woloshyn.

High Plains School, 1947 students gather for an interior photograph. SC,HP-008.

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bill Marykuca     | 2. Theresa Stawychny     |
| 3. Andrew Ledohowski | 4. Lovey Zasitko         |
| 5. Annie Wallach     | 6. Clara Kuklica         |
| 7. Helen Chuba       | 8. Verna Kopec           |
| 9. Walter Karlicki   | 10. Bill Sachowsky       |
| 11. Irene Podiuk     | 12. Walter Segin         |
| 13. Metro Yanciw     | 14. Helen Glitnak        |
| 15. Elsie Leochko    | 16. Mary Yanciw          |
| 17. Annie Kawka      | 18. Joe Lapka            |
| 19. Sam Werstiuk     | 20. Myrtle Zolkewich     |
| 21. Stephe Kopec     | 22. Mervin Zolkewich     |
| 23. Mike Stasiuk     | 24. Doreen Lapka, hidden |
| 25. Rosie Leochko    | 26. Clifford Kolach      |
| 27. Mervin Marykuca  | 28. Helen Werstiuk       |
| 29. Steve Fuz        | 30. Myrtle Sachowski     |
| 32. Elizabeth Kopec  | 33. Johnny Segin         |
| 34. Theresa Zasitko  | 35. Ostap Stasiuk.       |



High Plains School No.1777

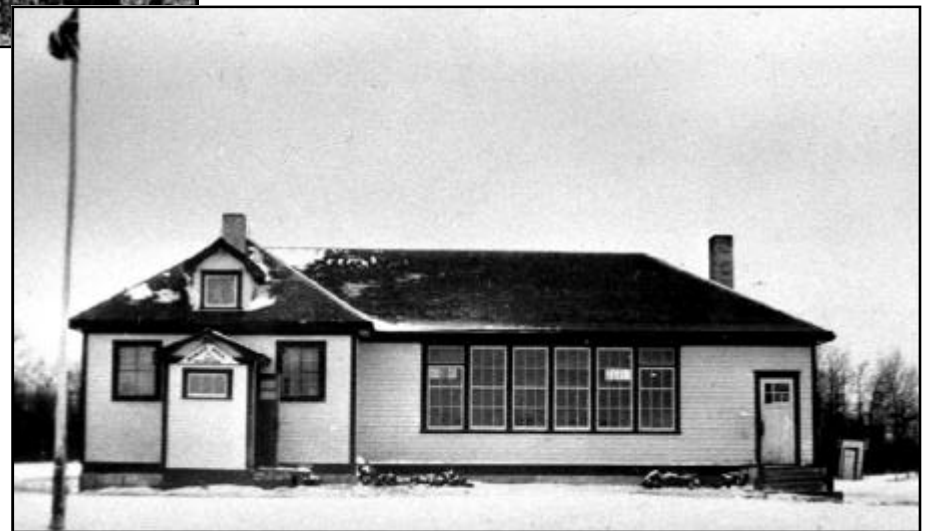


Left: Wheathill School class of 1919. Wheathill school was constructed in 1913, and opened its doors in 1914 with Nicholas Bachynsky as teacher. A second room was added in 1929. Enrollment peaked in 1933 with 103 students. The second room was closed in 1946, and the final class of 13 students attended the school in 1966-1967. SC,WH-001.

BR: Bill Rushowick; Metro Dudliuk; Jean Skibitzky; Pearl Rushowick; Diana Holyk; Anna Gulowaty; Stephen Nykyforiuk (teacher); Annie Masiak; Kay Mykytyn; Annie Blahey; Dora Schur; Annie Didliuk; Sadie Schur; Kate Stogrin; Annie Stogrin, unknwn. MR: Mike Kibsey; Bill Shushkewich; Mike Blahey; John Dudych; Paul Kowal; John Iwanusiw; Pete Dudliuk; Nick Dudluik; Bill Godomski. FR: Walter Belchie; John Blahey; Peter Masiak; Kay Kolopeniuk; Mary Kolopeniuk; Kay Masiak; Mary Gulka; Kay Gulka; Pearl Dudiuk; Kay Iwanusiw; Henry Walchuk, and Nick Rushowick.



Above: Wheathill School teacher's residence. The original teacher-age burned down in 1937, and was replaced with the building pictured above. SC,WH-012.



Above: Wheathill School after the addition of the second classroom in 1929. SC,WH-006.

# Wheathill

## School District No. 1650



Wheathill School enrollment, 55 children, 1940. Wheathill was a frequent winner of the annual school sports day competitions, as they did in 1940/41. SC,WH-003.

- |                     |                                       |                         |   |                      |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Roy Chomica      | 2. Tom Blahey                         | 3. Peter Chudy          | 4. Mike Palamar                         | 5. Joe Kempa         | 6. Dora Chomica     |
| 7. Metro Kolopeniuk | 8. Anne Ledochowski                   | 9. Fred Daciw           | 10. Olga Tanasychuk                     | 11. Ken Leduchowski  | 12. Sophie Kowal    |
| 13. Annie Dudych    | 14. Joe Leduchowski                   | 15. Mary Kempa          | 16. John Daciw                          | 17. Nick Yaremus     | 18. unknown         |
| 19. John Kucharski  | 20. Nick Rymar                        | 21. George Leduchowski  | 22. Fred Rymar                          | 23. Mike Leschyshyn  | 24. Helen Kawka     |
| 25. Cedric Chomica  | 26. Mary Rymar                        | 27. Victoria Osioway    | 28. Katie Witishyn                      | 29. Annie Leschyshyn | 30. Ellen Blahey    |
| 31. Ruth Kempa      | 32. Katie Kibsey                      | 33. Alice Osioway       | 34. Helen Ledochowski                   | 35. Anne Zembik      | 36. Olga Witishyn   |
| 37. Mary Kucharski  | 38. Mary Palamar                      | 39. Meroslaw Tanasychuk | 40. Annie Kibsey                        | 41. Paul Leduchowski | 42. Stella Kempa    |
| 43. Alex Kempa      | 44. Frank Stogrin                     | 45. Alex Dudych         | 46. Steve Kolopeniuk                    | 47. Nick Tanasychuk  | 48. John Palamar    |
| 49. Steve Banera    | 50. Ben Kawka                         | 51. Dan Leduchowski     | 52. Paul Witishyn                       | 53. John Banera      | 54. Walter Witishyn |
| 55. Albert Zembek   | 56. Teacher: Gorden Tully, grades 5-9 |                         | 57. Teacher: Isabelle Tully, grades 1-4 |                      |                     |



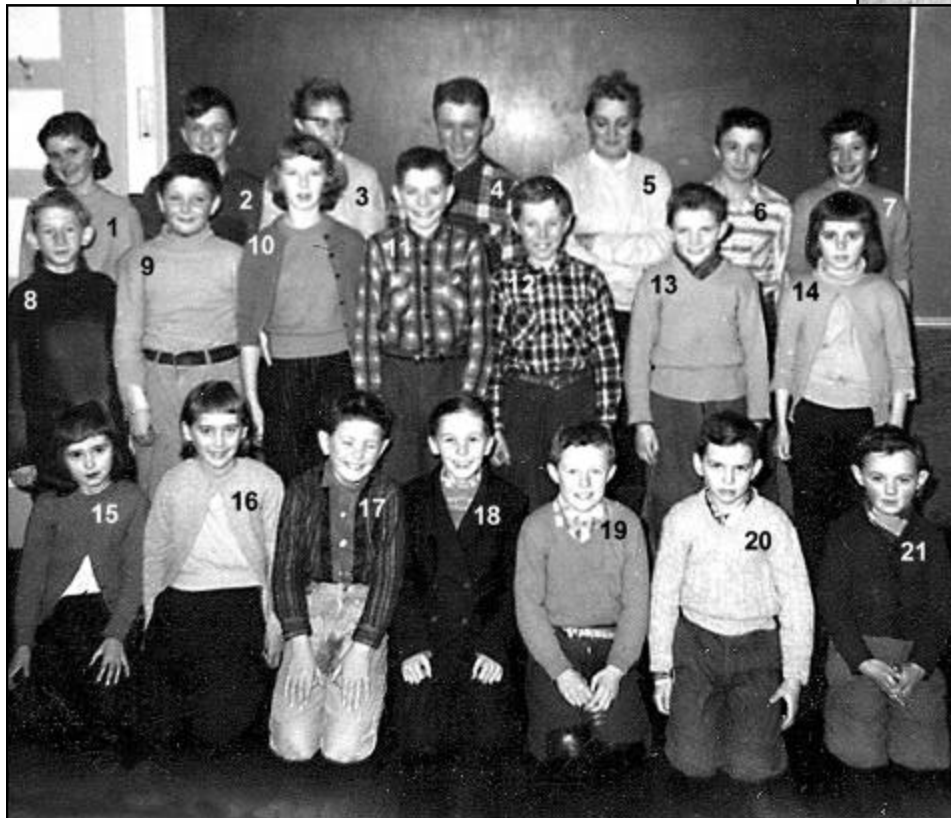


Above: Wheathill School enrollment, March 1935. SC,WH-010. Mr. Seneshyn and Miss Frances Gray, teachers.

- |                         |                      |                       |                          |                        |                     |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. Seneshyn         | 2. Bill Ledochowski  | 3. Metro Mykytyn      | 4. Metro Daciw           | 5. Mike Kolopeniuk     | 6. Mike Kempa       |
| 7. Steve Dudych         | 8. Steve Kowal       | 9. Frank Osioway      | 10. Paul Kempa           | 11. Adolph Drozda      | 12. Lily Pawlychka  |
| 13. Miss Frances Gray   | 14. Sophie Kowal     | 15. Donia Kolopeniuk  | 16. Tenna Kempa          | 17. Kay Ewanisiw       | 18. Minnie Kowal    |
| 19. Diane Dudych        | 20. Kay Leduchowski  | 21. Rosie Stogrin     | 22. Katherine Blahey     | 23. Olga Kowal         | 24. Kay Kolopeniuk  |
| 25. Nettie Ewanisiw     | 26. unknown          | 27. Mary Hyzyk        | 28. Mary Chomica         | 29. Anna Yanisiw       | 30. Annie Kempa     |
| 31. Adeline Osioway     | 32. Nellie Kempa     | 33. Nellie Osioway    | 34. Stella Yaremus       | 35. Doria Blahey       | 36. Frances Yaremus |
| 37. Olga Leschyshyn     | 38. Harry Kibsey     | 39. George Pawlychka  | 40. Steve Chomica        | 41. Bill Yanisiw       | 42. Bill Kucharski  |
| 43. unknown             | 44. Alex Leduchowski | 45. Bill Kucharski    | 46. Fred Dudych          | 47. Nick Ledochowski   | 48. Fred Daciw      |
| 49. Steve Kolopeniuk    | 50. unknown          | 51. Peter Ewanisiw    | 52. Victoria Ledochowski | 53. Nellie Ledochowski | 54. unknown         |
| 55. Meroslaw Tanasychuk | 56. unknown          | 57. unknown           | 58. Fred Kempa           | 59. Metro Kolopeniuk   | 60. Nick Yaremus    |
| 61. Dora Chomica        | 62. Cedric Chomica   | 63. Helen Ledochowski | 64. Tom Blahey           | 65. Metro Dutchuk      | 66. John Kucharski  |
| 67. Alex Kempa          | 68. unknown          | 69. Annie Leduchowski | 70. Mary Kempa           | 71. Annie Dutchuk      | 72. J. Pawlychka    |
| 73. Olga Tanasychak     |                      |                       |                          |                        |                     |

Right: Wheathill class, c1955. SC,WH-005.

- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Johnny Benera      | 2. Kay Shushkewich     |
| 3. Janice Annell      | 4. Marie Chomica       |
| 5. Esther Annell      | 6. Joe Kolopeniuk      |
| 7. Joe Leschyshyn     | 8. Walter Ptashynski   |
| 9. JoyceYanusiw       | 10. Gloria Leduchowski |
| 11. Elizabeth Masiak  | 12. Alex Kolopeniuk    |
| 13. Marie Kibsey      | 14. Joyc Kibsey        |
| 15. Grace Yanusiw     | 16. Nettie Tanasychuk  |
| 17. Gloria Kurcharski | 18. Nelson Masiak      |
| 19. Peter Kibsey      | 20. Betty Chomiak      |
| 21. Neil Annell       | 22. Richard Kowal.     |



Left: Wheathill class of 1960, enrollment: twenty-one. SC,WH-011.

- |                     |                      |                     |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Diana Taraschuk  | 2. Peter Kolopeniuk  | 3. Annie Chomiak    |
| 4. Bill Halabura    | 5. Josie Chomiak     | 6. Robert Leochko   |
| 7. Betty Blahey     | 8. Johnny Kibsey     | 9. Danny Kowal      |
| 10. Angeline Blahey | 11. Bruce Blahey     | 12. Gordon Osioway  |
| 13. Arthur Gulowaty | 14. Shirly Taraschuk | 15. Carol Taraschuk |
| 16. Linda Taraschuk | 17. Eddy Blahey      | 18. Andy Taraschuk  |
| 19. Carl Osioway    | 20. Wayne Blahey     | 21. Ken Gulowaty.   |

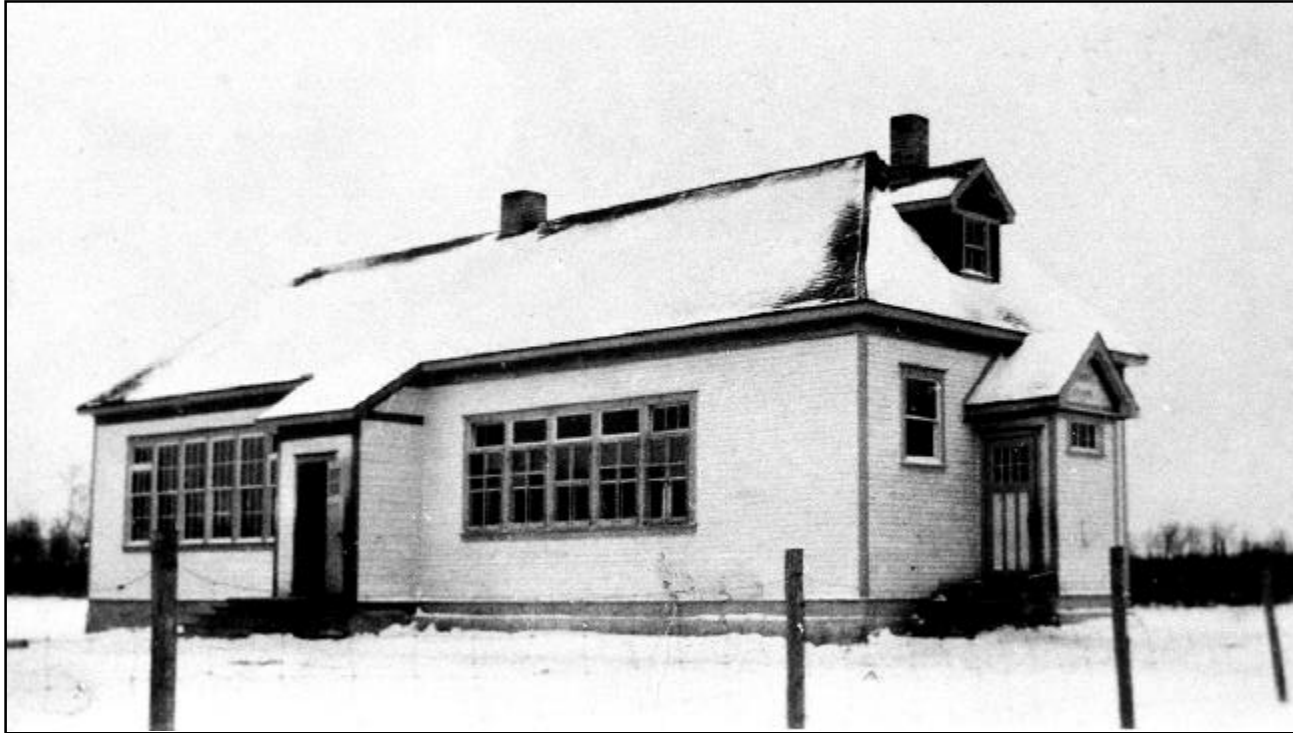
Right: Last class to attend Wheathill School, the class of 1966/67 consisting of 5 girls and 5 boys, instructed by Mr. Michael Shawga. Fittingly, Wheathill was the winning school at the region's final Field Day competition, crowning a long tradition. The victory, however, was assisted by the favorable points/enrollment formula used to determine the winner. BR: Joyce Osioway, Carol Taraschuk, Glen Blahey, Wayne Blahey, Ken Gulowathy, Mr. Shawga. FR: Rose Marie Yaremus, Valerie Leochko, Linda Yaremus, Robert Yaremus, Ron Taraschuk. SC,WH-014.



WHEATHILL S.D. NO. 1650 - TEACHERS

1915/16 - Nicholas Bachynsky  
 1917/18 - Setphen Nykyforuk  
 1918/19 - records missing  
 1919/20 - J. M. McSimock  
 1920/21 - D. M. Hawryluk  
 1925/26 - John Mazur  
 1929/30 - Frances Clark  
 1930/31 - H. Hykawy and N. Punak  
 1933/34 - J. M. Howryluk and A. Mykytrick  
 1934/35 - Frances Grey and Mr. M. D. Seneshen  
 1935/36 - Olga, Burianyk and Mr. M. D. Seneshen  
 1936/37 - Agnes Adamik and Dorothy Probizanski  
 1937/38 - Agnes Adamik and Dorothy Probizanski  
 1938/39 - Agnes Adamik and Dorothy Probizanski  
 1939/40 - Millie Urry and Mary Malenchak  
 1940/41 - Gorden and Isabelle Tully  
 1941/42 - Gorden and Isabelle Tully  
 1942/43 - Jennie Gailey and Alice Giles  
 1943/44 - Elsie Land and Elizabeth Curts  
 1944/45 - Helen Franckewicz and Mrs. E. Sopiwnigh

1946/47 - Helen Osioway  
 1947/48 - Gladys Wojciechowski  
 1948/49 - Gladys Wojciechowski  
 1949/50 - John Packulak  
 1950/51 - John Packulak  
 1951/52 - John Packulak  
 1952/53 - Mrs. Mary Michaelchuk  
 1953/54 - Helen Shewchuk  
 1954/55 - Mrs. Helen Klowak  
 1955/56 - Mr. J.E. Cooper  
 1956/57 - John Chobotor & Joyce Brown  
 1957/58 - Mrs. O. Buticher  
 1958/59 - Walter Diachun  
 1959/60 - Walter Diachun  
 1960/61 - Olga Eyjolfson  
 1961/62 - Olga Eyjolfson  
 1962/63 - Olga Eyjolfson  
 1963/64 - Olga Eyjolfson  
 1964/65 - Mr. A.A. Kachur  
 1965/66 - Mr. B.F. Olson  
 1966/67 - Michael Shewaga.



Above: Leeland School photographed by a Department of Education School Inspector during the early 1930s. SC,LL-006.

Leeland School was registered in 1914, and classes started in 1915 in a one-room school, which was enlarged to two rooms during the mid-1920s. Some students came from as far as four and a half miles away each day. The school reverted to a one-room operation after the New Star District was established and a school built in 1936. In 1966, when the divisional system was introduced for Manitoba elementary schools, the district was dissolved and students were bused to Poplarfield. Some students in the eastern part of the Hamrlik District were bused to Arborg.

# *Leeland*

## *School District No. 1554*



Above: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Klowak, 1948. Helen Klowak was a teacher at Leeland School for a number of years during the 1940s. SC,LL-005.

Below: Composite view of a very large unidentified class at Leeland School, c1925. A quick count shows that 23 boys and 35 girls, or 58 students, in attendance that day. SC,LL-002 & SC,LL-003.







Above: Leeland School, class photo c1930 - Teacher Helen Libyniski and her class of 45 children. SC,LL-001.

- |                    |                   |                       |                       |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Roy Pick        | 2. Pete Rozak     | 3. Pearl Zorniak      | 4. Polly Ozubko       |
| 5. Mary Kicenکو    | 6. Olga Meleshko  | 7. Mary M. Kochan     | 8. Pete Meleshko      |
| 9. Bill Marko      | 10. Mike J. Marko | 11. Sophie Pododworny | 12. Mary J. Kochan    |
| 13. Sophie Kicenکو | 14. Mary Rozak    | 15. Ginny Bazilewich  | 16. Mary Swarychewski |
| 17. Annie Hnatiuw  | 18. Pete M. Marko | 19. Walter Marko      | 20. Stella Wozniak    |
| 21. Nick Ozubko    | 22. Annie Martin  | 23. Nick Elchysy      | 24. Pearl Hrydow      |
| 25. unknown        | 26. Tony Skrabyk  | 27. Nellie Martyniuk  | 28. Annie Kochan      |
| 29. Kate Hnatiw    | 30. Kate Martin   | 31. Kate Zuk          | 32. Pauline Zuk       |
| 33. Pauline Husiak | 35. Mary Husiak   | 36. Roy Surminski     | 37. Harry Meleshko    |
| 38. Roy Marko      | 39. Harry Skrabyk | 40. Nick Wozniak      | 41. Mike Surminski    |
| 42. Walter Rozak   | 43. Steve Defir   | 44. Harry Bazilewich  | 45. Harry Duda        |
| 46. Harry Zorniak  |                   |                       |                       |



Above: Leeland School students, 1948. SC,LL-004

- |                     |                       |                     |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Katherine Rozak  | 2. Mike Gregorash     | 3. Olga Fedowich    |
| 4. Alexander Suchar | 5. Betty Zorniak      | 6. Gracie Grzenda   |
| 7. Olga Rozak       | 8. Elsie Samorodny    | 9. Nellie Machko    |
| 10. Helen Kochan    | 11. Olga Kochan       | 12. Helen Gregorash |
| 13. Rosie Samorodny | 14. Pearl Gregorash   | 15. Peter Danyluk   |
| 16. John Marko      | 17. Lawrence Fedowich |                     |

LEELAND S.D. 1554 ~ TEACHERS

- 1915/16 - R. Chekaluk
- 1916/17 - J.E. Schmidt
- 1917/18 - Michael Kordash
- 1918/19 - M.D. Huley, M.J. Chropiak
- 1919/20 - J.P. Hawryluk, J.J. Hawryluk
- 1920/21 - J.J. Hawryluk, M.D. Senassen, Jacob J. Lysecki
- 1921/22 - C.W. Fines, Thomas Petty
- 1922/23 - W.A. Kostiuk
- 1923/24 - Johon Doroschuk
- 1924/25 - B.E. Trottier, Margaret McGrath
- 1925/26 - Sylvia Coleman, Mildred Shatsky
- 1926/29 - Annie Punak, Nichlas Punak
- 1929/30 - Laura Miller Connor, Laura Lavalley, Jean Holms,  
Helen Lubiniecki, Leo J. Lubiniecki
- 1930/31 - M.G. Wawrykow, J.H. Hawryliuk
- 1931/32 - Gregory Marko, William John Prociuk
- 1933/34 - Mary Chimchak, William Chimchak

- 1934/35 - William Hunkewich, Adam William Muzychuk
- 1935/37 - Olga (Chorneyko) Chimchak, William Chimchak
- 1937/38 - Margaret Strong
- 1938/40 - Annie Wach, Mary Chreptyk
- 1940/41 - Mary Chreptyk
- 1941/42 - Mary Chreptyk, Peter Drabik
- 1942/43 - Peter Drabik
- 1943/44 - Mary Michalchuk
- 1944/50 - Helen Klowak
- 1950/51 - Leon Michalchuk, Lawrence Suchar
- 1051/52 - Leon Michalchuk
- 1952/53 - Francis Tkach
- 1953/54 - John Oberton
- 1954/55 - George Lysak
- 1955/62 - Anne Chudy
- 1962/64 - Donald White
- 1964/65 - Eileen Osnach
- 1965/67 - Ronald Sumka



Right: The former Leeland School as it appeared around 1980 with the 1930s addition now removed. The building still exists today and is used as a storage shed. SC,LL-007.



Left: New Star School was located two miles east and two miles north of Poplarfield, on SE 29-22-1W. It was constructed in 1935 by Nick Lisowecki at a thirty cent an hour rate of pay. It was destroyed by fire 25 years later on October 23, 1960, after which the children were transported to school in Poplarfield. SC,NS-001.

Below left: Sonia Lisowecki of Poplarfield taught in New Star during 1942-43 school year. Two years later brother Peter taught for a term. Five of the six Lisowecki children taught school in the district at one time or another. SC,NS-011.

Below: 1942 - New Star School class. L-R: 1. Elsie Skrabek 2. Jean Kubas, 3. Anne Rabski, 4. Annie Husiak, 5. Mary Rabski, 6. Elsie Zasiatko, 7. Helen Swarychewski, 8. Anne Kubas, 9. Nettie Skrabek, 10. Mary Hnatiuw, 11. Jenny Hnatiuw, 12. Lawrence Husiak. SC,NS-009.



*New Star*  
*School District No. 2256*



Above: Half of the New Star enrollment of 1942 pose for a photograph on the school steps. SC,NS-008.



Above: The remaining half of the students making up the 1942 New Star enrollment of 22 children. SC,NS-010.



Above: New Star 'buds': Bernice Marko, Helen Kowalyk, Pat Sokulski, and Elizabeth Skrabyk, c1953. SC,NS-004.

Right: The New Star student enrollment around 1956. BR: Marilyn Sokulski, Ann Skrabek, Stella Hnatiuw, Eileen Husiak, George Kowalyk (tallest boy), Rudy Kowalyk. MR: Joyce Skrabyk, Steven Rabski, Eleanore Rabski, Iris Pododworny, Jim Husiak (with stripe). FR: Donna Sokulski, Paulette Pododworny, Paul Pododworny (with suspenders), Larry Mazur, Frances Kicenko. SC,NS-003.







Left: Eighth Birthday Celebration for Donna Sokulski at New Star School, 1956. BR: Eleanore Rabski, Marilyn Sokulski, Joyce Skrabek, Stella Hnatiuw, Iris Pododworny, Jimmy Husiak, Steven Rabski. FR: Paul Pododworny, Paulette Pododworny, Donna Sokulski, Irene Sokulski, Frances Kicenko. SC,NS-018.

*"Mom, Severine Sokulski, baked the cake and threw in nickels and pennies into the cake batter before baking it. It was my responsibility to get it to school in one piece. I had to wear a dress, white socks, and my only good shoes for the day, so all day I couldn't play with the rest of the kids and risk ruining my only "good" clothes. I didn't know about the money being put in the cake until later, when classmates began to find them in their servings. I didn't find any money in my piece of cake. I admit that I felt disappointment. Today, I marvel that Mom found time and energy in her always busy day to try to make this a special day for me. In those days, kids didn't have birthday parties like today." - Donna Sokulski.*



Above: Miss Eileen Dutkywich, New Star teacher during the early 1950s. During the mid-1950s Eileen married Joe Mazur from the New Star District. SC,NS-013.

Right: Athletes' Parade and the Poplarfield Track and Field Meet, 1959. SC,NS-017.

*"New Star School Division Banner Bearers, Jimmy Husiak and Marilyn Sokulski - Pawlyk School students are just behind. Practically everyone at the Meet was a farm kid then, and competition was fierce. This picture was taken shortly before New Star School burned down. By this time, enrollment at the country schools was dwindling. Within a few years, they were all closed, and students were bused to Poplarfield Dehowa School from outlying districts." - Donna Sokulski.*

New Star Chant:

Boom-a-Racka, Boom-a-Racka, Boom-a-Racka-Rie.  
Who Are, Who Are, Who Are We? New Star, New Star,  
Can't You See? N-E-W-S-T-A-R. New Star!



NEW STAR S.D. #2256 - TEACHERS

- 1935/41 - Kathleen Kolopenuik
- 1941/42 - John Zurbyk
- 1942/43 - Sonia Lisowecki
- 1943/44 - Jane Grushka & Muriel Yakimischuk
- 1944/45 - Peter Lisowecki
- 1945/46 - Tena Dymeterko
- 1946/47 - Olga Persoage
- 1947/48 - Lydia Chreptyk
- 1948/49 - Angela Hogue
- 1949/50 - Helen Swedlo
- 1950-52 - Olga Hnatiuk
- 1952/53 - Henry Kolakowski
- 1953/55 - Anne Wallach
- 1955/57 - Eileen Dutkywich
- 1957/58 - Olga Sobietkewich
- 1958/59 - Sonia Leochko
- 1959/60 - Tina Leochko



Above: New Star School, 1956: Helen Klowalyk, Bernice Marko, and Pat Sokulski of the New Star District pose for a photo by the school house. Note the barrel-shaped wood stove in the background, sitting outside having just been replaced with a newer model. SC,NS-002.



Above: New Star students and parents photographed at a school Halloween party. SC,NS-006.

- |                        |                         |                           |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Minnie Kowalyk | 2. Rudy Kowalyk         | 3. Mrs Severine Sokulski  |
| 4. Mrs. Joyce Skrabek  | 5. Mrs Rose Husiak      | 6. Mrs. Anne Rabski       |
| 7. Bernice Kicenko     | 8. Eileen Husiak, & Ron | 9. Mrs Joe Skrabek        |
| 10. George Kowalyk     | 11. Gloria Skrabek      | 12. Mrs. Margaret Kicenko |
| 13. Kay Mazur          | 14. Stella Hnatiuw      | 15. Mrs Ruth Kicenko      |
| 16. Jim Husiak         | 17. Irene Sokulski      | 18. Arlene Skrabek        |
| 19. Elizabeth Kicenko  | 20. Paul Pododworny     | 21. Paulette Pododworny   |
| 22. Joyce Skrabek      | 23. David Kicenko       | 24. Iris Pododworny       |
| 25. Donna Sokulski     | 26. Larry Mazur         | 27. Eleanore Rabski       |
| 28. Steven Rabski.     |                         |                           |



Left: Henry Kolakowski and six of his New Star students. Mr. Kolakowski from Poplarfield, taught at New Star for one season during the early 1950s. BR: George Kowalyk and Orest Pododworny. MR: Michael Sokulski and Rudy Kowalyk. FR: Stephen Rabski and Jim Husiak. SC,NS-015.



Left: Sharpewood School No.1867, c1935. Sharpewood School was constructed in 1918 on SW 16-22-3W ten miles west of Poplarfield. SC,SH-001.

*"Sharpewood School was built about 1918, all with volunteer labour. It was a nice little school, with a small teacher's room, a cloak-room, an entrance hall, and was heated with a large wood-burning stove. The ceiling was all pressed metal panels. We had desks with cast-iron sides, and nice wooden tops with an ink-well in the centre. Books were stored underneath and you sat two pupils to a desk. My first teacher was Miss Blockman. The school was about two and a half miles northeast of our farm, but only about 1 1/2 miles if I took a shortcut through the bush. I remember at first I used to get lost in the bush a lot. I also remember going bare foot at first, because we couldn't afford shoes. There was about twenty-five kids at school when I went. I was the only Polish kid there, all the rest of the children were English, or Scotch, Swede, Irish. At first I didn't know a word of English but I learned quickly and after about three years,*

*all I spoke was English. Except to mother. She never did learn English. At 'PT' time we played baseball, and a few other games too that the teachers used to teach us. And we'd make little forts out of the bush and have little meetings of our own. I remember each spring a picnic was held at the school. They had all sorts of races organized, sack races, three-legged races, coconut races, wheel-barrel races, and horseshoe races. They also had tug-of-war contests, and baseball games. Prizes were five, ten and fifteen cents. They also had popcorn for sale, Jack-in-the-box, for one cent. Ice cream cones for five cents. In the evening there was a dance, with old time dances. Mr. Kasner usually played a fiddle and David Leonard did the calling for the Square Dances. Every December the school students would put on a Christmas Concert, after which there were refreshments available and dancing." - Mike Ledohowski.*



Above: The Sharpewood school gang, early-1930s. SC,SH-002.

## Sharpewood School Division No.1867



Left: Sharpwood school students, 1940. FR: Stephe Kopec; Lloyd Leonard. 2R: Andrew Ledohowski; Arthur Klune, Verna Werbenuk, Margaret Werbenuk, Verna Kopec. BR: Albina Ledohowski, Nettie Werbenuk, Martin Klyne, Lillian Klyne. SC,SH-005.

Below: Former students, and sisters, Sabina Ledohowski and Helen Buchko visit the old Sharpwood schoolhouse on 26 July 1953. A very nicely dressed three year old Silvia Buchko patiently looks on. SC,SH-003.



Left: Sharpwood School last class enrollment, 1944. BR: Verna Kopec, Verna Werbenuk, Margaret Werbenuk, Helen Grabowiecki, Andy Ledohowski, Brownie Bycjek. FR: Stephe Kopec, Clifford Kopec, Lloyd Leonard, Anna Werbenuk. SC,SH-004.







*Chapter Ten*  
*Prominent People*  
*and Groups*



Rene Breland  
VIP-046



Ed Ledohowski  
VIP-026



Michael Ledohowski  
VIP-003



Nick Ledochowski  
VIP-051



Sid Ledochowski  
VIP-033



Joe Mazur  
VIP-036



Bill Ostryzniuk  
VIP-047



Joe Rabski  
VIP-014



Peter Rushowick  
Lost in action. VIP-048



Steve Rushowick  
VIP-049



Harry Skrabek  
VIP-005



Mike Torbiak  
with daughter Elsie. VIP-024



Tony Tycholis  
VIP-050



Joe Werbenuk  
Lost in action. VIP-021



Bill Zasitko  
VIP-038



Peter Klowak  
VIP-064

*Dedicated to all the men and women of the district who served in the cause of world freedom during the Second World War, some of whom gave of their lives, and not all of whom are represented here. We will not forget them.*



Henry Mabb was born in 1872 in Hull, Yorkshire, England the son of Helly Mabb and Ellen Holder. Educated in linguistics in Antwerp, Belgium, he came to Canada in 1887. He joined the Northwest Mounted Police in 1890, and after leaving the force in 1895 became involved in horse ranching and lumber yard activities in Willowbunch, Sask. In c1909 he homesteaded in the Fisher Branch area and was soon appointed as a homestead inspector for the Interlake region. He was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature, as an Independent in 1920 and served one term. In 1905 he married Clara Bird, and together they raised a family of five children: Bertha, Elizabeth, Ida, Gratia, and Doris. VIP-057.



Nicholas Volodymi Bachynsky was born in 1887 in Celo Serafinchy, Western Ukraine and came to Canada in 1906, homesteading in the Fisher Branch District in 1909. Educated in Galicia, he furthered his education at the Brandon Teachers College and was one of the first to teach in the Fisher Branch District. In 1922 he was elected to the Manitoba Legislature, as a Liberal, and was re-elected four times, serving for 36 years, before retiring in 1958. He was appointed Deputy-Speaker in 1937 and was Speaker of the House from 1950 to 1958. At the time of his retirement he was credited with holding the speakership of the house for the longest time, and for the longest continuous term of office in Manitoba politics. He married Julia Wlasinuk in 1920 and had three children: Olga, Jaroslava, and John. VIP-058.



Peter Wagner was born in 1916, in Fisher Branch, the son of Wenzal Wagner, and Verineca Metituk. He was educated at Rus Public School and Fisher Branch. A farmer, he was president of the Ukrainian Farmers' Co-op and the Manitoba Pool in Fisher Branch, and served as a Director for the Manitoba Farmers' Union. He was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature for the C.C.F. in 1958 and served until 1962. In 1939 he married Dora Manchuk and they had three children: Peter Jr., Walter, and Irene. VIP-052.



Emil Moeller was born in Dellstedt, Germany in 1902 and immigrated to Canada in 1930 with his parents Karl and Anna Moeller. The family went on to establish a prosperous farm in the Teulon area. In the late 1940s and the 1950s Emil and his brother Herman operated a large sugar beet and grain farm. Emil was very active in community affairs and sat on a number of boards and associations including: the Manitoba Beet Growers', Manitoba Hog Producers', the Manitoba Pool Elevators - Teulon Branch, the Teulon Chamber of Commerce, the Hunter Memorial Hospital, and the divisional School Board. He was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature as a Progressive Conservative in 1962 and was re-elected once, serving to 1966. Emil and his wife Grete raised two sons, Karl and Ralph. VIP-066.





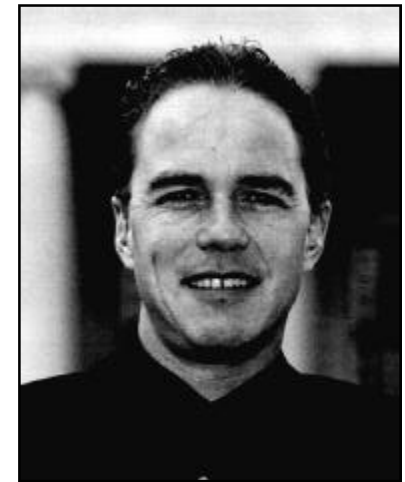
Peter Masniuk was born in 1920 at Morweena, MB, son of Paul Masniuk and Anne Fediuk. He received his public education at Narcisse. In 1942, he enlisted and served overseas with the Manitoba Dragoons in Europe. He then had a career as a railway section foreman, in various Manitoba locations. Peter was prominent within the Royal Canadian Legion organization, and served as Zone Commander. He was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1966, as a Progressive Conservative, and served until 1969. In 1972 he was elected as a Member of Parliament for the Progressive Conservatives and served in Ottawa for two terms. He married Rose Kowalchuk in 1947 and together they raised a family of four: Gail, Judith, Raymond, and William. VIP-063.



Bill Uruski was born in 1942 in Poplarfield, the son of Frank Uruski and Mary Shwaliuk. He received his Primary and Secondary education at Poplarfield. Joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1962 and specialized in Customs and Excise enforcement. He was first elected in 1969 for the N.D.P., and served continuously for 6 terms until his retirement in 1990. During his term of service he served in a number of important portfolios, including among others, Minister Responsible for the Manitoba Public Ins. Corp. and the Motor Vehicle Branch, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Manitoba Minister of Agriculture from 1981 to 1987. He married Elaine Stonoga and raised a family of three children: Teresa, Barclay, and Angela. VIP-053.



Clif Evans was born in 1948 in Winnipeg, the son of John and Alice Evans. After working in the oil and chemical plant industry, Clif moved to Riverton, becoming the owner-manager of the Sandy Bar Hotel. He served as Vice-President of the Interlake Development Corporation, as Mayor of Riverton, and on the Board of Directors for the Riverton Business Association, Elks Club and Riverton Complex. First elected to the Manitoba Legislature for the N.D.P. in 1990, he was re-elected in 1995. Clif and wife Linda were married in 1973 and together raised a family of two children: Tyler and Kelsey. VIP-062.



Tom Nevakshonoff was born in Winnipeg in 1958, the son of Mike Nevakshonoff and Joyce Barrett. He is the great-grandson of Henry Mabb, the first elected official from the Fisher Constituency. Tom's childhood years were spent in Poplarfield where his parents owned and operated the Coronation Hotel. In 1970 the family moved to Fisher Branch where Tom received his high school education. Tom then embarked on a 20-year career in the oil industry, which included a B.A. degree in East European Studies and a contract to write a report on the industry for the Canadian Embassy. Tom is currently the member of the Manitoba Legislature for the district, having been elected in 1999 representing the N.D.P. In 2000 Tom married Rozanne Imlah of Fisher Branch, and they have purchased a home and property near Poplarfield. VIP-056.

Right: Wedding of Stefan Torbiak & Kathrynina Klowak, 1916. L-R: Mike Grywinski, unknown, George Polovy, Mary Polovy, unknown, Kathrynine Torbiak, Danylo Torbiak, Michael Torbiak (3 yrs old), unknown, Stefan Grywinski, Kathrynine Grywinski (8 yrs), Ksynia Grywinski, space, Donia Marykuca with baby Andrew, Peter Marykuca (3 yrs), Konstantyn Marykuca, Dania Marykuca (6 yrs), unknown, Harry Klowak, Anna Klowak, unknown, Justyna Torbiak, unknown, Mrs. Sophran Leochko, Kathrynine Leochko." Photographed by Paul Samotiuk, who was the teacher at Dehowa School in Poplarfield at the time. VIP-017.



Left: A photograph of a gathering of Sharpewood area residents for an agricultural meeting, 1924. Note the clothing and headgear styles.

VIP-032. Some of the individuals are identified.

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Michael Sharpe  | 2. Mrs. Archie Lennard |
| 3. Mrs. Michael Sharpe | 4. Mr. Fosse           |
| 5. Miss Burns          | 6. Verna Lennard       |
| 7. Pearl Stensel       | 8. Helen Walker        |
| 9. Howard Knox         | 10. Jean Walker        |
| 11. Ruth Stensel       | 12. Marian Lennard     |
| 13. Walter Ledohowski  | 14. Mike Ledohowski.   |



Left: The 16 members of the Zuk clan gather for a family portrait during the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebrations for Mike and Mary Zuk in 1964. BR: Bill, Gregory, Nick, Peter, Alec, John, Fred. FR: Sonia, Magaret, Eva, Mary & Mike Zuk, Pauline, Kay, Olga, and Annie. VIP-023. Some of the other families in the district with large families included Mike & Mary Swedlo with ten children and John & Irene Zorniak, also with ten children. The average family size was six to eight children. VIP-023.



Right: The thirteen members of the Fred and Anne Leduchowski clan gather beside the family home for a photo during Fred and Anne's 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1960. Standing L-R: John, Kost, Joe, Alex, Dan, George, Mike, Paul, Steve, and Harry. Seated: Gloria, Fred and Anna Leduchowski, Kay and Mary. VIP-044.



Left: Annual meeting for the Poplarfield Credit Union. March 1960. Standing L-R: Lawrence Fedowich, Peter Bailley, John Moroz, Mike Torbiak, Harry Husiak, Michael Lapka, Bill Ostryzniuk, John Jaremy. Front Seated, L-R: Peter Zasitko, Anne Ledohowski, George Klowak, Mr. J. Topolniski, Father Evhen Olynyk, and Metro Kempa. VIP-060.

Right: Group of Poplarfield Pioneers and friends pose for a photograph in the back yard of the Danylo Torbiak store in old Poplarfield, date unknown. Some of the names provided were, Standing: Onysko Sawchuk, Natalyka Haliuk, Danylo Haliuk, Hawrylo Klowak, Hryn Marykuca, Senka Marykuca, Donia Marykuca, Katyryna Torbiak, Danylo Torbiak. Sitting: Mike Torbiak, Peter Torbiak, Mr. Hawryliuk, High Plains teacher, Wasyl Hryciuk, Dehowa teacher, Seimen Torbiak, Bill and Steve Torbiak. VIP-008.







Left: Group of 29 Hamrlik District residents, women, children, and a lone male - Harry Husiak, who appears to be in the midst of a good laugh about something. VIP-030.

Right: A few of Poplarfield's prominent citizens pose for a photograph while attending a summer picnic at a rural school site, likely Leeland or High Plains, during the late-1950s. The group includes: Mike Zuk, Mike Lapka, the district priest (possibly Father John Lehky), Mrs. Mike Zuk (Mary), and William Hryciuk, the municipal administrator. Walter (Slim) Leochko and Bill Zasitko standing at right. Note the cream can being used as a seat at right, and the three farm trucks with large grainboxes in the background used to transport groups to the event. SC-039.





Above: Thirteen of the local Poplarfield teenage girls gather for the camera on what appears to be, a nice summer afternoon, 1952. BR: Sonia Troschuk, Sonia Leochko, Marcia Ozubko, Laura Klump, Jenny Shymko, Alice Nosal, Margaret Ozubko. FR: Nettie Nosal, Tina Leochko, Elsie Korpesho, Elsie Torbiak, Irene Lisowecki, and Jane Ledohowski. Misc-030.



Above: Some of the 'town' boys in 1946. John Troschuk and Churchill Klump in the back. Johnny Torbiak, Steve Uruski and Danny Torbiak in front. VIP-031.

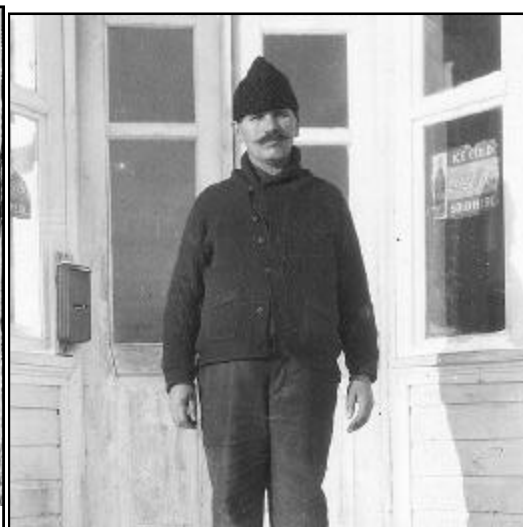
Right: Luba Klowak, Mary Marykuca, Vickie Marykuca and Olga Klowak enjoying a nice summer day in 1945. Note the rainbarrel, washtub, and woodpile in the background, everyday items in the lives of these ladies. Misc-039.



Right: Poplarfield ladies gather at a birthday party in 1995 for Marusia Ptashnyk (seated). L-R: Anne Chudy, Stella Marko, Bonnie Stacey, Stella Roschuk, Helen Horodecki, Anne Ledohowski, and Mary Skrabek. VIP-041.



Left: Birthday gathering for Mrs. Harry Leochko at the Poplarvilla Seniors Residence, 1995. Clockwise from left are: Olga Ostryzniuk, Evelyn Pomanski, Mary Skrabek, Sally Stogrin, Ann Tycholis, Anne Chudy, Mary Grywinski, Marusia Ptashnyk, Stella Roschuk, Ann Stwaychny, and Mary Leochko. The large photo mosaic on the far wall was a gift to the facility from Bill Uruski and Ed Ledohowski. All of the images used in that display have been included in this publication. VIP-042.



A Few Familiar Faces





A Few Familiar Faces



Above: Poplarfield Reunion Committee, 1992, Winnipeg committee.

Standing: Peter Moroz, Marilyn (Sokulski) Dulat, Ed Ozubko, Clifford Kolach, Norris Pawlychka, Norman Klowak, Ed Ledohowski, Lawrence Suchar. Seated: Jane (Ledohowski) Holm, Jenny (Shymko) Pawlychka, Laura (Klump) Renolds. Missing are: Cindy (Swarychewski) Thierstein. The Poplarfield Events Committee included: Mary Ptashnyk, Mike Stasiuk, Evelyn Pomanski, Helen Horodecki, Anne Tycholis Mary Skrabek, Joe and Eileen Mazur, Beatrice Wallach, Evelyn Wallach, Ann Chudy, David Wallach, Robyn Wallach, Terry Pomanski, Rocky Wallach, David Kicenko, Pat (Ptashnyk) Rindall, Sonia (Zuk) Swarychewski, Bob Wallach. VIP-065.

*Chapter Eleven*  
*Neighbouring  
Communities*





Above: Chatfield, Railway Avenue. Winestock store and the Hotel, early 1930s. NC,CH-002



Above: Chatfield, c1940. L-R Pool Hall - later Ralph's store, Johnson's, Werbenuk's, Hawkins' residence. NC,CH-005.



Above: One of Chatfield's early, short-lived structures, said to have been Johnson's Rooming House, 1920s. NC,CH-007.



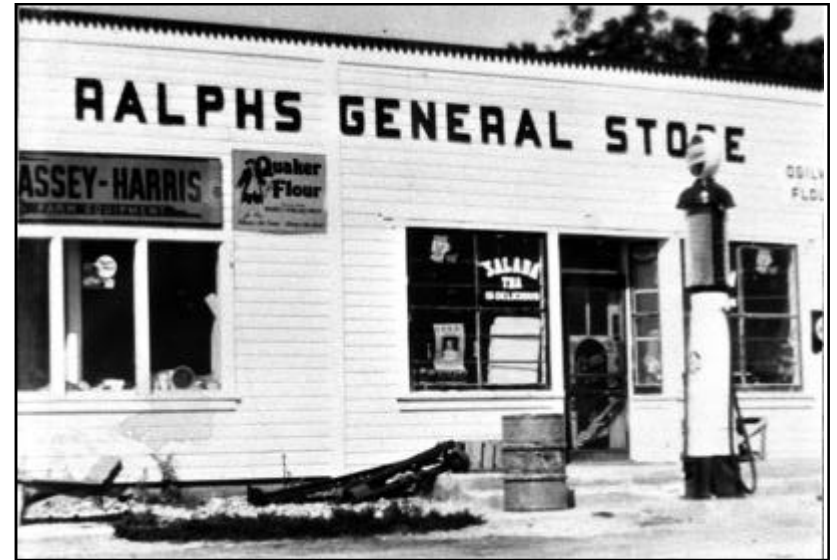
Above: View showing the south end of Railway Avenue, late 1920s. NC,CH-001.

## *Chatfield*

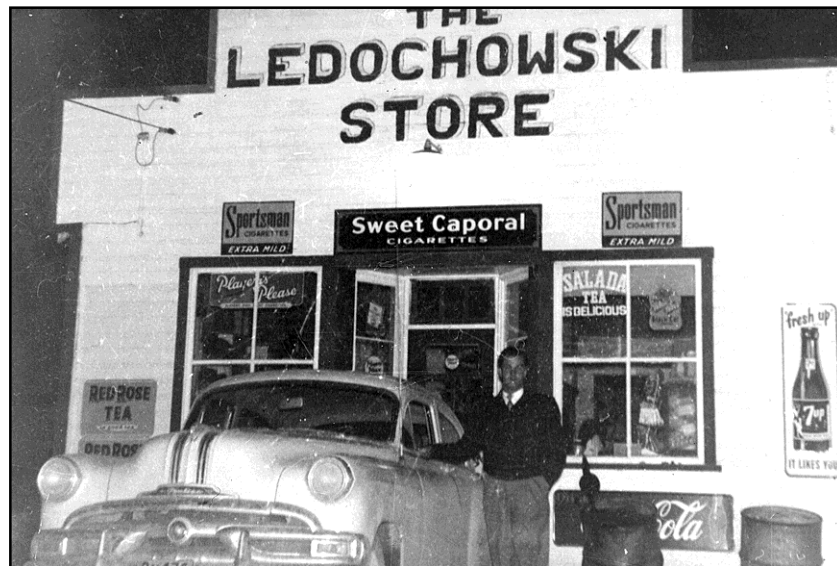




Above: Chatfield, mid-1930s. Winstock's House and Store. Rindall's building intended to be a hotel, used by the Hoborough family as a rooming house. NC,CH-003



Above: Ralph's General Store, Chatfield, late 1930s. NC,CH-006.



Above: George Leduchowski standing beside his Store in Chatfield. The store had previously been the Chatfield Co-op Store, and was first purchased by his father Fred when it failed and was auctioned off. George formally took it over in 1953 and operated it until 1960. The 1953 Pontiac was George's pride and joy. Note the spelling of the family name on the storefront. Fred and his children generally went by the "U" variation of the spelling. NC,CH-004.



Above: Chatfield Creamery, 1936. Constructed in 1933-34 by Manitoba Co-op, it was managed by Harry Hawkins for the first seven years. Later owners were Mr. Anderson and John Yaremy who operated from 1942 to 1976. NC,CH-008.



Above: Tretiak residence and store in Broad Valley, photographed on a busy day, likely during the early 1920s. At least ten teams with wagons and buggies are lined up in front of Danylo Tretiak's store. NC,BV-001.

Below: A excellent view of Railway Avenue in Broad Valley showing a steam locomotive and many of the community's major structures. The photograph was taken just as the construction of the Broad Valley Pool Elevator was nearing completion. The tents in the foreground are part of the construction crew facilities, mid 1930s. NC,BV-008.



Above: The "Broad Valley Ukrainian Farm Labour Association" Hall, constructed 1924. NC,BV-004.

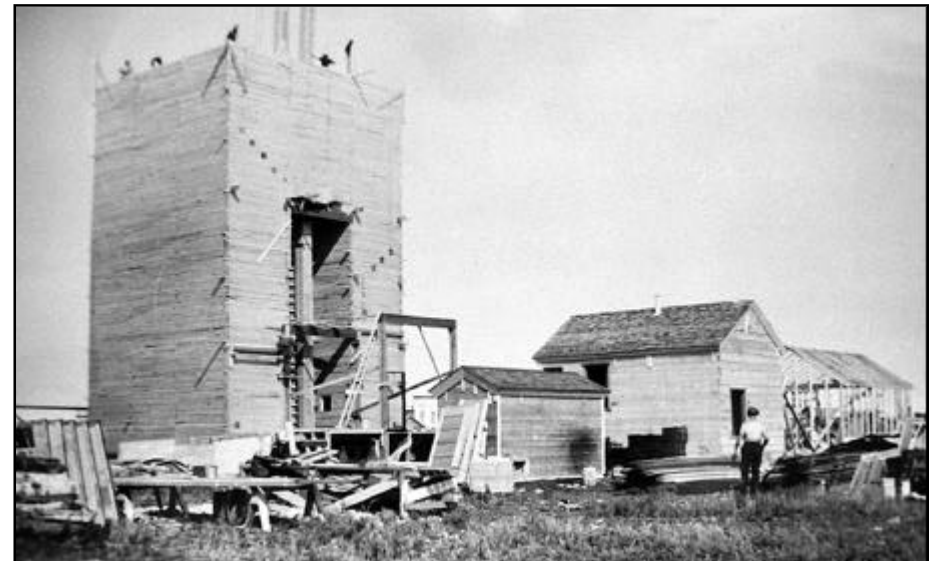


*Broad Valley*



Above: Broad Valley Co-op Store, early 1940s. NC,BV-012

Below and right: Three views of the construction of the Broad Valley Pool Elevator, during the late 1930s. Local legend has it that the elevator was to have been constructed in Poparfield, but the situation involving the new town/old town rivalry resulted in Broad Valley eventually being selected as the location. NC,BV-006; NC,BV-007; NC,BV-010.



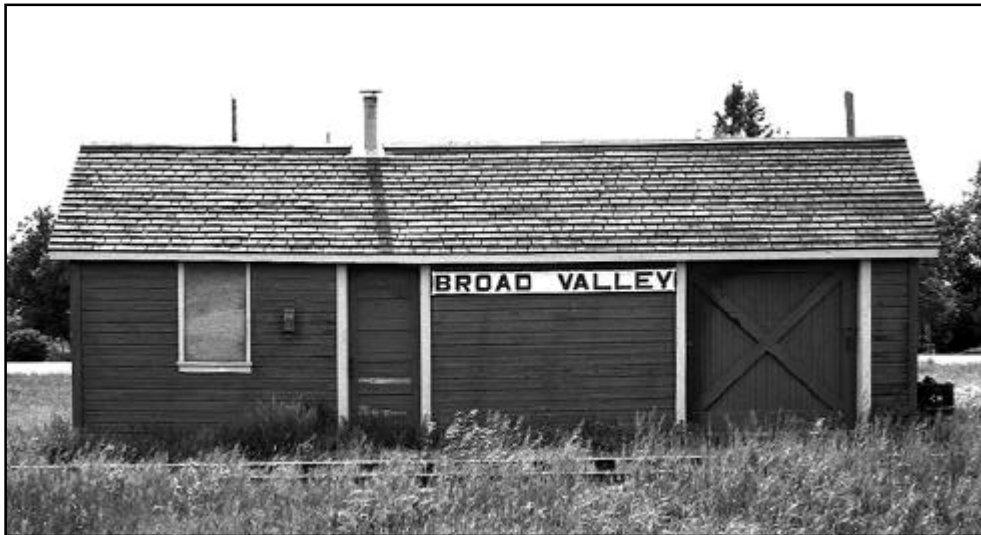
Broad Valley



Above: Aerial view of the south end of Broad Valley, 1974. NC,BV-014.



Above: Aerial view of the north end of the community, 1974. NC,BV-015.



Above: A view of the Canadian National Railway freight shed located in Broad Valley. NC,BV-011.

### Broad Valley

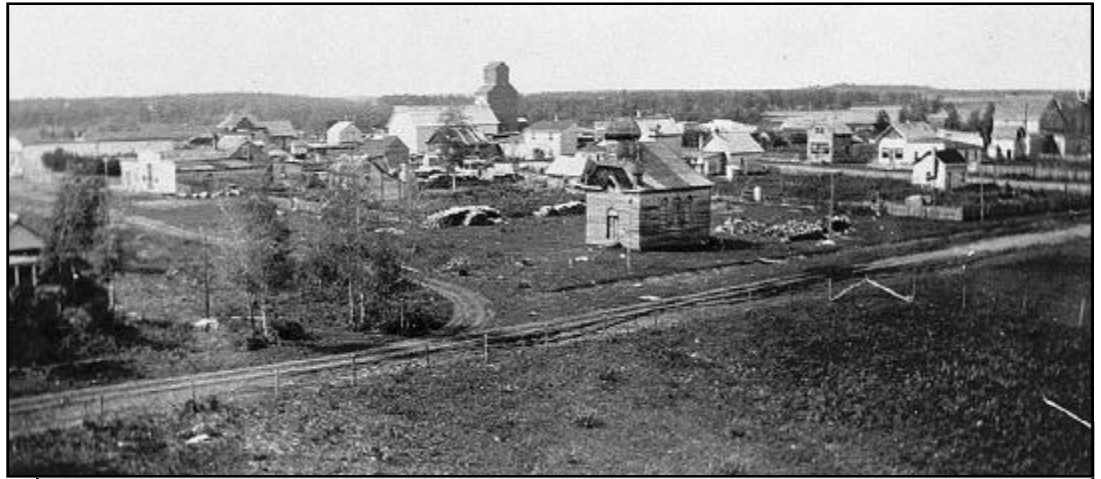


Above: The original Broad Valley Post Office, located one mile south of the eventual townsite, in the original Myrs Tretiak pioneer log home. The structure still existed in the mid 1970s. After the arrival of the railway, the Tretiak family home and the Broad Valley Post Office were moved to the new townsite. NC,BV-013.





Above: Fisher Branch was one of the few communities located along the Inwood branchline to have had a full-fledged railway station and water tower constructed on its station grounds, due in part to the presence of the Fisher River for a water supply. Fisher Branch would develop into a regional centre for the north central Interlake, a position cemented with the construction of a regional hospital by the Manitoba government during the early 1950s, and a regional high school during the mid 1960s. NC,FB-004.



Above top: An elevated view of Provencher Street, at left, and Main Street, on the right, taken from the Roman Catholic church steeple, early 1920s. The Ukrainian Orthodox church in the foreground would later become the town movie-theatre. The building at the far right, with the smokestack was the Zubatiuk Bros. flour mill, a fixture in the region for many years. NC,FB-006



Above: Fisher Branch on a busy day, early 1920s, looking east from the C.N. track down Provencher Street. First building is the Nick Prygrocki store. Last building on the street is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Immaculate Conception De Laval Roman Catholic Church is at the right. NC,FB-001.

Above: A few of the buildings located on Main Street in Fisher Branch, late 1920s. The first three buildings were identified as being: Joe's Malkowich's multi-purpose 'dancehall & farm equipment display' building, the Hucul Store, the Delhaye Boarding House, and K. Marykuca family home". NC,FB-005,

## Fisher Branch



Above: Fisher Branch Ukrainian National Home Society Hall, built on a large lot at the eastern end of Main Street, c1935. It hosted innumerable social, cultural and civic functions over its long history. NC,FB-017.



Above: The Fisher Branch Schoolhouse after its expansion into a three-room building in 1925. NC,FB-008.



Fisher Branch



Above: A view looking east down Tache Street during the late 1920s. Fisher Branch School and the Roman Catholic Church at left, Tom Menard's Intelake Hotel, Arcade's Blacksmith Shop, and the A.C. Savage Store along the right. This portion of town was referred to locally as 'St. Boniface' because of the concentration of Francophone owned properties there. The Ukrainian 'business' section was concentrated along Main Street. NC,FB-007.

Left: "Interlake Hotel - Leo Menard, Proprietor". Leo and Jeanette Menard took over the operation of the family hotel from his father Tom Menard in 1934. It continued to be a respected and successful business until it was destroyed in the big fire of 1943, which also took with it three other business/residences, the town post office, and a livery stable. NC,FB-022.



Above: A very interesting view looking north east across the schoolyard towards the junction of Provencher Street and Shevchenko Avenue, with many of the major early structures pictured. The roof of the Interlake Hotel was the vantage point, and the event being photographed was a rather well-attended baseball game, likely during the late 1920s. NC,FB-011.



Above: Fisher Branch Creamery, owned and operated by Mathew Ciupak and pictured here, in the middle, with two of his employees in 1933. NC,FB-024.



Above: A dragline dredging the Fisher River, to improve the flow and help with the spring runoff, c1940. NC,FB-018.



Above: Fire consumes the A.C. Savage Store during the big fire of 1943 which destroyed much of Tache Street. On April 20, 1935 a similar disaster occurred destroying a number of buildings on the south side of Main Street. Fire was always a danger during the years when wood-burning stoves and furnaces were used for heating and cooking. NC,FB-014



Above: The new Interlake Hotel rises during the summer of 1943. The full modern building included flush toilets, and a modern cold storage room and freezer for the beverage room. Leo Menard operated the new hotel until 1948 when he moved to Winnipeg and continued in the hotel business. NC,FB-016





Above: Aerial view of Fisher Branch looking towards the north, 1974. Note the amount of good farmland in the distance. The Fisher River Floodplain provided some of the best cropland in the central Interlake and helped Fisher Branch become a regional centre. NC,FB-019



**M. S. BABIUK**

GENERAL MERCHANT  
MASSEY-HARRIS IMPLEMENTS

POPLARFIELD - MAN.

*Nov 12 1949*

EACH FOR ALL



ALL FOR EACH

Poplarfield, Man., *March 20* 193*3*

Sold to  
M...

**BAILLEY BROS.**

GENERAL MERCHANTS

*Chapter Twelve*

*Maps &*

*Documents*

**TORBIAK**

GENERAL MERCHANT

Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes  
Flour and Wood, Etc.

Poplarfield, *July 29* 192*9*

**Poplarfield Consumers Co-Operative**

LIMITED

General Store

Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes,  
Flour & Feed - Oil & Wood etc.

Clerk

**M. WERBENUK**

GENERAL MERCHANT

Groceries, Flour, Feed, Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes, Hardware  
Dealer in Wood, Lumber and Cattle

Poplarfield, Man., *July 25* 192*3*

Sold to

ACCOUNT  
FORWARDED

*30*

*21*

*11*



**D. TORBIAK**  
**GENERAL MERCHANT**  
 Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes  
 Flour and Wood, Etc.

Poplarfield, *July 23* 192*9*

Sold to *M. Werbenuk*  
 Address *by his father*

Acct. No. Clerk *B* Account Forwarded *1.50*

5 sacks flour	25.25	
		25.25
		26.75

*Chy*

6

Your account stated to date. If error is found return at once.  
 8 p.c. on all accounts after 30 days

McCuskey's - Gal.

Above: D. Torbiak, General Merchant, Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Flour and Wood, Etc. July 23, 1929 bill for 5 sacks flour \$25.25, on account. Misc-022.

**M. WERBENUK**  
**GENERAL MERCHANT**  
 Groceries, Flour, Feed, Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes, Hardware  
 Dealer in Wood, Lumber and Cattle

Poplarfield, Man., *July 25* 192*3*

Sold to *M. Werbenuk*  
 Address

Terms—Cash. Interest at 10% will be charged on overdue accounts

The An Lirho. Co., London, Ont.

<i>nafla</i>		30
<i>shimr</i>		20
<i>horobota</i>		30
<i>mylo</i>		25
<i>stemp</i>		3
		108

*Paid*

26

9 Doz Eggs

108

Above: M. Werbenuk, General Merchant. Groceries, Flour, Feed, Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes, Hardware, Dealer in Wood, Lumber and Cattle. A -July 25, 1931 bill for "Nafila (Naptha fuel) 30 cents; shimr ? 20 cents; 'horobota' (tea) 30 cents; 'mylo' (soap) 25 cents; 'stemp' (stamp) 3 cents. Total \$1.08. Taken in trade 9 dozen eggs." Misc-023.




**Poplarfield Consumers Co-Operative**  
**LIMITED**  
 General Store  
 Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes,  
 Flour & Feed - Oil & Wood etc.  
 POPLARFIELD, MAN. Jan 28 1931  
 Sold to Mr. Melnyk

ACCT. NO.	CLERK	ACCOUNT FORWARDED
<u>Baking powder</u>		<u>30</u>
<u>Sugar</u>		<u>36</u>
		<u>66</u>

Paid

Above: Poplarfield Consumers Co-operative Limited, General Store. Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes, Flour & Feed, Oil & Wood Etc. January 28, 1931 bill for baking powder and sugar for 66 cents. Misc-024.

**EACH FOR ALL** **BAILLEY BROS.**  
  
**GENERAL MERCHANTS**  
**ALL FOR EACH**  
 Poplarfield, Man. March 20 1933  
 Sold to Mr. Melnyk

Acct. No.	Clerk	Account Forwarded
<u>2 1/2 doz Eggs</u>		<u>37</u>
<u>paid on acc.</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>
		<u>12</u>

Paid on acc.

Above: Bailey Bros. General Merchants. Each For All - All For Each. March 20, 1933 bill for 2 1/2 dozen eggs for 37 cents credit. Paid to account 25 cents, taken in cash 12 cents. Misc-025.

**M. S. BABIUK**  
 GENERAL MERCHANT  
 MASSEY-HARRIS IMPLEMENTS  
 POPLARFIELD - MAN.

Nov 18 1949  
 Mr. Malnyk

	Account Forward
borrowed	20
bread	11
	<u>31</u>

Printed text at bottom: BOTTLE FRUIT CO., WINNIPEG, MAN. B.S.S. DAY 1948 & 1950

Above: Store bill from M.S. Babiuk, 'General Merchant, Massey-Harris Implements'. November 18, 1949. "Borrowed 20 cents, bread 11 cents. Entered to account 31 cents. Misc-026.

Phone: Poplarfield 664-2185

**MIKE OZUBKO**  
 GENERAL MERCHANT  
 HARDWARE, DRY GOODS  
 GROCERIES & MEATS

Poplarfield, Man. October 11 1969  
 Mr. Mike Ledzowski

1	Strawberries	45
2	Ch. Bars	20
3	Cracker Jacks	20
4	Milk	84
5	Butter	73
6	Cream	35
7	Bread	079
8	Tide	189
9	Starch	30
10	Calgon	54
11	clothes Pins	35
12	Tax	14
13	Price	56
14		<u>7 14</u>

Printed text at bottom: SPEEDIBOOK MOORE BUSINESS FORMS LTD.

Above: Store bill from Mike Ozubko, 'General Merchant, Hardware, Dry Goods, Groceries & Meats'. October 11, 1969 bill. Strawberries, chocolate bars, Cracker Jacks, milk, butter, cream, bread, Tide, starch, Calgon, clothes pins. Total \$7.14 including 14 cents tax. Misc-027.



DATE 19 20	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pended
July 21	Felix Stasiuk		2 00
" 22	N. N. Bilinsky, salary.		40 00
" 22	Note Discount (Interest)		10 25
" 27	Frederic Kilby		1 00
" 27	N. N. Bilinsky (Expens. & fare)		16 00
" 30	Wm. Leozko (Re. Logs)		100 00
Aug. 2	John Jasitko (teachers acc)		34 00
" 2	Genovia Zajac		1 20
" 2	N. N. Bilinsky (Salary etc.)		28 60
" 4	Ukrainian Voice (adv.)		1 50
" 14	N. Lisowesky		25 00
" 14	Russell Lang & Co. Ltd.		2 14
" 19	J. Eaton Co. Ltd.		130 00
Sept 8	N. Lisoweski (Erecting <sup>S.R.</sup> )		25 00
" 8	N. Lisoweski (Erecting <sup>S.R.</sup> )		100 00
Oct 12	N. Lisoweski (Erecting <sup>S.R.</sup> )		100 00
" 12	N. Lisoweski (Erecting <sup>S.R.</sup> )		125 00
" 7	<del>Cancelled</del>		
Nov. 7	<del>San. Torbiak store a/c.</del>		<del>69 31</del>
Nov. 8	John. Fuz. supplies -		14 00
Dec 11	A. Torbiak (store acct)		133 08
" 24	P. Wymohradnyk (Fireproof)		4 00
" "	A. Kowka - loan for Eaton's order		27 70
" "	D. Troshuk. (Binery)		32 00

DATE 19 21	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pended
Feb. 26	Dept of Education 1st payment Feb.		100 00
March 2nd	John. Hawryluk Teacher Sal.		50 00
Apr. 6	San. Torbiak store a/c.		80 08
May 16	<del>M. Fire Insurance Co. for 3 yrs</del>		<del>50 00</del>
Apr. 9	<del>John. Hawryluk Teacher</del>		<del>45 00</del>
Apr. 9	John. Hawryluk. teacher		45 00
Apr. 12	John. Hawryluk		25 00
" "	John. Hawryluk balance		40 00
May 13	Kateryna Plasnyk. skating floor		2 50
May 16	M. Fire Insurance Co. school residence		50 20
" "	" " " " " fees		1 00
" "	John. Hawryluk teacher (for April)		120 00
" "	Mike Werbeniuk store acct		3 00
" 31	Geo. Bartlett, Investigation		10 00
" "	Hawryluk - Salary		120 00
June 9	" - wood		11 00
" "	Plashnyk - plowing		8 00
" "	J. Jasitko. caretaking & delivery cement		8 35
" "	Biloczka - repairs scrubbing.		6 00
" "	Ukr. Voice - advertisement		1 50
" 29	B.G. Club - Grant		10 00
" "	J. Hawryluk - Census		8 00



DATE 1928	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pended	Vo
July 18	Jacob Borishewich		16 00	
Oct 2	M. Melnychuk (Teacher's)		80	
" 18	Fire Insurance		1995	
" 20	Christie School Suply		2 35	
Dec 18	M. Melnychuk (Teacher's sal)		50 00	
Feb 2/29	Ukrainian Voice (Abv)		3 00	
" 2	M. Lapka 1. board green		1 95	
March 2	John Zasitko " "		1 75	
" 2	J. J. Zasitko 2 " "		3 50	
" 2	P. Kavka 1. board dry		2 25	
" 2	John Ptashnyk 1 2/4 " Green		3 05	
" 2	Mary Melnychuk (Del)		1 50 00	
" 5	John Pug 1. board green		1 95	
" 28	J. Spick " "		1 75	
Apr. 2	M. Melnychuk (Balance)		43 00	
" 2.	M. Bidockka 1. board green		1 75	
" 2	A. Lorkiak store bill		1 14	
" 15.	Wm Leochko green board		1 75	
" 15	Wm Leochko cutting 2 board		1 25	
" 15	Replanfield Co-op (store bill)		1 65	
" 18	Philip Zasitko cutting 13 boards		7 80	
May 15	Debenture on College		99 13	
" 27	J. N. Brisson (Teacher)		80 00	

DATE 1929	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pended
July 15	John Leochko scrubbing 24.	✓	3 00
" 16	Michael Lapka Salary for 2 1/2	✓	20 00
" 29	Ukrainian Voice for Adv.	✓	3 00
Aug 10	E. Bouchard Ins. fee	✓	1 00
" 20	Wm Stasiuk for painting Port	✓	2 00
" 28	" " " " Bal	✓	3 00
" 28	" " for Str. S. work	✓	5 00
" 28	S. Stasiuk for Bal. J. R.	✓	40 00
Sep. 4	N. Hetman for 1c. green wd	✓	1 75
" 21	G. W. Burrell (part J. salary)	✓	30 00
Oct 21	G. W. Burrell	✓	45 00
Nov 5	" " "	✓	50 00
" 27	Wm Leochko scrubbing floor	✓	2 00
Dec 20	G. W. Burrell	✓	5 00
" 26	Portage & Prairie Fire Insur.	✓	9 90
" 30	P. Lorkiak store bill	✓	13 05
" 30	G. W. Burrell	✓	50 00
Feb 4/30	G. W. Burrell	✓	83 60
" 15	Replanfield Co-op.	✓	1 60
March 1	G. W. Burrell	✓	35 00
" 29	John Leochko 1. board	✓	1 75
" 29	Peter Hawks	✓	1 75
" 31	J. J. Zasitko 2 dry board	✓	3 50

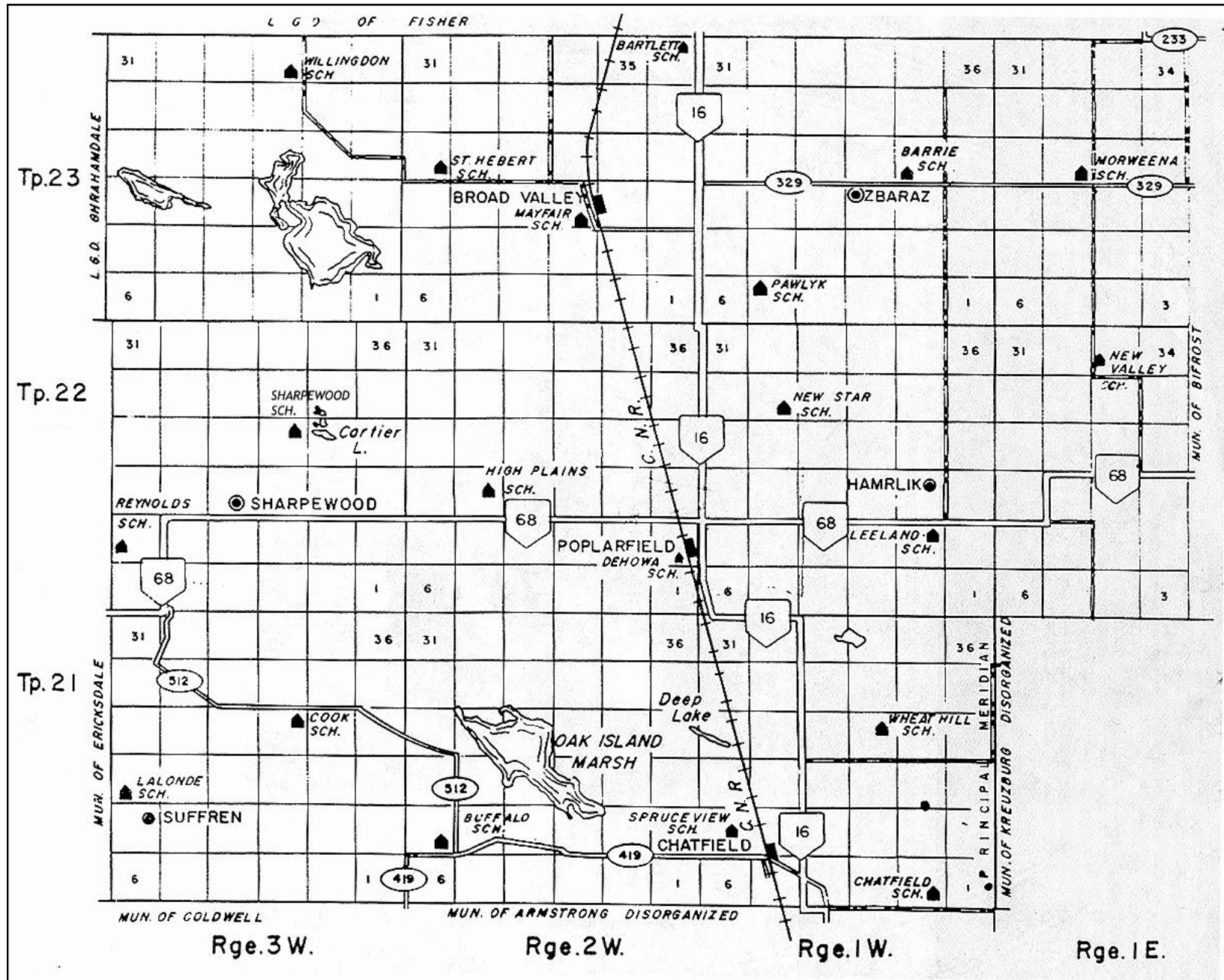
DATE 1930	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pend	Vou ?
July 9	M. Lapka port.		12 00	
Aug 1	M. Lapka Bal & exp		9 30	
Nov 12	Adventure Int.		67 68	
Aug 31	Geo. Burrell		20 00	
Sept. 24	Portage La Prairie Ins.		7 60	
Nov. 1	Geo Burrell		30 00	
" 4	Poplarfield Co-op.		1 20	
" 20	Geo. Burrell		95 00	
Dec. 20	" " "		100 00	
" 22	" " "		47 15	
Jan 2/31	P. Legin scrub. Res.		5 00	
" 5	Ukrainian Voice Advert.		3 00	
" 5	T. Estowoldt		15 00	
March 7	B. Tortiak		7 75	
" 7	Mrs. Wm Leochko <sup>washing</sup> <sub>floor at school.</sub>		2 50	
" 7	Lt. Grace		15 00	
" 7	Christie School Sup.		10 00	
" 24	P. Legin dipping hole for toilet		2 00	
Apr. 1	Lt. Grace		75 00	
Dec. 10	Interest on loan		3 85	
March 7/31	Note pay to Bank		200 00	
Feb. 28	Adventure S. Res.		42 50	
March 9	" " " " " "		65 00	
Apr. 3	M. Lapka for 14 3/4 cords		<u>22 13</u>	

DATE 1935	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pend	Vouch No.
Aug 6	P. Sawula J.R. Ft.		4 50	
Aug 6	Miss P. Sawula in full		73 90	
Aug 14	Steve Stasiuk. (for painting)		24 75	
Aug 14	M. Lapka " " 20.35		<u>20 35</u>	
Oct 1	Tom Zasitko (trip to Poplarfield)		2 00	
Oct 14	Amie Zasitko (scrubbing floor)		1 00	
" 14	Mrs. E. Kolach " "		1 00	
" 14	Mary Zasitko " "		1 00	
" 14	Wm. Leochko (Painting)		26 20	
" 14	M. Lapka (salary sec treas)		8 00	
" 14	" " " " "		12 00	
" 21	Miss. Helen Klym (for sept)		30 00	
" 21	Miss. P. Sawula (Sept + Oct)		28 00	
" 21	T. Estow Co.		5 17	
" 22	J. Zasitko (Painting)		9 90	
" 25	Mrs. S. Stasiuk (scrubbing floor)		2 00	
" 30	J. Zasitko (for table)		90	
Nov 5	Wm Leochko for cutting wood		2 00	
" 5	J. Juz. scrubbing floor & repairing		4 00	
" 25	E.N. Meyers Drayon		2 23	
" 25	Miss. P. Sawula		15 00	
" 25	Miss Helen Klym		25 00	
" 30	Miss P Sawula		30 75	

DATE 1941	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pended
	CARRIED FORWARD	5	547
FEB. 4.	<del>O. CHIMCHAK FOR JAN</del>		878.68
" 4	O. CHIMCHAK FOR JAN.		24.75
" 4	JANE ANDRIESHYN "	✓	57.26
MAR. 4	LIBRARIES BY D. & ED.		20.00
" 4	T. R. F. A. E. PRESLEY (CARTAKINA)		9.60
" 4	T. R. F. J. ANDRIESHYN		8.80
" 4	O. CHIMCHAK FOR FEB.		55.00
" 4	J. ANDRIESHYN " "	✓	60.00
" 19	WASYL SEBIN " Harps & WTR		19.25
" 25	WM. J. WERSTIUK 3 "		5.25
APR. 5	WM. LEOCHKO " 175		7.00
" 8	O. CHIMCHAK PART MAR.		40.00
" 8	JANE ANDRIESHYN " "	✓	25.00
" 8	BOHDAN LAPKA 1. CORD		1.75
" 8	WM. LEOCHKO PRESLEY FUND & ELB.		2.05
" 10	O. CHIMCHAK BAL MAR.		15.00
" 10	JANE ANDRIESHYN " "	✓	35.00
" 16	" LEOCHKO SCRUB. FLOOR		2.00
" 16	MARUSIA LAPKA " "		2.00
MAY 5	JANE LEOCHKO CARTAKING		10.00
" 19	MIKE ZAIKO DEP ON PAINT		50.00
" 19	JANE ANDRIESHYN PART APR.		20.00
" 19	O. CHIMCHAK " "		20.00
JULY 5	" " APR. MAY & PART JUNE		1.00

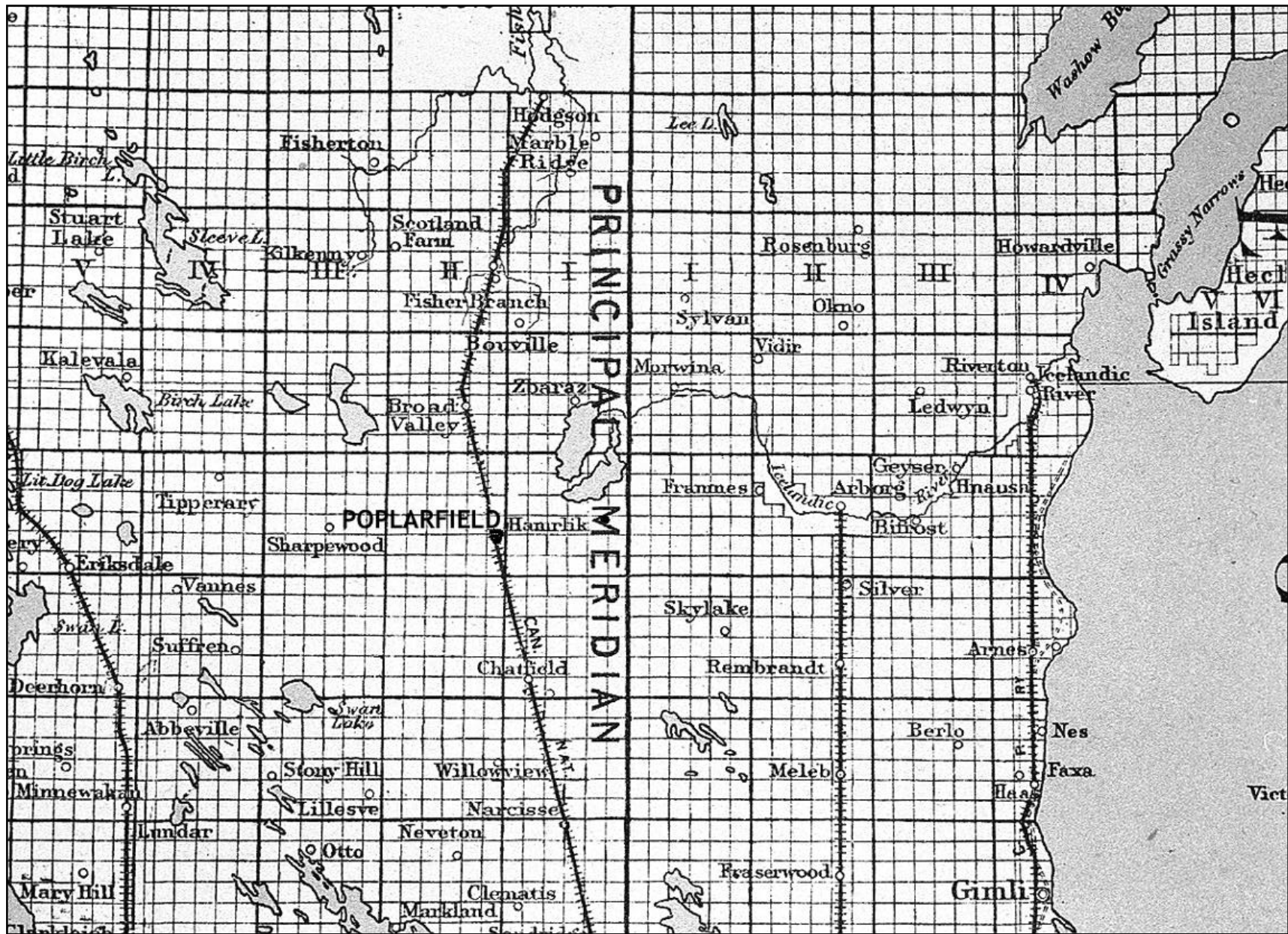
DATE 1942	PARTICULARS	Folio	Amount Ex- pended
July 24	Ed. Winestock bill		2.05
" "	John F. Zasitko		2.40
" "	E. Bailley store		4.30
" "	Moyer school supplies		26.65
" "	Michael Lapka salary <sup>and stamps</sup>		16.58
" 29	Western Paint Co Ltd.		156.15
AUG 2	Joe Wallach <sup>trip to</sup> Komarno		5.50
" 2	Michael Lapka <sup>Expences</sup> to Wpg.		3.80
July 28	T. R. F. BY DEP.	✓	28.80
" 28	J. S. HALAS	✓	100.40
AUG 14	MIKE ZAIKOV FOR PAINTING	✓	50.00
" 14	WALTER LEOCHOWSKI <sup>PAINT</sup> FURNIT.		22.60
" 24	HELEN MARYKUCA <sup>CLEANING</sup> FLOOR & PIPES		6.00
SEP 8	J. S. HALAS part salary		25.00
" 15	T. EATONS ORDER for blinds		9.05
" 28	WAWANISA FIRE INSURANCE	✓	24.50
Oct. 2	J. S. HALLAS	✓	80.00
Nov 2	J. S. HALAS	✓	40.00
Nov 2	Mrs S. HALAS	✓	80.00
" 2	P. TORBIAK <sup>BOOK</sup> DEPOSIT ON stove	✓	10.00
DEC 8	J. S. HALLAS	✓	75.00
JAN 5	J. S. HALLAS	✓	60.00
" 6	J. S. HALAS GRANT		58.70



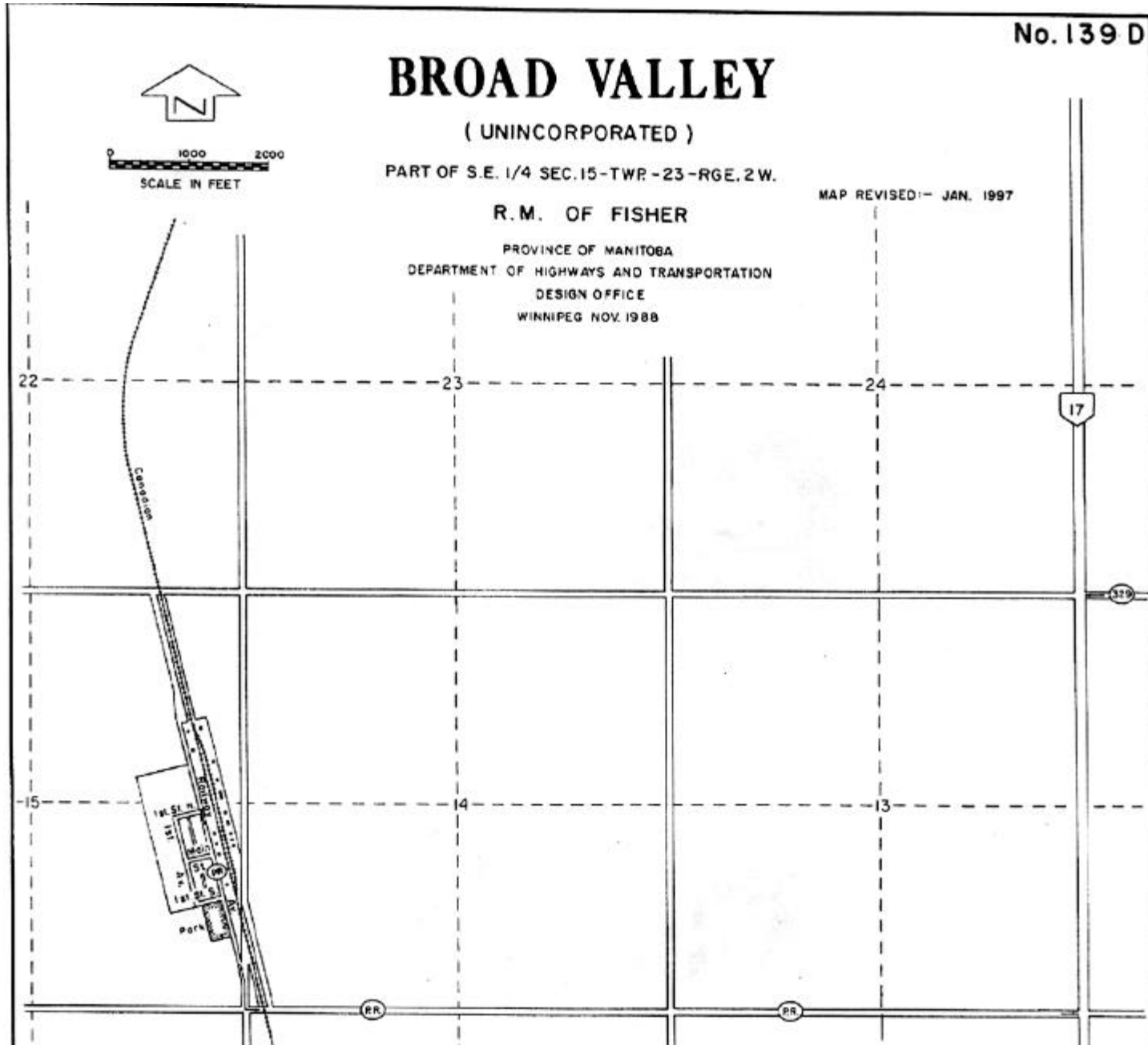


Above: A Manitoba Public Works map of the former RM of Chatfield c1935, showing the township survey grid, roads and railway line, community locations, major water bodies, and most notably, the locations of 21 school sites, an indication of just how densely populated the region once was, despite much of the land being of marginal quality. Map-007.

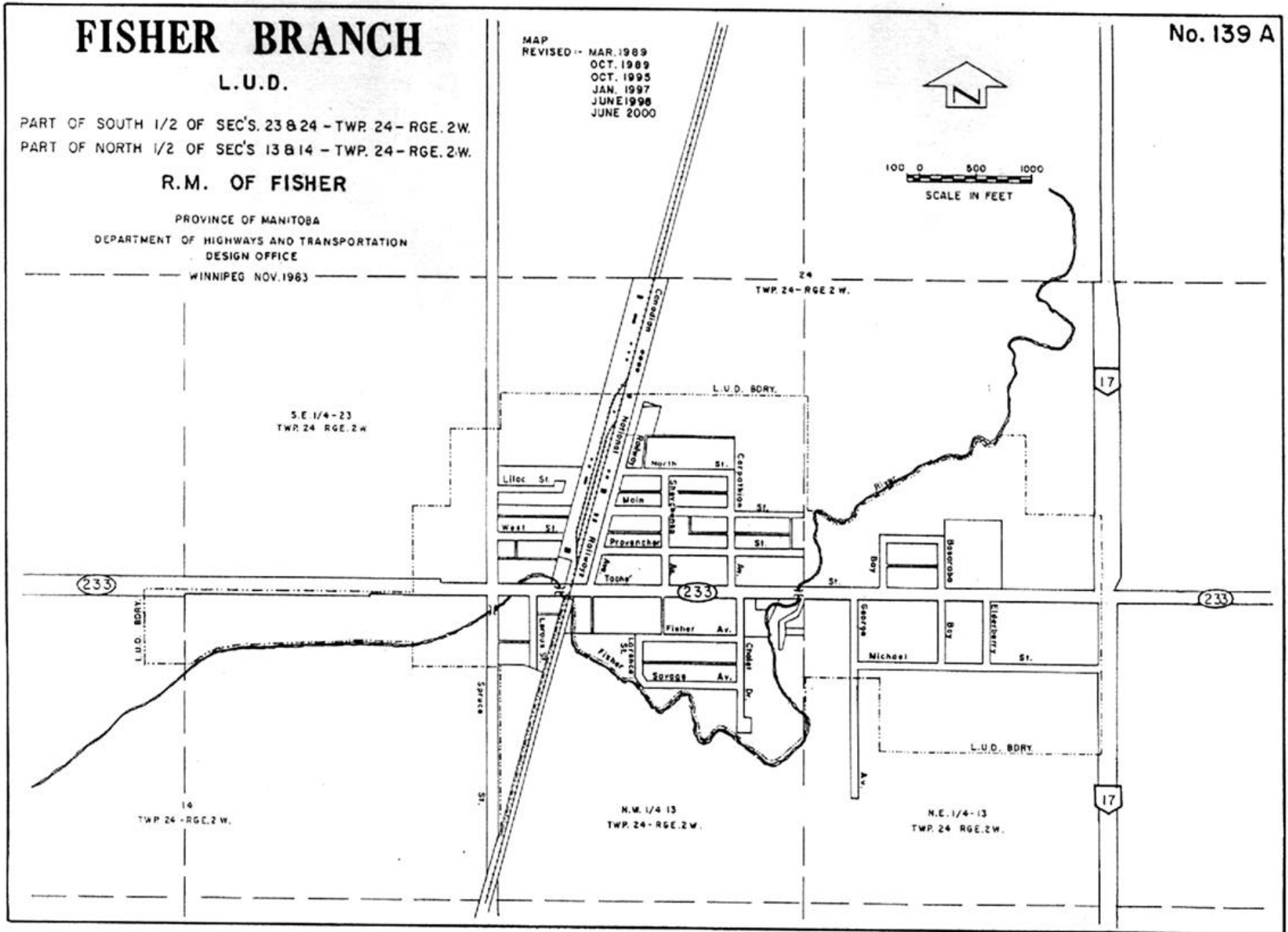




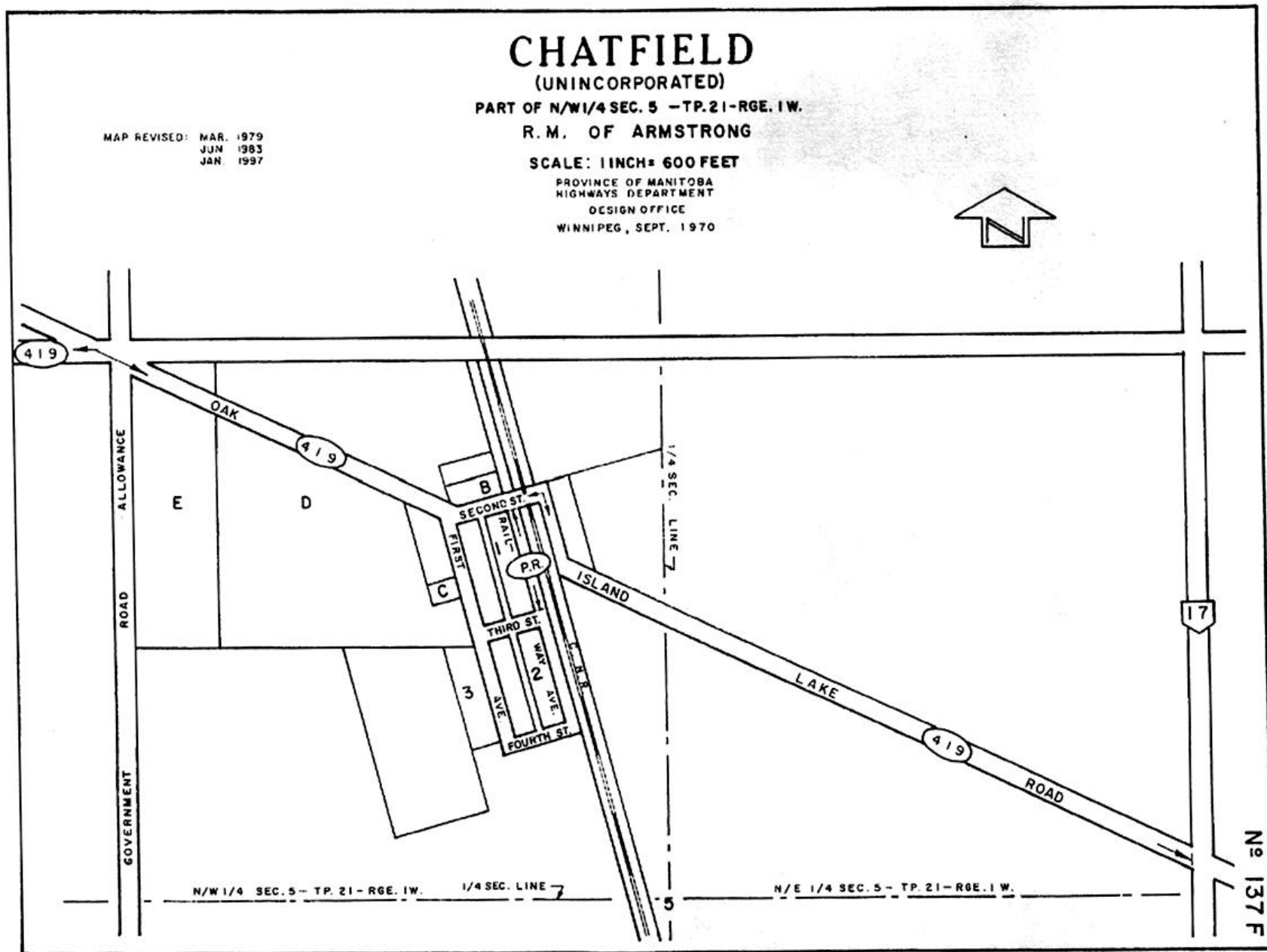
Above: Detail from a map showing the survey grid and post office locations in the north half of the Interlake, c1920. Note that the shallow lakes at the upstream end of the Icelandic River, were still in existence at this time. Note also the numerous sloughs and lakes in the west portion of the Region. Map-001.



Above: Plan of Broad Valley and surrounding area. Map-025.

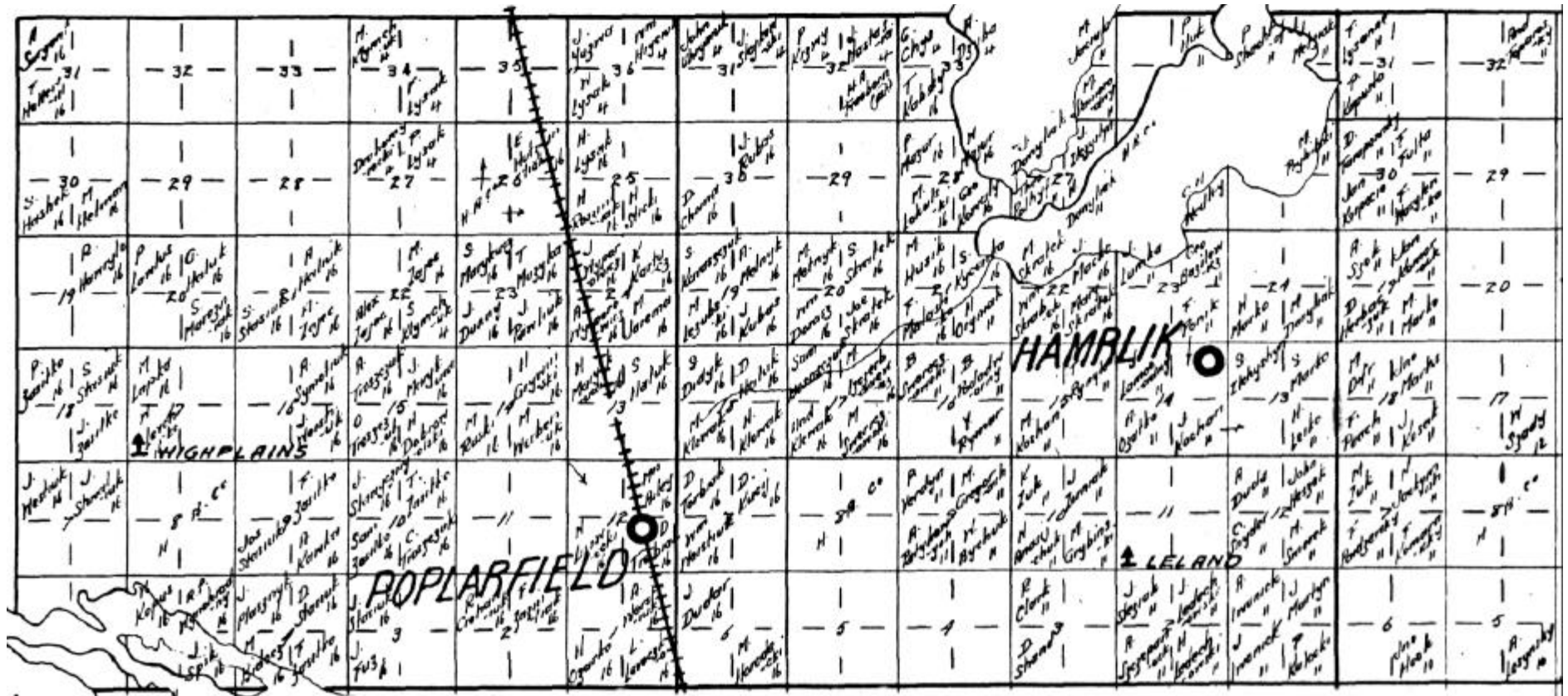


Above: Plan of the community of Fisher Branch. Map-026.



Above: Plan of Chatfield. The right-of-way running south east to north west across the section grid, is a section of the 1902 Fisher River Road 'colonization trail' which was incorporated into the Provincial highway system as P.R. #419. Map-027.





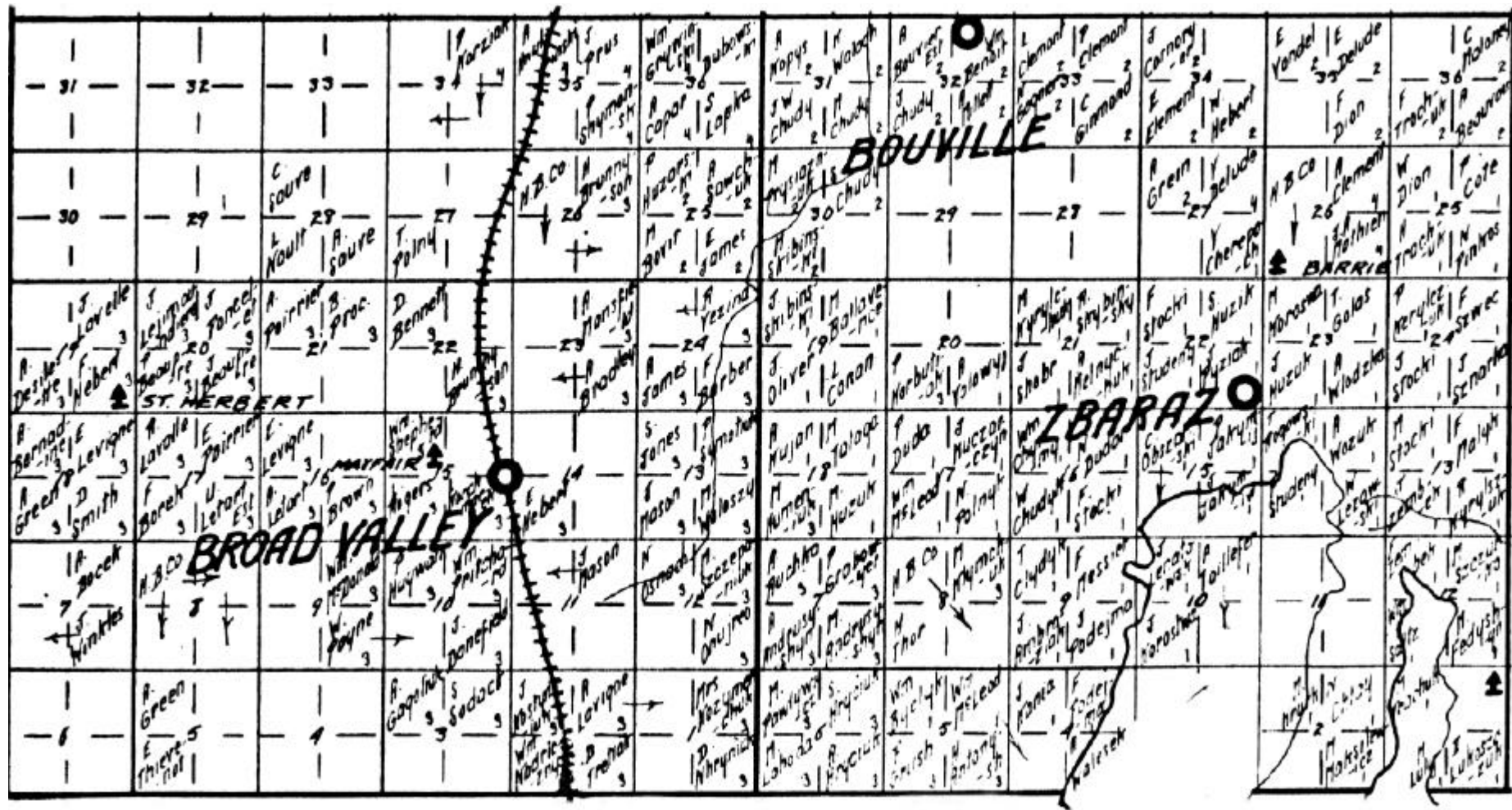
Above: Detail from Sheet No. 76 of the 1923 Issue of the Cummins Map Company land ownership map series, showing Townships 22-2W, 22-3W, and the western strip of 22-1E. The number below the owner's name refers to post office address for that quarter section shown in the index. They are: 4 - Broad Valley; 7 - Chatfield; 10 - Sky Lake; 11 - Hamrlik; 12 - Framnes; 16 - Poplarfield. The unsettled area at the far right reflects the location of the large gravel ridge marking the transition between the flat lowlands of the eastern Interlake, settled by Icelandic settlers, and the rolling ridgeland of the central Interlake, taken up later by Ukrainian settlers. The family names on these maps were frequently mis-spelled, particularly the Slavic names. Map-028.

E.H. 3, 7 Tard 7 Mary 7	R. 32 H. 32 M. 32	N. 33 P. 33 M. 33	34	L. 35 K. 35	F. 36 R. 36 M. 36	37 R. 37 M. 37	M. 38 C. 38 R. 38	J. 39 W. 39 B. 39	H. 40 M. 40 K. 40	P. 41 L. 41 M. 41	H. 42 W. 42 M. 42	N. 43 S. 43 M. 43
E. 29 Tard 7 G. 29	29	H. 28 Tard 7 W. 28 S. 28	H.M. 27 D. 27 Y. 27	H. 26 M. 26 G. 26	25 C.M.K.	A. 30 M. 30 J. 30	J. 29 C. 29 M. 29	J. 31 S. 31 M. 31	H. 32 M. 32 K. 32	H. 33 R. 33 J. 33	H. 34 M. 34 K. 34	H. 35 S. 35 M. 35
G. 19 K. 19 P. 19	20	21	J. 22 M. 22 H. 22	H. 23 M. 23 F. 23	G. 24 B. 24	P. 18 C.M.K.	H. 19 M. 19 J. 19	M. 20 O. 20 H. 20	M. 21 L. 21 G. 21	J. 22 D. 22 A. 22	P. 23 K. 23 J. 23	M. 24 C. 24 M. 24
J. 17 K. 17 M. 17	J. 18 S. 18 M. 18	M. 19 K. 19 G. 19	C.M.K. 20 H. 20 S. 20	J. 21 M. 21	C. 22 R. 22	T. 16 R. 16 M. 16	L. 17 B. 17 M. 17	B. 18 S. 18 H. 18	S. 19 M. 19 J. 19	S. 20 M. 20 K. 20	A. 21 M. 21 D. 21	M. 22 J. 22 S. 22
E. 10 P. 10 A. 10	H. 11 S. 11	A. 12 G. 12 M. 12	J. 13 H. 13 M. 13	14	S. 15 D. 15 R. 15	C.M.K. 16 E. 16 B. 16	M. 17 N. 17 S.A.C.	M. 18 H. 18 J. 18	A. 19 M. 19 T. 19	20	21	C. 22 R. 22 M. 22
O. 5 S. 5 M. 5	J. 6 M. 6 S. 6	J. 7 E. 7 M. 7	J. 8 W. 8 M. 8	J. 9 M. 9 H. 9	H. 10 M. 10 S. 10	C.M.K. 11 M. 11 H. 11	H. 12 M. 12 R. 12	H. 13 M. 13 J. 13	H. 14 M. 14 S. 14	H. 15 M. 15 J. 15	H. 16 M. 16 A. 16	P. 17 K. 17 M. 17

Above: Detail from Sheet No. 76 of the 1923 Issue of the Cummins Map Company land ownership map series. This detail shows the land ownership in Townships 21-1W and 21-2W. The number below the owner's name refers to post office address for that quarter section location. They are: 7 - Chatfield; 10 - Sky Lake; 11 - Hamrlik; 16 - Poplarfield. Map-029.

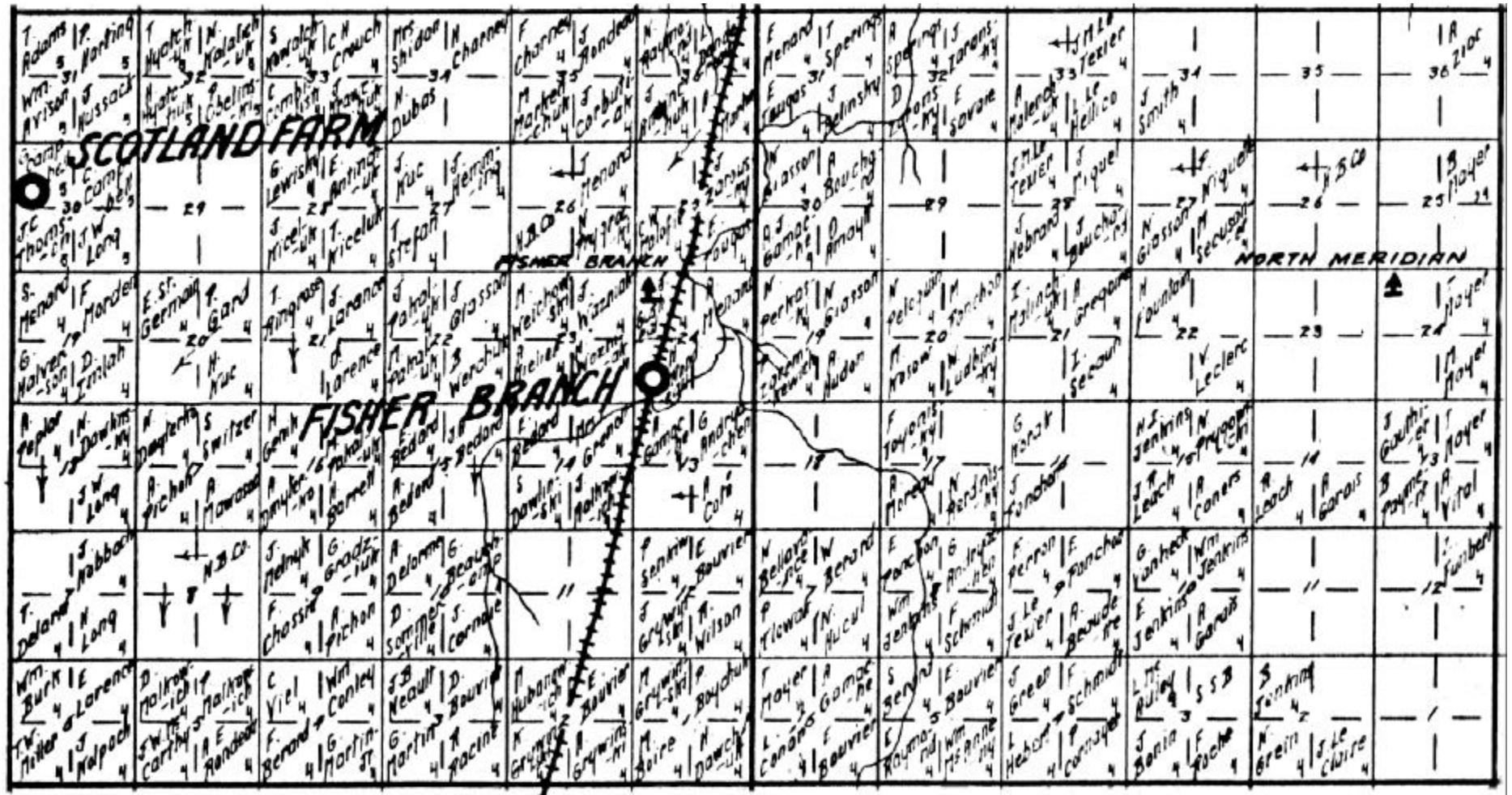
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
1 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	2 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	3 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	4 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	5 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	6 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	7 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	8 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	9 Hodges 3 Hodges 1	10 Hodges 3 Hodges 1
11 H.C. Ferguson 2 Morrison 3	12 G. Drew 3 Pike 3	13 P. Styan 3 Phil 3	14 S. Sullivan 3 Arl 3	15 A. Fenwick 3 A. Wilson 3	16 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	17 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	18 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	19 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	20 S. Walker 3 Walker 3
21 B. Simpson 3 Kirk 3	22 G.A. Connor 3 Green 3	23 D.P. Philip 3 Pirbis 3	24 G. Gibson 3 Sheep 3	25 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	26 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	27 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	28 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	29 S. Walker 3 Walker 3	30 S. Walker 3 Walker 3
31 H. Banyon 3 G. Dwyer 3	32 School 3 Land 3	33 A. Knox 3 Knox 3	34 Mrs. Ammie 3 Dearle 3	35 Mrs. Ammie 3 Dearle 3	36 Mrs. Ammie 3 Dearle 3	37 Mrs. Ammie 3 Dearle 3	38 Mrs. Ammie 3 Dearle 3	39 Mrs. Ammie 3 Dearle 3	40 Mrs. Ammie 3 Dearle 3
41 J. Pett 3 Comp 3	42 Mrs. Atkins 3 Johns 3	43 C. Atkins 3 Johns 3	44 Mrs. Foss 3 Foss 3	45 G. Rolphs 3 Robert 3	46 C. Brown 3 Rowe 3	47 F. Gamble 3 Chapman 3	48 M. Forward 3 Dawson 3	49 G. M. Dawson 3 Dawson 3	50 E. T. Shaw 3 Shaw 3

Above: Detail from Sheet No.75 of the 1923 Issue of the Cummins Map Company land ownership map series. This detail shows some of the lands held in Township 22-3W and 22-4W. The number below the owner's name refers to post office address for that location. They are: 1- Eriksdale; 2 - Vannes; 3 - Tipperary; 16 - Sharpewood. Map-030.



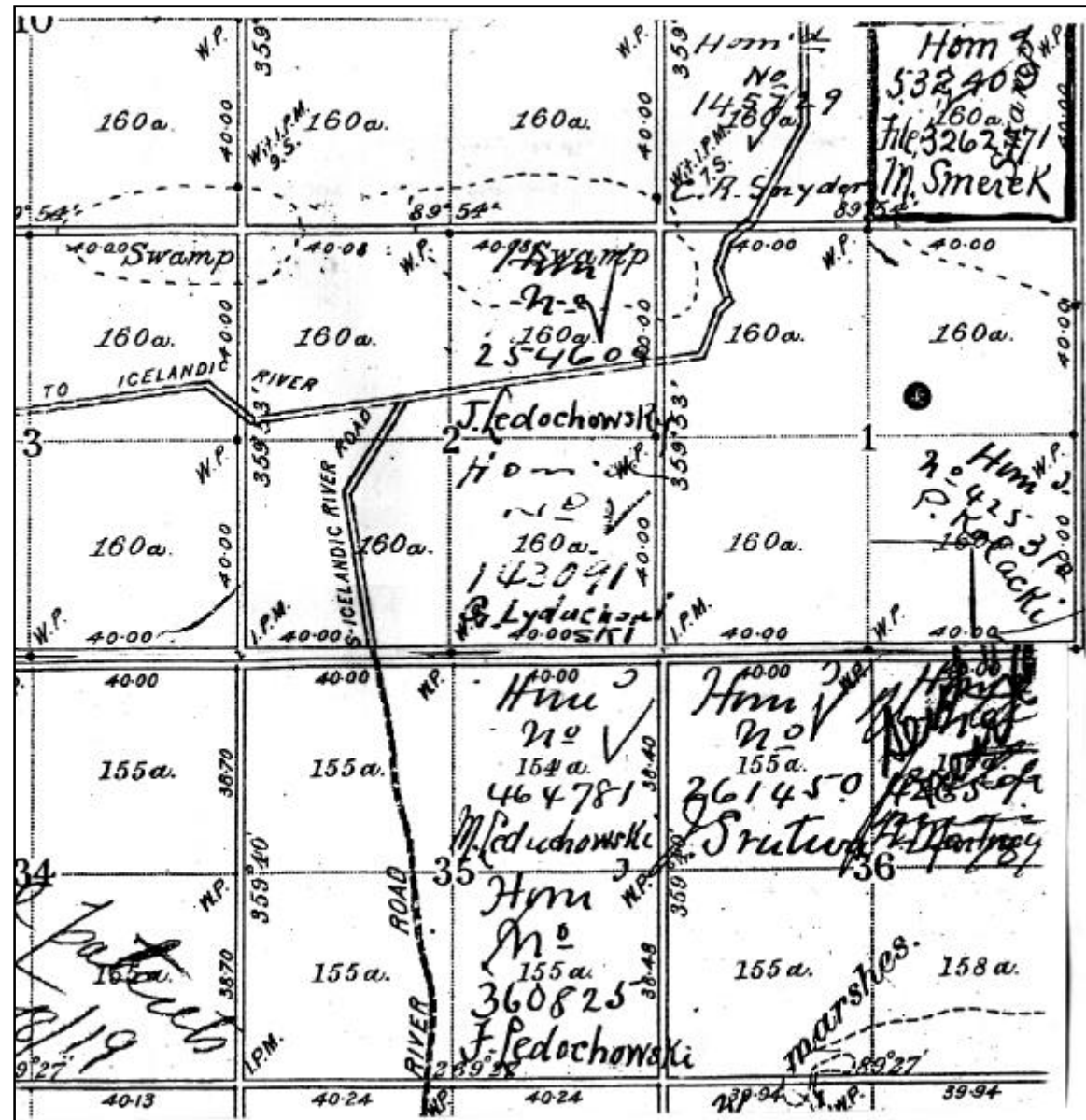
Above: Detail from Sheet No. 79 of the 1923 Issue of the Cummins Map Company land ownership map series, showing Townships 23-1W and 23-2W. The number below the owner's name refers to post office address for that quarter section location. They are: 1 - Zbaras; 2 - Bouville; 3 - Broad Valley; 4 - Fisher Branch. Map-033.





Above: Detail from Sheet No.79 of the 1923 Issue of the Cummins Map Company land ownership map series, showing Townships 24-1W and 24-2W. The number below the owner's name refers to post office address for that quarter section location. They are: 4 - Fisher Branch; 5 - Fisherton. Map-034.

Right: Composite map showing the area in the Hamrlik District settled by Gregory Ledochowski and three of his five sons: Fred, Mike and John. Note that each homestead entry was registered with a different spelling of the name: "G. Lyduchowski; J. Ledochowski; M. Leduchowski; and F. Ledochowski". Many of the Ukrainian settlers were illiterate when they arrived, and the land agents tended to spell the name as best they could when the homesteads were registered. There was much confusion over the spelling of some family names, and even official records varied. In this case, 'Ledochowski' is the proper spelling, however Fred and Peter adopted 'Leduchowski'; brother Stephan settled upon 'Ledohowski'; while the remaining siblings used the original spelling. Some of the other district families with spelling variations include: Bailley-Bailey-Beley, Demaniu-Demianiw, Haliuk-Haluik, Stasuik-Stasiuk, Ewanusiw-Ewanusiw-Iwanusiw, Skrabyk-Skrabek, Tycholis-Tycholiz. Map-035.



<p style="text-align: right;">188390.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Winnipeg, September 10th, 19.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Copy for H. O. Ref. 427216.</p> <p>Sir,</p> <p>With reference to your application for patent for the N.E. 1/4 of 2-22-1 WPM, will you kindly furnish me with an affidavit on the enclosed Form 59 as to the correct spelling of your name. Entry was granted you in the name of "John Ladackowsky", whereas your Certificate of Naturalization is in the name of "John Leuduchowski", and your application for patent is in the name of "John Ledochowsky".</p> <p>Please give this matter your early attention.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Your obedient servant, Actg. Agent Dominion Lands,</p> <p>John Ledochowsky Esq., Hamrlik, Manitoba.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">188390.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Winnipeg, September 10th, 19.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Copy for H. O. Ref. 427216.</p> <p>Sir,</p> <p>With reference to your application for patent for the N. E. 1/4 of 2-22-1 W. P. M., will you kindly furnish me with an affidavit on the enclosed Form 59 as to the correct spelling of your name. Entry was granted you in the name of "John Ladackowsky", whereas your Certificate of Naturalization is in the name of "John Leuduchowski" and your application for patent in the name of "John Ledochowsky".</p> <p>Please give this matter your early attention.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Your obedient servant, 176343 176344 Actg. Agent Dominion Lands.</p>
--	---

Above: Copy and transcript of an undated letter from the Agent of Dominion Lands, to "John Ledochowsky, Esq. of Hamrlik, Manitoba" requesting clarification of the spelling of the family name before patent (ownership) of the homestead could be granted. Such confusion was not an unusual occurrence with many of the families in the Poplarfield District. Copies of all correspondence and applications relating to homestead registrations are available for all Manitoba homesteaders in microfilm form at the Provincial Archives. They often contain interesting and revealing information and are a great source of information for family history research.





# *Appendices*

# Credits

## INSTITUTIONS & ARCHIVES:

Canadian National Railway Archives:  
RTM-026.

Manitoba Culture, Heritage & Tourism, Historic Resources Branch:  
PE-026, FR-034, FR-069, BV-004, Misc-001, Misc-005, Misc-006,  
Misc-014, MAP-002, MAP-005, MAP-006, MAP-015, Map-025 to  
MAP-34.

Opportunities For Youth, 1974 student project files:  
PE-044, PE-045, CL-026, CL-027, FL-065, FL-075, FL-141,  
FL-166, CS-003, CS-005, CS-042, CS-053, SR-007, SR-015,  
SR-016, RTM-002, RTM-010, RTM-023, RTM-033, SC: DE-036,  
LE-001 to LE-003, WH-001, BA-001, BA-002, BR-001, BR-002,  
BR-003, WT-001 to WT-005, WT-007 to WT-009, WT-018,  
BV-002, FB-004 to FB-017, HO-001 to HO-003, DA-002,  
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to MAP-009, MAP-017.

Provincial Archives of Manitoba, J.W. Sisler Collection:  
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FL-007 to FL-009, FL-216, WT-038 to WT-040.

Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Malofie Collection:  
PE-052, PE-059, CL-004, CL-070, FL-001, FR-033, RTM-024,  
RTM-025, RTM-028, RTM-029, RTM-060, RTM-065, RTM-066,  
DE-044, BV-012, FB-002, FB-003, FB-018, FB-020 to FB-024,  
WT-035.

Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Foote Collection:  
CS-099, WT-006, WT-016.

Provincial Archives of Manitoba, general files:  
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PE-022, PE-023, PE-024, PE-025, PE-027, PE-028, PE-029,  
PE-030, PE-036, PE-050, PE-051, FL-019, FL-026, FL-045,  
RTM-003, DE-012, DE-038, DE-041 to DE-043, HP-016, LE-006,  
LE-007, NS-001, BA-001, BA-002, WT-010, BV-001, FB-001,  
VIP-057, VIP-058, VIP-063, MAP-001, Map-010, MAP-016,  
MAP-020, MAP-038.

Ukrainian Cultural & Educational Centre, (UCEC):  
CL-001, CL-061, FR-070, DE-001, DE-002, DE-039, VIP-039,  
VIP-040.

University of Manitoba, Manitoba Tribune Collection:  
FR-036.

## CONTRIBUTING FAMILY ALBUMS:

Bailey, Peter & Luba:  
CL-009, CL-069, CL-085, FR-004, FR-0087, FR-008, FR-012,  
FR-050, FR-051, FR-054, CS-023, CS-030, CS-031, CS-043,  
CS-044, CS-051.

Bailey, Garry & Katherine:  
FR-075, FR-087, CS-081, CS-082.

Baydock, John & Rose:  
FR-044 to FR-046, CS-006, CS-022, CS-024, CS-028, CS-029,  
CS-047, SC: DE-016 to DE-018, DE-037, DE-046, DE-047, HP-005  
to HP-007.

Bazilewich, John & Helen:  
CL-093, FL-146 to FL-149, FL-169 to FL-172, FL-185, FL-186,  
FL-189, FR-089, SR-054, SR-074 to SR-076, RTM-077 to  
RTM-079, PA-001, PA-002, WT-020, WT-021, WT-031.

Blahey, Harry & Frances:  
FL-028, SR-055, WH-010 to WH-014.

Breland, Rene:  
VIP-046.

Bucko, Victor & Albina:  
CL-043, FL-070, FL-071, SH-003, VIP-026.

Chekosky, Ron & Karen:  
SR-084, SR-094 to SR-096, SR-103 to SR-106, VIP-061.

Chreptyk, Mary:  
CL-048.

Chudy, Joe & Anne:  
SR-002.

Daciw, Metro & Sonia:  
RTM-012, WH-002, WH-003. NS-001, NS-007 to NS-011.

Drelich, Dale & Darlene:  
CS-010, Misc-009.

Evans, Clif:  
VIP-062.

Ferris, Frank:

CS-100, SC,DE-056 to SC,DE-059.

Genyk, Peter & Sonia

CL-065, FL-010, FR-001, FR-002, FR-024 to FR-027, FR-029,  
CS-021, CS-033 to CS-035, SR-009, SR-101, RTM-020, VIP-060.

Grushka, Bill & Helen:

FL-129, CS-066, CS-067, WT-015.

Hordecki, Walter & Nadia:

FR-006, FR-009, CS-008, SR-005, SR-006, SR-041 to SR-043,  
DE-007, DE-008.

Horodecki, Bill & Helen:

FL-127, FL-128, FL-208, CS-064, SR-068, SR-071, SR-081,  
SR-082, RTM-048 to RTM-050, WT-014.

Husiak, Harry & Rose:

CL-0987, FL-011 to FL-017, FL-052, FL-053, FL-086, CS-015,  
CS-077, VIP-030.

Johnson, Al & Gerry :

CH-001 to CH-003, CH-005 to CH-008.

Josefchuk, Michael & Donna:

CL-088 to CL-091, CS-065.

Karlicki, William & Anne:

FL-1224, HP-009, HP-010, HP-015.

Kicenko, Steve & Ruth:

PE-039, PE-048, PE-049, CL-013, FL-046 to FL-050, FL-054,  
FL-055, FL-056, FL-077, FL-093 to FL-095, FL-100, FL-102,  
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SR-022, SR-027, SR-040, RTM-042, HP-001.

Kindzierski, Jinny:

FL-217 to FL-219, FL-230.

Klowak, Norman:

FR-052, FR-053, FR-071, FR-082 to FR-084, FR-086, FR-088,  
CS-079, CS-093 to CS-098, Misc-017, Misc-018, VIP-064,  
VIP-065.

Klump, Laurie & Irene:

CS-050. SR-044, DE-051, DE-052, SV-001, VIP-031.

Kolach, Clifford:

Misc-040 to Misc-044.

Kochan, Peter & Bernice:

FR-068, CS-017 to CS-020, NS-002, NS-004.

Kochan, Nick & Grace:

FL-024, FL-225, FL-288, FR-073, FR-074, CS-085, CS-086.

Kubas, Peter:

FL-133.

Ledohowski, Mike & Anne:

CL-007, CL-010, CL-011, CL-012, CL-020, CL-025, CL-040,  
CL-055, CL-106, CL-107, CL-109 to CL-112, CL-126, CL-127,  
FL-154, FL-175, FL-203, FL-207, FL-215, CS-046, CS-080,  
SR-013, SR-024, SR-025, SR-048 to SR-050, SR-058, SR-063,  
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VIP-032, VIP-041, VIP-042, Misc-008, Misc-015, Misc-028,  
Misc-029, Misc-032, Misc-033.

Ledohowski, Ed & Monique:

CL-024, CL-028 to CL-033, CL-056, CL-057, CL-058, CL-076 to  
CL-082, CL-094 to CL-102, CL-105, CL-108, CL-113, CL-125,  
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Misc-039. Map-035.

Ledohowski, Walter & Anne:

CL-041, CL-042, FR-060.

Leduchowski, Dan:

FL-072, FL-073, SR-020, SR-107, SR-108, WH-005 to WH-008,  
WT-011, WT-032, WT-034.

Leduchowski, James & Vivian:

FL-130, FL-190, RTM-017, RTM-053, WT-017.

- Leduchowski, George & Laura:  
SR-003, SR-017, SR-110, CH-004.
- Leochko, Terry & Brenda:  
FL-226, FL-227, CS-101, SR-100 to SR-102, Misc-021.
- Leochko, Harry & Mary:  
FR-010, FR-011, FR-018, FR-019, FR-022, FR-023, FR-048,  
CS-038, CS-052, SR-004, SR-014.
- Leschyshyn, Stan & Mary  
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- Lisowecki, Nicholas & Justine:  
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HP-012, NS-019.
- Luty, Constantine:  
FL-027, FL-031, FL-051, CS-014, RTM-011.
- Luty, Nick & Frances:  
VIP-028, VIP-029.
- Marykuca, Mervin & Elsie:  
FR-067, CS-026, CS-075, CS-076, RTM-019, RTM-059, WT-030.
- Mazur, Joe & Eileen:  
FL-088, NS-003, NS-012 to NS-014, VIP-036.
- Melnyk, Jacob:  
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- Moroz, Peter:  
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- Nevakshonoff, Mike & Joyce:  
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- Osioway, Frank & Mary:  
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- Ostryzniuk, David & Linda:  
SR-052, SR-053.
- Ostryzniuk-Torbiak, Sonia:  
CS-039, CS-040, FL-136 to FL-138.
- Ostryzniuk, Michael:  
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- Panchuk, John:  
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- Pawluk, William:  
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- Pawlychka, Norris & Jenny:  
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- Podaima, Dennis  
SR-073.
- Podaima, Leo & Pearl:  
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- Podaima, Terry & Annie:  
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- Pomanski, Wally & Evelyn:  
FR-055, CS-078, SR-011, VIP-037.
- Pyziak, Tom & Shannon:  
FL-022, FL-033, FL-043, FL-044, FR-030, FR-031, BR-004.
- Roche, Marcel:  
BV-005 to BV-010.
- Sawka, Wasyl & Helen:  
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- Shore, Bob:  
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- Shwaluik, Steve & Jean:  
RTM-072.
- Skrabek, Roy & Mary:  
CL-072, CL-0974, FL-019, CS-059, CS-072 to CS-074, SR-001,  
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- Sokulski, Donna:  
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- Sokulski, Peter & Sererine:  
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- Stasiuk, Mike:  
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- Stawychny, Henry & Anne:  
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Swarychewski, John & Sonia:

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Swar, Bill & Margie:

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Swedlo, Arnold & Diane:

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Swerta, Stella:

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Torbiak, Walter & Sylvia:

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Torbiak, Harry and Sonia:

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Torbiak, Dan:

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Trychniewicz, Elizabeth:

CL-050, CL-0711, FR-035, FR-049, CS-007, CS-009, CS-048,  
RTM-046, SC: DE-004, DE-005, DE-011, DE-013, DE-014.

Tycholis, Eileen:

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Ukrainice, Eugene & Myrtle:

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Wachna, Myrtle:

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Wallach, Charlie & Beatrice:

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Werstiuk, Harry:

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Werbenuk, Bill:

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Werbenuk Nettie:

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Zasitko, Peter & Elsie:

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Zorniak-Cheguis, Sadie:

FL-004, FL-005, FL-087, FR-058, FR-059, RTM-004 to RTM-008,  
RTM-045, LE-005, VIP-025.

Zuk, Fred & Pauline:

FL-030, FL-134, FL-135, FL-164, FL-204, FL-205, SR-061,  
RTM-057.

Zuk, John & Anne:

FL-029, FL-069, FL-142, CS-016, RTM-014 to RTM-016, RTM-035,  
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## Identified Individuals Finding Aid

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