

# WHITE BEAR



White Bear, 1930.

A CNR branch of the railway was extended to White Bear from Eston in 1925. This led to the construction of elevators and the new business establishments that sprung up in the town. G.M. Driscoll arrived in 1925 and erected the first General store. Mrs. Driscoll continues to operate the store along with the capable help of Ruby Beck.

This store has continued with its dedicated service to the town and country folk for a span of 55 years. Stan Sawyer came shortly after and started the first dray and livery business. At this time, a number of other businesses were established. Max Rutherford operated a grocery and hardware store from 1926-1934. W.H. Mutlow came here in 1926 and had a butcher shop and in 1934 included groceries. Rutherford moved to Calgary that year.

## THE WHITE BEAR LINE

The C.N.R. was built in 1925. The White Bear Line was intended to stay in the valley at Saltburn, then go over around where Tuberosa is and through the hills to Beechy. White Bear would not have existed if it had. But it was decided to go up the hill after the grain. There was a proposed extension to go six miles south by southeast of White Bear.

I have known this line to have grain trains seven days a week, plus a passenger train from Saskatoon.

The Station was built in 1926. The first agent was Mr. Harry Price followed by Lloyd Noiland, George Spice, Ross Levens, Gordon Stewart and Bill Blundell was the last official agent, however, Kathryn Darrow and family lived in the station and took charge of any minor CNR business for a period of time.

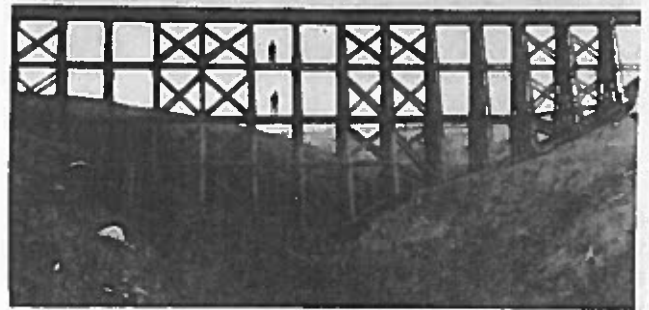
White Bear was the end of the CNR trackage and, therefore, was the headquarters of the section foreman and crew. Our first foreman was Harry Woodstock, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Huckle whose son Freddy became a noteworthy professional hockey player, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Khinicki, the Addison's, Mr. and Mrs. John McCrobbie whose daughter Kay Murray still resides in

White Bear, and the Lewis Solomans.

Some of the assistant foremen were Harry Aplevitch, the Langfords, and J. Veitch. In addition to the above mentioned personnel, and due to the fact that the train stayed in White Bear over night, a night watchman was required. One of the first was Dick Rhodda, Langford, and Leonard Shriber.



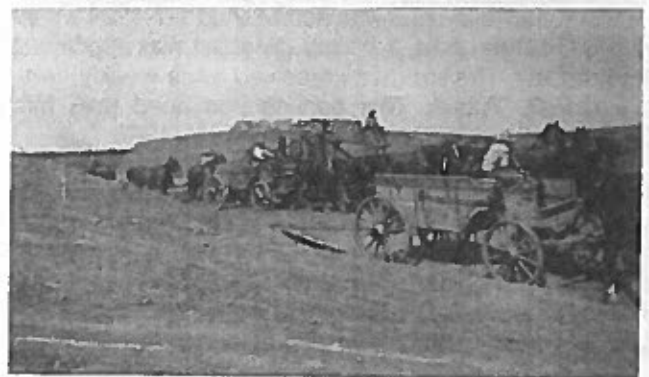
Third C.N.R. bridge under construction, 1925.



Fourth bridge on C.N.R. line.

The line from Lacadena to White was slated for detailment in 1979. Farmers in this community now have to haul their grain to Kyle.

## THE WHITE BEAR DAM



Horse power building C.N.R. dam.

The need of water to supply the steam locomotives prompted drilling just north of the station house. This proved unsuccessful and the decision was made to build a reservoir to supply the necessary water. This was accomplished by the Gibbs Brothers, contractors from Regina and was completed with horses, elevating grader and dump wagons.

There was terrific excitement and activity around White Bear, at this time, due to the score of men who worked on this project. The boys of the town had great fun watching these activities and sharing of the left-over pies from the cook house. This reservoir extends three-quarters of a mile in length and 30 feet deep at the spillway.

When it was new and contained nice clear water, it was the location for all our swimming activities. To get the water to the tower by the track, a trench eight feet deep, three feet wide and approximately a half mile long was dug by pick and shovel, from the pump house to the water tower, a feat that would not be repeated today.

This reservoir not only supplied the needs of the CNR, but also the local farms who were desperately short of water during the dry thirties hauling by team and water tank for stock and horses.

Since the introduction of diesel engines this water was no longer required and was sold to the town for a nominal fee. Under the auspices of the Board of Trade, a pump house with a filtering system was installed. This water is the source of our water supply and under the management of Jack Beck.

Fingerling trout have been stocked each year to the extent, that we have very favorable trout fishing.



Construction camp at C.N.R. dam.

"I was about nine years old when I made my first trip to the new town of White Bear. It was 1927 and the dam on the north end of town was being built to provide a supply of water.

My mother, Ann Hanson, loaded the Democrat with vegetables to sell to the workers. When we arrived, the flat area by the well was covered with tents. The poor horses worked so hard pulling scrapers up and down the coulee.

I was too shy to approach people but was shown the way around by the Hunter twins, Marjorie and Margret.

Previous to this, water was brought in by train and delivered door to door by the dray man".

Submitted by Julia Norheim

## POST OFFICE

The first Post Office in White Bear was operated by G.M. Driscoll in the back area of his store from approximately 1925 to 1927, the Post Office was then taken over by a Mr. Vic McKeag. It too was located in a section of the Massey Harris building.

Finally, the Post Office was moved to a new building on Main Street and operated by Fred Bye who was also the contractor for construction of the White Bear United Church. Upon Fred's death, the Post Office and a small stationery store was carried on by his wife Mrs. Nellie Bye.

Upon Mrs. Bye's retirement, Mr. and Mrs. H. Newman filled the position as Post Master and once again moved to a new location in the Newman residence on the north side of Main Street.

Our next Post Master and Mistress were Emmanuel and Geneva Schuler who dispensed mail from their residence and finally moved to the old Fred Handley office where it still is located. They were followed by Rene Kovitch and now Rose McLeod (nee Driscoll). It is interesting to note, that after 55 years the daughter of the first postman is presently our post mistress.

In those early days, the mail was delivered by carrier from Tuberoso by Dave Thompson (Robert Thompson's father). This system went on for a number of years. Other carriers were Dick Graham, Chester Williams, Oliver Sveum, Richard Williams, Kenneth Westgard, Bill Gillanders and Jack Beck. There have been numerous other carriers but have stated only the local timers.

## BLACKSMITHS

Tom Bovin operated the first blacksmith shop in White Bear, shoeing the farmer's horses, forge, welding, etc. Chris Gunderson built a new building in the south east corner of town and operated a blacksmith shop and operated a power plant for part of the town and did custom feed grinding.

## BEAVER LUMBER

The Beaver Lumber was started in 1926 with a full line of building supplies. Our first operator was Carl Nelson who also farmed in the district. He was followed by Charley Swanson, Norman Humphry and Don McMechan.

During this time, the yard was moved in its entirety to Main Street and at this time, a full line of hardware was added.

Don was followed by Merlin Hyde, Alex Harder, Jack Bird, and Fred Redhead.

The lumber part of this business was terminated and the hardware part was taken over by Jacob Schuler and operated until it was burned in 1971. We can vividly remember the Beaver yard fence being a hitching post for the farmers horses when they were hauling grain to White Bear.

## GARAGES

The first garage was built by Tremblay in 1926. This garage boasted a six car show-room for the display of Chrysler products. Art Drindle operated the garage during the time while Tremblay hauled gravel for the No. 4 Highway.

When Tremblay left White Bear, Tom King took over the ownership of the business and engaged Ed Haugen to operate it for him. After Ed Haugen, other operators were – Orville Graham, Roland Mutlow, Albert Griffith, not necessarily in that order.

At this time, another garage was started on the south west corner of block 1 by Chester and Conard Williams, also a brother Norman was with them at times. After Chester Williams this business was operated by various other people – Noble and Elmer Heieren, Eilert Johnson followed by Jacob Schuler from 1943 to 1980.

During part of this time, it was operated by Ron Klassen and at this time, the building burned down and was rebuilt on a smaller scale by Jacob Schuler and is now operated a Les' Coffee Shop by Les Conlin. Albert Griffith operated a welding and machine shop west of Driscoll's store.



Jake Schuler's garage in 1947.

## POOL ROOM AND BARBER SHOP

Gottlieb Pfaff and Bill Schuler came to White Bear in 1926 and built and operated a pool room and barber shop. Gottlieb continued the business until 1968.

One of the first theatre groups put on a play in the pool room. The pool tables were pushed back and planks put on them for the stage, also nail kegs and planks used for seats with gasoline lamps used for lights. This building has been moved to the farm of Minnie and Ray Clark, daughter of the late Mr. G. Pfaff.

Ray Peck, a brother-in-law of Elmore Figley, also operated a Barber Shop for a short time.

## PLUMBER

White Bear boasted a local plumber, Doug McMillan who very efficiently installed the plumbing in the homes in town upon the completion of the water and sewage.

## BULK OIL AGENCIES

One of our first agents in the Imperial was G.M. Driscoll followed by Stan Sawyer, Norman Bell, Orville Graham, Raymond Kerr, Bill Gillanders, Hilbert Kovitch and Ron Kenyon who is our present agent.

B.A. – Mr. Driscoll, Fred Handley, Nick French who also operated a service on the west side of town. S.J. Mutlow followed again by Nick French.

Co-op – operated an Oil agency and Hardware for a short time, first managed by Ellert Dyrland, then Ray Figley and lastly by Harvey Hanson.

## FUNERAL PARLOUR

For a short time Clements – a Funeral Director from Rosetown – had a funeral parlour. Paul McKay assisted Mr. Clements for a brief time.

## HOTEL

Some of the enterprising business men of the town, financially assisted by farmers of the district, asked Mr. Percy Hunter to build and operate a hotel. Shares were sold for this project. Hunters managed the hotel for 10 years. Mrs. Peter Kinnicks then operated the hotel assisted by her sisters Alice and Marjorie. On their departure, the hotel remained closed for many years.

Jacob Schuler bought the building and it was used as a garage for a few years. Steven Evancio purchased the building and it was once again restored as a hotel with a licenced beverage room added. The following owners followed Steven Evancio, Paul Landry, Don Koncar, Wilf Markula, Henry Mosher and is now operated by Wayne Spence.

## CAFE

The first cafe was on the Main Street and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Graham (Geordy Graham's parents). They were followed by Aage and Marj Jorgensen. Aage was followed by a Chinese, Mr. Quaint Lean. Some of the staff employed by Quaint were Alice Oraas, Esther Schuler and a lot of other teenagers.

At a later date, Quaint took over the building that was previously operated as a hardware store and continued with the cafe business. Quaint was noted for his delicious Chop-Suey which he supplied as take-out orders and to invited guests. We believe that Quaint was the originator of the Chop-Suey fad in this district, teaching many the art of making it. He moved to Wiseton and operated a barber shop until his passing.

The cafe business was taken over by Blanche Knutson (Schuler), followed by Halvor and Alida Hystad, Eilert and Selma Dyrland, Hazel and Bill Guy, Bob Irwin, Doug and Lois Pickford, Kay Murray and Gladys Akister (Munson), followed by Wayne Quong and his father who were the last cafe operators in White Bear. Minnie and Ray Clark also operated a cafe in White Bear for a short time.

## MACHINE DEALERSHIPS

The Massey Harris Agencies were started by Ivers and Calvert, then Stan Sawyer and Elwell Clark started the Case and Holt, then took over the Massey Harris.



Elwell Clark.

This business was continued by Elwell Clark until he moved to Kyle and was followed by the Fors Brothers and Bernard Monson, Lennox Draper and Sons operated the Versatile agencies from this business until its closure.

The John Deere agencies were operated by Christie and Bragonier from the old Tremblay building. The Cockshutt and White Rose Oil and Gas was operated by Paul McKay. Jacob Schuler had the Oliver agencies for a number of years.

## LIVERY BARNS

The first livery barn was owned by Stan Sawyer assisted by Frank Heinz.

The livery barn held about 20 to 30 teams of horses and was a good gathering place for the local farmers to swap stories, etc.

This barn was later taken over by Joe Seizeach and he made the best homemade beer in White Bear. He could really play the accordion which he played for numerous dances in the hotel.

Joe was followed by Bill Edlin 1929 to 1935, Gerald Pickford 1936-1944, Art Moore during the war years, followed by Doug Pickford and Oliver Sveum.

The livery barn was moved to 2nd Ave. West where Albert Griffith had a welding shop. It has later been moved to the farm of Doug Pickford.

## SHOE REPAIR SHOP

In 1928, Mike Sherbot started a shoe repair shop in a portion of Clark's building later moving into a home on first Avenue West where he continued the shoe repair and took orders for made-to-measure suits. From there, he moved to a building on Main Street, where he enlarged to a full line of hardware. He later sold out and moved to Delisle.

## INSURANCE AGENCY

White Bear's first Insurance Agency was Lefty Treeleven who was also one of the town's best baseball players.

Bob Christie had a general insurance office for a number of years and was also the first Sunday School Superintendent for the United Church.

Fred Handley was employed at Driscoll's store for many of those earlier years, was also in charge of B.A. Oil and Book-Keeper for Clark's Massey and Case business. After a time, Fred opened a General Insurance Office and Income Tax Returns for farmers.

## ELECTRICAL SHOP

John Hanson purchased the old Chinese Cafe where he operated a T.V. and radio repair shop. For all our electrical problems, we would call on Johnny. Lloyd Bragonier and Roi Akister also had a radio repair shop prior to John.

## CHINESE LAUNDRY

White Bear also boasted a Chinese Laundry by Sam Lee. Other laundries were Mrs. Barrie and Mrs. Maggie Schuler.

## J.J. GRIFFITH BUTCHER SHOP

Following are excerpts taken from a ledger from the J.J. Griffith butcher shop in Milestone, Sask. The year was 1902, and the ledger in perfect condition is in the possession of Dora Griffith of White Bear.

October 6, 1902	(1980 prices)	
75 lbs. Roast Beef	Paid: \$7.50	(\$187.50)
5 lbs. Steak	Paid: \$ .65	(\$ 19.95)
10 lbs. Stew	Paid: \$ .75	(\$ 19.90)
1 Front ¼ beef, weight 115 lbs.	Paid: \$8.15	(\$143.75)
9 lbs. stew; 4½ lbs. steak	Paid: \$1.30	(\$ 29.21)
5½ lbs. steak; and 1 wild goose	Paid: \$1.50	
4¾ lbs. roast pork	Paid: \$ .70	(\$ 12.78)

## THE WHITE BEAR ORCHESTRA

In the year 1940, a White Bear Orchestra was started by Katie Bachelder, Don McMechan, Bill Gillanders and Alex Wilkie.

When Don, who played the saxophone, left the district, he was replaced by Bert Collins. Later, Emanuel Moberg, a high school teacher in town, joined the gang with his violin.

The orchestra furnished free music for all the Farewell and Welcome Home parties for our district soldier boys going overseas and returning home. They played for many Red Cross dances free, to help raise funds for the organization.

There were many wedding dances held, at that time, and the orchestra played often at Kyle, Clearwater Lake, Lacadena and White Bear for them.

In the year 1946, the orchestra was disbanded.

## THE WHITE BEAR RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY 1928-1980

On July 23, 1928 a group of people held a meeting in Tuberose to form a committee to gather information about forming the White Bear Rural Telephone Co. Most of the Kyle area was in the Local Improvement District No. 227 and could not be taxed for telephones. Due to this fact, the town of White Bear was chosen for location of the telephone office, it being centrally located.

Some people were a bit reluctant to have telephones installed because your land was taxed for this purpose. Stories of that era were told, that in order to get families to take the phone you were told that all your neighbors were getting phones. Then your neighbors were told the same tale. Later, all got together and compared stories and were quite happy they had the phone, one way or another.

Original directors of the company, who investigated and canvassed the district were: Les Harper chairman, Bob Farrand secretary, directors — W.O. Lindsay, T.E. Hesla, D. Foreman, Dave Lowe and I.H. Pittman. Organizers were Stan Sawyer, Chas. Swanson, H. Sollied, Clarence Nelson, Milt Davis, Harry Millidge and Ed. Lindsay.

On July 23, 1928, a vote was taken to see if the meeting was in favor of telephones. Motion lost — later rescinded. Second vote carried 21 to 12 Sec.-treas. was J.R.B. Graham a Tuberose Lawyer. First debenture of \$25,000. floated December 1928. Telephone building contract let to S.E. Channell of Saskatoon. Additional debenture \$15,000. August 1929. House for the telephone office and residence purchased from Beaver Lumber at White Bear.

First operator and lineman was Lloyd C. Bragonier and wife Venice (they had a son Glen) were at White Bear Office from June 1929 to Dec. 1941. Then C.E. Jenson and wife Margaret, followed by Frank and Cora Shaler from 1942 to 1946.

In 1929, they operated with 117 rural subscribers and 12 in both Kyle and Tuberose, served by Saskatchewan Government line from White Bear. Rural rate \$12.00 per phone. Kyle rural area had lots of "barb wire phones" in the 1930's. Harold Melbo followed by Noble Harper were sec.-treas. for a number of years until 1960.

In 1951, the L.I.D. No. 227 was taken into the R.M. of Lacadena No. 228. A movement started in 1949, to put the telephone office in Kyle. The Saskatchewan Government Telephones gave the White Bear Rural Telephone Co. the opportunity to expand. White Bear Telephone Co. accepted this offer.

In August 1951, the building (office and residence) was moved to Kyle. Operating started at Kyle Nov. 15, 1951. Lineman and operator W.D. and Lois Clarke and son David came to White Bear in 1946 and to Kyle in 1951. A debenture of \$55,000. was floated. Now they

had sixty phones in Kyle and three hundred in rural areas of Tuberose, White Bear and Sancutary.

In 1952, rural lines were built in the Kyle area adding another hundred phones. Telephone office gave twenty-four hour service.

By 1955, four hundred and seventy phones, all served by White Bear Rural Telephone Co. from its office in Kyle. Board of directors were: I.H. Pittman, Pete McGregor, A. Noble, C. Smith, C. Argue, G. Seib, sec-treas. Nobel Harper, and Pres. W.A. Campbell. Extra staff hired, electrically powered two position switchboard, basement, automatic oil heat and electric lights. A far cry from the first years with kerosene or gas lamps, coal heat and hand-powered switchboard.

Lois Clarke thought the early subscribers appreciated the telephone services, especially the 'general rings' which supplied everyone with things of interest happening in the area. Through the 1960's, telephone line extensions were being installed with underground cable. Around 1964, direct dialing came and the telephone office closed. The building was sold to Betty Schneider.

From 1968 to 1973, there was talk of putting the telephone system underground. A report from Department of Telephones in 1973 said the cost would be \$150,000. In 1974, it was decided to put the system underground.

Wm. Zazelenchuk has been sec.-treas. since 1960 and still holds that office after twenty years of service. H.J. McCrie is president.

In appreciation for their many years of service, W.D. and Lois Clarke were given a bonus gift. Lois passed away in 1966. David Clarke became a lawyer, married Lorrie Miley. They have two boys and a girl and live in Kamloops, B.C.

W.D. (Bill) Clarke lives in his home at Kyle planning to retire in 1980 from his many years of telephone operator and lineman.

Submitted by Mary Graham (from available records of the White Bear Rural Telephone Company)

## THE COTEAU FEEDER CO—OPERATIVE

The Coteau Feeder Co-operative was organized in the White Bear Pool office on April 11, 1961.

Present were Pool Fieldman Jack Forsyth, Dept. of Co-operation Norman Dietrick, Wheat Pool Delegate for sub-district 1 District 11 Eugene Vermette, James Calder, Harold Closs, Russel Gillanders, Munro Hope, Bob Hope, Buster McDonald, Sam Mutlow, Jack Smith, Martin Stephenson, and Sig Jordheim.

Munro Hope was elected president, Jack Smith vice president, Buster McDonald secretary and Sam Mutlow supervisor.

The objective of the co-op was to establish a line of credit through the Credit Society for the buying and feeding of cattle.

On March 31, 1962 Buster McDonald handed in his resignation as secretary as he was leaving to work elsewhere and Sig Jordheim was elected secretary.

The feeder co-op was active for four years with new

members, Art Elliott, McLeod Bros. Ivan Smith, Donald Gillespie, Ray Figley, Ken McKenzie, Bob McDonald, and Glen Boyer being added.

The livestock market was very unstable and most of the members who undertook feeding cattle, did so at a loss so interest declined, and on July 19, 1971 member's deposits were returned and the organization terminated.

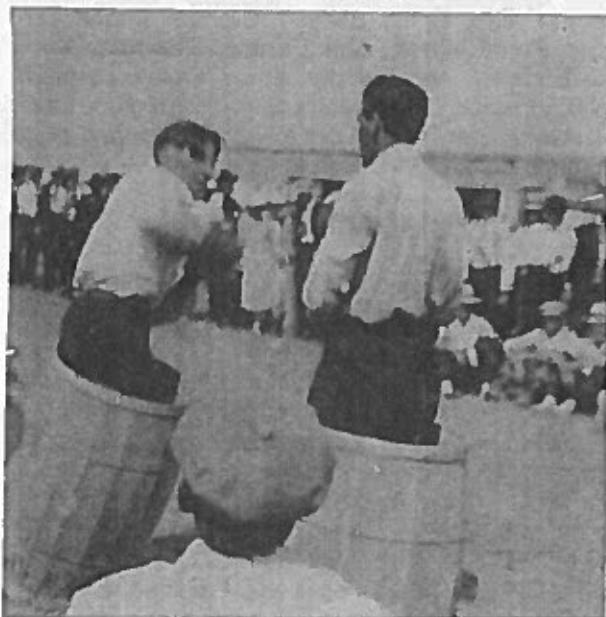
## RECREATION

**Sports Days** — as the population of White Bear started to increase in its first years, our sports minded citizens began to think of organized sports and so our Sports Days began.

These to some extent were an off shoot of the old Grain Growers picnics that were held.

In the first years, there were no trees in White Bear so in order to make our town look attractive for the occasion, the men went to the coulees at the river and cut saplings and attached them to the sidewalks in neat rows on both sides of Main Street.

Some of our people came from baseball country, so in short order ball teams were organized. We were fortunate in having work crews around, eg. CNR Dam crew, telephone crew and a number of these people were ball players and helped form the nucleus of our ball team. A trophy shield was purchased for local competition. If this was won three consecutive years, the club was allowed to keep it. We are happy to say that this shield graced the walls of the Pool Room for a good many years. We chose the Pool Room for displaying the shield because Gottlieb Pfaff was one of the main baseball players and organizers. Some of the responsible for senior and junior ball were Pfaff, Driscoll, Rutherford, Treleven, Con and Norman Williams. Of course, there were many others but these were some of the originals that came to mind.



Charlie Skelton vs Max Beavis.

Some of the events in those days were saddle horse racing, greased pig event, some swimming events at the new CNR Dam such as walking out on a greased diving board without falling in. Many children's events were held such as races, three-legged race, sack race and boxing in a barrel.

We can recall one of the Sports Days that was rained out about three o'clock in the afternoon and we moved the confectionery booth and games of chance into a new steel shed belonging to Sawyer and Clark, so this Sports Day had a successful ending.

Sports Days have been continued except for a few years during the war. After the war, the Orange Lodge started them up again.

Around 1948, the Board of Trade purchased approximately 40 acres of land from Ken Lytle. This property was sub-divided into some lots and grounds for our new school. The skating rink was moved to this new location and about 1954, the present arena was built.

Later, a Sports Association was formed and they took over the administration of all sport activities. Under the sponsorship of the Sports Association a race track was completed and chuck wagon, chariot races together with saddle horses events took place.

We are happy to say that up to the present day, these Sports Days have proved successful. We would like to point out that the Sports Association was a complete community affair and operated on a voluntary basis. We feel that the active participation of every member of the community is the key to its apparent success.



Lloyd Imrie, Carol Maalerud, Ariene Imrie, Darla Fox, Laurie Norheim, Terri Miller, Lynne Fox, Shelly MacMillan, Carol Van Buskirk, Lynne Akister, Lorelee Imrie, Connie Soden, Barb MacMillan, Lorely Mutlow and Sharon Davies. Midget Girls Champs, 1980.

## CURLING

As well as baseball, curling was organized at the beginning. A few of the old timers that knew the game and taught it to us, who had never seen the game before, were H. Bischoff, Ted Johnstone, Driscoll, Rutherford



Mrs. Avery, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Driscoll,  
Edna Clark and Peggy Hannah, 1927.

and many others. The first rink was a single sheet of ice which was destroyed by fire and wind. Then a rink with two sheets was built and curling was again in full swing. In those days curlers owned their individual rocks and of course, they were not always matched in weight so it was rather tricky to deliver a 44 lb. rock and your opponent to remove it with a 38 lb. rock. However, in later years, these were exchanged for matched sets.

One of our first competition cups was handmade by Max Rutherford. As time went on, other cups came into being such as, the Cobin Cup, the Grand Challenge and



1923 — N. Humphrey, L. Nolan, G. Pfaff, Bill Mutlow,  
Fred Bye, Chet Clark, Bob Christie, Chester Williams,  
F. Abley, O. Graham, E. Clark and L. Bragonier.

numerous others. As one of our photos will indicate, White Bear curlers had the distinction of having possession of all of them for a period of time. Unfortunately, we had a second fire during a bonspiel so our people, never say die, rebuilt the rink in its present location.

We would like to mention some of the first caretakers over the years and our apology to those that we cannot recall at this time — Walter Weldon, Rollie Mutlow, Orville Graham, Jim Pickford, a Mr. Lee, and Bun Graham. In arena days some of our local caretakers were Rollie and Larry Mutlow, Bill Lytle, Ray Clark, Doug Pickford, David Lytle, David Brown and Ward McMillan.

### SKATING AND HOCKEY

Our first skating took place on the CNR Dam by the

group cutting a hole in the ice to get the water smoother and make a skating surface with a wall of snow for the edges. Later, an open air rink was built. At one time, a threshing caboose was used as a dressing room.

For a short time, the seniors had a hockey team, but mostly hockey was for the juniors.

In the open air rink, we had carnivals, obstacle races, etc. One memory of our open air rink was shovelling the snow off in order to play. We recall putting special shoes on Pickford's horse so we could load the snow on the dray wagon to remove it from the ice.

By this time, the need of a closed arena became apparent so a survey of the community was made to see if the necessary financing could be arranged. While this appeared to be a huge undertaking, it did seem possible so plans were drawn and construction began. The project was completed in 1955 with a combined waiting room for the skating and curling rinks. The design of the waiting room proved very efficient, thanks to the ingenuity of the Building Committee. Tiny Gunderson, Jim Bassett, Roi Akister and Sam Mutlow. We cannot begin to name all those who played a major roll in this arena. This was a complete community undertaking and as a result, we have had many enjoyable years of skating and hockey.

The figure skating became a major event ending the season with a carnival where all age groups took part, and ended with a turkey supper.

At this time, a tribute should be made to the business men for the bonspiel prizes donated and to the many others for the donation of their time and efforts.

## FOR KING AND COUNTRY

Members of White Bear and Community who volunteered for active service with the Canadian Fighting Forces 1939-1946 — George Avery, William Clark, Raymond Rollins, Eldon Lidkea, Albert Griffith, Roy Lidkea, Eddie O'Neill, Sammy Mutlow, Harold Russell, Leonard Anderson, Rex Smid, Stewart Graham, Frank DeGruchy, Percy Akister, Jack Pickford, Raymond Kerr, Eddie Endicott, Ted Schuler, Lorne Figley, Leonard Lee, Nick French, Dolly French, Scott Richardson, Lawrence Avery, Earl Taylor, Orville Graham, Andrew Justason, Jack Pittman, and Harold Kinhnicke.

## COMMUNITY CLUB

Due to the first set of books having been destroyed, our information is both hazy and limited so please overlook our omissions or errors.

The Club was formed in or before 1927 by a group of ladies who felt the need of an organization to plan the recreational part of the communities activities, thus the Community Club was born.

Some of the first members were — Elsie Carlson, Mrs. Driscoll, Mrs. Chester Clark, Mrs. Harry Pratt, Mrs. Ed Kerr, Mrs. Ernest Kerr, Mrs. Stan Sawyer, Mrs. Nick French. I believe Mrs. Driscoll was President and Mrs. Clark Secretary (this we are not positive about).

Meetings were held once a month at some member's

home, the highlight being the delicious lunch after the meetings adjourned.

In the early 1940's, the Club was asked by the Town Council to take the hall over. The hall had been owned by a syndicate of farmers and business men who raised the money and built it. Since some of the people had left the community or passed away, the hall was left idle.

After much discussion the members agreed to take the hall over. We were a very busy group in those early days. There were picture shows, the shows were selected and booked by Mary Johnstone, Alice Gillanders and Carrie Schuler. They picked out some real good shows.

The projector was operated by Jack Beck and John Hanson. Ruby Beck was caretaker of the hall for a few years.

We held showers and catered to wedding receptions many times. A carnival was held every fall which was a lot of work but we could always count on volunteer help. The carnivals went over real big.

We sponsored dances, card parties, amateur hours, plays and served at auction sales, etc.

Now that we are all a little older, we are not as active as we used to be but, we like to feel we are still a club.

Present officers are Dora Griffith, President, Alice Gillanders, Vice-President, Mary Johnstone, Secretary and Carrie Schuler is Treasurer.

#### FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS CLUB

On June 7, 1976 a meeting to discuss the organizing of a Senior Citizens group was held in the Library.

Mrs. Ray Murray accepted the President's chair for the evening and Mrs. R. Maalerud the Secretarial position.

Harry Thompson moved we form a Senior Citizens group, seconded by Jack Schuler.

The following volunteered to go on the Board of Directors: Harry Thompson, Bill Gillanders, Val Bachelder, Jack Schuler, and Sam Mutlow.

After being accepted by the New Horizon's group, the next step was a name for our organization. The title "Friends and Neighbors" club-seemed appropriate so we had our name.

A room in the Complex was donated to us. Now we had a name and a room, but we needed furnishings. With the aid of Grants from the New Horizons, we were able to give the room a face-lift by means of paint pails, brushes, wall paper and, of course, a step-ladder and a lot of willing workers. New carpeting was laid, two new chesterfields and chairs, shuffleboard billiard table, and curling shuffleboard, plus 14 arm chairs. I must not forget the lift to enable wheel chair and disabled people to get up stairs, also the bathroom which is also able to accommodate a wheel chair.

The room is well used. Tuesday is Ladies Day, they may play cards or shuffle board or do some latch hooking on a rug or wall hanging. Often a group just spends an evening there. We have card parties all winter and they are well attended.

Meetings are held once a month with a tasty lunch following. Birthdays of the month are usually celebrated

with a birthday cake.

Sometimes other clubs are invited to participate with us in a social afternoon or evening.

The Friends and Neighbors certainly enjoy the Senior Citizens room.

In concluding the White Bear Hamlet History, we would like to mention residents who at one time, lived in the Hamlet of White Bear who may not be mentioned elsewhere - Jack Benson, Tom Poole, Martin Rauser, Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacPherson, Mrs. Janzen, Mrs. Armour I. Lidkea, Mrs. Lidkea Sr., O. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bowlsby, Eldon and Leone Lidkea, Ted Hunters, Tom Redmiles, Jim Richards, Mel and Mary Richards who operated the Mutlow store for a period of time and Ben Gunderson. There are many others but in all probability, they will be included in their family history.



Mrs. Kinnicki, Mrs. McKay, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Mutlow, Mrs. Bye, Mrs. Hope, Grandmas Darrow and Mutlow.

It is now 1980, fifty-five years after White Bear was started and many business places are gone and the population decreased. Because the CNR found the upkeep of six bridges between Lacadena and White Bear too much to keep up, the trains have stopped, the elevators have closed, but such they say is progress and a new era is beginning.

#### WHITE BEAR LOYAL ORANGE LODGE No. 3081

L.O.L. No. 3081 was chartered Oct. 23, 1928 by a former Orange Lodge member of Ontario, Frank E. Russell who was my uncle.

The charter members were First Master Frank Rus-



sell, W.O. Prime, Myron Gunn, Albert Griffith, Max Rutherford, Wm. McLeod, Milton Kennedy, Nick French, Ivan Graham and Norman Graham. Over the 38 years, the lodge was in existence, 79 members joined the lodge. I joined in 1930 and was a member for 36 years.

First meetings held in the White Bear United Church once a month. First hall purchased was the White Bear Country School. Later sold to Wayne McKay because the Ladies Orange Benevolent Society No. 1125 of White Bear needed a larger hall. The L.O.L. then bought Neuve Chapelle School moved it to White Bear putting a full cinder brick basement and an addition to the building.

July 12, Orange parade and picnics were held at



Shaw's Ranch, Clearwater Lake and in White Bear. To raise finances for the Orange Benevolent Society and Children's Home at Indian Head a fall canvass was conducted. Also many funeral memorials were given. A booth at the Stampede at Clearwater Lake where pies, hot dogs (buns looking like loaves of bread) and coffee were peddled out through the crowd.

A celebration in the town of White Bear raised \$641.00 in 1949.

At a 1948 meeting, they collected 15¢ from each member to send to an Italian Orange Lodge in Toronto who were in financial distress. Gave \$100. to the town of White Bear to help purchase a parcel of land on the north edge of town (the sports grounds).

Meetings were held until 1963, when interest dropped off. For a while, the hall was used for a school room and taxes did not have to be paid.

Several members paid dues just to furnish finances for taxes and insurance up to 1966. then the Lodge was disbanded. The building sold to Hixon Pittman in 1969.

Submitted by Geordy Graham

## LADIES ORANGE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

White Bear L.O.B.A. was organized in June 1946. Frank Russel and Wm. McLeod, members of the White Bear L.O.L. #3081 were the instigators of this association.

Some of the charter members (sorry if we have missed someone) were Nora Russel, Alice Gillanders,



Toots Mutlow, Mrs. Elizabeth Mutlow, Evelyn Soden, Iola Dyrland, Mrs. Geo. Soden, Mrs. Annie Webb, Bertha Kerr, Elma McKay, Marcella Caldwell, Mrs. Lidkea, Mary Graham, and Ada Webb.

Mrs. Etta Winters from Prince Albert, Sask. was Grand Mistress and the Wiseton L.O.B.A. gave the second degree. It closed in 1957 or 1958.

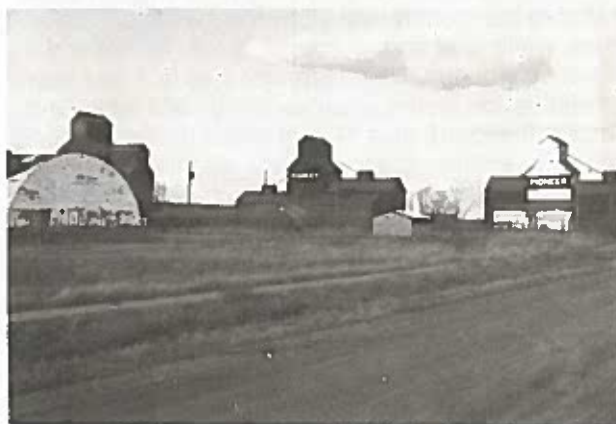
Submitted by Elma McKay and Bertha Kerr

## ELEVATORS

As mentioned earlier in our History, the Pool was started in 1925, the Spencer in 1926 and the Pioneer in 1927. The Agents of the above mentioned elevators as we recall them were – for the Pool, Tom Benson for 17 years followed by Ed Taylor 1943-50, Tiny Gunderson 1950-1972, Larry Baker 1972-1978, Peter Dyck 1978-1980. The Spencer Grain Co. (later known as the Western and purchased by the Pool) – Dick Larter 1926, Elwell Clark 1926-1945. Other agents were Wes Atchison, Henry Lytle, Clarence Caldwell, Ron Gagne, Bob Undershoot and Glen Schuler. There were other operators for short periods.

Pioneer Grain Co. – the first agent was Nick Domonco, Nick French, M. Allingham, Raymond Kerr, Bill Gillanders, Morrie Whiting, Emmanuel Schuler, Stan Fowler, Walter Olson, Blaine Crittenden and Gordon Freeman.

It saddens us to say that 1980 will see the end of grain deliveries at White Bear.



## CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING

A White Bear C.G.I.T. group was organized in White Bear town and district in the year 1935.

Miss Thelma Johnson, a school teacher, was their leader. A few ladies, who were teenage girls at that time, think Mrs. Wayne McKay was a C.G.I.T. leader as well as Miss Johnson. Others say that Miss Johnson and girls met several times at Mrs. McKay's home. We know the girls met in homes for their meetings. Mrs. H. Pratt, Mrs. Chester Clark, Mrs. W. Mutlow, Mrs. T. Benson, Mrs. G. Driscoll, Mrs. Wayne McKay, Mrs. Elwell Clark and others often entertained them. There aren't any records available.

The names of some of the C.G.I.T. in 1935, 1936, and 1937 were: Freda Parker, Signe Swanson, Thelma Benson, Ellen Mutlow, Phyllis Pratt, Noreen Hymphrey, Mae Clark, Ethel Pratt, Rose Pickford, Dorothy Mutlow, Gladys Benson, and maybe Hilda Berry.

We are told that Velma Hall and Helen Gilmour after 1937, assisted Ferne Clark with the leadership. Other leaders were Mrs. Lillian Coghill, Miss Darlene Hogue, and Miss Doris Goheen.

In 1955, Mrs. Verna Pittman started the three young groups, C.G.I.T., Messengers and Explorers, again. For the next four years, under the leadership of Verna Pittman and Delores Laurien, C.G.I.T. became a very active group. The girls called themselves the "Jubilee Girls" as they started their group in Saskatchewan's Jubilee Year. Verna was assisted by Mrs. Chic Gundersen, Ilda Christensen and Joan Kallecky over the years.



Leader Thelma Johnson, unknown, Phyllis Pratt, Thelma Benson, Ethel Pratt, Signe Swanson, Mae Clark, Rose Pickford, Noreen Humphrey and Dorothy Mutlow.

During these 13 years with Mrs. Pittman and other leaders, the annual "Vesper Service" and the "Mother and Daughter Banquet" became a tradition in White Bear. Later leaders were Mrs. Kay Murray, Mrs. Ruby Beck, Mrs. Bertha Kerr, and Mrs. Betty Kerr.

In 1975, the White Bear C.G.I.T. were privileged to attend a Saskatchewan C.G.I.T. 60th Anniversary Rally held in Saskatoon, which a former leader, Verna Pittman, assisted in organizing. Our graduate that year, Denise Miller, took part in a mass graduation service with 96 other girls.

In 1976, our three graduates of 1975, Heather Kerr, Brenda Beck and Gwen Akister, came back to the group as Junior Leaders and helped organize a very successful Rally. In 1978, Betty continued with nine enthusiastic girls.

I'm sure the former leaders are pleased that many past graduates are now or have been leading their own groups: Faye Pickford (Mrs. Myers), Beryl Husby (Mrs. Nelson), Valerie Mutlow (Mrs. Reed), Diane Graham (Mrs. Thiessen), Janna Lea Schuler (Mrs. Darrow), Lori Pittman, and Bonnie Laurien (Mrs. Peterson).

We are also pleased to be represented both provincially and nationally by former leader, Mrs. Verna Pittman.

The Canadian Girls in Training were first organized in 1915. In 1940, when their 25th Anniversary was celebrated across Canada, the Christmas Vesper Service was planned as a national project. This project later financed the national Secretary and the Office.



Boy Scouts at Sask. Landing, 1920: Bill Gillanders, Harold Johnson, George Conlin, Cecil Richardson, Allen Dean, unknown, Rev. Morris — leader, Bill Akister and Eric Allport.

## WHITE BEAR 4—H

A 4-H Beef Club was started in the fall of 1957 with Munro Hope as leader assisted by Ray Clark.

The first girls and boys to join this club were Carol Dyrland, Carol Kerr, Barry Dyrland, Stuart Dyrland, Bob Hope, Dale Hope, Cameron Jordheim, Bob Laurien, Dan Mutlow, Dale Norheim, Don Norheim, Dennis Smid, Gordon Swanson and two associate members who were not of age to be regular members, Neil Kerr and Darryl Jordheim. As older members dropped out younger members took their place so many families were represented.

The club later expanded into a multiple club and a Homemakers group was added with Hazel Mutlow and Toots Mutlow leading. Norma Miller and Julia Norheim taught sewing and Virginia Pittman taught home nursing. Audrey Hope and later Elsie Gunn were general

leaders.

A automotive club was formed with Lloyd Sather as leader and a junior sportsman conservation club with Sig Jordheim, assisted by Ray Figley.

The junior sportsman eventually became a conservation club, not affiliated with 4-H.

For several years the beef club took an active part in



Ray Figley and Lloyd Gunn with "Best of 5" at Frontier Days.

Frontier Days at Swift Current, showing calves and some members also took part in the horse show.

Parents as well as members devoted a lot of time to making and decorating stalls, making floats, fighting muddy roads to get the calves to Swift Current on time, so when sale day came there was jubilation at the prospects of a big cheque, and the end of a lot of work, but also some tear filled eyes as members said good-bye to a Tex, Jumbo or whatever name they had given their steer.

As the years went on, the young people grew up and left, available members were few so interest declined until the club ended in 1971.

Those serving as leaders and assistant leaders in the beef club were Munro Hope, Ray Clark, Raymond Kerr, Sig Jordheim, Ron Dyrland, Ray Figley, Stuart Dyrland and Lloyd Gunn.

## BOARD OF TRADE

A Board of Trade was formed to take care of the administrative affairs of the town. They also took on the sponsorship of picture shows and Saturday night dances. The first shows were silent movies featuring such films as "Dr. Fu Man Chu", "Tom Mix and Sherlock Holmes". Later, upon the installation of power facilities supplied by an engine and belt-driven generator operated by Chester Williams, we now had talking pictures. As we only had one projector, we had a short intermission during the change of each reel. We also had unwanted intermissions when the lighting plant would fail leaving us in darkness until Chester came to the rescue. When Sask. Power came in, a second projector was added

which made the shows more enjoyable.

At about this time, the hall management was taken over by the Community Club and they provided the shows for some years.

Saturday night dances were also sponsored by the Board of Trade. We usually had a packed hall, admission being usually 25¢ a couple. Many other dances were also held in the hall and some of the orchestras that we can recall were Joe Zesiack, Olsons, Jack Rowley, L. Anderson, Ed Haugen, Bill Gillanders, Katie Bachelder, Noble Heieren, Alex Wilkie, Moberg with Lily Coghill, and McDonalds (Wiseton). Chester Williams got the dances off to a good start by calling a square dance.



The care of the streets and sidewalks were also a function of the Board of Trade and the streets of White Bear after a heavy rain or spring thaw, left much to be desired, so under the able direction of W.H. Mutlow, a voluntary crew was organized to gravel the streets for the first time.

This was a considerable undertaking, as we didn't have power equipment at that time. Many farmers donated their trucks and many others donated money to buy gas for the trucks. The gravel was hauled from a pit on Bill Irvine's farm and spread on the streets. As most trucks did not have a power hoist, most of this gravel had to be unloaded by shovel. This was a monumental effort but proved a great help to our muddy streets.

At a later date, the Hamlet Act was passed. This gave us access to 75% of the tax revenue. A Hamlet Board was formed and with this extra money, new cement sidewalks were laid and many new street improvements were made.



Picnic at Clearwater Lake in 1920.