Glenn McPherson Fonds Draft manuscripts, British Columbia Railway annual report. [1982]

FOLDER No. 7-9

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I have various ~~pieces of paper~~ memos written by uncle Ian Mcpherson ~~my uncle~~, [redacted] I am worried that the their information papers may become lost or destroyed and I therefore have decided to record the information [redacted] and I hope to put it into some kind of a family history but I want it on tape so that I can protedt the background information. So we will start with some of the background memorandum that Ian wrote. Some of it is quite clear and some of it appears to be in conflictbut I will record it as he wrote it and at some time in the future I will edit it.

the oldest of us — not this one sister — Pa of the history of the Mac

Ian starts out with a memorandum about the family and their qualities and I will quote directly from ~~what he has written~~ his NOTES.

Put in Ian's opening Page 5

"I do not profess to be a judge of the personal qualities of people but set forth a few characteristic traits of the families immediate ancestors as this may be of interest to someone some time."

Duplicate of Uncle Ian

Grandfather Donald Macpherson ([redacted]c.) appears to have been indistingquished, but from my fathers account of his own youth, I judge that grandfather was a man of strict honour and though not a severe disciplinarian his children were trained to industry and honesty. None of them as far as I kn[illegible] was ever charged with lawlessness of any kind. Of his personal habits one is ignorant except he used snuff. Of grandmother Susan, I know less but my father and Aunt Kate held her in sincere but undemonstrative. ~~Affection~~ As was the custom in their time ~~when~~ a show of emotions was not encouraged in ~~our~~ family relations. Grandfather John Wallace was one type of low land Scot who settled western Ontario and made it a prosperous agricultural district. He was regarded as successful and confined his interest to his farm and family."

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[redacted] He was disposed [redacted] to an intimate acquaintanceship with John Barrycorn but not beyond what was common in his day. He was fond of horses, a trait not inherited by any of his sons. [Grandmother Wallce seems to have been an excitable farmers wife and a good housekeeper, with a bountifull supply of cheese, jellies, and home woven cloth. Her social activities were the church, the family and local quilting parties ~~which being prominent among them~~.

Peter McPherson, my father, [redacted] never saw an opera heard a symphony or saw a great painting or a fine example of architcture. Yet I believe he was of an artistic nature. In whatever construction work he did he was much concerned to finish it well both for its utility and its appearance, as his house always indicated. Lawns, gardens, and trees, ~~they~~ were orderly in design ~~and~~ pleasing in colour and well tended. [He possessed good natural musical taste astuing the frivolous and had a good baritone voice. His songs, most commonly sung, were all scottish; Auld Lang Sine; Bonnie Doon; Annie Laurie; The Soldiers Return and a highland aire, Bonnie Miseua. Other Scottish songs now well known appear to have been wholly unknown to him. [In the ~~states~~ Missouri he learned no new songs nor did I ever hear any of the songs which we believe to have been popular. ~~These such as Home Sweet Home; The Star Spangled Banner or any other Stephen Fosters.~~ Of sacred music he was familiar with the tunes and preferred them for their rolling grandeur to the hymns common in the religious services in the south but had quite a repetoire of the best of those.

His ability to appreciate literary excellence was limited by the absence of good examples and to historical narratives ~~chiefl~~ demanding fact and despising novels as lies. For the steel or copper plate drawings [redacted] of that day he remained unmoved, but he often drew my attention to the sun on a distant hiiside, a cloud shadow

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moving over a field or to the form of a tree or ~~of~~ the round of a brook. In the fields the furrows must be straight and the corn and vegetables planted at precisely equal distant.

Father was not a patient man and his outburst of temper were fairly frequent but I never heard from his mouth a profane or obscene word. It was usually some carelessness or stupid act that provocted him to anger which passed away slowly and was forgotten. I think he had some ambitions to get alongin the world to some modest degree but it was to be in the good and Scottish way. After our removal to Manitoba this ambition was not so apparent for himself.

~~Our~~ My mothers qualities were quite different and she was of general complacency, she seldom lost her temper and bore fathers temper with a tolerating equanimity knowing their transience. As I recall the period of my boyhood, she was light hearted enjoying the moment, frequently lighting it with "Nellie Grey", or "Faded Coat of Blue," in a pleasing voice. She was rather fond of colour which I expect ~~was~~ were not always harmonious. Regular and careful in her duties, the house was kept orderly and clean. With a family of ~~five~~ Eight she was doubtless overworked, or would be so considered now a days, but I never heard her complain accepting conditions as inevitable. ~~With~~ She had a neighborly interest but no undue curiousity. She dwelt always in peace with others. A day on a picnic was a pleasure in prospect and retrospect. Her religion was an easy conformity with what she had been taught in her youth and she avoided argument. In appearence she was exceptionally handsome, with dark brown almost black abundunt hair, pleasing features and a fine figure never slim or stout.

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~~Ian goes on to write a short paragraph about the family and I think he is speaking of his family.)~~

"~~The Mcpherson~~ Our OUR family ~~from the earliest times known have been~~ was a happy family. There is no record of crime in its annals nor any petty offences. ~~Its~~ our domestic life has not been marred by any divorce or serious disagreement. A record somewhat rare these days. It has not always prospered but it has a record of honesty and industry. Looking back over the facts known I attribute this to the strict discipline of ~~the~~ OUR Presbyterian ancestors and to family felicity in good homes."

"While biologists may not endorse the common belief that sons inherit their qualities from their mothers and daughters from their fathers, it seems true in our family. Though immature at the time of her death Agnes exhibited a resemblence to father and Ella most decidedly in mental traits and disposition ~~but~~ and with temper ~~much~~ easily disturbed. ~~She is also very strikingly like her cousins in Scotland and as her Aunt Kate was~~. Peter inherited his fathers energy along with his inclinations to music with his mothers good sense. Ewen inherited his mothers disposition and willingness to cooperate with others. Ernest does also with his grandfathers taste for horses and mothers sympathy with others troubles. I believe I have mothers placidity with fathers more practical ways.

(Ian has another memo and it is kind of duplicated, he having done one and then copied it to give to me. The second one has a note on it that it is to G.W. Mcp. However there is some discrencies and some additions but I will dictate this from his notes)

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THE FAMILY _ IAN MCPHERSON

"Some record of our family it has been suggested maybe of some interest to members of it now and in the future. It is proposed to set forth some of the events and influences and circumstances that have a place in this history in Canada. In doing so the writer as the oldest living member puts on record what is known to him relying largely on his own memory of events and on his recollection of earlies and other events from his parents. So far as he is aware ~~there is~~ no record of the family,has been made. "

"My Aunt, Kate Gordon the widow of Donald Gordon and now deceased, informed me in Glasgow in 1901 that an ancestor was a cousin of the chief clan Macpherson in 1715 and my father was one to say that in 1745 a maternal ancestor sent seven sons to the support of Prince Charles. There is no written record of these traditions and I have made no effort to verify them. There is record that the clan was out with the old protector in 1715 but that the chief of the clan was the treasurer for James. A plate from which paper money was printed is now in the Cluny Castle archives."

"The known history of the family begins with my grandfather, Donald ~~Mcpherson~~ Macpherson of Fort William, one of the lockaber branch of the clan. Donald ~~Mcpherson~~ Macpherson died in ~~the early~~ 1870 and Susan his wife Graham in the ~~late 1870~~ 1871s each of them being over 90 years of age. ~~I have somewhere a copy of this birth and death which I made from the tombstones in the cemetery in Fort William.~~ Their eldest son, Paul served in the Indian army and died in Scotland having been invalided at home, he was unmarried. My father was the second son of the family and our branch of the family is the eldest of the line of Donald ~~Mcpherson~~ Macpherson. ~~Our grandfather died prior to my period of recollections but~~ I can still well recall the news from Scotland reporting the death of our grandmother Susan, ~~Susan Graham Mcpherson, each having attained an age of over 90 years.~~

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"From the tombstones marking their graves at Fort William I copied the dates in 1901, ~~of the birth and death of Susan~~ "

~~(Ian does not enter them in the spaces he left.)~~

~~"~~Over this tombstone the family name appeared as "Macpherson" but being in capitol letters throughtout whether the name was then spelled with capitol I or not is not determined.~~"~~

"Our father, Peter ~~Mcpherson~~ (as written by him) was born at Fort William on Feb. 12 1833 and died at Portage La Traire, Manitoba on March 28 1894. I have no definite knowledge of his youth at Fort William. He attended school there and I believe with his familiarity with sheep that he worked as a sheperd, when or for how long I cannot say. He had some acquaintance with Dithshire but did not at any time reside there, or in any other part of Scotland. When about 20 years of age he ~~#833~~ emmigrated to Canada, landing at Castle Garden New York and thence proceeding by steam boat to Albini and then by train to Aire, ~~Ontario~~ Upper Canada ? At Aire he found employement with Mr. John Watson then one of the fore-most manufacturers of farm implements in Canada. I do not know why he choose to come to Aire he had no relatives ~~in America~~ in the area. ~~the new world~~

At Aire he married Ellen Wallace, daughter of John Wallace farmer and Agnes Smith. The marriage took place on Sept. 27 1863 on the 22 anniversary of the birht of Ellen Wallce. They spent a short honey-moon at Niagra Falls where they purchased two crystal jelly dishes now in the possession of my sister Ella.

Both of my mothers parents were natives of Airshire, Scotland in the neighborhood of Kilmarnac. The Airshire family I have been told produced the founder of the Wallace shipyard at Grenac. From this marriage comes the present generation of the family. Agnes, John, Donald, Peter, Susan, Ella, Ewen and Ernest. My sister Agnes Smith Mcpherson was born in Aire in July 1864 and Iwas born in 1867 and a brother Donald in 1868. In 1922 I visited Aire with the intent to see the house in which

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I was born, which I was told by my mother was a house with 365 window panes and which was described as being at the Black Horses Heels. The Black Horse being a hotel. It was said in 1922 that such a ~~black horse~~ HOTEL was at one time a short distance to the north of Aire, but this could not be confirmed in the neighborhood and the alleged location was then a wilderness of woods and weeds."

I HAVE "~~She~~ little definite knowledge of the life of our parents in Aire, though of course I heard later many references to it. They were happy times it would appear and always the celebration of the Queens birthday on May 24 was an occasion of village enjoyement. Our mother had many relatives in the vicinity and ther were many frequent gatherings, barn raisings, quilting bees and such like activities of the age. ~~Today or~~ In 1922 I found it an exceptionally pleasing small town but quite different from my imagined pictures of it."

"During the American civil war there was an agricultural boom in Canada but a depression followed and many Canadians went to the States. The minister of one of the two Presbyterian churches in Aire, a Dr. John Mccuire took a trip to Missouri ~~and says Uncle Ian, the information that I personally obtained from him and others is that~~ The ~~this~~ preacher tried to establish a church in Missouri and could not make it because he had no congregation and he returned to Aire where he convinced his flock to follow him, migrating to the States."

Preacher

The immigrants were the minister and his family, a Walter and William Gladstone and their family; a James Shilling~~s~~ (later); two Curr brothers and their sister; William Pringle and his wife; John and Hugh Wallace, brothers of Ians mother with their families and Ians own family and parents. These all settled on land in Gentray county ten miles north of Albini, the county town. Witht the exception of our father and our Uncles John and Hugh, the others settled as a group.

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Preacher in 1870
went to M & returned to
take his flock
July 1870 Grandfather
and family moved to Missouri

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Two miles further west of Peddlers Creek. John and Hugh Wallace a few miles to the east. They took up farms of 120 acres on opposite sides of the road and also 120 acres for Ians father and adjoining the farm of John in the south. My father and family followed in July of the same year 1870."

"John and Hugh Wallace in this migration proceeded Ians father who followed in July 1870 and they went west [illegible] months earlier and upon reaching a selected neighborhood they took up farms of praire land for the three families. Each farm consisted of 120 acres. Farthest north was Uncle Hugh, south of it across the road was Uncle John and adjoining it to the south was the farm selected for Ians father. Through the eastern 40 acres of each farm ran a wooded creek, dry in the summer except for some stagnant pools or after a rain. The creek was known as the Dawson branch of the grand river a couple of miles from the other farms. The creek and the school district took their names from a Virginian family who had moved west at the end of the war. Who had brought with them a former negro slave who we knew as Uncle George who had insisted on staying with them."

(Other notes indicate that the Virginian family was across the road from Ians and that they had settled there about 5 years before.)

(Ian goes on to atlk about his earliest memories as a small boy.)

"Incindentally I may record my earliest recollections. They are; Of sitting in a cart in an orchard; a locomotive approaching at our point of embarkation in Paris, Ontario; train sickness; waiting in a hotel in Albini for transportation to our new home. Memory is vague and sketchy untill 1873 after which it is continuous."

(Ian then makes some notes on the life in Missouri.)

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Donald born in Upper Canada ?

Ian born in Ariz Upper Canada

Ewen born in Miskam 1878

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"When the family had reached the farm, father proceeded to deveope it. A two room house had been built by Uncle Hugh in the centre of it, and besides two or three elm trees and near a small hickory grove. This house later added to, father moved to a site 50 yards from the road, setting apart about 1 acre round the house, he planted a willow wind break to protect it from the frequent summer hurricanes of the region. Within this wind break he planted cherry trees, grapes and flowers To the north of the wind break he planted 60-70 peach trees. In five years we had plenty, and an excess of these fruits. To the east and west, apples were planted and to the north of all a second wind break o of willows. Abcut 80 yards from the house, father gave an acre for a school site and a one room white framed school was built. To the east of the apples and vegetables were the satbles and east to the 80 acre limit a ten acre pasture. The east 40 acres were reserved for pasture having some water and woods.Corn, hay, and some wheat for the family bread occupied the rest of the farm in the course of a year.

Of stock we had one team of horses, a dozen cattle and 75-100 sheep. I think there was little profit from the farming as the only market for its was the county town and the small village of Denver three miles away. The same conditions prevailed throughout the county there being no export. However the farm was never mortgaged existence on the farm was hard I fancy, but we as children did not know this"

On this farm during our residence was born Peter in 1870, Susan 1873,Ella in 1876, Ewen in 1878. Ernest was born in Manitoba in 1881 Donald died in Missouri in 1872 and Susan in 1876 and Agnes 1879. Three children died in Missouri.

Our parents being both Scottish and Presbyterian family discipline was strict. At age 8 tasks were assigned but much time was left for play to be divided for our selves. School had an important place but as the school year was usually about 6 months and no home study, studies

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were not a burden. Our school term which now seems strange, was that a school term was 3 months with almost invariably a new teacher, but I do not see now that this system has failed.

Our father proceeded to put our new farm into cultivation. Knowing how farming was done in Scotland, he was extremely careful and thorough and produced the finest corn and vegetables in the neighbourhood. In fact he was more interested in quality than quantity. The americans in the district gave less work to the crops and gave more attention to trading and I believe made more of a profit in general than our father who also gave much time to beautifying the grounds near the house, planting apples, peaches, cherries and grapes and willows for wind-breaks. I remember him bringing two fair size Canadian maples which he had found in the woods and planted them at the road side before the house. So we had plenty of vegetables and fruit as there was seldom a market for fruit being 20 miles or more from the railway or any considerable town, the excess fruit was frequently fed to the stock .

So thorough did he cultivate that though he never had 80 acres in crop, he occassionally hired a man or traded labour from his neighbours. From one cow and 3 or 4 pigs he gradually increased it until he had about 20 head of cattle, more pigs of excellent breed (Poland Chinas) while most of his neighbours hogs were what were known as razor backs. A hundred head of sheep and 2 or 3 horses. I can well remember one mid-summer morning going before dawn some miles to take delivery of some half dozen cows he had purchased. As in all southern countries the air before dawn was cold. We reached the place after sunrise with heavy dew on the grass and trees with the promise of a hot day to come. We drove them leisurely home for it was always his desire to be con-siderate of his cattle, it was a very pleasant journey.

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"Concerning Sundays my recollection of winters and winter sundays are indistinct probably to be accounted for by the absence of notable events or of events that impressed themselves. Only occasionally were there any church service in the neighbourhood, conducted by some preacher in a town some 10 or 20 miles away, a long distance to avoid in those' days. There might be 2 or 3 such services in the school house in the course of a winter or some revivalist might hold some revival sessions for 2 or 3 weeks in summer or winter. The preacher lodging for a few nights with the more devout neighbours in turn. Modern youth would not understand what those revivals meant to the people of those days. They may be it has been said the amusement of the time though no one regarded them as such. They were highly emotional and consequently afforded that relief from drabness that is necessary to preserve ones sanity.

In our family and other Canadian families an effort was made to preserve the Presbyterian traditions. The Sabath began on Saturday evening when varios preparations were made for the observance of the following day. An extra amount of cooking had been done and clean linen was brought out and whatever abloutions had been done during the week they were done far more thoroughly now. Always on Saturday evenings the shoes which during the summer week days had not been woren but were blackened sometimes by rubbing the brush first over the underside of the stove lid cover and transferring the soot to the shoes. Not bad polish either. The paper if any and any other profane reading material were carefully put away. In the morning there would be a bright sun promising a warm day. The stable chores would first be attended to, the horses and pigs fed the cows milked and all turned out into the pasture.

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For whatevers its faults Calvinism was oonsidered of the beast over which man had been given dominion. Breakfast followed and then the family prayers being held every morning. From that time until the noon dinner I do not know what our parents did but we younsters just roamed around. The Americans of the neighbourhood custormarily indulged in lavish dinners on Sundays and there was much visiting. This was a practice rather frowned upon by our parents and we rarely had visitors or visited on the Sabbath. In the afternoon there were portions of the bible to read and were required to recite the answers of portions of the shorter catacyisms. In this way we were instructed in the religious thought of the time. Atraining which no one regrets, and one that at least gave the captisize some concept of the mystery, and grandeur of spiritual things. The young people of this present day are much to be pitied in that there type of training is so largely confined to the material quests that are called science and those more ridiculous speculations known as phsycoligy. They lack the ability to think of abstractions. There were family prayers the last thing before going to bed. If the day lacked amusement it at least was a day of rest that fitted one for the work of the week. One might speculate as to how much of the progress of the victorian era was due to such days of complete rest from wordly concern.

Our father and two or three neighbours similarly inclined once or twice succeded in organizing sunday school in our school house but it was never a success. I can recall a sunday afternoon when the philistines being in the majority it was decided to use livelier songs and began the program with a song called, Father beckoned to us children and strode dignifiedly from the place. Mchendrick a virginian and his family also left the church. Sunday school broke up a feww weeks after and was never reorganized while we were in Missouri Shortly after the Canadians however got together and erected a new church.

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To me then it was a marvel. It was not more than 50 feet in length probably but it had over the entrance door a tall spire. I can well remember my first site of it on the Sunday morning it was dedicated. We all drove over in a wagon and coming to the top of the rise there was the church half a mile away or so with its new tin clad spire shining like silver in the fore noon sun. It was a fine summer day with a warm south wind blowing through the rustling grass around the church. We went in and to a pew that father had arranged for us, all on the south side of the church where the sun ligh fell on us through a paned glass window and the wind coming gently through it. The preacher was Rev. Jchn Mccurer, the eldest son of our heir pastor who had brought us to Missouri and he was then at college. The text was from the biblical story of the rebuilding of the temple after the return from Babylon. I do not recall anything said but it was never the less a memorable sermon. I am not sure that there was a psalm sung but the hymn "My Faith looks up th thee", was sung to the tune of calvary and it was one of the most impressive hymns I have ever heard. In the bright sunlight and warm cooling wind it was a beautiful devotion. I have heard the Papal choir many times and the choirs of Westminster cathedral and I have forgotten them and what they sounded like. While this simple hymn of trust in a country church in Missouri will remain with me as long as I live. That day we went to Rev. Mccurer fathers place for dinner and sunday school lesson was in the new church in the afternoon. We continued to attend these services and school until we left Missouri. I remember when the sunday school lesson leafs was introduced though some opposed to the innovation. I believe that the objections were not strenuous. One of these lesson leafs about Asakaiya remains in the family bible in Edmonton today and I can recall studying the lesson under fathers guidance on a summer afternoon.

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After our absecence of 13 years I saw this church again, it was closed, the church yard a tangleof long dry grasses. The older canadians had died or moved and services were no longer held there or anywhere for miles around. So past the attempt to transplant scottish presbyterians,the triumph of americanism in the locality was complete. (I am sure he meant 30 years)

Ian goes on to tak about an ordinary day on the farm in Missouri in summer.

"An ordinary day in summer. What we youngsters did when out of school was rather difficult to recall. The day would begin about 7 or sunrise and after breakfast and prayers we usually had little to do besides amuse ourselves as best we might ~~as best we might~~, There was some feeding of hogs and some water to bring in and sometimes children to take care of but for the most of the day we roamed about . The rising make believe amusements.

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On the hot days the shade of the trees or the coolnes in the ~~foot~~ corn fields was grateful. While the woods and thickets along the sides were always attractive. Father would be in the fields and mother would be in the house most of the day. Sometimes there were visitors but this was rare, ~~and~~ The heat in the field was so exhausting to father that he often said that he longed for the Scottish mists.

The fare at table was probably not to nuriting but it was certainly better than most of our neighbours. We always had wheat bread as well as corn bread which most of the americans did not have. And I can remember many boys brought as their lunch to school only corn bread which would be unbuttered. Their drink would be from the school pump which usually reeded priming and sometimes failed altogher in that case the water had to be toted from a neighbours farm in a pail.

At home was a cellar or cave which father built in a peach orchard for addtional protection from the heat. This was like a small house partly an excavation and covered with earth. A flight of steps protected from flooding rains by an inclined door gave entrance to delightful coolness on the hottest days. There milk was set out in broad pans for cream and the butter, jams etc. From this cellar the butter would be brought to the table beautifully fresh , the table was set under the cherry tree and long before the meal would be over the butter would be an oily liquid. I never saw ice used for storage or refridgeration because refridgeration had not been invented.

end of Tape A

Though we had no mosquitoes flies were abundunt and were kept from the table by one of us delegated to wave a willow branch during the meal. I do not remember what composed our dinner and tea but in summer there was no m eat as it could not be kept. Bread, jam vegetables, honey sometimes home made cheese, home ~~home~~ made honey, tea coffee, milk, pie and corn bread. Cookies were the assortement from which summer meals came.

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In winter there was pork, apples not often as our own trees were not of age to bear fruit., but almost invariably for supper corn mush. Eggs we had all year round and preserved fruit. Mother had a way of preserving grapes in a earthen crock , a layer of grapes and a layer of suger that retained the flavour wonderfully well. I have omitted from the menu something that was a part of every meal- molasses. The ordinary diet was such as would be approved by fanatical vegetarians but I cannot think that we were made to robust by it and I now think that it must of worried our parents to provide what they did. Like other youngsters before and since that did not worry us at all. People starved only in far away lands. Today we know that not only the very poor in cities lack proper food which is starvation but many with steady employment.

My father was democrat in the states and I cannot say why. All the other canadians who migrated to Missouri with him were republicans. It may have been a carry over of old country liberal free trade.In canada he always voted liberal . In a remarkable degree his political view was a result of his reading the account of the evictions of the highland crofters by the duke of southerland as reported in a glossary memories of scotland by Dr. Norman Mcleod which work appear to have great influence in scotland in the days of his youth and made him somewhat of a wild type of a radical with know radical policy.

Various members of the family have asked me how the family became Methodist, which I can answer from my own recollections. My eldest sister Agnes attending a revival service held by a methodist minister wanted to join that church and father and mother decided to join along with her. The methodist-episcopal church site which severed its connections with the methodist-episcopal church at the time of civil war. There were no church building in our district and no regular service only occasional meetings in the school house. Some years

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Agnes burned to death
in Missouri on Dec 27/1879

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earlier on the death of my sister Susan father and mother decided to have family worship morning and evening as stated else where in these notes. It is to note that my sister Agnes was a sincere a good Christian which not easy in a community where membership in any church frequently was the subject of personal jives and ridicule.

I do not remember my first day of school. Father had given the school site and the building had been erected on it. Mothere insisted and forced me to take lessons from the teacher. About the same time the house was moved from the moved the roadway and later an addition to it was built.

(Ian was repeating himself here, but he continues at the buttom of the page.)

There was family worship after breakfast, scripture reading and a hymn sing and prayers before going to bed at night which was done by all at the same time. Sundays no amusement was permitted, whistling or reading other than good books which were few. I do not regret this and if more of this prevailed at present it would be good for our community.

(Ian now gets into the situation where they decided to leave Missouri and come to Manitoba and I have heard a story which he does not recite that after Agnes, who lost her life in a fire, she caught fire from the stove apparently and was burned to death. Grandma said that it was a sign from God and that they should never have left the Brititsh flag and she wanted to go back to canada and be under the british flag again. Ian does not say this but he does say as follows.

"My eldest sister Agnes lost her life in a fire caught from the stove on the Dec. 27 1879 and our mother wanted to leave the place and its memories. (they had also lost two other children down there.)

Her sister Mary, Mrs. James Dancy, had moved from Ontario I presume from Aire county to Porage La Praire a couple of years previosly.

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And it was decided to go to Manitoba. Her brother, that is grandmas brother Hugh Wallace the eldest son of her brother John Wallace and the Shillingwa family decided to do likewise. The party left by way of Albini, boarding a train at Ebona on the 17 of March 1880 arriving in St. Boniface on the evening of the 20th. They crossed the red river by sleigh to Winnepeg where some three days were spent awaiting a conveiance to Portage. Jame Dancy and one of the Watsons came to Portage for us and one of the first sites I had of Portage was on a grey March day the second day after leaving Winnepeg. Proceeding on the ice of the slough we reached the home of our Uncle Jim at dusk. Here we all stayed for some weeks when my father having rented a farm on the river road from John Garrioch moved into it on May 1. My Uncle Hugh built a house in Portgageand being a carpenter went into business of home building for the immigrant who were then flocking in. Shillingwa also a carpenter was his partner in the firm. Later Hugh moved to Carbery, then called Dewinton and the Shillinglas moved to Brandon. Mrs. shillingla was sister to our Aunt Maggie-Mrs. Hugh Wallace. The Shillinglas remained in Brandon, the Hugh Wallace family moved to Oxbo Sask. where they still are as far as I know.

Father bough two lots in a new sub-division in Portage in winter of 1880 on Alfred Street. In the early spring he built a house on one lot into which we moved on May 1 1881 and this house was our home until 1908 when it passed on with the death of our mother to Ernest. He lived in it until he found it unsuitable from age when he built a brick house on Broadway some three or four years later. The house was then forty years old and then was rented for a year or two then dom-olished.

(No where in Ians notes do I see any reference to the fact that my grandmother was a cripple and in a wheelchair. That is the only picture I have seen of her.)

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Dad 16 ~~[illegible]~~ when his
father died

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"Sometimes in 1885 father bought two vacant lots in the rear of the property on Alfred Street and enclosed the ~~w~~ hole in a board fence with a picket fence in front. He had planted trees around the original property in 1881 and when these were grown the place was with its garden in the rear a pleasant home and with many pleasnat memories.

On moving to Alfred street father worked a s a carpenter until the boom broke in 1882. Hard years followed and the towns fire hall was burned followed by the burning at intervals of many of the business premises in the town. The town went bankrupt and the schools were closed. No taxes were collected. During this father took whatever jobs were offered as did all others. It must have been a time of much concern, anxiety and hardship which I did not realize at that time.

Some three or four years later a settlement was made with the town holders and upon reorganization father was employed by William Garland in his clothing store. Later when Garland was in civil politics father was employed as construction foreman in the building of sidewalks, a position he had during the construction of practically all of the then wooden sidewalks in Portage/ He then was appointed caretaker of the townhall with which he combined the post of caretaker of the Presbyterian church until shortly before his death from cancer in 1894. Dad born in 178 died 16.

In 1880 the portage public school had two rooms and was on the slough road and to this Peter and I started to go in May 1880. Some of the pupils were half breeds and others were rough and pugnacious. Fighting was regarded as meritorious for as in the Missouri school the use of the fist was considered as ungentlemanly-the old virginian standard. I disliked school and father indentured me to Thomas Collins editor of the Review to learn the trade of printing, the wage $1.25 a week. I completed my apprenticeship in three years and returned to school and high school in 1885.

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The Political History of the City of Portage la Prairie in relationship to the Federal House especially has contained several unique features. Originally it was in the Marquette Constituency and the first election was held in 1871, the Candidates were McKay and Lynch and the returns of the elction was a tie. At that time there was no provision for a casting vote by the Returning Officer, and the result was that both candidates were returned as representatives of that constituency. Lynch took a seat in the house, but his right to same was challenged and he had to withdraw. After his withdrawal McKay took his seat and his right was challenged and he had to withdraw, and before it was definitely settled the House dissolved . In 1878 the City was represented by Sir John A. McDonald, who was followed by the late Senator Robert Watson. The City later became part of McDonald Constituency and was represented by Dr. J.G. Rutherford , who was afterward responsible for the administration of a large part of the legislation effecting live-stock in Canada. When the boundaries were altered to the Portage la Prairie Constituency, which is now existing, the Right Honnurable Arthur Meighen represented the City for about twelve years. The Constituency therefore has had in its history two Premiers of Canada as its representatives .

Insofar as the Province is concerned perhaps the most out-

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18 This should be at top of 43 on note

"A year in Brandon as foreman of the Tiems and then to Manitoba college to begin a university course with $150.00 cash. By holiday work night work and work on the Free Press and sholorships I was able to graduate with $50.00 to the good. I was immediatley offered the position of the editor of the Portage Liberal and later purchased along with Ed Burns the Daily Graphic. In the 1908 I sold my interest and founded the Edmonton Journal which I sold as a company in 1908 and took a position in Winnepeg with C.P.R. and after the war with the C.N.R. in Winnepeg and Montreal. In 1901 I married Alice Jean Finlay who has been to me an excellent wife. We Went on a general tour of Europe that year as far as Venice and Rome, visiting relatives in Scotland and my fathers native town of Fort William. Another trip was made in 1909 and I was in Britian from 1914 to 1915."

(A statement that I found in some of my fathers papers about Portage as is as follows.)

"Originally the political history of the city of Portage in relationship to the federal house especially has contained several unique feature. Originally it was in the Marquet constituency,. The first election was held in 1871. Candidates were Mckay and Lynch and the return of the lelections was a tie. At that time there were no provisions for a casting vote by the returning officer and the result was that both candidates were returned as representatives. This is the only case in Canadian history of such a condidtion. Lynch had his seat in the house but after his right to same was challenged and he had to withdraw. After his withdrawal Mckay took his seat and his right was challenged and he ha d to withdraw. Before it was definatley settled the house dissolved.

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Tape 2
Reel 2

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"In 1878 the city was represented by Sir John A. Mcdonald who was followed by the late Sen. Robert Watson . The city later became part of the Mcdonald constituency and was represented by Dr. J. G. Rutherford who afterwards was responsible for the administration of the large part of the legislation affecting live-stock in Canada. When the boundaries were altered to the Portage La Praire consituency which is now existing the right honourable Arthur Meign represented the city for about 12 years.

The constiuency therefore has therefore in its history two prime-ministers of Canada as its representative. In so far as the province is concerned perhaps the most outstanding representative from the constituency was the Honourable Joseph Martin who introduced the torns system of land title in this province. Mr. Martin subsequently became the Premier of B.C. and also represented a London seat in the British House of commons. The constituency has also been represented by the Honourable Hugh Armstron and Honourable Edward Brown who each held a portfolio of provincial treasures and is now being represented by Col. F.G. Taylor leader of the conservative house of the oppostion in the local house."

(I would also add to this that subsequently the constituency was represented by my father who later became the minister of finance or provincial treasurer in the John Bracken government. My father was also at one time a partner of Arthur Meigns and in 1926 when Meigns was Prime Minister of Canada my father defeated him for the federal seat of Portage La Praire.)

(There is another memorandum which Ian prepared for me and its the story of the Portage in the 1880. It is very interesting and he is a little confused about some of the names of streets at least as I remember them but I will have it typed directly as it is an intesting story.)

leader of Tory ends here & children come on die

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I have various pieces of paper written by Ian Mcpherson my uncle, some of which he wrote at my ~~express~~ request. ~~In his retire-~~ ~~out on King Street and that~~ I am worried that ~~the~~ his papers may be ~~some~~ lost ~~or destroyed~~ and I therefore have decided to record the information ~~I [illegible] that he gave me~~ and I hope to put it ~~into some kind of a family history but I want it~~ on tape. ~~so that I can protect the background information. So we~~ will start with ~~some of~~ the ~~background~~ memorandum that Ian wrote. ~~Some of it is quite clear and some of it appears to be in conflictbut~~ I will ~~record it as he wrote it and at some time in the future I will edit it.~~

Ian starts out with a memorandum about the family and their qualities and I will quote directly from what he has written.

"I do not profess to be a judge of the personal qualities of people but set forth a few characteristic traits of the families immediate ancestors as this may be of interest to someone some time."

Grandfather Donald Macpherson (note that he spells it Mac.) appears to have been undistingquished, but from my fathers account of his own youth, I judge that grandfather was a man of strict honour and though not a severe disciplinarian his children were trained to industry and honesty. [redacted] Of his personal habits one is ignorant except he used snuff. Of grandmother Susan, I know less but my father and Aunt Kate held her in sincere but undemonstrative affection as was the custom in their time when a show of emotions was not encouraged in our family relations. Grandfather John Wallace was one type of low land Scot who settled western Ontario and made it a prosperous agricultural district. He was regarded as successful and confined his interest to his farm and family."

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"I think he was disposed to some what to intimate acquaintanceship to John Barrycorn but not beyond what was common in his day. He was fond of horses, a trait not inherited by any of his sons. Grandmother Tallce seems to have been an excitable farmers wife and a good housekeeper, with a bountifull supply of cheese, jellies, and house woven cloth. Her social activities were family, local quilting parties being prominent among them.

Peter Mcpherson, my father, that is Johns father, never saw an opera heard a symphony or saw a great painting or a fine example of architcture. Yet I believe he was of an artistic nature. In whatever construction work he did he was much concerned to finish it well both for its utility and its appearance, as his house always indicated. Lawns, gardens, and trees, they were orderly in design and pleasing in colour and well tended. He possessed good natural musical taste astuing the frivolous and had a good baritone voice. His songs most commonly sung were all scottish; Auld Lang Sine;Bonnie Doon;Annie Laurie;The Soldiers Return and a highland aire,Bonnie Miseua. Other Scottish songs now well known appear to have been wholly unknown to him. In the states he learned no new songs nor did I ever hear any of the songs which we believe to have been popular. These such as Home Sweet Home;The Star Spangled Banner or any other Stephen Fosters. Of sacred music he was familiar with the tunes and preferred them for their rolling grandeur to the hymns common in the religious services in the south but had quite a repetoire of the best of those.

His ability to appreciate literary excellence was limited by absence of good examples and to historical narratives chiefly demanding fact and despising novels as lies. For the steel or copper plate drawings and for the chromsos of that day he remained unmoved, but he often drew my attention to the sun on a distant hiiside, a cloud shadow

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moving over a field or to the form of a tree or of the brook. In the fields the furrows must be straight and the corn and vegetables planted at precisely equal distant.

Father was not a patient man and his outburst of temper were fairly frequent but I never heard from his mouth a profane or obscene word. It was usually some carelessness or stupid act that provocted him to anger which passed away slowly and was forgotten. I think he had some ambitions to get alongin the world to some modest degree but it was to be in the good and Scottish way. After our removal to Manitoba this ambition was not so apparent for himself.

Our mothers qualities were quite different and she was of general complacency, she seldom lost her temper and bore fathers temper with a tolerating equanimity knowing their transience. As I recall the period of my boyhood, she was light hearted enjoying the moment, frequently lighting it with "Nellie Grey", or "Faded Coat of Blue," in a pleasing voice. She was rather fond of colour which I expect was not always harmonious. Regular and careful in her duties, the house was kept orderly and clean. With a family of five she was doubtless overworked, or would be so considered now a days, but I never heard her complain accepting conditions as inevitable. With a neighborly interest but no undue curiousity she dwelt always in peace with others. A day on a picnic was a pleasure in prospect and retrospect. Her religion was an easy conformity with what she had been taught in her youth and she avcided argument. In appearence she was exceptionally handsome, with dark brown almost black abundunt hair, pleasing features and a fine figure never slim or stout.

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(Ian goes on to write a short paragrah about the family and I think he is speaking of his family.)

"The Mcpherson family from the earliest times known have been a happy family. [redacted]. Its domestic life has not been marred by any divorce or serious disagreement. A record somewhat rare these days. It has not always prospered but it has a record of honesty and industry. Looking back over the facts known I attribute this to the strict discipline of the Presbyterian ancestors and to family felicity in good homes."

"While biologists may not endorse the common belief that sons inherit their qualities from their mothers and daughters from their fathers, it seems true in our family. Though immature at the time of her death Agnes exhibited a resemblence to father and Ella most decidedly in mental traits and disposition but with temper much easily disturbed. She is also very strikingly like her cousins in Scotland and as her Aunt Kate was. Peter inherited his fathers energy along with his inclinations to music with his mothers good sense. Ewen inherited his mothers disposition and willingness to cooperate with others. Ernest does also with his grandfathers taste for horses and mothers sympathy with others troubles. I believe I have mothers placidity with fathers more practical ways.?

~~(Ian has another memo and it is kind of duplicated, he having done one and then copied it to give to me. The second one has a note on it that it is to G.W. Mcp. However there is some discrencies and some additions but I will dictate this from his notes.)~~

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The ~~McPh~~ MacPherson's (McPhersons)

THE FAMILY _ IAN MCPHERSON

"Some record of our family it has been suggested maybe of some interest to members of it now and in the future. It is proposed to set forth some of the events and influences and circumstances that have a place in ~~this~~ our family history in Canada. In doing so the writer as the oldest living member puts on record what is known to him relying largely on his own memory of events and on his recollection of earlies and other events from his parents. So far as he is aware there is no record of the family, has been made. "

"My Aunt, Kate Gordon the widow of Donald Gordon and now deceased, informed me in Glasgow in 1901 that an ancestor was a cousin of the chief of Clan ~~clan~~ Macpherson in 1715. ~~and~~ My father was one to say that in 1745 a maternal ancestor sent seven sons to the support of Bonny Prince Charles. There is no written record of these traditions and I have made no effort to verify them. There is record that the clan was out with the old protector in 1715 ~~but~~ and that the chief of the clan was ~~the~~ ~~his~~ treasurer for James. A plate from which paper money was printed is now in the Cluny Castle archives."

"The known history of the family begins with my grandfather, Donald Mcpherson of Fort William, one of the lockaber branch of the clan. Donald Mcpherson died in the early and Susan in the late 1870s each of them being over 90 years of age. I have somewhere a copy of this birth and death which I made from the tombstones in the cemetery in Fort William. Their eldest son, Paul served in the Indian army and died in Scotland having been invalided at home, he was unmarried. My father was the second son of the family and our branch of the family is the eldest of the line of Donald Mcpherson. Our grandfather died prior to my period of recollections but I can still well recall the news from Scotland reporting the death of our grandmother Susan, Susan Graham Mcpherson, each having attained an age of over 90 years.

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"From the tombstones marking their graves at Fort William I copied the dates in 1901, of the birth and death of Susan !

(Ian does not enter them in the spaces he left.)

"Over this tombstone the family appeared as Macpherson but being in capitol letters throughtout whether the name was then spelled with capitol P or not is not determined."

"Our father, Peter Mcpherson as written by him was born at Fort William on Feb. 12 1833 and died at Portage La Traire, Manitoba on March 28 1894. I have no definite knowledge of his youth at Fort William. He attended school there and I believe with his familiarity with sheep that worked as a sheperd, when or for how long I cannot say. He had some acquaintance with Pithshire but did not at any time reside there, or in any other part of Scotland. When about 20 years of age he emmigrated to Canada landing at Castle Garden New York and thence proceeding by steam boat to Albini and then by train to Aire, Ontario. At Aire he found employement with Mr. John Watson then one of the foremost manufacturers of farm implements in Canada. I do not know why he choose to come to Aire he had no relatives in America.

At Aire he married Ellen Wallace, daughter of John Wallace farmer and Agnes Smith. The marriage took place on Sept. 27 1863 on the 22 anniversary of the birht of Ellen Wallce. They spent a short honeymoon at Niagra Falls where they purchased two crystal jelly dishes now in the possession of my sister Ella.

Both of my mothers parents were natives of Airshire, Scotland in the neighborhood of Kilmarnac. The Airshire family I have been told produced the founder of the Wallace shipyard at Grenac. From this marriage comes the present generation of the family.Agnes,John,Donald, Peter,Susan, Ella,Ewen and Ernest. My sister Agnes Smith Mcpherson was born in Aire in July 1864 and Iwas born in 1867 and a brother Donald in 1868. In 1922 I visited Aire with the intent to see the house in which

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... Sir John A. Mcdonald who was

I was born, which I was told by my mother was a house with 365 window panes and which was described as being at the black horses heels. The black horse being a hotel. It was said in 1922 that such a black horse was at one time a short distance to the north of Aire, but this could not be confirmed in the neighborhood and the alleged location was then a wilderness of woods and weeds."

"The little definite knowledge of the life of our parents in Aire, though of course I heard later many references to it. They were happy times it would appear and always the celebration of the Queens birthday on May 24 was an occasion of village enjoyement. Our mother had many relatives in the vicinity and ther were many frequent gatherings, barn raisings, quilting bees and such like activities of the age. Today or in 1922 I found it an exceptionally pleasing small town but quite different from my imagined pictures of it."

"During the American civil war there was an agricultural boom in Canada but a depression followed and many Canadians went to the States. The minister of one of the two Presbyterian churches in Aire, a Dr. John Mccuire took a trip to Missouri and says Uncle Ian, the information that I personally obtained from him and others is that this preacher tried to establish a church in Missouri and could not make it because he had no congregation and he returned to Aire where he convinced his flock to follow him, migrating to the States."

The immigrants were the minister and his family, a Walter and William Gladstone and their family; a James Shillingwa; two Curr brothers and their sister; Willi... Pringle and his wife; John and Hugh Wallace, brothers of Ians mother with their families and Ians own family and parents. These all settled on land in Gentray county ten miles north of Albini, the county town. Witht the exception of our father and our Uncles John and Hugh, the others settled as a group.

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Two miles further west of Peddlers Creek. John and Hugh Wallace a few miles to the east. They took up farms of 120 acres on opposite sides of the road and also 120 acres for Ians father and adjoining the farm of John in the south. My father and family followed in July of the same year 1870."

"John and Hugh Wallace in this migration proceeded Ians father who followed in July 1870 and they went west [illegible] months earlier and upon reaching a selected neighborhood they took up farms of praire land for the three families. Each farm consisted of 120 acres. Farthest north was Uncle Hugh, south of it across the road was Uncle John and adjoining it to the south was the farm selected for Ians father. Through the eastern 40 acres of each farm ran a wooded creek, dry in the summer except for some stagnant pools or after a rain. The creek was known as the Dawson branch of the grand river a couple of miles from the other farms. The creek and the school district took their names from a Virginian family who had moved west at the end of the war. Who had brought with them a former negro slave who we knew as Uncle George who had insisted on staying with them."

(Other notes indicate that the Virginian family was across the road from Ians and that they had settled there about 5 years before.)

(Ian goes on to atlk about his earliest memories as a small boy.)

"Incindentally I may record my earliest recollections. They are; Of sitting in a cart in an orchard; a locomotive approaching at our point of embarkation in Paris, Ontario; train sickness; waiting in a hotel in Albini for transportation to our new home. Memory is vague and sketchy untill 1873 after which it is continuous."

(Ian then makes some notes on the life in Missouri.)

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"When the family had reached the farm, father proceeded to deveope it. A two room house had been built by Uncle Hugh in the centre of it, and besides two or three elm trees and near a small hickory grove. This house later added to, father moved to a site 50 yards from the road, setting apart about 1 acre round the house, he planted a willow wind break to protect it from the frequent summer hurricanes of the region. Within this wind break he planted cherry trees, grapes and flowers To the north of the wind break he planted 60-70 peach trees. In five years we had plenty, and an excess of these fruits. To the east and west, apples were planted and to the north of all a second wind break o of willows. About 80 yards from the house, father gave an acre for a school site and a one room white framed school was built. To the east of the apples and vegetables were the satbles and east to the 80 acre limit a ten acre pasture. The east 40 acres were reserved for pasture having some water and woods.Corn, hay, and some wheat for the family bread occupied the rest of the farm in the course of a year.

Of stock we had one team of horses, a dozen cattle and 75-100 sheep. I think there was little profit from the farming as the only market for its was the county town and the small village of Denver three miles away. The same conditions prevailed throughout the county there being no export. However the farm was never mortgaged existence on the farm was hard I fancy, but we as children did not know this"

On this farm during our residence was born Peter in 1870, Susan 1873,Ella in 1876, Ewen in 1878. Ernest was born in Manitoba in 1881 Donald died in Missouri in 1872 and Susan in 1876 and Agnes 1879. Three children died in Missouri.

Our parents being both Scottish and Presbyterian family discipline was strict. At age 8 tasks were assigned but much time was left for play to be divided for our selves. School had an important place but as the school year was usually about 6 months and no home study, studies

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were not a burden. Our school term which now seems strange,was that a school term was 3 months with almost invariably a new teacher, but I do not see now that this system has failed.

Our father proceeded to put our new farm into cultivation. Knowing how farming was done in Scotland, he was extremely careful and thorough and produced the finest corn and vegetables in the neighbourhood. In fact he was more interested in quality than quantity. The americans in the district gave less work to the crops and gave more attention to trading and I believe made more of a profit in general than our father who also gave much time to beautifying the grounds near the house, planting apples, peaches, cherries and grapes and willows for wind-breaks. I remember him bringing two fair size Canadian maples which he had found in the woods and planted them at the road side before the house. So we had plenty of vegetables and fruit as there was seldom a market for fruit being 20 miles or more from the railway or any considerable town, the excess fruit was frequently fed to the stock .

So thorough did he cultivate that though he never had 80 acres in crop, he occassionally hired a man or traded labour from his neighbours. From one cow and 3 or 4 pigs he gradually increased it until he had about 20 head of cattle, more pigs of excellent breed (Poland Chinas) while most of his neighbours hogs were what were known as razor backs. A hundred head of sheep and 2 or 3 horses. I can well remember one mid-summer morning going before dawn some miles to take delivery of some half dozen cows he had purchased. As in all southern countries the air before dawn was cold. We reached the place after sunrise with heavy dew on the grass and trees with the promise of a hot day to come. We drove them leisurely home for it was always his desire to be con-siderate of his cattle, it was a very pleasant journey.

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"Concerning Sundays my recollection of winters and winter sundays are indistinct probably to be accounted for by the absence of notable events or of events that impressed themselves. Only occasionally were there any church service in the neighbourhood, conducted by some preacher in a town some 10 or 20 miles away, a long distance to avoid in those' days. There might be 2 or 3 such services in the school house in the course of a winter or some revivalist might hold some revival sessions for 2 or 3 weeks in summer or winter. The preacher lodging for a few nights with the more devout neighbours in turn. Modern youth would not understand what those revivals meant to the people of those days. They may be it has been said the amusement of the time though no one regarded them as such. They were highly emotional and consequently afforded that relief from drabness that is necessary to preserve ones sanity.

In our family and other Canadian families an effort was made to preserve the Presbyterian traditions. The Sabath began on Saturday evening when varios preparations were made for the observance of the following day. An extra amount of cooking had been done and clean linen was brought out and whatever abloutions had been done during the week they were done far more thoroughly now. Always on Saturday evenings the shoes which during the summer week days had not been woren but were blackened sometimes by rubbing the brush first over the underside of the stove lid cover and transferring the soot to the shoes. Not bad polish either. The paper if any and any other profane reading material were carefully put away. In the morning there would be a bright sun promising a warm day. The stable chores would first be aitended to, the horses and pigs fed the cows milked and all turned out into the pasture.

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For whatevers its faults Calvinism was considered of the beast over which man had been given dominion. Breakfast followed and then the family prayers being held every morning. From that time until the noon dinner I do not know what our parents did but we younsters just roamed around. The Americans of the neighbourhood custormarily indulged in lavish dinners on Sundays and there was much visiting. This was a practice rather frowned upon by our parents and we rarely had visitors or visited on the Sabbath. In the afternoon there were portions of the bible to read and were required to recite the answers of portions of the shorter catacyisms. In this way we were instructed in the religious thought of the time. Atraining which no one regrets, and one that at least gave the captisize some concept of the mystery, and grandeur of spiritual things. The young people of this present day are much to be pitied in that there type of training is so largely confined to the material quests that are called science and those more ridiculous speculations known as phsycoligy. They lack the ability to think of abstractions. There were family prayers the last thing before going to bed. If the day lacked amusement it at least was a day of rest that fitted one for the work of the week. One might speculate as to how much of the progress of the victorian era was due to such days of complete rest from wordly concern.

Our father and two or three neighbours similarly inclined once or twice succeded in organizing sunday school in our school house but it was never a success. I can recall a sunday afternoon when the philistines being in the majority it was decided to use livelier songs and began the program with a song called, Father beckoned to us children and strode dignifiedly from the place. Mchendrick a virginian and his family also left the church. Sunday school broke up a feww weeks after and was never reorganized while we were in Missouri Shortly after the Canadians however got together and erected a new church.

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To me then it was a marvel. It was not more than 50 feet in length probably but it had over the entrance door a tall spire. I can well remember my first site of it on the Sunday morning it was dedicated. We all drove over in a wagon and coming to the top of the rise there was the church half a mile away or so with its new tin clad spire shining like silver in the fore noon sun. It was a fine summer day with a warm south wind blowing through the rustling grass around the church. We went in and to a pew that father had arranged for us, all on the south side of the church where the sun ligh fell on us through a paned glass window and the wind coming gently through it. The preacher was Rev. John Mccurer, the eldest son of our heir pastor who had brought us to Missouri and he was then at college. The text was from the biblical story of the rebuilding of the temple after the return from Babylon. I do not recall anything said but it was never the less a memorable sermon. I am not sure that there was a psalm sung but the hymn "My Faith looks up th thee", was sung to the tune of calvary and it was one of the most impressive hymns I have ever heard. In the bright sunlight and warm cooling wind it was a beautiful devotion. I have heard the Papal choir many times and the choirs of Westminster cathedral and I have forgotten them and what they sounded like. While this simple hymn of trust in a country church in Missouri will remain with me as long as I live. That day we went to Rev. Mccurer fathers place for dinner and sunday school lesson was in the new church in the afternoon. We continued to attend these services and school until we left Missouri. I remember when the sunday school lesson leafs was introduced though some opposed to the innovation. I believe that the objections were not strenuous. One of these lesson leafs about Asakaiya remains in the family bible in Edmonton today and I can recall studying the lesson under fathers guidance on a summer afternoon.

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After our absence of 15 10 years I saw this church again, it was closed, the church yard a tangleof long dry grasses. The older canadians had died or moved and services were no longer held there or anywhere for miles around. So pest the attempt to transplant scottish presbyterians,the triumph of americanism in the locality was complete. (I am sure he meant 30 years)

Ian goes on to tak about an ordinary day on the farm in Missouri in summer.

"An ordinary day in summer. What we youngsters did when out of school was rather difficult to recall. The day would begin about 7 or sunrise and after breakfast and prayers we usually had little to do besides amuse ourselves as best we might as best we might, There was some feeding of hogs and some water to bring in and sometimes children to take care of but for the most of the day we roamed about . The rising make believe amusements.

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On the hot days the shade of the trees or the coolnes in the 8 foot corn fields was grateful. While the woods and thickets along the were always attractive. Father would be in the fields and mother would be in the house most of the day. Sometimes there were visitors but this was rare and the heat in the field was so exhausting to father that he often said that he longed for the Scottish mists.

The fare atta ble was probably non to nuriting but it was certainly better than most of our neighbours. We always had wheat bread as well as corn bread which most of the americans did not have. And I can remember many boys brought as their lunch to school only corn bread which would be unbuttered. Their drink would be from the school pump which usually reeded priming and sometimes failed altogher in that case the water had to be toted from a neighbours farm in a pail.

At home was a cellar or cave which father built in a peach orchard for addtional protection from the heat. This was like a small house partly an excavation and covered with earth. A flight of steps protected from flooding rains by an inclined door gave entrance to delightful coolness on the hottest days. There milk was set out in broad pans for cream and the butter, jams etc. From this cellar the butter would be brought to the table beautifully fresh , the table was set under the cherry tree and long before the meal would be over the butter would be an oily liquid. I never saw ice used for storage or refridgeration because refridgeration had not been invented.

Though we had no mosquitoes flies were abundunt and were kept from the table by one of us delegated to wave a willow branch during the meal. I do not remember what composed our dinner and tea but in summer there was no m eat as it could not be kept. Bread, jam vegetables, honey sometimes home made cheese, home ~~home~~ made honey, tea coffee, milk, pie and corn bread. Cookies were the assortement from which summer meals came.

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In winter there was pork, apples not often as our own trees were not of age to bear fruit., but almost invariably for supper corn mush. Eggs we had all year round and preserved fruit. Mother had a way of preserving grapes in a earthen crock , a layer of grapes and a layer of suger that retained the flavour wonderfully well. I have omitted from the menu something that was a part of every meal- molasses. The ordinary diet was such as would be approved by fanatical vegetarians but I cannot think that we were made to robust by it and I now think that it must of worried our parents to provide what they did. Like other youngsters before and since that did not worry us at all. People starved only in far away lands. Today we know that not only the very poor in cities lack proper food which is starvation but many with steady employment.

My father was democrat in the states and I cannot say why. All the other canadians who migrated to Missouri with him were republicans. It may have been a carry over of old country liberal free trade.In canada he always voted liberal . In a remarkable degree his political view was a result of his reading the account of the evictions of the highland crofters by the Duke of Southerland as reported in a glossary· memories of scotland by Dr. Norman Mcleod which work appear to have great influence in scotland in the days of his youth and made him somewhat of a wild type of a radical with know radical policy.

Various members of the family have asked me how the family became Methodist, which I can answer from my own recollections. My eldest sister Agnes attending a revival service held by a methodist minister wanted to join that church and father and mother decided to join along with her. The methodist-episcopal church site which severed its connections with the methodist-episcopal church at the time of civil war. There were no church building in our district and no regular service only occasional meetings in the school house. Some years

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earlier on the death of my sister Susan father and mother decided to have family worship morning and evening as stated else where in these notes. It is to note that my sister Agnes was a sincere a good Christian which not easy in a community where membership in any church frequently was the subject of personal jives and ridicule.

I do not remember my first day of school. Father had given the school site and the building had been erected on it. Mothere insisted and forced me to take lessons from the teacher. About the same time the house was moved from the moved the roadway and later an addition to it was built.

(Ian was repeating himself here, but he continues at the buttom of the page.)

There was family worship after breakfast, scripture reading and a hymn sing and prayers before going to bed at night which was done by all at the same time. Sundays no amusement was permitted, whistling or reading other than good books which were few. I do not regret this and if more of this prevailed at present it would be good for our community.

(Ian now gets into the situation where they decided to leave Missouri and come to Manitoba and I have heard a story which he does not recite that after Agnes, who lost her life in a fire, she caught fire from the stove apparently and was burned to death. Grandma said that it was a sign from God and that they should never have left the Brititsh flag and she wanted to go back to canada and be under the british flag again. Ian does not say this but he does say as follows.

"My eldest sister Agnes lost her life in a fire caught from the stove on the Dec. 27 1879 and our mother wanted to leave the place and its memories. (they had also lost two other children down there.)

Her sister Mary, Mrs. James Dancy, had moved from Ontario I presume from Aire county to Porage La Praire a couple of years previosly.

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And it was decided to go to Manitoba. Her brother, that is grandmas brother Hugh Wallace the eldest son of her brother John Wallace and the Shillingwa family decided to do likewise. The party left by way of Albini, boarding a train at Ebona on the 17 of March 1880 arriving in St. Boniface on the evening of the 20th. They crossed the red river by sleigh to Winnepeg where some three days were spent awaiting a conveiance to Portage. Jame Dancy and one of the Watsons came to Portage for us and one of the first sites I had of Portage was on a grey March day the second day after leaving Winnepeg. Proceeding on the ice of the slough we reached the home of our Uncle Jim at dusk. Here we all stayed for some weeks when my father having rented a farm on the river road from John Garrioch moved into it on May 1. My Uncle Hugh built a house in Portgageand being a carpenter went into business of home building for the immigrant who were then flocking in. Shillingwa also a carpenter was his partner in the firm. Later Hugh moved to Carvery, then called Dewinton and the Shillinglas moved to Brandon. Mrs. shillingla was sister to our Aunt Maggie-Mrs. Hugh Wallace. The Shillinglas remained in Brandon, the Hugh Wallace family moved to Oxbo Sask. where they still are as far as I know.

Father bough two lots in a new sub-division in Portage in winter of 1880 on Alfred Street. In the early spring he built a house on one lot into which we moved on May 1 1881 and this house was our home until 1908 when it passed on with the death of our mother to Ernest. He lived in it until he found it unsuitable from age when he built a brick house on Broadway some three or four years later. The house was then forty years old and then was rented for a year or two then dom-olished.

(No where in Ians notes do I see any reference to the fact that my grandmother was a cripple and in a wheelchair. That is the only picture I have seen of her)

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Dad born 1878
His father died 1894
Dad was 16

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"Sometimes in 1885 father bought two vacant lots in the rear of the property on Alfred Street and enclosed the hole in a board fence with a picket fence in front. He had planted trees around the original property in 1881 and when these were grown the place was with its garden in the rear a pleasant home and with many pleasnat memories.

On moving to Alfred street father worked a s a carpenter until the boom broke in 1882. Hard years followed and the towns fire hall was burned followed by the burning at intervals of many of the business premises in the town. The town went bankrupt and the schools were closed. No taxes were collected. During this father took whatever jobs were offered as did all others. It must have been a time of much concern, anxiety and hardship which I did not realize at that time.

Some three or four years later a settlement was made with the town holders and upon reorganization father was employed by William Garland in his clothing store. Later when Garland was in civil politics father was employed as construction foreman in the building of sidewalks, a position he had during the construction of practically all of the then wooden sidewalks in Portage/ He then was appointed caretaker of the townhall with which he combined the post of caretaker of the Presbyterian church until shortly before his death from cancer in 1894.

In 1880 the portage public school had two rooms and was on the slough road and to this Peter and I started to go in May 1880. Some of the pupils were half breeds and others were rough and pugnacious. Fighting was regarded as meritorious for as in the Missouri school the use of the fist was considered as ungentlemanly-the old virginian standard. I disliked school and father indentured me to Thomas Collins editor of the Review to learn the trade of printing, the wage $1.25 a week. I completed my apprenticeship in three years and returned to school and high school in 1885.

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"A year in Brandon as foreman of the Tiems and then to Manitoba college to begin a university course with $150.00 cash. By holiday work night work and work on the Free Press and shclorships I was able to graduate with $50.00 to the good. I was immediatley offered the position of the editor of the Portage Liberal and later purchased along with Ed Burns the Daily Graphic. In the 1908 I sold my interest and founded the Edmonton Journal which I sold as a company in 1908 and took a position in Winnepeg with C.P.R. and after the war with the C.N.R. in Winnepeg and Montreal. In 1901 I married Alice Jean Finlay who has been to me an excellent wife. We Went on a general tour of Europe that year as far as Venice and Rome, visiting relatives in Scotland and my fathers native town of Fort William. Another trip was made in 1909 and I was in Britian from 1914 to 1915."

(A statement that I found in some of my fathers papers about Portage as is as follows.)

"Originally the political history of the city of Portage in relationship to the federal house especially has contained several unique feature. Originally it was in the Marquet constituency,. The first election was held in 1871. Candidates were Mckay and Lynch and the return of the lelections was a tie. At that time there were no provisions for a casting vote by the returning officer and the result was that both candidates were returned as representatives. This is the only case in Canadian history of such a condidtion. Lynch had his seat in the house but after his right to same was challenged and he had to withdraw. After his withdrawal Mckay took his seat and his right was challenged and he ha d to withdraw. Before it was definatley settled the house dissolved.

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"In 1878 the city was represented by Sir John A. Mcdonald who was followed by the late Sen. Robert Watson. The city later became part of the Mcdonald constituency and was represented by Dr. J. G. Rutherford who afterwards was responsible for the administration of the large part of the legislation affecting live-stock in Canada. When the boundaries were altered to the Portage La Praire consituency which is now existing the right honourable Arthur Meign represented the city for about 12 years.

The constiuency therefore has therefore in its history two prime-ministers of Canada as its representative. In so far as the province is concerned perhaps the most outstanding representative from the constituency was the Honourable Joseph Martin who introduced the torns system of land titie in this province. Mr. Martin subsequently became the Premier of B.C. and also represented a London seat in the British House of commons. The constituency has also been represented by the Honourable Hugh Armstron and Honourable Edward Brown who each held a portfolio of provincial treasures and is now being represented by Col. F.G. Taylor leader of the conservative house of the oppostion in the local house."

(I would also add to this that subsequently the constituency was represented by my father who later became the minister of finance or provincial treasurer in the John Bracken government. My father was also at one time a partner of Arthur Meigns and in 1926 when Meigns was Prime Minister of Canada m. father defeated him for the federal seat of Portage La Praire.)

(There is another memorandum which Ian prepared for me and its the story of the Portage in the 1880. It is very interesting and he is a little confused about some of the names of streets at least as I remember them but I will have it typed directly as it is an intesting story.)

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1990
1853
137

Grandfather Peter left scotland for America in 1853

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Cattletrain to England - I went to England I was 18 or 19 - I wouldn't have gone when I was in Law - I think it was when I graduated from Arts and was going to go into Law -I was around 18 19 -

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#2

standing representative from this Constituency was the Honourable Joseph Martin, who introduced the Torrens System of Land Titles into this Province. Mr. Martin subsequently became Premier of British Columbia and also represented a London Seat in the British House of Commons . The Constituency has also been represented by Honourable Hugh Armstrong and Honourable Edward Brown , who each held the Portfolio of Provincial Treasurer, and is now represented by Colonel F.G. Taylor, Leader of the Conservation Opposition, in the Local House.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY
1982 ANNUAL REPORT 1982

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1853 my grandfather Peter Macpherson left Scotland for the new world.

Side 1 of Tape 1
1853 Peter (grandfather left scotland for New World

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS ?

187

22

FORWARD

1853 - 1990 = 137 years.

This could well be entitled "To Whom It May Concern" as I don't know whether it will be of any real interest to ~~the~~ members of the family and ~~the~~ future generations. ~~but I would hope so and I think it~~ It will give them some background information of the family, history during the period from 1878 to the present. ~~life and times as I have experienced them. I think that it is in order that the memoirs should be entitled "The First Hundred Years" as my father~~ These Alexander Ewen McPherson was born in Misouri in 1878 ~~near St. Joseph, arrived in Canada and more particularly Portage La Prairie in the winter of 1880 and it is now the winter of 1980.~~ and ~~came to~~ Portage La Prairie in 1880.

~~Part I The McPherson and Glenn history family history~~
~~Part II Tilley memoirs from 1910 to the present~~

~~I intend for ease of reading to more or less divide my memoirs into~~ to be five periods of my own life. ~~These periods are~~ are as follows:

(1) 1910 to 1937 ~~were~~ the years spent in Portage La Prairie and Winnipeg. ~~growing up as it were;~~ (2) 1937 to 1948 were years spent in the Canadian and British government service; (3) 1948 to 1952 were the first years spent in Vancouver after leaving government service. ~~and~~ (4) 1952 to 1975, the years in which I was associated with ~~the helicopter industry and more particularly~~ Okanagan Helicopters. (5) The period 1975 to the end has ~~also~~ been an interesting period ~~in my life~~, now drawing to a close. ~~I propose in my memoirs to start in a rather chronological order dealing with events that occured but not enlarging on them in the beginning to any great extent.~~ ~~I~~ propose that for the convenience of the reader to divide these memoirs not only in the periods referred to above but also divide them in the sense that chapters will

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be devoted to particular years and particular experiences during those years. I now leave the reader to judge whether the effort to record the history of our family and my life has been worth the ~~while spent~~ effort in doing so.

Glenn W. McPherson

1853 Grandfather left Fort William Scotland for the new world sailing to albany N-Y. Then traveled to upper Canada (near ayr?)

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~~Book~~ Volume 1

1 chapter 1 The Macphersons in Scotland

2 chapter 2 Grandfather comes to America
and Upper Canada

3 chapter 3 The McPhersons move to Missouri

4 chapter 4 Life in Missouri (Uncle Jens Notes)

5. chapter 5 The McPhersons arrive in Portage

6. chapter 6. Life in Portage (Jens notes)

Volume 2.

1. chapter 1 Father Hems background-

2. The Hems in Ontario

3. The Hems move to Portage

4. Ems & Winifred Married-

Volume 3.

~~chapter 1 The family life in Portage~~

2.

1. Father and mother

2. Her family

3. Growing up in Portage

~~Volume 4~~

4. Leaving home

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In the Dawson school district near the Grand river and Denver ~~Missouri~~ and St. Joseph Missouri in 1878. ~~[illegible]~~ Tape 1 cont.

Part ~~4~~ 19

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~~GROWING~~ UP

~~I must start with a reference to~~ My father ~~and his arrival in Canada. He was born on a farm near St. Joseph, Misouri in 1878~~ of Scottish parents who were British subjects as he was born in the States he was also an American citizen. He came to Canada as a two-year-old baby, arriving in Portage La Prairie in the ~~winter~~ March of 1880. The history of the family in the early years in Portage has been documented ~~by~~ for me ~~from notes left~~ by my uncle Ian McPherson, the oldest brother; ~~in the family and I will not review that period of time, but will restrict my comments on these early years to the recording of some of the instances in the early life of my father.~~

Insert Mothers background here

In her later years ~~My~~ grandmother was crippled by arthritis and was confined to a whol chair. ~~a cripple and~~ I gather that ~~they~~ the family went through some very hard times. My grandfather died when my father was ~~sixteen~~ 16 in 1894 and the following year my father left school to go to work in a clothing store in Portage at the age of ~~seventeen~~ 17. Subsequently he read law in Edward Anderson and Horace Ormans law firm in Portage. In 1903 he formed his own partnership with Arthur Meighen who later became ~~the~~ Prime Minister of Canada. I will write more on this story in a chapter on politics where I will recount the fact that eventually my father ran against Mr. Meighen in an election when he was the Prime Minister and defeated him in 1926.

The partnership with Meighen did not last ~~too long~~ and then my father JOINED ~~formed a partnership with~~ Mr. Williams and Mr.

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Volume 4
My story

Donovan Ewen
Wallace Alexander.

X Insert. Howen two years later
a new arrival was a girl ~~Peggy~~
named ~~Ed~~ Margaret Winifred Douglas
a few years later a 3 baby boy was
born but he died a few days
later.

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2
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Garland. Mr. Williams was killed in the First World War and after that war a partnership of McPherson, Porter and Webster was formed. Rufus Lyons was a member and his son is now the Premier of Manitoba.

Politics

In 1910 father ran for the Provincial House and he was defeated, but it is interesting to note that before he filed his nomination papers, fearing there would be some question as to his British nationality which was required, he became a naturalized Canadian, ~~as it was assumed he was an American citizen having been born in Missouri.~~

I was born ~~in that year,~~ on April 29, 1910, at Portage ~~La~~ Prairie and no doubt my parents having already had two sons Don, and Wallace, were hopeful for a daughter ~~but fate decreed otherwise~~. ~~My mother was disturbed as to what name~~ the new baby should be given and my father told her that he had already registered me at City Hall as Percival ~~Alouishes~~. My mother contacted the ~~registrar~~ City clerk Mr. ~~Jimmy~~ Billy Greeves, who assured her that this was correct and I can imagine there was some consternation until father explained that it was in fact a joke and he had registered my as Glenn ~~Willoughby~~. My mother then insisted that it should be two n's in my name and father told her that that was the way I had been registered. Years later when I applied

my birth.

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Note
I believe this election 1915 was called after
the legislative bldg scandal - The contractor
went to prison & the Duff Robbins govt was defeated
& the conservatives where out of office until
19 when Duff Robbins grandson won &
became premier - had ~~read Alice in Wonderland~~
to the House while they waited for the Royal Com
to report.

told the story of
Alice in Wonderland

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for a Birth Certificate I was astounded to find that I had in fact been registered with one "n", having always signed my name with two "n"s and to this day I am still signing with two which may not be legal but which my mother preferred.

In 1915 father ran for the Provincial legislature and was elected to the Provincial House. The Liberals were in opposition. Toby Norris was the leader of the Liberal party and the Premier of the Province was Duff Roblin, head of the Conservative government. These were interesting times as there was a great scandal brewing about the building of the legislature in Winnipeg, which costs had outrun all estimates. I think that the original estimated price to build at the time was five or six million and the costs after the election was over were reported by the government to be over 12 million. and there was some suggestion that the foundations were unsound and the contractor had used inferior materials. A Royal Commission was appointed to investigate and as a result of this the contractor eventually went to jail. The government fell when the Commission report was tabled and in the next election the Conservatives were swept out of power and Toby Norris became the Premier. The conservatives never won another election and the grandson of Duff Roblin defeated the Campbell government in 1958 (See journal page 8) In that election my father did not run, but he did play a

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Member 3 terms P. M. - never
elected as such. ?

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part in the defeat of the government over the parliament building scandal. He ~~used to tell~~ told me the story of how the Roblin government tried to avoid bringing in the report of the Royal Commission but that the opposition was able to stage a filibuster (long before ~~Hughey~~ Huey Long of Louisianna was ever heard of). They kept the House in session for several days, twenty-four hours a day and at one point father said that he told the house all night long the story of the "Alice in Wonderland". I still have in my library that book that he used. He was able to convince the speaker that the story was relative to the political situation of the day on the basis that the government was living in a state similar to "Alice". Dad was defeated in the election of 1922 and remained out of politics until 1926 when he ran in the federal election and defeated the Rt Hon Arthur Meighen who was then Prime Minister.

politics

Pidoux says Meighen's

From 1916 to 1927 I was busy going to public school and the collegiate in Portage ~~and~~ I it is interesting to note my ~~first experience of going to~~ introduction to the public school system.

The East Ward school had burned to the ground ~~and there were no facilities for the grade one class or other classes in that school in the east end.~~ and ~~I do not know what they did with the other classrooms but I know that~~ grade one occupied space above the old City Hall, ~~on Saskatchewan~~ a next to avenue ~~adjoining~~ the fire hall. Our teacher was Miss Young. My mother took me to school on opening day and after she left I ~~ran away from the school and~~ went ~~back~~ home. Father heard about this and he proceeded to take this young truant by the hand and ~~take~~ him back to ~~the~~ school. My mother

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was very incensed at this inhuman treatment, ~~by my father~~ and she ~~s~~ admitted later that it was the first time in their married life that she ever swore at him. ~~for being so inhuman. On the other hand one must give my father credit for having~~ taken me back as he had ~~some idea~~ that I might find an ~~education useful in the future.~~

~~Even in grade one~~ I can recall the old fire hall, ~~the firemen~~ and the horses and the steam pumper. The ~~fire~~ hall had a pipe going up to the second floor where the firemen slept. The horses were in box stalls at the back of the hall, ~~and there was what~~ we called a pumper which was a boiler mounted on wheels in which the firemen had to build a fire in in order to pump water out of the hydrants and get the pressure to operate the hoses. ~~There was another fire rig that was also hauled by the horses~~. In order to speed up the movement of the equipment the ~~horses~~ harnesses were suspended from the ceiling by pulleys which were operated from a ~~single~~ rope. ~~and~~ I ~~can well remember,~~ When the ~~alarm would~~ go and the bell ~~would~~ rang ~~ring~~, we children would rush down the stairs ~~out of the City Hall~~ and watch the horses leave the fire hall. The horses, ~~on hearing the alarm, which automatically opened the box stall gates~~, would charge out of their stalls and back in along

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1926. Aladdin Theatre

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side the tongues in their appointed spots. The firemen would pull the rope and the harnesses would drop down on the horses. Quickly buckling the harness, the firemen would then clamber aboard ~~and together with the driver~~ and ~~a man building a fire in the pumper~~, down the street they would go with clanging bells and belching smoke. It was a great show for children ~~and for the townspeople~~ and I regret that my children have never seen a pumper or experienced the exhilleration of watching horses galloping down the street with crowds of children running after them. ~~Some thing like the loss of the steam locomotive to the children living in railway towns along the right of way. These great machines having been replaced by the Diesel.~~ Not as picturesque or awe inspiring as the great locomotives were to railroaders, or the steamer was to little children in grade one in Portage La Prairie in 1916.

Politics

In 1926 Dad ran for federal politics and defeated the Right Honorable Arthur Meign who was then Prime Minister of Canada, ~~and I will enlarge on this election and its historical interest in a subsequent chapter on politics.~~ At that time I was sixteen and my earliest recollection of working in an election is that I did work in the ~~town~~ ASSEMBLY ROOM during this election ~~for my father but what I did I do not recall~~.

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How Long a Liberal?

School

Gov Medal

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Someone years later in Vancouver at a political meeting I was asked ~~me~~ how long I had been a liberal, ~~and~~ I ~~said~~ revised that I could not recall the exact date that I had joined the party but that I had been told by my mother that the day I was born father came into the hospital and said, "Winnie, give me the boy, there is a liberal meeting tonight."

In 1927 I graduated from the Portage Collegiate and was awarded the Governor General's Medal. I recall that winning this medal came as a complete surprise to me and when one considers my scholastic attainments prior to grade ten, one would wonder how they could have ever selected me amongst all the other students for this award.

I do not think that until grade 10 I ever took school too seriously. I plugged along, ~~managing to pass the various grades, always~~ resenting the fact that I ~~seemed to have~~ had to study and my brother Wallace ~~as far as I know~~ never ~~opened a book or~~ did ~~any studying and~~ always ~~got~~ good marks. ~~I had a few incidents in school where I objected to authority, which I think is not uncommon today, but they were innocent pranks and were not destructive to the extent that we see today.~~ Young people in those days didn't go about breaking windows in the school or tearing up the desks

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~~or in some cases burning the school down. We did let off steam by such pranks as pulling the bell rope down as far as possible and then cutting it off and letting the rope go up to where it could not be reached by the principal to ring the bell after recess.~~

However there was an incident that I recall most vividly, and that was the one time I was expelled.

It all started quite innocently between Frank Campbell and myself when Frank threw a ~~piece of chalk~~ brush at me ~~and hit me in the head~~ while I was ~~wiping~~ cleaning the blackboards ~~with a brush.~~ He ducked out of the room and I knew he ~~would~~ had to come back so I was standing with ~~the~~ a brush in my hand and when I saw a head ~~duck back in,~~ appear I let fly. ~~with the brush and~~ Unfortunately it hit ~~Weary Willie~~ MacDonald, the maths teacher. ~~in the head.~~ He of course was slightly incensed and carted me off to see ~~a the Beak~~ "Mr Hamilton. [Mr Hamilton]". "The Beak" ~~then~~ told me I was ~~being~~ expelled ~~for some weeks~~ and he wrote a letter to my father ~~about~~ giving his views as to ~~the~~ my future ~~of myself~~ as a student. I never saw the letter but I gathered from my father, ~~in conversation arising from the incident~~, that the letter suggested that my scholastic record ~~up till that time~~ was ~~rather~~ dismal and ~~indicated~~ suggested that ~~I was not too interested in school or~~ in getting ~~a higher~~ an education. ~~and that he,~~ "The Beak"

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Black history

Put in when I leave
for Ottawa →

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the principal, did not think that I would ever amount to anything and that I might as well get out of school and go to work on a farm. should have gone to law school

I recall that after Dad had received the letter from "the beak", he invited me, shall we say, to attend at his office where we had a long discussion about the value of an education. I would like to point out here that Dad had a real appreciation of the value of it education as he was forced to leave school at sixteen. It is interesting to note that he did not finish highschool, he never went to a university, nor to law school and yet he became a full fledged lawyer and a good one. He went on to become Chief Justice of the Kings Bench and subsequently the Chief Justice of the Appeal court of Manitoba. He died never having a judgement reversed by any superior court. He believed that a formal education was invaluable and I remember at one time he mentioned that he once had run a small garden raising vegetables which he sold to pay for his school books. Dad believed that formal education coupled with varied experience while growing up could be an invaluable asset to a lawyer.

Honorary LL.D.

I remember when I started into law he told me that a good lawyer was a man who knew something about everything and everything about nothing.

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Advice not to mix business
with family affairs &
not use home for business entertainment

LLD year?

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While I am digressing at the moment, I think I should record the one major piece of advice that he gave me upon my leaving home to go to Ottawa. At that time he told me that there came a time in every lawyers life when he would be sitting at his desk and would ask himself the question as to whether or not something he proposed to do was ethical or not, and he advised that the moment you asked yourself the question the answer is 'no'. [Not having any formal education, I know it was a very proud day in his life when the University of Manitoba gave him an Honorary Law Degree, as he had no, educational degrees of any kind and was then Chief Justice of the Province at that time.

After being out of school for a week or two during the negotiations I gather arrangements were made for me to return to classes, but in the interval it is interesting to note that Miss Webster, our latin teacher, had taken me under her wing and was tutoring me in her home in the evening, to keep me up with my classes. She felt badly about my having been expelled for the reason I was and she was anxious to see that I did not miss my grade. In any event this was grade ten and I had no real interest in getting an education or I thought I could just shuffle through. Standing near the bottom of the class of 37 pupils

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I ~~was usually somewhere below number 30. I remember in Easter exams I had 5 supplements out of 8 subjects to write and it was at this time that~~ Miss Webster, supported by my father convinced me that I had to buckle down and get to work if I ~~ever~~ intended to pass into grade eleven. My father did exercise some discipline in the family, which of course would not be tolerated today, and insisted that I remain in the house every night of the week. I was allowed to go out saturday nights but the rest of the evenings were spent studying for final exams. When the results came out Ifound I had graduated into grade eleven and had passed in all subjects.

When I started ~~into~~ grade eleven I ~~then~~ was motivated to get an education and ~~to do well and it is interesting that in grade eleven~~ I finally passed with honours and was awarded the Governor Generals Medal.

~~In going to school I think that~~ By the time I had reached high school, ~~that is, above junior high~~, I had become interested in certain subjects but I found it difficult to develop any real interest in other subjects. For example while I appreciated, as a result of the teaching of Miss Webster, the value of Latin as a background to understanding the English language, I was never a hot shot in Latin and it required a great deal of work and effort on my part to pass the examinations. I think that the difficulties I was having with the translation of Latin ~~in literature~~ caused me to start to memorize. I attribute the ability

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to memorize in later life to the fact that I did not like Latin, ~~and couldn't stand the ied in the latin words. I~~ can recall I used to be able to recite the Illiad starting with the introduction of "I sing of arms of a man who first from the shores of Troy a fugitive by fate set out for etc L~~fvinian shores."~~ I was able to take the latin text and do my translations from memory rather than from actually interpreting the words in the text. This required a considerable amount of memory work, ~~and I certainly learned how to memorize poetry in particular, although I recognized it was more difficult to memorize~~ prose.

I find it very discouraging that todays education system appears to put no value on memorizing poetry or anything else. It is more concerned with learning to operate a computer rather than learning to learn to add or subtract. Perhaps I should clarify here the qualifications of the teachers and how the school system functioned in those days.

My recollection is that there was not a teaching degree at University, there was Normal schools that a teacher went to to take her basic training and then she went out into the system. There was no union to protect her as far as her employment was concerned and she had to produce or lose her job. The criteria for her qualifications to

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Teachers
& dead days

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continue to teach in a school related directly to the results obtained ~~in the examination, results of the students~~. This meant she had a real interest in maintaining discipline within the classroom and although it was not general practice, on occasion ~~for various offences within the school,~~ children were strapped. I do not think that it did any harm ~~to the childs mental attitude. I think it~~ taught the child that he or she had to conform to the rules and regulations ~~throughout the system.~~ The basic philosophy was that schools were there not only to educate the child in the three r's but were also there to prepare the child for the future world that he would enter upon leaving school. ~~It was a~~ competitive world and there were not any large unions ~~to protect~~ the incompetent. The teaching profession was not unionized and ~~the~~ teachers ~~were not guaranteed life employment once they signed up at a school irrespective of the results obtained from their teaching as far as the students were concerned and irrespective of their own living code within the community.~~

Certainly in those days a teacher who was drunk in the class would last about ~~24~~ hours and there would be no appeals to union leaders. Her tenure would be terminated and she would find it difficult to get a job anywhere else within that school area.

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to protect her as far as her employment was concerned and she had to produce or loose her job. The criteria for her qualifications to continue to teach in a school related directly to the results obtained ~~and~~ in the examination results of the students. This meant she had a real interest in maintaining discpline in the classroom and although it was ~~a~~ not general practice, on occasion for various offences within the school, children were strapped. I do not think that it ~~d~~did any harm to the childs mental attitude. I think it ~~taught~~ teach the child he or she had to conform to the rules and regulations throughout the system. The basic philosophy was that schools were there not only to educate the child in the three r'ss but were also ther to prepare the child for the future world that he would enter upon leaving school.. It was a competitive world and there were not any large unions. The teaching profession was not unionized and the teachers were not guaranteed life employment once they signed up at a school irresppective of the results obtained frome their teaching as far as the students were concerned and irrespective of the in own living code within the community.

Certainly in those days a teacher who was drunk in the class would last about 24 hours and there would be no appeals to union leaders. Her tenure would be terminated and she would find it difficult to get a job anywhere else within the ~~system~~ school area.

School boards ran the school curriculum. It was very practical in that we did not have the ufenistic euphenistic names to describe our studids, for example ie arithmetic was called ~~just that~~ arithmetic. We had grammer, latin and french were mandatory in certain grades in high school and this had nothing to do with the ~~plight~~ rights of the Provo of Quebec. It was just taken for granted that some basic knowledge of french ~~was~~ would be invaluable to the student ~~to~~ in understand ing his own lanquage ~~and~~ and to get along in the world. He was going to enter on leaving school. We did not have Social-studies as such, as Socials in those days consisted ~~then~~ of literature

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compostion, grammer. There was no course on sex which now a days is a very important part of the shool system. We did not have to have instruction in drugs, marijuana was as far as I know was unheard of and. I never recall anyone in Portage that I ever knew or was told about who was on drugs although there was some alcholics in town, but they were not called alcoholics they were called drunks. There were very few and it would be exceptional to see them in public.

Because it was recognized that the main objective of the shhool system was to eductate the child for life in the hurly burly world which existed ouside the cloistered halls of the shhools and therefore recognition was given to the fact that it was a competitive world and therefore competion was not frowned on within the school, as it is today. Children were taught to be competitve and I think generally speaking the poorer students in the classrooms were those who were just were not prepared to devote the time to their studies and were more interested in outside activities. These activities were not organized to the extent that they are today, which distracts from the learning process within the school system. For example we did not have organized soccer; football, that is american football was unknown. Everybody played hockey and everybody skated. There were some teams, in hockey and juniors and Portage developed some experts hockey players but it was not the major goal of the system, nor was there the idea of excelling in sports to the dtriment of excelling in formal education. I think one oe of the major factors was the dedication of the teachers, who were prepared to work not only during the school hours but stay after hours. They often had to stay after hours because students who were consistently late for class or had not done their homework were kept in after school, which is unheard of today. I expect suspect that the major reason why this policy was dropped was that the modern school system the teacher feels that she has a union

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contract and she is to teach as so many hours a day and to hell with the children after that as she is involved in other activities such as operating a motel or a business on the side. We did not have as many holidays as we do today. The idea seems today to give everybody a legal holiday every month of the year to make sure that no one works too many hours in the week and that there is a lot of leisure time. There was a saying that the devil finds work for the idyl hands and perhaps if the students today had greater respect for the teachers they would have a greated respect for the school and would be prepared to devote more time to study rather than running around to discoes every night and driving hot cars. With the amount of leisure time they have as a result of the system, it gives them the opportunity to comply with the devils standard. I think that one of the great tragedies of the system is that the teachers were allowed to uinionize instead of forming a professional society similar to the doctors and the laywers. Unions basically protect the weak and as a result the standard is reduced as well as the incompetence, and the inefficient teacher remains on the staff to the detrement of the shhool and to the annoyace of the professional teachers, of th which there is a great many.

In fairness to modern society it is true that there were not as many distractions as there are today. The hucsters were not selling porno graphic material, the student was not being challenged every day in the newspapers, literature and theatres with incentives to prove his manhood. There were not the social programs that to a large extent were based on the theory once expounded by Trudeau in one of his campaign speeches that every Canadian has the right to decide whether or not he will work. If Mr. Trudeau had completed this statement by saying he also has the right to starve to death then we would have a better appreciation that one of the major problems in our society is the

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Cont....12.

Loss of a desire to work. The standards have been lowered to the extent that with the big unions the mediocre is considered satisfactory.

As I have said, the school system was designed to produce an individual who ~~was~~ giong out into the world, which was then a very competitive world could cope with the situation. Perhaps it is unfair to blame the system today when society as a whole is based on the individual returning as little to society as possible and getting as much out of it as he can.,with minimum ~~of~~ effort.

I think that the turning point in my desire to get an education and ~~to~~ go on to university really originated at the point where I was expelled. I then started to devote 80% of my effort to improving my marks in school and giving up my leisure time which until then had been spent playing hockey and baseball and hunting. I do not think we ever had a tennis court in Portagage until I was well on in high school and then it was built in Island park. ~~As far as I know it is still the only tennis court in Portage~~ town.

We did spend a great deal of time in the summer at Delta where we had a cottage. No 26 In the winter my cousin Gig Porter ~~who~~ lived across from us ~~for years~~ on Broadway and we ~~being fast friends with me~~, often went hiking and snowshooing ~~and ran a snare line on the Island~~ ~~having both an interest in natrue~~. ~~Skiing was not heard of and snowshoes were the order of the day.~~ We used to snowshoe through Island park and we ~~Gigi and I~~ ran a snare line for rabbits. We would skin them ~~and then skin them~~ in our the basement, to mothers horror, and ~~clean them and~~ sell the food to the English folks in town. ~~who thought it was a delicacy~~. I do not recall having rabbit in our home but I do recall selling rabbits to Joe Metcalfe. who ~~Joe Metcalfe~~ was Dads campaign manager for some ~~many~~ years.

end of side 1 of tape 1

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One of the most interesting stories involved Joe, Metcalfe during a ~~and on the~~ campaigns. Dad and Joe had driven out to Poplar Point. ~~In the "tin-town area north of the point"~~ an area populated ~~mostly~~ to a large extent by what we used to call "improved scotch" or half-breeds. They would be called Metis today. Dad and Joe stopped at one of his constiuents farms and had dinner. During the course of the dinner they were enjoying the meat dish and ~~dad thought it was good meat and~~ after they had finished the first helping the eir host said to his wife "maybe Mr. Metclfe would have some more rat". I have no doubt that ~~he did~~ he refuse a second helping but whether he left the table to go outside dad never reported. He always considered this a great joke on Joe Metcalfe.

In the course of ~~getting~~ my education, by the time I ~~got into~~ entered grade ll ~~and~~ had made up my mind that I wanted to go to university and graduate as a chemical engineer. I had become ~~very~~ interested in ~~science. Particularly~~ Chemistry because we had a very good chemical lab in the old high school and our teacher ~~was a~~ Mr. Greig who took a great interest in his students, he was an excellent teacher who really made chemistry interesting to those students who had a bent for the ~~liked~~ the subject. ~~I found that~~ I was ~~definately~~ interested ~~in science and chemistry~~ and began to think about becoming a chemical engineer. I remember on one occasion that we were ~~always~~ being pestered by one of the other students, who was interfering with our experiments. ~~and~~ We would set up ~~our experiments in the late afternoon probably. The~~ the apparatus ~~would be there for us in the morning~~ and this student had the happy knack of annoying us by taking it ~~our equipement~~ aprt so that we would have to start over again the next day. When we got to the point when we were learning how to make gun powder ~~with sulphur I can recall that~~ we mixed up a mortar of the necessary ingredients and ~~we had a little~~ pestle ~~pedestal that you were supposed to~~ stir it gently ~~stir it with~~. ~~My collegue, since we worked mosly in pairs decided that we would get back at him.~~ We suggested that he might help us by stirring the mixture

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Univ. Tape

Univ. ?

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He was an aggressive fellow so he proceeded to stir the mixture with great gusto and it exploded with the sulphur burning his hands-not too seriously ~~but as we never had a one handed student after that. He left us alone in the future.~~

We also engaged in the normal pranks of boys-making hydrogen-sulphide which has the same odour as rotten eggs-We found on one occasion that by inserting some of the gaseous liquid into the air system we could manage to distribute an horrible smell through a couple of rooms in the school, ~~much to the annoyance of the teachers and the delight o f the students who would be immediately evacuated and had a short respite from the classroom.~~

From 1927-1928 I was taking first year arts at the Portage collegiate and in 28 and 29 I went down to Winnepeg originally withthe idea of taking pre-engineering and going on to become a chemical engineer. At the time of registration I was advised that no such courses were available in chemistry at the university and that I would have had to go to Mcgill to ~~receive~~ my education. I realized that it was unlikely that I would be able to go for financial reasons. Dad was in federal politics and was receiving very little renumeration as a private membler and ~~was getting~~ home ~~on~~ ~~infrequent occasions~~ to keep his law practice together, ~~partly due to the long train trip to and from Ottawa~~. After a ~~long~~ discussion with Dad it was agreed that I would take second year arts in Winnepeg with the objective of going onto law school. Dad had never encouraged ~~any o f us~~ to go into law but Wallace was already in Winnepeg in his first or second year law at this time, ~~and he did in fact complete all of his law in Winnepeg.~~

From 1930 Dad retired from Federal politics, having become thoroughly disgusted ~~with the position of being~~ a back bencher where he was more or ~~le~~

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School - law etc

Articled to Dad.

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cont...15..

told by the party whip when ~~he could speak and when he could not speak and~~ he saw no point in continueing in public life and preferred to get back to ~~the~~ our small town and rebuild his law practice. ~~which Gus Porter, his partners was not able to hold on his own.~~ At that time (the fall of 1929) I ~~had arranged to become~~ became articled in dads office and start~~ed~~ my first year law. ~~while living at home.~~ The law curriculum ~~required~~ at that time required that you ~~had~~ have a minimum of two years arts, four years law and one year articl~~ing~~ed for a total of ~~five~~ seven years ~~law~~ or you took your b.a. degree 4 years and ~~four years art and then~~ four years law for a total of eight years. ~~and you could practice law in the eighth year. What you gained then was a year but it did not seem to me then that the B.A. degree was worth spending the money on as it required me to spend three years in Winnepeg at the University.~~

In my first year law in dads law office I was ~~being~~ paid the ~~large~~ sum of twenty dollars a month for which I was the joe-boy or errand boy of the office. I was the janitor, care-taker and during the winter the fireman for the block. It was an office building that contained two suites upstairs. Gus Porter and his wife lived in the fromt suite and Blanche Willis and her parents who ran the local movie house lived in the back suite. On the main floor there was the law office and Dr. Clarks office and in the basement I think there was an insurance office and the heating system.

Prior to getting into law I had been skating and playing ~~played~~ some hocky ~~on the~~ ~~as I was growing up~~ Every corner lots had a small hockey rink ~~in the winter which as I grew, up after~~ and we cleared the snow off and the fire department sprinkled it ~~their lot~~ with water.

I ~~can remember that~~ the towns people finally got together and built a skating rink at the back of the old methodist church. They did not have the money to finish the roof and in those days we were getting very heavy snowfalls in Portage and this ~~did~~ created major problems. so They put a canvas roof on the bldg. and this had the happy knack of coming down ~~in~~ during a heavy snow-fall.

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Portage rink & passes

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7 Eventually a propr roof was installed. Dad was a director of the skating rink and the directors and their families were given season passes ~~tickets to the rink~~ but Dad did not believe in this so we did not get seasons tickets. ~~so that. If we did have them we had to buy them.~~ There was another way to get your skating free and that was buy cleaning the ice between the bands at hockey periods. ~~ie;~~ they had a live band at one end of the ~~ice~~ rink and I could sit in the law office on saskatchewan avenue and hear the band play, ~~and knowing the time as~~ that it would reach half time. There were 12 bands so that It would be ~~in the~~ at the end of the sixth ~~period the band would stop and all the cleaners would all come out to~~ band that we could clean the ice. I would close up my law books and go over to the rink and put on my skates and clean the ice. ~~there-~~ that by ~~giving~~ gave me the right to skate free and I would skate the last six bands. ~~As I remember it~~ I never consised that I was hard done by as it was fun

I ~~think that~~ during ~~1931~~ - the fall of 1930 to the spring of 1931 I took second year law in dads office and never saw the winnepeg law school ~~in either the first or the second year~~ nor ever met a professor but I wrote my exams in the portage collegiate school under the supervision of good old weary willie Macdonald. ~~Sitting at~~ desks that by this time had grown a little cramped for my size. For many years I did not ~~appear to~~ grow very much, ~~I think that~~ and after I had pneumonia ~~quite seriously~~ I stayed comparitively small. ~~and~~ As a youngster I had blond hair and ~~old~~ Alfred Bab, ~~dads old crony~~ who ran the hardware store used to call me "the swede." ~~At the~~ Alfred Bab ~~was the hardware merchant having been~~ and dad were great pals ~~with dad for most of their lives. They~~ always hunted together at the Portage club ~~and alfred~~ Bab had a very good sense of humour and ran a very successfull store. ~~and~~ I found him an very likeable ~~although~~ elderly man and used to ~~often~~ go into his store to poke about, in the usual paraphenalia that one found in hardware stores. ~~in those days~~

I can remember on one occasion Maude Holme, the sheriffs daughter, was being married in our church, ~~which~~ was the methodist church, as the

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Sheriff Holmes & Urddy
Demand A cop

The depression

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cont~~15~~...

united church had not been formed with the presbyterians. Mother nad Dad were going to the wedding a ~~large white affair which~~ In our small town ~~dad and our family~~ with ~~him~~ being the city solicitor and inn politics ~~etc~~ we were I suppose in the top social swim although I was never very socialable in that sense and never expected to go to a white wedding when I was 12 or 13 years of age. I was walking along saskatchewan avenue when alfred bab called me into the hardware store and ~~skaed~~ me how I would like to go to the wedding of Maudes. I had never been to a wedding and he said that he thought I should go and it would be a good idea if I were to wear one of his "Diamond A" paint caps. You can imagine the embarrasemnt of my ~~parents~~ when they saw their young sun wearing a paint cap coming down the isle and ~~sat~~ in the front row ~~of the church~~ where the pews had been reserved for the families of the bride and groom. I do not know what happened but I would assume that I was ushered out of that seat and probably left the church. Alfred Bab know doubt got a great kick out of it but I know that mother was terribly embarrassed.

We are now into the beginning of the ~~famous~~ depression years. Dad fortunately was out of federal politics. The law firm was doing alright but I know that the most money he had ever made out of the practice was seven thousand dollars in one year. In the 30's barter became a way of paying bills and I ~~can~~ remember that Hutchinson had a book store and I used to get my pencils and papers and pads ~~from the store which in turn~~ were creditied ~~with~~ his account ~~in the firm for~~ services.

Farmers paid their acounts ~~by bartering~~ eggs, butter and ~~money~~ was in short supply. In ~~the~~ 1932 John Bracken who was then leading the progressive government and the premier of the provinge was worrying about defeat ~~with~~ the rise of the ccf. ~~The conservatives had never had a chance in provincial politics after the Roblin scandal in 1915-16~~

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Glenn McPherson Fonds

Depression years

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and had never been in power since then, and in fact never did come to power until well on in the 1950's when Duff Roblin the grandson of the former premier finally formed a conservative government. In any event Bracken was anxious to put together a coalition of the Liberals and the progressives being a man who would do anything to stay in power and was prepared to change the name of the party to Liberal-Progressive. party.

I can well recall that Ralph Maybank-a laywer in town and who headed up a move to form a coalition telephoned dad and stated he was driving to portage from Winnepeg and had an accident because of heavy rain in the area, and got another car to come up and see dad. As a result of this discussion it was agreed that dad would return to politics and the Liberal party had agreed that if he returned to politics they would form a coalition government with Brackens. Dad was asked to become the premier of the Liberals, but refused as not being interested in that but he was indeed interested in the developing economic situation of the depression and was worried about the finances of the province. He made it a condition that he would run in Rupertsland and if elected would become the provincial treasurer and would have complete say as to the financial policies of the government, and would not be over ruled by the Bracken cabinet. If he was he would resign and take the liberal party out of the coalition. Bracken agreed to these terms as he had no choice being terrified of the advances made by the ccf party. It is interesting to note that dad was provincial treasures from 1932-1936 during the worst possible financial period.

I would like to digress here from my table to speak of the situation politically, and economically as it existed at that time.

In alberta the Social crediti party under the leadership of william Averhard a preacher, having adopted as its policy the funny money policies

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extolled by the ~~Aussie~~ Australian Mr. Douglas which was called social credit. I ~~w~~always had the felling that the social credit party was anti-social and did not believe in credit. Mr Aberhart was determinted to govern irrespective of the ~~constitution~~ BNA act in so far as monetary matters were concerned. He at one point defaulted on alberta bonds. They fell in the market to zero as no-body would buy them and he then decided to try to raise money by printing his own script.. This script was a piece of paper ~~that~~ and when you made a purchase (to my recollection that) you received the equivilent of an excise stamp which you then put on the back of the piece of paper (or the script money.) ~~and~~ When you had all the squares full of the stamps you could then take the ~~stamps~~ script to the provincial government and redeem ~~the script money~~ (the value of the stamps.) ~~In this way he was raising taxes and I am not sure wheat percentage was returned to the holder of the script.~~ The case was taken to the supreme court on a constitutional issue and this method of financing the province of Alta was declared to be unconstitutional.

The three praire provinces were all in deep financial troulbe and ~~I recall that~~ dad went to alberta to meet ~~with~~ Mr. Aberhart and ~~tried~~ to understand what his financial philosophy was. ~~Dad~~ He returned to winnepeg and I can remember ~~his~~ him saying that if he had any money he would buy ~~any~~ alberta bonds at the rock bottom price as he was convinced that alberta would eventually be a very wealthy province and that the bonds would be worth a lot of money. How right he was, but he had no money and like ~~li ke~~ so many of us who have the opportunity to make a substantial capital gain we never seem to ~~have~~ the money at the right tiem, or at least we are not prepared to borrow the money in order to take the gamble. I think one of the things that the praire people learned at ~~the~~ that time was that gambling ~~could~~ should be left to the farmers who planted their crops, did ~~not~~ not know whether they would ever harvest them due to the hail, rust etc. and If they did harvest ~~they~~ them did not know ~~if~~ whether they would be sold. They were the real gamblers, but it made everyone ~~pretty~~ many conservative and to

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1 year Shadbrook
1929
defeated 1930 by Bill Burns

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[1982]

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cont.

this day praire people are inclined to be more conservative in ~~my opinion~~ in financial matters than other residents of canada that I know of.

The province of Manitba was in serious financial trouble and I can rmemeber dad used to spend all of his time in Winnepeg..We did not move to Winnepeg until 1933 whereas he had been elected in 1932. When we did move to the city there were many occasions that he did not come home at night ~~rather~~ sleeping on the chesterfield in his office. At this time he was suffering from ulcers and the constatn worry of whether the provinc would survive or not must have had a great effect on his health. ~~worried him and had a detrimentalk effect on his health~~.This is apparent from correspondence he had with R.B. Bennett who was then the prime-minister. of Canada.

In 1932 after Mackenzie-King had been ruling the country in accordance with the liberal philosophy-that the liberals are the only ones that have a god given right to rule-he called an election just at the beginning of the depression. ~~and~~ On the friday night before the ~~election~~ vote on Monday he made a very famous speech in Hamilton in which he said,"And not a five cent piece for the unemployed." Today this sounds strange, ~~him being the prime-minister~~ he representing the Federal Govt but in those days ~~the policy was that~~ unemployement was considered a provincial problem and ~~not a federal one and~~ The federal government was not prepared to help the provinces finance their unemployement relief. We did not call it social assistance or any other euphamistic name in those days. It was simply called releif or the dole and there was no such thing as unemployment insurance so ~~that~~ the money had to be ~~was~~ generated out of taxes. It must have been in the 1932 election that I recall a meeting at the Walker thearte in winnepeg. ~~I do not know how I happened to be in the audience~~ and Dad was on the stage with John Bracken and ~~presumably~~ the local candidates. ~~of the constituency~~. The unemployed were there in strentgh ~~at~~ holding down the front rows and I can remeber that Penner ~~Penher~~ who at one time as a result of the winnepeg strike and the riots had spent some time in jail. ~~sa~~ and as had The mayor, Mortimer ~~that is the man who~~ later ~~became major~~, ~~they~~ were holding up blankets with holes in

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screaming at Bracken demanding to know what he ~~the government~~ was gioing to do about the unemployment situation. The cat calls and the booing ~~hollering~~ forced bracken to back away from the stage and be refused ~~refusing~~ to speak. There were no ~~IN those days before~~ microphones, in those days and politicians had to get out in the front of the stage by the foot lights to ~~and~~ make themselves heard. I rememb er that dad came out to the front of the stage and the yelling went on for some time. Every time the audience would calm down, because eventually you get tired of yelling ~~having eventually they would get tired of yellin.~~ dad would raise his arms and yell back at the audience and say ~~and say~~ "well you can do better than that cant you" and away they would go. ~~again.~~

After several instances like ~~of~~ this with dad standing at the front of the stage they ~~did~~ finally get tired of ~~yelling and he said~~ and started his speech. He said alright he would ~~like to~~ suggest to the audience ~~them~~ that they all go home from this meeting and write letters to all their friends in his consituency and tell them to ~~and~~ vote against him because ~~as~~ he would like to go home ~~bakc~~ and practice law ~~in pottage and~~ If they elected him he just ~~as~~ wanted the audience ~~them~~ to know that he would tax the people in order to pay for the unemployment and to buy them better blankets. It is interesting also to note ~~know~~ that when the government was elected dad introduced for the first time in cnanadian politicl history a direct tax on wages ~~earners~~ which became known as the 2% wage tax, this ~~which~~ was collected by manitoba and used for the unemployment relief programs. Dad was elected with his biggest majority.

In 1932 ~~after Mackenzie-King had been running the country~~ an election was called and the conservatives led by R.B. Bennett ~~was the leader of the conservative party~~ formed the new government. He had been a successfull lawyer in Calgary ~~and he ran against King~~. King made a ~~his~~ speech in Hamilton on ~~of~~ the friday night, the election being held on the monday, and in that speech he made the statement that he wouldnt give a five cent piece ~~spoke of giving no money~~ to the unemployed. Today ~~Today~~ th ~~this would~~ be ~~a~~ an astounding ~~thing~~ for a federal politician to say ~~but in th~~ but in those days the Fed Govt denied any responsible whatsoever for the unemployed and would not financially support the Provinces in providing relief.

As a result of this speech the liberal government was defeated and I have always been convinced that King deliberatly made what appeared to be a slip, certainly a political mistake at the time, but it allowed Bennett to take over with the conservative government in a period that turned out to be a disast

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disaster for the conservatives. Like the conscrition issue in the fisrst world war, the depression period under the conservatives and leader Bennett also helped to destroy that period of time and give the power back to the liberals in the next election, which King won. There were long relief lines in every city in the west and the unemployed becoming discouraged started to move on their famous march towards Ottawa. There had been riots at the post office in Vancouver and as the freight trains moved east the unemployed climbed on the box cars and their numbers grew until they reached Regina. At that point Bennett had issued orders that the R.C.M..P. were to stop the marchers in Regina which they were and with disastrous results. There was really nothing the governement could do with the financial straits it was in.

It has been a terrible mistake in forcing Clarks governemnt to have an election in Bebuary this year, as it looks as if the liberals will be returned to power and they will be forced to tidy up the financial mess this country is in. As perhaps as one of the few liberals left as middle of the road politically, our party having gone wide to the left under the leadership of both Pearson and Trudeau it seems to me that this would have been a good time to have stayed out of power rather thatn trying to straighten up the mess that now faces this country.

In any event after Dad became provincial treasurer he started to correspond with Bennett which I find politicalyy very surprising, as he was the provincial treasurer and communication between the two governments at least at that level should have been between Bracken and Bennett. Dad told me that Bennett refused to have anything to do with Mr. Bracken because at some conference Bracken had given certain committments to Bennett and had not lived up to them, and Bennett did not trust Bracken. I have some letters between him and Dad clearly indcating that Dad recognized that he should not be dealing directly with

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with the Prime Minister but it seemed to be the only way to get any help ~~out of~~ from Ottawa. I think that as a result of Dads correspondence with Bennett the policy of the federal government changed and MR Bennett recognized that the federal government had some responsibility to share the cost of the financial burden of the unemployed. Also in this correspondence Dad refers to his ill health and at one point ~~he~~ mentions that he is taking a rest on Doctors orders but Bennett writes back andcongratulates him on the excellent job he is doing and hopes that he will be able to return to his office as soon as possible in view of the financial crisis facing both the federal and provincial governments.

Alan Williams who was then head of Wood Gundy in Winnepeg told me many years later that the reason the province of Manitoba did not go into bank ruptcy was because of the efforts of my father. He contended that the two percent wage tax which was a new innovation in financing the province was one of the major factors in saving the credibility of the province ~~but that~~ The province was in a position that it was difficult to borrow money to pay off the bonds that were coming due and it was necessary to turn the bonds over to the financial houses in Toronto. ~~It~~ Toronto was the financial centre and I do not think that provinces were able to raise money out side of Canada. ~~and so~~ Williamson told me that he had arranged for Dad to go to Toronto to speak to the heads of all the banking and financial fraternity at a luncheon. ~~It~~ This was a closed door meeting and he said that Dad made a speech to the bankers in which he pointed out to them that they did not have any choice, ~~that~~ they either agreed to loan him some millions of dollars to meet the financial committments and to redeem the bonds and accept new bonds from the province or the province would go bankrupt. He said that he was not there to ~~make~~ make ~~a speech to~~ the promise that the province would survive financially or to ~~and giving them any~~ guarantees, but that they would get their money back. He said ~~could assume~~ he would do his best to save the financial intergrity of the province but ~~that~~ if they ~~did~~ turned him down he would go back and suggest to the govern-

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ment that they default on their bonds as Alberta was doing and see what happened. As a result of this ~~frank~~ speech ~~by~~ Dad, Williamson said that they bankers ~~did~~ decided to support the province ~~with~~ Dad remaining as provincial treasurer . ~~As a result, as~~ history records, the province of Man. did not ~~go bankrupt by default of any of its bonds~~ default on any of its bonds and did refinance and survive. The province of Alberta eventually redeemed ~~the~~ all of their bonds that it had defaulted on and ~~ba~~ paid up the back interest and today is of course a major financial centre ~~of~~ in Canada at this time. Unfortuanately Dad did not buy any of the Alberta bonds that were in default.

~~At this point at my carreer~~ I had completed my second year law and was now faced with the question as to whether I could go to Winnepeg to take the third and fourth year. ~~Perhaps it was because of Dad going back into politics and this resulted~~ at this time in mind to ~~ing in his moving and mother, peggy and myself went to Winnepeg where Wallace was then living and~~ we ~~obtained~~ lived in the upstairs ~~suite of flour~~ of a ~~, the third floor in~~ Norman Mcleods house on Stradbrooke Terrace. An interesting note here is that Norman Mcleod was ~~married to a Bamfield but Normans~~ father was Colonel Mcleod who was one of the first commissioners of the R.C.M.P.. or N.W.M.P and ~~it was~~ he ~~who~~ founded Fort Mcleod in Alberta. This enabled me to continue in law and attend the Manitoba Law school in my third year.

During the summer ~~periods first of all years before when I was going to school~~ we used to go to Delta ~~for summer holidays~~ and it seems to me as I grew older I always had a job ~~in~~ at Delta either delivering the papers or taking orders house to house for the store keeper, whose name I think was — and then for Macdonalds. The two Macdonalds brothers ran the store and dance hall which they had bought from the Hutchinsons. I used to go up and down the east and west beaches, there was no road at the back as there ~~is~~ are today and I would call on a house wife in the morning with an order pad and take the order for groceries and then go back to the store ~~and get the goods and then go back~~ . I received a ~~total~~ commission based a percentage on ~~the~~ sale of the ~~the~~ total sale of the grocery ordered. They groceries were ~~then~~ then delivered with a horse

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and wagon along the beach. I think ~~that~~ by the time I was ~~older~~ ~~and~~ in first and second year law I did not work in the office all during the summer which I should ha ve been doing under ~~the~~ my articles of agreement ~~but~~ with the law society, but ~~I felt that~~ I had to get out and earn some money as twenty dollars a month was not going very far to pay for my clothes. I got my board and room free but on twenty dollars I bought all my own clothes and paid my law fees, which were minimal in those days ~~and also was escorting June Rowe around at very little expense.~~ Certainly in the winter I skated ~~with her~~ for nothing by clearing the ice. In those days money was not important in taking a girl out and there were very few places to go. You never went to restaurants, and if you went to a movie house I think it was ten or fifteen cents to see a movie, silent of course.

I also remeber that I used to get into Willis" movie house by cleaning up after the show-sweeping ~~up~~ aisles and picking up the paper.

~~Sometime during these summers~~ I got a job on one occasion working for the provincial governments survey and I think that this must of been the other ~~first year that~~ Dad was in ~~federal~~ provincial politics, ~~1932~~, as I remember he was the provincial tresureer and J.S.Mcdermitt was the minister of mines. ~~He~~ Mcdermitt controlled the survey work and I worked on the one man river ~~out~~ east of Point de Bois on the winnipeg river. We travelled by anoes all summer and lived in tents and to some extent lived off the land ~~in the sense of~~ catching sturgeon in the river and ~~I think that there was the odd~~ some deer were shot to add to the menu, ~~perhaps illegally.~~ [~~Two episodes that may be of interest in this type of workk is that~~ we had the job of drilling to find where the rock was for the eventual foundations of ~~the~~ a dam on the Winnepeg River at Boundary Falls. ~~and surveying out~~ We also surveyed the contours of the lake ~~bottom~~ that would be formed. We had ~~postal~~ post hole augers ~~as it were~~, which we kept turning by hand and adding ~~rocks~~ rods to as we drilled down to to try and find rock. When the boss would be away it was a custom on occasion when we got ~~deep enough and~~ tired the weather was hot and the black flies were terrible to pick up a fair size rock and drop it down the

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1926 Don left home for Toronto right after election
28 Don returned to U.S.A. & work = Oatons
29 Don married

end of side 2 of tape 1 X

and Tape 2 side 1 starts here

of McKenzie, Campbell and Driscall who were located above the C.P..R.

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bottom of the hole, ~~and~~ when the inspector ~~would~~ came along he would turn the auger and find that we had hit rock. I do not know if they ever built a dam on the site but I assume ~~if they did that~~ they did a little more expert drilling ~~to find out how deep the foundations were~~.

~~L.~~ Mcdermott had a son, Malcolm who later endedd up running a florist shop in Winnepeg . He was one of the laziest people I have ever worked with, he seemed to have a horror of work and was a bit of ~~the~~ practical joker. He was ~~a~~ rod man on ~~the survey~~ gang which was the easiest job ~~in the gang~~ and I was an axe man. We were the fellows that went along and cut the line so that the instrument man could look on a straight ~~level~~ and the rod man perhaps a few hundred yards away. The idea was to cut the line as straight as possible so that the instrument would not have to be moved ~~as~~ little as possible. The rod man was supposed to take care that when he set up his rod and we were cutting a line ahead of him that he put the rod in a position ~~an~~ that a straight line would be apparent to the man on the instrument. Malcolm would annoy us by deliberately putting his rod up so that there would be a tree that would have to be cut down. We became incensed at Malcoms habit ~~of placing the rods so that~~ we had to come back down the line we were cutting and cut ~~a~~ tree ~~down~~. We found ~~as we went along~~ a tree that had a bee hive in it and we rigged a branch in ~~the~~ hole ~~very carefully~~ so that when he came along, being a clumsy kind of fellow ~~and~~ used ~~to use~~ his rod to bang the branches out of thway. ~~He used the rod~~ hit the branch, the trap was sprung and the ~~hornets~~ came out of the tree ~~and~~ the last we saw of him was screaming down the trail where he ended up diving off the rocks into the water ~~to get away from the stings~~ After that we had no problems ~~at all in so far as~~ cutting line ~~was concerned~~.

When ~~the family~~ moved to Winnepeg in 1932 ~~this meant that I could go to law school and live at home and~~ I became articled in the firm of Mckenzie, Campbell and Driscall who were located above the C.P..R.

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What year did I go on cattle boat

1933

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ticket office on the south west corner of Portage and Main. The building has since been torn down. What happened to the partners I worked for I do not know except Mckenzie would be dead by now, and Campbell became a judge.

I think at this time Don had already gone to Toronto and taking an engraving course and working in Eatons and married to Audrey. Wallace was in the Maybank law firm and living at home. Peggy had been in Winnepeg taking a business course and had worked for some time in the firm. She was going with John Owens at this time, in fact John was the only fellow she had ever gone with as I can recall.

During the years I had a great interest in History. I had always wanted to go to England and see the tower of london, the beefeaters, madame toussades wax works, and the old bailey. None of the rest of the family had any real travel urge. I had not really been anywhere except on the survey gangs and working harvest on farms, but for some reason I had the urge to see the ocean, and Quebec especially the old Quebec bridge. I recall talking to Dad and telling him that I wanted to go to Englad. He said that it was impossible and that it could not be financed . I said that I had thirty-five dollars of my own, thinking that I could get there if he would help me to get to Montreal on a cattle train. I had talked to my friends in Portage and tried to get someone to go on this jaunt with me, but everyone thought it was a crazy idea that there was no way it could be down on a minimum of money, and so no one would go. I did not give and I decided to go alone. In retrospect this was wrong, AI think I would have got a lot more out of it had I gone with somebody who had come from more or less the same environment and was interested in the same things, I was. In any event Dad did arrange through his friends in the Harris arbitor to get me onto a freight train to Montreal. I was delivered by him as I recall to the stock yards in St. Boniface one day and was told they were going to ship cattle on the train and if I wou

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Here I say will write story of cattle train later.

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would help ~~them~~ load the cattle I could ride the train~~down~~ to Montreal. In Montreal I ~~would have to go and~~ went see the ~~Stonehouses~~ shipps and sign~~ed~~ on as a cattleman for the voyage to England. The trip to England is a story in itself and I will enlarge on it in an other chapter. ~~Suffice to say~~ I ~~did go to England~~ sailed on the Manchester Brigade with 750 head of cattle and came back on the Manchester Citizen as an able bodied seaman. I ~~did~~ saw ~~see~~ Madame Tousaades, the Tower of London, the Abbey and all the sites I had dreamt of. I ~~didi noit~~ did not see the Quebec bridge except from about three decks down as we were tying up cattle when someone ~~said~~ yelled, "look over head, there goes the Quebecbridge."

I came back to Winnepeg Portage? Uncle Ian having bought me a coach ticket from Montreal in accordance with instructions from dad, who had ~~called~~ written him and said if I ~~ever~~ showed up ~~again to~~ buy me a coach seat and send me home. I arrived back in late summer of 1933 and entered third yar law in the winter in the manitoba law school. and articled in the Mckenzie law firm.

The major event that changed my life and ~~certainly changed~~ subsequently my views about ~~on~~ life occurred as a result as my articling to the firm of Mackenzie Campbell & Driscoll and its location over the C.P.R. ticket office at Portage & Main. Downstairs on the main florr, Peggy ~~Mcquary~~ MacQuarrie worked in the office~~, her father worked in the yards at portgage~~ and she would ~~stand and~~ catch the bus at the corner of Portage and Main. I think that this is how I met her and we started going together. My diaries indicate that the day that I met her was September 11 1933. She was living in ~~either~~ St. Nor~~bid~~ kit ~~or St. Boniface~~ I am not too sure exactly where the house was but they lived there. Her father George, her mother and her brother George and they had another another man. Mr. who later became the mayor of St. Boniface living with them. I think he owned the house, and was resonably well off in terms of those days. Subsequently after he died they moved out of the house and moved intothe city and lived in an apartment back of the Wesley college.

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During this period and going to law school I met Aus Ozzie Sorflaten who was a very active young liberal, in the liberal organization and he was the president, I became the secretary of it and we would do a great deal of travelling around the province, even as far north as Dauphin organizing the young liberals. I became involved as well in the politics of the law school. E.H. Coleman was then the dean of the school and that was very fortunate connections for me as later events proved.

I had had an interest in flying since a man, Speed Cole, flew into Portage and lnaded in an open cockpit aircraft. He would take passengers up for a very nominal amount and he sat in the cockpit and I went for a ride as did Wallace. I became enthused about some day becoming a pilot. I went on into law school after taking to dad about taking flying and becoming a bush pilot which was a romantic thing to do in those days. Dad talked me into going to school, I think about the time I was starting into first year law in his office, because he felt that if I got a legal education and still wanted to go flying after that I could, but that the legal education would be invaluable in the future. I agreed but in the period between 1933 or 1934 when I was in Winnepeg I started to scrimp and save my money to take private lessons at the Winnepeg flying club which was on the bald praire at what is now Steveston airport. It was mor or less a great cow pasture. Several of my friends were taking flying there and I knew several of the instrutors. I think I got my license or was getting my license in 1935 or 36 . At his time, 1935 I graduated in law and had a year articling to do in the Mckenzie firm. I guess the fifthe year was from 1934 to 1935 and sometime in 1935 I was called to the bar.

In 1936 Dad retired agin from politics but the law firm in Portgage was in a disastrous state. Porter who was inclined to over indulge, was drunk most of the time. He and Charly Deal were administering the affirs of the office and I think there was some hanky-panky going on because

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Glenn McPherson Ford

refer to Pechersgill story

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in Dads estate when we were settling it up we found that he had had to pay off a large amount o f money in those days that Porter had taken out of state funds, and to avoid any scandal, Dad had made arrangements that he would pay off the debt, and that was the end of the portage law firm. With Dad out of politcs he then became the controller of the city of Brandon which was in receivership, and I do not think ever went back to practicin g law in Portage. In September 6, 1936 I gave Peggy a diamond ring and now that I was a full fledged lawyer we were getting a salary and making plans to be married.. Ozzie at that time ha d become a great friend of mine and we were together a great deal and he was going with an Icelandic girl, Bea Giffleson, who had a sister Thora. and a mother and father whom I never met. In any event it was a close relationship and Peggy and I and Ozzie and Bea used to go around a great deal to political meetings, etc. In 19

In 1937 Dad was appointed Chief Justice of the kings bench, Mckenzie king now being back as Prime Minister made the appointment. An event occurred which again changed my life. I recall that Mr. Mckenzie advised me in the morning that there had been a call from Mr. Harold Atkins the senior partner of the law firm and that he wanted to see me. The Atkins law firm was perhaps the biggest firm in Winnepeg or was certainly comprable to the Pitt,Blato Hoskin law firm. In this law firm there was John Mcauley who was married to my cousin, Physlis Mcpherson, and Gordon Treachler who later bacme a judge and chekf justice Hinch who had been in the land titiles office in portage when I was a student, and may have worked in Dads law firm. Bob Kern, whose father was a judge, and had a sali salboat at Delta, that is another story. Bill Dickson who later went into independent politics and is now a senator. Mr. Loftest was one fo the senior members of the firm, it was called the Atkins, Loftest Williams, Mccauley firm . Loftest had been a school teacher in portage at one time . Williams was an outstanding counsel.

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He ~~later became a judge~~. John Mcauley was a business go getter ~~and he got a lot of the business~~ including Safeway stores for the firm and made a lot of money. In any event as a result of the call, I returned the call to Mr. Atkins and made an appointment to see him. Mr. Mckenzie who did not have too much use for the Atkins law firm in talking to me said that he figured Mr. Atkins would offer me a job, which meant that I would be leaving his firm. I told him that I thought that this was ridiculous,that Mr. Atkins would not offer me a job with all the graduates that they had. He said that he ~~had~~ would offered me a job because my father had been appointed a judge. I well recall going up tosee Mr. Atkins and with the advice of Mr. Mckenzie who was then paying me fifty dollars a month as a graduate lawyer he advising me that when Atkins asked me how much I was earning I was to tell him that I was earning seventy-five dollars a month. He felt sure that Mr. Atkins would call him to confirm this. In any event I arrived at the firm and was suitably impressed with the waiting romm in the sumerset building and sat around on my back side for three quarters to one hour waiting for an interview with the great man. His secretary telling me i would have to wait. Eventually I got fed up and went in to talked to his secretary, she was slightly over emphasized but in any event I told her that I was working for the Mckenzie law firm I had obligations to them and I was leaving and that if Mr. Atkins wanted to see me she could make another appointment and that perhaps Mr. Atkins could see me on time. I thought that it would be the last of my contact with the Atkins law firm and went back to Mckenzies office telling what had happened and he said well he will call back because they are determined to get you in there now that your father is a judge..

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As events happened I did see Mr. Atkins who said that they had an opening for a graduate lawyer and that they figured that htey would pay me fifty dollars a month, I told him I was getting seventy-five dollars a month at Mckenzies office and I would not leave for less. He felt that this was an outrageous amount but in any event he said that they would consider the salary and I told him that I would be interested in coming into the firm. When I got back to Mckenzies office they told me that the office had called and that he confirmed that they were paying me seventy-five dollars a month. As a result I left the Mckenzie law firm and joined the Atkins law firm, as about the twenty fifth man on the totem pole at the large compensation of seventy five dollars a month.

In years later, 1975 or 1976 Mercia and I were in Palm Springs and were well aware that Mcaley ahd a home there and though we had not been in touch with them to any extent I decided to call and see if they were down. They were and we visited them at their home and in the conversation when I emntioned my year in the Atkins law firm he said that he never knew that I was working there.

Workin in the Atkins firm in 1937 ~~I do not recall much about it except that~~ I was doing a lot of dabbling in the library for other lawyers to take cases to ~~the county~~ court. I did recognize that everybody was ~~dabbling case~~ lwa for Mr. Mcauley and preparing briefs for him. When they had a case that was a minor thing in county court that they did not think that they could win ~~and they did not take too many cases to the county court~~ they would assign the case to a junior. One of these cases was the case of Miss. Amy Mertle Betts who was running a little milinery shop over in Fort Garry, ~~in the area that Mcauley lived in.~~ I gather that His wife had been getting hats from Miss Betts or there was some connection because Mi.. Betts got in trouble with the minimum wage

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people ~~who~~ she immedialtey came to the firm. ~~The story may be of interest because~~ Mcauley was not going to handle this ~~little~~ case about the minimum wage law and so it was assigned There ~~and~~ I had an interview with Miss Betts. She had apparently been operating this little shop in hard time and teaching society girls the art of making hats. They had been working in the shop, she had not been paying them and she was selling the hats of ~~and~~ I suppose that ~~some of~~ the compensation to them was that they took some of the hats home themselves. In any event the minimum wage people had laid a charge against her for paying less than the minmim wage under the act. ~~The case was to come to court and~~ By coincidence my good friend Ozzie was the prosecutor. ~~At~~ During this period Mr. Major was the attorney general in the governement with dad and events created a bit of a problem, for the government. I did some research in the library about the minimum wage act and went to court with Miss Betts and instructed her that I would be putting her in the witness box and wanted to aske her one or two questins. Mr. Sorflaten would then cross examine her. When the case started Ozzie knew he had it in the bag, he was going to get a conviction and after his opening remarks I moved that it should be dismissed. The judge asked me on what grounds ~~I was asking~~ and I said that I would like to ask my client a question and then argue the point. Miss. Betts went to the witness box and I asked her whether or not she had ever paid any of her employees anything. She said no she had never paid anyone any money. I then referred to the minimum wage act and pointed out to the judge that the act at that time provided that a person could be charged if he paid less than the minimum wage. Sorflaten was stunned andthe judge dismissed the case. Coming out of the court room I met a reporter ~~from the free press~~ who was intrigued that the case had been dismissedand asked me for an interview. I told him that the legislation would have to

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[1982]

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changed to cover the situation for the employer who did not pay anything. We then talked about provincial legislation and I suggested that there were a lot of statutes that should be changed and reviewed and onen of them was the consolidated statutes of manitoba which I think had been consolidated in 1927, ~~and~~ I pointed out that if you looked up the index it referredto people of unsound minds but if you turned to the chapter referred to you found that it was an act referring to the legislative assembly of Manitoba. Needless to say when the reporter wrote his story, the attorney general spoke to my father about the fact that I had ~~raid~~ revised ~~ed~~ some problems for the government and when I got home my father told me tha t I had embarrassed the governemant especially about my reference to the legislative assembly being a bunch of lunatics. I suggested to da that the legislation should be gone over properly and the least he could expect ~~out of the legislatures~~ that they could prepare ~~and~~ an index properly.

I can recall in those days Dad and I used to have great debates about the law and I of course going to law school was a bit of a radicle and he used to say when we sat down for dinner ~~with my brother Wallace sitting there, would say~~ well comrade what have you learnt today. Dad I think used to deliberatly raise issues that would create arguements at the table, and Wallace and I would go at hammer and tongs. ~~and~~ Dad would eventually pronounce judgement. Mother used to get fed up with the argument going on at the dinner table and I remeber on one occasion when our little mother ~~would get~~ climbed up on her chair at fhe end of the table and in as loud a voice as she could muster above the din would say ,"would some one please pass me the salt."

I937 was a year of disator for me,events occurred that changed my whole life and certainly had a great effect on my philosophical approach to many matters including death..

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~~To go back a little~~ I think that one of the problems young people have is that there is never any real discussion in the home about ~~deth~~ death, or its meaning .~~As~~ Children ~~we were~~ were told when some one dies that they have gone away, and ~~were~~ were not ~~given any~~ explanation as to what had happened and so we are not prepared for the trauma of ~~some ones~~ the death of who was near and dear to us. Several things had happened to me prior to 1937 and had brought death close to me and I refer to the death of Earl Clark, Dr. Clarks son who was quite young at the time, we were very close. He was one of us with Gig Porter and the Gare kids in the east end and suddenly he was gone and I never really knew what had happened to him. I think he had the flu and died in the epidemic as did a lot of other people and I think that it was the first real experience about losing a friend, who as they said went away and would not be back.

The next incident that I can recall was another friend, whose family name was Wilkins or Wilkinson, they lived behind us by the old sharp sand pit. They had afarm and we used to go over and would pitch hay into the hay loft. The twin boys were unloading a load of hay and the one boy was one the rack pitching the hay into the loft and the other was in the loft working the hay to the back. The boy on the rig unfortuantely lost control of the pitch fork and as he threw the hay up the fork went with it and went through his brothers head. He died instantly. That was a tragedy that affected my views about death,.I think that the occasion in which a little boy drowned in Lake Manitoba and I think it was Gig Porter and myself in one canoe and there were others in row boats but we went out and rigged up grappling irons with fish hooks. I remember perhaps that it was unfortuante that boys that were pals grappled on to the body and pulled him to the surface. That had a traumatic effect on me and perhaps to some extent prepared me for the tragedy of August 29, 1937.

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By ~~that time~~ 1931 I certainly was aware of death and knew what it meant but we had not had any deaths in ~~the~~ immediate family. On August 29 Ozzie, Bea, Peggy and myself left Winnipeg in Ozzies car to go ~~down~~ to Grand Forks, North Dakota to pick up ~~Bea's~~ her mother and sister Thora,. On ~~the highway out of Winnepeg~~ our return trip down near Hopple, North Dakota a farmer who had diabetes and ~~had been to see his doctor and had been treated with insulin and~~ was suffering from insulin shock, ~~who~~ had been told by his doctor to stay in the waiting romm and not ~~leave and try to~~ drive his car. He ~~got in his car and~~ left and drove down a ~~country~~ side road and suddenly appeared on the main highway ~~going south~~,. Ozzie was driving ~~our car and I think~~ his at a normal speed for those days, hit the farmer broad side, ~~and~~ we catapulted over ~~him.~~ his car. The farmer was killed instantly. In our car, Bea ~~was~~ in the front ~~with Ozzie and~~ the wind shield ~~either came back and cut her or she went through the window but in any event~~ and was badly cut her ~~face was~~ pretty well ~~destroyed~~, she lost an ear. In the back seat I was sitting ~~between~~ Peggy and Thor and the roof collapsed on us. Out of the ~~roo~~ wreckage Ozzie was walking around and cars ~~were~~ stopped on the ~~highway~~ to help. Peggy was badly injured, Thora was not injured to any extent and I had unkown injuries. We were all taken to the ~~Mina~~ Minot Hospital. It is ~~interesting~~ to note that Ozzie walked into the hospital under his own steam and gave the names and addresses of all ~~and our telephone numbers~~ of us and told them ~~what to do and~~ who to call in the emergency. Ozzie then collapsed, ~~having done all this~~ and died Sept. 1. A post mortem on his brain showed that he had multiple fracturess of the skull and the doctors could not believe that he ever spoke after the accident. Peggy survived until ~~the third of~~ 3rd. September, .Iwas in the hospital with a fractured neck and as I recall a cut on the head and ~~broken~~ somewhat cracked ribs, ~~but outside of that was luky compared to the rest. I remember~~ that Dad drove down from Winnepeg and he made the arrangements to ship us all home. The small hospital did not hade any major xray equip-
ment

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They were worried about the state of my neck so they taped me down on a dorr panel and put my in the baggage car with peggy and Ozzie and ~~we all made the trip together back home.~~ we returned to Winnipeg. 65

~~I think that there are~~ Some of you that ~~made~~ may believe in e.s.p. and I would like to go back a little and tell a story about going over to Peggy McQuaries a few days before the accident. As I walked into the suite I said to Mrs. McQuarie that I wondered who was dead as the suite had the perfume of an undertakers parlor full of flowers. Mrs. McQuarie made a joke of it and said that they did not have any flowers and I thought it was strange. Three or four days later her daughter was dead, and I lost my fiance.

It ~~certainly~~ was a great tragedy for ~~to~~ me and I realized that I would have to start putting my life together again. I think with this loss death has never meant as much to me since. That seemed to me to be the greatest loss that I would ever suffer in my life. It also to some extent, made me into a kind of a loner, if that is the right expression. I wanted to get away from everything that would remind me of Peggy and friends and the group that we had travelled around with, I had lost Ozzie my best friend, and everything remended me of the accident. Then another event occurred that to me was almost a miracle.

I refferred earlier to the fact that when I entered into the school DR E.H.Coleman was the dean ~~of the schoil.~~ Coleman was a very peculiar man, very cold on the outside, a man who never talked very much and who had an impediment in his speech, ~~who~~ He smoked almost constanly, and ~~who~~ had the habit of going around in ~~a~~ private homes and emptying the ashtrayes. I think that this was because he was embarrassed with the number of butts. ~~that he was smoking~~. He was a very interesting and complicated man. He was married to ~~Jean~~ Jean Robson, daughter of Judge Robson ~~whose father was a judge in Dads court~~. Coleman having ~~read or~~ heard of the accident, called Dad and asked whether or not he thought that I would be interested in going to Ottawa for a couple of months to do a special job for the secretary of state.

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The history of Portage politics goes into side 2 of 2 & some stories of Portage to the end of tape

Tape 3 continues story of Portage

side 2 of No 2 goes on with Portage politics to the end of tape

Dads view in from Pag 18-19 of Jans story

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~~Theh job was to last about six months.~~ Dad thought it was a good idea, I could get leave from the Atkins firm, ~~to go down and do the~~ job and I ~~certainly~~ jumped at the chance to leave Winnipeg. On October, 6, 1937 I had arrived in Ottawa and the Honourable Mr. Renfret ~~the~~ Secretarty of State ~~(in I think a conservative governemtnt)~~ appointed me counsel to the Custodian of Enemy Property (1934-18 war) The ~~appointment~~ Coleman offer to me was a strange one becase I thought that coleman who I thought never had any politics, and if he did he was conservative, was taking chances to an identifiable liberal whose father was well lknown in liberal cirlcles. I wass appointed counsel to the custodian of enemy property at the salary of two hundred dollars a month.. Which to me was a gold mine. I cut off all my contacts in Winnepeg and decided to make a knew life in Ottawa even just for six months. S

And so ends the first period of my life.

At this poin t I would like to go back and pick up a few stories of the ~~protage~~ Portage scene and of the depression as I saw it while living in Manitoba. ~~Thepoloitcal-g-~~

The ~~oplitical~~ political history of portage has been a most interesting one and I found among my fathers papers some notes of a speech that he ~~must have made at sometime~~ refers to ~~this history~~ his notes where ~~he dealt with the matter and~~ I think ~~would be of interest. I will read from the two page document that~~ he ~~wrote and I will comment further on the political historyl~~

" The political hisoty of the city of Portgage La Praire as

666 on tape X'

cant find rest of this as typed on 2nd tape this I find starts on Page 18 bef my diary in 2 in part at front of book

start of 2nd side of Tape 2 doesn't appear to have been typed

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Tape 5 67

over the whole of Europe. Hitler was now in Austria, had taken back the Franch Alsace-Lorraine area and had occupied the Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia, which he was claiming was a part of Germany. Chamberlain was following his appeasement policy. There was very little evidence of any war preparation in England. Most of the people you talked to were convinced that Hitler now had all he wanted, and there wasn't going to be a war in Europe. When you got to Amsterdam, you suddenly realized that everybody wasn't in agreement and the Dutch were preparing for war. They were erecting anti-tank barriers and barbed wire along their canals and their bridges over the rivers and canals in the Netherlands. The airports were surrounded with barbed wire and everywhere you went, people were talking about war.

We completed our work on the Exchange, I think by May or June, but just at the time that Chamberlain was going off to Munich to meet with Hitler. As a result of our efforts the Dutch Bourse agreed to reopen the Exchange to the trading of Canadian securities, including Canadian Government Bonds. We had therefore accomplished our mission and the Directors of the Bourse put on a very large dinner for Mr. Matthew and myself and presented us with Delphi plates, and I still have mine hanging on the wall in our dining room. At this dinner Mr. [illegible] made a little speech as the Secretary of the Bourse, and during this speech he said there was the danger of another war, and if there was a war, the Netherlands might be occupied, and their Financial Institutions seized by the Germans. He wanted to know what the Canadian Government would do in that event, and more particularly would they follow the policy of the First World War of seizing assets in Canada that were held through the Netherlands Banks. I was asked to reply,

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and I said that as far as I was concerned I had devoted a year to a study of the Treaty of Versailles and the work of the Custodians office following that Treaty, and that I assumed that if the Netherlands were occupied, we in Canada would have better regulations and better controls than we had in the previous war, and that we would certainly seize, in Canada, not only German assets, but I would recommend that we would seize the assets of all of the people living in occupied territories and all of the financial institutions and corporations that had assets in Canada. I pointed out that this would be a protective measure to protect these assets and hold them for the real owners after the war so the Germans could not force the owners to transfer their Canadian assets to German interests during the occupation. On this note, Mr. Matthew and I returned to London and my recollection is that Matthew went to Paris and then he went home by boat from Cherbourg. I went over to London and was actually in London standing in front of Buckingham Palace the night that Chamberlain returned from Munich having made the infamous Munich ogreement with Hitler, which allowed Hitler to occupy the whole of Czechoslovakia. I stood with the crowd in the rain and King George VI, the Queen, together with Mr. Chamberlain appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace and Chamberlain waved the piece of paper in the air for the crowd who were screaming and yelling, for Englishmen, in ecstasy because as he said we are now going to have "peace in our time". I can well remember turning to some English person standing next to me and saying that the man was out of his mind and it was time, I, as a colonial went home. Shortly after that I arranged my transportation to Canada, and I think I came back on the Duchess of Richmond, a CPR boat, following in the wakes as it were, of the King and Queen, who were coming over to Canada on a tour. The famous Royal Tour across Canada. They came

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