

The story of
FANNYSTELLE &
THE MOLLOT FAMILY

BY V.A. MOLLOT

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my beloved parents John Baptiste and Blanche (née Arnal) Mollot. We three boys Victor, Claude and Martin Mollot are fortunate to have been raised in a loving and caring family where we had felt love and support throughout the years. Being raised in the small rural setting of Fannystelle gave us the freedom, security and community for which we are very grateful.

Both our parents were born, raised and participated actively in the community till their retirement. They have been interred in the Fannystelle Sacred Heart Parish Cemetery.



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Statue of Fanny Rives.

INTRODUCTION

This book is the story of the history and development of the town of Fannystelle from its' establishment in 1889 to the present. It is also the story of the Mollot family in the founding of Fannystelle and of the life of the Marcel Mollot family in the town over the years. The Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot with children Gabrielle, Ernest, Marcel our grandfather and Marie Louise (Lily) settled in the new village of Fannystelle, Manitoba, Canada in October 1892. Just imagine the traumatic change it must have been for the family and for Marcel, a young twelve year old, who had left a bourgeois lifestyle in Blandin, France to live in the small prairie village of Fannystelle. Similar trauma and shock mixed with optimism was felt by all the settlers. At the time, this village was very isolated. There were no cars, only poor dirt trails or roads for horses and buggies, no electricity, no water, no post office, and no school. It is hoped that this book will give present and future generations a bird's eye view of life in Fannystelle over the years.

The statue of Fanny Rives (facing page) was erected in the summer of 1889 next to the Roman Catholic Church in Fannystelle. At the time that she founded the town, 'La Comtesse d'Albuféra,' a Parisian noble and a philanthropist had the town named Fannystelle meaning 'the star of Fanny', and also had a statue erected both in memory of her friend Fanny Rives. The statue still stands today.

The inscription on the monument is as follows:

Fanny RIVES
25 FÉVRIER 1840 – 28 JUILLET 1883
S'EST SERVIE D'UNE AMITIÉ FIDÈLE
POUR
RÉPANDRE LA GLOIRE DE DIEU
&
SOULAGER LES ÂMES DU PURGATOIRE
A FONDÉ CETTE COLONIE
1889



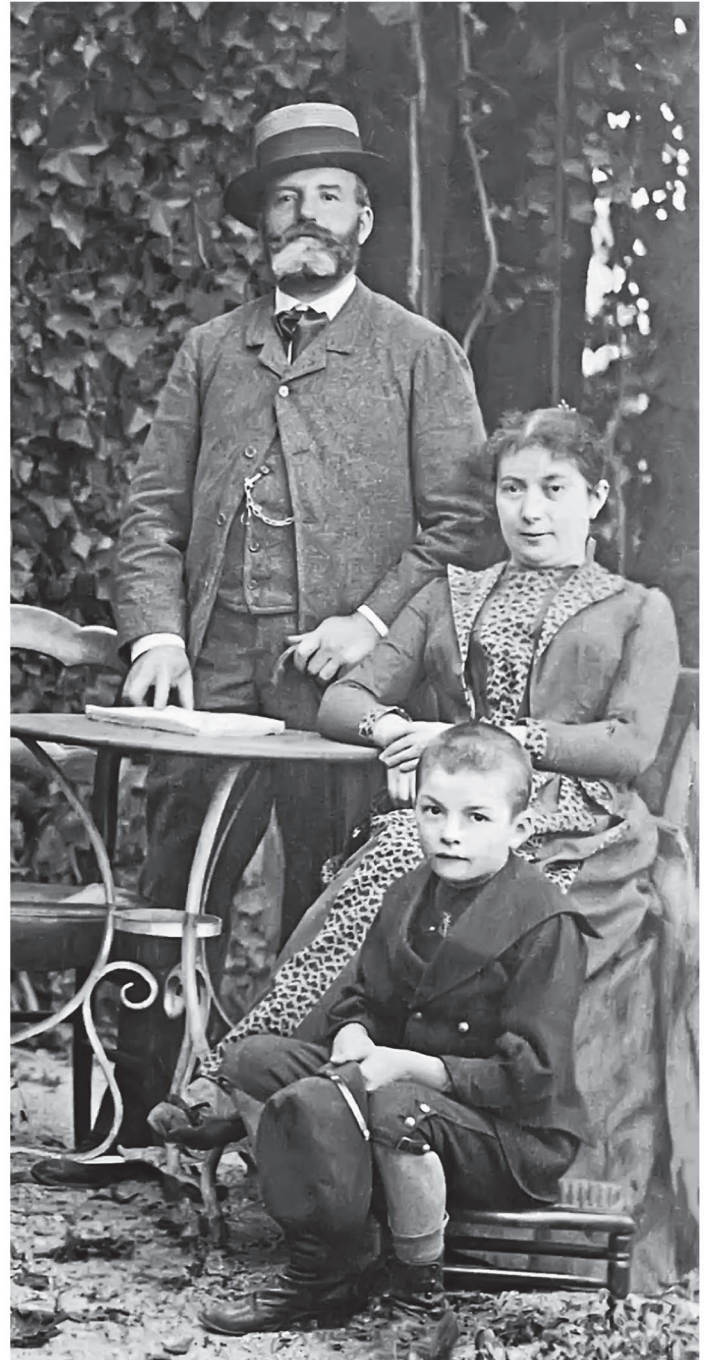
Château Blandin, Home of the Mollot family in Blandin, France.

1889 – THE BEGINNING

The village of Fannystelle was founded by *la Comtesse Rosine Marthe Suchet d'Albuféra*, a Parisian philanthropist of Napoleonic nobility. She founded the French settlement and in May of 1889 named it in memory of her deceased friend Fanny Rives of Paris, France. The name Fannystelle was derived from the Latin word “*stella*” meaning star (Star of Fanny).

According to historian Noël Bernier who wrote a book about Fannystelle, around the years 1889-90, the Comtesse d'Albuféra had provided the funds for the construction of necessary buildings in the town of Fannystelle: a small church, a presbytery, a school, a creamery and a few other buildings. She had hired a builder, M. Gédéon Cinq-Mars for all the construction. The Comtesse d'Albuféra also had a bust of Fanny Rives sculptured by M. Léon-Edward Deschamps-Avisseau from Tours, France and shipped overseas to Fannystelle to be erected where it stands today. Though Fannystelle was founded in 1889, the first French settlers arrived only in 1892. La Comtesse d'Albuféra and Mr. T.A. Bernier, a lawyer and the former mayor of St. Boniface at the time, encouraged the immigration of nobles and well to do gentlemen from France. Mr. Bernier was also the legal agent for the establishment of the settlement on behalf of the Comtesse.

For some 73 years from 1892 to 1965, Fannystelle was connected with the Mollot family. According to the 93 hand written pages in *Les Memoires de Fortuné Mollot*, when the Fortuné Mollot family left Blandin which is near the city of Lyon, France, in August of 1892, they only knew that they



1888 abt. Blandin, France: Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot and son Marcel.

Before 1892 in France....



1885-09-00: Blandin, France: On the terrace of Château Blandin. Léopoldine, her parents and children. L to R: Gabrielle (age 10), Léopoldine (age 33), girl at rear unknown, Dr. Alexandre Benoit (age 67), far right Ernest Mollot (age 6), boy sitting on horse Marcel Mollot (age 5), sitting behind Marcel Mme. Ernestine Benoit, Léopoldine's mother (age 62).

After 1892 in Fannystelle...



1895-06-00 Fannystelle, Manitoba: Some Fortuné Mollot family members. Front lower left: Marcel Mollot (age 15), center, seated to the right Lily Mollot (age 5), standing to the right of Lily with corsage and hat in hand Gabrielle Mollot (age 20), baby seated in front Thérèse Mollot (age 18 months) with mother Léopoldine Mollot née Benoit, wife of Fortuné Mollot (age 43). Missing Fortuné and Ernest Mollot. Others unknown.

would settle somewhere in Manitoba. They had not determined the exact town or hamlet. As Fortuné states in his *Memoires*, “We came to Manitoba with the idea of settling ourselves on the land but our decision was fraught with fears of isolation.” Unfortunately, these concerns were somewhat a reality!

So, one wonders why then did the Fortuné Mollot family immigrate to Canada in 1892? Why would a well-educated artist such as Fortuné leave, at the age of 47, a grandiose lifestyle and a 17,000 sq. ft. château in France and move his family to Canada to farm in a new settlement? In a copy of an index book of expositions in which Fortuné Mollot had participated at the Musée des Beaux Arts in Lyon, he is described as ‘*un peintre paysagiste de la meilleur école française*’, a landscape artist of the finest French school. In reality, he left France for social, political, financial and religious reasons. The motivation for his move to Canada was indeed complex!

The background of Fortuné Mollot is well documented in his *Memoires* dated July of 1912. In 1871, at the age of 25, Fortuné Mollot had inherited a small fortune from his deceased father Louis who had been very successful in the silk industry in Lyon, France.

Fortuné was single at the time his father Louis had passed away in 1871. He hired an architect by the name of M. Bourbon to design and construct a château such as the one of which his deceased mother Thérèse had always dreamed. He also dreamed; but his dream was to be able to paint in this beautiful and quiet French countryside.

The cost of Château Blandin far exceeded what he thought it would be. A few years later, he invested heavily in the construction of the Panama Canal and in the French Stock Market. Both the Panama Canal and the Stock Market proved to be financial disasters for the French due to mismanagement and corruption. Another financial failure was his investment in vineyards. On the 42 acre property on which Château Blandin was built in the scenic ‘*vallée de la Bourbre*,’ he decided to grow some 30 acres of grapes. Unfortunately, after a few years, the disease called *phylloxera* swept throughout Western Europe including France and Blandin and virtually ruined the wine industry. He humbly mentions in his *Memoires* that he was a poor financier. Fortuné was also very disenchanted with the French government for its corruption and new legislation on religious freedom. All and all, he felt that Canada would give his children a much better future!

On their arrival in Manitoba on September 10th, 1892, they went to visit Bishop Taché of the St. Boniface Diocese. On the Bishop’s advice, they visited the early French settlements of Lorette, St. Pierre, St. Malo and Fannystelle, all by horse and buggy. According to his *Memoires*, they were very impressed with the warm welcome they had received from the Fannystelle priest L’Abbé Noël Perquis, and from the local French people there. As a result, they chose Fannystelle and settled there on October 19th 1892. The Fortuné Mollot family were one of the earlier families from France to settle in Fannystelle.

When the Mollot family arrived in Fannystelle in October of 1892, the total population of this new French settlement was only 30 people! Very soon, Fortuné hired the local carpenter, Mr. Gédéon Cinq-Mars originally from Quebec, to build them a home. This new home was a far stretch from Château Blandin, the home to which they had been accustomed in France. They were able to move into their new home in January 1893.

In 1893, after having the house built, Fortuné then purchased 80 acres of

land from a Mr. Adolphe Véronneau, the local postmaster. This property was located immediately south of the village. Before the advent of drainage ditches, this low farmland he bought had not been suitable to grain farming but he planned to raise sheep and cattle. To this day, this swampy land is still called 'le Marais,' the swamp. The legal description of the property is as follows: Certificate # 28191 being north half of the North East quarter of Section 10 in the Ninth Township and Range West of the Principal Meridian in Manitoba—80 acres more or less. Fortuné had been an artist in France raising livestock in this new unbroken land did not suit him whatsoever. After 10 years, by July of 1902, he abandoned farming and the family moved to Winnipeg. Farming had proven not to be possible for Fortuné. Their son Marcel, then 22 years of age and married remained in Fannystelle and the Marcel Mollot family focus shifted to business.

If one wishes to learn more about the life of Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot and their ancestors, please read *An Incredible Journey—The Mollot and Benoit Family Tree*. It is available at Archives Manitoba in Winnipeg and at La Société Franco-Manitobain on Provencher Blvd. in St. Boniface. Also, a copy of Fortuné Mollot's *Memoires* are also available at both locations.

FANNYSTEELE,

A post office on Sec. 15, Tp. 9, Rg. 3, west on S. W. Branch C. P. R.; distant from Winnipeg 30 miles. Telegraph Starbuck, dis. 7 miles. Pop 30.

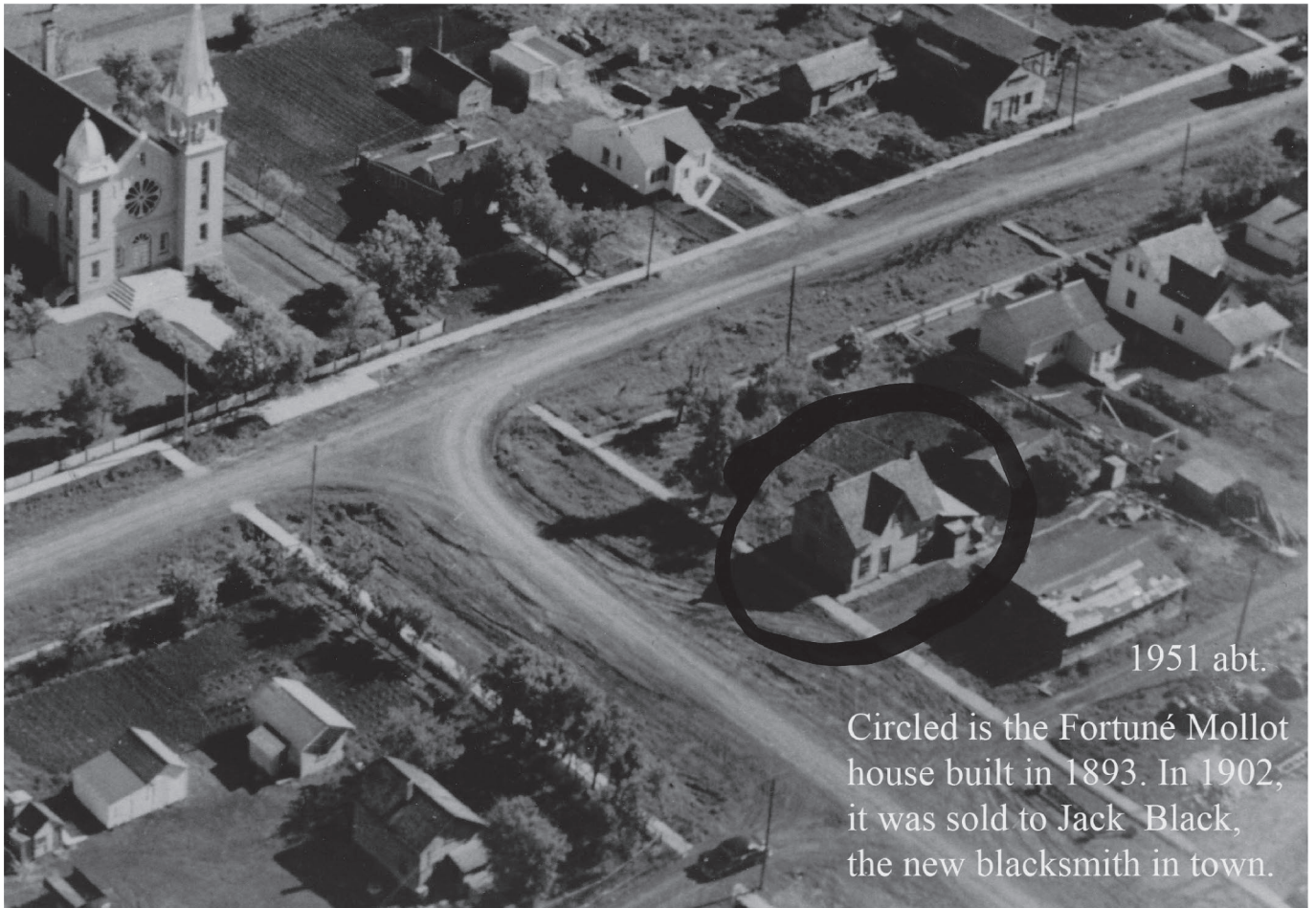
Levasseur Honoré, blacksmith
Rosenberg Pierre, prop Butter factory

Veroneau Adolphe, postmaster

1892 Fannystelle Henderson's Directory, page 410: This lists Fannystelle with a population of only 30 people along with its location from Winnipeg, etc.



1893 home of the Mollot family in Fannystelle, Manitoba. Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot home built in 1892-93. In 1902, when the Fortuné Mollot family moved to Winnipeg, it was sold to the Jack Black family, the new blacksmith in town.



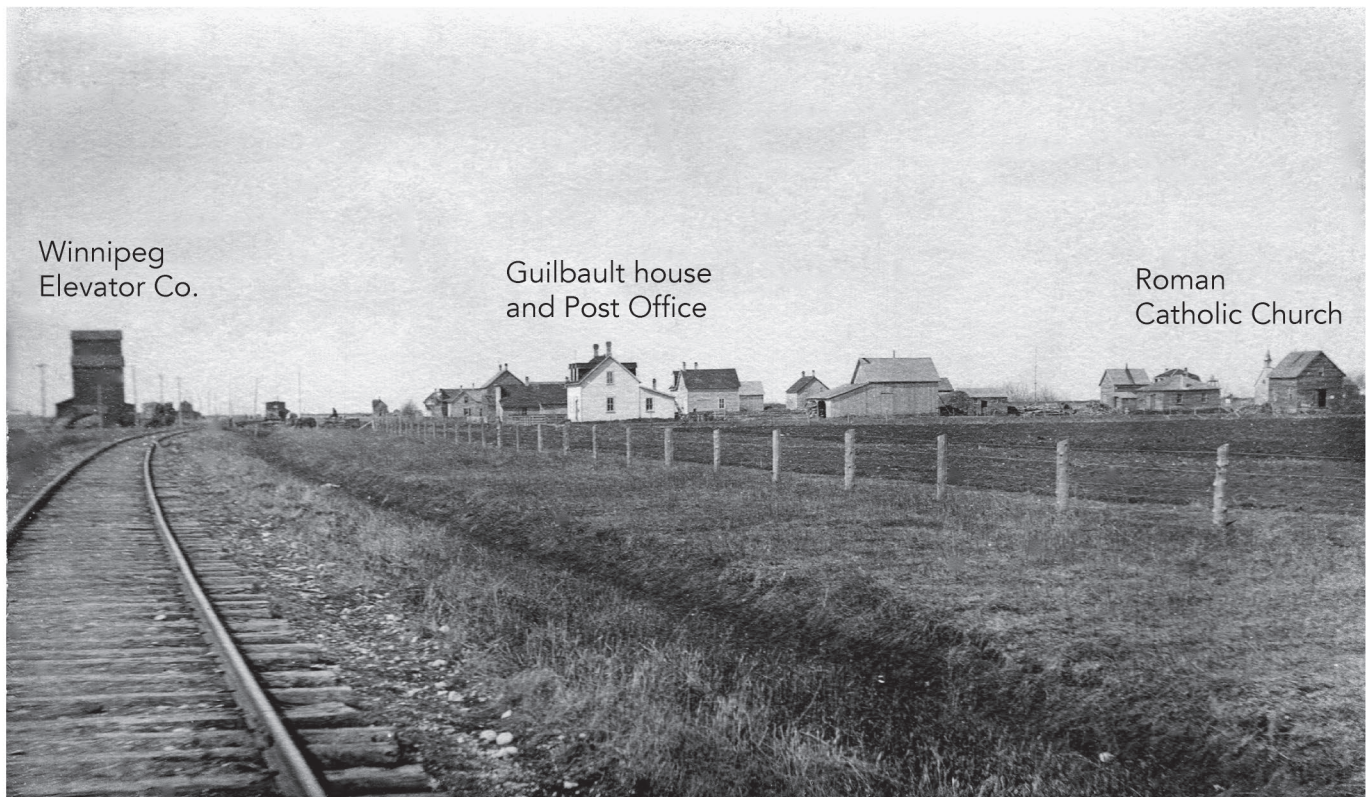
Jack Black house originally the Fortuné Mollot house built in 1892/93. Location of the Fortuné Mollot house in Fannystelle (corner of 1st and Church Street).

FOUNDING FAMILIES

As previously mentioned, the French settlement of Fannystelle had been incorporated in 1889, however settlers only began arriving in 1892. In fact, according to Henderson's Directory, by the end of 1892 the population was a mere 30 people from the families of Fortuné Mollot, Emile Joseph Guyot, Henri Guilbault and others. Photos of this time show that some the other French settlers were Georges Duflos, Henri de la Borderie, Pierre Rosenberg, M. Marchisio, G. Thomas and a young Parisian by the name of Louis Allart. For a time, Louis Allart raised horses in Fannystelle. These French settlers had been recruited by the Parisian Comtesse d'Albuféra to establish a new settlement in Manitoba. The first photo shows L'Abbé Noël Perquis the very first Fannystelle priest. L'Abbé Perquis was also from France.

However, around 1895, the population growth of Fannystelle increased substantially due to immigration from Quebec. Quebec families who settled were: Boucher, Côté, Painchaud, Piché, Provencher, Bourque, Cyrenne, (Syrenne), Coulombe, Dureault, Lavigne, Hamel, Meilleur, Morissette, Désilets and others.

In 1895, the Odilon and Aurélie (née Fages) Arnal family originally from France and who had settled in Starbuck, moved to Fannystelle. The Arnal family with all eight children ranging from age seven years to twenty-four had immigrated in 1893 from Drigas in *le Département de la*



1904 abt. Fannystelle, Manitoba.



1893-08-00 Fannystelle, MB: Front porch of the Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot home. Left to right: Ernest Mollot (age 14), unknown man, Lily Mollot (age 2), Marcel Mollot (age 13), l'Abbé Noël Perquis; back Gabrielle Mollot (age 17), unknown man, Léopoldine Mollot (age 41), unknown man.



1894-04-00 Fannystelle, MB: Photo on the front porch of the Fortuné Mollot home. Left to right: Louis Allart, Pierre Rosenberg, Henri de la Borderie with Lily Mollot on his knees, Mme. Léopoldine Mollot, M. Marchisio, Georges Duflot with the rifle, M. Thomas and Mlle. Gabrielle Mollot.



1894-08-00 Fannystelle, MB: Sacred Heart Church (first church). Léopoldine Mollot née Benoit (age 42), Lily (age 3) and Thérèse (age 8 months). A 24" x 36" copy of this photo hangs at the back of the current Fannystelle Sacred Heart Church.



1895 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Louis Allart house. Louis was a French immigrant and listed in the 1894, 1897 and 1900 Henderson Directory as a horse rancher.



The countryside of Drigas, in Lozère, France from where the Arnal family immigrated.

Lozère. Lozère was known to be a very poor agricultural area, rocky and barren, where mainly sheep and goats were raised. Lozère is located in the lower center of the country on a very expansive and high plateau called '*le Massif Centrale.*' When the Arnal family immigrated to Manitoba, they found a very fertile land and cold climate as the one to which they had been accustomed. They adapted well to Manitoba, its vastness and rich land and with that land, must have thought that they had died and gone to heaven!

Then from the early 1900s, the third wave of immigrants came to Fannystelle from Great Britain, other European countries and the United States. The new farmers and business families were: McDermot, McGreevy, Oleksuk, Franzmann, Toews, Stevens, Simonson, Fruck, Morison, Klassen, Drozd, Lofto, Seidel, Underwood, Meadmore, Hawkins, Johnson, Martens, Roth, Webster, Olson, Schumann and Grammer. Other families may also have moved in, and it is interesting to note that a small number of immigrant families from Europe did not remain given the harshness of the climate and the difficult life. They returned to their homelands. It is also interesting that, as an example, Mr. Harry Franzmann from England, had come to Fannystelle in 1906 and found the new life promising. He returned to England, married Edith Pannell and came back to Fannystelle in 1908 where they raised their family and farmed successfully.

Of all the farmers presently in Fannystelle, Guyot, Dureault and Franzman are three of the original family names still farming today. The Guyot family had immigrated in 1892 from Mégevette, Haute-Savoie in France, the Dureault family had come from Bécancour, Quebec in 1895, and the Franzmann family in 1906 had come from Chelsea, London, England.



Emile Joseph Guyot and his wife Marie Borel. One of the families to immigrate to Fannystelle in 1892.

As to the Guyot family, the 6th generation is farming in Fannystelle today. The first Guyot in Fannystelle was Emile Joseph Guyot, a tool sharpener by trade. He had come alone in 1891, with his tool sharpening equipment and visited the towns of Saint Pierre, Sainte Anne, Grande Carrière, Fannystelle and other French towns, doing sharpening for hire and earning the money he would need to settle in Manitoba. He carried on his back his grinding wheel which was one meter in diameter and weighed 15 kilograms. Emile Joseph decided that he would bring his family to Fannystelle.

Returning to France, Emile Joseph met la Comtesse d'Albuféra in Paris, and purchased a 240 acre farm. The farm was 1 mile east and 2½ miles north of Fannystelle and had a farmhouse on it. On May 26th 1892, with his wife Marie (née Borel) and family of eight children, he arrived in Fannystelle and settled the family on the farm. The first task for the family was to break some land with a plough and oxen. That year, they sowed about 40 acres. Their harvest, which was before the introduction of the binder, had to be all done manually. Emile Joseph and family cut the grain with a scythe, hand tied it with straw to create sheaves, piled the sheaves in stooks to dry, and hauled them to the farmyard where they threshed the wheat by hand. In the booklet, *'Fannystelle village de l'ouest canadien,'* Nadine Mackenzie tells that, at the very outset, the Guyot family threshed their meagre crop by hand and until Christmas. This was done in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees C.



2021-08-26 Fannystelle, MB: Guyot Family Farms – Don and Jérôme Guyot with “La Meule.”

1950-11-20 Emile Jr. & Amanda
(née Cyrenne) Guyot.
50th Wedding Anniversary.



Children of Emile Joseph (1841–1904) and Marie née Borel (1848–1929) Guyot. Left to right: Marie, François, Arthur, Adolphe, Jean Emile, his wife Amanda and her brother, Omer Cyrenne. (Deceased: Joseph-Adolphe, Léonie and Louise.)

The next generation farmer was his son Jean Emile, who was 20 years old when he immigrated to Canada with his parents. The third generation was headed by Lucien Guyot whose son, Claude Guyot was the 4th generation. Today, Don Guyot is the 5th generation and he is farming with his son Jerome being the 6th generation. To date, the Guyot family have been farming for about 130 years in Fannystelle. The Guyot family still treasures the grinding wheel that Emile Joseph had carried to Canada and that had made life in Fannystelle possible!

Shortly thereafter with mechanization such as the binder and the threshing machine, harvesting though still very labour intensive, was much more efficient. In those early years, in addition to grain farming, most farmers raised cattle and sheep. These pioneering families had an abundance of hard work to do and endured hardships indeed!

As for the Mollot family, when Fortuné sold the farm in 1902 to relocate in Winnipeg, his son Marcel, who had married Eugenie Piché in 1901, remained in Fannystelle. Marcel started a butcher shop which was located south of the railroad and on the west side of the now Provincial Road #248 between the Highway #2 and Main Street. He also managed the livery stable. These were the first enterprises of Marcel Mollot in Fannystelle.

THE EARLY TOWN OF FANNYSTELLE

In Fannystelle, in the late 1890s according to Henderson's Manitoba Directory, there was the Fannystelle Creamery that had been established by Mr. L.W. Coultler. A later directory lists Mr. Cinq-Mars as manager. The creamery did not survive.

A medical doctor by the name of Dr. H.F. Vernon, in the early 1900s to the 1930s, was shared by the towns of Fannystelle, Elm Creek and Starbuck. An old-timer, Ben Syrenne (age 100 in 2021) recently related with pride that he had been delivered by this doctor.

On the following pages are two Henderson Directories that give us a good perspective of the business people in the town of Fannystelle in the years 1900 and 1907.

The very first postmaster of Fannystelle was Adolphe Veronneau in 1892, followed by Henri and Victoire Guilbault in 1897. As previously mentioned, the Guilbault family, was one of the original families who had emigrated from France in 1892.



1904 abt. Marcel Mollot Butcher Shop – First Butcher shop in Fannystelle.



Year 1908 – Fannystelle, MB. Elevator, Train Station, Post Office, Hotel, Livery.

There is a sad story related to this family. On March 28 1899, Mr. Henri Guilbault got lost in a cold and nasty March blizzard and sadly perished in the storm. Shortly thereafter his wife Victoire, as indicated in successive Henderson's Directories, took over the post office. Later on, their daughter Donalda Guilbault ran the post office, until 1963 when she sold it to Constant and Irene Painchaud. In all, the Guilbault family maintained the post office in Fannystelle for over 65 years. For some 85 years, the post office was located at the corner of Main Street and Provincial Road 248 or the south east corner of Main Street as in the 1908 photo which shows the Guilbault post office. From 1899 to 1939 the cost of mailing a letter was 2 cents. In 2021, the cost is one dollar.

The Roman Catholic Church played a very important and vital role in the development of the Fannystelle community from its inception in 1889, and for many decades to follow. Given its beginning as a French settlement, most of the people of Fannystelle were of the Roman Catholic faith. As previously mentioned, the first priest for the founding village was Father Noël Perquis who was from France. Several priests who followed Father Perquis were also from France. The first church, built around 1894, was paid for by 'La Comtesse d'Albuféra'. Léopoldine Mollot and her two daughters Marie Louise and Thérèse, are pictured at the very first church of Fannystelle. This picture was taken in July 1894 in front of the statue of Fanny Rives with the church of Fannystelle in the background. An artifact in this present-day church (2021) is

Ernest

Fannystelle

ERNEST.

A post office on Sec. 12, Tp. 21, Rg. 25, in the municipality of Woodworth, Western Judicial district; nearest railway station Virden, dis. 12 miles.

GLINZ ERNEST H., postmaster

ETHELBERT.

On Canadian Northern Ry. Co., distant 153 miles from Gladstone time 153 miles from Gladstone

Bear G., gen. store.

Canadian Northern Ry. Co.,

C. Hearn, agent

EUNOLA.

A closed P. O. on Sec. 6, Tp. 4, in the municipality of Authur, Western judicial district; mail weekly; nearest railway station Melita, dis. 12 miles.

EUSTACHE SPUR.

A station on the Portage la Prairie section of the N. P. Ry. 35 miles from Winnipeg.

FAIRBURN.

A closed post office on Sec. 4, Tp. 3, Rg. 19, west; nearest railway station Boissevain, distant 6 miles.

FAIRFAX.

A country post office on Sec. 24, Tp. 6, Rg. 21, W. of 1st Mer., in the municipality of Whitewater, western judicial district, on the Souris branch of the N. P. Ry., 175 miles from Winnipeg

DOUGLAS JOHN H., postmaster

FAIRFORD.

A post office on Tp. 30, Rg. 8 W. 1st mer., Eastern Judicial dis-

trict; nearest railway station Reburn, distance 110 miles.

Arthur Peter, sawmill
Hudson Bay Coy., general store
ROBB, JOHN, postmaster.

FAIRHALL

A country post office on Sec. 14, Tp. 4, Rg. 17, west, in the municipality of Turtle Mountain, Western judicial district; mail semi-weekly; nearest railway station Killarney, distant 7 1-2 miles.

SQUIRES ROBERT, postmaster

FANNYSTEEL.

A post office on Sec. 15, Tp. 9, Rg. 3, west on S. W. branch C. P. R.; Eastern judicial district; distant from Winnipeg 34 miles; telegraph Starbuck, dis. 7 miles.

Allart L., horse ranch
Boisvert Antoine, blacksmith
Chevalier Philippe, clerk
Cing Mars Anne, contractor
Cinqmars G., contractor
Cyrenne Charles, farmer
De la Giclais Alam Mugon, storekeeper
De La Giclais M. T. & M., grain dealers
Dubois Sebastien, blacksmith
Guilbault Mrs. Henri, general store
Herbert Arsene, sec. man
Jackson Widdes, blacksmith
Johnson August, sec. foreman
Lacousse N., carriage-maker
Lafond Andre, storekeeper
Levasseur A., livery
Levasseur Mark, blacksmith and implements
Merry & Williams, implements, (also Carman)
Mollot Fortune, gentleman
Painchaud Mestor, clerk
Roman Catholic church.
Rev. Lebrault, priest.

C. B. Graham & Co.

564 Main Street,
P. O. Box 318.

CLUB CIGAR STORE AND BILLIARD ROOMS.

564 Main Street, wholesale dealers in Cigars,
Pipes, etc. Proprietors of the

610. Fairview

HENDERSON'S WESTERN CANADA

Farrington

FLOWERSWholesale
and Retail.

Largest Greenhouses in Western Canada.

WALTER RAMSAY,**EDMONTON****ALTA**

Corner Victoria Ave. and 11th St.

Graham (Joseph) & Travis mine owners
Green Charles D'Bois surveyor
Hairsine Carl bookkeeper
Jones Bros butchers
Jones Henry Golden Gate Hotel
King Edward Mines Co D Braithwaite
sec-treas
McCeedy J general store
McDougall David livery
McKenzie A D amalgamator
Morning Star Mine Stephen Mangott
and Daniel McEachern props
Morris Evan hotel
Park Ranching Co C J Reppen mgr
Parkinson Robt H surveyor and gener-
al agent
Patten L H notary public
Phelps Albert rancher
Rayburn Sylvester carpenter
Shatford Lytton W mgr W T Shatford
& Co
Shatford W T & Co general merchants;
also Vernon and Hedley City
Sproule Geo H blacksmith
Stemwinder Mine R Russel mgr
Strathgryre Mining Co Ltd
Travers Richard mine owner
Young Joseph rancher

FAIRVIEW, Manitoba.

A flag station on the Carberry
branch of the C N Ry 4 miles north
of Carberry

FAIRVILLE, Saskatchewan.

A post office on Sec 10, Tp 18, Rg
23, west of 2nd Mer. Nearest rail-
way, Pense, 10 miles.

Postmaster—N R Read

FAIRY HILL, Saskatchewan.

A post office on Sec 34, Tp 21, Rg
19, west of 2nd Mer., in Qu'Appelle
Valley, provincial electoral division
of Lumsden west. Mails weekly.
Nearest railway, Southey, distant 10
miles. Telegraph Earl Grey, 12 miles

D. H. & W. A. TELFORD

FOR GOOD INVESTMENTS IN
REAL ESTATE IN
SASKATOON
MOST RAPIDLY GROWING CITY IN CANADA

Postmaster—Robert Mollard
Presbyterian Church, Rev Gilchrist pas-
tor

Lawson Henry C rancher
McDougall Donald rancher

FALCON, Algoma.

A station on C P R main line 143
miles west of Fort William

FALLOWHEAD, Saskatchewan.

A post office on Sec 14, Tp 14, Rg
10, west of the 2nd Mer., in the pro-
vincial electoral division of Qu'Ap-
pelle. Mails weekly. Nearest railway
and telegraph, Wolseley, 18 miles.

Postmaster—John Hill

FALUN, Alberta.

A post office on Sec 10, Tp 46, Rg
27, west of the 4th Mer. Nearest
railway Wetaskiwin, 22 miles. Mails
weekly.

Postmaster—G G Forssell

FANNYSTELLE, Manitoba.

A station and post office on Sec 15,
Tp 9, Rg 3, west of the 1st Mer., on
the southwestern branch of the CPR,
distant from Winnipeg 34 miles; in
the municipality of Grey, provincial
electoral division of L'Assar; Eastern
judicial district; Telegraph. Mails
daily.

Population 1907—225

Elevator capacity, 25,000 bushels

Postmaster—Mrs V Guitbaut

Methodist Church, Rev J W A Hender-
sonRoman Catholic Church, Rev Adrien
Perrault

Adam Onesime provincial constable

Black John J constable

Black J blacksmith

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

A R Houston agent

Cote Onesime live stock

Couture Ted hotel

Dubois Sebastian blacksmith

Guitbault Bros electricians

Hamel Alfred implements

Hansen Martin section foreman

Lavigne Eustache wood dealer

Levasseur Am crusher and chop feed

Levasseur A R C Co general store

Levasseur Honore J P

Mollet Marcel butcher and poundkeep-
er

Painchaud Henry & Co general store

Poirier Alph livery stable

Poirier Edinond restaurant

Stevens W H lumber

Vernon H F W physician

Winnipeg Elevator Co (25,000)

FARRINGTON, Western Ontario.

A station on the C N R, main line,
32 miles east of Fort Francis.



1911 Fannystelle, MB: The original church building before it was destroyed by fire in 1912.



1940s Fannystelle Oblate Sisters Convent. Center front: Sister Bruno. Back right: Sister Mathilde. Others: Sisters Ste. Anne, Claire, Marie de L'Incarnation and St. Jacques.



1925 – Salle Paroissiale/Parish Hall.



1940 abt. Convent St. Joseph. Oblate Sisters.

a framed picture of my great grandmother Léopoldine and two of her daughters. The picture is located at the back of the church and also on page 10 of this book.

With time the community grew and so did the congregation. In 1911, the community hired a general contractor, Mr. Hector Savaria, to build a larger church. The cost of the building was \$13,869.00 and the parish priest was Father Joseph Poitras.

Fortuné Mollot, being an artist and former parishioner, painted all the ceiling murals. The community was well pleased but unfortunately on October 5, 1912, the lovely new church was totally destroyed by fire. The determined community had the identical church rebuilt in 1913, but this time at a cost of \$16,000. The 1913 church still stands today. An interesting outcome of the church project is that Hector Savaria met his bride to be, Marie Guyot, in Fannystelle.

On August 11, 1911 at the request to the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, five Oblate Sisters arrived in Fannystelle to teach in a brand new two storey school. Originally Grades 1 to 8 only were taught, but by about 1925, the school offered up to and including Grade 11. It is believed that the Oblate Sisters purchased from Mr. Henri Painchaud the general store which was next to the new school. The former store was renovated and converted into a convent. The convent had a small chapel where during winter months, the priest would celebrate mass daily. In those days, the boys in town took turns serving as altar boys. The Oblate Sisters taught in Fannystelle for 70 years till 1981, when the town school was closed. Some of the nuns taught successive generations and were cherished for their contribution to education. Besides the church and the school, in 1925 the parishioners built a parish hall. It became the centre of social events such as plays, movies, card parties and other functions.

In the early years, each village or community was responsible for enforcing law and order. Consequently towns would hire a local to be their constable. In Henderson's Directory of 1908, Fannystelle listed a town constable: John J. Black. Mr. Black was also the local blacksmith. It is almost amusing to think that Fannystelle also had an unsupervised jail. The building was the size of small garage approximately 14 x 20 ft. The window openings had heavy steel bars and no glass. In the 1950s, the jail still stood at the back of the lot on the corner of what is known today as Second Avenue and Church Street. Our parents used it as a reminder of the need for decent behaviour!

RAILWAY SERVICE IN FANNYSTELLE

In the 1880s, the Southern Colonization Railroad constructed the railroad from Winnipeg up to Elm Creek. This was a very big economic boost for the growing villages. Later on, the railway was sold to the Canadian Pacific Railway. By 1892, the railway had been expanded to Glenboro, Manitoba. As it did for many prairie towns, the railroad played a vital role in the development and economy of the town of Fannystelle, and has continued to do so to the present day. Not only was rail the main method of transporting the cereal grains to market, and goods into and out of town, it also employed a number of local people. The Train Station Agent lived in the station and maintained and operated the telegraph using the Morse code. Whenever you walked into the train station, you could hear the dah, dit, didit... sounds. This agent was also responsible for all the passengers and the cargo. The Section Man lived in a CPR company house and had one or two other local employees. The Section man was responsible for maintaining the railroad tracks to the neighboring town. Daily, one would see CPR employees going up and down the railroad line on a jigger to do maintenance work.



1925 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Note CPR Train Station, Mollot General store (First section of Mollot Trading Co.), Hotel and Post Office.

In the early 1900s, the railroad was the only mode of transportation for farm produce such as eggs, milk and cream to be shipped to market. All of the town merchants received their stock such as dry goods, limited fresh fruit, hardware and implement parts by train. Near the tracks, the CPR had an ice shack in which ice for the passenger trains was stored in saw dust. A daily event was hearing the whistle of the roaring steam engine with five or six passenger coaches and/or freight cars. The steam engine would come to a screaming halt for about 10 minutes, let off steam, and also passengers, cargo and bags of mail for the postmaster who for many decades was Donalda Guilbault. Daily, townsfolk would see Donalda coming from the station pulling a small wagon piled with the mailbags. The train personnel would pick up the payload such as cream cans to be delivered to St. Claude Creamery down the line. By the late 1940s, townsfolk would enjoy watching as most of the new farm equipment would arrive by rail on flatbeds and be unloaded. In the late 1950s, steam locomotives were slowly replaced with diesel locomotives. The railway remained vital to the economy of the town and surrounding areas for many decades.



1930s Fannystelle; MB CPR train station. First left – John Mollot. Others unknown. Note the cream cans on the train platform.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY ROADS IN FANNYSTELLE

When Fannystelle was first established in 1889, there were only a few country roads that were dirt or mud trails for horse and buggy travel or for sleighs and cutters in winter.

At that time, bridges that were built accommodated one way traffic only. As late as in the 1920s, when it rained or snowed, these roads became impassable for motorized vehicles thus reliance on horses remained. Only by the late 1940s was gravel used to improve roads, and that luxury was limited to very few of the main country roads. Consequently, trips to town were very dependent on the weather. I am told that most of the country roads in the area were built or rebuilt in the late 1930s to 1950s by Benoit Syrenne who operated the Municipal grader and his brother Jean Noël Syrenne who operated the Municipal bulldozer. To build or upgrade a road, the bulldozer pulled an elevator grader along in the ditch. This was a massive machine with a six foot wide conveyor belt. Earth was scraped from the ditch, onto the conveyor belt to be dumped onto the road which was then graded. Some operators before and after the Syrenne brothers were Henri Lavigne, Jules Dureault and Billy Beach.



1910 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Horse and buggy days. Eugenie Mollot (née Piché) in buggy. Others unknown.



1940s Fannystelle, MB: Snow banks on No. 2 Highway, one mile west of town.

With vehicles and roads, there came accidents and some were very tragic mishaps.

According the Winnipeg Free Press, on Friday, Sept. 21, 1951 at approximately 6 p.m., a car load of folks from Fannystelle were on their way to Winnipeg to watch All-Star wrestling matches at the Winnipeg Auditorium (now the Manitoba Archives). The car drove into a parked truck owned by Harold Anderson at the railroad crossing next to Oak Bluff, Manitoba on No. 2 Highway. Mr. Anderson had stopped to clean his windshield. Two lives were lost: the driver, Lorrain Arnal, age 16, son of Joseph Arnal and his step mother Elizabeth (Paillé née Gougeon) age 36. The other passengers also suffered numerous injuries but did survive.

On an August long weekend in 1957, Harry Braun, driving over the tracks, lost his life when his half ton truck was struck by a train in the intersection. Luckily his young passenger Ross McIntyre, age 14, survived the accident.

Today, Provincial Road #248 north out of Fannystelle to Elie is a paved road but it was a country dirt road in 1945. That spring, my Uncle and Aunt Ernest and Marie Arnal brought me to their home which was three miles north of town. I still vividly remember the adventure ride because the road was impassable other than by horse and buggy. Some of the photos in this book illustrate the true conditions of the roads and streets of those times.

In the last number of decades, the yearly quantity of snow seems to have diminished. Years ago, it was quite common to have at least three or four major snow storms per season with



1948-03-00 Fannystelle, MB: Église Sacré Coeur de Fannystelle – snowbanks on Church Street.



1948 Department of Highways snowblower in front of Mollot Garage.



1962 Church Street, Fannystelle, MB: 10 foot snowbank. Snow clearing after storm. Jean Noël Syrenne on Municipality of Grey caterpillar.

large accumulations of snow which created major havoc to local roads. Often, small roads and sometimes even the gravelled Highway No. 2 would be blocked for days. In the 1940s to 1960s, in order to open Highway No. 2, a diesel-powered snow blower became more effective than a snow plough. Snow clearing was always a challenge in winter. The town of Fannystelle finally got paved streets in the summer of 1961.



1961-08-00 Fannystelle, MB: Main Street under construction. Paving the streets of town.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Greyhound Bus Line during the 1940s, 50s and even the early 60s, would trek down the old gravelled and later the new blacktop No. 2 highway from Brandon to Winnipeg and make its daily stop in Fannystelle. The Winnipeg/Brandon route offered Fannystelle the luxury of two busses per day: to Winnipeg in the morning and back home to Fannystelle by 6 p.m. The bus would always carry some cargo and especially the two daily Winnipeg newspapers, the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Tribune. Paperboys delivered them throughout the town each evening. As of 2021, Greyhound Bus Lines have ceased the operation of all the town-to-city routes and no longer operates in Canada. Newspapers have been delivered by vehicle for a number of years.

Throughout decades from the 1930s, the Fannystelle truck transfer business, which also serviced Starbuck and at times Elm Creek, was very important to the community. The transfer would haul the goods required for the community to and from Winnipeg on a daily basis: from groceries to farm implements, auto and implement parts, lumber, beer and so forth. Some transfer owners were Louis Molloy, Mr. Jeski, Camille Syrenne, Joe Robidoux, Arthur Richard and Léo Campeau. As the population and the businesses diminished, so did the transfer service. The Livestock Transfer, separate from the dry goods transfer, was another business that serviced the community. The Livestock Transfer would either purchase livestock from the individual farmers for resale or they would charge a fee to haul the animals to market to the St. Boniface Union Stock yards. This transfer had been established in the late 1920s by Almir Arnal. His son, Fred (Frenchie) continued the service then in 1965 Fred Arnal sold to Gerry Simonson.



1929 International truck – first Almir Arnal Transfer.

POPULATION

Prior to 1900, the population of the Fannystelle community was predominately of French and French Canadians from Quebec. However that changed significantly very early in the twentieth century when many immigrants settled in the community from England, Scotland, Ukraine, Germany, Poland, Norway and even the United States. According to the Henderson's Directory, the Fannystelle town and surrounding area expanded substantially from the outset of 30 people in 1892, to 150 people in 1906 and to 225 by the year 1907. By the late 1940s, the population of Fannystelle and area was well over 450 people. In the 1930s and early 40s, I am told that on Saturday night in the summer, the town was always buzzing with lots of people. You could not find a place to park on Main Street which, in those days, also served as the No. 2 Highway. The folks from the country would come in and do their shopping.

According to the Fannystelle Church Parish records, in 1922, there were a total of 62 families in the Catholic parish, 57 of French descent and five of English descent. By 1942, according to the Church Financial Statement, there were 91 families in the congregation. In addition there were all the folks of English, Norwegian, Polish, German and Ukrainian descent living south and northwest of town. Today, 2021, according to the web site of the Municipality of



1944 Almir and Bertha (née Besse) Arnal family. Left to right, back row: Louis, Béatrice, Claire, Hélène, Alfred, Gertrude, Léo, Denise, Irène and Lillianne. Front row: Vincent, Jules, Rita, Bertha, Ricahrd, René, Almir, Lorraine and Florence.

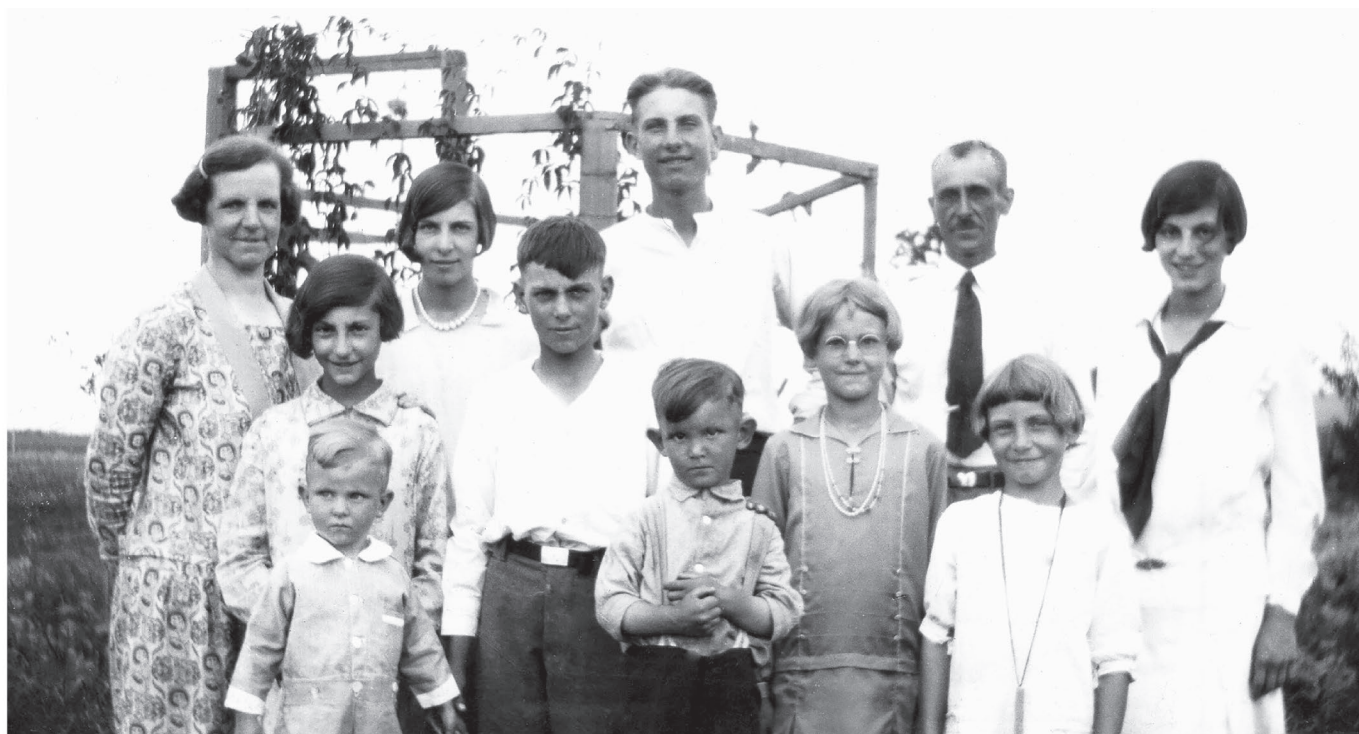
Grey, the population of Fannystelle and surrounding area is 95 which is less than 25% of the population recorded in the 1940s.

The Arnal families had a great impact on the growth and development of the community. The eight children of immigrant parents Odilon and Aurélie Arnal: Néomie (Balez), Augusta (Ménard), Marcel, Maria (Painchaud), Odilon Jr., Henri, Benjamin my maternal grandfather and the youngest, Almir married and established themselves as farmers around Fannystelle. From these eight children, there were eighty-one offspring who, combined at one time, farmed in excess of 12 sections or about 8,000 acres of land located primarily north of town. Within a half mile, there were at one time four Arnal families (Marcel, Almir, Henri and Benjamin) with large two storey homes, big barns and numerous granaries. The largest family in Fannystelle was the Almir and Bertha (née Besse) Arnal family who had 17 children as shown on the previous page in the family photo taken in 1944.

The following are other interesting group photos of families from Fannystelle from the early years of the community.



1922 abt.: Julius Sr. and Helena (née Thiessen) Klassen family. Left to right front row: Frank, Helena, Jack, Julius Jr. and Julius Sr. Back row: Mary, Helen and Abe. Immigrated from Lydevka, Russia in 1925 and established themselves in Fannystelle.



1929 Harry and Edith (née Pannell) Franzmann family. Back, left to right: Edith, Madeline, Gordon, Harry and Constance. Middle: Phyllis, Kenneth and Myra. Front: Herbert, Laurence and Audrey.



1916 Fred and Alice (née Schofield) Underwood with boys Dick (age 8) and Jim (age 4).



1927 abt. Benjamin and Eugenie (née Plourde) Arnal family. Back row, left to right: Eugenie and Benjamin. Middle: Louis, Blanche and Aimé. Front: Albert, Laurent and Ernest.



1930 abt. Oscar and Gertrude (née Piché) Syrenne family. Back, left to right: Teddie, Gertrude and Oscar. Front: Alice, Gabriel, Jacques and Ben. Missing Jean Noël.



1939 Fannystelle, MB: John and Anna (née Rakocza) Drozd family. Left to right: Mary, Theresa, Stan, John, Mike, Anna, Millie (Mary Andreychuk, neighbour), Sophie, Nellie and Joe. John immigrated from Poland from an area called Galicia on May 2, 1907. He first worked in St. Norbert, Manitoba, where he met his wife Anna. In 1917, they married and moved to Fannystelle.



1943 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Church elders. Left to right: Henri Arnal, Albert Piché, Marie Savaria, Emile Guyot, Eugenie Mollot (née Piché), Polycarte Coté, Charlemagne Piché, Alfred Hamel, Marcel Arnal and Eugène Painchaud.



1942 abt. Eugène and Maria (née Arnal) Painchaud family. Back row, left to right: Marcelle Piché, Clément, Raymond, Gustave, André and Thérèse Piché. Front: Marie Saquet, Maria, Eugène and Madeleine Poitras.



1944-07-00 Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan: Piché children of Joseph (Capitaine) Piché (1844–1923) and Virginie (née Champoux, 1850–1934). Left to right with absent spouses in brackets: Amédée (Elénore Pratte), Henri (Melinie Cyrenne), Charlemagne (Marie Louise Bourque), Jean (Clara Demers), Bernadette (Alfred Beauchêne), Gertrude (Oscar Syrenne), Marie Louise (Nérée Boisvert), Berthe (Ovide Dureault) and Eugenie (Marcel Mollot). Missing: Jeanne (Paul Arcan) and Corinne (Borommé Lavigne).



1945 abt. Omer and Maria (née Beauchêne) Cyrenne family: 1 Omer Cyrenne; 2 Maria Cyrenne; 3 André Painchaud; 4 Cécile Painchaud; 5 Germain Cyrenne; 6 Dorothé Cyrenne; 7 Alphonsine Cyrenne; 8 Edward Cyrenne; 9 Henri Cyrenne; 10 Simone Cyrenne; 11 Gisèle Cyrenne; 12 Noëlla Painchaud; 13 Léo Desilets; 14 Fernande Painchaud; 15 Marcel (Bucky) Painchaud. Others unknown.



1945 Célestin and Cécile (née Dureault) Nadeau family: Béatrice, Gilbert, René and Vivianne.



1948 abt. Family of Achille and Alice (née Beaupré) Morissette. Back row, left to right: Lucien, Eva (Ménard), Jeanne (Guyot), Annette (Painchaud), Marguerite (Chaquette) Gilberte (Wanlin) and Paul. Front: Jean, Achille and Léo. Missing: Alice (deceased).



1948 The children of Georges and Augusta (née Arnal) Ménard. Back row, left to right: Suzanne, Jean, Elizabeth, Gabriel, Emile, Marguerite, Louis and Marie. Front row: Ernest, Antoinette, Joseph and Madeleine.



1951 The Edmond and Francis (née Kloeke) Stangl family. 1 Edmond; 2 Francis; 3 Barbara; 4 Susan; 5 Beulah; 6 Sonny; 7 Mary Lou; 8 Shirley; 9 Pat; 10 Theresa and 11 Geraldine.



1951 abt. Marcel Arnal and his children. Standing left to right: Cécile, Emile, Auguste, Gabriel and Marguerite. Seated: Marcel and daughter Jeanne. Missing: Sister Alice, second wife Bernadette Morisset, and Juliette Painchaud deceased first wife.



Oblate Sisters
Convent

1951 abt. Alfred and Eugenie (née Painchaud) Hamel family. Left to right: Blanche, Aimé, Eugenie, John, Alfred, Martin, Béatrice, Bill and Flore. Young girl – Sandra Hamel.



1952 Henri and Augustine (née Normandeau) Arnal family. Back row, left to right: Joseph, Edmond, Roland, Adrienne, Annette, Maurice, Lucien and Alphonse. Front row: Marius, Thérèse, Henri, Augustine, Céline, and Jean.



1952-09-01: Albert and Marie Rose (née Grandpré) Piché family – 50th Anniversary. Back row, left to right: Gabriel and Gaspard. Front: Thérèse, Marie Rose, Albert and Cécile.



1954-10-18: Ovide and Berthe (née Piché) Dureault family. Back row, left to right: Jules (Ti-Pit), Louis (Ti-Bi), Benoit (Ti-L'Heure) and Aimé (Jim). Front row: Cécile Nadeau (Ti-Cusse), Germaine Perreault (Ti-Mène), Berthe and Ovide Dureault and Armande Arnal (Ti-Toune). Missing: Roland (Ti-Con) and Arthur.



1955-10-16: Dan and Katherine (née Bronski) Fruck family. Back row, left to right: Elsie, Lily, Eda, Bill, Jack, Sam and John.



1954-10-18 Ovide and Berthe (née Piché) Dureault – 50th Wedding Anniversary. 1 Wilfrid Perreault; 2 Jean (Jack) Arnal; 3 Célestin Nadeau; 4 Jeanine (née Bourque) Arnal; 5 Benoit (Ti-L'Heure) Dureault; 6 Aimé (Jim) Dureault; 7 René Nadeau; 8 Cécile (née Arnal) Dureault; 9 Rémi Dureault; 10 Edmond Arnal; 11 Gilbert Nadeau; 12 Doris Balez; 13 Jules (Ti-Bit) Dureault; 14 Louis (Ti-Bi) Dureault; 15 Marcel Privé; 16 Marie Louise (née Bourque) Privé; 17 Vivianne Nadeau, 18 Cécile (Ti-Cusse, née Dureault) Nadeau; 19 Gertrude (Ti-Mêne, née Dureault); 20 Berthe (née Piché) Dureault; 21 Ovide Dureault; 22 Armande (Ti-Toune, née Dureault); 23 Béatrice (née Nadeau) Privé; 24 Gilles Arnal; 25 Gérald Nadeau; 26 Dianne Nadeau; 27 Paulette Arnal; 28 Léona Privé; 29 Donald Arnal; 30 Doris Privé.



1958-07-22: Harry and Edith Franzmann and their grandchildren.



1958-07-22 Fannystelle, MB: Harry and Edith (née Pannell) Franzmann family – 50th Wedding Anniversary. Back row, left to right: Herbert, Laurence, Kenneth and Gordon. Front row: Phyllis (Enderman), Constance, Edith, Harry, Madeline (Underwood), Myra and Audrey (Simonson).



Melvin and Selma Lofto.



The children of Melvin and Selma Lofto. Left to right: Elaine, Jerry, Marguerite, Lenard and Neomie.

EDUCATION

Schools always played a very important role in the vitality of Fannystelle. Country schools were located to service all the out-lying regions in rural Manitoba. Each



area around Fannystelle had its' own one-room school managed by a School Board of local Trustees. Each of these country schools reflected the ethnic makeup of its' area: Maplestead School District #1090 south east of town, then Castagnier School District #1183 north of town, Syrenne School District #2153 west of town, Joyce School District #2161 north west of town and Webster School District #1919 south west of town.

A detail of interest is that the Webster School #1919 which operated from 1925 to 1961 had been a bank in the town of Fannystelle before it was moved to its location and converted into a country school. Grades 1 to 8 were offered in these one classroom schools: Grade 9 was offered by correspondence when the need arose. All the grades were taught by one teacher who either lived in the school in a space called a teacherage, or boarded with a neighbouring family.

Most country schools had a small barn located behind the school to accommodate the horses of the students who came to school by horse and buggy. Some young teachers were courted by eligible bachelors of the area, married and made Fannystelle their home.

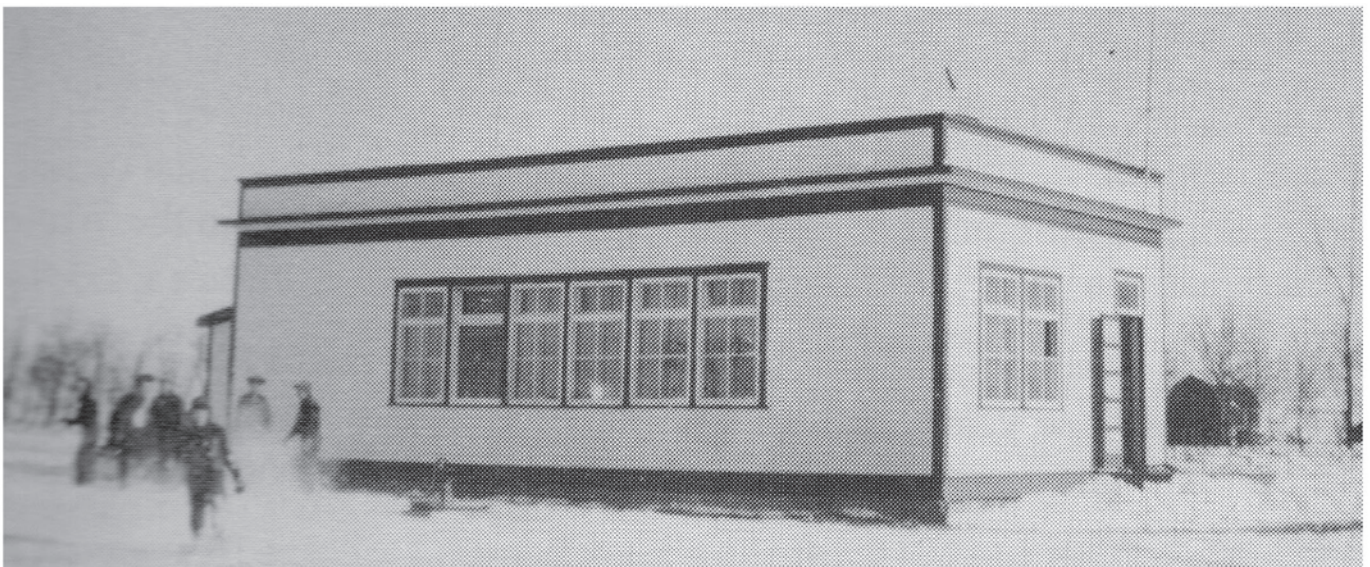


1951 Maplestead School District #1090 (originally named Elma School).

The first Maplestead school building was originally named Elma School. Located four miles south, one mile east and again $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Fannystelle. The original old school opened in 1901 and this second building pictured on the previous page closed in 1967.



1956-12-00 Maplestead School Christmas Concert. 1 Alfred Fruck; 2 Barry Underwood; 3 Gary Franzmann; 4 Gerald Simonson; 5 Delores Simonson; 6 Maureen Underwood; 7 Robert Johnson; 8 Dean Simonson; 9 Linda Underwood; 10 Marlene Fruck; 11 Darlene Simonson; 12 Reggie Johnson; 13 Wendy Simonson; 14 Heather Underwood; 15 Dennis Fruck; 16 Vicky Simonson; 17 Jan Simonson; 18 Ron Franzman; 19 Larry Simonson; 20 Priscilla Simonson.



Webster School District #1919. Located two miles west and four miles south of Fannystelle. Opened in 1925 and closed in 1961.



Castagnier School, District #1183, RM of Cartier: 5W2-10-3W. Located three and a half miles north of Fannystelle at the north-east corner. Established in 1902 and closed in 1929.

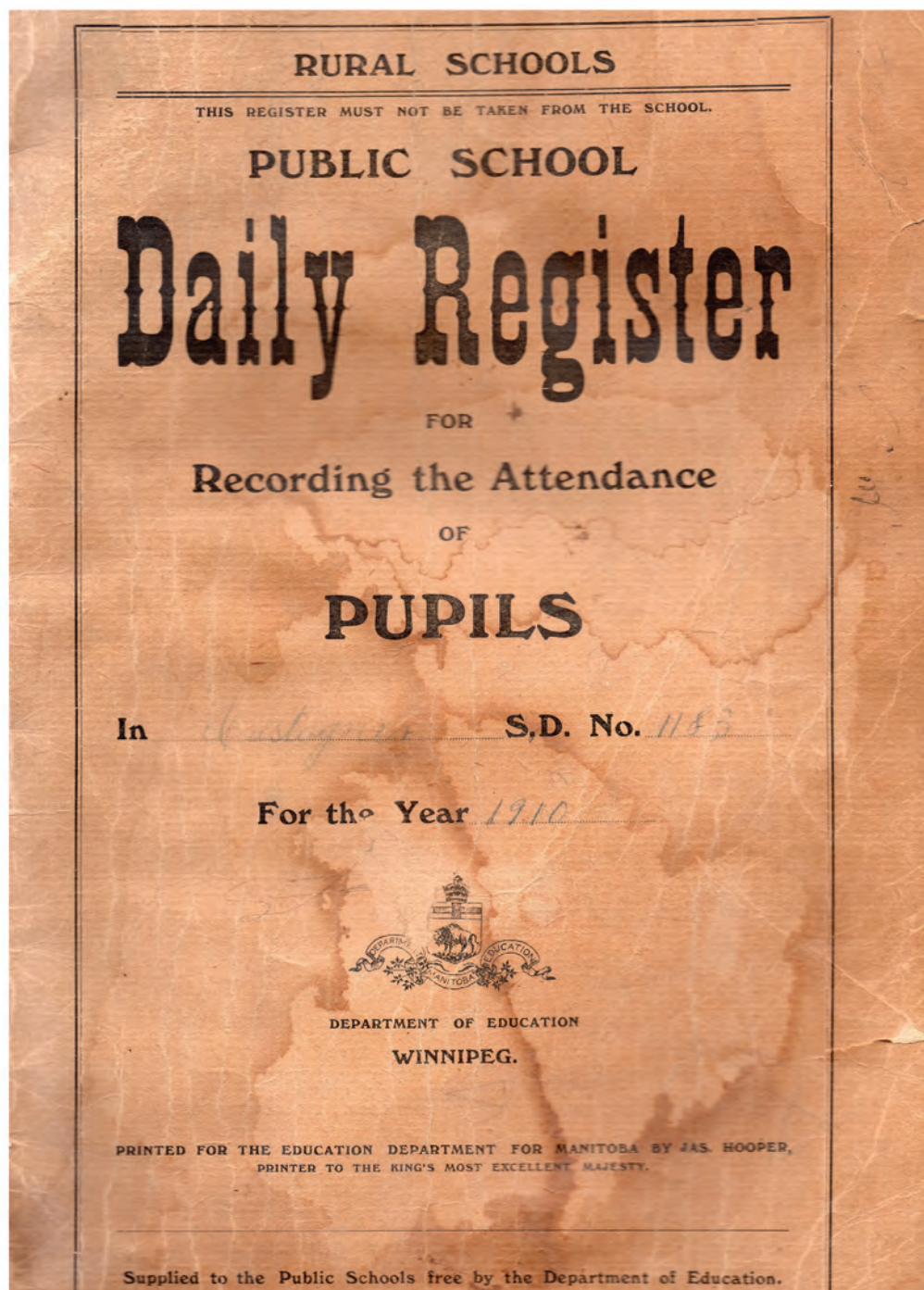


Joyce School located three and a half miles north and three miles west of town. Built in 1926 and closed in 1953.



1940 abt. Joyce School, Fannystelle, MB. Back row, left to right: Mike Drozd, Karl Seidel, Thelma Lofto and Marguerite Lofto. Middle: Ron Seidel, Ed Seidel, Millie Drozd and Naomie Lofto. Front: Gord Oleksuk and Lenard Lofto.

This 1910 copy of the Castagnier School Register shows some most interesting information such as the teacher's annual salary which was \$ 400 a year, an official inventory of maps and globes in the school and declarations of the required singing of God Save the King and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. The town of Fannystelle had a large school of six to eight classrooms offering Grades 1 to 8.



1910 École Castagnier School SD #1183. This is a copy of the 1910 Daily School Register for the year 1910. The teacher was Albertine Desautels. Her yearly salary – \$400.00. Number of students – 11. Family names on register are Lespérance, Arnal, Gustafson and Castagnier.

1902-1903 Fannystelle School - Teachers Miss Préfontaine & Miss Marie Lafrenière.



1902-1903 Fannystelle School: Teachers Miss Préfontaine and Miss Marie Lafrenière.

In around 1893, the first town school was constructed. There is limited information about this school but we do know that it was funded by *la Comtesse d'Albuféra*. The following photo shows students of the school year 1902-1903 who attended this town school. It provides us with an interesting glimpse into the past. In spite of the quality of the photograph, it gives us a listing of familiar family names: Guilbault, Bourque, Cyrenne, Dureault, Piché, Hamel, Painchaud, Coulombe, Lavigne, Dubois, Beupré and others.

Given the ever increasing population growth of the town and neighbouring area, the community built a larger school in 1911 in order to accommodate the ever increasing student population. The 1911 school building in town lasted till the year 1951.



1930 Fannystelle, MB: Old school built in 1911 and demolished abt. 1951.



1915 abt. Fannystelle: Henri Painchaud and Alfred Hamel families in front of new school built in 1911. Activity in the street running past the school built in 1911. This street is now Provincial Road #248.

School Year 1911-1912



FIRST CLASS OF THE NEW SCHOOL BUILT IN 1911

Starting at Front row, left to right.

1. Achille Mollot, Marcel Piché, John B. Mollot, G.C. (Barney) Mollot, Armand Piché, Paul Couture, Emile Menard, Jo. (Pit) Poirier.
2. Achille Coulombe, Aime Hamel, Henri Guyot, Odilon Lavigne, Télesphore Hamel, Harold Stevens, Edward Lavallée, Henri Ménard.
3. Lucien Piché, Albert Hamel, Ernest Ménard, Alexandre Lavigne, Emile Cyrenne, Armand Dureault, Henri Painchaud, Jo. (Pit) Hamel.
4. Cynda Castagner, Joséphine Hamel, Léonie Poirier, Alice Mollot, Florida Cyrenne, Rosanna Poirier, Amélia Poirier.
5. Julia Hamel, Blanche Hamel, Marie Ménard, Madeleine Ménard.
6. Floria Desilets, Louise Hamel, Ruth Walmsley, Marguerite Hamel, Antoinette Painchaud.
7. Ethel Carter, Ernestine Guilbault, Gertrude Hamel, Yvonne Cyrenne, Florence Coulombe, Céline Guilbault.

Teacher: Armandine Desautels.

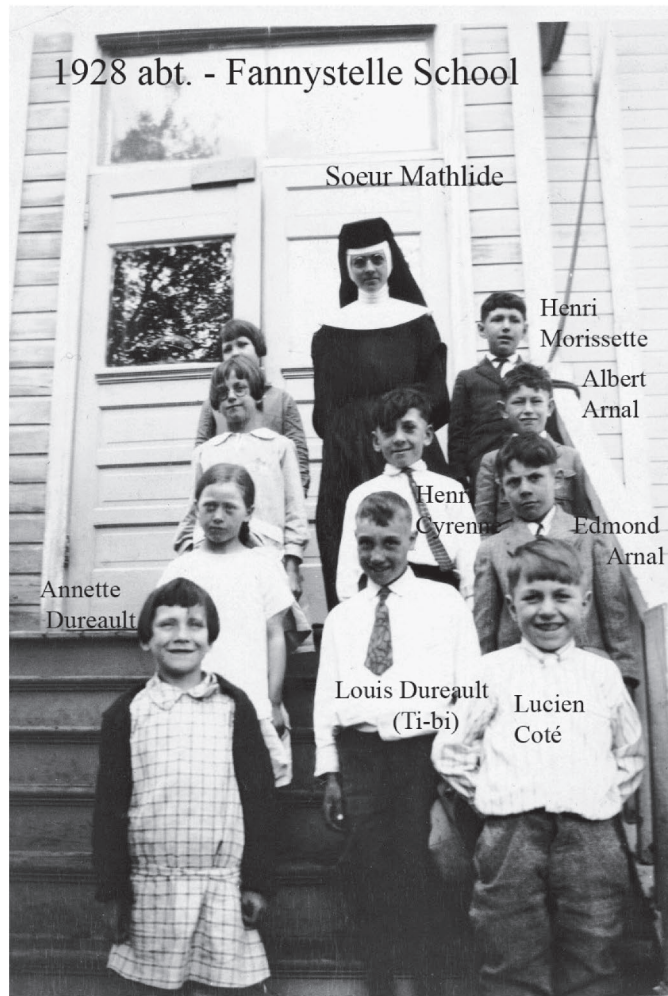
Teacher: Valentine Desautels.



1920 abt. Fannystelle School: Grade 6. Left row (next to cupboards): Gabriel Piché, Edmond Archambault, Adrian Hamel and Joseph Poirier. Middle row: Marguerite Arnal, Cécile Syrenne, Florestine Poirier, Eva Morissette, Thérèse Guyot and Cécile Hamel. Right row: Jean Hamel, Léon Painchaud, Léonie Poirier, Marie-Anne Hamel, André Painchaud and Aimé Dureault.



1921 Grades 7 and 8, Fannystelle School. Front row, left to right: Edmond Archambault, Louis Boisvert, Léon Painchaud, Gabriel Piché, Louis Mollot and Francis McGreavy. Second row: Hervé Cyrenne, Earl Cotton and Armand Piché. Third row: Marcelle Painchaud, Marie Anne Hamel, Lucienne Painchaud. Back row: Lyla Cotton, Marguerite Arnal, Thérèse Guyot, Helen Bales, Cécile Hamel, Marguerite Ménard and teacher Ruth Purdy.



1928 abt. Fannystelle School.



1930-31: Fannystelle School: Back row, left to right: Gérard Painchaud, Charlie Black, Emile Régis, Vincent Hamel, Marius Arnal and Théodore Poitras. Front row: Rachelle Régis, Cécile Morissette, Soeur Marie de l'Incarnation, Alice Morissette, and Melina Lesperance.

1944-Fannystelle School - Class of Sister Ste. Mathilde.



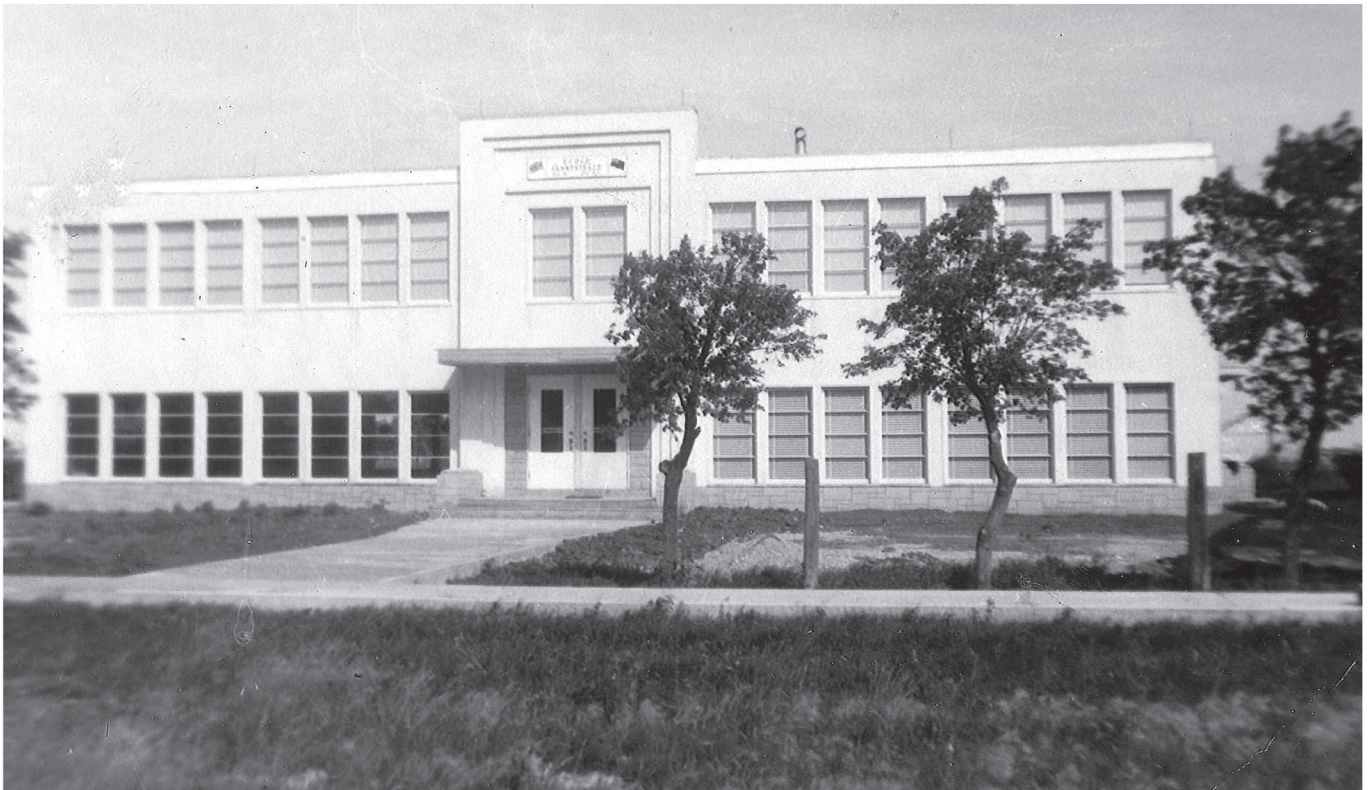
1944 Fannystelle School – Class of Sister Ste. Mathilde. Back row, left to right: Marcel Painchaud, Noël Painchaud, Emile Painchaud, Léo Privé, Lorrain Arnal, Milton McIntyre, Marcel Sylvestre and Ken Hill. Middle row: Claude Guyot, Gilbert Nadeau, Arthur Lavigne, Paul Lavigne, Norman Privé, Jules Arnal, René Syrenne and Victoria Alcock. Front row: Anna Blanchard, Carole Simonson, Delores Aquin, Vicky Oleksuk, Doris Balez, Pat Stangl, Irene Ménard, Gertrude Lavigne, Lorina Hill and Joyce McIntyre.



1945 abt. Fannystelle, MB: 1 Paul Piché; 2 Roland Arnal; 3 Louis Arnal; 4 Sonny Stangl; 5 Laurent Piché; 6 Aimé Piché; Léo Aquin; 8 Lilianne Durand; 9 Laurienne Privé; 10 Annette Lavigne; 11 Madeleine Piché; 12 Louise Bourque; 14 Laurette Privé; 15 Helen Oleksuk; 16 Jeanette Aquin; 17 Deanne Molloy; 18 Rolande Lavigne; 19 Alice Lavigne; 20 Wilma Stevens; 21 Soeur Ida de Jesus; 22 Gilles Syrenne; 23 Robert Sylvestre; 24 Armand Murray; 25 Camille Syrenne; 26 Bobby Anderson; 27 Bud McAlinden; 28 Vince Arnal; 29 Céline Délude; 30 Marguerite Blanchard; 31 Suzanne Durand; 32 Susan Stangl; 33 Annie Oleksuk; 34 Mary Lou Stangl; 35 Aline Syrenne; 36 Béatrice Nadeau.

In 1951, a new school was once again built in the town for Grades 1 to 12 and known as École Fannystelle, School District # 767. In 1958, in response to the need to have High School education more widely available, the Manitoba Government established School Divisions.

The area of Fannystelle became part of the White Horse Plains School Division #20 and became responsible for Grades 7 to 12. In 1961, the last grade 12 class graduated, and Fannystelle School became a K to 6 school. St. Paul's Collegiate in Elie became a Division high school to which grade 7–12 students were bussed. Consolidation continued and gradually all the schools in the area became part of a School Division. The last one room country school to close was Maplestead School and that was in 1967. The Fannystelle K to Grade 6 town school finally closed in about 1981. Since then all the school children of Fannystelle are bused to either Elie, Elm Creek or St. Eustache. Further amalgamation has occurred and since 2002, Fannystelle area is now part of a larger Division called Prairie Rose School Division. The Fannystelle School has been converted into condos.



1951 new school – École Fannystelle School – District #767.



1958-59 Fannystelle School, Soeur Marie du Camel, Grades 3, 4 and 5, Room 2. Back row, left to right: Aurèle Richard, Gerald Nadeau, David Murray, Guy Arnal, Ralph Piché, Billy McIntyre, Barry McAlinden, Gerald Richard, Ronald Morissette, Greg Stangl, Gilles Richard and Colin Fifi. Middle: Barbara Stangl, Maureen Payment, Victor Arnal, Réal Painchaud, Laurent Ménard, Donald McIntyre, Albert Ménard, Albert Morissette, Allan Arnal and Vincent Ménard. Front: Linda Fifi, Alice Syrenne, Jacqueline Syrenne, Joanne Andreychuk, Jeannette Daoust, Odette Ménard, Denise Arnal, Vivianne Arnal and Diane Nadeau.



1958-59 Fannystelle School – Soeur Hélène de la Croix, Grades 6, 7 and 8. Back row, left to right: Robert Arnal, Wayne Simonson, Wade Privé, Rosaire Ménard, Ross McIntyre, Martin Mollot, Guy Cyrenne and Maurice Morissette. Middle: Marguerite Ménard, Diane Payment, Pauline Piché, Paulette St. Godard, Jeannette Murray, Marlene McIntyre, Claude Mollot, Roland Cyrenne, Laurent Morissette and Ronald Aquin. Front: Ghislaine Guyot, Sandra Hamel, Lucille Arnal, Angèle Cyrenne, Diane Murray, Geraldine Stangl, Pauline Aquin, Gilberte St. Godard and Sandra McDonald.



1958-59 Fannystelle School: Grades 9 and 10. Back row, left to right: Roger Boulanger, Lorrain Painchaud, Gerald Simonson, Vic Mollot, Léo Cyrenne and Wayne McAlinden. Front: Jackie McDonald, Ella Cyrenne, Irène Daoust, Delores Simonson, Theresa Stangl, Noëlla Ménard and Vivianne Nadeau.



1961-06-00 Fannystelle School: Grades 9 to 12. Back row, left to right: Roger Boulanger, Ron Franzmann, Alfred Fruck, Claude Mollot, Léo Cyrenne, Leonard Underwood, Ernie Fruck, Father L'Abbé Raymond, the School Inspector. Middle: Wayne McAlinden, Larry Simonson, Lorrain Painchaud, Wade Fast (Privé), Guy Cyrenne, Martin Mollot, Rolly Cyrenne, Wendy Simonson, Diane Murray and Kathy Fruck. Front: Sister St. Marc, Paulette St. Godard, Juliette Dheilly, Ella Cyrenne, Irène Daoust, Father Alberic St. Laurent, Vic Mollot, Jeanette Murray, Pauline Piché, Corinne Cyca and Sister Ste. Odile.

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor do the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them”!

The two World Wars were also painful for Fannystelle. “Lest We Forget,” five men from Fannystelle made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. They are as follows:

In World War I

Onesiphore Lavigne, (Listed as O. Lavigne) Private, 22nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry. Killed in action at Elouges, Belgium November 7, 1918. Regimental # 2381351. Sadly, Onesiphore Lavigne was killed in action only four days before the war ended on Armistice Day, November 11th. Age 24. Reg. #2381351. He was laid to rest in the Elouges Communal Cemetery of Belgium, plot 1, Row B, Grave 3.

In World War II

Emile Ernest Joseph Régis, RCAF/RAF-Flight Sergeant #122 (RAF), Service #R102863, died October 15, 1942, age 28. Born in Fannystelle on Feb. 13, 1914. Burial Memorial – Cooper’s Hill, Runnymede Memorial, Englefield Green, Runnymede Borough, Surrey, England, plot panel 106. Emile was shot down in his Spitfire and killed over the North Sea during the Battle of Britain.

Jules Joseph La Bossière, RCAF-Flight Sergeant. Died September 17, 1942, age 25. Service #R119546. Laid to rest in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery near Nijmegen, Netherlands. Grave reference XVI.15. As a gunner, Jules was shot down and killed during a bombing mission over Germany.

Joseph George Louis Boisvert, RCAF-Warrant Officer Class 2, Wireless Operator/Air Gunner. Died September 19, 1943, age 34. Service # R101506. Laid to rest in Thornaby-On-Tees Cemetery, U. K. Plot O, Row O, Grave 15.

Joseph Roland Edmond Colombe, Oxford Rifles and Les Fusiliers de Mont-Royal, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps. Private. Born in Fannystelle on Feb. 15, 1923. Died March 30, 1945, age 22. Service #H/615676. Laid to rest in Groesbeek, Canadian War Cemetery,



WW1 1918-11-07 Onesiphore Lavigne-Elouges Cummunal Cemetery, Belgium. Mass Grave Memorial. Died at age 24.



WW2 1942-10-15 Emile Régis – Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, England. Age 28.



1942-09-17: Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands – Jules Joseph La Bossière, Flight Sergeant, Gunner. Killed in action on September 17, 1942 at the age of 25.



1945-03-30: Joseph Roland Edmond Coulombe, Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeek, Netherlands. Born in Fannystelle on February 15, 1923. Just before WW2, the family moved to Pine Falls, MB. At age 19, he enlisted and was killed in action at the age of 22 on March 30, 1945 during the liberation of the Netherlands.



WW2 1943-09-19 Joseph George Louis Boisvert - Thornaby On Tees Cemetery, UK. Killed in action September 19, 1943. Age 34.

Groesbeek, Netherlands. Grave reference-XIX. B. 1.

In World War II, the following also served: John Andreychuk, John Hawkins, brothers John and Martin Hamel, Aimé Piché, Ralph Borley, Armand Caltorp, Paul Black, Melvin Lofto, Jim Underwood, Frederick Morison, Heather Besse, Sam Fruck, Roy Becker, the five brothers Jacques, Lucien, Emile, Jean (known as Vic) and Ad-elard (known as Bob) Côté, Ken Franzmann, brothers Paul & Dominique Régis, Paul Morissette, Sophie Drozd, Jack Klassen, brothers Henri and Ubald Morissette, Lucien Régis, Alfred Lavoie, brothers Aimé and Laurent Arnal, Auguste Arnal, brothers Benoit and Roland Dureault, and Gabriel Syrenne.

In fact, Jean Coté (known as Vic) was a prisoner of war for a short time. He was enlisted in the RCAF and was a gunner. In early 1945, on a bombing mission, he was shot down and captured by the Nazis and became a prisoner of war (POW). Fortunately he was liberated by the Allies and lived to tell his story. Many listed above did not go overseas. This list was recently taken from the Fannystelle Community Hall list. It is possible that it may be incomplete, but we shall honor all servicemen and women because they have made a great contribution to our town and country!



Municipality of Grey War Memorial in Elm Creek, MB.



1952 Mollot Garage Ltd. This is the second garage, built in 1951.



Murray's Auto Service Centre. Three generations: George Sr., Jake and Marc Murray.

Jacques (Jake) Murray and finally son Marc. They were all able to make a reasonable living. However, as farms became larger and the population of the area diminished, these businesses gradually shut down. Today, none of these are left.



1906 abt. Alfred Hamel General Store. This was located immediately across from the Jack Black house or where the Côté house was situated.



1927 abt. – Mollot Trading Co. General Store & Hardware & Garage. Owner: Marcel Mollot.

Throughout the first eighty years, there were always general stores in the town. At the outset, there were the C. Lavasseur General Store, the Henri Guilbault Store and the Henri Piché Store. The Alfred Hamel General Store of the early 1900s later became known as the Martin Hamel United Store. The Henri Painchaud General Store operated for several years then, in 1911, was converted to the convent for the Oblate Sisters.



1930s – Hervé Cyrenne General Store. Closed in 1983.



1940s - Martin Hamel United Stores.

There is record of a Clay's Store and a 1915 photo of a Poirier Store. The Mollot General Store, established about 1914, burned to the ground in 1924. Marcel Mollot rebuilt at a different location on Main Street in 1925. Later in about 1927, a restaurant and a garage were added to what came to be known as the Mollot Trading Company.

The Hervé Cyrenne General Store with a White Rose Oil dealership was built in the late 1920s and remained open till 1983. The Martin Hamel Store was the last store in Fannystelle and it closed in January 1999. It is interesting to note that for many decades, the various businesses in town offered credit to most of the locals. It was customary that when you went to a store for groceries or to a garage for parts, you would just say "Put it on the Bill," no signature, nothing! It was like a cashless society based on the honour system and everyone knew everyone else.



1946-07-00 Fannystelle, MB: In background, left to right: Mel Simonson's Hardware Store, Bill Hamel's Garage and Ford Dealership, and Martin Hamel's United Stores. Walking: Jack Black, retired blacksmith and former town constable of about 1904.



1944 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Hervé Cyrenne store. Left to right: Alphonsine and Edward Cyrenne, Marcelle and Gaspard Piché, unknown, Pearl Ménard, unknown, Thérèse and Gabriel Piché, unknown, Joe Ménard. Boy in front: René Piché. This scene was typical of the 1940s and 1950s. On Sunday morning after Church, people dropped in at Cyrenne's General store for groceries and a treat.

Farmers would pay their bills once or twice a year when their grain cheques came in during the late fall and early spring. I was told by one of my senior historians that in the fall, he would come to town with his father with \$500, to pay all their bills and in addition, buy twelve 100 lb bags of flour for bread and baking for the year.

Later in the 1950s and 60s, companies like Weston's Bread Ltd. would deliver bread two or three times per week to the local stores. The same applied for Modern Dairies who delivered milk and dairy products. These deliveries came to an end when the stores closed.

Blacksmithing had always been an important business for a community. Blacksmiths would use hot and cold forging and an anvil to fabricate parts for buggies and farm equipment. They also repaired harnesses and shod horses. From the onset of the twentieth century to the year 1958, some of the town blacksmiths in Fannystelle were Honoré Lavasseur, the first blacksmith then followed by Walter Jackson, Robert Baird, Antoine Boisvert, Sebastien Dubois, Jack Black and Roméo Charbonneau. In 1902, Jack Black purchased the Fortuné Mollot house and built a metal clad blacksmith shop next to the house. The shop and house were located immediately behind the Mollot Trading Co. According to the Henderson's Directory, Jack Black was also hired as the Fannystelle village constable for a number of years



Early 1940s, left to right: Charbonneau's blacksmith shop, Charbonneau's first house, Mel Simonson's shop and gas bowser. Far right: Oblate Sisters convent.

in the early 1900s. In the 1930s, in addition to the Jack Black blacksmith shop, Roméo Charbonneau, originally from Elie, opened up a second blacksmith shop adjacent to the Melvin Simonson home and hardware store. Blacksmiths were an essential business to the community.

In the early years, getting a haircut was an 'at home' event with one family member often becoming the 'designated barber'! Willie Leblanc is the first known barber in the 1930s. Prior the 1930s, there may well have been barbers in town, but none can be identified. Willie started with his barber's chair in Barney's Mollot's restaurant which later became the Arcel Lacerte's store in about 1940. By the early 1950s, Willie had his own barber shop next to the existing Community hall. The barber shop was the local newsroom so at any time, there were not only customers but also drop-ins looking for the news of the day about the folks in town. Parents sent their kids for a haircut and the service was simply 'put on the bill'. Some have memories of this small barber shop eventually having been converted into an ice cream parlor by Johnny Champagne, nephew of Donald Guilbault, the postmaster, but finally it was sold as a private residence and became the first home of Marcel (Bucky) and Pat Painchaud.



Willie's Barber Shop

Another very popular business in town was the Fannystelle Hotel & Men's only Beer Parlor referred to as "the old watering hole." The people of Fannystelle learned to know several hotels and many hotel owners throughout the years. Some names of hotel owners were Poirier



1952 abt. Fannystelle Hotel Complex. Left: hotel; center: Men's Only Beer Parlour; right: Willie Leblanc barber shop.

Bros., A.E. Kemp, Ted Couture, Mr. Balez, Oscar Radysh, Willie Seidel, Alphonse Sylvester, Alf Lagimodière, Mr. Pomerinski, Evelyn McDonald, Mr. Rosin, Larry Katcher and Jack Jardin and there may have been others.

It is believed that the first Fannystelle Hotel, had been built and operated by the Poirier Bros. around 1900 and was located at the south west corner of the street going towards the church or where the Martin Hamel General store was later built. In the 1930s, the hotel in the photo above was built on Main Street between the Mollot Trading Co. and the Guilbault post office. Again, this second hotel, was a men's only beer parlor complete with spittoons.

During those years, only draft beer was served; the wooden kegs would arrive from Winnipeg by transfer. This second hotel on Main Street was abandoned around 1952 and a new hotel was constructed at the corner of new No. 2 highway and the entrance to the town. On a Saturday night in the late 50s, the old abandoned downtown hotel mysteriously burned to the ground. Sometime in the 70s, the hotel at the highway was painted bright pink and became known as the "Pink Hotel." There were colorful murals painted on the exterior walls featuring women in agriculture. This pink hotel is featured in "Historic sites in Manitoba." But fire struck on March 31st 1994 and the pink prairie landmark at the highway was gutted. It was later determined to be arson. Shortly thereafter, a smaller hotel was built at the same location at the highway but by this time, a hotel in Fannystelle was no longer viable. The building was sold and moved to Oak Bluff, MB and became known as *Roxy's Restaurant*. Over the years, Fannystelle hotels seem to have been susceptible to fire....

One unique rural business that did exist for a few decades between 1920s and 1950s were peddlers. In those years, at the farm, you could expect a Raleigh's or Watkin's salesman peddling all types of dry goods and medicinal remedies. During the dirty thirties, my uncle Archie Mollot of Archie's Meats of Starbuck peddled meat in the country side in order to earn a living. Another peddler that got to be well known around Fannystelle was Mr. Rabinovich of City Fruit.

INTERESTING STORIES

In this photo taken in front of the hotel and dated about 1946, the girls and the toddler Claude Mollot are standing next to an old 'beat up' 1928 Model A Ford truck belonging to Ovide Dureault.

There is an interesting story which took place in the 1940s and 50s told about this truck and its' owner. I can still vividly remember Ovide driving into town with his treasured old 1928 Model A Ford beater. Most times he was seen with his signature curved pipe. He could always be heard for miles because the truck had no muffler. Neighbours indicated that at a stop sign, Ovide would slow down but would never stop... he would just honk and drive through intersections! In addition, Ovide's truck backfired noisily for years because he had difficulty with the spark ignition advance system of the truck. These old trucks did not have starters so one had to crank the vehicle in order to start it. As well, ignition and acceleration were controlled with a lever similar to one that we have today for signal lights. Before cranking, one would have to set the spark ignition advance which was the throttle. Ovide, somehow, would always set the ignition advance too high and this would make the Model A back fire when he cranked



1946 abt, left to right: Vicky Oleksuk, Diane Préfontaine, Béatrice Nadeau and Claude Mollot. In background, Fannystelle Hotel and Men's Only Beer Parlor and Ovide Dureault's 1928 Model A Ford.



1947-04-09: Ben and Lucy Syrenne wedding truck belonging to Ovide Dureault – 1928 Model A Ford.

it. In order to move, with the motor revved up, Ovide would put the truck into gear, ride the clutch to get rolling and then over-increase the spark to accelerate.

It was quite hilarious to hear the backfires and see the clouds of smoke! Folks always heard when Ovide was in town. Ovide was not fully aware of the racket his truck caused because the good old boy was stone deaf even though he was wearing hearing aids which he called his *gerzouille*.

Ovide Dureault was also well known for giving nicknames. All his children were better known with nicknames such as Ti-bee, Ti-bit, Ti-Maine rather than by their actual names of Louis, Jules and Germaine. Nicknames being given to individuals was woven in the culture of the town. For a newcomer, it was rather difficult to quickly identify people because most had a nickname. Gradually, nicknames became less common.

Another interesting story is related to the surname of one of the several families who moved to Fannystelle from Bécancour, Quebec. The parents, Charles and Virginie Cyrenne family arrived around 1895. Because, the sons Omer and Oscar, both wrote their name O. Cyrenne, they experienced the problem of constantly getting each other's mail. Both frustrated, Oscar approached the postmaster for a potential solution. The postmaster supposedly suggested that Oscar change the spelling of his name to Syrenne with an 'S'. Eventually, Oscar changed all his identification information to Syrenne. As a result, some families spelled their names with an S; others with a C. Today, descendants of each family find the story of the different spelling of their names as quite amusing.

COMMUNITY, RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Earlier generations knew fun and good times. Family gatherings were popular and there were various social gatherings such as community card parties, theatre plays, talent shows, and Christmas concerts. Weddings were a community event and so were celebrations that followed 'barn raising' projects! A period of prosperity known as 'the Roaring Twenties' followed World War I. Similarly there was a great period of growth after World War II.

From photos, it is believed that the first open air skating rink was built in the early 1920s and was located immediately across the road from the Fanny Rives statue which still stands today.

By about 1945, the town was able to afford a new two sheet curling rink and a new open air ice skating rink as well as a community hall which was located south of the tracks next to the Manitoba Pool Elevators. These became very popular venues. I am told, that to build the community hall and the 2-sheet curling rink, local men caravanned their trucks to Seven Sisters Falls where lumber was available because at the time, trees were being cut from the area that would be flooded for the second phase of the expansion of the hydro-electric power station. From a local sawmill, the lumber was purchased and hauled to Fannystelle. The community 'work bee' built the community hall, the 2-sheet curling rink and skating rink. The skate shack was not exactly an ice palace! It was an old city of Winnipeg street car converted into a club house used to warm up and dress up. It was nestled close to the skating rink so it provided shelter from which to enjoy hockey games as well. It was heated with an old home made potbellied wood-stove with a 45 gallon drum and about 15 ft. of stove pipe. The door closure for the shack was an old rubber tire tube serving as a spring to slam the door shut to keep the warmth inside!

In those years, a common way of getting a big job done for a neighbour or for the community was a 'work bee' in which the manpower was volunteer labour. Men from the community gathered; community buildings were constructed, barns were raised, and as in this following picture of the Oscar Syrenne house-moving 'work bee', even the neighbours' horses took part!



1925: John Mollot, age 21, cleaning skating rink.

*House was moved
from the village
of Fannystelle out
to Oscar Syrenne's
farm.
moved by John J. Black*



1920-03-00: Work party moving Oscar Syrenne's house using horses. The house on skids was dragged on frozen ground from Fannystelle to the Syrenne farm. Mover: John J. Black, the local blacksmith.



1940s Work party demolishing a shed at the Painchaud farm. Left to right: Gustave Painchaud, Henri Arnal, Marcel Arnal, Emile Arnal, André Painchaud, Maurice Arnal, Joseph Ménard, Oscar Morissette, Célestin Nadeau, Louis Ménard and Gabriel Arnal.

Photos from days gone by of some Fannystelle hockey and baseball teams depict community spirit and good times.



1920 abt. Fannystelle Ball Team. Left to right: Gabriel Piché, John Hamel, Chris Laidlaw, Louis Mollot, Earl Cotton, Jean Piché, Francis McGreavy, Hermaine Arcand, Léon Painchaud. Sitting: Roger Piché, Hervé Biron, Felix Black and Ken Bale.



1930s Fannystelle "Hot Dogs" Hockey Team. Left to right: Gordon Franzmann, Gilbert McIntyre, Dick Underwood, Art Sally, Jim Underwood and Lionel Hunt.



1930 abt. The Fannystelle "Millionnaires." Back row, left to right: Dick Underwood, Gordon Franzmann, Jim Underwood, John Mollot. Middle: Patrick Black, Lionel Hunt and Martin Hamel. Front: Barney Mollot and Ken Franzmann.



1946 abt. Fannystelle Ball Club. Back row, left to right: Jerry Lavergne, Jacques Syrenne, Oscar Syrenne, Coach, Johnny Andreychuk, Herb Franzmann and Andy Arnal. Front: Ben Syrenne, Gabriel Syrenne and Laurie Franzmann.



1950 abt. Fannystelle Hockey Team. 1) Paul Murray, 2) Marcel (Bucky) Painchaud, 3) Ernest Lavoie, 4) Roland (Rocky) Boulanger, 5) Lucien Boulanger, 6) Jacques Murray, 7) René Syrenne, 8) Louis (Bosco) Arnal, 9) Marcel Sylvestre, 10) René Mollot, 11) Danny Reese.



1953-02-00 Fannystelle Hockey Team. Back row, left to right: Louis (Bosco) Arnal, Herb Franzmann, Sonny Stangl, Emile (King) Arnal, Bob Coté, Jacques Murray. Front: Armand Murray, Fernie Coppens, Laurie Franzmann, Jacques Syrenne, Alfred (Frenchie) Arnal and Paul Black.



1955 Fannystelle Flyers. Back row, left to right: Gertrude Lavigne, Fernande Painchaud, Diane Arnal, Dolores Horn and Elaine Lofto. Front: Maureen Underwood, Pat Hamel, Elaine Underwood and Germaine Coppens.



2005 – 50 years later – Retired Fannystelle Flyers team. Back row, left to right: Joyce Seidel, Maureen Underwood, Pat Hamel, Elaine Lofto, Elaine Underwood, Germaine Coppens, Dorothy Meadmore, Diane Franzmann, Fernande Painchaud and Dolores Horn. Front: Melba Johnson and Carole Simonson.

Beginning in the late 1940s, the annual Curling Bonspiels in winter and Sports and Baseball Tournaments in summer were always very popular events for small towns and it was no different for Fannystelle. The community hall also became the place to host dances, socials and weddings. Weddings then were a whole day celebration starting with the church ceremony in the morning, lunch in the community hall, and wedding photos in Winnipeg in the afternoon; then back to Fannystelle for a banquet for invited guests ending with an evening dance to which everyone in town was invited. It was a full day event! However as time passed on, the old community dance hall next to the Manitoba Pool Elevators had seen its better days. In the late 1950s, this old community hall was demolished. In 1960, a new community hall was constructed on Main Street between the Mollot Garage and the post office.

Then in 1967, the old two sheet curling rink was demolished and as a Centennial project for the Municipality of Grey, a new three sheet curling rink was built where the old community dance hall, curling rink and skating rinks had once been located. The new curling rink and bonspiels became the center of winter social life. Liquor permits at the rink were deemed as not necessary but, of particular interest was the closed space under the stairwell, known as the 'snake room' where mainly curlers would 'secretly' enjoy a few drinks.

As a youngster and teenager in the late 1940s and 50s, one could always be entertained, especially in the winter, by dropping in at Alex Lavigne's Café to hear Alex tell a story or two. One could also drop in at Hervé's Pool Room also known as 'le petit casino', or even next door at the Hervé Cyrenne General store to enjoy a 10 cent Wynola cola drink in a glass refundable bottle while watching a card game. It was entertaining to watch the locals play pool and cards and listen to 'raconteurs' such as Bucky (Marcel) Painchaud, Bob Wight and Alex Lavigne.

Also in those years, Fannystelle even had movies. The parish hall was turned into a movie theatre for one evening a week. A gentleman from Winnipeg travelled to small towns in Manitoba to show movies. It was very interesting to us was that he operated the movie from a very small projection room at the back of the hall. Every half hour or so or when one reel ended, the movie would come to a dead stop. The hall would be in full darkness till the next reel was set

BASEBALL
OPEN TOURNAMENT
AT
FANNYSTELLE, Man.
SUN. JULY 25TH 1954
\$390.00 in Prizes

CLASS "A"		CLASS "B"	
FIRST PRIZE	\$175.00	FIRST PRIZE	\$50.00
SECOND PRIZE	\$80.00	SECOND PRIZE	\$25.00

If rained out before 4 o'clock, prize money cut by 50% and money divided evenly between winners.

Specify your Class with your entry.

Entries to be made with Deposit of \$10.00. (Refunded to Teams Present Only) to the Secretary by Mail, NOT later than FRIDAY, JULY 23rd.

Players Limited to One Team Only.

Teams drawn to play at 12 o'clock noon, standard time, will be notified. All other teams will be ready at 1:30 p.m.

Girl's **SOFTBALL**, Prizes \$30., \$20., \$10. 4 TEAMS OR NO THIRD PRIZE.

OFFICIAL UMPIRES FOR THE DAY



and other Attractions, Lunches and Refreshments

Chas. Johnson, Pres. Andre Arnal J. Andreychuk, Secretary

Phone 332-4 Phone 332-2 Phone 332-3

1954-07-25: Fannystelle Baseball Tournament Poster.



1956-12-00: Lavigne's Café – Alex Lavigne and Maurice O'Rourke.



The Fannystelle Community Hall.

up on the projector for the movie to roll on. With only one projector, the delay could not be avoided. Later on, movie watching became more sophisticated when a second projector eliminated the need for a stop between reels. The movie goers brought their own treats and always enjoyed the entertainment.

French and French Canadian traditions brought enjoyable activities to Fannystelle over the years: The yearly midnight mass with special music and singing took place on Christmas Eve. Back at home after church, some families would enjoy '*le Réveillon*' which was the opening of Christmas gifts and a large family meal. Another tradition, which took place on New Year's Day, was '*la Tournée*.' It was customary to travel from home to home to visit friends and especially senior family members to extend good wishes for a Happy New Year. An important community tradition in all the schools, whether country school or town school, was the annual Christmas concert sometime in December.

Today the social fabric of the community is maintained by the church built in 1913 and the Fannystelle Community hall built in 1960. The church holds limited services and the hall various events such as wedding socials, community dances, funeral receptions and the like.

FARMING

Farming methods have drastically evolved since the village of Fannystelle was founded in 1889. At the turn of the 20th century, one would cultivate 20 acres on a good day with a team of four horses; now in 2021, that is done in one hour. Before the advent of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer, farmers would crop the land for two years then work the land for one year without a crop. About one third of their land was summer fallow each year. Farmers were quite content when their land provided a 25 bushel per acre crop for two out of three years. Today, this yield per acre is classified as a crop failure.

Land around Fannystelle was known to be very fertile. For this reason, over the years, families were attracted to Fannystelle, such as in the 1940s the Boulanger family moved from Grande Carrière, Saskatchewan to Fannystelle for the fine farmland.

This 1913 photo from Harry and Edith Franzmann illustrates how this family broke sod using both a steamer, which they called 'Big Mogul,' and teams of horses.



1913 Fannystelle, MB. Sod breaking with 'Big Mogul' steamer and horses at the Harry and Edith Franzmann farm.

From the early years to the advent of the self-propelled combine around 1946, farming was very labour intensive especially during harvest. While farm implement companies gradually produced more efficient farm equipment, farmers also strived to improve the efficiency and productivity of their tasks. Henri Privé was one such farmer/inventor. Because he was always inventing something, in Fannystelle, he was called *Le Patenteur* (The Inventor). In the late 1940s, Henri Privé was one of the first to invent the self-propelled swather seen in the photo below which could be adapted as a mower for cutting hay. In fact, he also invented a power lawnmower and a grain auger. Unfortunately, he never pursued patents for his inventions. Lacerte Manufacturing of Winnipeg used his ideas and even manufactured the self-propelled swather that Henri Privé had invented. Marcel Privé, one of Henri's sons and 'a chip off the old block', worked on the installation of pipelines as a high pressure welder. With the help of his father, Marcel invented various machines that would lay the 16 inch pipes for the pipeline. As well, some of Marcel's inventions facilitated the installation of hydro/telephone poles through the rocky terrain of the Canadian pre-Cambrian shield.

Following are a few photos depicting how harvesting was conducted for many years. First, the binder pulled by horses and later by tractor cut the crop and made bundles called sheaves.



1946 abt. – This photo of Henri Privé demonstrating his homemade self-propelled swather has been taken from the 16 mm films of John Mollot.

Bunches of six to eight sheaves were deposited in the field. Farm hands, using pitchforks, would follow to stand the sheaves into stooks to dry. A few days later, the stooks were piled onto racks and hauled to the threshing machine.

The Great Depression was not very kind to the world, including Fannystelle. It caused a lot of unemployment, grief and hardship. Farmers could not sell their grain and if they did, they got next to nothing for it. As documented, Marcel Arnal ended up selling a boxcar load of malting barley for only \$1.50. The cheque that he received was ‘not worth the paper it was written on.’ For wheat, the going rate was 15 cents a bushel; hogs sold for three cents a pound. Farmers struggled to survive and there were many hardships during these difficult times. During the Great Depression, my father in law Leon Cousin worked just for room and board for a whole winter at a dairy farm. Many farmers lost their farms during these ‘dirty thirties’. Just prior to the Great Depression, a number of folks from the Piché family in Fannystelle had decided to move to the Gravelbourg area of Saskatchewan, because land there was very inexpensive. Some was Homestead land. Unfortunately there were crop failures in southern Saskatchewan for most of the 1930s. During these “dirty thirties,” not only did these folks suffer from the Great Depression but also from crop failures due to drought and grasshoppers. Saskatchewan was called the ‘dust bowl’ in the 1930s.



Gabriel Piché

1938 abt. – Fannystelle, MB. Making sheaves with a binder.

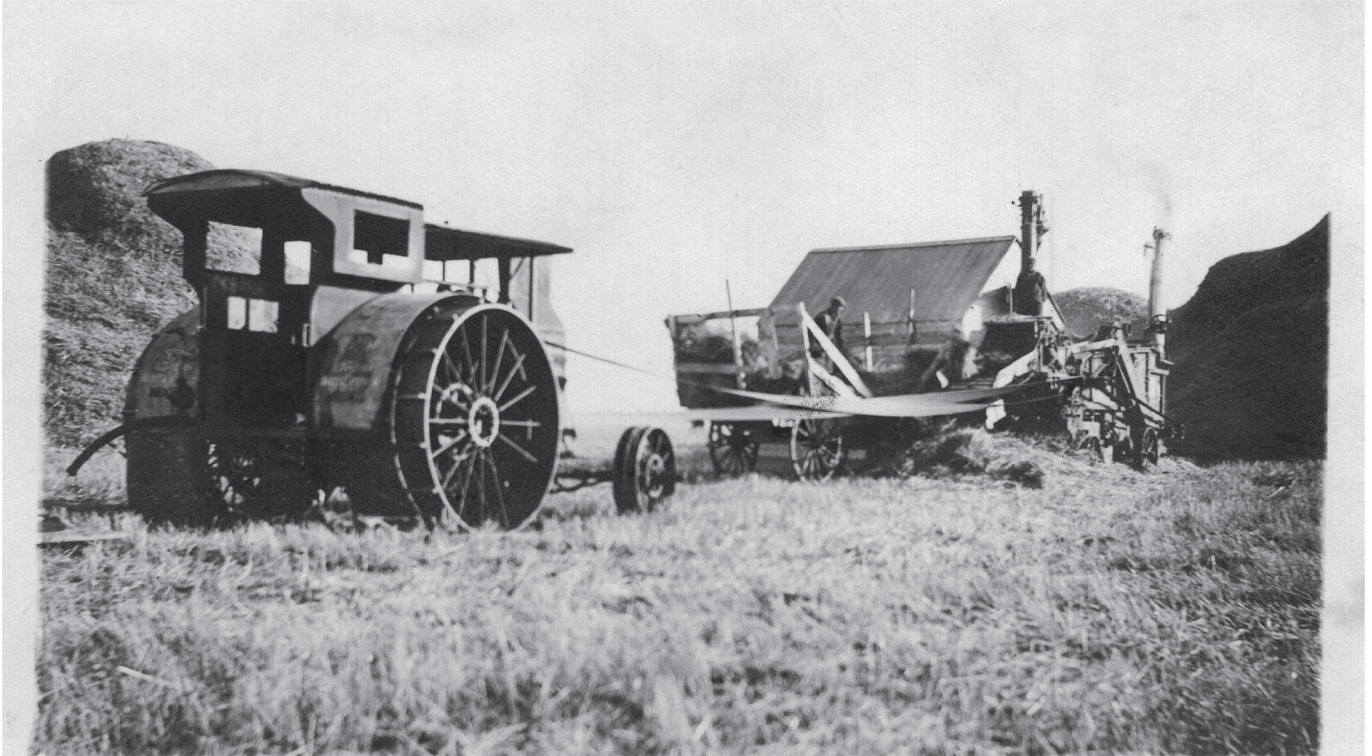


Fannystelle, MB: Harvesting – Stooking on the farm.

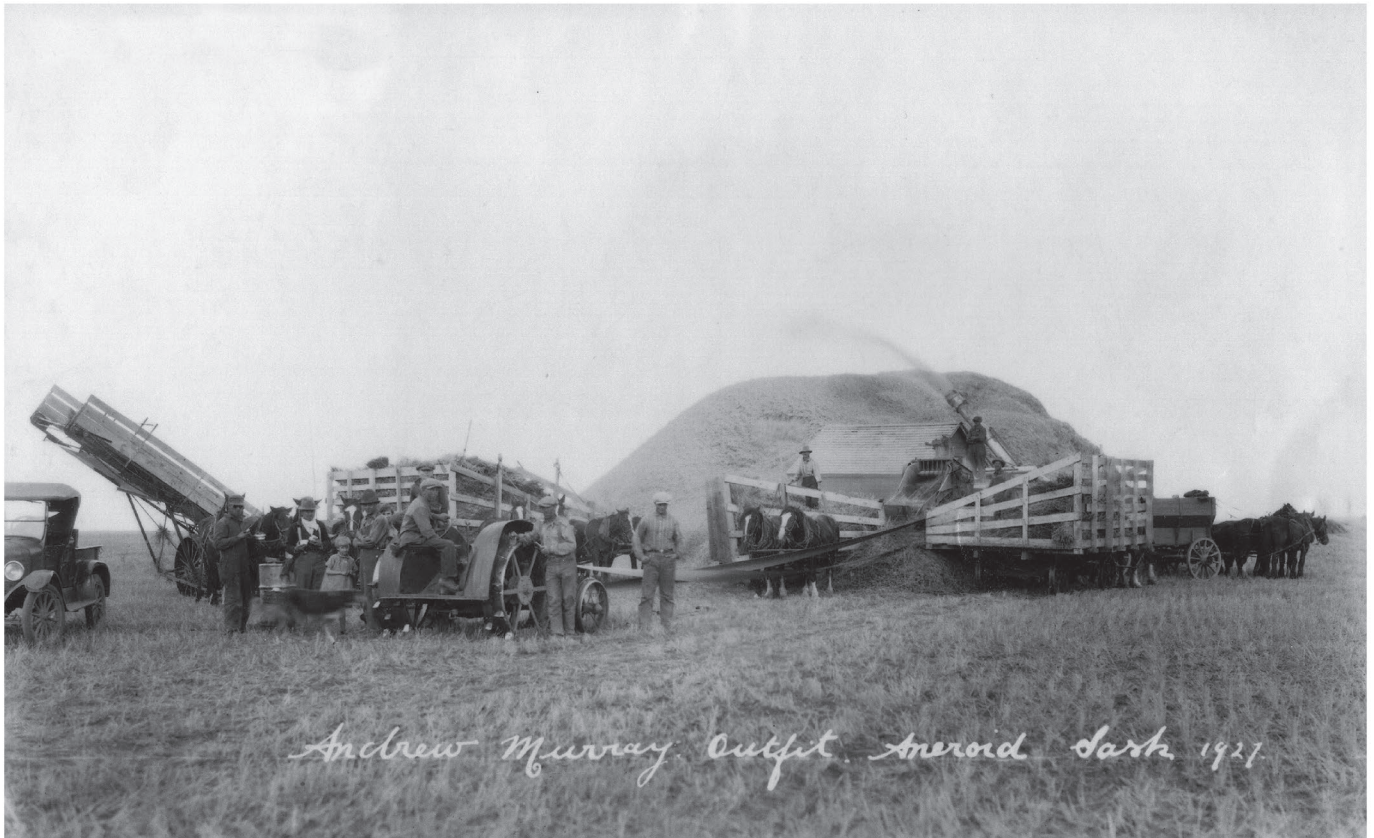


Souvenir de l'attage, 1939.

1939 – Farmhands at harvest time. Third from left Leon Cousin. Others unknown.



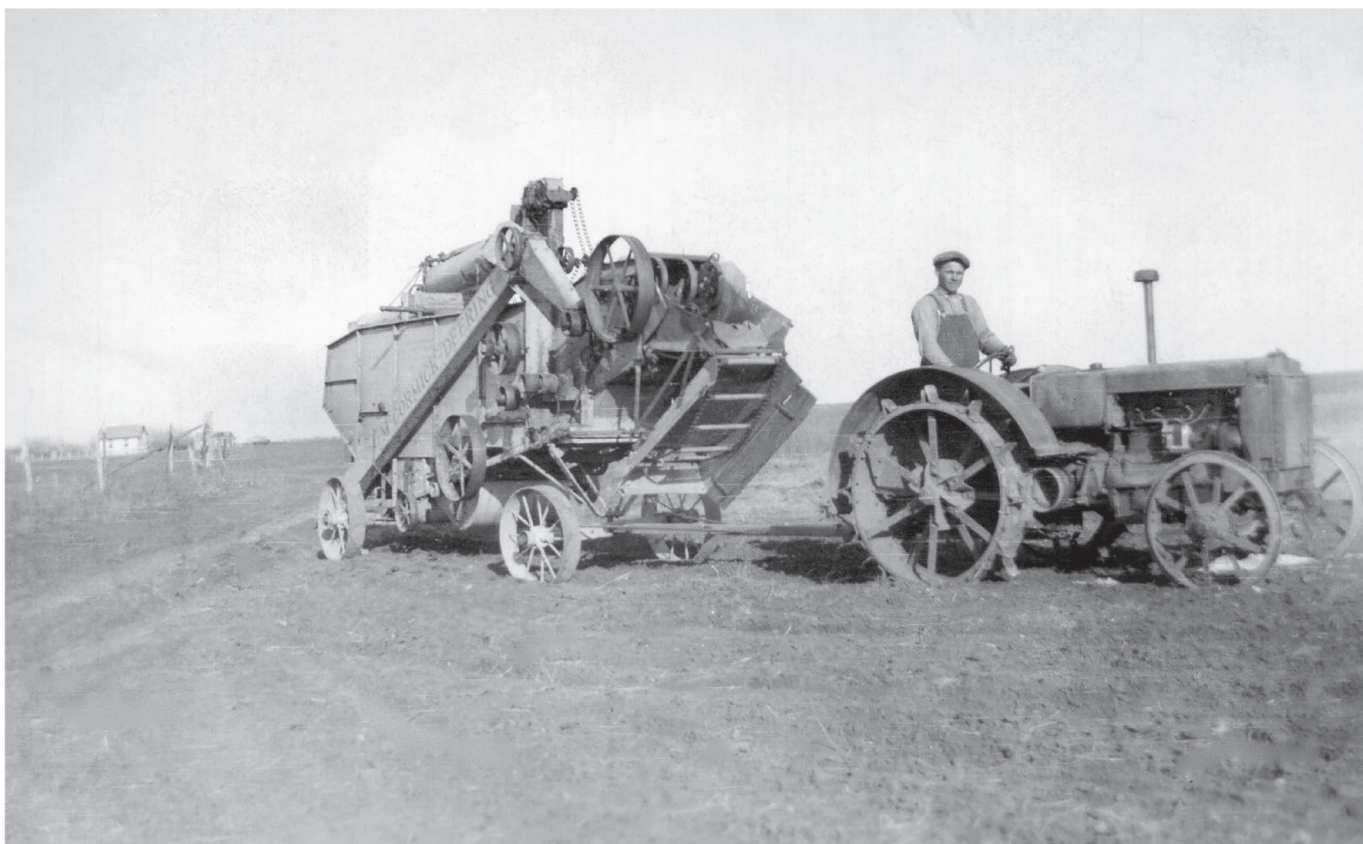
1913-09-00 Fannystelle, MB: Harry and Edith Franzmann farm "Threshing time."



1927-09-00: Threshing.



1909 – Harry and Edith Franzmann Farm – Hauling grain! Connie Franzmann in center; others unknown.



1936-08-00 Fannystelle, MB: Mike Oleksuk farm. Case Tractor on steel lugs pulling a Mc Cormick Deering threshing machine.



1930s Fannystelle, MB:
Combining and hauling grain.



1950s Fannystelle:
Piché/Painchaud farms.
Combining with McCormick
Deering, International
Harvester 122 and Cockshot
combines.



1930s: Almir Arnal Farm Threshing crew – 24 horses and 12 men.

It took a lot of “horse” power and men for the harvest. In this photo from the Almir Arnal farm, there were a total of 24 horses and at least 12 men for the harvest season. My mother would tell me that during harvest time, that at their farm, they would always operate a cook house to feed the crew and a bunk house to accommodate them. In the 1920s, 30s and 40s, it was quite common for farmers to “team up” for threshing. As an example, the Almir and Benjamin Arnal brothers joined forces for the threshing season.

For many years, in the winter, some farmers would loan out their horses to various lumber camps in Northwestern Ontario. This way, the horses earned remuneration for the farmer who in turn did not have to feed the horses throughout the winter. Yearly in late October, one could witness a ‘parade’ of some 250 horses from various farmers, all in one long line, being loaded up on railcars to head for the lumber camps. It was a spectacular scene. Almir Arnal, being a livestock business man, brokered these types of operations for a number of years both with the CNR railway in Elie and CPR railway in Fannystelle. In a written statement from J.A. Mathieu Ltd, dated April 24 1930, all the horses that Almir Arnal had loaned out were listed. Amazingly, it lists some 250 horses from Fannystelle farmers that Mr. Arnal had loaned to Mathieu Limited at 43 cents a day per horse. That means the respective farmer would have received less than 43 cents per day per horse. The statement showed that the loan was for a

five month period and gave a description of each horse. J.A. Mathieu Ltd. who leased the horses, listed himself as manufacturer of railway ties, lathe and lumber. He owned sawmills in Rainy lake, Ontario during the Great Depression.

In the early spring, a CPR steam locomotive would drop off a number of livestock railcars at the town rail siding and the long line 'parade of horses' would again be witnessed, this time on their way home from the bush camps. The horses were somewhat skinnier, which was evidence of their hard winter's work and likely meager nourishment.

STATEMENT

J. A. MATHIEU LIMITED
RAILWAY TIES, LATH AND
LUMBER MANUFACTURERS

RAINY LAKE, April 24 1930
ONT.

IN ACCOUNT WITH A. Arnal
Fannystelle, Man

Horse Labour	9.8-30	30
2 Horse Drowned	300	00
1 ✓ Died Natural Death		Nil
	10.130	30
Less Payments	2,000	00
Balance	8,130	30

1930-04-24: Almir Arnal: When horses were the main source of power to do the work on the farms, many farmers would opt to hire out their horses for the winter in "bush camps." For many years in the 1930s and 40s, Almir Arnal, being in the livestock business, would arrange, for a fee, to have horses hired out for the winter. Attached is 1 of 7 pages for a total of 250 horses from a Rainy Lake, Ontario lumber company that Almir did business with.

UTILITIES

Home heating fuel, in those days, was primarily wood and some coal. The norm for heating homes was the use of pot bellied woodstoves and cookstoves, then in the 40s, coal burning stoves. A coal and wood shed was a very common sight near every home.

House fires caused great grief in the community. Causes of these fires were varied: chimney fires, accidents with coal oil lamps used for lighting, accidents in the use of woodstoves, and even long extended overheated stove pipes. The Almir Arnal fire destroyed their new home on the farm in January of 1935. Luckily no lives were lost. During a blizzard in February of 1939 the Barney Mollot house in town was completely destroyed by fire due to an overheated stove. Three lives were lost, that of Barney's first wife Millie, young son Grant and a hired man by the name of Charles Jack. In the fall of 1940, another fire occurred at the Joseph Arnal farm where his wife Gertrude née Piché perished. Gertrude had been attempting to light the stove with kerosene when it blew up. Another misfortune was the Artistide Godin house fire in mid November, 1943. He died and left his wife Elizabeth with seven kids to raise. Unfortunately in the span of only eight years, five lives were lost from house fires. What misery for these families!



1945 – Splitting wood at Dan Fruck's farm.

However, in the late 1930s with the arrival of hydro, utilities began improving. It is told by Emile (King) Arnal, retired farmer now living in Carman, MB, that, while storm clouds were brewing in Europe in 1939 prior to World War II, the town of Fannystelle got a big boost when the whole town was electrified by Manitoba Hydro in the summer of 1939. Farm areas did not receive hydro electric power till the years 1948, 1949 and 1950. Mr. Arnal explained to me that individuals installing hydro poles for Manitoba Hydro earned \$6 dollars per hole, to dig 6 ft. deep by hand. Before Manitoba Hydro was introduced to the town and surrounding areas, to electrify their homes, some of the folks had what they called a 'power plant' which was a gas Delco electric power generator complete with batteries.

Before the electrification of the town and surrounding area, ice boxes were used in the homes to refrigerate food and in the winter, ice was melted down for household use. An ice shed complete with sawdust was a very common site in a yard. The ice packed in sawdust could be maintained throughout the summer.

Obtaining the ice was hard work. During the winter months, men would cut ice blocks from the farm pond, to be packed in sawdust in the ice shed. The Fannystelle town pond located north of town served the townspeople. As one can imagine, the advent of hydro electric power really revolutionized homes and farms of the day.



1932 abt. Harry Franzmann Farm: Cutting ice blocks from the pond for home ice boxes. Left to right: Lionel Hunt, Gus Brecken and Gordon Franzmann. Driver: Herb Franzmann.

Food preparation remained labour intensive and special to each season in spite the possible acquisition, thanks to hydro, of practical household appliances. The focus of spring and summer was abundant and heavy duty gardening. Summer and fall was canning time. Fall was also the time to fill the root cellars. On farms, families raised fowl and livestock to butcher as required. Winter food supply depended mainly on home canning, cold cellars, brined meat, and until cold storage and home freezers, anything that could be stored in the ice shed.

Manitoba Telephones Ltd. began the installation of telephones at about the same period of time as hydro. The service was limited to what was called party lines. Up to twelve homes/businesses could be connected on the same line. Each phone would have a different ring. As an example, if a home or business telephone number was 317 – Ring 1/2, it would mean that the phone was on line #317 and that the home ring code would be one long and two short rings. Also, if a call was being made to someone on another line or long distance, one would have to press a button on the side of the phone box while cranking one long ring to connect to the central operator located in Elm Creek. The operator would come on line; the caller would provide the desired number and the operator would manually make the connection. Telephone conversations were not really private because other residents sharing the same line could listen in. Long distance was expensive and used sparingly. The system was quite basic, but it did provide functional communication.



1940s Fannystelle Main Street and Train Station.

One wonders about home entertainment before electricity, radio and television. Prior to 1910, there were no radios. Following their military use for espionage during WWI, radios were more available but they remained controlled and a licence was required to own one. Television was only introduced in 1950s and even then, limited to one only public channel (CBC) and only for a few hours a day because of the limited amount of programming that was available. When the tube TV set was turned on, a black and white 'test pattern' would appear. For example, the first televised Hockey Night in Canada was on October 11, 1952 when René Lecavalier described the game between the visiting Detroit Red Wings and the Montreal Canadiens. Later on November 1, 1952, Foster Hewitt called the first game from Toronto between Boston and the Leafs. Colored TV was only introduced in the 1960s.

Some Other Old Town Photos



1950s Fannystelle, MB: Grain Elevators and Train Station.



1950-04-15 Fannystelle, MB: Left to right: Down the Main Street: Mel Simonson Implements and Hardware, Bill Hamel's Service and Martin Hamel Store. In background, left: Coté's Garage.



1950-04-15 Fannystelle, MB: Main Street looking east. Left to right: Martin Hamel store, Mollot Trading Co. (store, restaurant and garage), Fannystelle Hotel, Barber shop and Guilbault post office.



1951 – Aerial view of Fannystelle, MB.



1953 Fannystelle grain elevators.



1966-03-27: Fannystelle – View looking east with Stevens Lumber Ltd.



1972-01-01: Fannystelle elevators.

FROM GRAIN ELEVATORS TO A GRAIN TERMINAL

The 'skyline' of the town was dominated for many years by three grain elevators. The first elevator was built around the year 1901 by the Winnipeg Grain Elevator Co. later sold to the Canadian Consolidated Elevator. The second elevator built was N. M. Paterson Ltd. and the last of the three elevators, constructed in 1929, was Manitoba Pool Elevators. As one drove



2021 Fannystelle: Viterro Grain Terminal built in 1992.

by, one would see the Manitoba Pool Elevator, the Canadian Consolidated Elevator and the N. M. Paterson Ltd. standing proudly along the railroad tracks.

Throughout the years, there were many dedicated grain elevator operators who served as grain buyers. To name a few: Art Sally, Ray McAlinden, Pete Daoust, Stan Popplestone, Ted Fisher, Jim Vassart, John Veldman, Harry Trumbla and Robert Franzmann. In 1992, a new UGG grain terminal was constructed and the three landmark elevators were gradually demolished. The terminal was originally built by UGG but through various amalgamations and takeovers, it became to be known as the Viterra Grain Terminal.

Over the years, the acreage of farms has increased substantially. As an example, by 1900, under the Dominion Lands Policy, a homestead farm usually consisted of 160 acres and cost \$10 to the homesteader who had to build a house and buy implements and horses. Gradually prices changed and as an example, Amédée Morissette paid \$40.00 an acre in 1919 for his farmland located just west of town. Farmland prices continued to increase. By the 1950s, second generation farmers sold farms of a half section (320 acres) to one section of land for \$100.00 an acre. Farms became much larger due to bigger and improved implements, and the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer. With the larger farms, many young people left for urban centers which to them, offered better career opportunities. By the 1960s and 70s, German, Dutch, French and Italian farmers would sell their land in their respective country and immigrate to Canada to purchase the land of three or four local farmers thus reducing the population of the area. Today, land sells for up to \$5,500.00 per acre and the size of a farm has increased more than tenfold... to 3,000 acres or more today. Farming has evolved into a business way of life.

Renting farmland has also evolved. Till the late 50s, farmers who rented land would pay their landlord with part of the crop that they harvested. One-third of the crop would go to the landlord and two-thirds to the renter. Today, farmland is rented out for cash, at about \$100.00 per acre per year.

A farm friend relates that within the North West area of Fannystelle, 30 farm sites could be identified in the years past. In 2021, there are only four. With larger farms and related decreasing population, the town has diminished and the school, general stores and other businesses have gradually closed. In contrast to the Fannystelle of former years, there are only two places of business left in the town site today: the Viterra Grain terminal and



Stevens Lumber Ltd. Viterra Grain Co. is the former Manitoba Pool Elevators and United Grain Growers.

Stevens Lumber has been passed down four generations to the present owner Donald Stevens. His great-grandfather, William Henry Stevens had come from Ontario and started the lumberyard around the year 1903. Son Richard (Dick) then took over and passed it on to his son Harry. Now Harry's son Donald Stevens is the owner and operator. Of the four generations of Stevens, Dick had a great influence on the development of the town. For many people, Dick Stevens was their banker who cashed their grain cheques, their accountant who filed their income tax, or their "lawyer" who settled their



1938 abt. Dick (R.H.) Stevens (1896-1978).



1989-07-00 Stevens Lumber Ltd. Fannystelle Centennial, 1889-1989.



Fannystelle MB: Nadeau Seeds Inc., established in 1967.

estate. He also managed farmland for absentee farmers, and owned and operated Stevens Lumber & Coal and Case Implements Ltd. For decades, Stevens Lumber & Coal Co. had its own functioning grain elevator in order to service all their own land. Today, the farmland is rented out and the grain elevator has been abandoned. Many people can also recall that the Stevens family had a beautiful tennis court on their property for years.

Outside of town, nestled in the farmland to the north-west, is Nadeau Seeds Inc. It was established in 1967 by the Nadeau family brothers: Gilbert and Joyce, René and Pat.

Here again is a touching story about a man who came to Fannystelle during the Great Depression in the early 1930s. Célestin Nadeau, originally from Saint Narcisse, Quebec left home at the early age of 15 and worked in granite quarries in New Hampshire and as a farmhand in Saskatchewan before making his way to Dufrost, Manitoba then finally to Fannystelle, arriving with ‘only the shirt on his back’. He worked as a farmhand for the Arnals around Fannystelle, then in 1932, married Cécile Dureault, a local girl, and eventually bought some farmland. Besides farming, Célestin and his wife Cécile ran a small poultry farm for many years. Célestin’s bachelor brother Désiré came to live with them. Désiré, a carpenter by trade, set himself to the construction of the buildings on the farm. Today Brian, with wife Rachelle and daughters Kara and Janelle operate a large seed plant and farm in excess of 5,500 acres. Célestin and Cécile would be proud of the present-day Nadeau operation.

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS IN FANNYSTELLE

July 1, 1939 – 50th Anniversary: Throughout the years, the community celebrated important events with banquets, beer gardens, parades, stage performances, souvenirs and sporting events. On July 1st, 1939 just a few months before the beginning of World War II, the 50th anniversary of the town of Fannystelle was celebrated in style with a gala dinner pictured below. At that time, the Prime Minister of Canada was William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Premier of Manitoba was John Bracken and the Reeve of the Municipality of Grey was John M. Kennedy. The Councillor for Ward 1 (Fannystelle) was Marcel Arnal and the Parish Priest was Reverend E. Lavoie. Though the prewar mood was troubling, the town had just been electrified and the people were in a mood to celebrate! A community song had even been composed, the chorus of which listed all the names of the founding families.

1939-07-01:Fannystelle, Mb. - 50th Anniversary of Fannystelle.
La Salle Paroissiale.



1939-07-01: 50th anniversary of Fannystelle at 'La Salle Paroissiale'. Left to right: Gilberte Morissette, Marcelle Guyot, Suzanne Ménard, Jeanne Guyot, Alice Meilleur, Yvette Bourque, Alice Mollot, Phyllis Dureault, Gertrude Régis, Simone Coulombe, Henriette Privé, Germaine Dureault, Gertrude Delude, Thérèse Piché, Rita Taillon, Hélène Piché and Flora Hamel.

July 1, 1967 – Canadian Centennial: This was the Centennial of the Canadian Confederation. This 100th year event was celebrated with a parade of various floats featuring some of the families of the founding families. Other activities included a beer gardens and a community dance. Unfortunately we have not been able to obtain photos of the various activities which took place to celebrate the Centennial of Canada in Fannystelle. The Prime Minister of

Canada at the time was Lester B. Pearson, the Premier of Manitoba was Duff Roblin and the Reeve of the Municipality was Harry W. Shearer. The Councillor for Ward 1 (Fannystelle) was Gustave Painchaud and the Parish Priest was Reverend Robert Nadeau.



July 1, 1970 – Manitoba Centennial: Canada's fifth province, Manitoba, entered Confederation by passing the Manitoba Act on May 12, 1870. In 1970, Manitoba celebrated the 100th year anniversary and Fannystelle once again planned a celebration with a parade, beer gardens, street dancing, and a stage performances.

It was a happy community event. In 1970, the Prime Minister was Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the Premier of Manitoba was Edward Schreyer and the Reeve of the Municipality of Grey was Harry W. Shearer. The Councillor for Ward 1 (Fannystelle) was Gustave Painchaud and the Parish Priest was Reverend Pierre Gagné.

1970-07-01 Fannystelle, Mb. - Manitoba Centennial Celebration.
Len Lofto & Henri Painchaud on truck.



1970-07-01 Manitoba Centennial Celebration. Pork Producer's float. Lenard Lofto and Henri Painchaud on the truck.



1970-07-01 Manitoba Centennial Celebration. The Franzmann float. Harry Franzmann on the plough and Maggie Franzmann on the tractor.

July 1, 1989 – Fannystelle Centennial: On July 1, 1989, Fannystelle celebrated 100 years since the founding of the town. A weekend Centennial Celebration was held and the planning committee published a booklet of archival photos and of current family pictures. The days were filled with numerous activities among which was another grand parade with floats featuring former and current businesses, families and farming artifacts.



1989-07-01 Fannystelle Centennial – The Piché Family float.



1989-07-01 Fannystelle Centennial celebration. N.M. Paterson Elevators float. Constant Painchaud, owner, on his favourite 44 Massey Harris tractor built between 1947 and 1953.



1989-07-01 Fannystelle Centennial Parade: Front seat – Dick Arnal, driver, with Marcel Painchaud, Reeve of the Municipality; back seat – Paul Piché, Ward 1 Councillor and Pat Nadeau, School Trustee.



1989-07-01 Fannystelle Centennial Celebration – Arnal Transfer, Year 1929.

It attracted both young and old and many folks were able to meet old friends. At that time, the Prime Minister was Brian Mulroney, the Premier of Manitoba was Gary Filmon and the Reeve of the Municipality was Marcel Painchaud. The Councillor for Ward 1 (Fannystelle) was Paul Piché and the Parish Priest was Reverend Gérald Clavet.

This Arnal float in the 1989 parade, an antique 1929 International truck, has an interesting history of its' own. It was the first transfer owned by Almir Arnal who had purchased it to haul livestock to the St. Boniface Stock Yards. Today, 2021, this antique truck is owned and well cared for by Brian Drozd, the son of Stan and Bernice Drozd. When the new UGG (now Viterra) grain terminal was opened in 1992, Stan Drozd, the owner then, used this historic antique to haul the first bags of grain to the new terminal. It is likely that the 1929 truck had been purchased from my grandfather Marcel Mollot who was the International dealer in town at that time and owned and operated the Mollot Trading Co.

From the 1950s to the present, the town has kept diminishing in size and population. Fannystelle is a prime example of the rural depopulation phenomenon of our small prairie towns. Today, Fannystelle has no schools, no stores, and few businesses. For example, at one time the area north west of Fannystelle boasted of 17 farms; nowadays, there are but three or four! The town is struggling to create a sense of community. One wonders what the future holds for the community. To learn more of the history of the community of Fannystelle, two additional books are available at the Centre Culturel Franco-Manitoban at 340 Provencher Blvd. in St. Boniface, MB. Both are French language books.

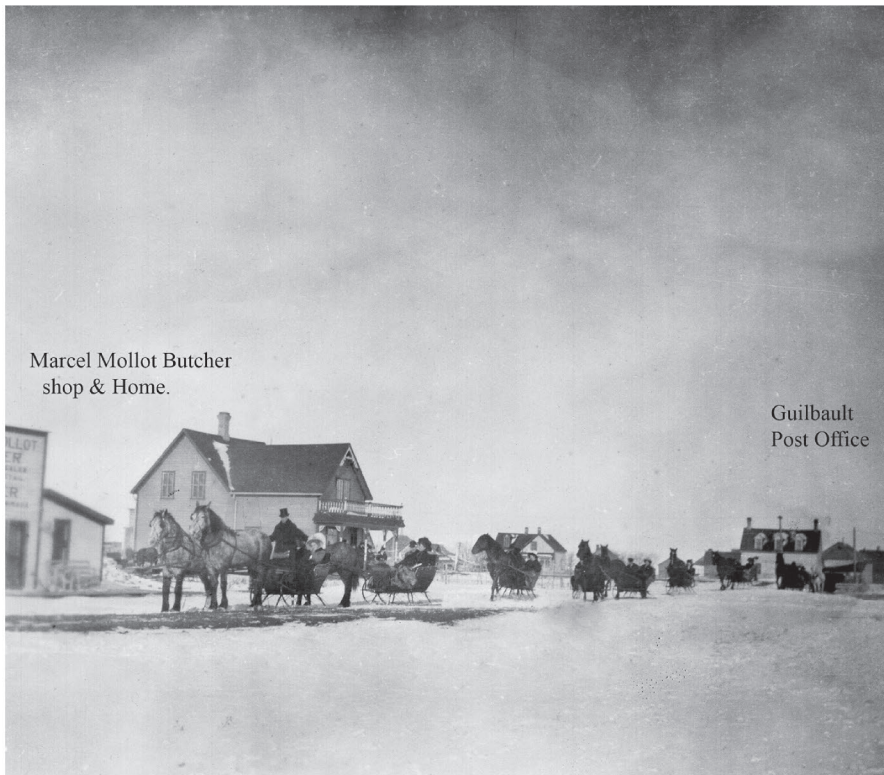
- 1) Fannystelle par Noël Bernier (1939)
- 2) Fannystelle - Village de l'Ouest canadien par Nadine Mackenzie (2019)

Other Fannystelle Photos

A picture is worth a thousand words...



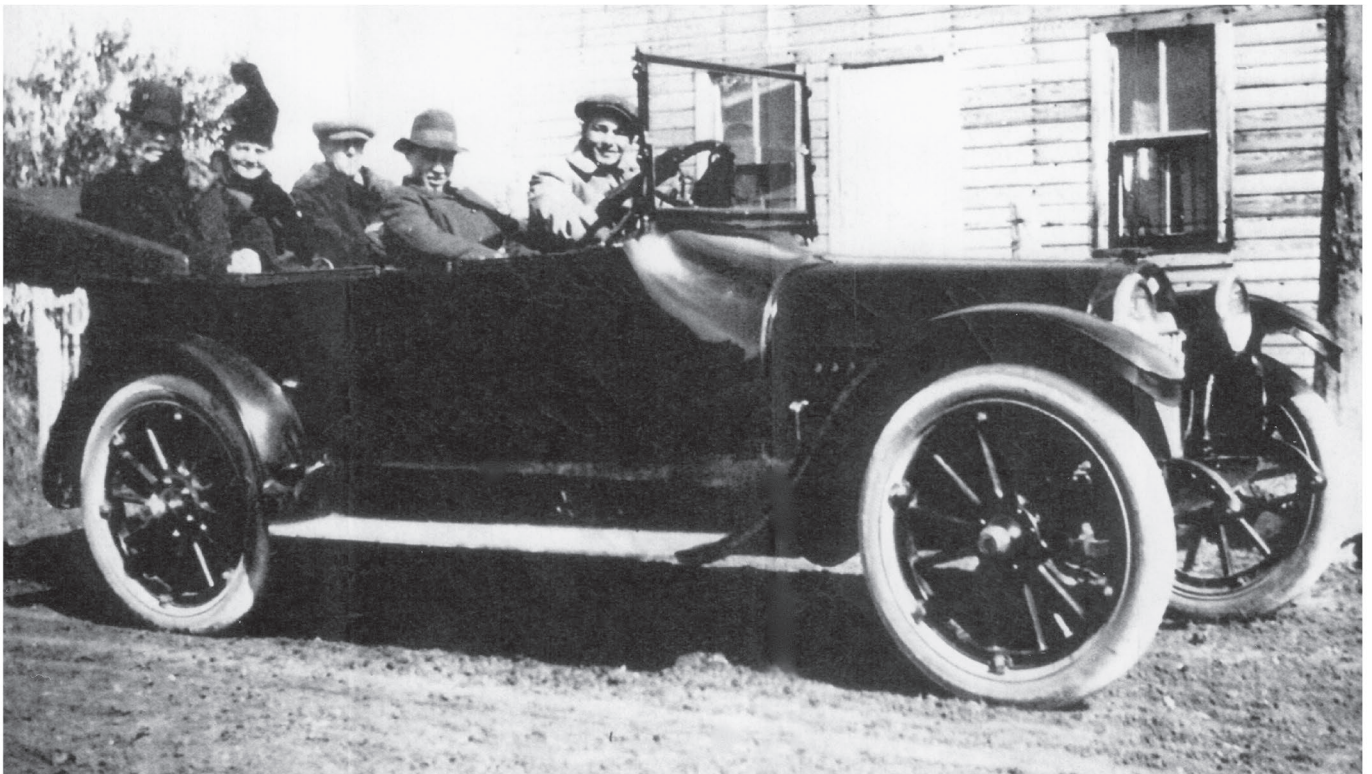
1910-01-31: Charlemagne Piché (1884-1975) and Marie Louise Bourque (1890-1967). Parents of Roger, Gertrude Arnal, Bruno, Gaston (Joe), Gilberte Mollot, Jules, Marcelle Caron, Rolande, Denise, Lionel and Paul.



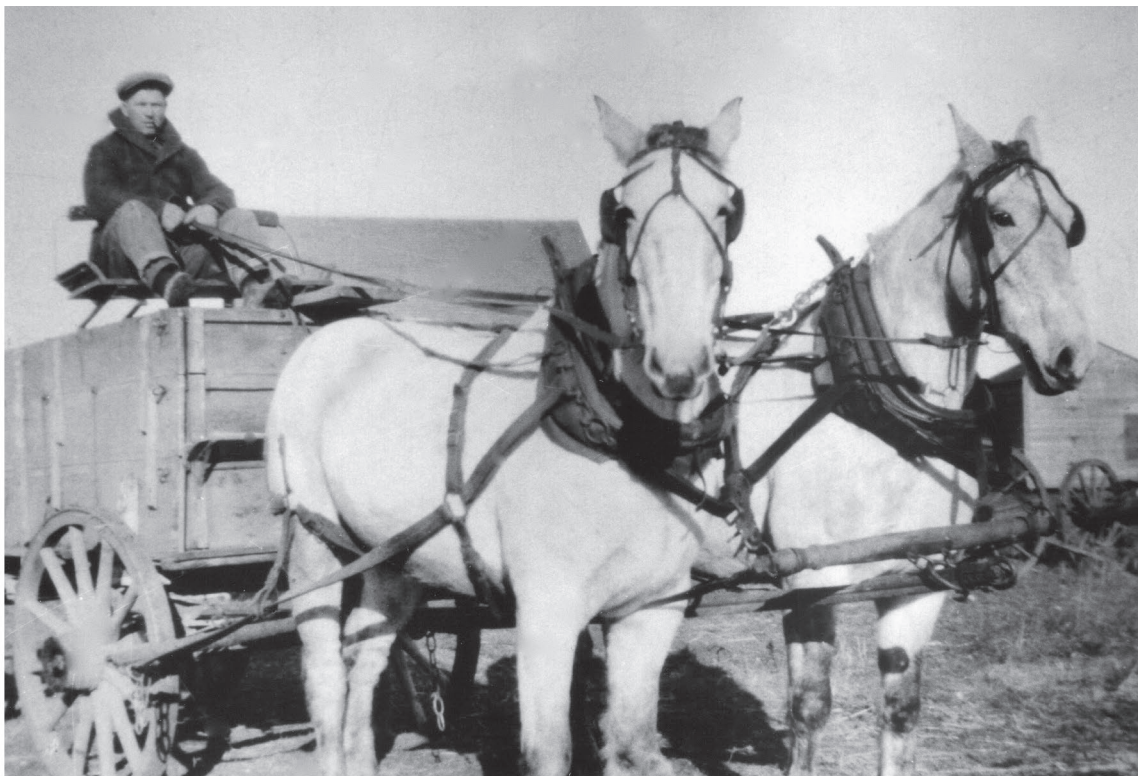
1910-01-31: Charlemagne Piché and Marie Louise Bourque wedding day in sleighs in front of the Marcel Mollot butcher shop and home.



1915 abt. Fannystelle Boys. Left to right: Harry Stevens, Barney Mollot, Hervé Cyrenne, Lucien Piché, Gaspard Piché, Achille Mollot and Lucien Guyot.



1917 Fannystelle, MB: Richard Henry (Dick) Stevens at the wheel; his father William Henry (Harold) front passenger, and Mrs. Catherine (née Galbraith) Stevens in the back. Others unknown. Vehicle: 1917 D-45 McGlaughlin Buick.



1925 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Joe Oleksuk hauling grain.



1930s Fannystelle, MB. Left to right: Georges Ménard, Polycarpe Coté, Henri Arnal, Alfred Hamel, Emile Guyot, Eugène Painchaud and Marcel Arnal.



1938 abt. Fannystelle. Left to right: Donalda Guilbault, Louis Mollot, Millie Mollot, Alice Mollot in white dress next to Bill Hamel, Willie Leblanc and Les Steele. Little girl unknown. Background: Hervé Cyrenne store.



1940s Fannystelle Main Street – N.M. Paterson Grain Company postcard.



1943 abt. Fannystelle Church Elders. Back row, left to right: Albert Piché, Polycarpe Piché, Henri Arnal, Eugène Painchaud, Charlemagne Piché, Marcel Arnal, Alfred Hamel. Front row: Emile Guyot, Marie Savaria, Eugenie Mollot, Hélène Arnal, Lilianne Arnal, Berthe Dureault, Bernadette Arnal and Marie Louise Piché. Front: Denise Piché.



1944 abt. In front of the Fannystelle school. Left to right: Unknown, Marcelle Piché, Gertrude Régis, Yvette Syrenne, Thérèse Régis, Armande Dureault (Titoune) and Phylis Dureault.



1959-09-00: Some Fannystelle "Old Timers." Left to right: Dan Fruck, Alfred Hamel and Ovide Dureault.

FANNYSTELLE AND THE MOLLOT FAMILY

There is no longer anyone with the Mollot family name presently living in Fannystelle. The first of the Mollot family in Fannystelle were Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot who, in 1892, were a founding family having arrived from Blandin, France. Fortuné and Léopoldine lived in Fannystelle for only 10 years until July of 1902 when they moved to Winnipeg. However, their son Marcel and his spouse Eugenie (née Piché) made Fannystelle their home. The children of Marcel and Eugenie all lived and worked there. During the 73 years, from 1892 to 1965, members of the Mollot family owned and operated various businesses: butcher shop, general store, supply transfer, garage, bulk oil and farm gas distributorship, and implement dealership. They also contributed to the community as school trustee, church trustee, municipal councillor and involvement in community sports and recreation activities. By 1941, only John, one of the sons of Marcel and Eugenie remained. John and his spouse, Blanche (née Arnal) contributed to the town till 1965 when they sold the Mollot Garage Ltd. and moved to Brandon, Manitoba to manage Barney's Motel.

The following pages are the individual stories of the lives of Marcel & Eugenie Mollot and their children Archie, Alice, John, Barney and Louis as these stories relate to their home town of Fannystelle and as they lived in the various communities to which they relocated. Due to the nature of this document, some repetition of information will be found in the stories of the Mollot family members.

The story of

MARCEL AND EUGENIE MOLLOT
AND THEIR CHILDREN

GABRIEL HENRI MARCEL MOLLOT (1880-1934)

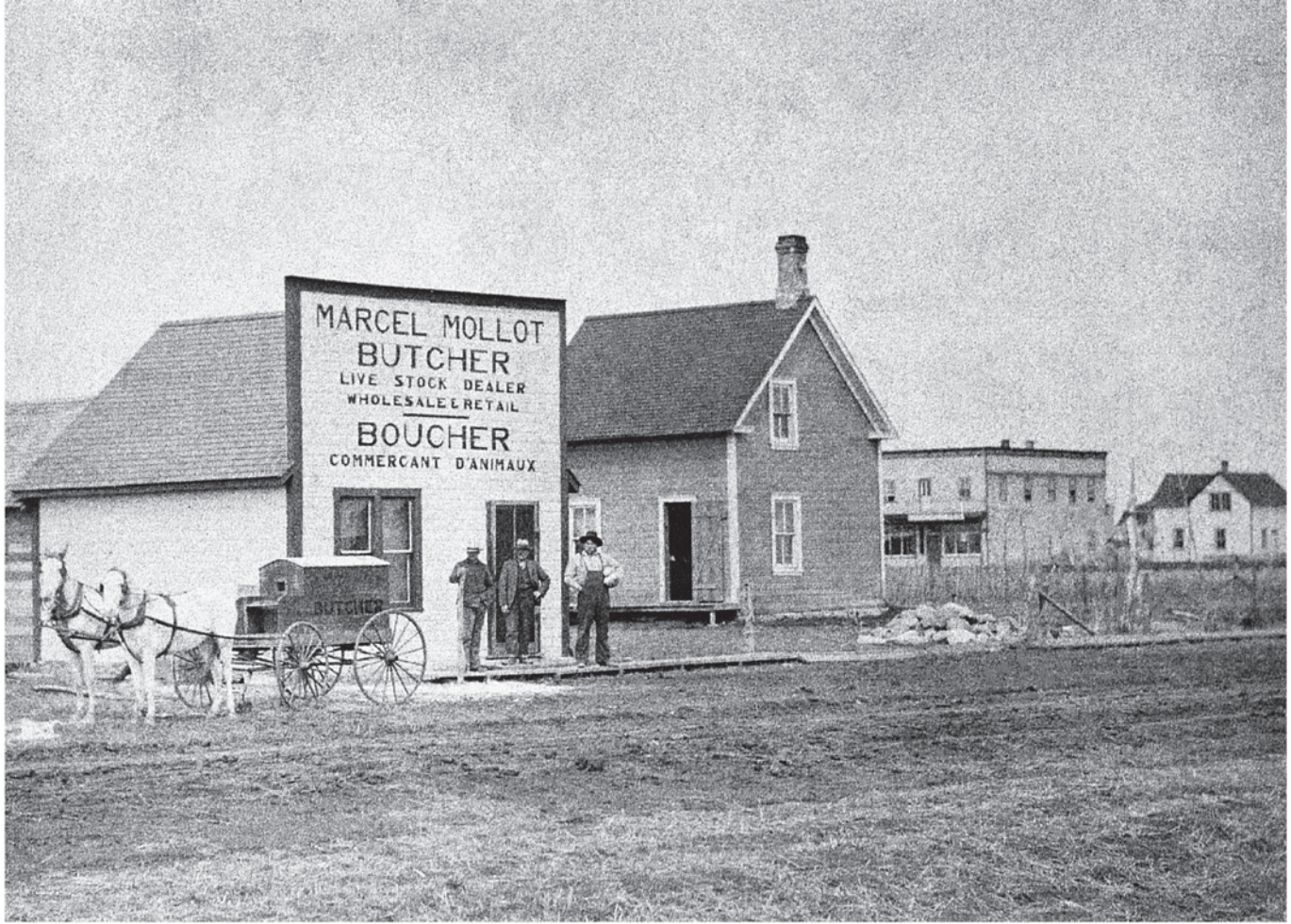
Marcel Mollot, my grandfather, was born on October 22nd, 1880 in Blandin located in the Department of Isère, France. Blandin is approximately 45 kilometers south east of Lyon, the second largest city in France. With his older brother Ernest, he attended a private school called Collège de Ste. Marie in Saint Chamond, 45 kms south-west of Lyon, France. At the age of 12 in 1892, he immigrated to Canada with his parents. No sooner had the family arrived in Manitoba, he and his brother Ernest were enrolled at Collège St. Boniface, 200 rue de la Cathédrale, under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers. Marcel and Ernest attended this college from 1892 to 1895. Today, that college is called Collège Universitaire de St. Boniface.

According to archival records of the college for the school year 1892-1893, at the closing exercises Marcel was given an award as the best student in Greek studies. It is interesting to note that in those days, the college required students to learn languages. English, French, Latin and Greek were taught. For the closing exercises of the following school year, 1893-94, Marcel was part of the entertainment. He sang a solo entitled, *'Les Peines d'un Ecolier', 'the Grief of a Student.'*

Marcel is the only child of Léopoldine and Fortuné who made Fannystelle his home. Marcel was quite an entrepreneur. After his schooling at Collège St. Boniface from 1892-95, he worked as a butcher. Later, in about 1904, he opened the first butcher shop and livestock dealership in Fannystelle.



1885 Blandin, France. Marcel Mollot, 6 years of age.



Marcel Mollot Butcher Shop in Fannystelle, MB in about 1904. First butcher shop and livestock dealer in Fannystelle.

To this day there are still members of the Mollot family that have continued in the meat business through four generations: 1. Marcel began in about 1904, 2. Archie, 3. René, and today, the 4th generation butchers Raymond and Philip Mollot.

On May 27, 1901, Marcel, age 20, married Eugénie Piché, age 17. His parents Fortuné and Léopoldine were still living in Fannystelle. Eugénie's parents were (Capitaine) Joseph Piché and Virginie Champoux who came to Fannystelle from Bécancour, Quebec in 1895 like others such as the Charles (nicknamed Charlot) Cyrenne family.

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Park Ranching Co C J Reppen mgr
Parkinson Robt H surveyor and general agent
Patten L H notary public
Phelps Albert rancher
Rayburn Sylvester carpenter
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A flag station on the Carberry branch of the C N Ry 4 miles north of Carberry

FAIRVILLE, Saskatchewan.
A post office on Sec 10, Tp 18, Rg 22, west of 2nd Mer. Nearest railway, Pense, 10 miles.
Postmaster—N R Read

FAIRY HILL, Saskatchewan.
A post office on Sec 24, Tp 21, Rg 19, west of 2nd Mer., in Qu'Appelle Valley, provincial electoral division of Lumsden west. Mails weekly. Nearest railway, Southey, distant 10 miles. Telegraph Earl Grey, 12 miles

D. H. & W. A. TELFORD

FOR GOOD INVESTMENTS IN

REAL ESTATE IN

SASKATOON

MOST RAPIDLY GROWING CITY IN CANADA

Postmaster—Robert Mollard
Presbyterian Church, Rev Gilchrist pastor

Lawson-Henry C rancher
McDougall Donald rancher

FALCOON, Algoma.
A station on C P R main line 143 miles west of Fort William

FALLOWHEAD, Saskatchewan.
A post office on Sec 14, Tp 14, Rg 10, west of the 2nd Mer., in the provincial electoral division of Qu'Appelle. Mails weekly. Nearest railway and telegraph, Wolseley, 18 miles.
Postmaster—John Hill

FALUN, Alberta.
A post office on Sec 10, Tp 46, Rg 27, west of the 4th Mer. Nearest railway Wetaskiwin, 22 miles. Mails weekly.
Postmaster—G G Forssell

FANNYSTELLE, Manitoba.
A station and post office on Sec 15, Tp 2, Rg 3, west of the 1st Mer., on the southwestern branch of the CPR, distant from Winnipeg 34 miles; in the municipality of Grey, provincial electoral division of L'Esperance; Eastern judicial district; telegraph. Mails daily.
Population 1907—225
Elevator capacity, 25,000 bushels
Postmaster—Mrs V Guibault
Methodist Church, Rev J W A Henderson
Roman Catholic Church, Rev Adrien Perrault

Adam Onesime provincial constable
Black John J constable
Black J blacksmith

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.
A R Houston agent
Cote Onesime live stock
Couture Ted hotel
Dubois Sebastian blacksmith
Guibault Bros electricians
Hamel Alfred implements
Hansen Martin section foreman
Lavigne Eustache wood dealer
Levasseur Am crusher and chop feed
Levasseur A R C Co general store
Levasseur Honore J P
Mollot Marcel butcher and poundkeeper
Painchaud Henry & Co general store
Poirier Alph livery stable
Poirier Edmond restaurant
Stevens W H lumber
Vernon H F W physician
Winnipeg Elevator Co (25,000)

FARRINGTON, Western Ontario.
A station on the G-N R, main line, 32 miles east of Fort Francis.

We Sell the Earth

Claresholm Realty Co.
Real Estate and General Brokerage.
Claresholm, Alta

Year 1907: Hamlet of Fannystelle as recorded in the *Henderson's Western Canada Directory* on page 610. Marcel Mollot is listed as a butcher and pound keeper. Population of the hamlet and surrounding area has grown from 30 people in the year 1892 to 225 in the year 1907.

The Marcel and Eugenie Mollot family got to know Grandfather Fortuné Mollot well during the early years of their marriage. Though the home of Fortuné was in Winnipeg from 1902 till his death in 1924, he was not very fond of city life and spent time in Fannystelle at the home of his son Marcel. Fortuné Mollot had been a highly respected artist and articulate writer. His memoirs, which have been translated into English, make for very interesting reading as life of the times is well described. To date, in 2022, the family have in excess of seventeen of his paintings dating from 1870 to 1912. The present day family members are grateful to the children of Marcel and Eugenie for having kept these treasured paintings.

In the span of six years, Marcel and Eugenie had five children: Achille (Archie) in 1902, Alice in 1903, Jean Baptiste (known as John) in 1904, Gabriel (Barney) in 1905 and Louis (Chick) in 1908.



Marcel Mollot family in 1913. Seated: parents Eugenie & Marcel. Seated: left Barney, and at center Louis; standing left to right: Achille, Alice and John.



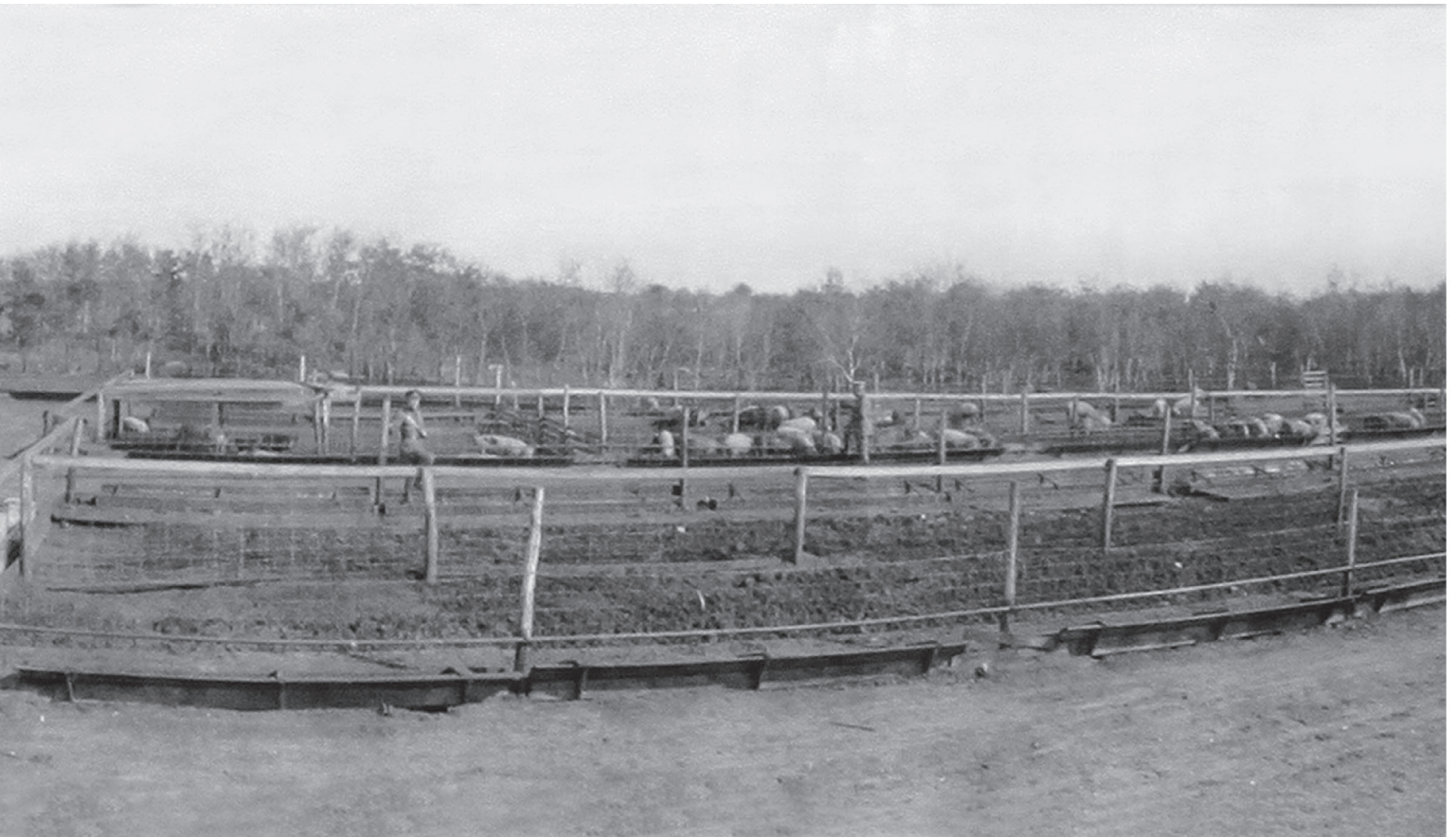
1912-00-00 Fannystelle: Marcel Mollot house. Marcel and Eugenie Mollot, Gertrude Syrenne (Ti-Gidou) and Louis Mollot, age four.

During the 1910s and 1920s, Marcel Mollot became very prosperous in business. Along with having a butcher shop, he was a livestock broker—buying and selling cattle, hogs and sheep. Illustrated in a 10 x 53 inch framed picture dated 1916 that is in our family collection, Marcel and his associates were involved in the largest feed lot hog ranch operation in Canada, at Camp Hughes, a military base near Brandon, Manitoba.



Largest hog ranch in Canada – Camp Hughes, MB, 1916. Marcel Mollot co-owner.

The hog operation provided food for the troops. At that time, recruits and support staff numbered in excess of 30,000. Camp Hughes was established as a training centre for trench warfare for Allied troops during World War I of 1914-18. In 1916, it was the second largest community in Manitoba. Another example of a business venture, in the year 1917, was the purchase of some 10,000 sheep from Montana. From rail cars, the sheep had been dropped off in Headingly, Manitoba. In later years, Archie Mollot would relate the tale of shepherding the flock cross-country to Fannystelle from Headingly. Marcel was also very involved with the St. Boniface Union stock yards, advertising as the only French speaking livestock broker at the yards. This is as illustrated in the following newspaper clip in *'Le Manitoba'* dated October 22, 1919. In those days, the St. Boniface Union Stock yards were the largest stock yards in Canada. The Union Stock Yards handled up to 300,000 cattle per year and covered the area that is now known as Windsor Park in Winnipeg. The meat packing industry was the main industry of St. Boniface in those years.



Le Manitoba, October 22, 1919 (Page 3)

CULTIVATEURS ATTENTION

SOYEZ SAGE. FAITE de L'ELEVAGE et de la CULTURE MIXTE

S'il vous faut des jeunes animaux pour compléter votre troupeau et qu'il vous manque du capital visitez, écrivez ou téléphonez



& **MARCEL MOLLOT**

Commerçant d'Animaux

Le seul membre français du "Winnipeg Live Stock Exchange"

Wood - Weiller - McArthey

Union Stock Yards

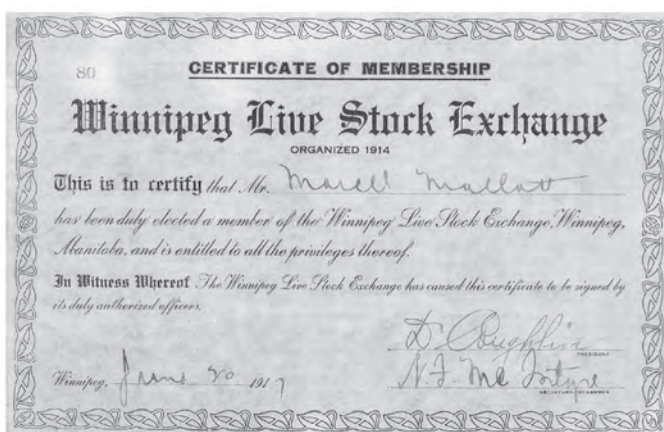
Tél. M. 545, 2142, 1989—St. Boniface

Nous avons 3000 brebis pour élevage à vendre. Chance exceptionnelle.

Between the years 1916 and 1923 (about) the Marcel Mollot family lived at 53 (now 113) Eugenie St. in Norwood and the children attended various schools in the city. Alice was enrolled at St Joseph's Academy. Also according to Provencher school registers, for grades 5-8, Achille, John, Gabriel (Barney) and Louis attended Provencher School then Collège St. Boniface. Louis however only attended Provencher School. At that time, Provencher School was run by a religious order of Brothers, the Marionistes. At Collège St. Boniface, the Mollot boys were enrolled in a business course. From an early age, their parents instilled in them the possibility of being in business.

The years from 1914 to 1919 must have been stressful times for everyone including the Mollot family. The First World War was raging in Europe with many Canadian men and women involved. Also, many items were rationed here and sadly after the war ended, the world was struck in 1919 with the H1N1 virus better known as the Spanish flu. This pandemic took the lives of some 50,000 Canadians of a population of approximately eight million people. A small province like Saskatchewan lost 5,000 people. The city of Winnipeg lost some 1,500 people during this pandemic. The 1920s were however an economically prosperous period though short lived and were called 'the roaring 20s'. The Great Depression came in 1929 followed by World War II in 1939. During the span of 30 years, people had lived through four world disasters with only a short break of prosperity in the 1920s!

The Marcel Mollot family had at one time two homes: one in Fannystelle and one at 53 (now 113) Eugenie St. in Norwood, facing Confederation Park. It was also during these years that Marcel operated, among other ventures, *Le Bon Marché*, a store/meat market at the corner of Provencher Blvd. and Taché Ave. His brother Ernest was manager for a few years. Also, according to newspaper ads, Marcel Mollot also sold real estate such as farmland.



Marcel Mollot's membership certificate to the Winnipeg Live Stock Exchange and his business card.



1919 abt. St. Boniface, MB: *Le Bon Marché*, 11 avenue Provencher. Delivery truck for general store. Owned and operated by Marcel Mollot. Left to right: Ernest Mollot, manager at the crank; Archie Mollot at the wheel and Alice Mollot in the box with friends.

During the prosperous period in the 1920s known as 'the roaring 20s,' Marcel and Eugenie travelled to California one winter with friends and made it to Tijuana, Mexico. We have a number of photos of these good times.



1920-01-00 Tijuana, Mexico: First from left: Aimé Bernard; third from left: Marcel Mollot. Others unknown.

During his life, Marcel and Eugenie Molloy also endured some very difficult hardships. One of them was a fire in 1924 which totally destroyed their General Store which was next to their family home. The store had likely been built around 1914.



1914 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Molloy store. Was located south of railroad tracks next to the Marcel Molloy home. Burned down in 1924.



1924 Fannystelle, MB: Molloy General Store fire. Remains from the fire that destroyed the Molloy store. In background, the Marcel Molloy home located south of the railroad tracks.

Around the year 1925 after the fire of the General Store, Marcel rebuilt a new General Store with a butcher shop at the corner of Main Ave. and 1st Street. In reality, this was phase one of what became known as the Mollot Trading Co.



1925 abt. Mollot Trading Co. – First original section on Main Street. After having a butcher shop and abattoir in town, Marcel Mollot then had built around 1914 a general store south of the railroad tracks next to the Mollot home. This general store burnt down in 1924. In 1925, he had then constructed this first section of what had become known as “the Mollot Trading Co.” on Main Street. Later on, a restaurant and garage was added to this complex. Note the church on the left of the photo.

A couple years later in about 1927, he extended the building to include a restaurant and a garage along the Main Street of Fannystelle which at the time was also Highway No. 2, the route from the west to Winnipeg.



1927 abt. Mollot Trading Co. Fannystelle, MB. Owner Marcel Mollot.

By the mid 1920s, Marcel and Eugénie had their sons Archie, John, Barney and Louis involved in these businesses. Daughter Alice, according to the model of her aunt Gabrielle, pursued a career as a piano teacher. Because of Marcel's great success in various businesses, he and Eugénie were able to provide their children a very good life.

Though Marcel had been a very prosperous and successful businessman in the 1910s and 1920s, the Stock Market Crash of 1929, the Great Worldwide Depression and drought of the early 1930s were unkind to him as it was with many other people. Marcel lost many of his assets. During the Great Depression, because commodity prices collapsed, borrowers had no money with which to pay their loans, and the lenders (banks, etc.) had no money to lend. The whole economic system collapsed with thousands of foreclosures. Mortgages were just not available. One cannot imagine how this severe and devastating economic disaster affected people and their lifestyles. Not only was there high unemployment but also high inflation. There was very little demand for goods and services because people did not have the money to purchase them. It was most difficult to survive in those times. Some folks lost everything they had owned.



1920 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Marcel and Eugenie Mollot family home.

What also compounded this economic problem was the great drought of the 1930s which created “the dustbowl.” Farm production went to an all-time low. It is interesting that generally, the generation that lived thru this era became very thrifty and learned to live with very little. Later, in better times, they knew how to ‘save for a rainy day.’ One wonders how present day society would survive, should such an economic catastrophe occur once again.

An event was told which illustrates the gravity of the economic conditions of the Great Depression of the 1930s: Marcel Arnal, my mother’s uncle, a farmer in Fannystelle sold a rail car of 1200 bushels of malting barley for \$1.50! The cheque that he received for the grain was ‘not worth the paper it was written on.’ In 2013, the value of that rail car full of barley would be in excess of \$6,500.00!

The last few years of Marcel’s life were difficult due to his poor health. He had great difficulty getting around. According to my mother Blanche Mollot, during the last two years of his life, he was so weak that getting to his bedroom in the Mollot two-storey home presented a great difficulty. He was mostly bedridden. On December 4th, 1934 in Fannystelle, Marcel passed away of a heart condition at the young age of 54. He was buried in the Fannystelle church cemetery on December 6th. This must have been a most devastating loss for Marcel’s mother Léopoldine (my great grandmother) then living in California with youngest daughter Thérèse. Marcel happened to be the second child that she had lost after Gabrielle in 1931. Because

of distance, health and age, Léopoldine was not able to attend the funerals of either of her two children.

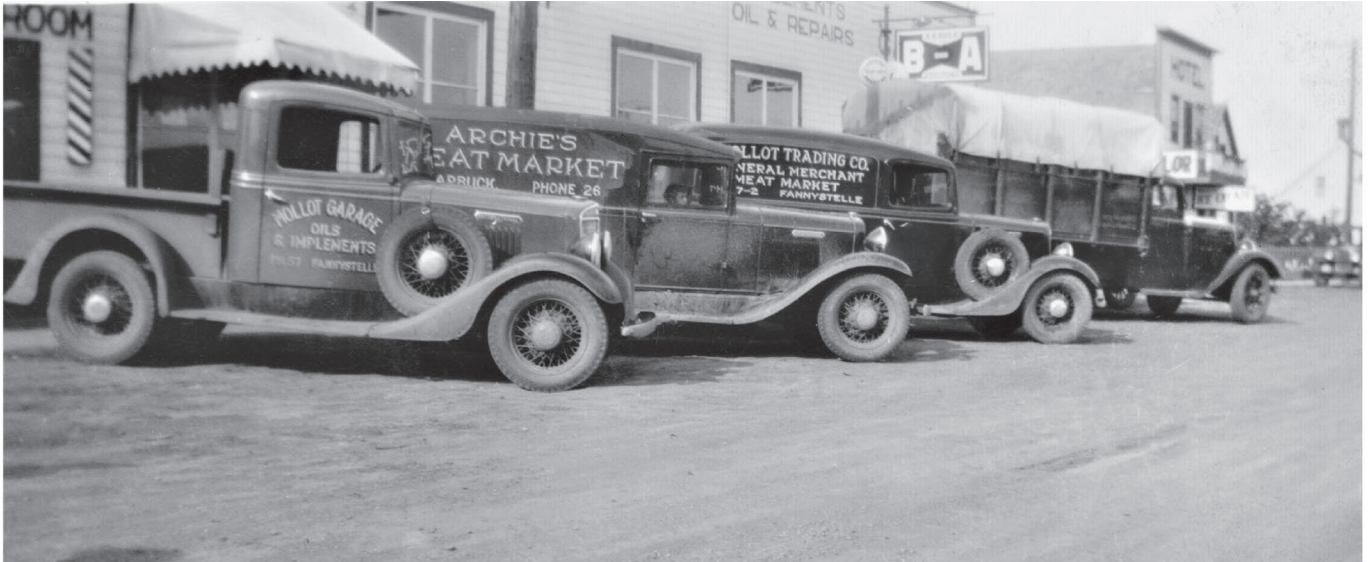
After Marcel's death in 1934 at the age of 54, sons Barney and John took over their father's businesses... or what was left of it following the 1929 Stock Market Crash, the Great Depression and the drought of the 1930s. Marcel had lost much of the wealth he had amassed except for the family home and the Mollot Trading Co. buildings.



1925 abt. Marcel Mollot (1880-1934).



1937 Fannystelle, MB: Mollot Trading Co. was built in the late 1920s, and consisted of a garage, a general store, a butcher shop and a restaurant.



1937 Fannystelle 'Strip Mall' on Main Sttreet, which was then No. 2 Highway.

Advertising on the vehicles in these photos, taken in 1937 indicate details about the Mollot Trading Co. and the involvement of the Mollot boys in various businesses: Barney was operating the general store, meat market and barber shop, brother John had the garage with the BA Oil Co. and McCormick Deering farm implement dealership, Louis owned and operated the Fannystelle Transfer and Archie, as indicated on the truck, owned Archie's Meat Market in Starbuck. There was also a restaurant in this building which was operated by various renters.



1937 Fannystelle, MB. Mollot Trading Co.

After the death of her husband Marcel, Eugenie Mollot stayed in Fannystelle until 1945, then moved to Winnipeg and lived at 589 Gertrude Ave. with granddaughter Deanne Morse née Mollot who then was attending St. Mary's Academy. Deanne, the daughter of Barney and Mildred Mollot, had lost her mother Millie and baby brother Grant in a horrible fire February 28th, 1939 in Fannystelle. Consequently, Deanne lived with her grandmother Eugénie Mollot from age 6 till her marriage to Marvin (Joe) Morse in 1955. During those years, Aunt Alice Mollot moved in with her mother Eugenie and Deanne at 589 Gertrude Ave. Throughout the years that grandmother Eugénie Mollot lived in Winnipeg, the boys (Archie, John, Barney and Louis) as well as Aunt Alice provided for her. Throughout their lives, the four boys remained very connected: they supported each other and really nurtured family.

My grandmother Eugénie Mollot née Piché lived at 589 Gertrude Ave. in Winnipeg till her death on May 10th, 1958 at the age of 74. Eugénie was buried next to her husband Marcel in the church cemetery in Fannystelle, Manitoba.

Marcel and Eugenie had twelve grandchildren: Lorrain, René, Marcel, Deanne, her brother Grant who died in a house fire at age three, Victor, Claude, Martin, Vivian, Judy, Arlene and Marcelle. Most of the grandchildren were born after the death of their grandfather Marcel in 1934 at the age of 54. None of his 11 grandchildren got to know their paternal grandfather Marcel. Either he died before they were born or were much too young to remember him.

According to his obituary in '*La Liberté et Le Patriote*' newspaper, during the 42 years that Marcel lived in Fannystelle, he served a total of 15 years as a council member of the Municipality of Grey and also as a school trustee.



Mollot Family headstone, Fannystelle, MB.

Obituaries

Marcel Mollot
1880 - 1934

FANNYSTELLE

Fannystelle vient d'être éprouvé par la perte de l'un de ses paroissiens les plus en vue, M. Marcel Mollot, décédé le 4 décembre à l'âge de 54 ans.

Né en France, M. Mollot était venu au Canada il y a 41 ans. Il a toujours demeuré à Fannystelle où il faisait de l'élevage et tenait un magasin. Pendant quinze ans il fut membre de la municipalité rurale de Grey et s'intéressa toujours beaucoup aux affaires du district et de la paroisse. Il fut aussi membre de la commission scolaire.

En 1901, M. Mollot épousait Eugénie Piché, qui lui survit avec une fille, Alice, et quatre fils, Achille, Jean, Gabriel et Louis.

Les funérailles ont eu lieu jeudi matin, présidées par M. le Curé S. Caron. Les porteurs étaient M. le sénateur A. Bénard, MM. Eudore Chevrier, N.-J.-A.-N. de la Giclais, A. Tremblay, E. Guyot et F. Durault.

Nous prions la famille d'agréer nos bien respectueuses sympathies.

Eugenie Mollot (née Piché)
1882 - 1958

MRS. EUGENIE MOLLOT, 75, of 589 Gertrude avenue, died Sunday in St. Boniface hospital. Born in Ste. Gertrude, Que., she came to Fannystelle, Man. in 1899 where she had lived until moving to Winnipeg in 1946. Her husband, Marcel, died in 1934. She was a member of the Ladies of Ste. Anne. Surviving are four sons, Archie of Starbuck, Man., Jean of Fannystelle and Barney and Louis, both of Brandon; one daughter, Alice of Winnipeg; two brothers, Charlie Piche of Fannystelle and Jean of Edmonton; four sisters, Mrs. H. Boisvert, of St. Angele, Quebec, Mrs. B. Beauchesne of Gravelbourg, Sask., Mrs. O. Dureault and Mrs. G. Cyrenne, both of Fannystelle. Prayers will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Park Lawn Mortuary. Requiem high mass will be sung at 10 a.m. (CST) Wednesday in the Roman Catholic church, Fannystelle, Man. with burial in [unclear] cemetery.

Other Mollot Photos:



1898 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Marcel Mollot, age 18.



1909-02-00: Marcel Mollot, age 29.



1901-05-27: Marcel and Eugenie (née Piché) Mollot wedding photo.



This photo was taken in about 1907 in the Marcel Mollot home in Fannystelle. Left to right are Archie age five, their mother Eugenie age 24 and Alice age four. Note in the background is one of the four "Seasons" of a large painting by their grandfather Fortuné Mollot. The four paintings were handed down from Yolande Donlan and are now owned by Ron McGrath in California.



1910 abt. Fannystelle, MB. Front row, left to right: unknown, Gertrude Syrenne (née Piché), Virginie Piché (née Champoux) and Eugenie Mollot (née Piché). Back row: Capitaine Joseph Piché, unknown, Amédée Morissette, Donat Cyrenne, Charlemagne Piché and unknown. Capitaine Joseph Piché and Virginie Champoux were the parents of Gertrude, Eugenie and Charlemagne.



1920 abt. Front: Marcel Mollot. Second row: Alice Mollot, unknown. Third row, left to right: unknown, Eugenie Mollot, unknown, Gabrielle & Léopoldine Mollot. Rear: Fortuné Mollot.



1920 abt. Fannystelle. Front: Marcel Mollot with cigar. Back row, left to right: Léopoldine, Fortuné and Gabrielle Mollot.



1922-07-04 Fannystelle, MB: Marcel Mollot yard. Sitting: Léopoldine and Fortuné Mollot; standing: Gabrielle and Marcel Mollot.



1923-08-00 Fannystelle, MB:
Center: Marcel and Eugenie
Mollot. Others unknown.



1923-08-00 Fannystelle, MB:
Marcel age 43 and Eugenie
(née Piché) Mollot age 40.



1924-07-00 Fannystelle, MB: Left to right: Eugenie Mollot age 41, Ena Piché, Marcel Mollot age 44 and unknown.



1930s Fannystelle, MB: Rear at center: John Mollot. Marcel Mollot wearing mustache. Others unknown.



1922 abt. Los Angeles, CA. Front far right: Thérèse Donlan née Mollot and baby daughter Yolande on lady's knees. Others: Donlan family members.

THE CHILDREN OF MARCEL & EUGENIE MOLLOT — BORN IN FANNYSTELLE

Achille Joseph Molloy (1902-1989)

Achille Joseph Molloy better known as Archie was the first born of Marcel and Eugenie. My uncle Archie was born on February 2, 1902. An interesting story is told about Archie's premature birth. It is said that he weighed only 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. at birth and that he might not survive. The story goes that he was so small that he could fit in a shoe box!

Interestingly enough, a letter found in 2015 verifies the details of the birth of Archie. The letter dated February 16, 1902 was written by his father Marcel to his aunt Pauline Algoud in Lyon, France. The letter had been found by a distant relative Yann Richard in France in the attic of a house in Lyon. In the letter, Marcel announces to his aunt the birth of their first child and that the new born Achille 'is so small that he could fit in a shoe box and that he may not survive.' The letter which of we have a copy, does indicate that Archie, when born weighed only 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. 'fully dressed.' The baby Achille did survive and had a full life!

Archie attended Fannystelle School, Provencher School and for his last three years in school, le Collège St. Boniface. In college, Archie must have been a fairly good student as in June of 1918, he was awarded two honorable mentions, one in Grammar and another for Diligence.

After college, we are assuming that Archie went to work for his father Marcel either at *Le Bon Marché* in St. Boniface or in Fannystelle in the general store and butcher shop. This is where he likely began to learn the skills as a butcher. During the early 1920s, Archie also made his way to California for approximately a year where he worked as a butcher for the



1903 Fannystelle, MB: Eugenie Molloy with son Achille.



1917 St. Boniface Collège. Sitting, left to right: John Molloy and Lucien Piché. Standing: Marcel Piché and Achille Molloy.

large Piggly Wiggly food store chain. At that time, his Aunt Thérèse Donlan née Mollot was living in Los Angeles and this could have had some influence on Archie's decision to move to LA. His stay in LA was short lived. His mother Eugenie convinced him to come back. Archie would always say that he should have stayed in California as the opportunities were much better there because the roaring 20s were the very prosperous decade that followed World War I.

One thing that has not been determined is where Archie met his bride to be Aline Lafrance. However there is reason to believe that they met in her home town of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan. The Mollots had very close relatives in Gravelbourg, Piché families, who had recently moved from Fannys-telle to Gravelbourg. Archie's best friend and class mate from St. Boniface College had been Lucien



1928-07-17: Achille and Aline Mollot.
Gravelbourg, SK.



1930 abt. Elm Creek, MB: Archie and John Mollot General Store.

Piché originally from Fannystelle but now living in Gravelbourg. Some Piché family members, (brothers of Eugenie Molloy) had relocated from Fannystelle to Gravelbourg a few years earlier because less expensive farmland was available. Could it be that Archie went to Gravelbourg to visit his best friend Lucien Piché in 1925 or 1926 and there was introduced to Aline Lafrance? It is believed that, at the time, Aline was teaching in Assiniboia or Laflèche, Saskatchewan.

On July 17, 1928, Archie Molloy married Aline Lafrance in Gravelbourg. After the marriage, Archie and Aline settled down in Elm Creek, Manitoba and with his brother John, they started a general store and butcher shop. Archie and John had been encouraged to go into business by their parents.

On October 11, 1929, the first child of Archie and Aline, Lorrain Marcel, was born in Carman, Manitoba. Unfortunately, the Great Depression of 1929 had struck and a couple years later, Archie and John were forced into bankruptcy. Times were most difficult for Archie, Aline and infant Lorrain in fact so tough that Archie & Aline moved to Gravelbourg to live with Aline's parents. Archie was able to find work at a local butcher shop in Gravelbourg. As for brother John, age 25 and single, he was able to go back and live at home with his parents in Fannystelle.

During the time that Archie and Aline were in Gravelbourg, their second son René Raymond was born on October 1, 1932. In 1933, when René was six months old, Archie and Aline moved back to Manitoba with the two young boys Lorrain and René. An opportunity arose that would see them first

		Dr.	Cr.
Bought Shop Jan 1st 1936			
1936	A. Arnal		
Nov. 25 th	shops & equipment (1936)		1000.00
Nov. 25 th	cheque as 1 st payment (1936)	150.00	
May 6	loan to A. Molloy		75.00
Nov. 6	Interest on loan		2.00
" 3	cheque for loan May 6 th	77.00	
Feb. 3	cheque to A. Arnal as part payment for 1937	75.00	
Feb. 3 1938	Interest on principal 1938 from Nov 25 1936 to Dec 1st 1937		45.00
Sept 17 1938	cheque to A. Arnal	70.00	
	Balance 1937 - payment & interest	372.00	1122.00
Oct. 1st	Balance		750.00
Nov. 25	Interest Dec 1st 1937 to Dec 1st 1938		45.00
(1940)	Interest from Dec 1st 1938 to Dec 1st 1939		45.00
Jan 20	Interest from Dec 1st 1939 to Dec 1st 1940		45.00
	Interest from Dec 1st 1940 to Dec 1st 1941		45.00
	Balance due		930.00

1941-12-00: Almir Arnal statement to Archie Molloy.

rent then purchase a butcher shop in Starbuck. It is believed that the Steinburg Butcher shop in Starbuck had gone bankrupt in 1933 and Almir Arnal of Fannystelle had purchased then rented it out to Archie. According to the statement on the previous page, Archie first rented the shop in 1933 to January 1, 1936 when he purchased it from Almir Arnal for \$1,000.

This was the beginning of Archie's Meats as we know it today. However, times during the Great Depression were really tough and as of December 1, 1941, Archie still owed \$930. During those five years, he had only been able to pay off \$70 of the \$1,000 debt. This statement no doubt indicates to us how severe the Great Depression was on people and businesses. However, things did improve! In about 1937, Archie started 'peddling' meat. With his half-ton International 'Cornbinder' truck, he would drive to neighbouring towns and farmers, selling meat and picking up eggs and cream from the farmers to ship to market.

On March 27, 1940, their third son Marcel Alaire was born. This new born son was given the same first name as his grandfather Marcel who had passed away six years prior on December 4, 1934. The war time 40s were generally good and around 1948, Archie decided to build a new butcher shop and locker plant in Starbuck. Locker plants were very important in those years because home freezers were really unknown. In many cases, farmers would kill their own livestock and bring the carcasses to Archie's Meats where the meat would be cut, wrapped, labelled and frozen in a storage rental locker. As one can appreciate, this was not easy work.



Archie Mollot - taking care of business

1937 abt. – Archie Mollot: Taking care of business.



1984 abt. Archie's Meats – showing three generations: Raymond, René, Archie and Philip Mollot.

Before the advent of the home freezer, it was quite common for farmers and town folk to drop in at Archie's Meats and get their weekly supply of meat either from the counter or from their rental locker. Archie was very dedicated to his work and enjoyed chatting with customers. When youngsters came in with their parents, he was known to treat them to a complimentary wiener. This became his friendly trademark.

During the 50s and 60s, Archie's Meat Market even supplied Barney's Drive Inn owned by his brother Barney of Brandon with most of their meat requirements such as steaks, hamburger and other restaurant cuts. On a weekly basis, a shipment of meat would leave Starbuck destined for Brandon via the Greyhound Bus Lines. In those years, there was a daily Greyhound bus route from Winnipeg to Brandon with whistle stops in every town on No. 2 Highway for passengers and cargo.

Around 1950, as the business prospered, René started working alongside his father and became the 3rd generation Mollot proprietor of a butcher shop. The first had been Archie's father Marcel, the second was Archie and now the third was Archie's son René. Today, with René's two sons Raymond and Philip, a fourth generation of Mollot butchers have kept the thriving business.



1986 The Archie Molloy family: Left to right: Lorne, Marcel, Aline, René and Archie.

help your dad in the shop.' All the boys were good learners, did very well and were successful each in his own way: Lorrain (married to Mariette Di Cicco) was a Chemical Engineer, graduate of U of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, René (married to Denise Picard) took over the family business and Archie's Meats continued to flourish in Starbuck. Marcel, the third son (married to Louise Keough), became a dentist in Winnipeg. Archie and Aline had 11 grandchildren: Joanne, Richard, Louise, Robert, Julie, Raymond, Philip, Roland, Michelle, Yvette and Roger.

Archie Molloy passed away on January 11, 1989 at the age of 86. His wife Aline passed away a few years later on January 29, 1996 at the age of 91. They are both buried in the St. Paul's cemetery in Starbuck, Manitoba.

The business has changed immensely since Archie's Meats first began in 1933. Meat is still cut and sold but now, the main focus is on the production of smoked sausage for Archie's Pizza. The pizza is made at the shop and sold to various food stores in Manitoba.

Archie had been the dedicated businessman who founded Archie's Meats. Aline was known as a driver in the family, the visionary. One of her sayings was 'If you don't want to go to school, you can go and

ARCHIE'S
THIN CRUST
PIZZA

12" / 725g

MEAT LOVERS PEPPERONI, BACON, HAM
SALAMI, KEILBASA

BOTHWELL

6 7 6 8 2 4 5 1 8 2 0 7

All meat products and pizzas are made by Archie's Meats in Starbuck, MB.
Tous les produits carnés et les pizzas sont faites par Archie's Meats dans Starbuck, MB.

KEEP PIZZA FROZEN / GARDER PIZZA SURGELÉE

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS Pizza should remain frozen until it's placed in the oven. A PIZZA PAN WITH HOLES, OR A PIZZA COOKING SCREEN SHOULD BE USED. Cooking times may vary from oven to oven. Preheat oven to 450°F. Put pizza in frozen on pizza screen on bottom rack. Cook for approximately 15-20 minutes or until edges are browned. Add 5 minutes for crispier pizzas.

MODE DE CUISSON Pizza devraient rester congelés jusqu'à ce qu'il soit placé dans le four. UNE PIZZA AVEC DES TROUS, OU D'UN ÉCRAN DE CUISSON PIZZA DEVRAIT ÊTRE UTILISÉ. Temps de cuisson mai varient d'un four à l'autre. Préchauffer le four à 450°F. Mettez la pizza dans congelé à l'écran sur fond de pizza rack. Cuire pendant environ 15-20 minutes ou jusqu'à ce que les bords soient dorés. Ajouter 5 minutes pour la pizza croustillante.

Nutrition Facts Valeur nutritive	
Per 1/6 Pizza (121g) / par 1/6 Pizza (121g)	
Amount Teneur	% Daily Value % valeur quotidienne
Calories / Calories 285	
Fat / Lipides 15 g	13 %
Saturated / saturés 3.7 g	19 %
+ Trans / trans 0.1 g	
Cholesterol / Cholestérol 20 mg	7 %
Sodium / sodium 600 mg	20 %
Carbohydrate / glucides 27 g	9 %
Fibre / fibres 1 g	4 %
Sugars / sucres 3 g	
Protein / protéines 15 g	
Vitamin A / Vitamine A	2 %
Vitamin C / Vitamine C	8 %
Calcium / Calcium	15 %
Iron / Fer	5 %

INGREDIENTS

CRUST (ENRICHED WHEAT FLOUR, WATER, SHORTENING, CANOLA OIL, SUGAR, YEAST), SAUCE (TOMATOES, MODIFIED CORN STARCH, SALT, SUGAR, SEASONINGS, GARLIC, CITRIC ACID), CHEESE (PASTEURIZED MILK, BACTERIAL CULTURE, SALT, MICROBIAL ENZYME), PEPPERONI (LEAN PORK, WATER, WHEY PROTEIN, SALT, DEXTROSE, SPICES, SODIUM NITRATE, SODIUM ENTHORBIATE, NATURAL HICKORY SMOKE), MUSHROOM, HAM AND BACON (PORK, WATER, SUGAR, SALT, SPICE EXTRACTS, POLY SORBATE, SODIUM ENTHORBIATE, SODIUM NITRATE, NATURAL HICKORY SMOKE), KEILBASA (LEAN PORK, WATER, WHEY PROTEIN, SALT, SEASONINGS, GARLIC CLOVES, SODIUM ENTHORBIATE, SODIUM NITRATE, MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE, HICKORY SMOKE), SALAMI (LEAN PORK, WATER, SPICES, SUGAR, GARLIC, SODIUM ENTHORBIATE, SODIUM NITRATE, NATURAL HICKORY SMOKE)

A label of one of Archie's Pizzas.

Other photos:



1923 abt. Archie Mollot, age 21.



1918 abt. 53 Eugenie Street, Norwood, MB.
Archie Mollot, age 17. St. Boniface College Days!



1920s, left to right: Dr. Henri Guyot, girl (unknown), Archie and Ernest Mollot.



1930s, left to right: Aline, John and Archie Mollot. Others unknown.



1930 abt. Elm Creek: Mollots and Co. General Store. Center back: Aline Mollot with Archie to far right. Others unknown.



1930 abt. Elm Creek: Mollots and Co. General Store. Left to right: Alice Mollot, Thérèse De Gagné, Aline and Archie Mollot and Antoinette Lafrance.



1978-06-00: Archie Mollot, age 76.

Obituaries

Achille (Archie) Mollot

1902 - 1989

ACHILLE (ARCHIE) MOLLOT

Peacefully at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital in Winnipeg, Man., on Wednesday, January 11, 1989, Mr. Archie Mollot of Starbuck, Man. at the age of 86 years.

Archie was born on February 2, 1902 at the Misericordia Hospital. He attended school in Fannystelle and graduated from St. Boniface College. He moved to Gravelbourg, Sask., where he met and married Aline Lafrance in 1928. He established Archie's Meat Market in Starbuck, Man., in 1932. He was a dedicated and conscientious businessman who loved people and enjoyed serving his customers. He continued to serve his community and surrounding areas until his retirement in 1985. He retired to Winnipeg in his later years. Archie enjoyed curling and was a long standing member of the Starbuck Curling Club. He also enjoyed tennis and golf.

Besides his beloved wife Aline, he leaves to cherish his memory three sons, Lorne and wife Mariette of Montreal, Que., Rene and wife Denise of Starbuck and Macel and wife Louise of Winnipeg; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Also one sister Alice Mollot and one brother John and wife Blanche. He was predeceased by his parents, Marcel and Eugenie and by two brothers, Barney and Louis and one grandson Richard.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Saturday, January 14 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church in Fannystelle, Man. Viewing at 1:30 followed by funeral mass at 2:00 p.m. with Fr. Gerard Clavet officiating. Service to terminate at the Church.

pallbearers will be Robert Mollot, Paul Piche, Vic Mollot, Darwin Crabbe, Bob Morse and Claude Mollot.

Flowers gratefully declined. Those wishing to make a contribution to his memory, may do so to the Manitoba Heart Foundation.

Adams's Funeral Home of Notre Dame de Lourdes, Man., in care of arrangements.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to Dr. LaRue and all the nursing staff on 2 South in the Princess Elizabeth Hospital for the care and concern shown Archie during his stay in the hospital.

Evening prayers will be held on Thursday, February 1 at John XXIII Parish, Assiniboia Christian Centre at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Mr. Gary McCallum presiding. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Friday, February 2, 11:00 a.m. at John XXIII Parish, Assiniboia Christian Centre, 3390 Portage Ave., Winnipeg with Fr. Joe Sharbel, celebrant. Service to terminate at the church.

Pallbearers will be her grandchildren, Joanne Todd, Robert, Raymond, Philip, Roland and Roger Mollot.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, 301-352 Donald St., Winnipeg R3B 2H8.

Special thanks to Dr. P. Erhard for the care and concern shown to Aline in her later years and to the nursing staff and pastoral care workers of St. Boniface Hospital these past few months.

Adam's Funeral Home of Notre Dame de Lourdes, Man. in care of arrangements, 1-204-248-2201 or Winnipeg 941-9951.

Aline Mollot née Lafrance

1904 - 1996

ALINE MOLLOT (nee LAFRANCE)

Peacefully, on Monday, January 29, 1996 at the St. Boniface Hospital, Aline Mollot, aged 91 years, of Winnipeg and formerly of Starbuck, Man.

Aline was born in Chapeau, P.Q. on February 28, 1904, moving with her family to Gravelbourg, Sask. while a young child. She attended school in Gravelbourg and went on to Teachers College in Regina, Sask. Upon graduation, she taught grade school in rural Saskatchewan until her marriage to Archie Mollot on July 17, 1928. Following their marriage, they moved to Elm Creek, Man. and in 1932 to Starbuck where they established Archie's Meats.

She was a devoted mother of three boys, hard working, an excellent cook and loved sharing her home and her cooking with her sons and their friends. She had fond memories of her travels with her sister Antoinette and longtime friend Jo Stewart. She was an avid reader. Those who knew her best will remember her for her great sense of humour and her words of wisdom.

She is survived by three sons, Lorne (Mariette) of Montreal, P.Q.; Rene (Denise) of Starbuck, Man. and Marcel (Louise) of Winnipeg, Man.; ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; a sister Antoinette St. Onge; and a brother Pierre Lafrance (Irene) of Gravelbourg, Sask. She was predeceased by her husband Archie in 1989; a brother Joe Lafrance and his wife Jeanne; a brother Edmond Lafrance; a brother-in-law Joe St. Onge; and one grandson Richard.

MARIE ANGE ALICE MOLLOT (1903-1997)

Marie Ange Alice Mollot, the second child of Marcel and Eugenie, was my aunt. She was born and baptised in Fannystelle on May 10, 1903. In her early years, Alice was educated in Fannystelle. Later, around the years of 1916, when the family lived in Norwood at 53 (now 113) Eugenie St, she attended l'Academie St. Joseph for high school. At that same time, her brothers were attending le Collège St. Boniface. In 1934, Alice received her Toronto Conservatory of Music diploma.

Alice had a great love for music and piano. In her career as a musician, and as a fine piano teacher, Alice followed in the footsteps of her aunt Gabrielle Mollot. I am told that at home, Alice would always be playing the piano and at times to the annoyance of her brothers! At an early age, she started giving private piano lessons in Fannystelle then later on, would drive herself from town to town throughout the area of Sanford, Brunkild, Sperling, Carman and Elm Creek. Alice would drive to one town, and at a private home, teach all day then board at that home. The next day, she was off to the next town and as a travelling piano teacher, she was gone from Monday to Friday. After the early death of her father Marcel in 1934, she kept living at home with her mother Eugenie in Fannystelle. By the 1940s, she had moved to Winnipeg with her mother Eugenie at 589 Gertrude but continued to teach piano in the various towns. As time progressed however, she developed her own clientele in the city.

Alice never married. She enjoyed travelling, cottage life, theatre, symphony and opera. From her early life, she travelled extensively throughout North America and Europe. In about 1950,



1906 Fannystelle: Alice and Archie Mollot, ages 3 and 4.



1912 Fannystelle, MB: Marcel Mollot with daughter Alice.

Alice purchased a cottage lot at Falcon Lake and had a little cottage built. There she spent many summers enjoying nature, family and friends. Beginning in 1953, she travelled numerous times to Europe and on two occasions, was especially pleased with having visited Blandin and Die, (Le Martouret) France, the original homes of her grandparents Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot as well as Dr. Alexandre and Ernestine Benoit. Alice was a happy person who enjoyed a full cultural life along with the luxury of travel, cottage and family life.



1923 abt. Alice Mollot, age 20.

Alice was a great family historian and would always reminisce and tell stories about the life of her grandparents Fortuné and Léopoldine. She would always remind us 'that during your lives, make sure to go to Europe and visit Château Blandin and le Martouret in Die, France. As I mentioned, she travelled extensively mostly in the summers and proudly named her cottage 'Château Blandin' at Falcon Lake.



1960-07-0: Alice Mollot cottage, Falcon Lake: *Château Blandin*.

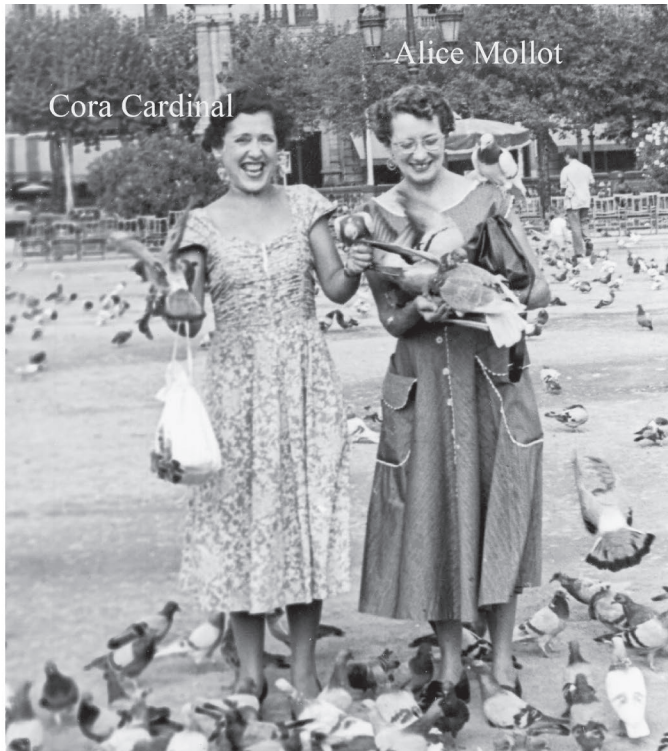
To her young nieces and nephews, her apartment felt somewhat like a museum. It was decorated with paintings of her grandfather Fortuné, busts of Mozart and Beethoven, and furnished with heirloom pieces which included the Steinway piano which she loved. Today we can thank our aunt Alice for having cherished the family paintings, furniture, memoirs, letters and artifacts. There are still now, numerous boxes of family memorabilia which are precious to the family. She kept all these family treasures for a number of years and then passed them on to our generation. With all this material, we were able to retrace our roots in France 14 generations back.

In her later years, music remained a good part of her life as she enjoyed concerts, ballet, opera and the like. Alice loved to sing: at family gatherings, she would get us all to sing along. I think her favourite song was 'Vive la Canadienne.' Alice was always a very positive and caring person: she had 'la joie de vivre.' Her golden years were spent living in Place Catherine Aurélie, a home for independent living and then Foyer Valade. Aunt Alice passed away from natural causes on November 13, 1997 at the age of 94. Aunt Alice is buried in the Sacred Heart cemetery in Fannystelle, Manitoba.

Other photos:



1939 California, USA. Second from left: Alice Mollot. Center: Louis Mollot. Others unknown.



1953, Barcelona, Spain: Cora Cardinal and Alice Mollot



1953 abt: Alice Mollot, age 50.



1970s: Alice Mollot at her Falcon Lake cottage which she named *Château Blandin*.



1992: Alice Mollot, age 89.

Obituary

Alice Mollot
1903 – 1997



ALICE MOLLOT

Peacefully, on November 13, 1997, Miss Alice Mollot passed away at the age of 94.

She was born in Fannystelle, Man. on May 10, 1903. She was predeceased by her parents, Marcel and Eugenie and by her brothers, Achille and wife Aline, John, Gabriel (Barney) and wife Millie, Louis and wife Eleanor. She is survived by two sisters-in-law, Blanche (John) and Gilberte (Barney), both of Winnipeg, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She attended school in Fannystelle and at St. Joseph's Academy in St. Boniface. She will be remembered for her excellence in music, having received her Toronto Conservatory of Music Diploma in 1934. She taught piano for more than four decades in Sperling, Carman, Elm Creek, Starbuck, St. Norbert and Winnipeg.

Alice was predeceased by a number of close friends with whom she enjoyed interesting travels as well as opera, ballet and symphony concerts. She always looked forward to summertime with friends and family at Falcon Lake at her cottage which she called Chateau Blandin. She kept artifacts and records of family history which are cherished today. In later years, she enjoyed fellowship at Résidence Catherine Aurélie then at Foyer Valade.

Alice faced every day with a positive outlook and a happy disposition. Her "joie de vivre" inspired people around her.

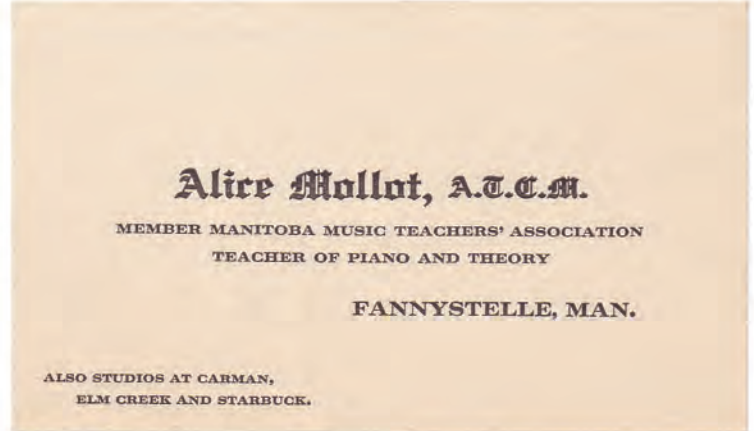
Funeral Mass of The Resurrection will be held at the Assiniboia Christian Centre, John XXIII Parish at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 19, with Msgr. N. Chartrand officiating. Viewing will be at 9:30 a.m. prior to the service. The service will end at the church.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the charity of one's choice.

Pallbearers will be nieces, Deanne Morse, Arlene Crabbe, Marcelle Mollot and nephews René Mollot, Marcel Mollot and Vic Mollot.

Sincere thanks to the staff at Foyer Valade. Their care with warmth and kindness was outstanding.

Cropo Funeral Chapel in care of arrangements, 586-8044.



JEAN BAPTISTE ALFRED MOLLOT (1904-1989)

Jean Baptiste (John) Alfred Mollot, my father, was the third child of Marcel and Eugenie Mollot. Better known as John, he was born on June 26, 1904. On the day of his birth, he was baptised with the name Jean Baptiste because the date of his birth was so near June 24th, the commemoration day of St. John the Baptiste—patron Saint of French Canadians. Throughout his life John believed that because of his name, his birthday was June 24th and his birthday celebration always took place on that day. Many referred to him by his nickname as *Grand Pipe*.

John attended Fannystelle School then in 1916 went on to Provencher School in St. Boniface for Grades 5 thru 8. Finally he attended le Collège St. Boniface. By that time, the Mollot family lived at 53 (now 113) Eugenie St. in Norwood. After graduating with a business course from college, he went back to Fannystelle and worked for his father Marcel. Then in 1929 at the age of 25, he and his brother Archie ventured out to Elm Creek, Manitoba and set up a butcher shop and general store which they named Mollots & Co. Meats & Provisions. Then the Great Depression of 1929 and drought of the 1930s struck. Unfortunately within a few years, Archie and John went bankrupt. This was a very tough lesson for my dad and uncle who would always talk about their difficulties during those times.

After the Elm Creek disaster, my father John went back to live with his parents in Fannystelle and worked for his father Marcel in the various businesses under the umbrella name of Mollot Trading Co. As the years went by, my dad took over operating the Mollot Garage and the younger brother Barney managed the general store of the Mollot Trading Co. It is believed that the restaurant portion was rented out to various individuals. Then on December 4, 1934, their father Marcel died.

Marcel had been suffering from a major heart condition for a few years. Blanche Mollot, my mother, told me that in the last few years before his death, her future father-in-law Marcel could not walk the steps to the second floor of his home: he had been struggling because of his major heart condition and died at age 54. The death left John and Barney to run the Mollot Trading Co.



1908-07-00: Left to right: John Mollot (age 4), the dog Gros Loup, and Achille Mollot (age 6).

On November 10, 1937 and at the age 33, my father John married Blanche Arnal, age 23, daughter of Benjamin and Eugenie Arnal. My mother Blanche though having lived on a farm, never did care for farm life. She had always wanted to marry a business man. In 1939 at the outset of World War II, they moved into a brand new two storey four bedroom home built by a local carpenter Mr. Etienne Poitras. The home had electricity, a coal fired central heating furnace later converted to propane and all the comforts of a modern day home. My mother Blanche was a hardworking lady, well organized and structured: Monday was wash day and Tuesday ironing day. Every Saturday, the tasks were washing out the fridge, washing and polishing floors and assuring a bath for each family member. Blanche was proud of her family and insisted that their three sons be well-dressed and 'polished' each day. She devoted lots of care and energy to that end.



1937-11-10: Jean Baptiste Mollot (age 33) and Blanche (née Arnal, age 23). Parents of Vic, Claude and Martin.



1939-06-00: Home of John and Blanche Mollot. Destination of the procession of the feast of Corpus Christi.

Business was generally good for the Mollot Trading Co. Since the death of their father Marcel in 1934, the 'boys' managed the various businesses: Barney in the general store, John in the garage and Louis with the Fannystelle Transfer. Archie at that time was getting established in a butcher shop in Starbuck.

The garage was comprised of a McCormick Deering dealership which was later named International Harvester. It was a farm equipment dealership and also a distributorship for BA Oils Co. Ltd. Also, John later purchased land and rented it out for revenue and did custom baling for livestock farmers in the area.

Mom and dad had three boys. Victor (the writer of this story) was born on February 1, 1942, Claude was born on February 22, 1945 and the youngest brother Martin on June 18, 1946. Business continued to thrive during those years. In the late 40s and early 50s, John and Blanche would travel and winter in Florida, Mexico and Cuba with Uncle Barney and Aunt Gil along with their Uncle Ernest Mollot.

From 1946 and on, John had developed a keen interest in recording community and family events on 16 mm film. During the 1950 flood, John and his buddy Pete Daoust posed as Press and took extensive footage of the flood in Winnipeg and in the Red River Valley. Family and friends have enjoyed reminiscing and laughter as they enjoyed home movies of their early years.

Like his father Marcel, our dad John served as a Municipal Councillor from the years 1945 to 1948. He also served as School and Church trustee.



1952 Havana, Cuba: Scouting for ball players. Left to right: Ernest, Gilberte, John and Blanche Mollot, Maxam Sanchez and Barney Mollot.

Around 1950, my father John contracted to build a new Mollot Garage to be located just behind the old structure that had been built by his father Marcel in the late 1920s. The new building was to include a separate butcher shop, c/w a walk-in cooler, on the west side of the new garage. The cooler and shop were for his brother Archie who would come twice a week from Starbuck to sell meat. Of all the four Mollot brothers, Archie and John always seem to be tied to the hip throughout their lives. During those years, our mother Blanche ran a small restaurant called "the Squeeze Inn" which was attached to the old Fannystelle Hotel. From the time I can remember, we always had a house keeper to help our mother and a hired man nick-named *Ti l'Heure* (Benoit Dureault) who was our garage mechanic and who lived at our home. Benoit became part of our family. Mom and dad were very generous providers for us. As a youngster, I can recollect going to Winnipeg one Saturday every fall with Mom to buy me all the clothes I'd need for the season... and she did that with each of my brothers as well... year after year!



1950s: Mollot Garage oil can.



1952 Fannystelle, MB: Mollot Garage Ltd. (new). Corner of Main Street and 1st Avenue.

Christmas was always very special for us. From ages 5 to 12, Santa Claus would always come to our house. It was exciting to see Santa with a bag of toys on a horse driven stone boat or sleigh. One year he brought us a Lionel train set which was a very special gift. Another generous gift was a Shetland pony named Nellie. She came complete with a buggy, harness and a little barn. We were taught to care for and groom the pony. We had several years of memorable times with Nellie, our dog Brownie and our friends. Later when it came down to spending money and gas, my father would allow us to cash out from the garage cash register and fill up at the garage gas pumps. He never questioned us about the amount but always reminded us to make sure to write a 'cash out voucher.' I'm not sure my Mom knew about that!

As time progressed, in the late 1950s, our father John started losing interest in the business. At the same time, Uncle Barney in Brandon had just purchased and renovated a motel on the corner of the Trans-Canada Highway and 1st Street which he called Barney's Motel and was looking for a manager. My mother Blanche took on the job as manager and moved to Brandon with my youngest brother Martin who was still in high school while my father John



1987-10-25, left to right: Martin, Vic, Claude, John and Blanche Mollot. 50th Wedding Anniversary of John and Blanche.

managed the Mollot Garage in Fannystelle and planned the sale. Within a year, the garage and house were sold and Dad moved to Brandon. This marked the beginning of the end of any Mollots in Fannystelle... from 1892 to 1965... some 73 years! As time progressed, we three boys were married and had our own families: I, Vic married Lucille Cousin, Claude married Sharon Stanicky, Irene Buan and Laverne Pringle and Martin married Judy Krantz. John and Blanche had six grandchildren: Monique, Marc, Michelle, Nicole, Kimberly and Claire.

My parents managed Barney's Motel for some 10 years and in 1968 won the Western Manitoba Travel Association award for the best managed motel. They retired to Winnipeg around 1970. Back in Winnipeg, my mother Blanche became a part time employee of Sears Ltd. at Polo Park. She enjoyed her work in drapery and especially in the area of catalogue sales and earned a 20 year recognition pin from Sears.

Our father John suffered from Parkinson's and lived out his final years at Oakview Personal Care Home. He passed away on December 25, in 1989 at the age of 85. Our mother Blanche made many friends in her apartment block and at the church. She concentrated on remaining healthy. Just before her death she expressed the wish that she could go on to live 'a couple more years'. Blanche passed away on July 14, 2004, at the age of 90. John and Blanche are both buried in the Sacred Heart cemetery in Fannystelle, Manitoba.

Other photos:



1919 abt. John Mollot (age 16).
Collège St. Boniface days.



1925-07-00 Fannystelle, MB: John Mollot (age 21) on
Mollot house veranda.



1928 abt. Fannystelle, MB, left to right: John Mollot, unknown, Alice Mollot, Dr. Henri Guyot and Achille Mollot behind.



1929, left to right: John Mollot, others unknown. "Beer break on the road."



1930 abt. Mollot and Co. General Store, Elm Creek, MB. Left: John Mollot (age 26) and Adrien Landry.



1930s Fannystelle, MB: John Mollot.



1934-07-00, Fannystelle, MB: "Country Roads." Left to right: unknown, Alice and brother John Mollot, Blanche Arnal and unknown.



1943-09-02 Fannystelle, MB: John (age 38) and Blanche (age 29) Mollot.



1944: John Mollot (age 40) with son Vic (age 2).



1946 Fannystelle, MB: Mollot Trading Co. Left to right: unknown, Vic Mollot, John Mollot and Lucien (Ti-Poile) Guyot. In background: Ovide Dureault.



1940s Kenora, ON. Left to right: Cecil Simonson, John Mollot, Melvin Simonson, Blanche Mollot, Ester and Evelyn Simonson.



1987-11-11: 50th Wedding Anniversary. John Mollot (age 83).



1987-11-11: 50th Wedding Anniversary. Blanche Mollot (age 73).

Obituaries

John B. Mollot
1904 - 1989

JEAN BAPTISTE MOLLOT

Peacefully passed away on Christmas Day, December 25, 1989 at the Grace General Hospital, Jean Baptiste Mollot, aged 85 years, beloved husband of Blanche Mollot.

Jean Baptiste was born in Fannystelle, Man., June 24, 1904. He attended school in Fannystelle and graduated from St. Boniface College. He returned to Fannystelle where, in 1937, he married Blanche Arnal and remained in business there for many years. He enjoyed people and was always willing to offer a helping hand. During his years in business, he served as councillor for the Municipality of Grey and as school and church trustee. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, traveling and family gatherings. He took special pride in filming home movies in the 1940's and 1950's and has left a precious collection of historical community and family events. From 1964, he managed Barney's Motel in Brandon and then, in 1969, retired to Winnipeg.

Besides his beloved wife Blanche, he leaves to mourn three sons, Vic and wife Lucille and grandchildren, Monique and Marc of Winnipeg, Claude and wife Irene and granddaughter Michelle of Edmonton, Martin and wife Judy and grandchildren, Nicole, Kimberley and Claire, all of Brampton, and one sister Alice of Winnipeg. He was predeceased by his parents, Marcel and Eugénie and brothers, Achille (Archib), Gabriel (Barney) and Louis (Chick).

Funeral Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Louis McCloskey at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 28 in the Assiniboia Christian Centre, John XXIII Parish, 3390 Portage Ave. Viewing will be held from 1:30 p.m. until time of service.

Pallbearers will be Rene and Marcel Mollot, Allan and Guy Arnal, Paul Piche and Jules Dureault.

Service will terminate in the church with cremation to follow.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Oakview Place, Dr. Martin and the nursing staff of Grace General Hospital, 3 A South, for their care and kindness. Special thanks also to Fr. Louis McCloskey and Sisters, Cathy Laviolette and Imelda Samson for their spiritual support.

Flowers gratefully declined. Those wishing to make a contribution in his memory may do so to the Parkinson Foundation of Canada, 55 Bloor St. W., Suite 232, Toronto, Ont. M4W 9Z9.

Desjardins Funeral Chapel in care of arrangements, 233-4949.

JEAN BAPTISTE MOLLOT

A l'hôpital Grace, le jour de Noël, 25 décembre 1989, est décédé à l'âge de 85 ans, M. Jean Baptiste Mollot, époux de Blanche (née Arnal), autrfois de Fannystelle.

Jean Baptiste est né à Fannystelle, Man., le 24 juin 1904 où il a fait son école élémentaire. Il est gradue du Collège de Saint Boniface. De retour à Fannystelle, il a établi un commerce et s'est marié en 1937 à Blanche Arnal. Il jouissait de la compagnie des gens et il donnait un coup de main quand il le pouvait. Il était conseiller de la municipalité Grey, syndic de la paroisse et commissaire d'écoles. Il aimait surtout faire la chasse, faire la pêche, voyager et se réunir en famille. Durant les années 1940's et 1950's, il aimait surtout tourner des films, et il laisse une collection historique d'événements. En 1964, il est devenu gerant du Barney's Motel à Brandon il a ensuite pris sa retraite à Winnipeg en 1969.

Il laisse aussi dans le deuil trois fils, Vic et épouse Lucille et leurs enfants, Monique et Marc de Winnipeg, Claude et épouse Irene et leur fille Michelle tous de Edmonton, Martin et son épouse Judy et leurs filles, Nicole, Kimberley et Claire, tous de Brampton, et une sœur Alice de Winnipeg. Il fut précedé par ses parents, Marcel et Eugénie, et ses frères, Achille (Archib), Gabriel (Barney) et Louis (Chick).

Cont'd From Prev. Column.

Le service sera célébré par l'abbé Louis McCloskey à 14h le jeudi 28 décembre en l'église Jean XXIII, Assiniboia Christian Centre, 3390 avenue Portage. Le corps sera exposé de 13h30. Le service terminera à l'église et sera suivi par la crémation.

Les porteurs seront Rene et Marcel Mollot, Allan et Guy Arnal, Paul Piche et Jules Dureault.

La famille desirant remercier le personnel du Foyer Oakview Place, le Dr. Martin et les infirmières de l'hôpital Grace 3 A, sud pour leurs bons soins et leur gentillesse. Nous tenons aussi à remercier l'abbé Louis McCloskey et Sr. Cathy Laviolette et Sr. Imelda Samson pour leurs appui spirituel.

Ceux qui le desirant pourront faire un don à la Fondation Canadienne de Parkinsons, 232 - 55 avenue Bloor, Toronto, Ont. M4W 9Z9.

La direction des funérailles a été confiée au Salon Mortuaire Desjardins, 233-4949.

Blanche Mollot (née Arnal)
1914 - 2004

BLANCHE MOLLOT (née ARNAL)

Peacefully, on Wednesday, July 14, 2004 at the Grace General Hospital, Blanche Mollot, widow of Jean Baptiste (John) Mollot, passed away at the age of 90 years, formerly of Brandon and Fannystelle, MB.

Blanche was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Jean Baptiste (John) in December 1989; brothers, Armand 1918, Aimé 1955, Ernest 1993, Lawrence 2001, Albert 1994, and sister-in-law Alice 2003.

Blanche was born in Fannystelle on April 22, 1914 and attended the Castagner rural school, then finished her schooling at the St. Joseph's Academy, St. Boniface. She married Jean Baptiste (John) Mollot on November 10, 1937, where they continued operating the Mollot Garage in addition to other enterprises. Blanche operated the Squeeze In Restaurant and drove a school bus. Blanche was a devoted mother to their three sons and took great pride in homemaking. During the 50's to 70's Blanche really enjoyed travel to Cuba, Mexico, Florida and California. Later, on her own, Blanche enjoyed organized bus tours to Alaska and Europe.

Blanche is survived by her three sons and families, Vic and Lucille, grandchildren, Monique and Ralf, with great-grandchildren, Natalie and Clarissa, grandchildren, Marc and Shelley with great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Chloe; son Claude and LaVerne, grandchildren, Michelle and Corbin with great-grandchildren, Reece and Kennedy; son Martin and Judy with children, Nicole and fiancé Stephan, Kim and Ryan and Claire. Blanche is also survived by sister-in-law Marie Arnal (Ernest), Yvette Arnal (Laurent) and her aunt Mme. Thérèse Roy.

The family wishes to thank the staff at the Grace Hospital for their kindness and care and everyone for their support and prayers.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, July 19 at 11:00 a.m. with viewing at 10:30 a.m. at Blessed John XXIII Parish, Assiniboia Christian Centre, 3390 Portage Ave. with Rev. Msgr. Maurice Comeault, P.H., V.F. presiding with co-celebrant Rev. L. Dumont, O.M.I. The service will terminate at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the memory of Blanche to CancerCare Manitoba, P.O. Box 2248, Stn Main, Winnipeg, MB.

CROPO FUNERAL CHAPEL
586-8044

Cropo
FUNERAL CHAPEL
"Independently Owned"
204-586-8044



CHARLES BORROMÉE GABRIEL (BARNEY) MOLLOT (1905-1987)

Charles Borromée Gabriel Mollot was known as Barney. My uncle Barney was born on December 12, 1905 and was the 4th child of Marcel and Eugenie Mollot. One wonders how 'Barney' got all those given names. Well, in those days, it was very common in French Canadian families that the newborn being baptized would carry the god parent's first name. Barney's god father was Borromée Lavigne married to Corinne, his mother Eugenie's sister. As to Gabriel, this name was the same middle name as that of his father Marcel. Possibly the name Gabriel came from the family of Barney's grandmother Léopoldine Benoit. Léopoldine's father, brother and uncle were all named Gabriel.

As his two older brothers had, Barney attended Fannystelle School, then in 1916 Provencher School in St. Boniface and finally Collège St. Boniface in 1919 to 1921 where he graduated with a business course. In those years, Provencher and 'le Collège' were schools for boys only where teachers were members of a Religious Order of Men.

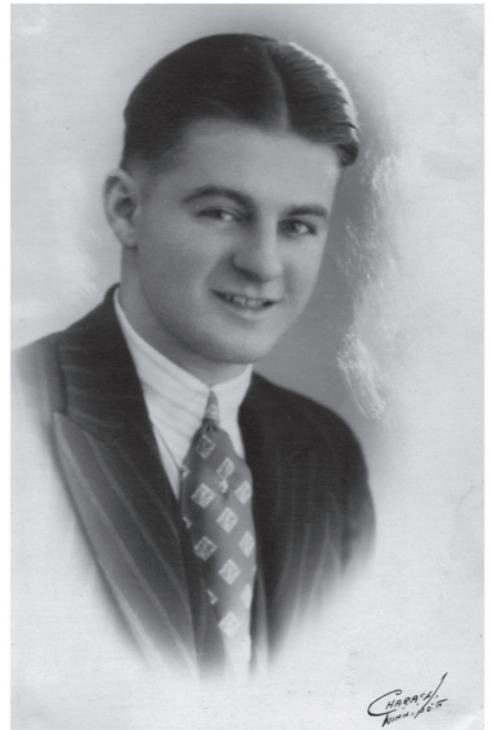
After his schooling, it is believed that he worked for his father Marcel in maintaining the general store in the Mollot Trading Co. in Fannystelle.

At the age of 24, on June 7th, 1930, Barney married Mary Mildred Larson of Starbuck, Manitoba. Approximately three years later, on April 24, 1933, their daughter Deanne was born. About 18 months later on December 4, 1934, Barney's father Marcel Mollot passed away of a heart condition at the age of 54. This death left Barney with his brothers John and Louis operating the businesses of the Mollot Trading Co.

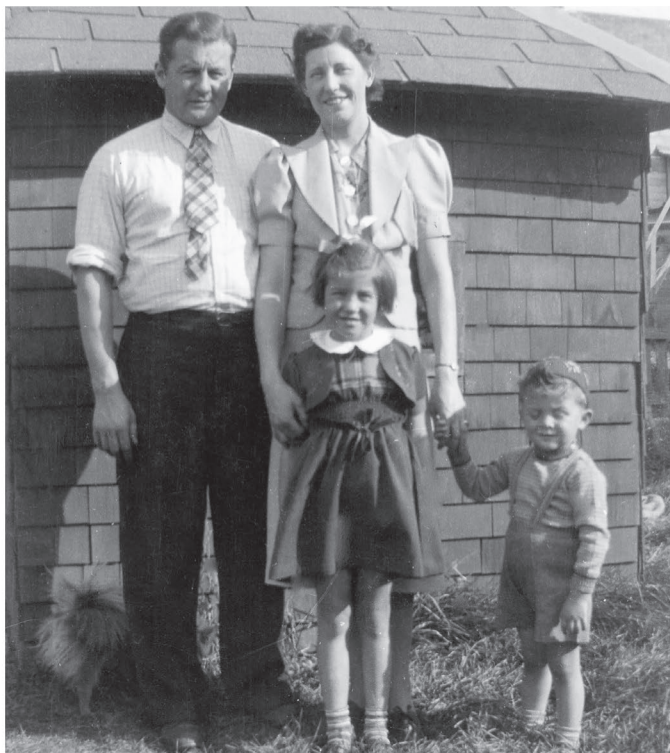
Barney was always very sports minded and generous and that had become quite evident in his early business years.



1915 abt. Barney (Gabriel) Mollot, age 10.



1930 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Barney (Gabriel) Mollot, age 25.



1938-07-00: Fannystelle, MB: Barney and Millie Mollot with Deanne (age 5) and Grant (age 2).



1938-00-00: Grant Mollot (age 2).

Even though times were tough during the Great Depression, I am told that he always managed to find money to sponsor local Fannystelle hockey teams such as the Fannystelle Flyers and the Fannystelle Millionaires.

On May 21, 1936 their son Grant, brother to Deanne, was born. This would have been a joyful time for Barney and Millie. However on February 28, 1939, disaster would strike Fannystelle and the Barney Mollot family. At the end of a major prairie February snow blizzard, a house fire devastated the family home and the town.

The fire had struck their house in the late evening and took the lives of the young three-year-old son Grant Mollot and of Mr. Charles Black who worked in the Mollot store. Wife and mother Millie Mollot was left with very severe burns and was listed as in poor condition.

The following morning, the community decided that Millie needed to be transported to a Winnipeg hospital due to her grave condition. Unfortunately because of the previous snow storm, all the roads were blocked. The men, including Barney's brothers Archie and Louis, put a car carrying Millie on the railroad tracks. The car drove on the tracks and at times was pulled by a team of horses. The group was able to reach Starbuck where a taxi was in waiting and able to make it to the Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg. Unfortunately, Millie did not survive: she died later on April 16, 1939 at the age of 28. In spite of the great loss, there was



1927 abt. – Left to right: Original Fortuné Mollot home and Barney Mollot home that burned in 1939 and the Mollot Trading Co.

however a hero in this tragic event. The young five-year-old Deanne had been snatched from the fire by Miss Germaine Guyot who worked in the restaurant and was a border with the Mollot family. One must also consider the heroic efforts of the community. Throughout the night, they fought the fire and saved the neighbouring Mollot Trading Co. building.

This whole event and loss had a very profound effect on Barney. Distraught, he left Fannystelle shortly thereafter and established himself in Brandon, Manitoba. His young daughter Deanne stayed in Fannystelle and lived with her grandmother Eugenie. The restaurant in the Mollot Trading Co. block that Barney owned and operated was then leased to Arcel Lacerte & Co. who ran it for a number of years.

Barney was a risk taker, an entrepreneur, a developer and a restaurateur. His brothers Archie, John, and Louis would always say 'Whatever Barney touches turns into gold!' Given Barney's business success in life, one would have to agree.

His first endeavor in 1940 in Brandon was leasing a restaurant called the *Maxwell House Grill* at the Greyhound Bus Depot at 1040 Princess Ave. Later, he then purchased the restaurant, changed the name to *Terminal Snack Shop* and in the 1950s set up a curio shop as part of the complex. This venture was very good for Barney. During the 1940s because of World War II, it was difficult to find employees so he recruited girls from his former home town of Fannystelle such as Germaine Guyot, his first cousins Teddie and Alice Syrenne, Marcelle and his wife to be Gilberte Piché.



Brandon Greyhound Bus Depot in the 1950s.



1943 abt. Brandon, MB:
Brandon Greyhound Bus Depot/Barney Mollot's
"Maxwell House Grill."
Left to right: Marcelle Piché,
Teddie and Alice Syrenne
and Beth Sigurdson.



1944-07-08 Winnipeg: Barney and Gilberte Mollot wedding. Left to right: Glen Searle, Marcelle Piché, Deanne Mollot (age 11), Barney (age 38), Gilberte (née Piché, age 26), Rolande Piché and George Theriault Sr., Barney's cousin (age 24). Marcelle and Rolande – sisters of the bride.

On July 8, 1944, Barney married one of his employees, Gilberte Piché, daughter of Charlemagne and Marie Louise Piché (née Bourque). The marriage took place in Fannystelle at Sacred Heart Church.

Then in the very early 50s, Barney and partner Jack Mac Arthur purchased a large bus and converted it into a food kitchen on wheels and called it "The Mollot Mac." In the meantime, Barney had heard that the Federal Government was contemplating on building a new Trans-Canada highway. Being the kind of speculator that he was, he purchased the first option of approximately five acres of land located at the south west corner of 1st Street and the proposed route of this new highway. This proved to be a very wise and successful move. "The Mollot Mac" meanwhile was following the Royal American Shows to provincial fairs and events but it was not doing financially as well as expected. Barney then purchased Jack Mac Arthur's share and parked the bus at the corner of 1st Street and the new Trans-Canada Highway. He opened up what became known as Barney's Drive-Inn. At the outset, it was basically a car hop service which then evolved into a 24 hour restaurant, dining room, dance hall, cocktail lounge and even a service station which was leased out to BA Oil Co. Ltd. The Drive-Inn employed approximately 40 people at one time.



1950s Brandon, MB: Barney's Drive Inn & Ranch House.

Both Barney and wife Gil were very hard workers. They worked seven days a week, 365 days a year. Gil was chief cook and took care of staff while Barney overlooked at the overall operation. They brought in the first commercial microwave ovens in Manitoba which they called "radar ranges." Barney and Gil recruited a very loyal staff in such persons as Harold, Chip, Dora, Marg Maw and their accountant Jean Clisby. These people were dedicated and hard workers to the success of Barney's Drive Inn.

Barney and Gil had no children. However, family was everything to them. Christmas was always a very special event at Barney's especially at the 18th Street home which they rented. This was always a big party with plenty of food and booze for a couple of days. The Molloy brothers Archie, John, Barney and Chick loved to party together. In this home on 18th Street, Ernest Molloy, Barney's uncle, lived with Barney and Gil. I remember in this home, a large glassed in sunroom on the third floor which served as a studio for Barney's uncle Ernest, where he poured and painted ceramic figurines and grew interesting tropical plants. Ernest lived with them till his death in 1958.



1960s Barney's Motel: Corner of the Trans-Canada Highway and 1st Street, Brandon, Manitoba.

Barney's business interests were not only in Brandon. We know of other ventures. At one time, he owned the hotel in Langruth, Manitoba; he leased another restaurant/service station just west of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, on the Trans-Canada highway; as well he owned a motel in Nelson, BC.

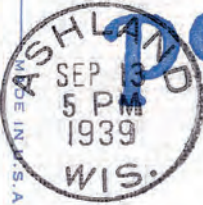
However, after the Greyhound Bus Depot and the Drive-Inn, likely his third biggest business venture was the development of what we got to know as Barney's Motel. In the year 1960, Barney purchased the property on the North West corner of the Trans Canada and 1st Street, directly across from Barney's Drive-Inn.

At the time the property was owned by someone from Neepawa who had attempted to build single unit cabins but ran out of money. After purchasing the property with the single unit cabins, Barney converted the entire set-up into a very modern 36 single unit motel with outdoor pool and other amenities. It became known as Barney's Motel and won a number of Better Business awards in the 60s.

More than a dozen extensive ponds of clear water are alive with game trout. These trout swarm the feeding platforms for the entertainment of visitors. In no other known place is it possible for the stranger to step to the edge of a pond and have a rainbow or a speckled trout come up and eat out of his hand. It is no trick at all to catch these fish with the fingers at feeding time.

13 Sept
Chère Blanche

Nous nous sommes portés hier
à 6 heures et nous nous
couchés à Brockton
Gabriel fait du 40 à l'heure
J'ai bien peur que nous
n'arrivons pas grand chose
par sa vitesse, un bon
bel à Deanne ainsi qu'à
Jean et toi de notre mère Eugénie M.



Mme Jean Mollot

Truystelle

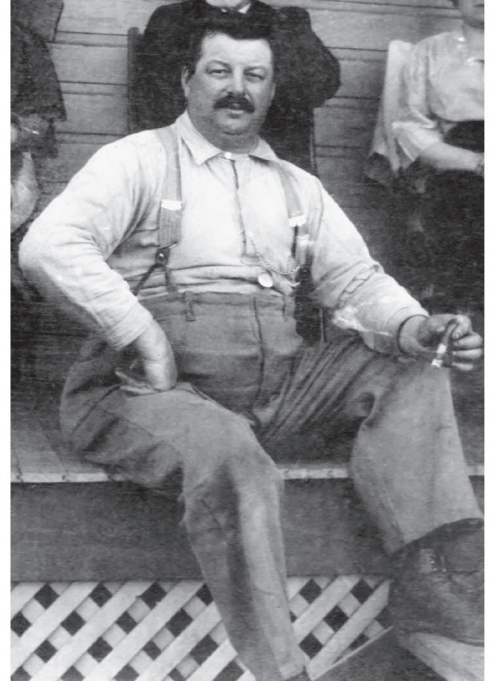
Manitoba

Canada

Barney and Gil enjoyed having people around them and they were always so generous. Around 1948 after his elderly Uncle Ernie was released from hospital, Gil and Barney took him in and cared for him throughout his golden years. In the winter, Ernie would travel along with Barney and Gil to Cuba, Mexico and Florida. Barney and Gil shared their good fortunes with family and friends. In the early 50s, they bought a cottage at Y-Point on Pelican Lake near Ninette, MB. The cottage had all the bells and whistles... boat with twin motors, a television with a very tall exterior antenna to try and pick up signals from American TV networks. In those days, television stations did not even exist in Canada. Given their busy lives, they were rarely there but everyone else was welcomed to use it and they did. Their generosity continued later when they purchased their winter home in Thousand Palms, California in the late 1950s. Many family and friends visited them. In 1967, Lucille and I were invited to spend the Christmas holidays at their winter home in California. As customary, we were not the only ones: the place was full with friends and family! One of the experiences that I will never forget about Uncle Barney was his annual "Rum Run" to Tijuana, Mexico. One day, in his Oldsmobile station wagon filled with people (Barney, Gil, son in law Joe Morse, Deanne, two of their three kids Bob and Mark, Marcelle Mollot and Lucille and I ventured out to Tijuana, Mexico. Smoking an El Producto cigar and his vehicle roaring, Uncle Barney drove us over the St. Gabriel Mountains to Tijuana on a very narrow and steep mountain road. We shopped for three hours but Uncle Barney had only one shopping stop: that was the Liquor Store. After shop-

ping, we drove into a parking lot adjoining the liquor store. Uncle Barney slipped an attendant some money and got one of the prime spots to park. The attendant was happy to keep close watch on our vehicle. In the liquor store we watched in awe as Barney purchased 24 gallons of Ron Bacardi Rum – Superior... yes that was 24 gallons! The attendant needed a two wheeled cart to move the six cases of rum to the car. What a shopping experience I will never forget!

For Barney, rules were meant to be broken. He loved to drive over the speed limit and did pay his fair share of speeding tickets. On a postcard dated September 13, 1939 listed on the previous page that cost 2 cents to mail while they were on a trip to Wisconsin, his mother Eugenie wrote 'we're not going to see very much today because of the 70 mile an hour speed that Barney is driving.' Also, we found in the Winnipeg



1920 abt: Marcel Mollot (age 40).



1958 abt: Barney Mollot (age 52). Cigar time... Like father, like son!

Tribune that in September of 1940, Barney was fined for driving a loaded truck on a restricted road. The magistrate fined him \$5.00. As previously mentioned, Barney was also quite a sports enthusiast. In his early years in Fannystelle, he sponsored various hockey teams. Later in Brandon in the 50s and 60s, he was involved with the Brandon Braves of the Northern Baseball League. During their winter holidays Barney enjoyed in recruiting ball players in Cuba, Mexico and the USA. He acted as one of the 'scouts' for the Brandon Braves. Later on, he was also very involved in the Brandon Wheat Kings Hockey club organization.

In 1966, Barney and Gil ages 60 and 50 decided to retire from the hustle and bustle of restaurant business and leased out the Barney's Drive Inn restaurant complex to a well-known Brandon business man by the name of Barry Neill.

However two years later on July 6, 1968 in the mid-afternoon, disaster would strike Barney's Drive-Inn. The entire complex was burned down. The cause was a fire in the kitchen. The entire complex could have been saved however, according to firefighters, there was a lack of water and firefighting equipment. Very little could be done to fight the fire. Unfortunately, another massive fire had taken place in Brandon at Anchor Industries, a fiberglass boat manufacturer at the same time and there was insufficient equipment to fight the two fires concurrently. Also the area where Barney's Drive-Inn was located was in a different municipality, which was not hooked up to the main water mains of the city of Brandon. Tragically, the fire devastated Barney's Drive Inn which was never rebuilt. A few years later after insurance settlements, Barney and Aunt Gil sold the property and left Brandon to resettle in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

During the following years, their winter hideaway in Thousand Palms, California became their real home. Barney and Gil also travelled to England, France and Italy as well as to various parts of North America. Barney had always indicated that someday they would be visiting Blandin and Die, (Le Martouret) France where his grandparents Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot had been born. They did so in 1969.

Barney will be remembered as a guy who loved big toys... boats, motorhomes, travel trailers and the like. He was the kind of guy who inspired young people like me. We will remember Gil for being a hard worker, for her Piché '*joie de vivre*' and especially for initiating happy hour times with her familiar declaration: 'It's time for a Toodle-oo.' Barney and Gil were truly generous throughout their lives and shared their cottage, winter home and life style with family and friends.

Barney and his first wife Millie had two children, Deanne and Grant. Deanne married Joe (Marvin) Morse and they had three children, Robert (Bob), Mark and Grant (Deno). Robert married Allison Bestland, Mark married Christine Desilets and Grant married Barbara Van Wynsberghe. There are six grandchildren: Whitney, Lauren, Alexis, Tyler, Jan and Jillian.

Barney Mollot died of cancer on October 4th, 1987 in Winnipeg at the age of 82. He is buried in the Fannystelle R. C. cemetery. Gil passed away on October 1, 2001 in Winnipeg at the age of 83 and is also buried in Fannystelle next to her husband Barney.

Other photos:



1920s Fannystelle, MB: Barney Mollot in center and Alice Mollot on the right. Others unknown.



1925, left to right: Barney Mollot (age 18), Germaine Dureault (Ti-Mene) and unknown.



1944-07-08: Barney and Gilberte (née Piché) Mollot with Deanne Mollot.



1950s Barney and Gilberte (Piché) Mollot.



1968-12-31 Palm Springs, CA: Barney (age 62) and Gil (age 50) Mollot.

Obituaries

Gabriel (Barney) Mollot

1905 – 1987

**GABRIEL CHARLES
MOLLOT (BARNEY)**

With deep sorrow the family announces the passing of G. C. Mollot, beloved husband of Gilberte Simone Piche on Sunday, October 4, 1987 at the St. Boniface Hospital.

Barney leaves to mourn his wife Gil; his daughter Deanne Morse; grandsons, Robert, Mark and wife Christine and Grant Morse. Also brothers, Archie and wife Aline, John and wife Blanche and sister Alice and Daisy Silvius, Gil's brothers and sisters and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife Mildred Olive Larson and son Grant; his parents, Marcel and Eugenie and brother Louis and son-in-law Joe Morse.

Barney was born on December 12, 1905 in Winnipeg, attended St. Boniface College, then lived at Fannystelle where he operated the General Store until 1939 when he tragically lost his wife Milly and son Grant. He then went to Brandon where he operated the restaurant in the Greyhound Bus Depot. He married Gil in 1944 and they owned and operated Barney's Drive Inn and Motel until 1967.

They then retired and had spent the winter months in Thousands Palms, California and resided in Winnipeg during the summer. He was instrumental in bringing professional hockey and baseball to Brandon and also loved all outdoor sports especially hunting, fishing and golf.

Concelebrated funeral service will be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 3:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic church in Fannystelle, Man. with Bishop Paul Piche and Fr. Clavet officiating. Service to terminate at church.

Pallbearers will be nephews Rene, Marcel and Victor Mollot, Gerry Piche, Ron Caront and Rob Piche.

Special thanks to Dr. M. Shajania, Dr. J. Hughes and nursing staff at St. Boniface Hospital.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Manitoba Cancer Society, 193 Sherbrook St., R3C 9Z9.

The Desjardins Funeral Chapel in care of arrangements, 233-4949.

Gilberte Mollot; née Piché

1917 – 2001

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Gilberte Simone (Jill) Mollot on October 1, 2001, at the age of 83 years.

Left to cherish her memory are her sisters, Marcelle Caron, Rolande and Denise Piché; and brother Paul and wife Lorraine. Also sisters-in-law, Beatrice, Helen and Gisele Piché and Blanche Mollot; as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Gil will be specially missed by her stepdaughter Deanne Morse; grandsons, Bob (Allison), Mark (Tracy), Grant (Barbara); great-grandchildren, Whitney, Lauren, Lexi, Tyler, Jan and Jillian.

She was predeceased by her husband of 43 years, Barney Mollot; her parents, Charles and Marie-Louise; her brothers, Roger Bruno, Gaston, Jules, Lionel; sister Gertrude; and nieces, Diane Seidel and Yvonne Savoie; nephews, Lorrain Arnal and Butch Caron; brothers-in-law, Denis Caron, Archie, John, Louis Mollot, and Joseph Arnal; son-in-law Joe Morse.

Jill was born on December 5, 1917, in Fannystelle, MB, where she lived until she married Barney in 1944. They were partners and worked side by side for many years in their business in Brandon. In 1967 they bought their home in California and enjoyed many happy winters entertaining their many friends and relatives. The doors were always open at their home to all and Jill could always put another plate on her table. She was a soulmate to Deanne, a fun-loving Grandma, a Mémère who gave lots of hugs and kisses, and a very devoted sister, aunt and friend to many.

We would like to thank the excellent staff at Grace General Hospital who cared for her with so much compassion. May thanks also to the many, many relatives and friends who visited her every day.

Funeral service will be held on Friday, October 5 at Sacred Heart Church in Fannystelle at 10:00 a.m., with Rev. Frs. Armand Le Gal, O.M.I. and Lionel Dumont, O.M.I. officiating. A private interment of the cremated remains will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Gil's memory may be made to the Manitoba Lung Association, 629 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3A 1P6, or to a charity of your choice.

The Desjardins Funeral Chapel in care of arrangements 233-4949; toll free 1-888-233-4949.



Mildred Larsen
1910 – 1939

Funeral Services Held Monday For Mrs. G. C. Mollot

Funeral services for Mrs. G. C. (Barney) Mollot of Fannystelle were held at the Catholic church at that town Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, being attended by a large gathering of sympathizing friends from that district, Starbuck and Winnipeg. Injuries received by Mrs. Mollot February 23, in a fire which destroyed the Mollot residence and cost the life of her little son Grant and a boarder, Charles Jack, proved fatal Sunday, April 18. She passed away at St. Boniface Hospital, where she had been taken for treatment the day of the fire, and where despite her severe burns it was believed for a time she had a fair chance to recover.

Mrs. Mollot is survived by her husband and one daughter, Deanne; also by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Larson of Starbuck, one brother and four sisters.

FORTUNÉ LOUIS HENRI MOLLOT (1908-1981)

Uncle Louis, better known as 'Chick', was born on February 15th, 1908 in Fannystelle, Manitoba. He was baptized with the given names Fortuné and Henri but was known as Louis. Fortuné was the name of his living grandfather and Henri was the name of his godfather Henri Piché, brother of his mother Eugenie. Like his older brothers and sister Alice, he first went to school in Fannystelle then later in St. Boniface at Provencher School where he completed Grade 8. During those years, the Marcel Mollot family lived at 53 (now 113) Eugenie St. in Norwood. Unlike his three brothers, he did not attend Collège St. Boniface.

Louis had two nicknames. Generally, he was called 'Ti Gris' by his French Canadian friends, his siblings and his relatives. Everyone else knew him as 'Chick'. To everyone, Louis was a most interesting and fun person.

In his lifetime, Louis changed occupations several times. At times, he owned his business, other times, he worked for someone else. After his schooling, we believe that Louis worked for his father Marcel at the Mollot Trading Co. for a few years.

At the time of the death of his father in 1934, Louis, at the age of 26, operated the Fannystelle Transfer. The Fannystelle Transfer transported goods and supplies from Winnipeg and hauled them to his hometown and Starbuck for distribution. This was during the era of the Great Depression,

The Depression of the 1930s took its toll on the Fannystelle Transfer business so Louis sold the business in 1938/39. However, this didn't diminish his enthusiasm for life. In the summer of 1939, just before the outbreak of World Two, Louis along with his sister Alice and two other girls ventured to California by car along the west coast and through the Redwoods. In Los Angeles, they were able



1918-12-14: Louis Mollot (age 10).



1928 abt: Louis Mollot (age 20).



1939 Hollywood, CA. Front row, left to right: Alice Mollot, Léopoldine Mollot and Yolande Donlan. Back row: Thérèse Donlan and Louis Mollot.

spend time visiting their grandmother Léopoldine Mollot, their Aunt Thérèse Donlan née Mollot and niece Yolande. After the death of her husband Fortuné in Winnipeg in 1924, Louis' grandmother Léopoldine, had moved back to France. By 1932, Léopoldine was quite elderly and fragile. Her daughter Thérèse had gone to France to bring her back to live with her in Los Angeles, California. Louis would not have seen his grandmother since 1924.

Throughout their lives, Louis and Alice always had a very close relationship... older sister to youngest brother. They had in many ways, the same personality, disposition and the 'Joie de vivre' approach to life.

In the late 1930s, a young lady named Eleanor Sims Mc Kenzie came to visit and help the postmistress of Fannystelle Miss Donalda Guilbault. The Guilbaults were good friends of the McKenzies in Winnipeg. One afternoon on the Stevens & Co. tennis courts in Fannystelle, Louis met the love of his life. After some time, when they decided to get married, religion created some great difficulties for both of them. Louis was Roman Catholic but it happened that Eleanor's father was originally from Northern Ireland and a member of the Orangemen Society. This created a conflict between the families and the McKenzie family only warmed up to Louis later on when they got to know him as the loving man that he was. However, Louis

and Eleanor were able to persevere and married on November 18th, 1939 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Winnipeg, only a few months after the beginning of World War II. Louis was 31 years of age and Eleanor was 22. Eleanor's parents were Samuel McKenzie and Mary Jane Ross.

During the war, it is believed that Louis was employed as a civilian aircraft mechanic maintaining aircraft in Gimli, Manitoba for the RCAF. On August 5, 1941, their first child was born, Louis Gabriel Mollot. Sadly the newborn only lived for a few days; this was very devastating for Louis and Eleanor. The middle name of the infant was Gabriel and was likely given to him in remembrance of the newborn's late grandfather Marcel Gabriel Mollot. Gabriel was baptized on Aug. 6th according to the Fannystelle church records. The new born was buried in Fannystelle on this same plot as his grandfather Marcel.



1939-11-18: Louis and Eleanor (née McKenzie) Mollot – Wedding photo.

On March 20th, 1943, a daughter, Vivian Louise was born prematurely at the St. Boniface Hospital where she spent her first six weeks in an incubator. At the time of Vivian's birth, the family lived on Portage Ave. in Winnipeg then moved to Kirkfield Park on Oakdean St. which is today part of St. James.

A second daughter Judy was born to Eleanor and Louis approximately twenty months later, November 28, 1944. On September 11, 1947, their third daughter Arlene-Joy Eleanor was born also at the St. Boniface Hospital and at the time the family lived on Jessie Ave. in Ft. Rouge.

In 1949, Louis took the opportunity to move to Brandon, Manitoba to work for his brother Barney at the Brandon Greyhound Bus Depot. Louis was adaptable and worked as a butcher and also for Barney as a maintenance man. Being a butcher was a familial occupation of the Mollot family and Louis found that he fit that mold. Louis could be called 'a Jack of all Trades.' This trait would stay with him throughout his working years.

Vivian, their oldest daughter remembers when the family moved to Brandon in the early fall of 1949. The Louis Mollot family of five moved into a small house with Barney, Gil and Ernest. It was rather crowded. Vivian and Judy would attend St. Michael's Academy and board there during weekdays. In the spring of 1950, the Louis Mollot family moved into a rented house a few miles out of Brandon while they were having a new home built at 407, 18th Street across from then Brandon College. That new house must have been a great thrill for the family!



1940s At Louis Mollot's in Kirkfield Park, St. James, MB. Front row: Eugenie Mollot, John Mollot, Donalda Guilbault, Les Steele, Aline and Blanche Mollot. Back row: Archie and Louis Mollot with Alice Mollot in between. Behind: Jean Champagne.



1949 abt. Fannystelle, MB, Mollot front yard. Left to right: Martin, Claude and Vic (looking back). Middle: Joe and Gisèle Piché, Eleanor Mollot, Vivian (looking back). Rear: John Mollot and far right Louis Mollot with Judy.

A few years later, in the early 1950s, Louis decided to venture out on his own and lease a restaurant called the “Sisters Café” on Rosser Ave. in Brandon. The restaurant operation was quite successful. Along with running the restaurant, Louis was a vender at the Brandon Winter and Summer Fairs which were held yearly and still are held at spring break and during a summer long weekend. Louis would set up and operate a large food and confectionery booth at the fairs where visitors could purchase their favourite hot dog, hamburger and refreshments. Eleanor was among the staff that operated the booths. Louis was certainly adventurous and not afraid to try new and different endeavours.

During those years, Louis and Eleanor also had folks living in their basement. At that time, Barney, Louis’ brother, was involved with the Brandon Braves baseball team and during the baseball season, Barney needed housing for the some of these baseball players from Cuba. Being an accommodating couple, for a few seasons Louis and Eleanor provided sleeping quarters for these ball players in the basement at their home at 407, 18th Street. Not only did this occur with Cuban ball players but also with hockey players when Barney was heavily involved the Brandon Wheat Kings. Louis and Eleanor also housed Hungarian refugees during the Hungarian Rebellion of 1956.

Eleanor was also generous to the community with her time. She was very active in the Catholic Women’s League and served on the Board of the Children’s Aid Society. Their fourth daughter Marcelle Eugenie was born on February 21, 1955.

Chick was a friendly, fun loving guy and young at heart. In the late 50s and early 60s, Chick owned a two door coupe sports car which was hardly a family vehicle. The car was a Karmann Ghia hardtop. The three older girls would sit on the bench in the back and baby Marcelle on Mom’s lap in the front. The family had great enjoyment driving around in this tiny sports car. Thinking of Uncle Chick and his Karmann Ghia relates to my brother Claude Molloy of present day who lives in California. No doubt, they come from the same free spirit mould!

Unfortunately, shortly after Marcelle was born in 1955, Eleanor was diagnosed with cancer. At that time Medicare did not exist. As a consequence, many of the hospital expenditures incurred had to be paid by the patient. Sadly, Louis then sold the “Sisters Café” restaurant and we believe that it was in order to pay for the medical bills. He then bought a pool hall in downtown Brandon.

His girls have said that it was ‘taboo’ for them to hang around at the pool hall. In those days, pool halls were basically a place for men only. While in the pool hall business, Louis started to dabble with pinball machines and juke boxes. He would purchase the machines, and place them in pool halls, hotels, and restaurants to profit share with the owners of the premises. These machines were really the advent of what we know today as the computer gaming industry. Louis would also service the machines. By the early 1960s, Louis sold the pool hall but needed a location to repair and service his juke boxes and pinball machines. One of his



1978-02-00 Thousand Palms, CA: Left to right: Alice and Louis Molloy, their aunt Thérèse Ferrier (née Molloy) and Jill Molloy.

customers was Guy Savoie, the owner of Thunderbird Bowling Alleys at Princess and Victoria in Brandon. It happens that there was extra space in the rear at Thunderbird Bowling Alleys so Louis set up shop there to service the machines and relocate them all over Western Manitoba. Some of these juke boxes and pinball machines would somehow end up in the basement at Louis and Eleanor's and this attracted a lot of the neighbourhood kids. Louis likely even had them rigged so that no one paid! Louis really loved his girls and their friends.

By the mid 60s, along with running his pinball machine enterprise, Louis then became partner with Guy Savoie in the Thunderbird Bowling Alleys. When juke boxes, then pinball machines became less popular thus less profitable, Louis moved on to shuffleboards. These games required much less servicing and were much more profitable.

Meanwhile Eleanor had been strong-willed in battling her cancer. She was constantly in and out of the hospital for treatment. She still maintained a home and family and even had a part time job at Barney's Drive Inn as a waitress. Eleanor finally succumbed to her illness on October 2, 1968 at the age of 50, one day before her 51st birthday. The last 10 years of Eleanor's illness had been most difficult on Louis and the family.

After the devastating loss of his wife Eleanor, Louis regrouped and moved forward with his pin ball and shuffleboard vending business. The business kept him busy and was financially very good for him. Practically everyone in Brandon, and from all walks of life knew 'Chick.' He was a friendly, fun loving and caring individual and the game business suited him very well. He was just that kind of a guy! In 1978, a few years before he passed away, he took the opportunity with his sister Alice to visit their Aunt Thérèse Ferrier née Mollot in California.

As Louis approached his golden years, he sold the game machines and started to work as a security officer part time and finally as a sales clerk in a Men's clothing store in Brandon. Throughout his life, Louis looked for and seized opportunities. He also took challenges in great stride. He was always positive, eternally optimistic and always had a big smile.

Louis and Eleanor had four daughters: Vivian, Judith, Arlene and Marcelle. Vivian married John Rayson, Judith married John Code, Arlene married Darwin Crabbe, and Marcelle married Keith James. Louis and Eleanor had nine grandchildren: Michelle, Dagne, Mark, Zoe, Jason, Melanie, Kevin, Hannah and Jillian.

Louis spent the last years of his life with partner Daisy Silvius. In his later years, Louis was stricken with congestive heart failure. Louis died on April 16th in 1981 at the age of 73. He is buried alongside his wife Eleanor at the Rosewood Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Brandon, Manitoba.



2002-07-13 Starbuck, MB: Bridges Golf & Country Club. Judy, Marcelle, Arlene and Vivian Mollot.

Other photos:



1930 abt. Right: Louis Mollot (age 22).
Other unknown.



1940s Winnipeg: Louis Mollot.



1939 California, USA. Top left: Alice Mollot. Lower right: Louis Mollot. Others unknown. This photo was taken in Hollywood, California in the summer of 1939 when Alice, Louis Mollot and friends motored to Los Angeles and visited their grandmother Léopoldine Mollot, aunt Thérèse (Donlan, Ferrier) and cousin Yolande Donlan.



1930s Louis Mollot. Girl unknown.



1940s: Louis and Eleanor Mollot.



1943 abt. – Louis and Eleanor Mollot and Vivian.

Obituaries

Louis (Chick) Mollot
1908 - 1981

LOUIS (CHICK) MOLLOT

The death of Louis (Chick) Mollot, of 21 Meadowlark Trailer Court, Brandon occurred in Brandon on April 16, 1981.

Mr. Mollot was born in Fannystelle, Manitoba on February 15, 1908 and had resided in Brandon since 1949.

Surviving are his friend and companion Daisy and four daughters, J. H. Rayson (Vivian) of Cranbrook, British Columbia, Mrs. Judy Code of Auckland, New Zealand, Mrs. J. S. Crabb (Arlene) of MacGregor, Manitoba and Miss Marcelle Mollot of Dublin, Ireland. There are seven grandchildren, Michelle, Dagne, Mark of Cranbrook, Valerie & Jason in New Zealand and Melanie and Kevin of MacGregor; three brothers and a sister also survive, Archie and Jean of Winnipeg, Barney of Palm Springs, California and Alice, also of Winnipeg. Mr. Mollot was predeceased by his wife Eleanor in 1968.

Funeral service was held at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, Brandon on Monday, April 20. Interment was in the Rosewood Cemetery. Bishop Paul Piche assisted by Rev. Stan Jaworski officiating.

Arrangements were with Brockie-Donovan.

Eleanor Mollot (née McKenzie)
1917 - 1968

Mrs. Louis H. Mollot

The death of Eleanor Mollot, of 407 Eighteenth Street, occurred in the city on Wednesday. Mrs. Mollot was born in St. James and had been a resident of Brandon since 1949. She was active in the CWL, the CFM and the Children's Aid Society. Surviving are, her husband Louis (Chick) and four daughters; Mrs. John Rayson (Vivian), Cranbrook, B.C.; Mrs. John Code (Judy), Winnipeg; Arlene and Marcelle both of Brandon. There is a granddaughter. Mrs. Mollot's mother, Mrs. Samuel McKenzie of Winnipeg survives as does five sisters; Margaret Murphy, Kay Church, and Grace Sangster all of Winnipeg; Ethel Morley, Vancouver and Una Williams of Angus, Ont. Mrs. Mollot was predeceased by her father in 1957. Prayers will be said at the Brockie Donovan Chapel on Friday at 8 p.m. Funeral service will be held at St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church on Saturday at 10:30 a.m., followed by interment in Rosewood cemetery. Rev. L. J. McCloskey will officiate. Flowers are gratefully declined. Friends who wish may make donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, 452 Twenty-First Street.

Other Mollot Photos

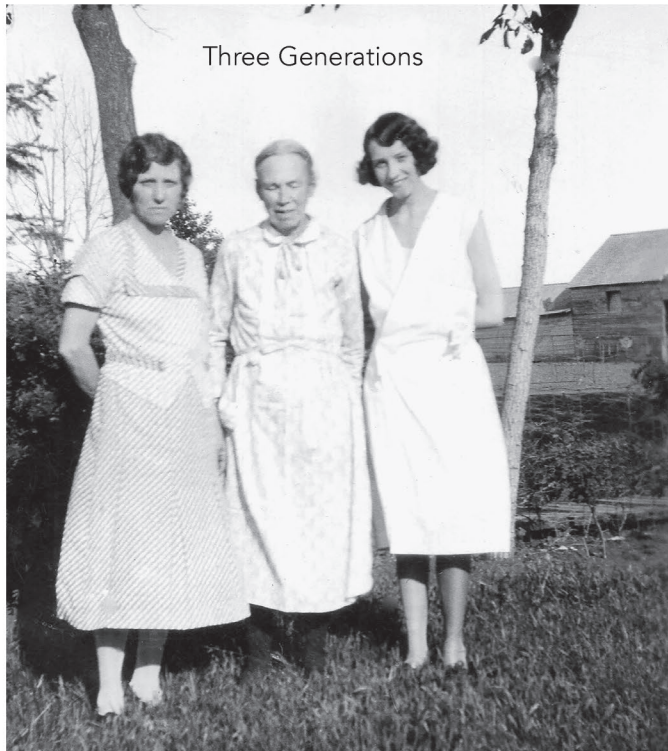
A picture is worth a thousand words...



1915 abt. Fannystelle, MB: Marcel Mollot sitting on running board. Others unknown.



1923-12-25 Fannystelle, MB: Marcel and Eugenie Mollot home. Center: Marcel and Eugenie. Left of Marcel: Louis Mollot. Far left: Aimé (Jim) Dureault. Behind Louis: Barney and Alice Mollot. Right of Marcel: Eugenie Mollot. Others unknown.



Three Generations

1930 abt. Fannystelle. Left to right: Eugenie Mol-
lot (née Piché), Virginie Piché (née Champoux) and
Alice Mollot.



1925 Fannystelle, MB. Right: John Mollot on
skates (age 21). Other unknown.



Louis Mollot

John Mollot

Hervé Cyrenne

1920s Fannystelle, MB.



1920s Fannystelle. Left: Alice Mollot. Other unknown.



1935 abt. John Mollot (age 31) with his Model T Ford Coupe.



1924 abt. Fannystelle, MB. Right to left: Louis Mollot (age 16) and John Mollot (age 20). Other unknown. Taken next to the Mollot General store that burnt down in 1924.



1930s John Mollot in front of North West Laundry at Home Street and Wellington Avenue in Winnipeg, MB, where his uncle Ernest Mollot worked.



1930 abt. Fannystelle: Mollot and Co. truck that Archie and John Mollot used in Elm Creek, MB, where they owned and operated a general store and went bankrupt. This photo was taken in Fannystelle. Behind is the Fortuné Mollot and Jack Black home.



1930s: John Mollot.



1954-10-18: 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ovide Dureault and Berthe (née Piché) Dureault. Front row, left to right: Charlemagne Piché, Ovide Dureault, Eudore (Crémeure) Dureault. Back row: L'Abbé Albert Brunet, Ernest Mollot, Émile Guyot and L'Abbé Paul Piché.

PANDEMIC

The years 2020 and 2021 will be remembered especially for the global Covid-19 Pandemic. This major outbreak struck the world in waves beginning in January 2020. At that time, little was known about this 'far-away' virus and there was no vaccine for this extremely contagious disease. The first Covid case was reported in Canada on January 25, 2020 and on March 11, 2020 it was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. Ten months later, on December 2020, the first vaccine was developed and administered, then in January 2021 in Manitoba, vaccination began by age priority for the general public. By May 2021 Canada was experiencing the 3rd wave of the pandemic. By September about 75% of Canadians were fully immunized. The spread was controlled with provincial lockdowns: non-essential businesses and on site school and universities were closed. Some virtual teaching occurred. Visiting friends and family was not allowed. International and provincial borders were closed; hospitals were dangerously filled to capacity and no visitors were allowed. Facemasks in public were mandatory and tickets were issued to violators.

As of December, 2021, 1,360 lives had been lost in Manitoba, more than 30,000 in Canada, 805,000 in USA and 5.35 million world-wide. In Canada, the federal government has been responsible for the procurement of vaccines while the provinces have been responsible for the distribution. There has been fear and confusion in the general public. In December 2021, a fourth wave began with a rapidly spreading variant called the Omicron variant. Most of the general public did not realize that variants of the Covid 19 virus would come in waves and that lockdowns would come and go for a very long time.

The 'stay at home boredom' caused by Covid 19 in 2021 provided impetus to finding creative hobbies, one of which was the writing of this book.

IN CONCLUSION

The Mollot family lived in Fannystelle for 73 years, from 1892 to 1965. Thérèse Mollot was the first of the Mollot family to be born in Canada, followed by Archie, Alice, John, Barney and Louis who were the children of her brother Marcel. Marcel and his wife Eugenie provided their children with a comfortable childhood and good education at a time when education was not available to everyone. The children, as their father Marcel had, attended either le Collège St. Boniface or L' Academie St. Joseph. Marcel and Eugenie Mollot were entrepreneurs and they strongly encouraged their children to go into business.

Archie, Alice, John, Barney and Louis faced many hardships and challenges such as the loss of family members and friends, illnesses and economic disasters. During their lives, they survived two World Wars, the Spanish Flu pandemic, the Great Depression and all in the span of only 30 years from 1914 to 1944. They were hard workers and they strived to provide educational opportunities for their children and to instill in their children valuable work ethic, strong family ties and a good balance of work and play. They taught their children to look for opportunity and to 'save for a rainy day.' The memories of Archie, Alice, John, Barney and Louis continue to be a real inspiration to all their children and grandchildren.



1978-07-10: Left to right: John, Alice, Louis, Barney and Archie Mollot.



2002 Starbuck, MB: Bridges Golf & Country Club. All 11 grandchildren of Marcel and Eugenie Mollot. Left to right: Lorne, René, Marcel, Vic, Claude, Martin, Deanne, Vivian, Judy, Arlene and Marcelle.

The death of their father Marcel at the age 54, in 1934, left a big void in their family. In spite of the difficulties of the Great Depression, the family survived. At the time of Marcel's death, Alice was 31 and the boys were as follows: Archie 32, John 30, Barney age 29 and Louis 28. They had to take over or manage the various businesses in which Marcel was involved at the time.

These Mollot siblings maintained family history and traditions. Recipes for rum cake and quenelles had been brought from France by their grandparents Fortuné and Léopoldine Mollot. These special dishes are still part of the Mollot tradition at Christmas time because Archie, Alice, John, Barney, Louis and their spouses kept them as part of family celebrations and fun, and taught their kids the value of tradition. Family artifacts such as the *Memoires de Fortuné*, photographs, paintings, silverware and small historical items from Fortuné and Léopoldine are still treasured in the family. Throughout their lives, these siblings supported one another in business and in pleasure. In their very senior years, Archie and John, still best friends, enjoyed driving the countryside together.

From this document it is my hope that future generations will have interesting information to better understand and appreciate the lives of the members of the Mollot family who lived in Fannystelle whether they came to Canada from France or were born in our beautiful coun-



2008-08-11 Mollot Tour de France. Côte des Blancs near Châlons en Champagne, France. Left to right: Vic, René, Deanne, Judy, Marcelle, Arlene, Claude, Martin, Vivian and Marcel. Grandchildren of Marcel and Eugénie Mollot. This photo was taken in August of 2008 when 10 of the 11 grandchildren of Marcel and Eugénie Mollot took part in our first Mollot Family bus tour called the 2008 *Mollot Tour de France*. It was taken in "Les Côtes des Blancs" in the region of Champagne where vineyards dominate the landscape. It is approximately 30 kilometers from where we can trace our Mollot ancestors to the year 1618.

try. Fortuné and Léopoldine came to Canada with their family. Their son Marcel lived his youth and his adult life in Fannystelle. Archie, Alice, John, Barney and Louis, the children of Marcel and Eugénie were the first Mollot generation who were all born in Canada.

After the passing of our Aunt Alice Mollot, the eleven nieces and nephews decided to set aside a few funds from her inheritance in order to support and promote various Mollot projects. Later in 2004, the Blanche Mollot inheritance topped up this fund. Publishing this book would have not been possible without the Alice Mollot /Blanche Mollot Family Fund.

We are grateful for this fund which has financially supported numerous momentous occasions for the Mollot family. As an example, each niece and nephew received a copy of a framed portrait of Blandin painted by our great grandfather Fortuné Mollot in the 1880s. In 2002, the very first large Mollot Family Reunion was held for three days in Winnipeg. About 150 offspring of Marcel, Ernest, Lily and Thérèse from various parts of Canada, the U.S. and even New Zealand got together for a fantastic weekend. Gravestones of our Mollot ancestors in Fannystelle and St. Boniface cemeteries have been enhanced from these funds. There were two

Mollot Tour de France bus tours in which almost one hundred relatives participated: the first in 2008 then, a second in 2014. The fund provided start-up money to the tour companies who planned the incredible visits to our ancestral towns/cities in France. A book called "An Incredible Journey into the Mollot and Benoit Family Tree" was published and circulated in 2016. That project received support from this fund. The last of the funds are reserved for the publication of this book: 'The Story of Fannystelle and the Mollot Family.'

In closing, I wish to thank all of the Mollot family members and friends who helped by providing photos, historical facts and stories to make this a document a reality. I am forever grateful. In particular, many thanks to Emile (King) and Doreen Arnal, Dick Arnal, Ben Syrenne, René

Piché and Jim Oleksuk for their invaluable input into the history of Fannystelle. I also wish to acknowledge and thank my wife Lucille who assisted me greatly with the editing of this book.



1993-07-15: Blanche Mollot (age 79) and Alice Mollot (age 90).



IN GRATITUDE TO CONTRIBUTORS

To make this book possible, many people connected to Fannystelle and surrounding areas shared their photos and stories. Many thanks to our contributors... Grand merci pour les contributions !

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Gilles Arnal	Roland & Pierrette Ménard	Guy Savoie
Rita Baril (née Lavigne)	Rosaire Ménard	Gerald Simonson
Armande Bernardin (née Charbonneau)	Wilma Miller (née Stevens)	Soeurs Oblates Sisters
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Roland Boulanger	Brian & Rachelle Nadeau	Glenda Stevens
Marcel Charbonneau	Marcel & Louise Mollot	Ben Syrenne
Judy Code (née Mollot)	Claude Mollot	Laurent Syrenne
Nicole Coulson (née Guyot)	Martin Mollot	Marguerite Syrenne (née Blanchard)
Darwin Crabbe	Deanne Morse (née Mollot)	Carole Tinkler (née Simonson)
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Gary Franzmann	Jim Oleksuk	Doris Yallits (née Balez)
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René Guyot	Noël Painchaud	
Simone Hamel (née Albert)	Jan Simonson	
Marcelle James (née Mollot)	Pat Painchaud (née Hamel)	

Special credit our “golden seniors” contributors:

Emile (King) & Doreen Arnal

Rita Baril (née Lavigne)

Alice Bergeron (née Syrenne)

Marcel Charbonneau

Simone Hamel (née Albert)

Fernande Lofto (née Painchaud)

Wilma Miller (née Stevens)

Deanne Morse (née Mollot)

Gilbert & Joyce Nadeau

Rolande O'Rourke (née Lavigne)

Pat Painchaud (née Hamel)

Guy Savoie

Marguerite Syrenne (née Blanchard)

Ben Syrenne

Thérèse Trobec (née Syrenne)

Doris Yallits (née Balez)

This book would not have been possible without the valuable input and support from the above mentioned. Thank-you/Merçi!

Also, a very special thanks to Rachelle Painchaud Nash who did the setup of this document for publishing.

Besides the publication of this book, thanks to the contribution of some 75 people, I have also scanned over 1,000 archival photos of Fannystelle and its people dating back to the year 1889 that are stored on a USB Flashdrive.

Some of these photos have been used in the book.

If you are interested in obtaining these photos, please contact me at vic@mollot.ca

Additional Notes

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Additional Notes

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