

Editor's Note, February 2021: Previous versions of this document contained inaccurate information regarding Richard Knechtel and his connection to the 1918 murders. The following corrections have been made on this document: Richard Knechtel married Rose Parzychowski six months after the murder, not two months; Richard Knechtel was charged with four of the six murders, not all six; The charges against Richard were dismissed at preliminary hearing in February 1921 due to lack of evidence.

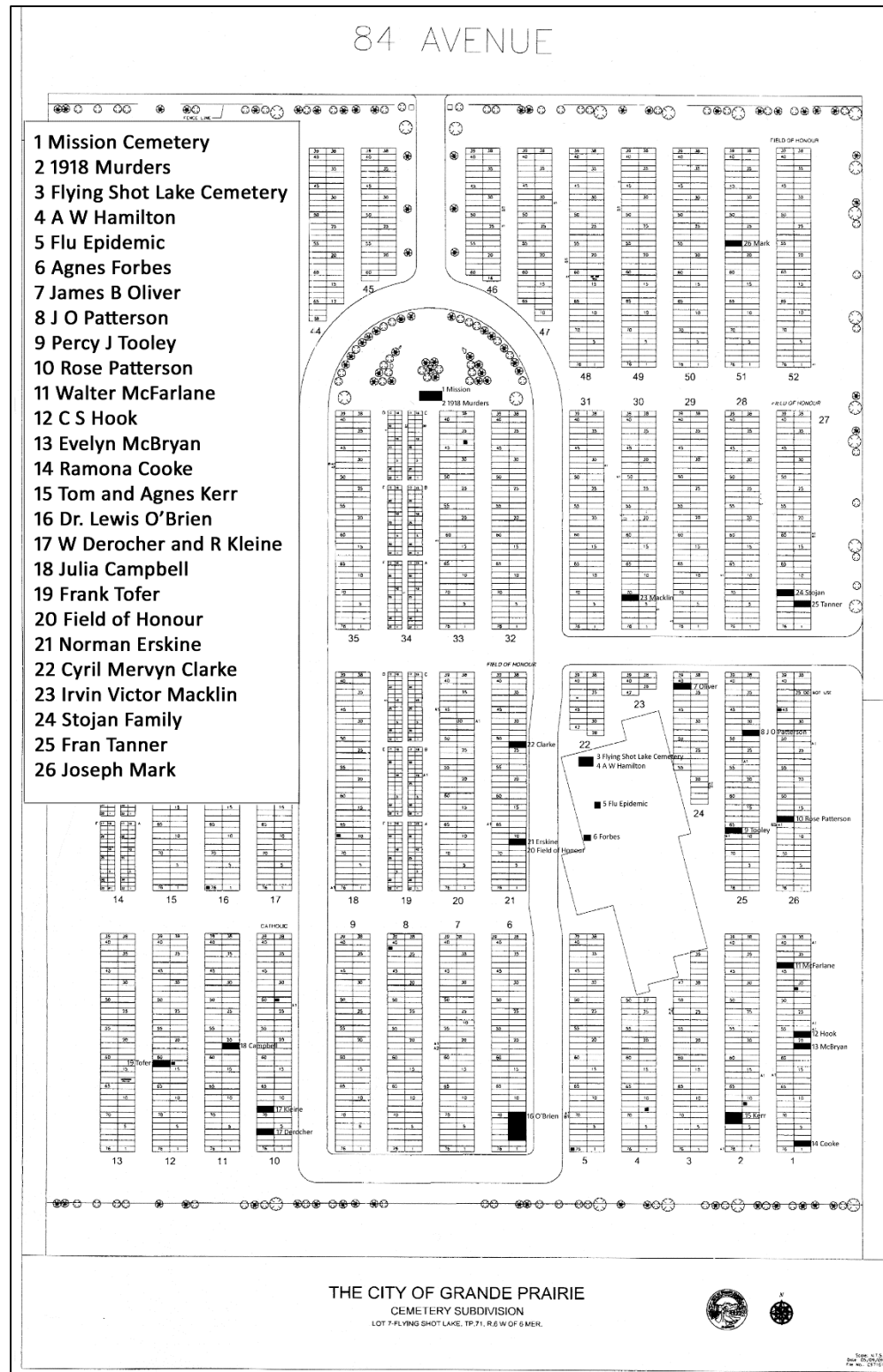
Introduction

For several years, South Peace Regional Archives has run historical walking tours of cemeteries around the South Peace. This booklet features the text of the first tour conducted in the Grande Prairie Cemetery (84 Avenue and 112 Street).

The full tour takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete. It may be done in sections over several visits, out of order, or skipping some stops.

The Grande Prairie Cemetery has two sections, East (new) and West (old). This tour covers selected graves in the old section. As you walk and read, look for connections between the people on the tour. It is interesting to note how often they were involved in each others' lives.

We hope you enjoy learning more about the people and events that have made this community what it is today. If you have any questions, please contact or visit us.



Stop 1 - Mission Cemetery (Mission Monument)

St. Vincent's Roman Catholic Mission was located on the west bank of Bear Creek, west of what became the townsite of Grande Prairie. The Mission was one of the only buildings that greeted new settlers in 1911. The mission house, which served as both residence and chapel, was originally built in 1896 on the shores of Lake Saskatoon, but in 1908 it was moved to the banks of Bear Creek. A church, the first church in the Grande Prairie District, was built in 1909. The Mission Cemetery operated from about 1909 to 1922. Around 1919 or 1920, the mission burned down and it was decided to build a church and rectory within the town of Grande Prairie.

This monument was erected in 1996 and lists the names of those previously buried in the Mission Cemetery. In the early 1960s, the cemetery had to be moved due to erosion along the banks of Bear Creek, including the area occupied by the Mission Cemetery. The City approved the transfer of the



graves in the Mission Cemetery in 1964 and the actual transfer was completed by the end of September 1966.

Above, a woman on horseback at Grande Prairie's Catholic church and cemetery, ca. 1909. SPRA 0024.01.09.01. Below, St. Vincent's Catholic Mission on the west side of Bear Creek, approximately ½ mile south of the road to Lake Saskatoon, ca. 1907. SPRA 1998.08.04. Below right, several headstones are visible at St. Vincent's Mission Cemetery, ca. 1920. SPRA 252.01.03.



Stop 2 - 1918 Murders (Mission Monument)

There are several names on the marker for the mission cemetery with the same death date: Frank Parzychowski, Ignace Paton, John Wuwand, and Charles Zimmer. These men are 4 of 6 murder victims killed June 18 and 19, 1918. This is still the biggest unsolved mass murder in Alberta's history. In June 1918 the First World War was still in progress, drawing many members of the North West Mounted Police overseas and leaving the Alberta Provincial Police to keep law and order at home.

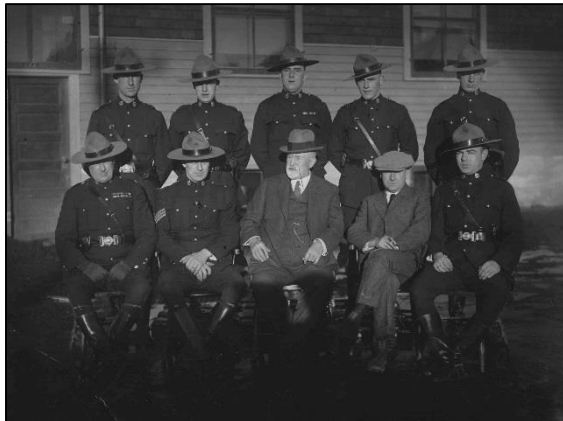
The first signal of trouble occurred the night of June 19 when Joseph Snyder and his nephew Stanley were murdered. Dan Lough, a neighbour of the two men, was the first on the scene and he quickly



Above and right, newspaper headlines from the June 25, 1918 Grande Prairie Herald.

alerted the APP constable Allen. An Inspector McDonnell was brought in from Peace River to head the investigation, but it was soon concluded that the deaths were a murder-suicide. Joseph and Stanley Snyder are buried in plot 54 of the old Flying Shot Lake cemetery.

About a week later, on the farm of Ignace Paton, approximately two miles from the Snyder farm, neighbour Alex Peebles discovered three bodies. He immediately informed the police. Another body was subsequently found when they arrived at the scene. The dead men were Ignace Paton, Charles Zimmer, John Wuwand, and Frank Parzychowski. The Snyder murder-suicide conclusion was dismissed and new inquiries pursued. Paton, Wuwand and Zimmer had been planning a trip to Fort Vermilion and had been known to be carrying large amounts of cash, which may have provided a motive for murder.



Above, Judge Belchor (centre) and Alberta Provincial Police officers, 1928. SPRA 2005.031.01.

Accusations flew in many directions and a reward was posted, but by July the police were still making inquiries. Comments from the community on Provincial Police incompetence led to the assignment of NWMP special constable J. D. Nicholson. Still, the case dragged on. Matters weren't helped by the fact that the Spanish flu outbreak in the fall of 1918 killed one officer and several important witnesses. Finally, on June 22, 1920, more than two years after the murders, Dan Lough was arrested and charged with all six killings. The case, which was based on circumstantial evidence, went to trial in December, but Dan Lough was acquitted. His lawyer suggested that Joseph Snyder killed all five of the other men, then committed suicide himself.

Two months later, Richard Knechtel, another local farmer and the man who had married the widow of Frank Parzychowski six months after the murders, was arrested and charged with four of the killings. His principal accuser was none other than Dan Lough. However, Knechtel's case was dismissed at preliminary hearing in February 1921 due to lack of evidence and, once again, the 1918 murders lapsed into the realm of cold cases. The case has been worked on retrospectively by a number of amateurs in the years since 1918, with varied conclusions, but as of yet, the case remains unsolved.

Stop 3 - Flying Shot Lake Cemetery (Flying Shot Lake Cemetery Monument)

This is the oldest and original part of the cemetery. It is also known as the Flying Shot Lake Cemetery, as it is considered to be in the Flying Shot Lake district. Before this cemetery existed, all burials, Catholic and Protestant, were done in the Catholic mission cemetery. Although a Presbyterian church was erected almost right away, plans for a cemetery were delayed. Rev. Forbes, the Presbyterian minister claimed that before June 1913, there was “no immediate need”. However, when a stranger died on the trail and there was no good place to bury him, the need became apparent. The Presbyterians applied to the government for a grant of land to use as a cemetery and the Department of the Interior granted their request in the spring of 1914.

A memorial stone has since been erected to mark this old section of the cemetery. It is on an angle to line up with the orientation of the graves. There is a diagram of the Old Cemetery on the back of the monument.

The graves in the Old Cemetery have the appearance of being hand-dug. The corners are not squared and they are only about 5 feet deep. There is some speculation that the old cemetery may have been surrounded by caragana bushes - there are still some bushes by Mrs. Forbes' grave, stop 6 on this tour.

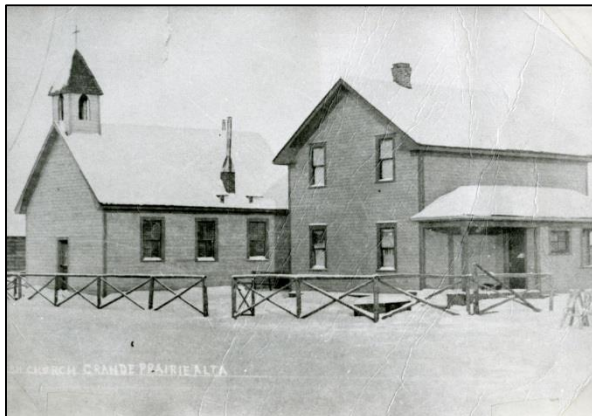


An aerial view of the Grande Prairie Cemetery in 1974, looking east. Some of the oldest monuments are visible in this photograph.
SPRA 190.02.01.0285.01.

Stop 4 - A W Hamilton (Flying Shot Lake Cemetery Monument)

Arthur Weldon Hamilton was the first person buried in the Cemetery, although his grave is now unmarked. He was born in 1886 in Ontario and had come from Calgary around 1911, purchasing property and building a large feed barn. He filed on a homestead in the area in January 1912.

Mr. Hamilton was appointed poundkeeper for the village of Grande Prairie in August 1914 with the passing of the village's first by-law restricting horse and cattle from running free in the village. He was



Above, Christ Church Anglican, Grande Prairie, opened May 21, 1914. SPRA 2001.01.215.

killed in a barn fire on the morning of November 27, 1914. The fire also destroyed Hamilton's livery, feed, and sales stable, of which Mr. Hamilton was the proprietor and several horses. According to the Grande Prairie Herald of that day, the fire was “the first fire of any account to visit our town.” The fire is believed to have started from a lantern used by Mr. Hamilton in his morning chores. Hamilton's funeral took place at the Anglican Church on December 1st and he was buried here, in the “Presbyterian Cemetery at Flying Shot.”

Stop 5 - Flu Epidemic (Flying Shot Lake Cemetery, open area)

There is a large open area in the middle of the Flying Shot Lake cemetery. This is the resting place of several victims of the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. The original wooden markers have unfortunately disintegrated and rotted away.



Grande Prairie Immigration Hall, erected about 1917, at approximately east 99th Avenue at 98th Street. SPRA 2001.01.063.

The Spanish flu originated not in Spain but in an American army camp in Kansas. It traveled with the troops to Europe and home again, turning into a pandemic that killed an estimated 3% of the total world population. In November 1918 alone, about three-dozen local people died of the flu. The Immigration Hall was taken over by the Board of Health and used as an isolation hospital and people were required to wear a face mask; non-compliance was fined \$50. Another flu hospital was set up at Lake Saskatoon.

By mid-December the epidemic seemed to be over, but the relief was short-lived as a new wave arrived in January 1919.

The local undertaker, J. B. Oliver, stop 7 on this tour, went away to war in August 1918. Unfortunately, the man he left in charge succumbed to the flu almost immediately. Local hotel owner Frank Donald stepped into the gap. Because the ground was too hard here, a new flu cemetery was opened near Bear Creek where the ground is sandy and easier to dig. This site is located on the east side of Resources Road, just outside of the City (approximately opposite the Wedgewood neighbourhood), although there

are very few graves left at that location as many of the bodies were later relocated to the Flying Shot Lake Cemetery. Other flu victims were buried in the Mission cemetery and their names appear on the Mission Cemetery Monument (stop 1).



Above and right, Bear Creek Cemetery, 1982, located in the sandy dunes north of the creek. SPRA 050.08.04.103-.104.



Stop 6 - Agnes Sorrel Forbes (Old-10)

Agnes Sorrel was born September 17, 1850 in Montrose, Scotland. She was one of eight children. Agnes became interested in mission work after two of her siblings died of diphtheria and by 1891 she was the matron at the Home for Girls in Aberdeen. She became engaged to Alexander Forbes who was the Presbyterian Minister there.

Agnes and Alexander came to Canada, were married in Edmonton, and did missionary work in Fort Saskatchewan for fifteen years. They came to the Peace country in 1909 to survey the feasibility of sending a missionary and in 1910, in the absence of any other volunteers, decided to serve the area themselves. She was 60 years old that year and her husband turning 50.

The Forbes first lived in shack provided by the Cliffords on their homestead. Agnes was instrumental in conducting Sunday School and establishing the Women's Missionary Society, as well as working with



Maude Clifford and Nurse Baird in establishing a small pioneer hospital. In the fall of 1910, Alexander filed on a homestead bordered by 100th Avenue, 100th Street, 108th Avenue, and 96th Street today. The first building on the homestead was the pioneer hospital, built in 1911. The Forbes later built an adjoining home.

Left, I. V. Macklin, Rev. Forbes, Maud Clifford, and Agnes Forbes with a converted caboose in the background, ca. 1911. SPRA 108.06. Below, Alexander and Agnes Forbes in front of the Presbyterian Manse in Grande Prairie. Nurse Baird is visible in the window. SPRA 2001.01.213.

Agnes was known to be a very sociable and accommodated many visitors and many requests for help. In 1914 she helped lay the cornerstone of the Kathryn Prittie Hospital which was built on the Forbes homestead near the railroad tracks, approximately the same location where every hospital since that time has been built. Agnes died in her sleep in 1917.



Alexander remarried in 1921 and returned to the east in 1925 after the vote for church union. He died in 1945 in Ontario and was buried there.

Stop 7 - James Bowes Oliver (24-41)

James Bowes Oliver was born in Ontario in 1888. He did various kinds of work in Alberta and British Columbia before journeying to the Peace River country by car in March 1914 with three friends. However, they only went as far as Peace River and the Shaftsbury Settlement, not to Grande Prairie. In spring 1915, Oliver journeyed north again, working for awhile in Watino at the Crummy store there. When the Crummy brothers' first store opened in Grande Prairie, Oliver moved to Grande Prairie.

In 1915, he started a furniture store and funeral home. The story goes that his real focus was to be the furniture business, but because he had the only flat-bed vehicle in the community, he also became involved in the funeral business and the transportation of patients to the hospital.

Oliver joined the army in 1918, during the First World War, and served overseas until after the Armistice was signed in November, which caused difficulties when the flu epidemic passed through the area in 1918-1919. In fact, the village council even petitioned the military to release Oliver from the service as he was needed to help bury the dead at home. However, Oliver did not return to Grande Prairie until June 1919, having spent some time in Ontario learning stone cutting. He married Ann Partlow in March 1920 and bought a farm not far from Grande Prairie.



Above, view of Richmond (100th) Avenue showing Crummy Bros. store, ca. 1925. SPRA 2001.01.074.



Above, J. B. Oliver's Store on Richmond Avenue, west of the intersection with 100th Street, ca. 1929. SPRA 2001.01.117.

In the early 1950s, the funeral business opened its own location on 101st Ave separate from the furniture store. Oliver's son-in-law Laurie Little joined the business in 1952, becoming a partner 10 years later. The funeral home and ambulance service shared transportation for many years until 1961 when a van was bought for ambulance use only.

Outside of his business interests, Oliver was involved in community life in other ways, serving on the Grande Prairie School Board, United Church Board of Managers, as a member and one-time president of the Grande Prairie and District Old-Timers' Association, and as the first Master of the first Masonic Lodge in Grande Prairie. Look for the Masonic symbol on his headstone. Oliver was also on the jury that acquitted Dan Lough of the 1918 Murders. J. B. Oliver died in 1967 and is buried beside his wife and infant son. He was survived by four daughters. There is still a local funeral home called Oliver's, although it is no longer owned by the Oliver family.

Stop 8 - John Orlando Patterson (25-28)

John Orlando Patterson is buried between his two wives, Ella and Louisa, in the Masonic plot. He was born in Kemptville, Ontario in 1888. The family later moved to Smith Falls, where John met and married Ella in 1909. John and his parents, Alphaeus and Eliza, and their family moved west and settled in Strathcona where J.O. was employed for a time in the C.P.R. freight department.

Alphaeus was the first president of the Argonaut Co., the development company that founded the Grande Prairie townsite, and was interested in setting up a store and post office in Grande Prairie with his son. J. O. and Ella, were the first of many family members to make the trip north, travelling by the Long Trail to Grande Prairie in the winter of 1911. This trip took 30 days of travel, not counting rests, and, as the name implies, was a long, circuitous route via Athabasca, Lesser Slave Lake, Grouard, Peace River, and Spirit River.



Above, Grande Prairie's first post office being run out of the Patterson caboose, far left, in 1911. J. O. Patterson is seen standing in the centre. SPRA 2001.01.209. Below, Patterson & Son Store and livery barn, 1911. Constructed to face east on the northwest corner of today's 100th Street and 100th Avenue. SPRA 2001. 01.204.



The Pattersons homesteaded on the west side of Bear Creek and opened a post office in the caboose they had used to travel to Grande Prairie. A joint store/post office building, the Patterson & Son Store, was erected soon afterward. The building also housed a branch of the Union Bank of Canada and had living quarters on the second floor. In 1914 J. O. Patterson was made Assistant Post Office Inspector with responsibility for the whole Peace

River country east to High Prairie. He held this position and that of postmaster of Grande Prairie until 1919 when he decided to become a farmer.

John continued to be involved in various commercial interests in the Grande Prairie area as well as the Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the Grande Prairie School Board, Town Council, the Northern Development Commission, and the MacGregor Commission.

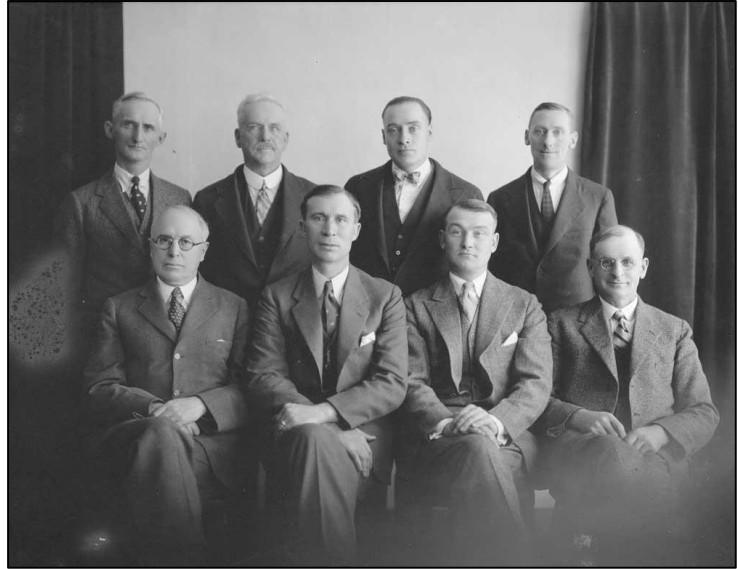
Ella was also involved in the community as a member of the Forbes Presbyterian Church Ladies' Missionary Society, Grande Prairie Women's Institute, and the Aurora Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Ella and John had two sons and one daughter. Another daughter, had died in infancy before the trip north. Ella died in 1954 after a long illness and John later married Louisa Flood. Louisa died in 1970 followed by John in 1971. Today the Patterson name is scattered around town in various places. The Patterson neighbourhood is named after this Patterson as it was the location of his farm.

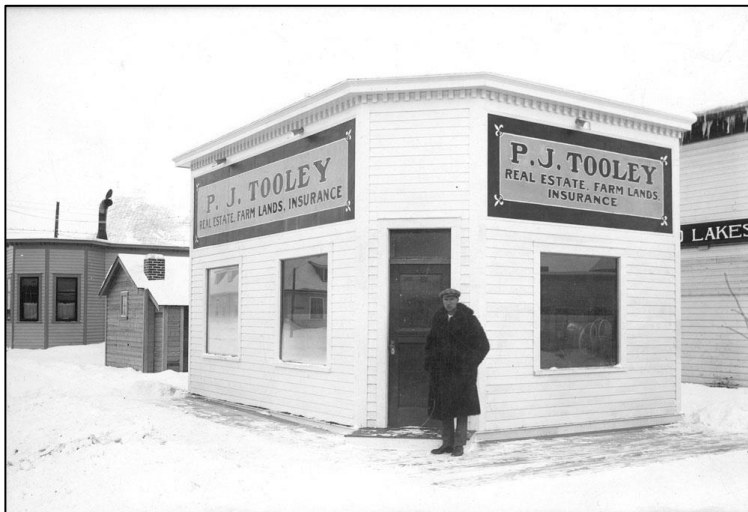
Stop 9 - Percy John Tooley (25-66)

Percy John Tooley was born in Whitwell, Herts, England in 1885. He immigrated to Canada in 1905, headed for the Yukon in 1906 to look for gold, and railroaded near Edmonton before journeying to the Peace River country over the Edson Trail in 1912. He filed on a homestead bordering that of Alphaeus Patterson.

P. J. Tooley immersed himself in business and community life. He was the secretary-treasurer of the local Conservative Association and secretary of the school board, as well as being involved with the Grande Prairie Board of Trade, the Agricultural Society, and the Old Timers Association. Tooley also sat seven years on Grande Prairie's town council before serving as Mayor from 1933 to 1939. Mr. Tooley was a great promoter of Grande Prairie, and is best known for working tirelessly to get an airport (landing field) and passenger service in Grande Prairie in 1935.



Above, Grande Prairie town council with Mayor P. J. Tooley (front row, second from the left), 1934. SPRA 2003.24.01. Left, P.J. Tooley at the doorway of P.J. Tooley Real Estate, Farm Lands, Insurance, ca. 1920. SPRA 1988.23.01b.



He owned and operated P.J. Tooley Real Estate, Farm Lands and Insurance Co. and was also involved with United Grain Growers, selling shares for the first elevator to be built in Grande Prairie.

In the late 1930s, an organization called the Night Hawks held an annual fundraiser to provide gifts and food for the poor at Christmas. They broadcast their

concerts "of music, melody and nonsense" over the radio (CFGP) every Wednesday night in December. Although he didn't have a good singing voice, Mr. Tooley, with his decided English accent, was the highlight of the event.

Tooley died on September 6, 1948 at the University Hospital in Edmonton, having been transferred from the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital. Today, P. J. Tooley's name is still remembered with Tooley's Island on 102 Street and 96 Avenue.

Stop 10 - Rose Patterson (26-64)

Rose Devlin, born in 1893, was the eldest of five children born to Edward and Maria Devlin of Nanaimo, where her father was a miner. Rose attended Normal School in Vancouver from 1911-1912 and began her teaching career in British Columbia.

In 1919, she accompanied her friend, Laura Davis, on a trip to Beaverlodge where Laura's sister's family lived. She had a wonderful summer and when a teaching offer came for the fall, she took it. In the year that followed she met Donald W. Patterson, a local lawyer. Rose taught at Grande Prairie's Montrose School until June 1921 when she returned home to help her mother, who was running a dress-making business. In December 1922, a telegram from Donald Patterson soon led to their wedding and her return to Grande Prairie.

D. W. Patterson was born in Ontario in 1888. He trained as a teacher, and later, once he reached Alberta, as a lawyer. He served in World War I and was wounded at Vimy Ridge in 1917, but continued to serve after his recovery. D. W. came to Grande Prairie in 1919 after being offered a partnership by local lawyer MacPhee. D. W. served as the town's mayor from 1921 to 1922.

Rose became very active in the Ladies Aid and Women's Missionary Society and was a leader of Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT). She was also a charter member of the Grande Prairie Women's Institute (GPWI) and contributed to the Monkman Pass and Women's Institute talk shows over CFGP, the latter of which lasted for 25 years. The Pattersons were also involved in the Canadian Club, entertaining and hosting many visitors, as well as being great travelers themselves.



Above, Donald Patterson and Rose Devlin on their wedding day, January 1, 1923. SPRA 152.02.01.01.



Left, Mrs. D. W. Patterson (left), last remaining charter member of GPWI, being presented with a gift by Mrs. H. N. Paul on behalf of the Branch, 1974. SPRA 0371.05.03.41.

The Pattersons had three children, Rhoda, Dorothy, and Donald Edward, who became a lawyer like his father and eventually the Assistant Chief Judge for Northern Alberta. He is buried here, beside his parents.

Stop 11 - Walter McFarlane (01-44)

Born in Ontario in 1875, Walter McFarlane earned both a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Science degree from the Toronto School of Applied Science before qualifying as a Dominion Land Surveyor. Notice the DLS designation on his headstone.



Above, Walter McFarlane surveying in 1906. SPRA 1969.59.234. Right, the 1910 McFarlane survey party with Hilda Clifford. SPRA 056.01.020-1.

In 1909, Mr. McFarlane was contracted by the Government of Canada to begin surveying the townships north of the Wapiti River and west of the Smoky River, what is now the County of Grande Prairie. Leaving his wife and family in Ontario, he traveled to Edmonton to gather supplies and a team of men. At the end of February, the party set out with twelve teams of horses, thirty men, and 20 tons of supplies (including 4 tons of iron posts) purchased from the Revillon Freres in Edmonton. That summer the crew surveyed 54 townships, and returned to Edmonton in December, leaving most of their supplies behind at Clifford's Stopping Place at Flying Shot Lake.



In 1910 Walter returned, this time with two survey crews. By now, settlers were flocking into the Peace Country. Walter had already decided that the Buffalo Lakes District had some of the finest land he had ever seen, so he filed on a quarter section there and brought his wife Lillian and daughters Lorna and Lillian, up in 1912. Many of his crew members also settled in the same area. The McFarlanes had two other children, Walter Graham and Doris, born at Buffalo Lakes.



Doris, Lillian, Lorna, and Graham McFarlane, ca. 1919. SPRA 2001.02.357.

Although Mr. McFarlane now turned his attention to breeding quality horses and livestock, he continued surveying when contracts were available, and his name can be seen on many of the early survey plans from this area. Walter was also active in community life, attending Buffalo Lakes United Church and serving as a founding trustee of the Chatham School District and manager of the first Buffalo Lakes baseball team.

Walter passed away in 1948 and Lillian died in Vancouver in 1967. Their original homestead is still occupied by descendants of the family.

Stop 12 - Clifford Stanley Hook (01-21)

Clifford Stanley Hook was born in Somerset, England in 1884 and married Jessica Beatrice Williams sometime before 1909. They and their daughter, Evelyn, immigrated to Canada in 1913. They stayed with Jessica's brother in Regina before moving to Edmonton to find work. While in Edmonton, Clifford, a jeweller and watchmaker, worked in the repair department of G.F. Watcher's jewellery business.

The Hook family moved to Grande Prairie in March 1918 when Clifford purchased the R. H. Watcher jewellery business. When he formed a partnership with Mr. J. Leonard shortly thereafter, the business became known as Hook & Leonard.

Realizing that the Peace country was in need of professional eye care, Clifford went to Ontario to attend the College of Optometry. He returned to Grande Prairie after graduation, becoming the first Optometrist in the region. He continued in the jewellery business, adding an Optometry section. His business took him to many Peace River country communities.



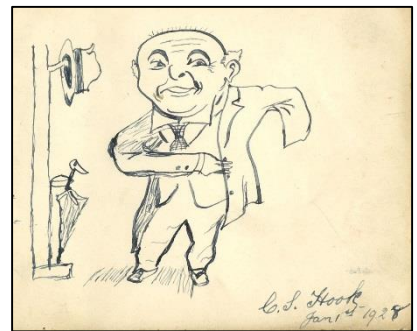
C. S. Hook & Sons store located east (left) of Birds on Richmond (100th) Avenue, ca. 1940. SPRA 2007.016.17.

When the store burned down in 1920, Leonard left the business entirely to Hook. The combination jewellery/optometry business had various main and branch locations in Grande Prairie, Waterhole, Sexsmith, Wembley, Peace River, Fort St. John, and Dawson Creek over the succeeding years, eventually becoming known as C. S. Hook & Sons as the Hooks had three sons after arriving in Canada: Ted, Jack, and Robert, who was himself an optometrist in Grande Prairie for many years.

The family business dissolved in 1965 and in 1966 C. S. Hook died at the age of 87 after falling and breaking his hip. Dr. Robert Hook is also buried nearby.

Stop 13 - Evelyn McBryan (01-19)

Evy McBryan was born Evelyn Beatrice Hook in Somerset, England in 1911, the daughter of C. S. and Jessica Hook. Evelyn married Henry (Harry) Newton and the couple had one son, Stanley "Val" Newton. After Harry's death, Evy married William McBryan and the couple had one daughter.



A sketch of C. S. Hook from Evy's autograph book, dated 1928. SPRA fonds 378.

Evy studied art under well-known local artist Euphemia McNaught, as well as at the Vancouver School of Art and in Europe. Mrs. McBryan played an important role in promoting and fostering visual arts, not only in the Peace Country but across the province. She organized the Grande Prairie Art Club out of her own home and was in charge of the arts division for the City of Grande Prairie Recreation Department. She also worked tirelessly to establish the Prairie Art Gallery.

Evy held her last exhibition at the Beaverlodge Cultural Centre in 1983. She passed away in Grande Prairie in 1985 at the age of 74.

Stop 14 - Ramona Cooke (01-02)

Ramona's father, Thomas Edmund Cooke was a sawmill operator in Arundel, Quebec. He heard about the homesteading possibilities in the Peace country and in 1911 journeyed to Grande Prairie with brother-in-law Bill Boyd and filed on a homestead. The rest of the Cooke family, Thomas' wife Emma

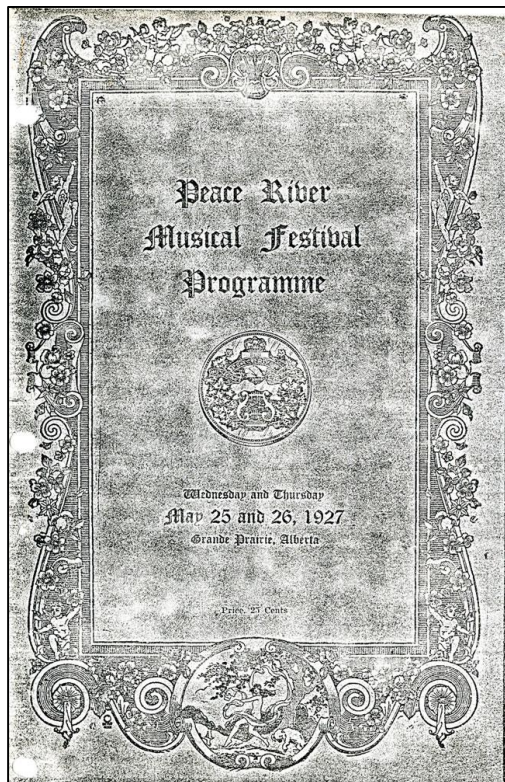


Boyd and daughters Ramona and Eunice, followed in 1912. By 1914, the Cooke and Boyd sawmill was running at the Smoky crossing. They supplied the lumber for building the Bezanson town site and when they were not paid, they took over the hamlet on a mortgage. The sawmill also supplied lumber for many of the early houses in Grande Prairie.

Left, one of the Boyd brothers viewing land, accompanied by T.E. Cooke's hounds, ca. 1911.

SPRA 0155.05.01. Below, crew of a Cooke logging operation. SPRA 1997.31.05.

In the 1930s the river flooded often and in 1935 the river undermined the bank and sent their steam engine and thousands of feet of lumber into the river. Thomas started over and continued his mill operation until the mid-60s. He also ran 5 threshing outfits at one time. Three more children were born to the Cookes while living in the Grande Prairie district: Boyd, Donald, and Lois.



While she was still a very young girl, Ramona lost her eyesight as a result of an illness. Major Harry Watts, a musician in Grande Prairie, was impressed with the girl's love of music and devoted much time to teaching her to play the piano. In 1926 Ramona was the winner in the pianoforte class at the Peace River Music Festival. She was admired by both her audience and her competitors. Although her health was failing, she continued to play for church services, weddings, funerals and social functions. She died June 14, 1934 and Christ Church Anglican was filled to capacity for her funeral. In 1936, a "Mona Cooke Memorial Cup" was donated to the Grande Prairie Music Festival to be presented to the most outstanding musical performance of the festival. Unfortunately, this cup is no longer awarded. Ramona is buried between her father and her mother.

Left, cover of the Peace River Musical Festival Programme for 1927. SPRA fonds 491.

Stop 15 - Tom Kerr (02-70)

Tom Kerr was born in Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland in 1859. He joined the Hudson's Bay Company at the age of 17 as an apprentice and was sent to Canada. He finally ended up at Peace River Crossing (now Peace River).



Above, Tom and Agnes Kerr, ca. 1944. SPRA 0175.026.2.

In 1879 Kerr was transferred to the post in Fort St. John and in 1880 he helped cut a better trail between Peace River and Grouard. Then he was transferred to the post at Hudson Hope. In 1881 Kerr was sent to 'la Grande Prairie' to establish the first post in the area at Cutbank Lake, northwest of where Grande Prairie is now. He was in charge here for several months before being sent back to Fort St. John. He also spent some time at Dunvegan helping with the building going on there and even planting the famous maple trees that are still visible. Kerr journeyed to Scotland in the summer of 1888, but soon returned to Canada. He was sent to Fort Edmonton for two years, then transferred to Athabasca Landing. A disagreement with his superior temporarily ended his career with the HBC.

Kerr and his friend Duncan Macdonald then spent four years trapping in the Great Slave Lake region. On their return, they went to Dunvegan to saw lumber for the Anglican church being built there. Kerr spent the next winter trapping then asked the HBC for a new job and was given charge of the Little Red River post on the Peace River.

Tom returned to Scotland and married Agnes Taylor in 1901. They came back to Little Red River had a family of two girls and a boy. When the time came for the children to attend school, Tom applied for a transfer to Grouard, which had a school. He was sent instead to Sturgeon Lake in 1910. However, St. Francois Xavier Indian Residential School operated by the Sisters of Providence was available there.

In late 1913, Tom again quit the HBC and moved his family to Edmonton for the winter. By the next spring, however, he was back in Sturgeon Lake trying to set up as a free trader in competition to the HBC post. He went into business with "Barney" Maurice from Grouard to form the Sturgeon Lake Trading Company. The business prospered and Kerr also became the Sturgeon Lake postmaster. In the 1920s, Tom expanded into the tourism business, building small cabins overlooking the Lake and wooden row boats that could be rented by tourists. He called it the Sturgeon Lake Auto Camp.

After a life full of adventure, Tom died at Sturgeon Lake in 1946 at age 86. Agnes died 11 years later at the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital.



Above, L-R: Willie Kerr, George Williamson, Agnes Kerr, Mary Kerr, and Tom Kerr standing in front of Tom Kerr's first Sturgeon Lake store and post office, ca. 1918. SPRA 175.026.4.

Below, the Tom Kerr cabins at Sturgeon Lake, SPRA 175.027.6.



Stop 16 - Dr. Lewis J. O'Brien (06-07)

Dr. Lewis James O'Brien was born near Toronto on November 28, 1868. He was educated in Toronto, taught for awhile, then received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto. He traveled to Germany where earned his MD from the University of Wurtzberg. He did post-graduate work in Germany, Austria, England, and the United States. On his return to Canada, he practiced for awhile in Nanaimo, British Columbia and married Miss Alice John from Extension, BC.

When World War I started, Dr. O'Brien went overseas with the Canadian Army Medical Corps and served in the tent hospitals of Salonika, France, Egypt and England. The O'Briens came to the Peace Country after the war in 1918, during the Spanish Influenza Epidemic. When he arrived in Grande Prairie there was only a log mission hospital built in 1914 with 18 beds and a staff of one nurse and one ward aid. These two staff were on duty 24 hours a day and responsible for not only for the nursing, but also for the cooking, cleaning, and laundry. The operating room equipment consisted of a wooden table and a coal oil lamp. During surgeries Dr. O'Brien acted as both anaesthetist and surgeon and often travelled long distances over undeveloped roads to operate on rural patients.



Above, the Kathryn Prittie Hospital in 1916. SPRA 2001.01.108. Below, the new Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital, built in 1929. SPRA 2000.73.133.

Dr. O'Brien actively promoted the idea of a community hospital and slowly it came into being. First a local carpenter built a new operating room in lieu of paying his hospital bill; then the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary purchased the only X-ray machine north of Edmonton. By 1922, Hospital District No. 14 had been formed and the hospital was taken over by the municipality of Grande Prairie. In 1929, the hospital district was expanded and a large, modern, well-equipped new facility was constructed



immediately east of the pioneer log hospital.



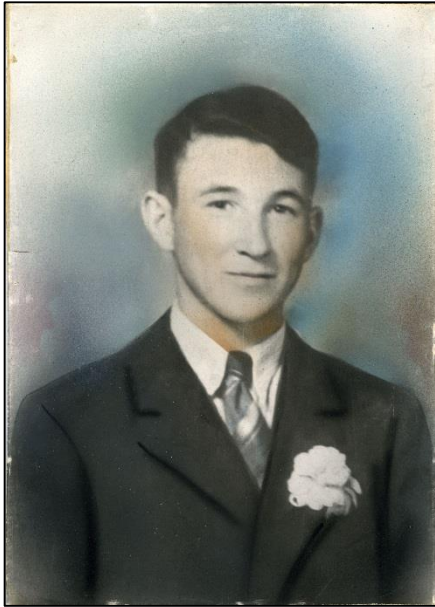
Both Dr. O'Brien and his wife Alice contributed generously to the community of Grande Prairie and were active in civic and volunteer affairs. He served on the school board and was president of the Alberta Medical Association from 1939-1940. He was also an MLA for four years during the 1940s.

The O'Briens raised five children, Herbert, Hugh, Gurth, Eric, and Margaret, and were avid naturalists. O'Brien Provincial Park, on the bank of the Wapiti River, is named after them. Dr. O'Brien was also involved in the campaign to have the Kleskun Hills declared a public park. Dr. O'Brien passed away in 1955.

Left, Dr. and Mrs. O'Brien in the yard of their Grande Prairie home, ca. 1940. SPRA 177.089.

Stop 17 - Wilfred Derocher (10-73) and Raphael Klein (10-69)

Wilfred Derocher and Raphael Klein were good friends from the Webster-Badheart area north of Sexsmith. In 1944, when they were both 18 years old, they joined a forest fire-fighting crew in that area. They were assigned to protect the Sanborn Lumber Mill north of Webster along with another teenager, three older men, and the mill workers.



Wilfred Derocher, ca. 1940. SPRA 2010.26.

The fire was coming from the direction of the Badheart area. Because of extremely high winds, the fire spread quickly in the tops of the trees and then spread to the ground when the burning branches fell. Even with all their efforts, the firefighters and mill workers soon realized they would not be able to stop the fire. They decided to save themselves by going down to the creek where the water was dammed.

Because of the heavy smoke, they soon lost track of each other as they groped their way down to the creek. When the worst of the fire had passed by and the smoke began to clear, the group realized they were missing the three young firefighters.

One of the young men survived the fire and told what happened. All three had started to run away from the fire instead of to the dam. The survivor looked back and saw that Raphael had fallen down and appeared to be unconscious. Wilfred went back to rescue his friend and both perished in the fire. They found the

bodies the next day, about 10 yards from the mill site clearing. Wilfred was found lying over Raphael, attempting to shield his friend.

A joint funeral was held for the two friends from St. Joseph's Church in Grande Prairie and was attended by high school classes of St. Joseph's High School. The school choir also participated. Wilfred and Raphael are buried here within meters of each other.

Their names can be found on the Fallen Wildland Firefighter memorial at the Hinton Training Centre and on the same monument in Ottawa. Raphael's grave is unfortunately unmarked.



St. Joseph Separate School (above) and St. Joseph Catholic Church (left), ca. 1937. SPRA 032.08.07.11-.12.

Stop 18 - Julia Campbell (11-19)

Julia's grave is unmarked, but is situated between Edwards, left, and Kaspro, right. Julia or Julianne Gauthier was born at Fort Edmonton or Lac St. Anne about 1860. The family was French-Cree Metis and her father, Joseph, was an herb-healer. She grew up at Lac Ste. Anne. There were no schools and they lived the traditional lifestyle.

At about 16 years of age, Julienne married 18 year old Alexis Campbell, an Iroquois-Cree Metis born at Lac St. Anne and whose parents were from Jasper House. Soon after their marriage, the Gauthiers and the Campbells began the trek north. First they traveled east to Jasper, where her first son Albert was born. From there they took the ancient pack trail, later called the Hinton Trail, through Grande Cache, and into the Red Willow District.



Above, plan of the Metis settlement at Flyingshot Lake, 1908. SPRA 437.01.01.

When they arrived on the Grande Prairie in 1878, they were the first Iroquois Metis to live there. The Campbells built a log home east of Flying Shot Lake along Bear Creek, approximately where the Southview IGA is now, and here Alexis planted a small garden. They lived almost entirely on meat and berries. Even brown flour was a rare luxury, brought in from near Edmonton by dog team.

In 1892, Alexis and Julianne moved to the south shore of Bear Lake, where they received a land grant when it was surveyed in 1909. The 1901 Census lists Alexis and Julianne as living at Grand Prairie with their 11 children, and Louis Campbell, Alexis' father. By 1911, five more children had been born, making 17 children in all.

NAME OF MACH PERSON IN THE FAMILY.	Gen.	Color.	Appearance in House of Family.	Married, Widowed, Divorced.	Age at Birth.	Place of Birth.
Campbell Abel	m.	R.	son	5	68	Frederic R.
" Miller	son	R.	son	5	72	Frederic R.
" Maria Anne	f.	R.	daughter	5	70	Frederic R.
" Foggie	f.	R.	daughter	5	70	"
" Henry	son	R.	son	5	72	Frederic R.
" Lucie	f.	R.	daughter	5	70	"
" Lemuel	son	R.	son	5	7	"
" Clarissa	f.	R.	daughter	5	7	"
" Len	son	R.	son	5	7	"
" Edgar and	son	R.	son	5	7	"
" Virginia	f.	R.	daughter	5	7	"
Cornwall Lewis	son	R.	Grand father	72	72	Frederic R.

In the early 1920s, when the population of the Grande Prairie was exploding with returning soldiers and new immigrants, the Campbell and Gauthier families gave up their land grants and moved to Kelly Lake. Alexis died Kelly Lake in 1930, at the age of

73. He is buried at Rio Grande. Julianne lived in her later years with one of her daughters at Grovedale and at Grande Prairie. She passed away when over 100 years of age and was interred here in 1961.

Above, excerpt from the 1901 Census listing the Campbell children. Below, excerpt from the 1911 census listing the Campbell family. Library and Archives Canada.

[illegible]

Stop 19 - Francis Tofer (12-61)

Francis (Frank) Tofer was born in 1882 in Bohemia, which was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and is now part of the Czech Republic. At eighteen, after a disagreement with his father, Frank immigrated to the United States and settled in South Dakota where he filed on a homestead in 1900.

Tofer house (right) and barn (below), ca. 1985. SPRA 2001.03.128, .321.



In 1908 after seeing advertisements about the Peace Country, he traveled to Edmonton by train then by sleigh over the Long Trail in March 1909. In the summer of 1909 he built a log house and barn, broke 20 acres of land, and put in a crop on land near Hermit Lake. He did not file on the land until May 1910, but fortunately no one else had filed before him.

Frank married Marie Paszkowski in 1914, the first couple in the area of European origin to be married at the Roman Catholic Church. Marie had been born in 1896 in Poland and come to the Peace Country via the Edson Trail at age 16. Before her marriage to Frank, she worked at Bredin's Stopping Place near Bear Lake.

Frank and Marie had two children, Edward and Joyce. In 1921, the family rented their land to neighbours and took a trip back to Czechoslovakia and Poland to visit family, returning to the Peace Country the following year to continue farming. In 1941, Frank and Marie sold the farm to their son and moved to Vancouver, operating a boarding house. After a few years, the Tofers moved to Grande Prairie. Frank died in 1965 and Marie in 1979.



Above, Frank and Marie Tofer, 1914. Portion of SPRA 001.08.06.03.05.45.01. Left, Edward Tofer, front row, right, at Percy School, 1923. SPRA 2009.51.01.

Stop 20 - Field of Honour (Row 21)

The Grande Prairie cemetery has a couple of sections designated “Field of Honour” where there is a large concentration of similar stones bearing Canadian national and regimental symbols. These are provided to veterans of Canada’s armed forces in recognition of their service to the nation. Not all veterans have this style of stone and neither are all veterans buried in the “Field of Honour” sections.

Many men and women from the Grande Prairie area participated in the great conflicts of the last century. Grande Prairie’s first volunteers for World War I had to travel out, often on foot, to enlist and



Above, R. H. Watcher and friends in WWI uniforms, ca. 1915. SPRA 2001.02.512. Right, scene from the trenches, 1916. SPRA 194.02.

usually signed up in Edmonton, Calgary, or their own Eastern hometowns. A recruitment drive went through the Peace Country in June 1915 stopping at Beaverlodge, Lake Saskatoon, Grande Prairie, and other places. Other recruitment drives followed. Conscription started in 1917 and Grande Prairie continued to send more men. Even members of the clergy joined up, including Canon Frederick Smith, Reverend Hugh Speke, and Father Josse.



Beyond just affecting the lives of those who served and their family and friends, the War also had an impact on the Grande Prairie area as a whole. In 1918, the Soldiers Settlement Board was established and each veteran was allowed two quarter-sections of land and loans for seed grain. Many decided to take land in the Peace River Country.



Left, a young boy watches a D- Company Army training exercise in Grande Prairie, ca. 1942. The courthouse is visible in the background. SPRA 0254.14.

The first World War II recruitment drive in Grande Prairie occurred April 1940, although many had already traveled to Edmonton and elsewhere to enlist. Dr. O’Brien helped perform the medical examinations. Recruitment continued over the next years of the war. As of October 1940, the Peace River region had topped all others in Alberta for number of enlistees. Also in 1940, a reserve militia training centre was established in Grande Prairie and by 1941, as recruitment continued at high levels, a separate unit of the 2nd Battalion of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment was established, D Company.



Many women joined the Women's Auxiliary of D Company or the Canadian Women's Army Corps, became nurses, or joined the workforce.

The Training Centre closed in 1944, although the D Company Reserve Unit still occupied the Armoury. Once again, under the Veterans Land Act, veterans were each eligible for a half-section of land and many chose to come to the Peace Country.

Left, Motor Transport Group, RCAF, 1942. SPRA 265.03.

Stop 21 - Norman William Erskine (21-09)

Norman William Erskine was born July 29, 1913 and was the son of Helen and William Erskine. Helen and her two children moved from Oregon in November 1916 to live with her brother near Flying Shot Lake while her husband was serving in World War I. Unfortunately, William was killed at Vimy Ridge in 1917. Helen filed on a homestead near Dimsdale in 1919 and married Duncan Bain. The family, now including four children, moved to the Millarston district in 1925.

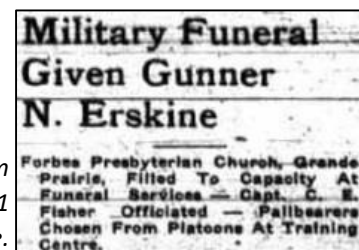


Above, troops standing in formation in front of the row of "H" huts, ca. 1941, at the Grande Prairie Army Training Center. SPRA 2001.44.43. Below, Forbes Presbyterian Church, ca. 1933. SPRA 284.03.04.



Norman attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture and married Netta Stephen, who was also from the Millarston area. The couple had four children, two boys and two girls. A Gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery during World War II, Norman was died in the military hospital in Halifax after an attack of appendicitis in August of 1941 at the age of 28. He was given a

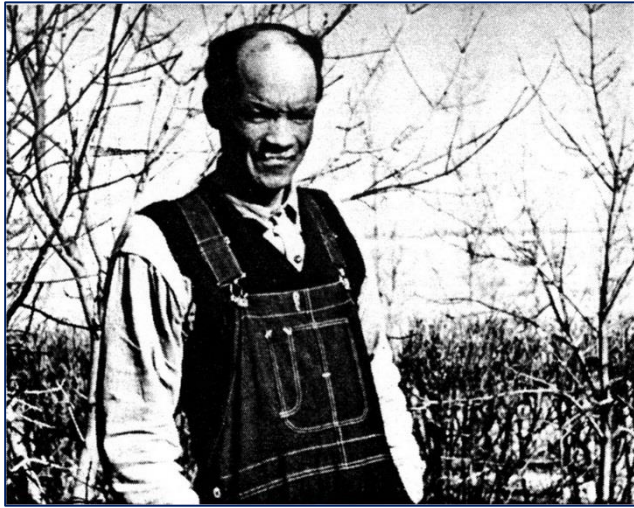
military funeral conducted out of Forbes Presbyterian Church. His pallbearers were from various platoons at the local training centre and the funeral was succeeded by a procession to the cemetery, the last post, and a three-round salute. He is buried beside a Dennis Norman Erskine, 2 years old, who was perhaps his young son, and his wife, Netta.



Right, excerpt from the August 21, 1941 Herald-Tribune.

Stop 22 - Cyril Mervyn Clarke (21-26)

Cyril Clarke's grave is unmarked, but it is situated between Kerr, left, and Botting, right. Cyril Mervyn Clarke was born August 6, 1882 on St. Vincent's Island in the West Indies. His father was an Anglican minister and his mother West Indian. He attended Oxford University and was a classmate of Winston Churchill. About 1910 he immigrated to Canada and when war broke out he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He spoke several languages and served as an interpreter in France during World War I.



Above, Cyril Mervyn Clarke. From *Wagon Trails Grown Over, Sexsmith to the Smoky Historical Society* (1980), p. 993.

After the war, Mr. Clarke took a Soldier's Settlement Grant in the Teepee Creek area. He soon discovered that farming made his asthma much worse and began concentrating on growing vegetables and flowers instead. As a black, highly educated, lifelong bachelor, and non-farmer, he was not the norm at Teepee Creek.

Cyril soon began specializing in peonies, about which he was passionate. The conservative estimate is that Mr. Clarke tested about 2000 cultivars over his thirty years of collecting. He was a regular contributor to the American Peony Society bulletin and a leading authority on peony hybrids.

As he aged, Mr. Clarke began to lose his sight and his gardening friends persuaded him to move closer to Grande Prairie. They packed up his peonies and sent them to various homes. Large collections went to the Beaverlodge Research Station and the Devonian Botanic Garden near Edmonton and his records and 921 specimens were donated to the Department of Horticulture at the University of Alberta. The University grounds are still beautified with Clarke's peonies.

Mr. Clarke himself was given a home on Dr. Gurth O'Brien's land, where he had a garden spot of good, well-cultivated soil beside O'Brien Lake. Mr. Clarke passed away at his home in December 1952, at the age of 70 years.



Above, peony border at the Beaverlodge Research Station, 1956. SPRA 383.01.07.012.

Stop 23 - Irvin Victor Macklin (30-71)

Irvin Victor Macklin was born in Fenella, Ontario in 1888. He earned a Bachelor of Arts at Victoria College, University of Toronto. Advised by his doctor to “get out into the country” after his graduation in 1910, Mr. Macklin moved west and traveled the Long Trail into the Peace Country that summer. He filed on the homestead east of the hamlet of Grande Prairie on which he would reside until his death 70 years later.

I. V. Macklin has the distinction of being the first school teacher in Grande Prairie. When no qualified teacher could be found for the Grande Prairie School District No. 2357 organized in 1911, Mr. Macklin agreed to fill in temporarily. Classes started in January 1913, and he taught until June 30 of that year.

In 1912, Macklin married Nellie Cass who had travelled from Montreal to Edmonton, residing at Alberta College while waiting for



Above, Grande Prairie's first school, 1916, approximately located on 98th Avenue and 100th Street. SPRA 1988.51.2.



Above, I. V. Macklin, front row, left, as a member of the United Farmers of Alberta Board of Directors, 1929. SPRA 108.07. Below, I. V. and Tilley Macklin with Irvin, Arthur, and Ann. SPRA 177.087.



Macklin to come for her. By 1914, he was an established dairyman in the area, and active in the community as a leader in church affairs, agriculture, economics, and politics. He was the first magistrate in Grande Prairie in 1914. He also served as a director for the Peace River country in the United Farmers Association movement and instigated the Debt Adjustment Act during the Depression. For three federal elections, Macklin was the candidate for the CCF (Co-operative Commonwealth Federation) Party in the Peace River constituency. He was also a well-known radio speaker and writer for

the CCF. His articles appeared in papers across Canada, as well as in the Grande Prairie Herald-Tribune.

By this time, the Macklins had two children: Velma and Victor. Nellie Macklin died in the spring of 1940 and in 1941, Mr. Macklin married Matilda Jantz from Crooked Creek. The couple had four more children, Irvin, Arthur, Ann, and Linda.

Mr. Macklin passed away in 1980, having lived in the community of Grande Prairie for almost all his adult life. The Macklin farm was redeveloped as residential lots: the Hillside area at the beginning of World War II, Mountview Estates around 1970, and Ivy Lake Estates around 1980. I.V. Macklin School is named for him.

Stop 24 - Jerry Stojan (27-70)

Louis Stojan emigrated from Czechoslovakia in 1926. His wife Bessie and their four young sons, Louis Jr., Charlie, Jerry, and Frank arrived a year later. They first settled in Grande Prairie where Louis worked at the Ford Garage and then Thomson Motors. In 1929 they moved to a homestead in Goodfare and Louis worked in a garage in Hythe. In 1931 Louis forfeited the homestead and moved the family back to Grande Prairie and in 1937 started his own service garage, which he operated for a few years.



Above, Grande Prairie Garage, Ford and Lincoln dealers, on the north end of 100th Street, ca. 1930. SPRA 174.02.08. Below, Charlie, Bessie, and Jerry Stojan beside the Monkman Pass Highway Pathfinder Car, 1938. SPRA 1986.33.04.



In the late 1930s the Stojan brothers became well known for their enthusiastic attempt to drive a car through the Monkman Pass. The people of the Peace Country dreamed of highway going to the West Coast via the Rocky Mountains and Prince George, but although they approached the government several times, nothing was ever done. Finally the Monkman Pass Association was formed in 1937 by local people who decided to build the highway themselves, raising money and donating time and effort to make their dream a reality.

In September 1938, 17-year old Jerry, 18-year old Charles, and a group of other young men, attempted to drive their 1927 Model T Ford along the proposed route, fighting such obstacles as forests, rivers, mountain inclines, and enormous boulders. Finally, winter weather caught up with them just before they reached Hansard, British Columbia, ending their nearly three month trip. They were forced to abandon the car and return to Grande Prairie by train, via Prince George. They planned to return for the car and continue the journey the

following year, but with the outbreak of World War II and a continued shortage of funds, the Monkman highway project was abandoned. The car was finally rescued by boat in 1969 and brought back in pieces. It has since been restored and is now on display at the Grande Prairie Museum.

In 1939 the Stojan family moved to Ontario where Louis and the three oldest boys worked in a machine shop. During the war, Charles joined the RAF and Jerry worked in a war plant. In 1947, Charles and Jerry came back to Sexsmith and became partners in the Sexsmith Garage, buying out Don Innes. Louis Sr. and Bessie also moved back to the area in 1948. Louis Jr. had drowned in December 1947 when his vehicle skidded off the road and into a river.

Jerry married Irene Lenoir of Ontario in 1942 and the couple had two children. Jerry began acquiring farmland and livestock. The family became involved in raising registered quarter horses in the 1960s and won many awards. Later, Jerry became a big game guide and outfitter.

After Charles' death in an automobile accident in 1962, Jerry became sole owner of the Sexsmith Garage. A little later Jerry's son, also named Charles, joined the business. Stojan's Power Sports and Marine is still in business today in the Grande Prairie area.

Stop 25 - Fran Tanner (27-05)

Francis (Fran) Victor Tanner was born in 1921 in Mazanod, Saskatchewan. In the late 1920s the family moved to Grande Prairie where his father prepared ice for the Grande Prairie Curling Club in the Wapiti Arena. This was his introduction to the world of sports. During the Depression, Fran and the local boys played hockey wherever a patch of ice could be found and cleared of snow.



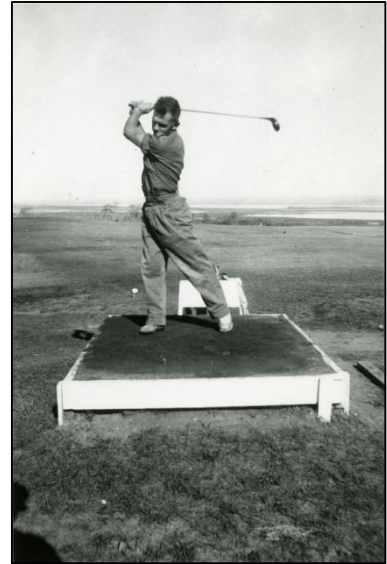
Above, Fran Tanner in the South Alberta Regiment, 1943. SPRA 364.01.01.

When World War II began, Fran enlisted in the South Alberta Regiment and served in A Squadron 29th Canadian Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment in northwest Europe as a radio operator. He returned to Grande Prairie in 1945 and picked up his interest in sports again. During his first winter home, he was hired by Bill Bessent to help make ice and operate the arena.

For a brief time Fran played hockey in the South Peace Hockey League, but he is remembered best as the sports broadcaster on CFGP. His career there began in 1952 as a

transmitter operator but soon developed into almost 20 years of announcing hockey games' play-by-play,

providing game analysis, and conducting interviews. The South Peace Hockey League recognized his popularity and contribution to hockey by awarding him The Most Valuable Player award. Later, he became the first media person to be recognized as a Grande Prairie Hockey Legend. Fran died in Grande Prairie on March 27, 1984.



Above, Fran Tanner at the driving range, ca. 1960. SPRA 0364.02.01.



Above, the CFGP Office on the corner of 100th Street and 99th Avenue, 1949. SPRA 0005.02.01.04. Right, Fran working at CFGP as a Transmitter Engineer, 1952. SPRA 0364.02.02.



Stop 26 - Joseph Mark (51-55)

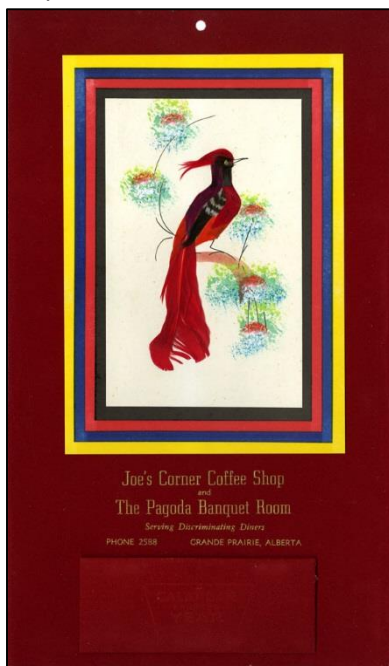
Joseph Mark was born in Canton, China in 1901 and moved to Canada in 1909, with his parents, becoming a pioneer of the Lacombe area. Joe's father served as a cook in the First World War. When the war was over, he returned to Lacombe and opened a laundry and restaurant. When Joe was old enough, his mother took him back to China to get married. He returned to Canada to work, leaving his wife and growing family in China. The 1923 federal Chinese Immigration Act (or Exclusion Act) effectively closed Chinese immigration to Canada, except in special cases, and many families were like the Mark family, with the husband living and working in Canada and periodically visiting his wife and family in China.

The Exclusion Act was repealed in 1947, but Chinese immigration was still limited to only the spouse and dependents of a Chinese man with Canadian citizenship. Joe's first wife died before the family was allowed to immigrate and Joe remarried. Joe's second wife, Jean, and two of his children emigrated from China and joined him in Grande Prairie in 1950, while the rest of his children remained in China.

In 1936, Joe moved from Lacombe to Grande Prairie. He worked at the Donald Café for a number of years before buying the Corner Coffee Shop on the corner of 100th Street and 100th Avenue in 1948. It was renamed Joe's Corner Coffee Shop and was a familiar landmark and popular gathering place. The location had previously been occupied by P. J. Tooley's real estate, farm lands, and insurance office. The restaurant underwent an extensive renovation in 1955-56 to add the Pagoda Banquet Room, and when it reopened, it boasted a staff of 27 and could seat 230 people!



Above, Joe Mark and a woman standing by the entrance of Joe's Corner Coffee Shop, ca. 1945. SPRA 2003.24.12b.



Above, calendar advertising Joe's Corner Coffee Shop and The Pagoda Banquet Room, 1957. SPRA 116.07.02.

Joe was also active in community life as a member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

Joe Mark retired to Edmonton and died there in September 1966. He had a total of seven children living in either China or Canada and was survived by his second wife, Jean. Joe was well-known in Grande Prairie and his death made the front page of the Herald-Tribune. Joe's Corner Coffee Shop continued to operate only a short time after his death.

Chinese Foods to Order	
CHOW MEIN	
Chicken Chow Mein	1.30
Shrimp Meat Chop Mein	1.40
Mushrooms and Chicken Chow Mein	1.50
Beef or Pork Chop Mein	1.35
Crab Meat or Lobster Meat Chop Mein	1.85
CHOP SUEY	
Chicken Chop Suey	1.30
Shrimp Meat Chop Suey	1.40
Chicken Chop Suey with Diced Almonds	1.75
Shrimp Meat and Mushroom Chop Suey	1.75
Chicken Chop Suey with Diced Pineapple	1.75
Beef or Pork Chop Suey	1.30
Beef or Pork Chop Suey with Mushrooms	1.50
Fried Green Pepper with Beef or Pork Chinese Style	1.10
Fried Beef with Tomato Chinese Style	1.10
Fried Fresh Bean Sprouts with Beef or Pork	1.30
Fried Fresh Chinese Greens with Beef or Pork	1.30
Tomato Gey Siew (Chicken in Batter Tomato Sauce)	1.75
Sweet and Sour Chicken	1.60
Almond Chicken	1.75
Sweet and Sour Spare Ribs	1.35
Pineapple Spare Ribs with Sweet and Sour Sauce	1.70
Fresh Shrimps (in batter) Deep Fried Tomato Sauce	1.70
Fresh Shrimps (in batter) Deep Fried Sweet and Sour Sauce	1.70
EGG FOYUING	
Lobster or Shrimp Egg Foyuing	1.60
Chicken Egg Foyuing	1.30
Mushroom Egg Foyuing	1.25
FRIED RICE	
Shrimp Fried Rice	1.30
Chicken Fried Rice	1.10
Beef Fried Rice	.85
Plain Fried Rice	.40
Lobster Fried Rice	1.50
Mushroom Fried Rice	1.30
Pork Fried Rice	.85
CHINESE STYLE NOODLES	
Chicken Noodles, per bowl	.30
Beef or Pork Noodles, per bowl	.40
(Beverage and Dessert Extra)	
We Are Not Responsible For Any Articles Lost	
We Reserve the Right to Refuse to Serve Anyone	

Above, Chinese food menu from Joe's Corner, ca. 1940s. SPRA 2008.63.02.

South Peace Regional Archives

Box 687, Grande Prairie, AB

T8V 3A8

Telephone: 780-830-5105

E-mail: spra@telus.net

www.southpeacearchives.org

The purpose of the SPRA Society is to promote and encourage the appreciation and study of the history of the south Peace River Country by acquiring, preserving and making accessible to the public, records in any format which reflect the history of this area.

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