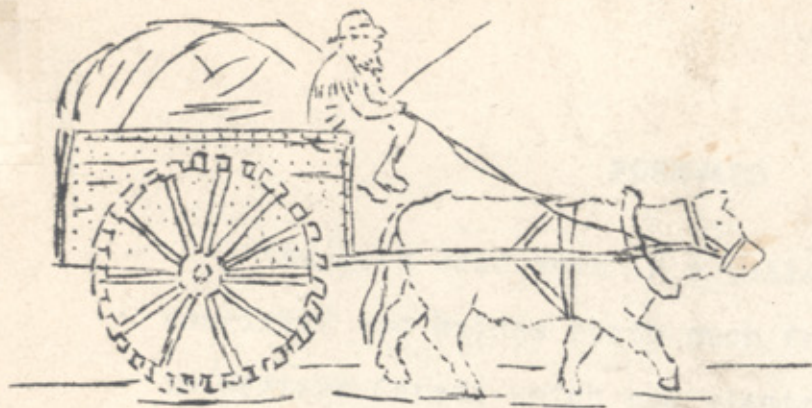
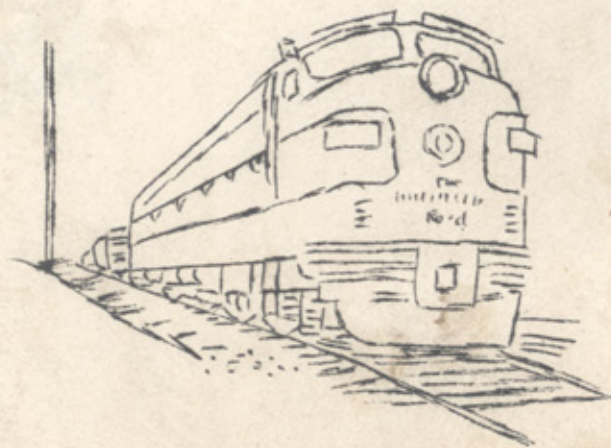


John A. Broadfoot



Watrous
Wheels

of Time



A Local History

FOREWARD

"As good seed sown in a well-watered fertile soil, is nourished and brings forth much fruit, so in like manner towns in Western Canada which are planted amid a favoring environment and at the opportune moment provided that they possess within their borders, energetic men of the right optimistic temperament who are ready at the crucial moment to grasp and realize the opportunities, are bound to get ahead.

This tension is clearly seen in the marvellously rapid growth which has been an outstanding feature that has characterized the lively go-ahead town of Wetrous since its birth about four years ago.

We have seen this town in the short space of four years grow from nothing to a prosperous town of over 1,200 people.

from:
The Wetrous Advertiser
Development Number
December 1912



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Beginning of Watrous	1
Climate, Population.	2
Business Places, 1912.	2
First Post Office.	2
Hardships	2
First People in Watrous.	2
Business Places in Watrous, 1955	3
Stores in Watrous, 1908	3
Geography of the Community: Location, Boundaries.	4
Earliest Inhabitants	4
Coming of the Settlers	5
Watrous Settlers, 1904-1905.	5
Problems in Transportation and Communication	6
History of Lake Manitou.	7
Prognostication, 1912	8
Recreation	9
Food	9-10
Building Materials, Furniture.	10
Heating and Lighting in Homes.	10
Church Development	11-13
Schools.	13-14
Law Enforcement.	15
Administration	15
Watrous in Two Wars.	16
Who's Who (Watrous in its infancy)	17
Early Sports	18-20
A Tribute	21

MAPS

Watrous Health and Holiday Centre of the West.	Map 1
Key Plan of Watrous.	Map 2
Suggested Zoning Districts	Map 3
Watrous Business & Commercial Places, 1908	Map 4
Watrous Business Places & Institutions, 1955	Map 5

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The students of the Social Studies Classes from Grades three to twelve of Watrous School wish to make acknowledgments to all who have helped them with suggestions, ideas and information. Some of them we would like to name specifically:

Mr. J.A. McGowan; Mrs. B. Tarr; Mrs. J. Findlay; Mr. G. Wall; Mr. J. Mulligan; Mr. D.A. Gregory; Mrs. W.E. Clark; Mr. T. Walland; Mr. D. Browne; Mrs. T. N. Bjorndahl; Mrs. S. Treble; Mr. P. D. Janzen; Major O'Sell; Mr. F. Koehler; Mr. Del Mollard; Mr. A. C. Leslie; Mr. J. McNeish; Mr. R.A. Mollard; Mrs. W.J. Stephenson; Mr. A. J. Gordon.
 School Staff: Mr. D.A. Cumming; Mr. C. McMann; Miss D. Dredge; Mrs. A. Blakie; Miss V. Clark; Mrs. M. Freeland; Miss J. Buitenhuis.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Grade XI: Sylvia Andrews, Carol Clark;
 Grade X: Lilian Wall, Arleen Bryant (cover name);
 Grade IX: Leonard Magnor, Ellen Amundrud, Sebastian Mahler.
 Staff Co-ordinator: Mr. A. F. Blakie

THE BEGINNING OF WATROUS

In 1908 Watrous was organized as a village and in 1909 established as a town. The first business places were located at Mandal approximately 1½ miles North West of Watrous. However the railroad chose Watrous as its centre and consequently the people of Mandal moved to Watrous.

The General Store was owned by T. N. BJORNDahl. It was moved to Watrous where the rest room now is situated. It burned down around 1925.

Restaurant and Rooms was owned by Ole BJORNDahl. It was situated where Lay's house stands. It was later pulled down.

Doctor's office--Dr. White

The Real Estate Office was run by Elsworth & Abram. The building was not moved to Watrous.

Blacksmith shop was run by Mr. Burke. (Al Burke's father)

All buildings with the exception of the Real Estate Office (which was moved to a farm for a home) were moved to Watrous and used for the same purpose as they were in Mandal.

CLIMATE

The climate in Watrous is never extremely cold or hot for a very long period at a time. The summers highest temperature very seldom exceeds 100degrees and 40 degrees to 45 degrees is the lowest temperature in winter. Over the years rainfall has been better than average and very sufficient for grain growing.

POPULATION

A study of the population made some time ago indicates that there will be little or no change in the town's population in the future. Actually, Watrous even with its being a main C.N.R. point and an influx of retired farmers, has been able to maintain a stable population during a period when Saskatchewan urban population has expanded considerably. So it appears that the forecast is reasonable, barring unforeseen developments.

The following is the population at 10 year intervals.

1910.....	nearly 1050
1921.....	1101
1931.....	1303
1941.....	1138
1951.....	1250
1955.....	1250

Business Places (December-1912 advertiser)

The commercial atmosphere which obtains at Watrous is in entire keeping with the optimistic spirit of the place. There are a large number of stores and business places which, it is needless to add, are operated by men of sound business acumen and upon improved modern methods. An inclusive list gives six real estate dealers, three doctors, a dentist, and offices, four general, three hardwares, two furniture, two gents outfitting, a flour and feed, liquor, two confectioners, and two drug stores, two tailors, three dress makers, one milliner, five implement houses, three lumber yards, three livery barns, two dray lines, two blacksmiths, two tinsmiths, a jewellery store, harness shop, shoe repairing shop, two butchers, two bakers, three restaurants, three boarding houses, three laundries, three barber shops and pool rooms, a bowling alley photographer, six building contractors, a sash and door factory, Imperial Oil Company's warehouse, three lawyers, three notary public, a veterinary surgeon, Dominion Lands Sub-Agency, city engineer, two weekly newspapers. There are three garages and two banks, Canadian Bank of Commerce and Union Bank of Canada. Two hotels, Tourist and Manitou, accommodate the travelling public. Watrous boasts of a large six teacher school accommodating 250 pupils.

The First Post Office

The first post office near Watrous was at Mandel on SW $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 28, Township 31 Range 25--on the homestead of T. N. Bjorndahl. This is just one mile west of the present Watrous town-site. Here Mr. Bjorndahl operated a general store, blacksmith shop and was postmaster.

In 1906 the mail was broush by carrier (John Dahl) from Stresbourg.

With the coming of the railroad Mr. Bjorndahl moved his store buildings and the post office to Watrous to the site now occupied by the Walker Hotel and Ladies Restroom. Here he added to the building and carried on his business, and the post office until he sold out to another party, then moved the post office to a site on 2nd Ave West.

Hardships

1906-7: Winter of 1906-7, there was frost nearly every month, a late spring and seeding was not started until May 24.

1909-10: Winter of 1909-10 was mild, in fact there was no winter. Farmers were on the land by February. Summer of 1910 was a siege drought.

1910: Worst storms in history swept Watrous district on Sunday evening July 3. Farm buildings were blown over, part of roof takenoff rink in Watrous and many buildings toppled down. The beach population were left homeless when their tents blew away. MacLachlan's new two story bath house was torn from its foundation. Thunder lightning and drenching rain accomp-anied the **eighty** mile an hour gale which caused waves in the lake to throw water 100 feet out on the shore.

No hospital and lack of facilities made it necessary for persons needing hospital care to travel to Humbolt or Hanley.

1915-16: Epidemics of flu broke out.

The first people in Watrous town and immediate area:

Koehlers	Holms	Jones's	Hiltz
Telfers	Guests	Allans	Cummings
Hultgreens	Morrison's	Broadfoots	Dr. White
Holland's	Mulligans	Saunders	Dr. Henson
Stephensons	Dr. Stipe		

The Settlers who settled west of Watrous Sec. 32, Twp. 31, Range 26, West of 2nd Md.

6 _____ Who came 2 or 3 years before the railroad:

John A. Davidson	Mr. Ralph Edwards
A. F. Murray	Mr. Malcolm Edwards
Mr. Julius Magnor	Mr. Frank Edwards
Amy Bros.	Mr. & Mrs. Luther Darwent
Robt. and Thomas Cross	Mr. Craig and family
Mr. T. Rowan	Mr. Joe Teal
Mr. A. F. Eckdahl	Mr. Tom MacLatchie
Mr. J. Foster and family	Mr. McBoines
Mr. Arthur Edwards	Mr. R. J. Richardson
	Mr. Fred Richardson

Business Places in Watrous in 1955 (See Map 5)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Lay's Garage | 35. Gordon's Law Office |
| 2. Walker's Hotel | 36. Walsh's Store |
| 3. Jewellery Store | 37. Watrous Hatchery (now vacant) |
| 4. Real Estate Office | 38. Dry Cleaners |
| 5. Barber Shop | 39. Cochrane's Plumbing & Heating |
| 56. Pool Room | 40. Pool Room |
| 7. Drug Store | 41. MacLeods |
| 8. Morrow's Garage | 42. Mike's Shoe Shop |
| 9. Spector's Store | 43. Atlas Motors |
| 10. Cameo Cafe | 44. Roxy Theatre |
| 11. Red and White | 45. Telephone Office |
| 12. Gibney's | 46. Legion Hall |
| 13. Bakery Shop | 47. Medico-Dental Clinic |
| 14. Kirkam's Hardware | 48. Anglican Clubrooms |
| 15. Hicke's Meat Market | 49. Anglican Church |
| 16. Claffy's Hardware | 50. Town Office |
| 17. O. K. Economy | 51. Fire Hall |
| 18. News and Novelty | 52. Dairy |
| 19. Swift's Radio Shop | 53. Fotheringham's Funeral Service |
| 20. Pat's Style Shop | 54. |
| 21. Variety Store | 55. Liquor Board Store |
| 22. B. A. Garage | 56. Mike's Hotel |
| 23. Roxy Lunch | 57. Photographer |
| 24. Gilroy's Paint Shop | 58. Massey Harris Agency |
| 25. Harness and Shoe Repair | 59. McArthur's Service Station |
| 26. Printing Office | 60. Monarch Lumber Yard |
| 27. Manitou Hotel | 61. Security Lumber Yard |
| 28. Freedman's Garage | 62. Curling Rink |
| 29. Chris's Confectionary | 63. Skating Rink |
| 30. Unit Office | 64. Gundry and Bollinger |
| 31. Model Meat | 65. Baron's Welding Shop |
| 32. P. O. Cafe | 66. Bjorndahl Machine Shop |
| 33. Post Office | 67. Findlay's Machine Shop |
| 34. Bank (Royal) | |

Stores In Watrous in 1908 (See Map 4)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Hultgreen Lumber Yard | 12. Tourist Hotel |
| 2. Monarch Lumber | 13. Amund's General Store |
| 3. Reliance Lumber | 14. Igel's Butcher shop |
| 4. Grest Bros. Lumber | 15. School (Whitters Hall) |
| 5. Theatre | 16. Barber's Shop |
| 6. Mollard's Trading Company | 17. Swindal Restaurant |
| 7. Dadson Bros. Grocery Store | 18. Witters Egels Hall |
| 8. Bakery | 19. Waukee Laundry |
| 9. Stipe's Drug Store | 20. Rest Room |
| 10. Keohler's 10. A Dr. White | 21. Bjorndahl's Store |
| 11. Manitou Hotel | 22. North American Lumber |
| 23. Mc Dougal Law Office | 24. Stephenson's Jewellery |
| 25. Bjorndahls Store & P.O. | 26. Dr. Hixon & Dr. Agar |
| | 27. Stover Real Estate. |

Dore Lake

Lac La Ronge

MAP I

Waskesiu

Prince Albert

Edmonton

Melfort

Saskatoon

WATROUS

Melville

Winnipeg

Calgary

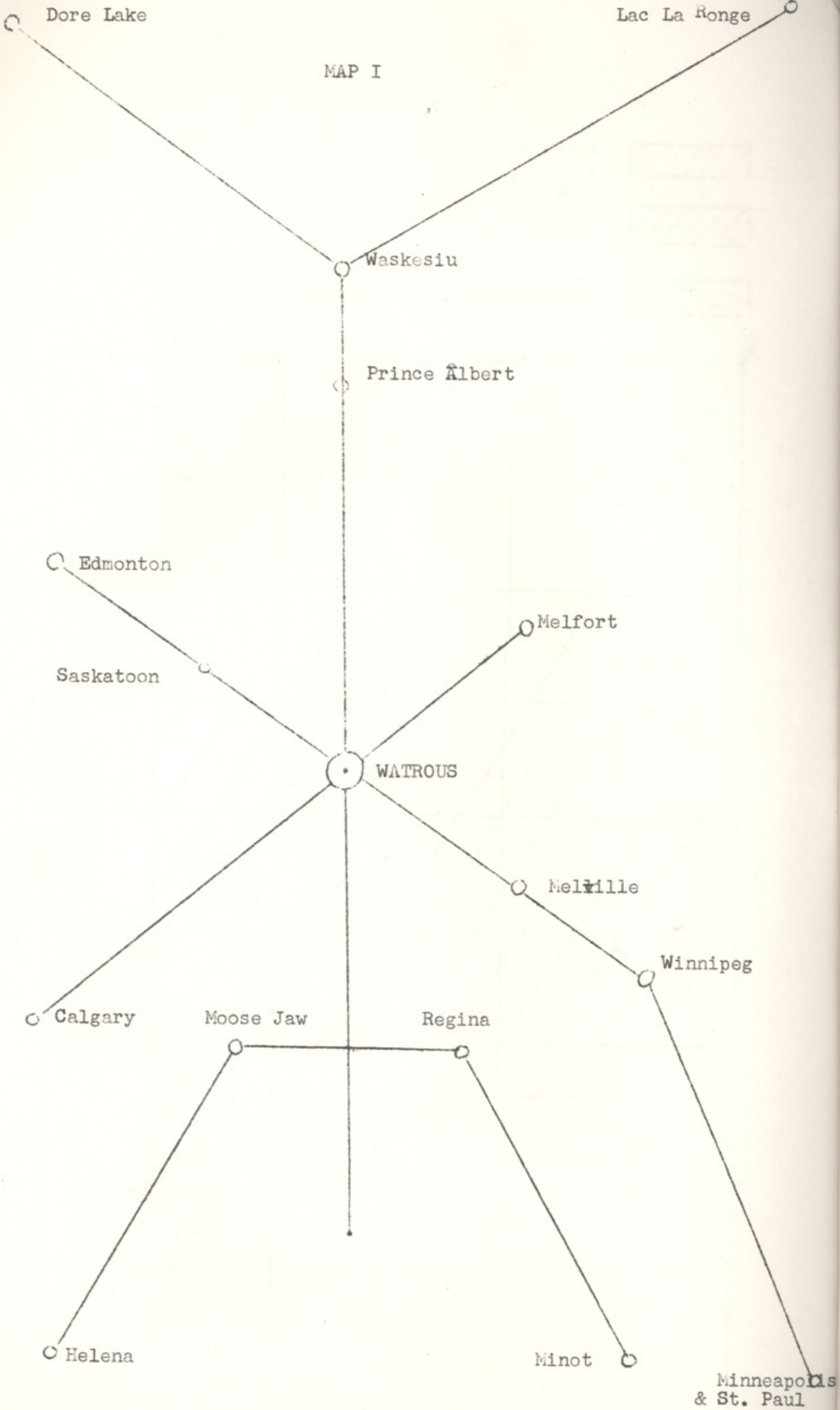
Moose Jaw

Regina

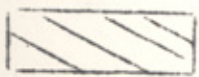
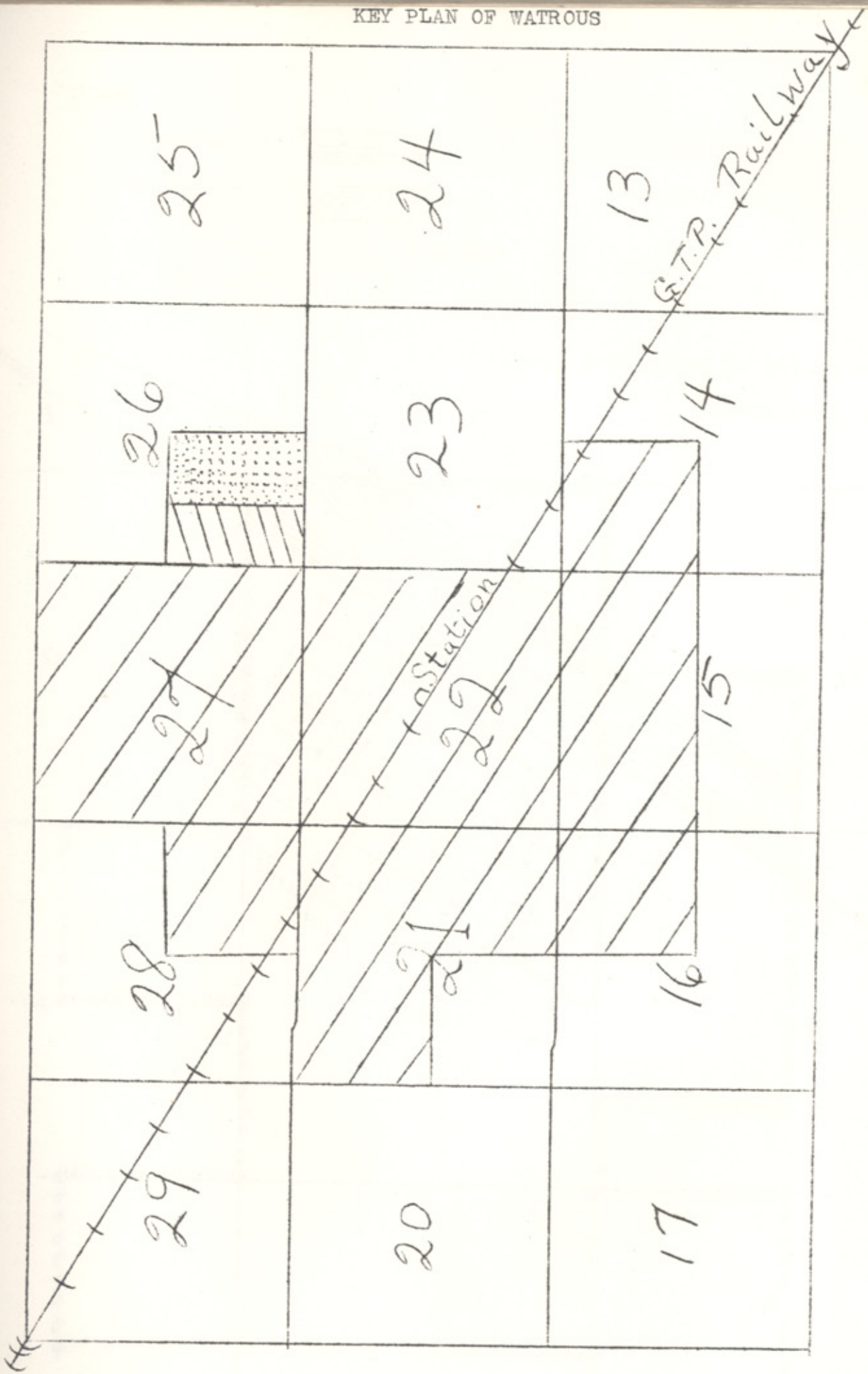
Helena

Minot

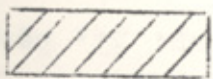
Minneapolis & St. Paul



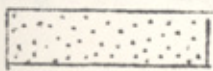
KEY PLAN OF WATROUS



GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC HOLDINGS



WATROUS ANNEX



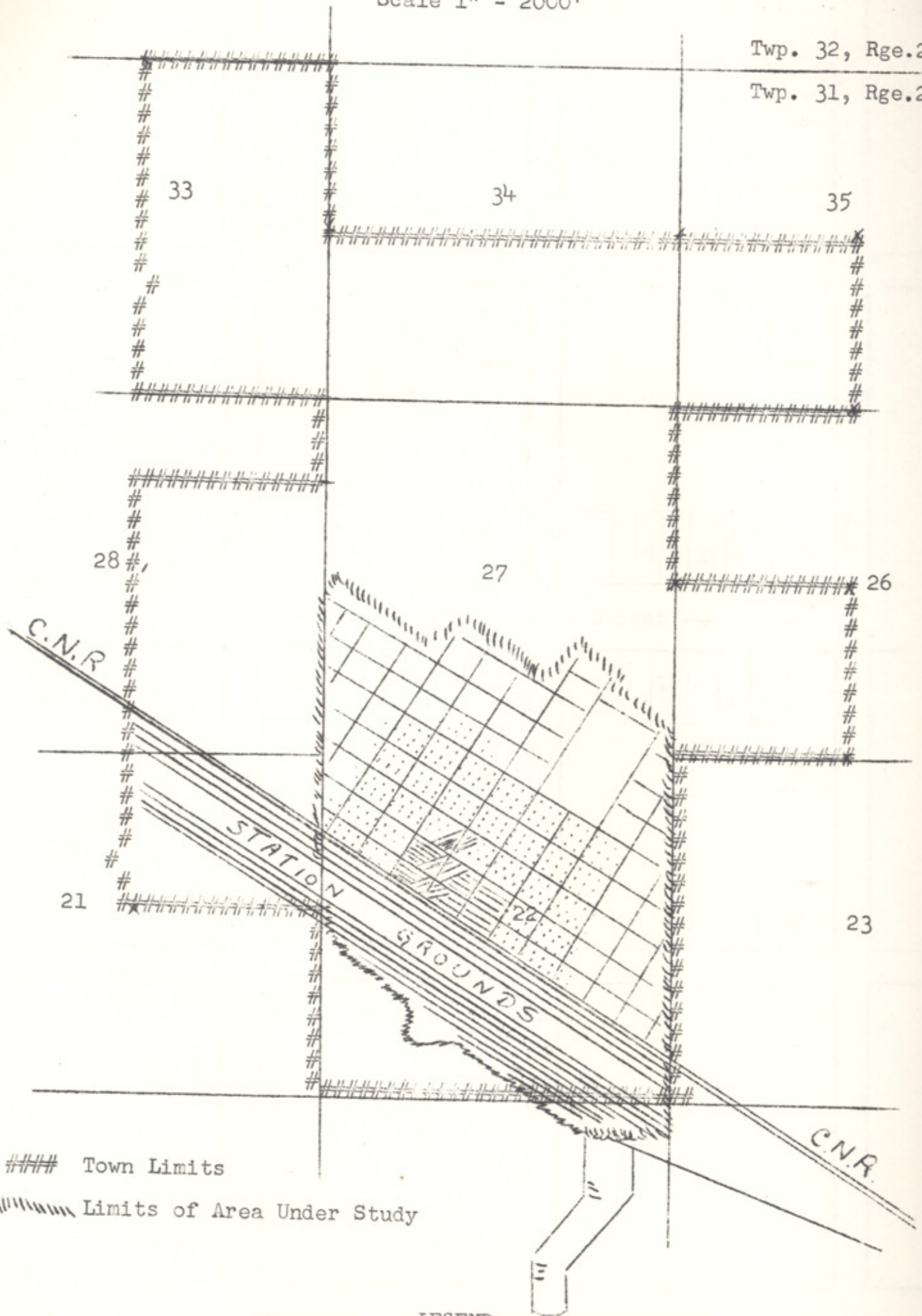
WATROUS ADDITION

SUGGESTED ZONING DISTRICTS
 For the Town of
 Watrous, Saskatchewan.

Scale 1" = 2000'

Twp. 32, Rge.25

Twp. 31, Rge.25



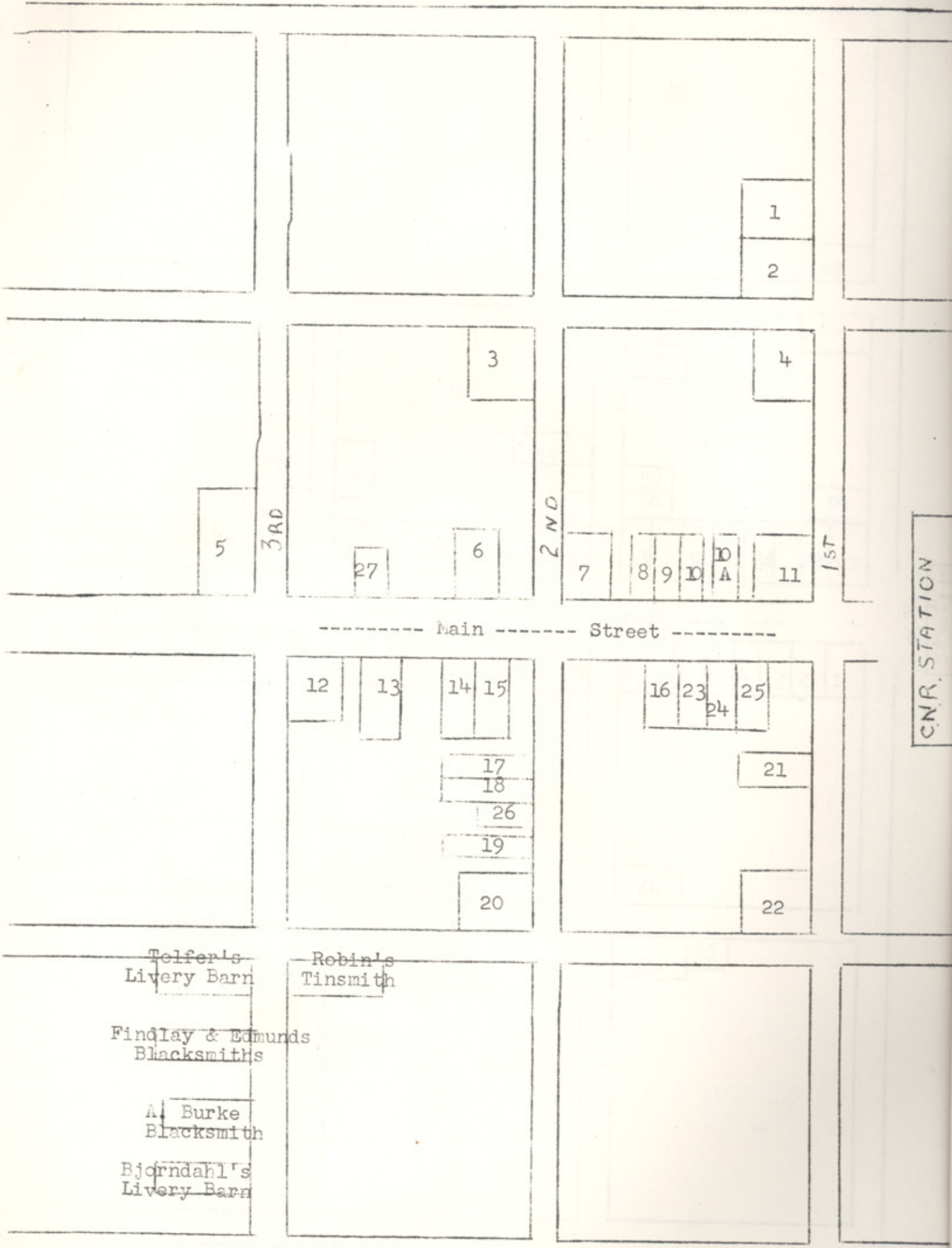
--- Town Limits

//// Limits of Area Under Study

LEGEND

- ...Agriculture
- ...Residential

- ...Commercial
- ...Industrial



----- Main Street -----

Telfer's
Livery Barn

Findlay & Edmunds
Blacksmiths

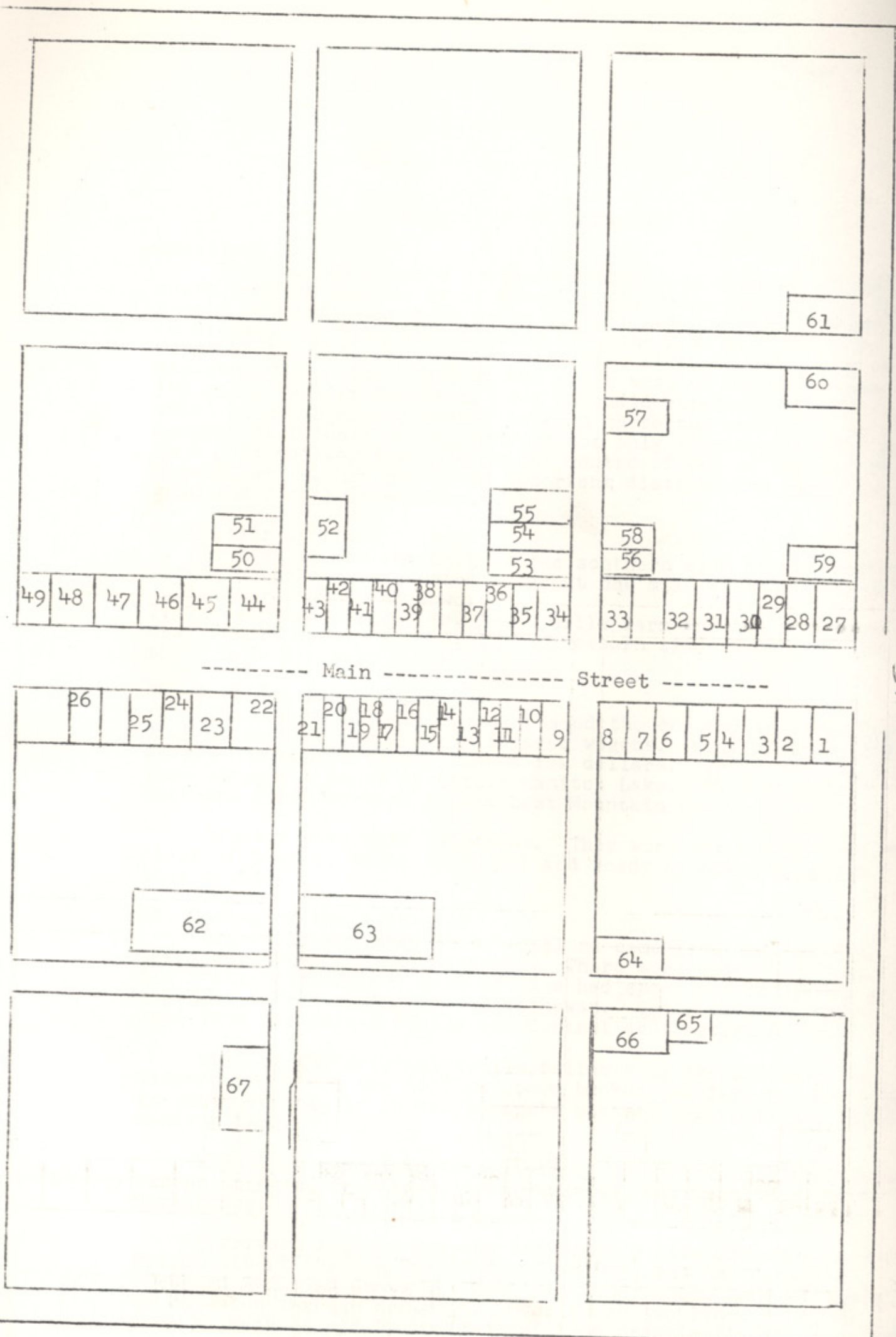
A. Burke
Blacksmith

Bjorndahl's
Livery Barn

Robin's
Tinsmith

WATROUS BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL PLACES

1908



WATROUS BUSINESS PLACES AND INSTITUTIONS
1955

Geography of Community

Location:

The town of Watrous is located mainly in section 22 and the south half of section 27 of township 31, range 26, west of the second meridian--about 90 miles distant northerly from Regina on highway No. 2 at its junction with the C.N. R. It is the first divisional point on the main line of the C.N.R. east of Saskatoon, see maps 1 and 2, 408 miles west of Winnipeg, and 388 miles east of Edmonton. The splendid strategic position which it holds nearly midway between these two capitals, as a central divisional point, confers not only advantages contingent on a good railway town but as the centre of one of the finest farming areas, has become an important distributing point for a wide and fertile territory.

Boundaries of town:

1. The town limits stretch from the southern side of the railway yards to the cemetery which is about one mile distant from the built up area of the town.
2. The western side of Mr. Bruce Gills farm and the west side of Mrs. Robert Stacey's home, to the western side of Badgers and the C.B.K. See maps 2 and 3.

The Earliest Inhabitants:

Quite a number of Indians roamed the country in large tribes with as many as five or six covered wagons. Many of these Indian people had ponies to sell for a few dollars. Their headquarters were along the banks of Little Manitou Lake. They travelled back and forth between it and Last Mountain Lake.

Gypsies were quite numerous. They were not a very desirable class of people, being deceitful and ready to steal whatever they could.

The Coming of the Settlers:

Generally speaking these settlers came from the Maritime provinces, Ontario, and Manitoba. There were also some from the British Isles, but most of them had spent several years in the East before coming to Saskatchewan. Quite a large number came from the United States and Central and Western Europe.

Most of the original trails followed by the settlers have disappeared since the land has been broken and farmed. One that is still visible is in Mr. Leslie's pasture just south of Little Manitou Lake.

When they came into this district the settlers either drove horses or oxen, or walked, from Humboldt, Davidson, Hanley or Strasbourg.

A private railway company had built a line from Regina to Prince Albert through Davidson and Hanley, and the Canadian Northern Railroad Companies had built their line from Winnipeg to Edmonton through Humboldt. Over these two lines settlers came to Watrous and by the fall of 1906 practically all available homestead land had been taken.

The people were induced to come west for many reasons. One inducement was the fact that you could become the owner of one hundred sixty acres of land for only ten dollars. The love of adventure and the desire to be independent brought others. Then the "Federal Department of the Interior" also carried on a vigorous campaign to promote immigration to Western Canada, through distribution of literature, advertisement, and through representatives in the British Isles and Central and Western Europe.

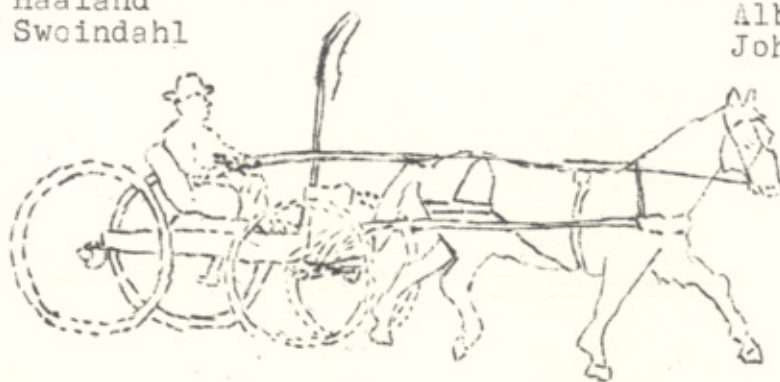
After choosing their homesteads, the prospective settlers usually went back from whence they came and returned the following spring to the railroad point nearest their land, with their carload lots of livestock, farm machinery and household effects. The railroads granted special low rates to these carloads of "Settlers Effects."

Settlers coming to the Watrous district found farm homes along the way, after leaving the railroads, that were sufficiently large to accommodate settlers and their families for the night. In these homes they could have meals, and they could also feed their horses and oxen. These stopping places were also used when the farmers hauled their grain to such places as Strasbourg and Davidson. One of these places was between Watrous and Davidson. It was the home of Mr. Kennedy near Devil's Lake.

Mr. T.N. Bjorndahl settled in Mandal in 1904, and later moved to Watrous. He opened a general store and blacksmith shop. He was also the first postmaster. The next spring Dr. White opened a drugstore; J.J. Abraham and J. Elsworth opened a real estate office; O.N. Bjorndahl started a restaurant and butcher shop; and the North American Lumber Company put in a lumber yard. Gradually the other businesses came into existence, homes were built, and schools and churches were built and opened. Watrous was changing rapidly from a pioneer settlement to a well-established community.

The Settlers who came to Watrous District in 1904, 1905:

Mr. and Mrs. T.N. Bjorndahl	Sam Sveindahl
Mr. and Mrs. Ole Bjorndahl	Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Hans Johnson	Tom Duck
Nick Stetz (or Stets)	Sam Graham
Herbert Stitz	Wm. Carr
Schlates Brothers	Arthur Grove
J.H. Pearson	H.W. Harbord
Carl Pearson	Lance Harbord
Leo Pearson	Ole Hegland
Cecil Pearson	F. Kochler
Ole Pearson	Dr. White
Ole Odne	Nels Fergard
Tom Odne	Osmand Fergard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas	Mr. Quinney
Mr. and Mrs. Ole Holm	Dick Horn
Mr. and Mrs. Lien	Pete Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. J. Love	Fred Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Teal	Carl Bjorndahl
Mr. and Mrs. Olson	Fred Wright
Levi Olson	Robert Aspland
Ole Olson	Henry Schleuter
Peter Dunn	Otto Schleuter
Mr. Madland (Modland)	Mr. and Mrs. Goff
Bert Haaland	Albert Schinstead
John Sveindahl	John Dahl



Problems in Transportation and Communication

After the building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad across the Prairies in the early 1880's considerable settlement took place along the main line of this railroad. Later the C.P.R. built a line from Moose Jaw, south to the International border, at North Portal, and settlement followed it along this line. In the meantime a line had been built by a private company from Regina to Prince Albert, through Davidson, Hanley and Saskatoon. A main line, connecting Edmonton and Winnipeg, ran through Humboldt and adjacent points. It was over these main lines that settlers reached the Watrous area. Land locators, who had headquarters in Regina or other centres, and who had horse-drawn conveyances at such points as Davidson, Hanley and Humboldt, took land seekers out to look over available land and make their selections. Others reached their destination by ox team or on foot. They often travelled a distance of from fifty to seventy-five miles from the railroad stop. With oxen that would mean from five to seven days on the road. They usually slept under the wagon. Sometimes farm homes along the route were sufficiently large enough to accommodate settlers and their families for the night. There were no wells along the way where you could stop for water so this created quite a problem. Generally soda biscuits and Rogers Golden Syrup kept you going as far as food was concerned.

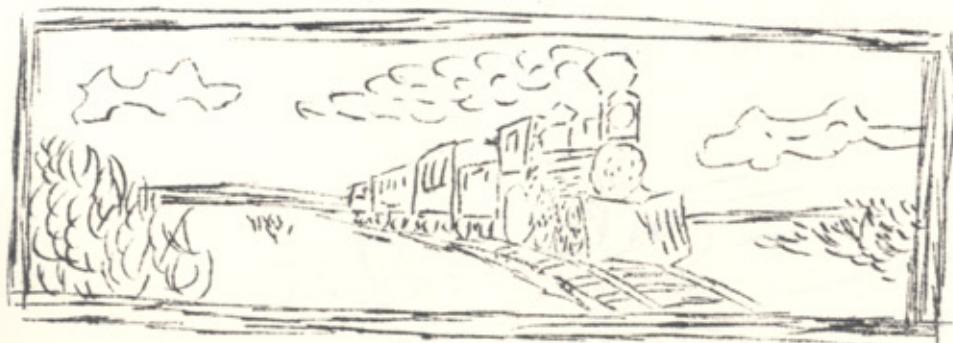
There are only a few of the old trails, used by these settlers, left in our community due to the fact that the prairie has been practically all broken. One of the original trails, that is left visible, is that in Mr. Leslie's pasture field, just south of Little Manitou Lake on Section 7, township 32, Range 26.

By 1906 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad grade was in the process of being built through the Watrous district. It was completed in 1907 and before winter set in rails had been laid within a few miles of the Watrous townsite. By May of 1908 Watrous was connected by railroad to the East and West of Canada.

After the railroad reached Strasbourg in 1906 the mail came by carrier to Ridgford, and Mandal, where Mr. T. N. Bjorndahl was Postmaster. The mail arrived about twice a week. Mr. John Dahl was the first mail carrier. A team of horses was used as a means of conveyance. The first mail day here was on February 6, 1905. The Post Office was moved to Watrous in 1908. Mr. Bjorndahl remained Postmaster.

The first rural telephones were installed in 1912. (Park Rural and Watrous Rural). In 1910 in the Month of September the first phone call was made over the new lines in the town.

The first telegraph lines came with the railroad in the summer of 1908.



Manitou Minerals One of Canada's Wonders

The Indians were the discoverers of the remarkable healing and health-restoring properties of the wonderful water of Manitou Lake. Springs on the Grand Trunk Pacific Line just north of what is now Watrous. Every summer the Indians visited this famous lake and they came from every point of the compass, north, south, east and west, the medicine men of various tribes bringing with them the sick and ailing to be cured. Indian story and folk lore goes back for hundreds of years (as near as it is possible to reckon) and the magic and fame of the healing powers of Manitou Lake is told in song and story, and these facts have been passed down through the years, and it is a wonderful story of miracles and magic, and convinces one that an all-wise Providence imparted to these waters astounding health-restoring properties.

The medicine men not only brought the sick to be cured, but they made individual visits to these waters to procure the "power spirit of the Healing Waters" which they filled into their medicine bags for future use. The method of procuring these salts was as follows: On arriving at the Lake, sacred ceremonies were indulged in and blessings of the Great Spirit were asked, then cairns of shallow pits were dug and fires were kindled in them. When there was a glowing bed of hot coals, stones and rocks were thrown in and heated, then on these heated rocks were thrown the healing waters of Manitou Lake, and as the heat evaporated the water, the stones became increased with the "salts" or "solid matter" (which gives this water its curative power); when cold, this crustation was scraped off and put in the medicine bags for use in the future when it was not possible to visit the lake itself.

While the Indian medicine men procured the ingredients of Manitou Lake in a crude way, yet the idea was the foundation for our method, but instead of having an impure crude salt; as the Indians had, we have a snow-white product, and we obtain this result by modern scientific methods. (1) The water is filtered and purified to free it from useless, inert vegetable and foreign matter. (2) The pure, clear, sparkling water is then evaporated in shallow granite pans, free from the contamination of any metals, until all the water is driven off. (3) Then the crystals that represent the curative powers of Manitou waters are powdered and scientifically manufactured into Granular Effervescent Salt, Effervescent Health Salt, Seidlitz Powder, Tonic and Salve. Also the pure Manitou Water is sold in bottles. We would almost be safe in saying "they will cure all human ills" but there is no doubt they will cure the majority of ailments and restore suffering humanity to health.

Lake Manitou is approximately twelve miles in length, is from three-quarters to a mile wide and has been over twenty-five feet in depth. A summer resort and a golf course are located approximately three miles north of the town of Watrous.



The City With A Great Future

In the first years of Watrous the inhabitants had great hope for the future of this little "boom town". Watrous was one of the best spots on the map, as illustrated by the following advertisement from the "Watrous Advertiser" December, 1912.

"Do you know that WATROUS has surrounding it the very best farming country in all Western Canada? It has.

Do you know that WATROUS is one of the fastest growing towns in Canada? It is.

Do you know that WATROUS'S increase in population the last twelve months was over 100%, and is still increasing at a greater rate? It is.

Do you know that WATROUS has one of the best School Systems of the West? It has.

Do you know that WATROUS is spending \$150,000 on Water Works and Sewerage, and \$40,000 on sidewalks? It is.

Do you know that WATROUS has guaranteed bonds to the extent of \$100,000 for a Sanitorium, \$10,000 for Machine Manufacture, \$10,000 for Bottling Works? It has.

Do you know that WATROUS will have, when completed, one of the finest Water Works and Sewerage Systems in the West? It will.

Do you know that WATROUS has now one of the best Electric Light Systems in the West? It has.

Do you know that WATROUS is bringing in pure water for four miles that has no end, and in consequence will be able to supply a population of 20,000 without interruption, shortage, or mishaps? It will.

Do you know that WATROUS is planning a great Park System and Recreational Grounds that will be second to none in the West? It is.

Do you know that WATROUS invites the world to come and be cured of any ailments known to science? It does.

Do you know that WATROUS is awakening to its importance as a Farming, Railway, Manufacturing and Health Centre? It is.

Do you know that WATROUS needs more people, more industries, more financial institutions, more business and professional men, skilled and unskilled laborers; in fact men in all walks of life. And right here is where life's walk will be easy.

We invite you to come and help us grow; we are after a population of 10,000 and we must get it.

Editor's comment: Forty-three years later we see that most of these ideas and dreams never materialized but it showed that the pioneers were full of ambition and gusto.

Recreation

The spiritual and recreation needs of the people were well provided for.

There were six churches: Union, Presbyterian, Methodist, Church of England, Norweigan, Lutheran and Roman Catholic.

The Majestic Theatre measuring 25 feet by 85 feet was open the year around for moving pictures and public meetings.

Athletics were represented by lacrosse, football, hockey, and baseball clubs. In 1935 curling was "the roaring game", with Dr. R. Stipe, as president. Membership fees were set at \$5 for adults, and \$2.50 for students, and wives were warned "that they needn't expect to see their husbands again until next spring, except at mealtime and on Sunday.

Music was represented by the Town Band of 20 members, who 58 years ago played the first band concert of the season sitting on a 7 ft. snow bank on Main Street.

The \$1,000 skating rink built in 1911 was one of the finest in the west.

Two troops of the Saskatchewan Light Horse were established in Watrous and the Canadian Boy Scouts were also well represented locally.

There were five fraternal orders: Masons, Royal Orange, Oddfellows and Knights of Pythias.

In 1910 Watrous Vaudeville Company staged its first performance.

Food.

The food of the pioneers was plain, substantial but sometimes scarce.

After the pioneer's house was built a garden would be cultivated, growing mainly potatoes, cabbages, carrots, turnips and onions, for the winter food supply.

The married settlers got pork~~s~~ eggs, beef, milk, and butter from their pigs, hens and cattle. This produce was preserved by salting, smoking or freezing. The unlucky bachelor could not keep stock because when he went away for a two or three day provision trip there would not be anyone left to care for them. The bachelor would be quite happy if he had married neighbors, to provide him with bread and buns.

Fresh meat was supplied by hunting antelope, rabbits, geese duck and prairie chicken.

Fishing was done at Long Lake, a distance of 27 miles from here; where pike and perch were caught.

Berries such as strawberries, saskatoons, pincherries and chokecherries were picked by the women and children and later canned or made into jams and jellies. Bananas, oranges, lemons and dried and canned fruits were shipped in.

People travelled 50 miles over buffalo trails by oxen to Davidson ~~for~~ provisions until a store at Mandal was built by Mr. E. BJORNDahl, which made it easier for the settlers to get provisions. The supplies for the store were acquired from Davidson.

Mr. BJORNDahl moved his store to Watrous when the railroad came through in 1908. In 1910 the store was sold to Clark-Tollack and Co.

The first restaurant^{was} built east of the old hospital on First Avenue. Another was made in the station.

Listed below are some of the articles and their prices fifty years ago:

200 lbs. of flour	\$2.00
Can of Pork and Beans	.15
1 lb. Coffee	.30
1 lb. Butter	.25 -.30
1 lb. Crackers	.10
Safety Pins	.15
Tin Baking Powder	.20
1 lb. Salt	.10
1 can Peas	.10
1 can Corn	.10
1 package Corn Flakes	.15

Building Materials

1. Many of the settlers, especially the single men with little means, built their first homes with prairie sod, roofed with poles and covered with sod.
2. A few settlers lived temporarily in tents.
3. There were a few log homes built from the logs cut along Manitou Beach.
4. Many settlers, particularly those with families, built homes of lumber hauled from many miles away. Many of the walls were then plastered.

Note: Mr. Del Mollard mentioned that his house was the first house built on the east side of Main Street, now occupied by Mrs. Scott on Third Avenue.

Furniture in the homes.

1. Few of the single men had any factory made furniture. They had to content themselves with makeshift furniture such as:
 - beds made of poplar poles, with hay as a mattress
 - some used tree stumps for chairs
 - tables made of poplar poles, with a mud top
 - packing boxes were used.

Note: Mr. Leslie mentioned that he used his trunk for a table.

2. Most of the married couples usually had a fair amount of furniture which they had brought with them from their former homes. This consisted mostly of a few chairs, a table, necessary beds and bedding, a cook stove, and other smaller articles.

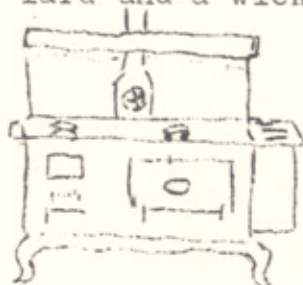
After the railroad came through, many settlers had furniture shipped from Ontario; but still many had to be content with hand-made chairs, tables, benches, or stools (made from scraps of lumber).

How were the homes heated?

Their homes were heated with cookstoves and heaters. Prior to the coming of the G.T.P. Railroad wood exclusively was used for **fuel**.

How were the homes lighted?

In those early days, light for the dwellings was provided by kerosene lamps and lanterns. Candles were kept on hand for emergencies. Some used lard and a wick when nothing else was available.



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

UNITED Church:

The present United Church was formed out of the Methodist and Presbyterian groups.

The first Methodist services were held in Hultgreen add Thurston's Lumber Yard Hall. A student minister named Sertees was then in charge. He was succeeded by the Reverend H.R. Vessey who was succeeded four years later by Reverend L.B. Naylor. A new church was built in 1909 on the corner of Third Avenue East and Second Street and was used until the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Watrous united in 1919. Many of the pioneers of this congregation still live in Watrous. After the churches united the Methodist Church building was rented for a school and later purchased and moved to a site opposite the brick school. This building later burned down.

The first Presbyterian Church services were held in Whitters hall, now the Cameo Cafe. The first minister was the Reverend Robert Beveridge and the first organist was Miss Clara Jamieson, now Mrs. W.E. Clark. Later a church building on Fourth Avenue West was taken over from another congregation and was used by the Presbyterian and Union Churches, until the new church was built in 1923. It was then sold to the Orange Lodge who later sold it for a theatre at which time it was moved to Main Street and Third Avenue. This building has been enlarged into the present Roxy Theatre.

Origin of the United Church:

The Methodist and Presbyterian churches united to form the United Church in 1919. Mr. Evans was the minister at the time. The committee that drew up the constitution was made up of the following: Messers Stephenson, Koehler, King, and Findlay. The building used was the Presbyterian Church. (Which later became the Orange Hall.) They used Methodist Hymn Books and the Methodist minister. One June 13, 1919 a United Ladies Aid was formed.

On Oct. 12, 1923 the contract for the building of the new church was signed with Mr. Arrand. On Oct. 15 the first sod for the new church was turned, and by Nov. 11, Thanksgiving Day, the roof was nearly closed in. On March 2, 1924 the church was dedicated by the Rev. Mr. Hughs, of Regina.

The first baptismal service was held on Easter Sunday. Baptised was Mable Robinson. The first funeral was held on July 22, 1924. It was at the burial of James Martin's father, Dr. Martin, of Manitow Beach. The first wedding took place on June 28, 1927, when Viola Gust and Arol Mathson were united in marriage. Rev. Flemming performed the ceremony. In July, 1927, Rev. Ewing was inducted into the church. In 1932 the Ladies Aid bought the present manse.

Some of the ministers were: Rev. R. Beveridge - Pres.; Rev. Corbett - Pres.; Rev. Johnson - Pres.; Rev. Wilson - Union; Rev. A. Biple - Pres.; Rev. H.R. Vessey - Methodist; Rev. Naylor - Methodist; Rev. Pile - Methodist; Rev. McLaughlin - Methodist; Rev. Evans - Methodist; Rev. Hunter - United; Rev. Fleming - Unit
Rev. Ewing - United; Rev. Robinson - United; Rev. Glover - United
Rev. Glover - United; Rev. McGregor - United; Rev. Browne - United

Salvation Army:

The first services of the Salvation Army were held in the fire hall in 1919. In 1920 the present hall was obtained and the official opening held in that year. The first officers of the Army were Captain Peake and Lieut. Lucy Hardy. The Young People's work was also started in 1920 and a local man--Mr. Hendricks was commissioned the Young People's Sergeant Major. He was later followed by S.M. Conchie.

Throughout the years, five young people from Watrous have entered college and become Salvation Army Officers.

At the present time the Corp Officers are Captain Thelma Cornie and Lieut. Shirley Morelle.

Anglican Church:

The first service of the Anglican church was held on May 30, 1908. It was held in Hurton School, with 52 present. Another service was held on June 13 with 70 present. On May 24, 1909, building on the present church commenced and it was completed on June 9, 1909.

The first wedding was when Jenny Harding of Hertford, England was married, to Earnest Halfhide of Zelma. Mr. Hugh Harbord was appointed choir leader on Dec. 12, 1909. The present minister is Rev. Gregory who serves Young, Venn and Watrous. The Sunday School was started shortly after the church was completed.

The ministers are as follows:

Rev. F.H. King 1909-1910	Rev. B.F. Pasterfield 1924-1929
Rev. A.W.R. Dunsten 1911-1912	Rev. J. Hewitt 1929-1936
Rev. F.H. King 1912-1913	Rev. H. Bowles 1936-1940
Rev. J.W. Harrison 1913-1916	Rev. F. Sharmen 1940-42
Rev. J.F. Cox 1916-1919	Rev. E. Segston 1942-1943
Rev. P.C. Huckworth 1919-1922	Rev. G. Entwistle 1943-1950
Rev. F.H. King 1922-1924	Rev. D.A. Gregory 1950-1955

Luthern Church:

The first services of the Luthern church were held in 1904, one and one-half miles south of Watrous. They were held in Hans Johnson's sod house. The minister was Rev. Carl Norum. From 1907 to 1908 the services were held in a sod school house at Mandal. From 1908 to 1916 they were held in the hall above Bjourndahl's store (where the Restroom is now.) The present Luthern Church, which is situated on 5th Ave. West, was built in 1916.

The Luthern ministers from 1904 to the present time are:

Rev. Carl Norum	Rev. D.B. Lokensgard
Rev. John Mason	Rev. J.A. Dahle
Rev. A. Bjelde	Rev. Aresterl
Rev. Hesby	Rev. D. Hanson
Rev. Dale	Rev. A.W. Erickson
Rev. John Alver	Rev. W. Bresten

Catholic Church:

In 1908 the people of the Catholic church went to Manitou School, (2 miles south of Young.) for their services. The priest came from Henley. In 1910 they held their services in Watrous in a hall which stood where Chris's Confectionary stands now. The first Catholic church was built south of the Fair grounds (in hopes that if the town grew it would be in the middle of it.) by Rev. Father Pierre. Later the church was moved to its present site on 6th Ave.W. by Rev. Father O'Leary. At this time the sacristy was built and the inside of the church was finished.

Rev. Father Elder is in charge now and visits Young, Watrous and Simpson and Manitou Beach.

Some of the Priests of the Catholic Church are as follows:

Father La Pierre
 Father O'Leary
 Father Fromosse 1935
 Father Shirley
 Father Elder

Mennonite Brethern Church

The Brethern Church in this community was started in 1927. Services were held in the home of the minister. The first minister was Rev. Jacob Dick.

Sunday School was also started in 1927. They now have 120 members in Sunday School.

The present church was built in 1948, 2 miles east of Plymouth School.

Ministers since 1927: Rev. John Penner, Rev. Aron Esau, Rev. Peter Janzen, Rev. Paul Rogalsky, Rev. Henry Toews, Rev. Frank Wiens, Rev. Abe Toews.

General Conference Mennonite Church:

The G.C. Mennonite Church was organized in Watrous in 1932; the minister being Rev. Jacob Klassen. Services at that time were held in the homes of the people. Sunday School was started in 1933. At present the Sunday School attendance totals 138 members.

The present church was built in 1951 and is located 3 miles east of Watrous.

Ministers since it began are: Rev. Jacob Klassen, Rev. Abe. Warkentine.

The Schools:

In 1904, the same year as the settlement of local homesteaders, efforts were made to bring education to the children. In 1905 the acknowledgement of Mandal School District No. 1334 was published in the North West Territories Gazette. Thus recognized, the settlers began their struggle for education.

A school board was elected with R. Thomas, T.N. Bjorndahl as secretary treasurer and R. Wilde as chairman. The first term was held in a sod shack on the homestead of O. Forgaard with Leo Pearson engaged as teacher on a salary of \$45.00 per month. This school had an enrolment of twelve.

In 1906, a school was built on the south-east corner of the south-west quarter, section 28. This school was 14' by 24' by 8' and the lumber was hauled from Humboldt at \$12 per thousand feet. Louis Beck furnished stone for the foundation at \$4.00 per cord. The contract for building the school house was awarded to the lowest bidder, A. Skevik, for \$43.00. Debentures for the sum of \$500.00 were issued to help cover the cost of materials. The school term began on the first school day of May and lasted for 6 months. M.G. Barry was engaged as teacher with a salary of \$55.00 per month.

In 1908 the village of Mandal was moved into the new village of Watrous, so named, to conform with the G.T.P. railway system of having their stations in alphabetical order.

In 1908, Miss Hare was engaged to teach school for a term of 5 months at a salary of \$60.00 per month beginning June 9. Due to the increased school population a permit was acquired from the dept. of Ed. to lease a building from Mr. Whitters in Watrous until the next summer when a school could be built.

Mandal School was abandoned and later sold for \$75.00 and on Dec. 1, 1908 school was opened in the Whitter building on Main Street (Now Cameo Cafe). O.M. Holm, Harry Schlater with T.N. Bjorndahl as secretary-treasurer made up the first school board of Watrous. A.J. Gordon and Miss Darnard were the teachers. There was an enrolment of 60.

Children attending this school from outside the district were required to pay \$1.00 per month. The next term of 1 year starting on Dec. 1, 1908 was held in this building. On June 3, 1909, Mandal S.D. #1334 was changed to Watrous S.D. #1334.

In May 1909, \$18,000.00 was borrowed to build a 4-room brick school on block 34 plan 30-40. Berrie and Wood's tender for sand, gravel and excavating for the new school was accepted, at
 Stones-----\$6.00 per cord
 Sand----- 1.60 per yard
 Excavating-- .30 per cu. ft.

E.B. Miller's tender for footing and stone foundation, including material and labor for \$400.00 was accepted.

Snyder Bros. of Winnipeg accepted the responsibility for building the school for \$1489.00.

Until completion of the new school junior classes were held in the Ladies Aid Hall and senior classes in T.N. Bjorndahl's hall at \$1.00 each per school day.

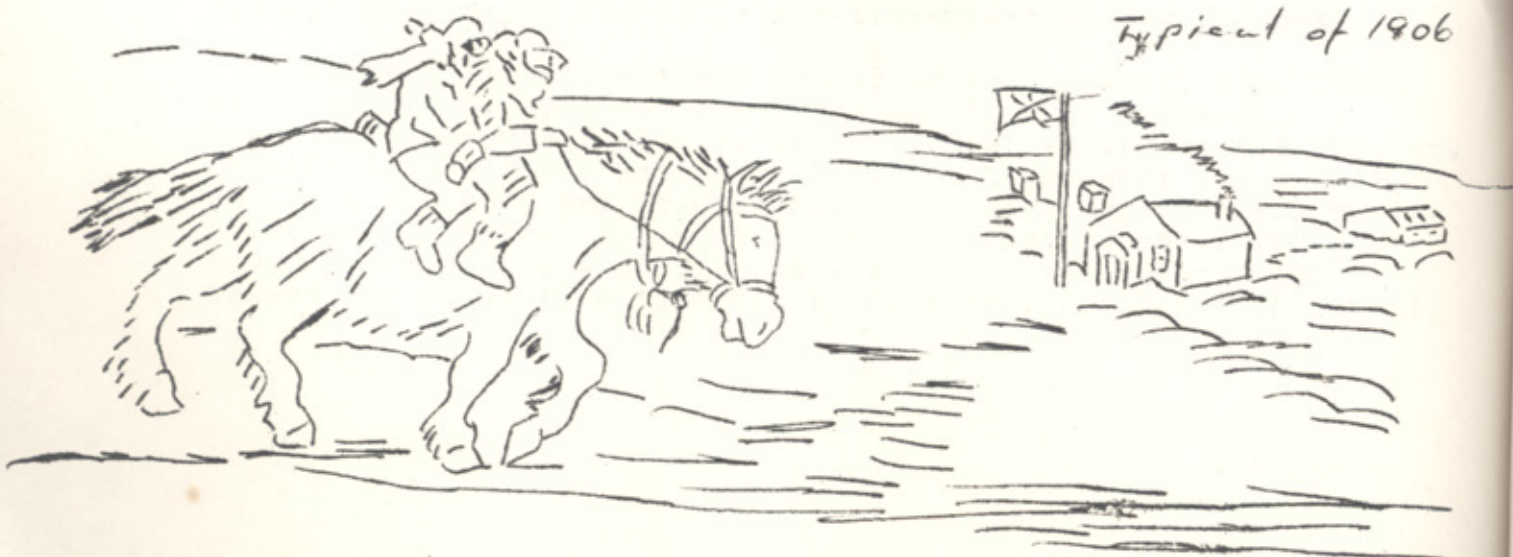
The new school was completed and the opening ceremony was held on March 1, 1910.

The teachers in the new school were--Principal--Mr. Fraser for room #4. Miss McGehee for room #3. Miss Ager for room #2, and Miss Dainard for room #1.

G. Mollard, B.L. Martin, J. Stover, N. Crest, and T.V. Bjorndahl were the trustees with N. Crest as secretary and T. Bjorndahl as treasurer. For their services the secretary received \$75.00 per year and the treasurer \$50.00 per year.

As school population grew two extra rooms were built onto the west end of the brick school and again later in 1920 two cottage schools were built on the school grounds. Later the Methodist Church was rented and used as a primary school, then purchased and moved onto the corner where the small cottage school now stands and was divided into two rooms. This building burned and space was then rented in the Orange Hall and the United Church. Several years later a cottage school was moved into the space between the two cottage schools in the school yard to make the present three room unit and in recent years two more cottage schools have been moved into town to accommodate the rising school population.

At present, a new high school is being constructed and will be occupied for the school year 1955-56. Many teachers have served on the staff of Watrous School. Some of the Principals who remained in Watrous for several years were C.C. McClelland, now of Young, E.C. Munro, now of Pentiction, B.C., E.C. McKeckern, now deceased, D.L. Hamilton, now on the Saskatoon School staff, and D.A. Cumming, at present serving as Principal. Public School teachers with long periods of service include Miss A. LaRoche, Miss Olive Garrett, Miss E. Koehler, Miss Hetty Robins and Mrs. J. Freeland, who is now on the staff. Many other teachers gave valuable service in the training of our young people. Some of these, Mrs. R.A. Mollard, Watrous, and Mrs. Ed Busse, Amazon, having been persuaded to marry a couple of our enterprising young men, still reside in our neighborhood.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Watrous was incorporated as a Town in 1908, three years after the Province of Saskatchewan was formed.

At that time the whole of Saskatchewan was divided into police areas with a Royal North-West Mounted Policeman in charge of each area. The first Mounted Policeman named in charge of Watrous area was William Grenan. Each Mounted Policeman patrolled his own area on horseback but did not police the Town. Each Mounted Policeman had charge of all matters of a criminal nature in his given territory and was responsible for law enforcement. The Mounties wore bright red coats and blue trousers as uniforms.

Later the Provincial Police was formed and took over the work of policing the Province. The Town of Watrous was policed by men hired by the Town. One of the first men employed as policeman in Watrous was Colonel Herbord, known to most of the residents of this area. Several different men were employed as Chief of Police of the Town of Watrous since incorporation. Those in Charge for the longest periods were William Souter, George Alexander, and Barclay Stewart.

In July 1942 the Royal Canadian Mounted Police began policing Watrous, Manitou Beach and rural areas surrounding it. Watrous was the second or third town in Saskatchewan to employ the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The police at this time wore blue uniforms. The policeman that was first in charge was Corporal Williver, now a Sergeant.

Three Royal Canadian Mounted Policemen that have been in charge here since 1942 were R. Williver, L. Dooney, and A.H. Anderson. At present there are three men stationed here with Corporal Anderson in charge. Originally there was only one man.

Duties of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are:

1. Enforce town by-laws, provincial and federal statutes.
2. They have charge of a complaints and court cases held in town.

The Mounted Police are a Dominion Government organization. The Province of Saskatchewan contracts with the Federal Government to have the province policed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and in turn Towns contract with the Mounted Police to police towns within the Province.

Justices of the Peace are appointed in each town and district and have power to hear certain matters within their jurisdiction. At present, Mr. Adelbert Mollard and Mr. A. Swift are Justices of the Peace resident in the Town of Watrous.

ADMINISTRATION OF WATROUS

Following the Election of February 14th, 1910, E. Meadows was declared elected as the first mayor of the new Town of Watrous. Councillors elected were: G. Mollard, T.N. Bjorndahl, G. Smith, J. Stove, L.E. Edmunds and R.E. Hiltz. The town council advertised for secretary-treasurer; salary 25/month.

Watrous Fire Department was organized on April 4th, 1910, with Herbert S. Hyde as first Fire Chief; C.H. Jackson, secretary-treasurer; Jas. F. Miller, Chief engineer; E.B. Miller, Captain of the Hose; Robert Veitch, 1st Lieutenant No. 1 Reel, and Hugh MacLeod, 2nd Lieutenant. The chief engineer was paid \$1.00 per practice; Volunteers 25¢ per practice and \$1.00 per hour during a fire--Council provided boots and coats. (\$5 reward for first team to hitch to fire engine in case of fire.)

During the past forty-five years the men who have served the town as Mayor include:

- the late Edwin Meadows
- the late Richard F. Davidson
- the late E. L. Garrett
- the late Dr. E. W. Pickson
- Sinclair Elliott
- the late William Souter
- the late George Robinson
- The late George H. Treholm
- the late Dr. H. E. Ager
- A. J. Gordon
- L. B. Rands
- H. J. Cochrane
- and the present mayor H. V. Teal.

Some of the people who have served as Town Clerk and Treasurer over the same period include F. B. Wright, Mr. Pickering, D. C. MacDonald, the late Norman Bracewell, Mrs. Constance B. Bracewell, and T. R. Strachan who now serves in that office.

Other men who have given long service in the employment of the Town are James Mulligan as utility man and George Pierce in charge of water supply.

Many men have served on the Town Council. The present administration in the Jubilee Year 1955 is as follows:

Mayor: H. V. Teal

Councillors: W. C. Elviss, A. O. Dahl, C. G. Baron
J. Bourgeault, N. H. Bjorndahl, Don McKenzie

R. C. M. F. Cpl. A. H. Anderson
Town Clerk T. R. Strachan.

WATROUS IN TWO WARS

On August 4th, 1914, news reached Watrous that Britain had declared war on Germany and that the Canadian Government had announced its active support. Immediately there was a call for volunteers and Watrous boys were amongst the early recruits. Many of the boys joined the 28th Battalion and later groups went to the 35th. In 1916 a Company was recruited for the 214 Battalion with Sinclair Elliott as Captain. Colonel H. Hearne of Watrous was the Commanding Officer. About two hundred men enlisted from Watrous and the surrounding district and were trained at Watrous for several months. Some of the Watrous men were in the first Canadian Contingent to go overseas and there was a continuous flow of men as long as recruits were required. A few men also volunteered for service in the navy. Our town was represented at almost all battels in France and the Netherlands. Many of our men still very young, paid the supreme sacrifice.

Of the men who returned some are still with us while many have passed to their reward. These men have our profound respect. To them we owe much.

The Second World War began suddenly September, 1939. A few of our boys had chosen the Army, the Navy and the Air Force as their occupation and they were immediately in action. Again the call went out for recruits and our Watrous men and boys responded nobly. This time the Air Force got the preference with still a goodly number to the Army and Navy. A course in Aero nautics was taught at Saskatoon Technical School and in all classes from A to G there were several boys from Watrous in the class and almost all enlisted when graduated. Several of our men were decorated for distinguished service and Watrous Navy men, Air force men and Soldiers were to be found in all parts of the world. Again many returned and are still with us while many, particularly members of the Air Force paid the supreme sacrifice.

Some of the boys who entered the services before and during the wars are still in the service, a few having served for twenty years or over. These include:

<u>Navy</u>	<u>Air Force</u>	<u>Army</u>
William Hibbard	Delmer Brown	Addam Laing
Edwin Ethier	Arnold Bjorndahl	Robert Dyer
Charles Stroud	William Turner	John Conchie
Erick Harbord		

Other local men have enlisted in the forces since the end of World War Two. All these men have brought honor to our Town and district. Our wish for them in this Jubilee Year is that no one will ever again be required to take part in an active war and that peace will reign throughout the world during the next fifty years.

The WHO'S WHO of the Watrous Business world in its infancy.

---contributed by Mrs. W. J. Stephenson. The following is an excerpt from a letter recently received from C. C. McKechnie, Pharmacist in the building now owned by the P. O. Cage; Charlie sold Patent Medicines in the front while Dr. Stipe wrote his own brand in the rear.

"I don't know what I could add to the fund of knowledge you already have re the origin and history of the best old spot in the 50 year old Province, and would be glad to have a copy of the Refresher Course is the price is not too high for old age Pensioners. Someone should report on Henry Haskamps Manitou Hotel inaugural dinner Xmas 1908. Next day very quiet, not business transacted, shutters drawn, the first Boxing Day in Canada. We think of the Blake Andersons, Fred Wright and his escapades, N. B. Wilkes, the Financier and Mr. Plass who came all the way from Minneapolis to build a Suburban Railway from Watrous to the Beach provided the town would supply the necessary funds, and a little left over from Mr. Plass; H. R. Fuidlay the careful operator (and careful operators were scarce in those days); Mr. Amunds and his big store, which was only a sideline of his business selling Manitou salts and Mineral Baths. I am glad you still have a son of Gro. Mollard in your midst. Let's not forget R. B. Davidson. Hil Dent, Bert Martin, Tom Bjorndahl, Mr Swaizland, Chas Wilson of the Tourist Hotel, and his wife who spoke two languages fluently. Johnny and Nick Grest and our old friend and genuine good scout Frank Koehler. Chas Wood Head and Co. The Co. being Mrs. Wood Head. The Jack Dadsens and Bill and Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Jones who should be at the top of the list. Good old Gro Harper, 1st CNR agent, followed by Robert Martin, Homer Agar and I mention his name with profound respect. The Telfer boys of "great renown". J. T. Davies of the Reliance Lumber Co. selling from 2 and 4's to with picks his wife, they don't come any better. The Bill Stephensons our good friends through the years. Rollie McLeod who, from his start in Watrous, founded the McLeod chain of Hardware Stores, Sandy Gordon, Jimmy Irivin, Reg Code, Deacon Robinson, Jas Fear, Larry rands and his dad who sold us as much beefsteak for a quarter as we get off half a cow, 50 years later, Art Beutly later sold us beef that was full of gravy.

This is only a peek in the windows of the top story and you can read this if you are still young.

In the above let us add the names of these stout hearted young fortune seekers; Dr. White, Dr. Hixon-Physicians; Art Fee-picture show; Bel Mollard, Gro. Mollard, Ted Meadows- The Watrous Trading Co.; Gro Saunders-General Store; Bob Hilts-Livery Barn; A McDougal Lawyer; Mr. Andrews-1st mgr Can Bk or Conc; Mr. Fleming-Pool Room; Clark, Tollark-Gen. Store; Hyde Bros.-Flour, Feed; Findlay&Edmunds-Blacksmiths; The Burke boys- Implements & C; Major Boroles, Art Roth-Read Estate; L. Leadbetter-Grain Buyer; Mr. Telfer-Tailor; M. K. Steeves-Real Estate; J. S. Morrison-Confectionery; Jake Stover, Chas Oliver, Jack Cumming-Real Estate; Hultgreen and Thurston-Lumber; McLeod & Gifford-Bakers; Fotheringham&Veitch-Furniture & Undertakers; Darie Barrie, Leason Bros.-Draymen; Elliott Bros, N. E. Thornloe-Lawyers; Mr. Fishermen-General Store; Bill Whitmore-Baker; Williams and Roluf-Garage; J. Swendahl-Jeweller; Mr & Mrs Walker, Ole Bjorndahl-Cafes; Helen MacLaughlin-Dressmaker; Robins & Son-Tinsmiths; Mr. E. Garrett-Printer; Cowie Bros-Implements; Mr & Mrs R. Page-CNR Cafe, J. Ried, Tourist Hotel; E. E. Miller-Contractor; Gro. Weir-Photographer.

SPORTS IN THE EARLY YEARS AT WATROUS

-----Recollections by Ashton Mollard of Watrous, and Oscar Juckes, of Melville, two of Watrous' all round athletes from 1909-1915-----

In this our Jubilee Year, it gives us a great deal of pleasure to attempt to bring back some of the memories of sports and sporting events in Watrous during the Pioneer years 1909-1915. Perhaps it is because the writers of this article took part along with many others in all the major sports of those times; it is like playing the games over again to relate our recollections.

It is not difficult to recall the different sports of those days such as hockey, baseball, soccer, football and lacrosse. The teams were made up to a large extent by the same players. For instance there was a Chamney, a Struthers, a Mollard on every team and sometimes two and three of the same name on a team. Nevertheless, it is very difficult to recall all the names of all players.

Watrous held its own in every line of sports against outstanding teams throughout north-eastern and North-western Sask., travelling west as far as North Battleford, North to the city of Prince Albert, east to Melville and south to Davidson and Strasburg, and played games in most of the intermediate points in every direction.

First, take soccer, and football. All the towns in the various districts had strong teams and we are certain if an all star team were chosen from players taking part, it could rightly be called the "Nationals", because there were a lot of different nationalities on every team and while the players did a lot of "kicking" there was very little "fighting"; they all got along somehow, even if they did bump each other pretty hard at times. A league in those days was made up of teams from Simpson, Imperial, Wiscourt, Young, Lockwood, Lanigan, Venn, Renown and Watrous. Everybody bought his own equipment or borrowed some from his neighbor.

In Hockey, Watrous always iced a strong team, mostly made up of local players, but some times the odd player was imported, after dark when their opponents weren't looking. That was all right! The other teams did likewise when Watrous was not looking, and like the good old game of marbles, everyone played for keeps and asked no favors. Special trains to Saskatoon, Semans, Melville, were quite common in those days to convey fans to games, such as the time Watrous chartered one to Semans and carried over 500 red hot fans. At that time Fred Mollard was playing for Semans and he had brought a team to Watrous (imports and all) and for the first time took Watrous (his brothers) into camp by a 4-3 score. Well a family feud arose right then and there--no Seman's team could do that to Watrous. The upshot was the special train to Semans three nights later. Watrous added strength to their line-up with two greats in Rusty Crawford and Barney Holden, old professionals. So all of Watrous went to Semans ready to bet their shirts, but didn't have too much luck in getting bets, as someone had put the Seman's betting fraternity wise about Crawford and Holden. However, when Seman's scored the first goal in less than a minute, their money became looser, long enough for Major Boyles and Sinclair to get a couple of good-size bets. They were lucky as Watrous went on a scoring bee, and the game ended 9-1 in favor of Watrous. It cost Watrous \$70 and Expenses for Crawford and Holden, which they collected before going on the ice.

Then there was the year of the Church League, which included a CNR Roundhouse team, and a team representing each of the Presbyterian, Anglican and Methodist churches. If ever there was rough-house hockey it was in that league; one of the real feuds was between Curly Wood of CNR and Charley Harris of the Anglicans. Enthusiasm ran high at most games; sometimes the spectators had scuffles on the side to add to the excitement.

The four teams were evenly matched and the spectators really got their money's worth from the 10 % admission, with all kids free. When the smoke of battle had cleared away at the end of the season the good old ~~many~~ praying Methodists had won the league, and were presented with gold watch fobs suitably inscribed.

In baseball Watrous was known far and wide and was always among the top teams in tournaments that attracted anywhere from 3000 to 5000 people. Their main opponents were Simpson, Imperial, Young, Viscount, Lanigan, Liberty, Hanley and Davidson. Even Saskatoon teams put in appearances at times. Venn, a real sporting village, also fielded a team of good calibre. Many of the teams had imported batteries. Messrs. Clarke, Tollock, Pollick, Dr. Stipe, J. Dadson, Ed. Hixon, Bert Martin, F. Koehler, Tiny Canse, and Don Montieth were the best pushers for baseball in those days and did a fine job of it. One funny incident can be recalled in a game between Watrous and Imperial, or Simpson. The score was a tie beginning the last half of the ninth inning; the visitors were at bat; the player at bat, batted a 'grass-cutter' between second and first. The second baseman made a flying tackle after the ball; he missed it because the grass wasn't too short. The batter reached first safely, but Moran had lost the ball, so the baserunner continued on his way for a home run. Finally, Moran found the ball in the pants of his uniform, in which there was a hole. You can guess whose face was red on that one.

The game of Lacrosse flourished in Watrous during the years of 1911 to 1913, when Watrous had a senior team in a league composed of North Battleford, Prince Albert and Saskatoon. When Watrous played on the home field of their opponents, it was a two-game affair. The trips by train usually took three days. Talk about a tough game! You had to be a real "he-man" to play it. You had to be in good condition, for the average player would run twelve miles in a game and had ~~and~~ to take real abuse from the gutted stick in the hands of his opponent. To lose a tooth, an ear, or get several cuts on the head (good for several stitches) was all in the game. But the fans really liked it. Once Prince Albert played a game in Watrous at 10 A.M. after an all night ~~rain fall~~. You can well imagine the condition the field was in, and the players muddy uniforms at the end of the game. Watrous won the game 4 to 2, a close score for a lacrosse game. As a rule the scores were in double-digit figures. However, after this particular game the players were loaded into a couple of trucks and taken out to ~~Manitou~~ Lake for a swim and got cleaned up. The players will remember that swim as the salty water played havoc with their cuts and bruises. They did not stay long in Manitou Lake that day. Over 500 people attended this game; not bad for a 10 A.M. game. Some of the real instigators of Lacrosse were Bill, Ernie Burnett; the Mollard brothers; Don Montieth; O.W. Jackes; Bill Stephenson; Bill Cosford; Duke Parsons; and Jib and Chris Fairburn. One of the main supporters was Bill Whitmore the man with a frying pan in one hand and his heart in the other. It was a real treat to see Bill in action while watching a game.

We do not pretend to remember all the players that took part in all the above games, such as soccer football, baseball, hockey, and lacrosse, but here are the names of some of the players that kept Watrous on the sporting map in those pioneer days: the Mollard bros., Fred, Ashton, Charley, and Jim; Milt, Jim, and Sam Struthers; Rus and Ike Chamney; Claude Ellis; Fairburn brothers Gib and Charlie; Bill Cosford; Al. Burke; Ernie Burnett; Oscar Jackes; Hugh and Lance Harboard; Larrie Rands; Harry and Stener Morgan; Hughie McLeod; Gill Stapleton; Duke Parsons; Bill Brown; R. Aitken; Greg McCoy; Charlie White and many others. Some of the coaches

and managers; Clarke, Tollack, Major Boles, Fred Wright, Sinclair Elliott, Ed Hixon, and others.

As before stated, the teams travelled by train but more often by a democrat drawn by horses usually supplied by Telfer Brothers and Roy Browel. All teams had a good following and quite often the players did not get home until "wee sma' curs" in the morning. We now wonder who stayed home to mind the children. Perhaps some of the mothers can tell us. The players of those days will never forget the support and enthusiasm of those loyal fans. The games were all played out at the Exhibition Grounds and it did not take cars to get the fans out there. The games were too exciting to miss.

Ashton relates it was hard to get water in those days for the skating rink. He was the manager. He got most of the water from the town well on Main Street and 4th Avenue, but also tanked some from a spring at Manitou Lake. Hot water for flooding was secured from steam engines on the G.T.P. (after dark). What a time we had in those good old days!!

Watrous was also a hotbed for curling; we believe most of the old boys slept at the rink. It paid off, for Watrous became known far and wide for its expert rinks, and won many trophies in the larger cities of the province. The local curling club sponsored many outstanding bonspiels, with rinks from Prince Albert, Nokomis, Melville, Saskatoon, Regina and Moose Jaw in attendance, besides rinks from all the neighboring towns.

In those early years Watrous had some wonderful Sport Days. Colorful parades, often a mile long, was the order of the days. The Merchants supported their parades with floats, some costing as much as \$100. The program was composed of all the aforementioned games, track and field events, and not least a good program of harness races, for which hundreds of dollars were offered in prizes. Then there was the big "Orange Walk" on July 12th in an all day's rain with more than 1200 orangemen in attendance. Special trains arrived from all directions.

From 1909 to 1915 Watrous was really a booming town. There was also much activity at J.J. MacLachlan's Beach at Manitou Lake. In fact the "Bake" was the big "noise" in the years 1910, 1911, and 1912. There was a taxi that left the Tourist Hotel every 15 minutes from 12 noon until midnight.

Wahh folks, we could go on and on telling about sports in the good old days.. However, the foregoing will give you some idea of what kind of a sports centre Watrous was in those pioneer days.. We challenge the young folks of today to do better.. The field for greater achievement is all yours..

A TRIBUTE

He hung his shirt on a fencepost, and he took the lines in his hand;
With his eyes on the far horizon he started to plow the land.
And the sun beat down on his shoulders, and the oxen lazed in the heat,
But he joyed in the job he was doing, and the furrow under his feet.
He whistled a tune at sunrise as he strode from his shanty door --
And he whispered a prayer in the evening as he threw his boots on the floor,
Then he slept and he dreamed of the future as the moon rose full and clear,
And the Lord sent down His blessing on the home of the pioneer.

Where is this man of the mouldboard? For he planted that seed of old
That has drifted across the decades 'till it covers the plains with gold.
And a modern home by the highway, on the spot where that shanty stood
Is a symbol to all who follow that the way of the west is good.....
Yonder he stands in the sunset, watching now from the hill,
Seeing his sons and his grandsons take up the plow to till.....
With memories blurring the vision that once was so true and clear
Of this land that had lured him and loved him and made him a pioneer.

Will there be others like him, who will follow up on the quest
With the power to witch the wheatlands that lie in the far north-west?
Will there be men so willing to step from the trodden ways
And open the land as he did, back in the early days?
Will the thrill of the old adventure just die, as the prairie wool,
Leaving a listless legion with a cup that is overfull.....?
Oh how we are going to miss him, when we come to that day at last
When no longer we'll sit and listen to his memories of the past!

For he lived through a grand adventure that we'll few of us know again,
And his life has been carved by that ploughshare on the face of the western
plain,
And although the name may be missing, to those who can read the line
It's a story of strenght and of striving; it's a tale that is true and fine.
For it tells of the wide horizons, of distances vast and blue.....
It tells of the old homesteader, and the job that he had to do.
It tells of his trials and triumph.... and now as the end appears
Yonder he stands in the sunset.... the last of the Pioneers.
And the Lord sent down his blessing on the home of the pioneer.

Robert G. Mason

Where is this man of the mouldboard? For he planted that seed of old
That has drifted across the decades 'till it covers the plains with gold.
And a modern home by the highway, on the spot where that shanty stood
Is a symbol to all who follow that the way of the west is good.....
Yonder he stands in the sunset, watching now from the hill,
Seeing his sons and his grandsons take up the plow to till.....
With memories blurring the vision that once was so true and clear
Of this land that had lured him and loved him and made him a pioneer.

Will there be others like him, who will follow up on the quest
With the power to witch the wheatlands that lie in the far north-west?
Will there be men so willing to step from the trodden ways
And open the land as he did, back in the early days?
Will the thrill of the old adventure just die, as the prairie wool,
Leaving a listless legion with a cup that is overfull.....?
Oh how we are going to miss him, when we come to that day at last
When no longer we'll sit and listen to his memories of the past!