

MS 17

Mary White's Memories
of Growing up in
Winfield in the 30's & 40's
June '97.

Mary White's Memories
of Growing Up in
Winfield in the 30s &
40s

June '97

HLC 997.60 ORIGINAL GIVEN TO MUSEUM MS 1

The arrival of the Robert P. White family in Winfield, May 1932 & what things were like here then.

The long week end of May 24th 1932 the Robert White Family which consisted of Bob, wife Gladys & their two daughters Mary & Nancy arrived from Lavington.

Bob with his brother John had arrived in Vernon from Glasgow, Scotland in 1911. After working on the steam boats at the Okanagan Landing & some large farms in the B.X. district he preented land & turned it into a dairy farm on the Aberdeen Lake road, in Lavington. Gladys came out from Cardiff, Wales with her parents Herbert & Elizabeth Ashman & older sister Ada in 1908, making Lavington their home. Bert as he was called worked for the White Valley & also the Vernon Irrigation District from 1909 until he retired in 1939 (looking after the Lavington end).

Bob & Gladys were married in Vernon in October 1925 & continued to live in Lavington. In the following years my sister & I were born to this union.

It was my starting school that made the move from Lavington necessary. In those days there wasn't such a thing as school buses, students made their own way to school, usually walking & we lived too far away for that.

My Dad learned that a Dave Edmonds in Winfield wanted a dairy farm instead of his 10 acre orchard in Winfield. Contact was made & a deal to swap properties ensued & the move was made. Dad & Mr. Edmonds had moved our belongings down the weeks before. We arrived in a model T car with our English sheep dog.

We spent the first night in Winfield at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Edmonds, who lived next to the Winfield store on the main highway. It was a warm welcome we had. The next day we went to our new home on what was called the upper road, now called O.K. Centre Rd. Mr. & Mrs. Walter Coe had property on either side of us & across the road Mr. & Mrs. Verner McDonagh & Family had their property. At the bottom of our property on the hillside we had many a happy hour walking & picking wild flowers. I believe there are quite a few homes there now.

We soon became good friends with the McDonagh family & were able to get fresh milk from them daily. Eunice saw to it that I got to school when I first started.

Besides operating his orchard my Dad got a job working as a car loader, (putting the packed apple boxes into railway cars) at the packing house in Okanagan Centre, where we also sent our fruit.

If Dad just had a few boxes of fruit usually cherries to go to the packing house, he took them over in the car. My sister & I went with him. Sometimes we got there just as the Sicamous boat was coming in, quite a sight. Other times we were allowed a nickel each for an ice cream cone or some penny candy from Glead's store. Dad later worked in the Vernon Fruit Union packing house on the bottom road in Winfield. When the Vernon Fruit Union built its Woodsdale packing shed he worked there first as a car loader.

The arrival of the Robert P. White family in Winfield, May 1932 & what things were like here then.

The long weekend of May 24th 1932 the Robert White family, which consisted of Bob, wife Gladys & their two daughters Mary & Nancy arrived from Lavington.

Bob with his brother John had arrived in Vernon from Glasgow, Scotland in 1911. After working on the steam boats at the Okanagan Landing & some large farms in the B.X. district he preempted land & turned it into a dairy farm on the Aberdeen Lake road, in Lavington. Gladys came out from Cardiff, Wales with her parents Herbert & Elizabeth Ashman & older sister Ada in 1908 making Lavington their home. Bert as he was called worked for the White Valley & also the Vernon Irrigation District from 1909 until he retired in 1939 (looking after the Lavington end).

Bob & Gladys were married in Vernon in October 1925 & continued to live in Lavington. In the following years my sister & I were born to this union.

It was my starting school that made the move from Lavington necessary. In those days there wasn't such thing as school buses, students made their own way to school, usually walking & we lived too far away for that.

My Dad learned that a Dave Edmonds in Winfield wanted a dairy farm instead of his 10 acre orchard in Winfield. Contact was made & a deal to swap properties ensued & the move was made. Dad & Mr. Edmonds had moved our belongings down the weeks before. We arrived in a model T car with our English sheep dog.

We spent the first night in Winfield at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Edmonds, who lived next to the Winfield store on the main highway. It was a warm welcome we had. The next day we went to our new home on what was then called the upper road, now called O.K. Centre Rd. Mr. & Mrs. Walter Coe had property on either side of us & across the road Mr. & Mrs. Verner McDonagh & Family had their property. At the bottom of our property on the hillside we had many a happy hour walking & picking wild flowers. I believe there are quite a few homes there now.

We soon became good friends with the McDonagh family & were able to get fresh milk from them daily. Eunice saw to it that I got to school when I first started.

Besides operating his orchard my Dad got a job working as a car loader, (putting the packed apple boxes into railway cars) at the packing house in Okanagan Centre, where we also sent our fruit.

If Dad just had a few boxes of fruit usually cherries to go to the packing house, he took them over in the car. My sister & I went with him. Sometimes we got there just as the Sicamous boat was coming in, quite a sight. Other times we were allowed a nickel each for an ice cream cone or some penny candy from Glead's store. Dad later worked in the Vernon Fruit Union packing house on the bottom road in Winfield. When the Vernon Fruit Union built its Woodsdale packing shed he worked there first as a car loader.

Page #2.

Then when the apple juice factory started, he worked as night watchman for the packing house & juice factory until he retired at age 70. Mr. A. Titch Pollard, who had also been our neighbour in Lavington, worked the opposite shift.

Dad belonged to the Vernon Knights of Pythias, the Winfield United Church, the Winfield Farmers Institute & the Senior Citizens Club.

My Mum helped alot in the orchard thinning, with the irrigation & picking. She also had a lovely flower garden which she really enjoyed working in. It was during the war that she started sorting apples at the packing house & continued to do so until she retired. She belonged to the Ladies Aid of the Church, now the United Church Women, the United Church & the Women's Institute. She worked very hard for the Red Cross knitting socks for the armed forces during the first & second world war.

Alex McDonagh did all our cultivating & spraying of the orchard. When they did the spraying of our orchard Nancy & I had to have barrels of water filled so the sprayer could pump the water in its tanks to which also the spray products were added. Nancy & I use to sit on the sprayer as it went thro' the orchard & had the cool spray come down on us. Were we dumb or what? That was poison, anyway we are still here 60 years later. Later on the farmers were allowed to use the water from their irrigation water box to fill their sprayers.

Johnny Lang & his employee Pete Rodell did all of our fruit hauling from orchard to packing house & when needed brought empty apple boxes to us.

Irrigating on our place was done 2 days a week. From a large water box the water made its way into a wooden flume that had been set up along the top of the orchard. The flume had little gates along the side that could be opened or closed, when opened water flowed out into a ditch leading to the bottom of the orchard.

School life at Winfield Elementary:

When I started school in 32, Miss Botting was the teacher for grades one to and including grade four. Miss E. Gleed came the second year & stayed for many years. Mr. George Elliot was the principal & taught grades 5 to grade 8. He also was there for many, many years.

Nancy's first day at school was also Margaret Mitchell's first day. As Mum, Nancy & I got to the Gully (as we called it then, now Berry Road) Mrs. Mitchell, Margaret & Joan arrived from the other direction. This was the first time any of us had met but as we all continued on to school Nancy & Margaret started a friendship that took them thro out their school years.

When the bell rang to call us to class, a pupil raised the Union Jack on the flag pole out front of the school & we all lined up outside the double doors. These were held open for us by two pre-appointed students.

Page #2.

Then when the apple juice factory started, he worked as night watchman for the packing house & juice factory until he retired at age 70. Mr. A. Titch Pollard, who had also been our neighbour in Lavington, worked the opposite shift.

Dad belonged to the Vernon Knights of Pythias, the Winfield United Farmers Church, the Winfield Farmers Institute & the Senior Citizens Club.

My mum helped alot in the orchard thinning, with the irrigation & picking. She also had a lovely flower garden which she really enjoyed working in. It was during the war that she started sorting apples at the packing house & continued to do so until she retired. She belonged to the Ladies Aid of the Church, now the United Church Women, the United Church & the Women's Institute. She worked very hard for the Red Cross knitting socks for the armed forces during the First & Second world war.

Alex McDonagh did all our cultivating & spraying of the orchard. When they did the spraying of our orchard Nancy & I had to have barrels of water filled so the sprayer could pump the water in its tanks to which the spray products were added. Nancy & I use to sit on the sprayer as it went thro the orchard & had the cool spray come down on us. Were we dumb or what? That was poison anyway we are still here 60 years later. Later on the farmers were allowed to use the water from their irrigation water box to fill their sprayers.

Johnny Lang & his employee Pete Rodell did all of our fruit hauling from orchard to packing house & when needed brought empty apple boxes to us.

Irrigating on our place was done 2 days a week. From a large water box the water made its way into a wooden flume that had been set up along the top of the orchard. The flume had little gates along the side that could be opened or closed when opened water flowed out into a ditch leading to the bottom of the orchard.

School life at Winfield Elementary:

When I started school in 32, Miss Botting was the teacher for grades one to and including grade four. Miss E. Gleed came the second year & stayed for many years. Mr. George Elliot was the principal & taught grade 5 to grade 8. He also was there for many, many years.

Nancy's first day at school was also Margaret Mitchell's first day. As Mum, Nancy & I got to the Gully (as we called it then, now Berry Road) Mrs. Mitchell, Margaret & Joan arrived from the other direction. This was the first time any of us had met but as we all continued on to school Nancy & Margaret started a friendship that took them thro out their school years.

When the bell rang to call us to class, a pupil raised the Union Jack on the flag pole out front of the school & we all lined up outside the double doors. These were held open for us by two pre-appointed students.

Page #3.

Grade one went in first followed by grade two next, with the other grades following. We had a flight of stairs, a landing & the second flight of stairs at the top which was a alcove with windows all around it. Those that were in the junior room turned right down their hallway to leave their coats, boots & lunch boxes before going into their room. The ones going to the senior room turned left going down their hallway before entering their room. Each room also had a door off the alcove but was used only by the teachers & visitors.

We started each day saying the Lord's Prayer. When I first started our drinking water was in a pail on a stool in the hallway & we had a dipper that everyone drank from.. Boy they wouldn't allow that now. The toilets were outside behind the school, one for the girls & one for the boys. They weren't flush toilets either. The lunch pails seen in the halls were lard or syrup 3 or 5 pound pails, no fancy buckets & most of the sandwiches in side were bread & home made jam. Occasionally a dog would follow their master to school, while school was in the dog would get into the school, find the lunch rail & eat the lunch. To prevent this happening any more a cupboard was built in the alcove at the top of the stairs, lunch pails were then stored there.

Later on water was brought into the school & toilets were put into a corner of each of the basements. There again one for the girls & one for boys. It was in these basements that we played our games when the weather outside was really bad.

The teacherage was to the north of the school. We had lots of room for ball fields, basketball, volley ball, football, just walking around the grounds or sitting in little groups talking. There were jumping pits & a road (Elliot's driveway) for running races, as well as two teeter-totters. In winter there were hills for sleighriding & skiing.

Everyone from Grade 3 to Grade 8 was a member of the Canadian Junior Red Cross. The members met in the senior room I think once a month on Friday afternoon. We received a magazine every month & on joining we received our Red Cross pin, a red cross on the maple leaf. Mrs. H. C. S. Collett the local Red Cross representative for the Red Cross Society in the 40s announced that the Winfield school heads the list of schools in Junior Red Cross work. One year the girls of the Junior Red Cross knitted squares that were put together into blankets for the children's hospital in Victoria. The school was awarded a certificate for five years' service. Every February we had a Valentine Tea in the community hall, where guests were able to buy needlework (crafts today), baked goods & candy as well as having their tea. This was served by the senior girls with white paper aprons covered in red hearts & a large heart on their head. The guests were also entertained with a short musical programme put on by the students. Miss Gleed oversaw the needlework starting right after the Christmas holidays with the money made at the tea we sent a parcel every month to one of the local boys that were overseas. Each parcel contained shaving cream, razor blades cigarettes, chocolate bars & gum.

We had a Provincial doctor & nurse who visited our school often,

Page #3.

Grade one went in first followed by grade two next, with the other grades following. We had a flight of stairs, a landing & the second flight of stairs at the top which was a alcove with windows all around it. Those that were in the junior room turned right down their hallway to leave their coats, boots & lunch boxes before going into their room. The ones going to the senior room turned left going down their hallway before entering their room. Each room also had a door off the alcove but was used only by the teachers & visitors.

We started each day saying the Lord's Prayer. When I first started our drinking water was in a pail on a stool in the hallway & we had a dipper that everyone drank from.. boy they wouldn't allow that now. The toilets were outside behind the school, one for the girls & one for the boys. They weren't flush toilets either. The lunch pails seen in the halls were lard or syrup 3 or 5 pound pails, no fancy buckets & most of the sandwiches in side were bread & home made jam. Occasionally a dog would follow their master to school, while school was in the dog would get into the school, find the lunch rail & eat the lunch. To prevent this happening anymore a cupboard was built in the alcove at the top of the stairs, lunch pails were then stored there.

Later on water was brought into the school & toilets were put into a corner of each of the basements. There again one for the girls & one for boys. It was in these basements that we played our games when the whether outside was really bad.

The teacherage was to the north of the school. We had lots of room for ball fields; basketball, volleyball, football, just walking around the grounds or sitting in little groups talking. There were jumping pits & a road (Elliot's driveway) for running races, as well as two teeter-totters. In winter there were hills for sleigh riding & skiing.

Everyone from Grade 3 to Grade 8 was a member of the Canadian Junior Red Cross. The members met in the senior room I think once a month on Friday afternoon. We received a magazine every month & on joining we received our Red Cross pin, a red cross on the maple leaf. Mrs. H. C. S. Collett the Local Red Cross representative for the Red Cross Society in the 40s, announced that the Winfield school heads the list of schools in Junior Red Cross work. One year the girls of the Junior Red Cross knitted squares that were put together into blankets for the children's hospital in Victoria. The school was awarded a certificate for five years' service. Every February we had a Valentine Tea in the community hall, where guests were able to buy needlework (crafts today), baked goods & candy as well as having their tea. This was served by the senior girls with white paper aprons covered in red hearts & a large heart on their head. The guests were also entertained with a short musical programme put on by the students. Miss Gleed oversaw the needlework starting right after the Christmas holidays with the money made at the tea we sent a parcel every month to one of the local boys that were overseas. Each parcel contained shaving cream, razor blades, cigarettes, chocolate bars & gum.

We had a Provincial doctor & nurse who visited our school often,

the nurse was out every month to look at our eyes, teeth, to weigh us & to give us our shots when necessary. The two that came while I was at the school was Dr. Oumar & nurse Gendon, two dear people who were wonderful with the children. The Dr. had a very deep voice which sometimes scared some of the younger children.

One year a dentist set up his office in Elliot's home for about a month & we all went there to have our teeth attended to, without cost to our parents.

Our school life was pretty routine as the seasons changed so did our activities. Valentines, Easter & Christmas we always exchanged cards which were more often than not ones we had made. The older students covered & decorated a cardboard box, put a slot on the top so we could put our cards into it. On the appointed day everyone gathered in the senior room, where mailmen were appointed from the older grades to deliver the cards. Great excitement.

Valentines was the tea by the Jr. Red Cross mentioned before.

Every 24th of May a Queen & Two Princesses were chosen from Kelowna schools, then a representative from every school from Oyama to Peachland was chosen by the students to serve in the Queen's court. The Queen & Princesses wore long white dresses, crowns & long purple capes, while the girls in the court wore short white dress & white shoes. The girls all met at the Royal Ann Hotel, from there they were taken by car to the stadium in the park to watch the proceedings of the day, then went back to the hotel for a dinner. This was an excellent day for those chosen to go. The Kelowna Gyro Club sponsored this event. Some years the annual May Day celebrations had to be postponed until June due to high water in the park.

Another yearly May event looked forward to was the Sports Day held in Kelowna. Again all schools from Oyama to Peachland took part in the events such as races, relays, high jump, also broad jump. Competition was keen amongst the schools, Winfield did very well. Mr. Elliot spent many an hour with his students at recess, noon hour & after school to get them ready for the event.

The older grades had a boys & girls softball team which enjoyed exchanging games with Oyama school teams. The boys also had a very good football team that took on other school teams.

Our Christmas concerts were the highlight of the year for many. The teachers, Mrs. Seaton our pianist, & of course the students put alot into practicing the songs, parts of the play & the recitations that were performed. Mothers were busy making the many costumes needed. The concert was held in the community hall to a packed audience, a Christmas tree was up to the right of the stage, decorated with many hand made decorations made by the students in class. After the concert Santa arrived with a gift, a bag of candy & an orange for each child. Mr. Powley was the Santa & always had something to say to each child. If I remember rightly the Women's Institute looked after the gifts & Clements store provided the candy.

the nurse was out every month to look at our eyes, teeth, to weigh us & to give us our shots when necessary. The two that came while I was at the school was Dr. Oumar & nurse Gendon, two dear people who were wonderful with the children. The Dr. had a very deep voice which sometimes scared some of the young children.

One year a dentist set up his office in Elliot's home for about a month & we all went there to have our teeth attended to, without cost to our parents.

Our school life was pretty routine as the seasons changed so did our activities. Valentines, Easter & Christmas we always exchanged cards which were more often than not ones we had made. The older students covered & decorated a cardboard box, put a slot on the top so we could put our cards into it. On the appointed day everyone gathered in the senior room, where mailmen were appointed from the older grades to deliver the cards. Great excitement.

Valentines was the tea by the Jr. Red Cross mentioned before.

Every 24th of May a Queen & two Princesses were chosen from Kelowna schools, then representatives from every school from Oyama to Peachland was chosen by the students to serve in the Queen's court. The Queen & Princesses wore long white dresses, crowns & long purple capes, while the girls in the court wore short white dress & white shoes. The girls all met at the Royal Ann Hotel from there they were taken by car to the stadium in the park to watch the proceedings of the day then went back to the hotel for a dinner. This was an excellent day for those chosen to go. The Kelowna Gyro Club sponsored this event. Some years the annual May Day celebrations had to be postponed until June due to high water in the park.

Another yearly May event looked forward to was the Sports Day held in Kelowna. Again all schools from Oyama to Peachland took part in the events such as races, relays, high jump also broad jump. Competition was keen amongst the schools, Winfield did very well. Mr. Elliot spent many an hour with his students at recess, noon hour & after school to get them ready for the event.

The older grades had a boys & girls softball team which enjoyed exchanging games with Oyama school teams. The boys also had a very good football team that took on other school teams.

Our Christmas concerts were the highlight of the year for many. The teachers, Mrs. Seaton our pianist, & of course the students put a lot into practicing the songs, parts of the play & the recitations that were performed. Mothers were busy making the many costumes needed. The concert was held in the community hall to a packed audience, a Christmas tree was up to the right of the stage, decorated with many hand made decorations made by the students in class. After the concert Santa arrived with a gift, a bag of candy & an orange for each child. Mr. Powley was the Santa & always had something to say to each child. If I remember rightly the Women's Institute looked after the gifts & Clements store provided the candy.

Page #5

What a wonderful time to be growing up, didn't have alot but were happy.

The summer holidays prior to me going into grade 3, Nancy & I had the whooping cough. We weren't allowed out of our yard. When school started in the fall I was the only one in grade 3 for awhile, the rest were away with the illness. There was several times when the school was closed in the fall because of an infantile paralysis (polio) epidemic. We were again confined to our yards the whole time. Eunice McDonagh would come along her fence, Nancy & I would be at our fence, we would talk to one another across the road.

High School:

There wasn't a high school in Winfield away back then, even tho it had been talked about.

The students that went to high school went back & forth every day to either Kelowna or Oyama in private cars, our parents helping to pay for the gas. When I started at Oyama High there were more students then one car could take but not another or driver was available. The girls & two boys went by car & took the books (homework) & lunches of the boys that rode their bicycles up & back every day. This was war & gas rationing was in, by the end of February the driver's rations were all used up. Now what? Tom Duggan, a school trustee & manager of the Vernon Fruit Union in Oyama went back & forth every day. He said he would take the girls up but it had to fit in with his work schedule, 7:30 am pick up & not home until well after 5:00 pm, later if he was held up, we didn't really mind at least we were getting to school. Some of us often walked home from Oyama, while the others stayed at school & got their home work done. The next year 1943 they found a 15 passenger bus for us for \$700.00. The seats inside were along the side on the bus, we were pretty crowded sitting knees to knees but at least we were able to get to school & the boys didn't have to ride their bicycles. We put our books & lunches under the seat. Mr. Bissell a teacher from Oyama drove down from Oyama picked us up, then drove back to Oyama. After school he drove us home then went back to Oyama. The next year the school board wanted the teacher & driver to live in Winfield to save on dead head miles, that was Mr. Hall. The school its self was a combination of elementary & high school. The high school had two rooms, the home room in the basement for grades 9 & 10, while grades 11 & 12 were up stairs. We did move to either room for whatever subject we were taking. Quite a few courses like business & home economics were taken by correspondence from Victoria but were done in the school day. Teachers we had were Mr. Bissell, Miss Fulton, Mr. Hall & Mrs. Pinn.

United Church:

When we first arrived in Winfield the United Church services were held in people's homes, then we went to McDonagh's packing house which was on their property just at the top of the gully (Berry's Road). When it was decided to have their own building everyone donated what they could, it was the dirty 30s. All the men also worked on building the church. Vivian Offerdahl & I became members of the Winfield United Church in 1941. Our Sunday School was held in the early afternoon with church following. Mrs. Phillips played the organ for both services, & was also a Sunday School

page #5

What a wonderful time to be growing up, didn't have a lot but were happy.

The summer holidays prior to me going into grade 3, Nancy & I had the whooping cough. We weren't allowed out of our yard. When school started in the fall I was the only one in grade 3 for awhile, the rest were away with the illness. There was several times when the school was closed in the fall because of an infantile paralysis (polio) epidemic. We were again confined to our yards the whole time. Eunice McDonagh would come along her fence, Nancy & I would be at our fence we would talk to one another across the road.

High School:

There wasn't a high school in Winfield way back then, even though it had been talked about.

The students that went to high school went back & forth every day to either Kelowna or Oyama in private cars, our parents helping to pay for the gas. When I started at Oyama High, there were more students then one car could take but not another driver was available. The girls & two boys went by car & took the books (homework) & lunches of the boys that rode their bicycles up & back every day. This was war & gas rationing was in by the end of February the driver's rations were all used up. Now what? Tom Duggan, a school trustee & manager of the Vernon Fruit Union in Oyama went back & forth every day. He said he would take the girls up but it had to fit in with his work schedule 7:30 am pick up & not home until well after 5:00 pm, later if he was held up we didn't really mind at least we were getting to school. Some of us often walked home from Oyama, while the others stayed at school & got their home work done. The next year 1943 they found a 15 passenger bus for us for \$700.00. The seats inside were along the side on the bus we were pretty crowded sitting knees to knees but at least we were able to get to school & the boys didn't have to ride their bicycles. We put our books & lunches under the seat. Mr. Bissell a teacher from Oyama drove down from Oyama picked us up, then drove back to Oyama. After school he drove us home then went back to Oyama. The next year the school board wanted the teacher & driver to live in Winfield to save on dead head miles, that was Mr. Hall. The school itself was a combination of elementary & high school. The high school had two rooms the home room in the basement for grades 9 & 10, while grades 11 & 12 were upstairs. We did move to either room for whatever subject we were taking. Quite a few courses like business & home economics were taken by correspondence from Victoria but were done in the school day. Teachers we had were Mr. Bissell, Miss Fulton, Mr. Hall & Mrs. Pinn.

United Church:

When we first arrived in Winfield the United Church services were held in people's homes, then we went to McDonagh's packing house which was on their property just at the top of the gully (Berry's Road). When it was decided to have their own building everyone donated what they could, it was the dirty 30s. All the men also worked on building the church. Vivian Offerdahl & I became members of the Winfield United Church in 1941. Our Sunday School was held in the early afternoon with church following. Mrs. Phillips played the organ for both services, & was also a Sunday School

teacher.

Nancy & I both came home to be married in the Church. She married Richard Rigby of Chilliwack in May of 1956 & I married Maxwell Carne of Nelson in October 1956. Rev. Roy Stobie of Pentiction & a cousin of our Dad performed both services. Ministers that were at the church when I attended Rev. King, Tench & Petrie.

The Sunday School picnics were great fun & looked forward to by many. Mr. McDonagh & Mr. Fred Duggan used their trucks, which had racks along the sides & back. Benches were put in for us to sit on as we went to such places as Mission Creek, Summerland Experimental farm or if the weather was bad just to the community hall or Petries Lakeshore Inn. Everyone took their own lunches, races were run & games were played with prizes for the winners. The BIG treat was an ice cream cone for everyone.

The yearly Garden Party put on by the Ladies Air (U. C. W.) was held at the V. R. McDonagh home on the upper road. There were bake tables, sewing tables, games to play with prizes, & strawberries & ice cream was served with tea. Earlier years the ice cream was home made, it kept quite a few working to get enough made. Later it was brought from Kelowna in big kegs packed in salted ice. Us kids loved the salted ice almost as much as the ice cream. Of course tea tables & chairs had to be put up & taken down later, also the games had to be set up. Those of us that helped in any way was rewarded with a dish of strawberries & ice cream. What a reward.

Mrs. Avery Phillips (Margaret) who lived by the old McCarthy barn on the lower road & who hadn't a family of her own spent a lot of time helping & encouraging the young girls of Winfield. She organized Mothers to give sewing & cooking lessons to girls of all ages.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Gordon Shaw a group of girls formed a club which met at their homes. This group thought they would like to become Girl Guides, but to start that took too much money for uniforms etc. Mrs. Phillips who was a dedicated Women's Institute member, came to our rescue & organized us as a Jr. Women's Institute, the only one in B. C. at that time. Mary White was their 1st president & attended a Institute Convention in Vancouver, where her report was very well received. We met every week in our homes during the winter & in the cabin at the skating rink in the summer. We held bazaars, put on concerts & dances. Most of the money raised went to sending parcels to the boys overseas. We also bought a couple of \$50.00 Victory Bonds.

As this was war time we sponsored & sold war saving stamps every month. The stamps were worth 25 cents each & you could buy as many as you wished. A little book was also given to you to put your stamps into, when you had \$5.00 worth you sent it to Ottawa to get a Certificate, which could be saved with interest or cashed in. This was one way the Government got more money for war expenses. Each girl had a red bib apron with large pockets in the front, Miss Canada was written across the bib, a navy blue wedge hat

teacher.

Nancy & I both came home to be married in the Church. She married Richard Rigby of Chilliwack in May of 1956 & I married Maxwell Carne of Nelson in October 1956. Rev. Roy Stobie of Pentiction & a cousin of our dad performed both services. Ministers that were at the church when I attended Rev. King, Tench & Petrie.

The Sunday School picnics were great fun & looked forward to by many. Mr. McDonagh & Mr. Fred Duggan used their trucks, which had racks along the sides & back. Benches were put in for us to sit on as we went to such places as Mission Creek, Summerland Experimental farm or if the weather was bad just to the community hall or Petries Lakeshore Inn. Everyone took their own lunches, races were run & games were played with prizes for the winners. The BIG treat was an ice cream cone for everyone.

The yearly Garden Party put on by the Ladies Air (U. C. W.) was held at the V. R. McDonagh home on the upper road. There were bake tables, sewing tables, games to play with prizes & strawberries & ice cream was served with tea. Earlier years the ice cream was homemade, it kept quite a few working to get enough made. Later it was brought from Kelowna in big kegs packed in salted ice. Us kids loved the salted ice almost as much as the ice cream. Of course tea tables & chairs had to be put up & taken down later, also the games had to be set up. Those of us that helped in any way was rewarded with a dish of strawberries & ice cream. What a reward.

Mrs. Avery Phillips (Margaret) who lived by the old McCarthy barn on the lower road & who hadn't a family of her own spent a lot of time helping & encouraging the young girls of Winfield. She organized mothers to give sewing & cooking lessons to girls of all ages.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Gordon Shaw a group of girls formed a club which met at their homes. This group thought they would like to become Girl Guides, but to start that took too much money for uniforms etc. Mrs. Phillips who was a dedicated Women's Institute member, came to our rescue & organized us as a Jr. Women's Institute, the only one in B. C. at that time. Mary White was their 1st president & attended a Institute Convention in Vancouver, where her report was very well received. We met every week in our homes during the winter & in the cabin at the skating rink in the summer. We held bazaars, put on concerts & dances. Most of the money raised went to sending parcels to the boys overseas. We also bought a couple of \$50.00 Victory Bonds.

As this was war time we sponsored & sold war saving stamps every month. The stamps were worth 25 cents each & you could buy as many as you wished. A little book was also given to you to put your stamps into, when you had \$5.00 worth you sent it to Ottawa to get a Certificate, which could be saved with interest or cashed in. This was one way the Government got more money for war expenses. Each girl had a red bib apron with large pockets in the front, Miss Canada was written across the bib, a navy blue wedge hat

Page #7.

completed the outfit. I have donated my outfit with a picture of the girls that sold the war saving stamps to the Museum at Lake Country. The Clements at the Winfield General Store were kind enough to let us set up our booth there every month. Our hours were 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, with two girls at a time working two shifts. We also had a quota to meet every month, which we often did. Margaret Mitchell, Margaret McCarthy, Nancy & Mary White did alot of the selling.

We also enjoyed sleighriding parties followed by pot luck suppers.

Quite a few of the older teen boys & girls had a group who organized dances in the community hall just for the teens of Winfield, Rutland, Oyama & Glenmore. We charged .50 cents to pay for the hall rent & music. At midnight we served sandwiches we had made, cake & coffee. Music was supplied by Sigh Kobayashi & his records. The next day we were down to the hall to sweep & clean it up, making sure the dishes were all clean & put away. Mr. Lodge the janitor, always came over to give his final blessing.

In the summer the young people spent evenings playing softball, watching the adults playing their ball games or going down to Lakeshore Inn. In the winter it was sleighriding down the gully, often starting on the hill near our place, down the gully, across the main road down to the hall. The Terry & McDonagh boys built bob sleighs, one quite wide called the "milk bottle" which carried alot of people & went very, very fast. What a ride. We also skated on frozen ponds around when the weather got cold enough. Then we were fortunate enough to have an outdoor skating rink put up next to the hall. The men & older teens stayed up long into the night to flood the rink, they also cleaned the snow off the ice. Later a cabin was built along side the rink. A stove was in to provide us with heat to warm up to, benches were all along the walls providing seats to use when we put our skates on. My Winfield Skating Club card for 1943-44 skating season was signed by Geo. F. Elliot. The fees charged were \$2.00 for men, ladies \$1.00, children .50 cents & \$3.50 for family. We often had music to skate to. The local men & boys each had very good hockey teams.

During the winter we also had Pro-Rec classes, where we did exercises, vaulting & learned to square dance & many other old fashion dances. These classes for men & women were held in the hall under the instruction of Bill Wilcox & other instructors from Kelowna. Every so often we would put on a social, charging a small admission to help pay for the hall rent. The people got to see what we were learning, plus a chance to learn to square & other dances, & refreshments. The women's class all wore regulation blue one piece short set. I have donated mine to the Lake Country Museum/

The National Film Board also provided a little entertainment during the winter & early spring months, by bring films to the community hall once a month. These were mostly travel documentaries & world wide news films. The school students got to see the films during the afternoon, the second showing in the evening for the adults. These were quite well attended as T.V. wasn't in being then.

Page #7.

completed the outfit. I have donated my outfit with picture of the girls that sold the war saving stamps to the Museum at Lake Country. The Clements at the Winfield General Store were kind enough to let us set up our booth there every month. Our hours were 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, with two girls at a time working two shifts. We also had a quota to meet every month which we often did. Margaret Mitchell, Margaret McCarthy, Nancy & Mary White did a lot of the selling.

We also enjoyed sleigh riding parties followed by pot luck suppers.

Quite a few of the older teen boys & girls had a group who organized dances in the community hall just for the teens of Winfield, Rutland, Oyama & Glenmore. We charged 50 cents to pay for the hall rent & music. At midnight we served sandwiches we had made, cake & coffee. Music was supplied by Sigh Kobayashi & his records. The next day we were down to the hall to sweep & clean it up, making sure the dishes were all clean & put away. Mr. Lodge the janitor, always came over to give his final blessing.

In the summer the young people spent evenings playing softball, watching the adults playing their ball games or going down to Lakeshore Inn. In the winter it was sleigh riding down the gully, often starting on the hill near our place, down the gully, across the main road down to the hall. The Terry & McDonagh boys built bob sleighs, one quite wide called the "milk bottle", which carried a lot of people & went very, very fast. What a ride. We also skated around on frozen ponds when the weather got cold enough. Then we were fortunate enough to have an outdoor skating rink put up next to the hall. The men & older teens stayed up long into the night to flood the rink, they also cleaned the snow off the ice. Later a cabin was built along side the rink. A stove was in to provide us with heat to warm up to, benches were all along the walls providing seats to use when we put our skates on. My Winfield Skating Club card for 1943-44 skating season was signed by Geo. F. Elliot. The fees charged were \$2.00 for men, ladies \$1.00, children 50 cents & 3.50 for family. We often had music to skate to. The local men & boys each had very good hockey teams.

During the winter we also had Pro-Rec classes, where we did exercises, vaulting & learned to square dance & many other old fashion dances. These classes for men & women were held in the hall under the instruction of Bill Wilcox & other instructors from Kelowna. Every so often we would put on a social, charging a small admission to help pay for the hall rent. The people got to see what we were learning, plus a chance to learn to square & other dances, & refreshments. The women's class all wore regulation blue one piece short set. I have donated mine to the Lake Country Museum.

The National Film Board also provided a little entertainment during the winter & early spring months by bring films to the community hall once a month. These were mostly travel documentaries & world wide news films. The school students got to see the films during the afternoon, the second showing in the evening for the adults. These were quite well attended as T.V. wasn't in being then.

Page #8.

Dad & Mum sold their home & orchard on the top road in 1956 & built a new home on the main road. They lived there until 1966 when illness forced them to sell & move to Nelson to be closer to family. Dad past away at 82 in 1969, while Mum past away at 82 in 1982. Both are buried in the Nelson Cemetery.

Nancy & Dick reside in Sardis as does their son Robert, his wife Kerry & their son Richard.

Mary & Max reside in Nelson as does their younger daughter Debra, her husband David & two daughters Melodie & Robbin. Their eldest daughter Jean lives & works in Vancouver.

Written in June 1997

page #8.

Dad & mum sold their home & orchard on the top road in 1956 & built a new home on the main road. They lived there until 1966 when illness forced them to sell & move to Nelson to be closer to family. Dad past away at 82 in 1969, while mum past away at 82 in 1982. Both are buried in the Nelson cemetery.

Nancy & Dick reside in Sardis as does their son Robert, his wife Kerry & their son Richard.

Mary & Max reside in Nelson as does their younger daughter Debra, her husband David & two daughters Melodie & Robbin. Their eldest daughter Jean lives & works in Vancouver.

Written in June 1997



MISS CANADA UNIFORM: WORN
BY GIRLS SELLING WAR BONDS
DURING THE 40s.
DONATED BY: MARY CARNE (NEE
WHITE)

PHOTO L TO R: MARY WHITE
MARG MCCARTHY
NANCY WHITE
MARG MITCHELL

Mary White in Miss Canada Uniform