

Coelynd Lawson



A Short Memoir



TOP RIGHT: *Evelyn's father,
William Arthur Neelin.*

TOP CENTRE: *Evelyn's mother,
Mary Alice Baird Neelin.*

ABOVE: *The Smith-Corona
Super Speed typewriter Evelyn
received from Motor Coach
Industries upon her retirement.*

RIGHT: *Evelyn at age 7 or 8,
c. 1916.*



In 1907, my Dad applied for a piece of land to homestead in Saskatchewan. His application was accepted and he was allotted the NE Sec 10, Twp 43, Rge 11, W3rd, Saskatchewan. The town was known as Fielding.

In 1908, in Ottawa and on Mother's birthday, Dad and Mother were married. This meant that it was wintertime when they came west. While Dad went to get the horse and cutter (I presume), he took Mother to wait at the General Store, which was run by the McGregor family. Mrs. McGregor had a very hearty laugh and when Mother heard her laughing, her one thought was "How could anyone laugh like that in this God-forsaken country?" Hence her introduction to the West.

On July 21, 1909, I was born and as I have been told, it was a very hot day and was also the town picnic when I decided to make my entrance into this world. Dad had to go out to the picnic to get the doctor.

A little later my grandparents on my mother's side (Grandma and Grandpa Baird) and their remaining family (three daughters: Ethel, Marjorie and Marion) came west and took up land in the same district. Aunt Ethel had consumption (tuberculosis) and Grandpa and Grandma, like other families with ill members, after having been



The Neelin siblings: Evelyn (top left) with Gertrude, John, friend Murray Cathcart and Dorothy in front, c. 1919.



ABOVE: Evelyn (seated, front row, left) with Neelin family in Asquith, c. 1921.

OPPOSITE TOP: Asquith Picnic, c. 1927. Evelyn is standing second from right.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Asquith School, c. 1983.

advised to do so came west in the hope that the change in the western country might be a factor in curing the disease. However, this did not prove to be so here, as Aunt Ethel died in January, 1910, when I was six months old. Marjorie and Marion were only eight years and five years older than I and they always seemed more like sisters to my than aunts.

On October 18, 1910, my brother John was born; this also being Grandma Baird's fiftieth birthday.

I vaguely recall us playing on the piles of logs which were used for fuel. Another pastime for us was playing Sunday school. Aunt May loved to play the piano (mostly, if not all at this time by ear) and she would play the hymns for us. We usually sat on the stairs and much to Aunt May's disgust John would get up in the middle of Sunday school and just take his leave.

I do not recall much about life near Fielding; however, another incident which was related to me was after me having followed my dad while he was out ploughing one day. When bedtime came my precious teddy bear was missing. Bless my dad: he went out to the field and after walking up and down the furrows found the teddy and everyone was happy again!

I guess the farming did not appeal to Dad and Mother, for in 1912 we moved to Asquith, a small town about 25 miles west of Saskatoon, where dad took over a livery stable and dray business. Asquith was a town of approximately 375 people, a very friendly town, so new friends



were soon made. Asquith was named for Lord H. H. Asquith, who at one time was Prime Minister of Great Britain. Asquith was known as “the centre of the British Empire.” In 1922 Lord Asquith donated a cup to the students of Asquith School. This cup has been presented annually since then in recognition of outstanding achievement by a student in high school, and most recently it has been awarded for the highest academic standing in the high school.



As our house was not quite finished when we got there, we spent a short time (I don't recall exactly how long) at the hotel, which was fun by a Miss Brown. This, of course, was quite a different experience for a couple of young kids.

Two more sisters were born in Asquith. Gertrude Ethel was born on May 20, 1917, and Dorothy Alma was born on March 13, 1920.

Time rolled around and the next big venture was starting to school. The school was just two rooms at that time; very crowded with the many students, covering kindergarten to grade 11 or 12. In 1920 an additional two rooms were added to the original school. (Just a note here to say that there is now another beautiful school there.) The opening of the two new rooms was a big event in the town and was my introduction to egg and ripe olive sandwiches. These were served at the school opening event.



Asquith Saskatchewan

Home
470 Cecil

Church

School

Curling and
Skating Rink

Railway

14



ABOVE: Evelyn (seated, second from right) with siblings and friends in Asquith, c. 1921.

School years were happy years for the most time, a lot of time being spent with our friends the Sweets, Mathers, Harris, Hooey to mention a few.

If someone had measles or some other childhood illness, many days were spent with our school pals out playing baseball, etc. on a vacant lot across from our home. The rink (curling and skating) was just across from the school. Here I learned to skate and really enjoyed it.

Dad was a great curler, so many nights were spent at the rink with our friends; in fact, Mother used to say, “You all should take your beds to the rink,” as John also skated and Mother was left at home with the two little ones. Dress-up carnivals were exciting

times and I remember going one time as “Old Dutch,” a cleanser, and another time as a “nurse.” I somewhat recall winning one or both of these competitions. Lots of fun anyway. I also played basketball when in high school.

Five of we girls were nicknamed “The Noble Five” by one of our principals. All the years since school, or for most of the years, I have kept in touch at Christmastime with a card and note. These girls were Marjory (Mather) Burwell, Alma (Harris) Cob, Cathleen (Sweet) Baldwin, and Dora (Hooey) Mason. Have had word of Doris’ death (1998) and had a phone call from Alma of Marjory’s death in June 1999. Have not had word from



TOP LEFT: *Cathleen Sweet and Evelyn, c. 1925.*

TOP RIGHT: *Members of "The Noble Five"—Alma (Harris) Cole, Marge (Mather) Burwell and Evelyn, c. 1983.*

BOTTOM LEFT: *Evelyn with brother John and dog, Christmas 1929.*

BOTTOM RIGHT: *Cathleen Sweet, Evelyn and friend, c. 1925.*



RIGHT: *One of Evelyn's needlepoint chairs from the Lawson's dining room set.*
BELOW: *The Sherlock-Manning upright grand piano, a fixture in the Lawson home since it was manufactured September 27, 1922.*





Cathleen for a few years and so presume that she too has died.

Music lessons were another part of my life in Asquith. The music teacher had to come out from Saskatoon. I was very fond of playing the piano and when out visiting at the Harris farm, one mile from town, I would much prefer playing the piano (most of it by ear) than going out to play; this much to the disgust of the other girls.

We attended the then Presbyterian church (United Church of Canada as of 1925 or 1926) and Sunday school. The Sunday school and day school always worked together very closely to organize and promote our Christmas concert. This was always a wonderful evening when we sang opening and closing choruses, the words for which would be written on the blackboard for us to copy and memorize. Recitations, solos (singing or perhaps a piano offering, etc.) made up the remainder of the program, which was held in the town hall and, of course, attended by families and friends of all the school children. What a great evening. I also enjoyed attending the Baptist Sunday school which met in the afternoon, the United Sunday school being held in the morning. Always enjoyed the Baptist hymns.

One of the fun things that we did was to go berry picking. My dad loved to pick berries and fortunately there was both Saskatoon and chokecherry berries not too far from town. Dad would hitch up the horses (a team of 2) as a rule to the democrat and away we would go, taking along a washtub to hold our pickings. Mother would do up as many as 125 quarts of Saskatoons and bottles and bottles of chokecherry jelly. These were a good portion of our fruit supply for the winter. We did not get all the fresh fruits throughout the winter like we do now.

On a holiday or Sunday afternoon we sometimes went out to Eagle Creek, a nice water spot about 4 miles west of town where we could enjoy the water and after which we would enjoy a picnic lunch.





Top: Evelyn (at left) with sisters and Grandma Mary Alice Baird, in Regina, 1929.



Above: Neelin Picnic in Regina, Dominion Day, 1930.

On completing my Grade 11 in June 1926, I then left for Regina where I lived with my grandparents (Grandma and Grandpa Baird) while attending Success Business College.

I commenced college in September 1926 and in the following May, 1927, I received a phone call from a Mr. Edwards of the United Farmers of Saskatchewan for whom my Aunt Marion had at one time worked. He offered me a position with him, which I gladly and gratefully accepted, as jobs were not too plentiful at that time.

In 1928 Mother, Dad, Gertrude and Dot moved from Asquith to Regina, and I, naturally, went to live with them. Was rather odd, but just at this

time the United Farmers were moving their office to Saskatoon. I did not fancy going up there to live after the family just moving down to Regina, so this meant that I was out of a job. Jobs were not too plentiful; however, two advertisements appeared in the want ads (Leader Post). I answered both ads and was fortunate to be called in for an interview with a Mr. Allison of the firm of Brook and Allison, a real estate and insurance firm. I was fortunate to get the job and I worked there until May of 1933 when I left to get married.

Music was a great part of my life here. I took lessons from a Mr. Buckley who was organist and choir director at

Westminster United Church. I attended 6th Avenue United Church when first in the city, playing the organ for some time. Also attended St. Andrew's United Church at times.

Many of the staff at Brook and Allison's were members and very much involved in Westminster United Church, the result being that I went over to their choir, which was most enjoyable. Little did I realize that it was through this church that I would meet my future husband (Bob). My first introduction to him came one Sunday when I was going home with John and Elsie Greason for lunch. On Victoria Avenue Bob was walking towards his home (had been down to check on the shoe store which he and his father ran). Naturally John stopped to have a few words with Bob and I was introduced to

him. Mary, his wife, and who was a cousin of Elsie Greason, was still living but very, very ill and she died in November, leaving Bob and two young boys, Bill (almost 7 years old) and Stewart, aged three years. I well remember Bob and these two little boys in church. They sat in either the back pew or second last pew.

My next contact with Bob was when playing tennis with Jessie McHattie, a girl from the office. Bob came along and offered us a drive home. He took Jessie home first and me last, and that was the beginning of a courtship which, as usual, wound up in marriage. We were married on June 21, 1933, a marriage which lasted for almost 50 years, just four months short. It was quite a responsibility raising two young sons. However, we got along very well, and as I say now

Yours as always.

Bob



The Bride and the Groom shall now join Right Hands

Wilt thou, Robert Charles Alvin Lawson
have this woman to be thy wedded Wife, to
live together after God's ordinance, in the
holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her,
comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness
and in health, and, forsaking all other, keep
thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall
live?

I Will.

Wilt thou, Evelyn Louise Neelin
have this man to be thy wedded Husband, to
live together, after God's ordinance, in the
holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him,
comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness
and in health, and, forsaking all other, keep
thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall
live?

I Will.



TOP: *R.C.A. Lawson, c. 1930.*
 ABOVE: *Evelyn with sons Bill (left) and Stewart at their Queen Street home in Regina, 1938.*
 RIGHT: *Beverley Joan, c. 1937.*



“I could not have had two better sons if they had been my own.”

In 1935 our family was made complete with the birth of a dear daughter, Beverley Joan, born on August 15. I never did care for the term “stepmother” or “stepson” so they were never used.

Throughout our married life we had our “ups and downs” as most people do. The first really

bad blow to us was losing our home (3527 Victoria Avenue) which Bob had had built.

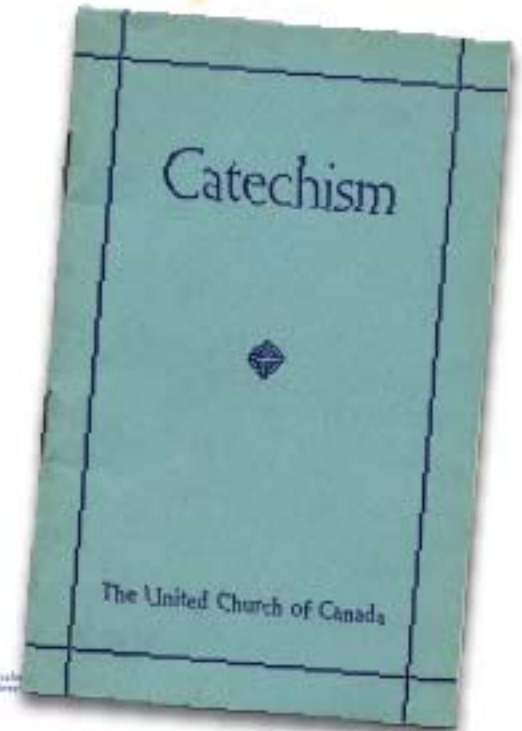
However, we were able to rent suitable homes, the first at 3806 Dewdney Avenue, secondly 1437 Queen Street. Another blow was the shoe store failing due to the bad Depression in the 1930’s. Bob and his father had spent many, many years in the shoe business, suffering one bad fire in the store but from which they recovered and carried on. After the store failing we managed to carry on with Bob working Saturday afternoons for a former shoe competitor. This he did for some time, then he had permanent employment with Eaton’s, where he was contacted by the Great West Saddlery Company to go on staff for them, which he did, and which was later the reason for our moving to Winnipeg. This move

was made in 1940. Winnipeg was a completely new place to me and it took a little getting used to; a much larger city and a very beautiful city. We lived in an apartment at 395 River Avenue when first in the city.

One of the first things we wanted to do was make a church connection. We visited several churches and after attending one service at St. Stephen's Broadway United Church, now Broadway Disciples United Church, we felt, indeed knew, that was to be our church home. We joined here in 1941. Dr. Harold Frame was minister at the time. I belonged to Unit "C" of the United Church Women's Organization in the church and also the Dr. Isabelle McTavish Auxiliary, the missionary organization, at least one of the missionary groups in the church.

Bob's position as shoe buyer for the Great West Saddlery meant that he had to travel to the east (Ontario and Quebec) two or three times a year to order the shoe supplies needed to sell to the various stores throughout his western region.

Many friends were made through our connection with the Great West Saddlery and many are still friends with whom we keep in touch. In 1942 Beverley and I had our first trip to the east (Toronto, Montreal, Quebec) with Bob. This was a real pleasure as we spent some time with John and Mildred (my brother and his wife) who were living in Montreal at that time and also with Dot and Fred who were living in Toronto.



St. Stephen's
Broadway

This certifies that

Mrs. R. L. G. Lawson

was received into the Fellowship of

ST. STEPHEN'S-BROADWAY UNITED CHURCH
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

On the *10th* day of *January*
in the year of our Lord 19*41*

James M. J. Edwards
Minister

THE GREAT WEST SADDLERY CO. LTD.



ABOVE: *The Lawson Family, Winnipeg, 1941.*

RIGHT: *J.W. Lawson, B.Sc. University of Manitoba, 1949*



These were war years, 1939-1945, and while Bill was not yet old enough to join any of the services, he worked at various jobs and on becoming 18, he lost no time in joining the navy, where he spent 4 years, most of the time spent on the east coast. After completing the four years, Bill could hardly wait to get back to school where he completed his Grade 12 standing and then took 4 or 5 years in an electrical engineering course. He had worked for Ontario Hydro during his holiday periods when taking his schooling and they took him on permanent staff when course completed. He was with the Hydro for most of his working days and retired in the 1980s.

My assistance in the war effort was as a Red Cross volunteer at the Deer Lodge Red Cross cafeteria. This I did for many years and thoroughly enjoyed working with a very dedicated group of volunteers.

After living in the apartment for eight and a half years we bought a house at 706 Jesse Avenue. Here we had a home with 3 bedrooms and a heated sunroom on the second floor.





TOP LEFT: *Beverley
and Evelyn, c. 1945.*

TOP RIGHT: *The Biltmore
Apartment, VE Day, 1945.*

BOTTOM LEFT: *Evelyn with
Deer Lodge Red Cross Canteen
volunteers, c. 1950.*

BOTTOM RIGHT: *The Lawson's
706 Jesse Avenue Home,
Winnipeg, 1960.*





My mother and dad had moved to Winnipeg from Regina. Things were not too good for them financially, so they moved into the house with us, occupying the larger bedroom at the front of the house.

My dad had suffered a severe heart attack but survived for some time, passing away in February, 1958.

Mother was with us then until 1970 when she thought we should get her into a home. We were most fortunate in

getting her into the convalescent home which was just on the other end of the block we were in. She received good care in the home, dying in 1984 at the age of 97.

Beverley had spent her first six years of school at

the Fort Rouge School, Main Street and River Avenue. She was now ready to go to Earl Grey School. Since this was a fair distance from the apartment we bought her a bicycle. Bob fixed up Stewart's bicycle and I rented one from Gooch. This was the means of Bob, Bev and myself having a great time riding the bicycle in order to get Bev accustomed to the traffic. This was, also, a good way for us to get to know our city, riding through the various districts. Beverley completed her schooling graduating from Kelvin High School in 1953.

School was not one of Stewart's strong suits. He always



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had to work very hard to make a fair mark in any exams etc. On completion of his school years he went to work for the Jewel Grocery Stores and at the age of 19 became manager of the store on Osborne Street. He spent his business years in both retail and wholesale grocery business.

The 1950's were busy years and exciting years. Beverley went into Grace Hospital to take her nurses' training, graduating in 1956. She worked in Grace Hospital, Deer Lodge Hospital and a short time (training) in Children's Hospital. 1957 and 1958 were years which saw our three young people marry: three weddings in 16 months. Stewart was the first to marry. He and Betty (Fergus) were married in May, 1957. Then Bill and Nancy (Dodd) were married in May 1958 followed by Beverley's

marriage to Ronald Jones in September, 1958.

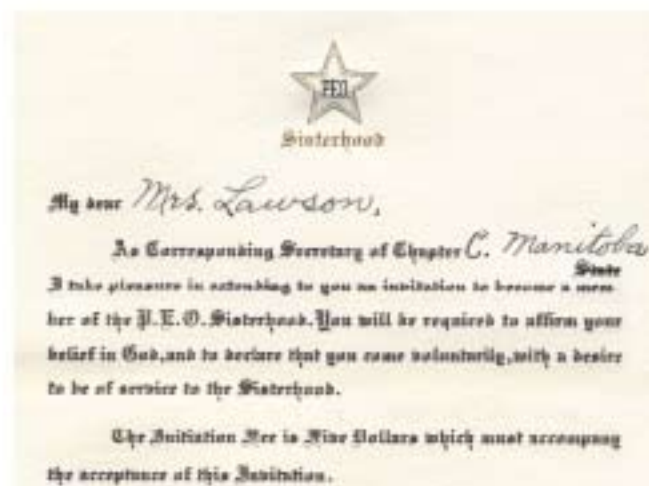
Going back a few years, I should report that I was invited to join the P.E.O. Sisterhood, which is composed of many chapters throughout Canada and the U.S.A. It is an organization dedicated to the furthering of education for women, and philanthropic projects of their own choosing. I have enjoyed my connection with Chapter C, Winnipeg, and am still an active member at this time, August 1999. I had the great pleasure of being a delegate to the supreme convention, which was held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1963, September 30 to October 3. Have also been fortunate in that I had a trip, along with a number of P.E.O. sisters (sisters as we are called) to the home of P.E.O. in Nevada, Missouri, where P.E.O.



OPPOSITE TOP: *Mother and Dad Neelin, Winnipeg, c. 1950.*

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: *Neelin siblings and spouses, 1958.*

ABOVE: *Evelyn and Beverley, Winnipeg, c. 1953.*





TOP LEFT: *Bill, Stewart and Beverley Lawson with spouses, Winnipeg, c. 1960.*

CENTRE LEFT: *Anne and Robert Lawson with mother Nancy and Grandpa and Grandma Lawson, c. 1962.*

BOTTOM LEFT: *Diane, Calvin and Jeffrey Jones with Uncle Stewart and Grandma and "Pop" Lawson, Winnipeg, c. 1973.*

was founded by seven young women in 1869.

The 1960 years were really exciting years in

my life, these being the years for the arrival of five (5) most wonderful grandchildren. Bill and Nancy presented us with our first grandchild, a boy, Robert Marshall, born on February 9, 1960. Then two years later, on March 27, 1962, they presented us with a granddaughter, Anne Holmes.

Not to be outdone, Bev and Ron now started their family off by presenting us with another grandson on September 27, 1962, Calvin Barry. On May 13, 1964, a brother, Jeffrey Malcolm was born. To complete the arrival of the grandchildren, a daughter,

Diane Patricia, made her presentation on March 6, 1969, a wonderful ten (10) years.

Bob and I had two trips to the coast (B.C.). I am not too sure of the years now. The first trip was made by car. We had Isabel, Bob's sister, with us. She stayed with her cousin, Donalda Dickie, who was living out there at that time. Bob and I stayed in Richmond with my Aunt Marjorie. Our second trip we went by train and it was a real fun trip. We were to leave Winnipeg on Friday evening. However, the train was late due to some beavers digging and causing water to overflow the railroad tracks I remember, I believe there was also another cause for the water. The result, we did not get away until about 10 or 10.30am Saturday morning, arriving in Vancouver



on Sunday evening. I had asked my cousin, in Edmonton, when on a 15 or 20-minute stopover, if she would phone my aunt to let her know that we would be late getting in to Vancouver. Don't know whether she phoned or not, but there was no one at the station to meet us. I phoned my aunt and she and another person came down to get us. Again we stayed at her place; however, she and a friend were leaving to go on a vacation which they had planned, so we had the house to ourselves.

John and Mildred were living in Vancouver at this time. We had good visits with them. These were two memorable trips, especially this last one. When it was time for us to get to the train to come home, the train, again, was a little late leaving

Vancouver. However, when Bob presented our tickets to the sleeping car conductor he asked Bob where or who had sold him the tickets. Bob told him that they were issued to him in Winnipeg. "Well," says the conductor, "we don't usually put six people in a compartment." Bob told him that there was just himself and his wife. What had happened, whoever made up the ticket put as occupancy Section SIX and above it had put the number 6. Really confusing for the sleeping car conductor. When he came through the car the next day, Bob and I were having a game of cribbage. He stopped and commented: "Having a game of cribbage?" "Yes," I said, "all six of us."

This was not all the fun.





TOP: *Mother Alice Neelin's 85th Birthday, 105-59 Wilmot Place, Winnipeg, c. 1972.*

ABOVE: *Bill, Bob and Stewart Lawson, Winnipeg, c. 1973.*

*Evelyn's Royal Albert
"Old Country Rose" china.*



Should say that after leaving Vancouver Station and riding for possibly one half to three-quarters of an hour, the train stopped and after sitting there for some time we found out that there was something wrong with the engine and we had to wait until they got another engine out from Edmonton or somewhere. While we had lost so much time, once we got the new engine the engineer lost no time in getting us to Saskatoon; I have never had such a fast train ride in all my life. We were if memory serves me correctly, only about 20 minutes late getting into Winnipeg. We got a taxi at the station; we started out, he had a flat tire, so we had to go and have that fixed, finally getting home. Bev, Ron and family were to leave on holidays that weekend, so would not be at the station to meet us.

Just a short time after getting home, the doorbell rang and here was the family. They had changed their plans and had been at the station to meet us; however, got talking to some friends in the vestibule and, of course, missed us as we just went right out to the taxi. We were asked to their place for dinner that night. When we came home we put the car in the garage, as usual. Next morning, when I went to go to work, no battery. I had left the lights on all night. So such was our train trip, etc., but such fun.

Speaking about going to work, I decided I would go to Office Overload to see if I could get just part-time work, a couple of days a week, or so. Bob was still on the road and there was not that much fork for two women in the house. I got a phone call from Office Overload the very evening

of the day that I had been down to apply, to say that they had a job for two weeks with Hanson Plumbing, so I took it. Was nice to get back into the business world again. Upon finishing with the plumbing people, I went out to Parkhill Bedding and was with them for about six weeks when I had to leave to attend the supreme P.E.O. convention in Iowa. On returning from the convention I was sent out to Motor Coach Industries in November 1963. Was with them for four months or so and then they asked me if I would consider going on full time. After talking it over with Bob, I told them that I would take the job. I really enjoyed the work and was there for almost 14 years, when I decided to retire in September 1977. Before taking previous work I had worked for several

years, part time, at the Rosebud Florist Shop on Corydon Avenue, which was owned by Mackie and Johnnie Hill. This was a great experience and I did enjoy working with the flowers, making floral arrangements, also arrangements for weddings and making sprays, wreaths, etc. for funerals.

When Young United Church decided to renovate the back part of their church, I had the privilege of doing the secretarial work for the man from Toronto (can't remember his name) who came out to organize their canvass for them. Upon completion of the renovations I spent two years with the senior citizens, for whom had been included in the building a lovely senior citizens' centre (meeting room, kitchen and small dining area and office, also cloak rooms).



TOP: *Lowthians, Harrys and Lawsons, Winnipeg, c. 1970.*

ABOVE: *Three Sisters in Dornoch, Ontario, 1987.*

and Regina. Here we met with the senior citizens' choirs from all the western cities to put on a program which we called Festival of Song and Sound. For a number of years TV station 13 taped a Christmas program by the choir. This program was played at various times throughout the festive season. When the taping was started the choir went to Pembina, N.D. to do the taping. Later years it was taped at the CKND station in Winnipeg. With Eaton's so much in the news right now (August 1999) I was reminded of the programs which had been put on at Eaton's downtown store. John Eaton was at one of these programs. Concerts for the public were put on in St. John's Anglican cathedral and Holy Trinity Anglican church.

The early years of the

1980s saw the death of my dear husband, Bob, on February 13, 1983, and the following year, 1984, my mother. Bob and I would have celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on June 21, 1983; just missed it by *four months*.

I have been and am very grateful for the god hearth that I have enjoyed, which has permitted me the great pleasure of attending our five grandchildren's weddings. The first, which both Beverley and I attended, was Bill and Nancy's Anne to Brad Lloyd on May 10, 1986. The reception was held in Thornhill, just north of Toronto. There was a nice surprise for Beverley when some ladies were returning to the clubhouse after their game of golf, one of whom turned out to be Beverley's roommate from when taking her



TOP: Bob's 92nd birthday, Winnipeg, 1982.

ABOVE: Mother Neelin's 95th birthday, Winnipeg, 1982.

CHRISTMAS CHEER BOARD of GREATER WINNIPEG

730 ALEXANDER AVENUE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3E 1H9

PRESIDENT
KAI L. MADSEN

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
MRS. A. A. HARVEY

January 8th 1975.

Dear Mrs. Lussana:

For your donation of 52 pairs of mitts.



*A pair of Evelyn's mittens,
one of the estimated 597 pairs
she knitted over the years for
Winnipeg's Christmas Cheer
Board United Way charity.*

nurses' training at Grace Hospital. February 4, 1989, a bitterly cold day, saw the marriage of Jeffrey, son of Beverley and Ronald to Maureen Crisfield, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Roy Crisfield at St. Paul's Anglican church, Regina. Reception was also held in the church hall. They now live in Calgary and have two fine sons, Simon and Hugh. On an extremely hot day, August 31, 1991, saw the wedding of Calvin, Bev and Ron's eldest son, to Sandra Schamber, daughter of Mr. and Mr. A. Schamber in Regina at Christ the King Catholic church. Reception was held at the Centre of the Arts. Calvin and Sandy now live in Victoria and have a son, Michael, and a daughter, Margo.

May 1993 saw the weddings of the last two grandchildren. On May 22, 1993, Diane, daughter of Bev and Ron, was married to

Nicholas Van der Gucht, son of Mrs. Molly Van der Gucht. This wedding and reception were held at St. Paul's Anglican church. This wedding, unfortunately, wound up in a divorce. They had one daughter, Emma, who now with her mother lives in Calgary. Robert, son of Bill and Nancy (Bill's second wife who died) had lived for many years up in the Yukon. On May 26 Robert and Gai were married up there, the news of this wedding being brought to us via telephone.

Another happy and pleasant event in 1998 was Bev and Ron's 40th wedding anniversary. This was celebrated with dinner at the Hotel Saskatchewan. Much enjoyed by all. Would digress here to say that Robert and Gai are now living in Winnipeg where Robert is employed as an air pilot with Air Canada.



TOP LEFT: *Rob and Gai,*
Christmas, 1985.



TOP RIGHT: *Anne and Brad,*
May 10, 1986.

BOTTOM LEFT: *Cal and Sandy,*
August 31, 1991.

BOTTOM CENTRE: *Jeff and*
Maureen, February 4, 1989.

BOTTOM RIGHT: *Diane and*
Nicholas, May 22, 1993.







Great excitement in the 90s, a decade when I was blessed with the arrival of seven great-grandchildren. September 5, 1992 saw the arrival of number one, Jordan, born to Anne and Brad. July 5, 1994 saw the arrival here of another son, Mitchell. April 3, 1993 saw the arrival of Michael, born to Sandy and Calvin, a sister for Michael, Margo, arriving on October 19, 1995. June 21, 1994 saw the first born to Jeffrey and Maureen, a son Simon, followed by another son, Hugh, born May 12, 1996. Diane was blessed when on September 5, 1993 she gave birth to a baby girl, Emma. Five handsome great-grandsons and two beautiful great-granddaughters.

Our church has, for many years, put on a half-hour religious service for the residents of Beacon Hill Lodge, and it has been my privilege to play piano for them for the past nine or ten years. This I enjoy very much and here again I feel most fortunate for my good health, etc. when I see these people and I am sure I am considerably older than many of them.

On July 21, 1989 I had my 80th birthday. This was celebrated with a party at Jean and Gordon Jones' home, 43 Cedar Place. This was arranged by Beverley and Ronald and Gordon and Jean. It was a perfect day in every way and weather-wise and having many friends there to help me celebrate.

Time passes very quickly and seems to do more so the older one gets. It seemed no time until the year 1999 had rolled around and time to celebrate my 90th birthday. A wonderful party was held at the Masonic Temple, Osborne Street and Corydon Avenue, in Winnipeg,

OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: *Evelyn singing with Senior Citizens Choir of Winnipeg, c. 1986.*

OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT: *Evelyn and granddaughter Emma in Regina, 1995.*

OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT: *Michael, Margo, Mitchell and Jordan in Victoria, c. 1996.*

OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT: *Simon and Hugh with Michael in Regina, c. 2005.*

BELOW: *Evelyn' at her 80th birthday, with long-time family physician, Dr. Newman, Winnipeg, 1989.*





this being arranged by Bev, Ron, Bill and Sheena. Approximately one hundred (100) guests joined in to make this a most memorable day in my life. Wonderful to have a great family and great friends.

While I had to give up the bowling a couple of years ago, I am still in the Senior Citizens' Choir and at the present time (March 2000) we are practising diligently for our spring concert which is to be held in the Holy Trinity church on May 28. For many years we have put on these concerts and they always seems to be a real success.

A few years ago, when planning for our concert, Margaret Wharrie, organizer of the choir, and some of the executive, thought it would be nice if they could get Bramwell Tovey, conductor of our Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra,

to be our guest artist (he plays the piano). When they went down to interview him, he asked if they had anyone to MC the program. When told "no" he asked if he might also be the MC. This was certainly a nice gesture on his part and the choir was happy to have him. He, also, did play the piano.

In the past 17 years since Bob's death, I have only spent two Christmases and New Year holidays at home. Have had the most enjoyable festive seasons between the families in Regina, Victoria and Calgary. Other vacations, during the years' better weather, were always most enjoyable, always good to be with the families. On one holiday, following either my 80th or 90th birthday, Bev and Ron took me up to Speers and district where my dad and grandfather

OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: *Bill helps Evelyn cut cake at her 90th birthday party in Winnipeg, 1999.*

OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT: *Gert and Evelyn at the birthday party, 1999.*

OPPOSITE BOTTOM:
The Senior Citizens Choir of Winnipeg, 1999.

BELOW: *Evelyn and Santa, c. 1988*





Gertrude and Evelyn's 2000 trip to Asquith, Saskatchewan.

ABOVE: Gert by town sign.

OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: Their childhood home, 470 Cecil Street.

OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT: Gert and Evelyn pose at 470 Cecil.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Evelyn, Beverley and Jean Neelin at The Neelin Family Farm Centennial in Neelin, Manitoba, August 12, 1995.

homesteaded. This was most interesting. Saw what remained of my Grandfather Baird's home and also saw my Aunt Ethel's burial plot in cemetery. My first three years of life had been lived in this area (Speers and Fielding).

When a young child, I spent some holidays with my grandparents in Regina. I well remember, when eight years of age I believe it was, being in Regina when the grandstand on the Exhibition grounds burned down, this during the week of the Exhibition. No injuries done, if I recall correctly. Since we lived not too far from the Exhibition grounds, we could see the fire and I was petrified, was afraid the fire could get to us. In my early years I was very frightened of fire. Mother and Dad had a bad fire when they lived in Ottawa, before coming west.

So much for the first 90 years of my life. I have had, as has everyone, ups and downs, mostly ups, for the most part and thoroughly enjoyed these years. I just hope that the next (?) years will be as good to me.

[Hail 2000](#)



BELOW: *Painting by T. E. Young, a boarder in the Lawson's Orangeville home in 1894. Painted to pay his rent. Hung prominently by Evelyn and R.C.A. Lawson in their Winnipeg home.*



About me

I was on a day in mid. July
Abbe was born and it was I
I was a picnic day I was told
about did make my entry held
I was to my father's office - day - announce
There's my father's daughter for full a flourish
My first three years I then did spend
Twenty town of farm with naught to tend
Then came my time for education
To Aquino's field - gone, the best of the nation
Through grade school and High school I
managed to scrape
And then to Regina to learn some
big - (news)
Then after some months at College Success
I worked for the United Farmers in the
Spring research and packing merchandise to
for a somewhat meager salary I did
After 2 years at this a change I did want
And took on a task in the West
I was during this time that a man I did
mate
There was his business, and - also my fate

