

THE LAKE OF MANY NAMES: EDMONTON BEACH

by Glen Carmichael

When Township 52 was surveyed, the small ponds on SE 1/4 of Section 30 were considered inconsequential, and the quarter was recorded as containing 160 acres. And then the rains came, the ponds filled and overflowed, and a lake was created, complete with sandy shores and islands.

When Reinhardt Schimpf filed on the quarter as his homestead in July, 1894, the lake became known as Schimpf's Lake. He sold the place to Ferdinand Mayerhofer of Edmonton in May, 1904, but got the title back within a month, so evidently the deal fell through. He sold again in March, 1906 to Robert G. Bull of Edmonton, who sold in July, 1907 to J. McCoppen of Edmonton. Mr. McCoppen owned and operated "The Tuck Shop" at the University, and he also owned an undertaking business. He transferred the title in August, 1907 to Anna McCoppen, who likely was his wife, and he rented the land to a farmer who then lived in a small house near the gate. A sign was erected: "McCoppen's Lake. Please shut the gate". The renter's children obligingly opened and closed the gate when they could, and were often rewarded with a nickel or dime. Local residents continued to use Schimpf's Lake as the name; the rapidly increasing number of Edmonton visitors adopted the name on the gate.

Small acreages and lots began to be sold, cottages were built, and Edmonton Beach began to be popular. When a new school district was formed west of the Rosenthal district, it was named Cottage Lake, and for a while that became the name of the lake, too.

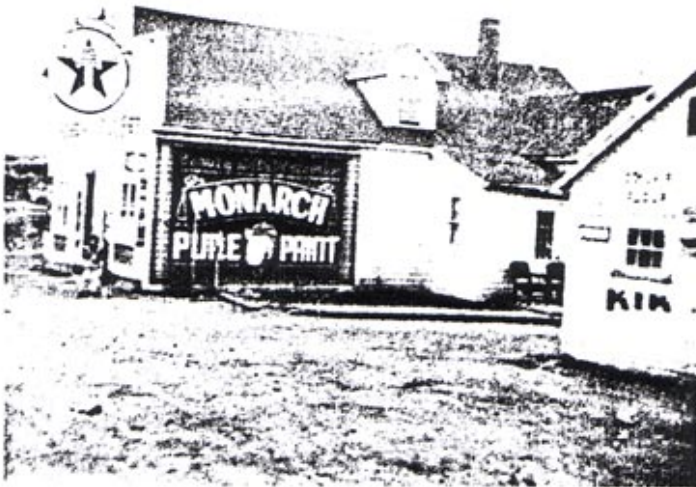
When in 1920 J.A. Barrie bought the farm and put the title in the name of his wife, Mary Barrie, some attempts were made to popularize Barrie's Lake as the name. Mr. Barrie successfully ran a store, concession booth and dance hall, and sold many more lots.

Then as the lake level began to decline searches were made for the springs that were thought to feed the lake; dynamite was used in likely spots that were blasted to try to clear the sediment that was thought to be plugging the springs. As a result, Spring Lake became the popular name for a while. But the lake continued to go down; the islands became part of the mainland again. The cottagers formed a summer village which they called Edmonton Beach and the old names are almost totally forgotten. Schimpf's, McCoppen's, Barrie's and Spring Lake are gone; only Cottage Lake and Edmonton Beach remain.

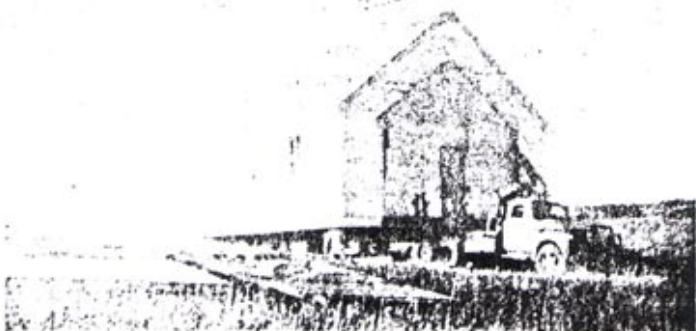
The Summer Village of Edmonton Beach was incorporated as of January 1, 1959, to include all of Section 30 and part of the NW 19-52-1-W5.



Johan Fuhr and family.



Old Beach corner.



Junction 29 store formerly Saint Matthew's No. 1.



Pete Shlukoff, Tim Hay, Bill Fitzpatrick and others. These men were colorful characters of that day.

Glory Hills was never a Post Office; people received their mail at Stony Plain. Only in very recent years has there been rural mail delivery.

Perhaps in the twenties, or even sooner, a telephone line, owned and maintained by its members, reached a few people. It was not until the 1940's and 50's that the telephone system increased to several lines. These lines were connected to the telephone exchange in Stony Plain and were known as the Glory Hills Mutual. In 1974 A.G.T. took over the system and the lines were put underground.

In 1949 electricity was brought into the area via the Spruce Grove R.E.A.

Natural gas was installed in 1967-68 and this was the first rural installation in the Stony Plain area.

When one views the modern farms and acreages of today, the good roads running through the area, and all the amenities of the life we enjoy today, it is very hard to picture earlier days in Glory Hills.



Elnora Daechsel canvassing for Cancer.



Tree planted by Paul Haller in 1930's still standing.



W.I. Girls' camp at Edmonton Beach in 1927.



Larsens, Kullanders and Sutherlands.



Inga and Holborn people at Edmonton Beach.

