

Memories of the Good Ole Days

By Mary Hubelit

Researching 1940 prices sprouted personal memories like a newly-dug garden sprouts fresh flowers - and a few weeds. A woman's pride in her appearance is a mysterious force. At Winnipegosis, in wet Fall weather, I was impressed by the sight

of a chubby Indian lady stepping out of the hair-dressing salon. My eyes were drawn to a remarkable up-swept styling of her coal-black hair. She smiled, and held her head proudly as she waddled off wearing a very elderly blue sweater, its last surviving button done up against the raw wind,

pure a cotton skirt flapping helplessly with no clip to stabilize it. Flat black rubbers over two pairs of men's work socks completed the ensemble. That lady was far more secure at that moment than I was.

We asked the young hotel owners why they went into that

business: "We got 25 chenille bedspreads for wedding presents. What else could we do?"

About that time pressure-cookers were in style and demonstrations are in selected private homes in small towns. In Norquay, one family gleefully described the event: "We had a good fire in the cookstove. We put the roast, some carrots and potatoes into the cooker and put it on the stove. We went to the parlor, served a few drinks of our 'good stuff' and the conversation was going real good. When we heard this awful bang we ran into the kitchen. The pot was still on the stove, the lid over by the back door, carrots plastered to the ceiling, but we never did find the potatoes!" I'll bet she found them next spring when she house-cleaned.

The best friend I had in Hudson Bay Junction was a German shepherd dog. The only accommodation we could find was a bedroom in a house at the edge of town. We had to walk about four blocks to the restaurant - there was no keeping food in the room as we had done in Norquay. Bill was on night shift as the C.N. station and slept most of the day, but I had to go out in the December cold every morning breakfast!

About the third morning, I started to walk uptown. Coming towards me, no tail-wagging, no peaceful 'ear-signs' was this massive dog. I stopped, pull off a mitt, extended my hand, and spoke be guiling words to the brute. He walked closer and closer as I died a little and thought of Mother. Right in front of me he reared up and put his front paws on my shoulder, looking me right in the eye. His breath was the warmest feeling I'd had in that town and I admit I cried a little. Thus introduced, we walked side by side to the restaurant; he waited for me and escorted me 'home' again. This friendship was shared for another twelve days until we caught the train and moved on.

Up on "the Muskeg Special"

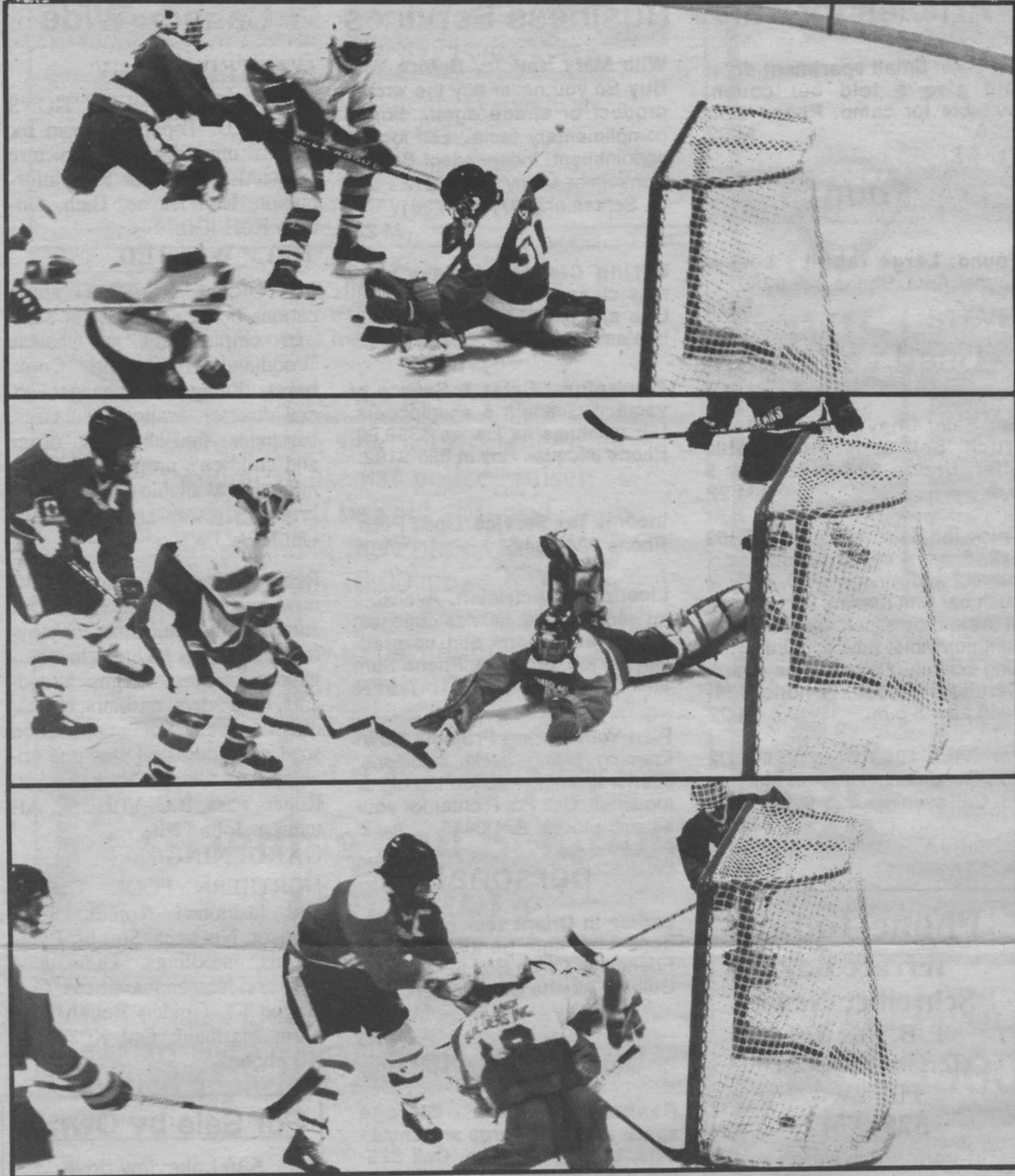
line between the Pas and Churchill in January one was in a different world. Attitudes were shaped, not by the cold itself, but by the impact the cold had on every facet of existence. If that train froze, somewhere. Supplies in the freight cars, possibly needed medical supplies were in jeopardy. In dozens of small houses and cabins for about 700 km a desperate concentration was generated to keep the place warm and enough snow melted for water. "When will it warm up?" would be a disruptive thought.

Up there the disorder known as 'cabin fever' or becoming 'bushed' was a very real medical and social problem. Not all of us have determined whether we are gregarious or loners.

At one siding there were four section-men's cabins. There of the men had their wives with them. One woman walked out one day, climbed a tall jack-pine tree and refused to come down. Neighbors were helpless until the husband came home at 4:30 p.m., already almost dark. He couldn't convince her, and fearing she'd freeze to death, he cut the tree down. Neighbors freed her from the branches. Luckily there was a train down to The Pas that night; we heard no more about it.

A man lost control one day when he heard the train coming a mile of two away. He ran out onto the track, holding on his arms up as of to embrace the engine as it rounded the curve, and crying like a baby. His friends hustled him off the track, bound his arms with a bit a rope, and waited. As the train stopped they bundled him into a corner of the baggage car. We heard later that he had finally settled down after pleading to be tied with electrical cord. There was a coil of it on the floor and I suppose it represented civilization and comfort to him.

There is humor in the telling, certainly, but let us keep tolerance in our thinking. Just as we all have different faces, so do we all have different strengths. I treasure the memory of all these people.



The Bantam Zone Playoffs were held in Schreiber last weekend with teams from Marathon, Longlac and Terrace Bay-Schreiber taking part. Friday, Terrace Bay-Schreiber defeated Marathon 5-1. Saturday, Terrace Bay-Schreiber defeated Longlac 7-3, Longlac lost to Marathon 12-5, Terrace Bay-Schreiber beat Marathon 7-4. Sunday's action saw Terrace Bay-Schreiber defeat Longlac 3-2, Longlac beating Marathon 9-4. Marathon wound up in third place overall so Terrace Bay-Schreiber played Longlac to determine which team goes to the District Playoffs being held in Red Lake the weekend of April 1. Terrace Bay-Schreiber lost to Longlac by the score of 3-2. Above is an action sequence from Saturday night's game between Terrace Bay-Schreiber and Marathon. This goal made the score 6-4 for Terrace Bay-Schreiber with 1:09 left to play in the game. Terrace Bay-Schreiber responded only moments later to make the final score 7-4. Photos by Dave Chmara

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION TO AMEND THE OPERATING PLANS FOR THE GERALDTON MANAGEMENT UNIT, LONGLAC FOREST AND NAKINA FOREST, KIMBERLY-CLARK OF CANADA LIMITED, GERALDTON DISTRICT.

A number of newly identified Fish and Wildlife Areas-of-Concern have been incorporated into the 1989/90 Annual Work Schedules. These areas were not included in the Operating Plans but newly gathered data supports their inclusion. Detailed descriptions of these Areas-of-Concern are available at the Geraldton District Office.

A number of stands have been requested for harvest in the 1989/90 Annual Work Schedules which were not included in the Operating Plans. These stands are adjacent to approved harvesting blocks and will be included in this year's harvesting operations. Also several locations have been proposed for both Primary and Tertiary Roads which do not coincide with those approved in the Operating Plans. Detailed descriptions of these Amendments are available at the Geraldton District Office, 208 Beamish Avenue West.

Approval for the Amendments will be given after March 31st, 1989. Please submit any comments or concerns by March 31st, 1989 to:

Mr. J. Dennis Murray
District Manager
Ministry of Natural Resources
Geraldton District
208 Beamish Avenue West
P.O. Box 640
Geraldton, Ontario
POT 1MO

Telephone: 807-854-1030



Ministry of Natural Resources
Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister

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