

According to a book written by Mrs. Will Howey the wife of the first doctor in the area, Sturgeon was quite a busy village when she arrived as a bride by flat-car in March 1883. The doctor had been hired by the C.P.R. in 1882 and the Howeys knew all of the town's short story. The book tells how the engineers led by W. A. Ramsay ran the line for the track and how they were followed by gangs of men with horses to clear a trail or tote road for bringing in provisions and equipment. Other gangs followed, grading, building trestles, and laying tracks. When the tote road was made for 5 or 6 miles a log camp and stable were built. A "camp" was about 16 feet square and had a "com-
boose" in the middle, a log box of sand where meals were cooked. There was no chimney. At every second camp or so, there was a blacksmith shop, a harness shop, a bakery, a general store and an office for the telegraph operator and the bookkeeper. Sturgeon had these and also a railway boarding-house for officials and clerks and a bunk house for workers. The Howeys stayed in the boarding-house and Mrs. Howey was amazed at the language which came through the wide cracks in the green lumber partitions from the "lounge". Some of the participants in fights almost came through the partition too.

By 1883 Robert Lillie had opened a hardware store, Johnny Campbell a general store and the Richardsons a shoe store. There were two hotels, the Scott House at Railway and Main and Mrs. McGrath's at Front and Main.