

S. J. McKee Archives



Tully McKenzie interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14738>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH281.MacK

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: [1981-1983]

Physical Description: 2 audio cassettes [1:30:00]

Physical Condition: Recording is very faint

History /

Biographical:

John Tully McKenzie was born on August 17, 1903 in the Tremaine district near Rapid City, MB. He attended Tremaine School, Rapid City School and then completed a diploma in Agriculture at the University of Manitoba in 1923. Tully married Ethel Marion Bridge (1906-1977) in 1930 and together they had four children: Lois, Marjorie, Ken and Beth. The McKenzie's farmed for the next 30 years. During this time Tully was active in the community, serving as a secretary treasurer and chairman of the school board, elder and trustee of Hunterville United Church, secretary of the Mantioba Pool Elevator Board, the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture, Rapid City Agricultural Society, was founder of the local 4-H Club, formed the Rapid City Film Council, and was a charter member of the Minnedosa Credit Union. In 1960, Tully and Ethel moved to Brandon, where Tully was employed with various agricultural service organizations.

In 1970, Tully served as the chairman of the Centennial Pioneer Committee, that was formed to honour pioneers of the Westman Region. He also was a charter member of the Assiniboine Historical Society and contributed significantly to the establishment of the Daly House Museum. He and Ethel also researched, wrote and published a book entitled "It's Time to Remember, 1874-1974," a history of the Tremaine community. Tully was also a founder of the Mantioba Agriculture Hall of Fame, calling the initial meetings and serving as the first chairman of its Provisional Board. In 1990, he was inducted into the Hall for his contribution to agriculture and the preservation of Manitoba heritage. Tully McKenzie died on March 28, 1992 in Winnipeg, MB. He is buried at Brandon Municipal Cemetery.

Custodial History:

As part of the Westman Oral History Collection, this collection was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. The original tapes from the Westman Oral History project were deposited in the Brandon Public Library. Copies of these originals were made by Margaret Pollex of the Brandon University Language Lab at the request of Eileen McFadden, University Archivist in the early 1990s. These copies compose the collection held in the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Item is an interview with Tully McKenzie about family history and community life. Interviewer is Effie McPhail.

Notes: History/bio information from the records, the Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame website and McKenzie's obituary. Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Flora Cowan interview - part II

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14645>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH036b.Cow

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: May 1983

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [00:22:46]

History /

Biographical:

Flora C. Cowan (nee Cruickshanks) was born on July 15, 1902 in Edinburgh, Scotland. She immigrated to Canada with her family in 1913. Flora married Edgar Clarence Cowan (1894-1951) on August 15, 1922. The couple had two children: Franklin and Ruth. Edgar, who served in the First World War with the Royal Canadian Engineers, was employed as municipal engineer at Springfield, MB. In 1927, Edgar was appointed district engineer with the highways branch in Boissevain; a year later he was transferred to Brandon and the family moved to the city.

For much of her life, Flora was a leader in the Brandon community. During the Second World War, she mobilized Brandon's volunteer efforts and in 1953, she was appointed Dean of Women at Brandon College. In 1954, Flora became only the second woman ever elected to the Brandon City Council. She served on the council for 16 years and stepped down as Dean of Women in 1969. A champion for Fairview Personal Care Home, she chaired its board for more than 20 years. Flora Cowan Hall on the Brandon University campus is named in her honour. Flora Cowan died on September 25, 1986 in Brandon, MB. She is buried at Brandon Municipal Cemetery.

Custodial History:

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Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Flora Cowan about her involvement in community and civic affairs in Brandon, 1927-1981. This second cassette includes the following subjects: the War Services Centre, which operated during the Second World War; special events in the city, such as the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip and Brandon's centennial year; and special awards bestowed on Flora Cowan. The interviewer is Marjorie Fitton.

Notes: History/bio information from the records, and Cowan's obituary.
Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Kay Rowe interview - part II

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14648>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH115b.Row

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: March 8, 1983

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [00:07:46]

History /

Biographical:

Kathleen Joan "Kaye" Rowe (nee Moreland) was born on June 10, 1910 in Winnipeg, MB. Kaye attended St. John's Technical High School. She moved to Brandon following her marriage to Gabriel Richard "G.R." Rowe (1898-1968) on July 12, 1932. Kaye had widespread interests in fashion, politics, the arts and journalism. Her journalism career began in 1935, when she began writing book reviews for CKX Radio. Four years later she became a society columnist for the Winnipeg Free Press and from 1945 to the 1980s she was a freelance columnist for the Brandon Sun, writing pieces on people, fasion and the arts. In 1958 and 1960, Kaye won awards for the best fashion stories of the year in Canada, and in 1970, she received a Margaret McWilliams Award from the Manitoba Historical Society for the best newspaper story on Manitoba history in the province's centennial year. The Rowes had no children. Kaye Rowe died on December 16, 1995 in Brandon, MB. She is buried at Brandon Municipal Cemetery.

Custodial History:

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Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Kaye Rowe about her knowledge and memories of Brandon entertainment, 1900-1983. The interviewer is Betty Gibson.

Notes: History/bio information from the records and the Manitoba Historical Society website. Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Frank Ernest Ellis interview - part II

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14646>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH096b.Eli

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: July 10, 1981

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [01:01:37]

History /

Biographical:

Frank Ernest "Ernie" Ellis was born on April 3, 1915. He lived and farmed all his life just north of Wawanesa, MB, and established a seed cleaning and fertilizer business entitled Ellis Farm Supplies on the south side of Wawanesa. Ernie married Margaret Alyce Viola Medd (1922-2022) in 1946 and together they had five children: Margaret, Brenda, Kathryn, Jennifer and Warren. In 1985, Ernie and Alyce moved to Winnipeg and their son Warren took over the farm.

Ernie was active in his community, local politics and the agriculture and health care sectors. His commitment to land conservation and a love of nature, led him to serve on the boards of many farming organizations, including the Wawanesa Crop Improvement Club, the Wawanesa Cooperative Elevator Association, and the Wawanesa Consumers Co-op Association. He was also one of the founders of the Manitoba Stock Growers' Association, which became the Manitoba Beef Growers' Association. Additionally, Ernie served on the board of the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, was a member of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, served terms as president for both the Brandon-Souris Liberal Association and the Souris-Killarney Association, ran as the MLA Liberal candidate for the Souris-Lansdowne constituency and served on the Oakland Council for 11 years. He was also elected chairman of the first Board of Directors for the Wawanesa & District Recreation Centre, was a trustee of the governing board of the Wawanesa & District Hospital, including 12 years as chairman. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Health Organization, where he advocated for health care in Wawanesa and rural areas. Ernie wrote two newspaper columns, "The Rural Scene" for the Wawanesa Optimist, and "On the Manitoba Range" for The Canadian Cattleman, and along with his wife Alyce, did much of the research and writing for the Wawanesa centennial local history book. Aside from writing, Ernie was also passionate about music, and played the trombone in the Wawanesa Band.

When he became ill in 2010 the Ellises left Winnipeg; Ernie moved to the Personal Care Home in Wawanesa and Alyce moved to the Wawanesa Valley Lodge. Ernie Ellis died on February 16, 2011 in Wawanesa, MB.

Custodial History:

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Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Ernie Ellis. This second hour discusses stock growing and grain marketing, as well as hospitals and health care at Wawanesa, MB. The interviewer is John Moore.

Notes: History/bio information from the records and obituaries for both Ernie and Alyce Ellis. Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Harold E. Watson interview - part II

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14649>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH102b.Wat

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: August 7, 1982

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [01:02:12]

History /

Biographical:

Harold Ernest Watson was born on April 14, 1905 on section 4-11-24 in the RM of Woodworth. The family moved to Brandon, MB in 1911. As a young man, Harold worked for many years as a carpenter with his father. He was then employed for a few years with the Canadian National Railway (CNR) before becoming a carpenter and carman with the Canadian Pacific Railway for thirty-five years. Harold married Winifred Elizabeth Schiedel (1916-1982) in 1939 and together they had six children: Eldine, Marjorie, David, Dale, Mildred and Ralph. A keen conservationist, Harold was a member of the Manitoba Naturalist Society. He also enjoyed gardening, bird watching, fishing, hunting, woodworking, reading, typing and cribbage, and possessed an excellent knowledge of the history of Brandon and surrounding area. Harold Watson died on November 30, 1994 in Brandon, MB. He is buried at Brandon Municipal Cemetery.

Custodial History:

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Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Harold Watson about the history of the East End of Brandon, including its early residents, buildings and activities. The interviewer is Lillian Mummery.

Notes:

History/bio information from the records and Watson's obituary.
Description by Christy Henry. Fred McGuinness wrote about Harold Watson in his November 4, 2004 "The Notebook" column in The Brandon Sun.

Audio Tracks



G. Albert Hodson interview - part II

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14651>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH168b.Hod

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: February 22, 1982

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [01:58:11]

History /

Biographical:

George Albert Hodson was born in 1910 on his father's farm, just south of Elkhorn, MB. He attended Buckingham School and worked on the farm with his father until his father's retirement, at which point Albert took over the farm. Albert married Evelyn Bolam on December 17, 1939 and they had four children: Leland, Valerie, Sherryl and Tannis. The couple moved into Elkhorn in 1967, and Albert retired from farming in 1978. Active in his community, Albert served as a trustee for the Buckingham School District, on the United Church Board, and was a member of the Agricultural Society and the Curling Club. He also served 34 years on the local Manitoba Pool Elevator board, eleven of which he was chairman of Sub-District No. 502. In 1996, Albert was recognized as an outstanding volunteer by the Manitoba Association of Agricultural Societies. Albert Hodson died on September 18, 2009 in Elkhorn, MB. He is buried at Elkhorn Cemetery.

Custodial History:

As part of the Westman Oral History Collection, this collection was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. The original tapes from the Westman Oral History project were deposited in the Brandon Public Library. Copies of these originals were made by Margaret Pollex of the Brandon University Language Lab at the request of Eileen McFadden, University Archivist in the early 1990s. These copies compose the collection held in the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Albert Hodson about pioneering, grain, grain elevators and Elkhorn history, including the Elkhorn Auto Museum. The interviewer is Elmer Armstrong.

Notes: History/bio information from the records, the Elkhorn local history "Steel and Grass Roots" and Hodson's obituary. Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks



Phyllis Field Cooper interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14710>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH250.Coo

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: November 23, 1981

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [0:23:00]

History /

Biographical:

Phyllis Field Cooper was born on July 22, 1894 in Chicago, Illinois. She attended the Chicago Art Institute. Phyllis emigrated to Canada in March 1918, where she worked briefly for Mr. and Mrs. Archie Cooper near Treesbank, MB, before she moved to Winnipeg to teach a juvenile art class connected with the Winnipeg School of Art. In fall 1920, Phyllis went to work in the office of a Winnipeg insurance company. That same year her parents and brother moved to the Treesbank area. Phyllis moved home to work at the Treesbank store, before the entire family moved back to Chicago in 1923.

Phyllis married Archibald Cooper (1868-1953) on August 26, 1933, and the couple moved to Winnipeg. They did not have children. During their time in Winnipeg, Phyllis worked as an interior designer, a vocalist and a writer, writing articles for the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg Tribune. She was a member of the Philharmonic choir in Winnipeg and an Honorary Life Member of the Winnipeg Sketch Club. She moved to Glenboro in 1955, following the death of her husband. In Glenboro she gave piano and art lessons for several years. Phyllis Field Cooper died in August 1987. She is buried at Millford Cemetery in Treesbank, MB.

Custodial History:

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Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Phyllis Field Cooper about her life. Interviewer is Irene Brown.

Notes: History/bio information from the records and the Glenboro local history "Beneath the long grass." Description by Christy Henry.

Audio Tracks
