

S. J. McKee Archives



Frank Robb fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions5133>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 22-2007

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1956 - c.1965

Physical Description: 0.5 cm textual records; 155 slides

History /

Biographical:

Frank Robb was Assistant Secretary Treasurer for School District of Brandon No. 129 and Curator of the B.J. Hales Natural History Museum exhibition for Brandon's 75th Anniversary (1957). Robb left Brandon ca. 1969 and relocated to Minaki, Ontario.

Custodial History:

Frank Robb sent the slides to Fred McGuiness ca. 1986. McGuiness gave them to Eileen McFadden at the McKee Archives in April 1986.

Scope and Content:

Fonds consists of 155 slides taken by Frank Robb, an inventory for the slides prepared by Robb and a letter from Robb to Fred McGuiness regarding the slides and memories of Brandon ca. 1950s.

Notes: Description by Christy Henry.

Name Access: Albert Hepinstall
John Bojarski
Frank Robb
Doreen Walton (nee Rookes)
Lily Harrison

Subject Access: B.J. Hales Museum
 Brandon 75th Anniversary
 Brandon Camera Club
 Royal Beardedede Ballet
 ladies' auxiliary
 First United Church
 School District of Brandon No. 129
 flooding
 summer fair
 T.A. Neelin High School
 Vincent Massey High School
 dam
 Experimental farm
 Bedford Drive
 Souris' swinging bridge
 Highway No. 1 by-pass
 School Teacher night classes
 18th Street

Storage Location: 2007 accessions

Storage Range: 2007 accessions

Arrangement:
 Original order and numbering system.



A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4309>

Part Of: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Description Level: Fonds

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1887-1996; predominantly 1910-1974

Physical Description: 7.47 m of textual records
 500 photographs

History /

Biographical:

The A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. originated with the McKenzie family Flour, Grain and Seed business, started by F. B. McKenzie in the early 1880's. When F. B. McKenzie passed away in 1896, his son, Albert Edward McKenzie, assumed control of the company, and renamed it The Brandon Seed House. With its main office and plant in Brandon, Manitoba, the company specialized in the production and sale of field seeds and service exclusively to seed buyers in the prairie provinces and British Columbia. In later years, a complete line of products including garden seeds, lawn grass, and other allied lines was developed for sale across Canada.

In 1906, the company underwent a change of name when A. E. McKenzie determined that the growth of the country demanded a larger seed institute than could be managed by one man. As a result, the company was incorporated under provincial statutes and the federal Joint Stock Companies Act as A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd., and new personnel were hired.

Under the Joint Stock Companies Act, A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was required to elect a Board of Directors of not less than three, and not more than nine individuals. Only shareholders of the company were eligible for election, and election was to take place yearly with each shareholder entitled to as many votes as shares owned in the company. The Act also dictated that the directors were, from time to time, to elect from among themselves, a president of the company. They were also able to appoint and remove all other officers of the company and to create company by-laws. The directors were not obliged to pay any dividend on shares if the company should become insolvent. Under the Act, the stock of the company was deemed a personal estate and was only transferable as such. In addition, the company could acquire, hold, and transfer real estate, and was required to submit annual statements.

A. E. McKenzie was elected President of the newly constituted company. For the remainder of his natural life he remained in this position and supervised the operation of the company. S. A. Bradford, who was given responsibility for various company departments, filled the position of General Manager. H. L. Patmore became the Vice-President, overseeing the nursery business, while W. A. McCracken was put in charge of the warehouse stock, and shipping department. McCracken also supervised the mail order department.

The Company was initially comprised of three divisions: The Brandon Seed House, Brandon Nurseries, and Brandon Greenhouses. Each division was registered under Dominion Patents. Later, the company was divided into Retail Mail Order, Wholesale and Commission Packet Trade divisions. It also undertook some export business.

By registering the divisions of the company under federal legislation affecting trademarks and industrial designs, McKenzie and the Board, were able to register both the company's trademarks and to protect the company's industrial techniques. The company could thus patent the methods and processes of its operations so that no other individual or business could duplicate them.

Located at 30 9th Street, the head office and plant of A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. housed all the facilities and staff of the company, with the exception of the regional sales offices and warehouses. The business of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. was conducted from a frame warehouse until the current McKenzie building was constructed on the same site after a fire destroyed the original premises. Designed by architect Thomas Sinclair, and built by the Brandon Construction Company, the new building opened in 1911. In time, The A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. came to be known as Western Canada's Greatest Seed House.

During the 1930's, before a new building was erected in 1945, the A. E. McKenzie Co. occupied space at five different locations in Brandon, including the Massey Harris Building, the International Harvester Building and the Security Building. The last of these premises was destroyed by fire in 1972. As a result of its proximity to the Security Building, the main McKenzie Building also suffered heavy fire and water damage. A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. also utilized a warehouse on the north side of Pacific Avenue alongside the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks between 5th and 6th streets. This building and its contents were destroyed by fire (1946). In May of 1949, the company purchased and erected a Quonset structure on the west side of 15th Street between Rosser and Pacific Avenues.

In 1908, the first branch of the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was established at Calgary. In the following sixteen years, additional branches were established in Edmonton and Saskatoon (1923), Moose Jaw, Toronto (1934) and Winnipeg (1935). Both the Edmonton and Saskatoon branches were seasonal, operating for a four-month period, March to June inclusive. Business in the Maritime Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick further extended the company's operations by the mid 1940's. In 1946, the company purchased property in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, 120 miles north of Brandon. This purchase enabled the company to handle larger quantities of Sweet Clover, a popular crop that was grown in the surrounding area. Additional offices were opened in Vancouver and Quebec City in rented

premises by the early 1960's.

In the years 1944-1945, the McKenzie Foundation was created. Through the Foundation, arrangements were put in place to transfer shares of the company to the Manitoba Government for the benefit of higher education, specifically Brandon College. In return for this gift, which included 90% of all capital resources of the company together with all of the income earned each year, except for the amount retained annually to ensure sufficient operating capital, the A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. received exemption from paying Corporate Tax.

Prior to the establishment of the McKenzie Foundation, in 1945, the National Trust for the benefit of the College held the shares of McKenzie Seeds. On April 7, 1945 the Manitoba Legislature passed legislation whereby A. E. McKenzie retained effective management control of his company, but 1031 shares out of 1145 issued shares were gifted to the Provincial Government. In return, the government agreed that all financial benefits from the shares would go to Brandon College through the A. E. McKenzie Foundation. When Mr. McKenzie passed away in 1964, the primary responsibility of appointing the Board of Directors for McKenzie Seeds passed to the Provincial government.

The remaining 114 shares of the Company were turned over to the Crown on July 16, 1975 in accordance with an agreement between Brandon University, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. and the Manitoba government. The same agreement also turned the McKenzie Foundation over to Brandon University. Therefore, since 1975 the crown has held all shares of the McKenzie Co. through the Province of Manitoba.

A.E. McKenzie died on September 25, 1964 at the age of 94 and was succeeded as President of the company by J. Lasby Lowes. When Mr. Lowes retired in 1968, A. R. Swanson was appointed by the government to fill the position and was responsible for all operations of the company under a Board of Directors comprised mainly of appointees of the government. It has proven impossible to establish a complete list of those individuals who held the positions of President/General Manager of McKenzie Seeds after 1964. A partial account is as follows: Anthony J. Maruca became President of A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. in 1972. In 1975, the Board of Directors appointed William Moore General Manager, creating a new position to relieve the President of the company from management of plant operations. At the same time, Pat Kelleher was named new interim President. Following the resignation of Kelleher, William Moore assumed the role of President as well. Moore left the company in the early 1980s. He was later convicted of criminal misconduct as President of the company. Keith Guelpa became President/General Manager in the mid 1980's; Raymond West was his successor.

Beginning in 1969, the A. E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. began phasing out the Field Seed division of their company, including business related to forage crops and cereals. Seed cleaning equipment located in Brandon and the company's Calgary and Toronto cleaning plants was sold. The Company concentrated its resources on the production and sale of vegetable and flower seeds, and lawn and turf grasses. It acted as a wholesaler and conducted business through chain stores, grocery, hardware and general stores.

Late in 1971, A. E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. purchased its largest competition in packaged seeds - Steele Briggs Seed Co. from Maple Leaf Mills Inc. for two million dollars. At the time of the acquisition the company changed its name to A. E. McKenzie Co. - Steele Briggs Seeds, in order to benefit from the favorable reputation held by Steele Briggs Seeds across Canada. In the early 1970s, the acquisition of Brett-Young Seeds Ltd., a Winnipeg company that dealt exclusively in the production and sale of field seed, brought the A. E. McKenzie Co. back into the field seed market.

In 1994 the Manitoba Government sold the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, Canada's largest non-retail mail-order catalogue company, which is owned by MDC Corporation of Toronto.

In 2001, McKenzie Seeds is Canada's leading supplier of packaged seeds and related gardening products. It is divided into a Retail Consumer Products division which features well known seed brands including McKenzie Seeds, Pike Seeds and Thompson & Morgan Seeds from England. As well, this division also carries a complete range of lawn seeds and perishables. It also continues to ship the seed racks invented by A.E. McKenzie to numerous retail stores. The second division, Direct Mail, consists of the McFayden and McConnell catalogues which reach over 500,000 Canadian homes each year.

Custodial History:

Following the sale of the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. to Regal Greetings and Gifts, the records of McKenzie Seeds and its subsidiaries were retained in the McKenzie Plant on 9th Street. In April of 1997, the records were transferred to the McKee Archives at Brandon University. Because the company was a crown corporation, the records of McKenzie Seeds belonged to the Province of Manitoba and might have been placed in the Provincial Archives. However, Provincial Archivist Gordon Dodds permitted the retention of the records in Brandon at the S. J. McKee Archives. The minutes of the Board of Directors, previously transferred to the Provincial Archives, remain in Winnipeg. Until 1960 these minutes, by-laws of the Company, and the letters patent of incorporation (April 7, 1906) were in the possession of the Company's lawyers, Johnson, Garson, Forrester, Davidson, & Steen.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of textual records, photographs and artifacts from A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. The textual records include minutes, documents, financial records, administrative records, by-laws, legal records, catalogues, sales literature, seed packets, newspaper clippings, appraisals, publications, scrapbooks and miscellaneous sections.

In addition, some of the records within the fonds relate to the operations of McKenzie subsidiaries -- Brett-Young Seeds, Steele-Briggs Seeds, Pike & Co. and McFayden Seeds -- and various properties owned by McKenzie Seeds.

Fonds contains approximately 500 photographs. These depict the operations and employees of McKenzie Seeds and the seed industry in general. Artifacts contained in the fonds include blueprints, newspaper clippings, copper printing plates, seed bags and plaques.

Fonds also includes an artificially created series of records dealing with Brandon College Inc., the A.E. McKenzie Foundation, the Brandon Allied Arts Council and the Brandon Board of Trade. These records stand outside the provenance of the McKenzie Seed Co.

Of particular interest within the textual records are the transcripts of various features of the company's history as dictated, researched and recalled by its second President/General Manager, J. Lasby Lowes. The fonds also contains a collection of company catalogue which is almost complete. Outside of the seed industry, the records dealing with both Brandon College Inc. and the McKenzie Foundation are significant records relating to the history of Brandon College/University and the City of Brandon.

Notes: Description written by Christy Henry (2001).

Name Access:	A.E. McKenzie
	J. Lasby Lowes
	Irene Cullen
	Joseph Airey
	Alan R. Mundie
	Sandy Black
	Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
	McFayden Seeds
	Steele-Briggs Seed Co
	Pike & Co
	Davidson & Gowen
	Davidson Studio
	Frank Gowen
	Dean Photo Service
	Jerrett's Photo-Art Studio/Jerrett's Photo Service
	Crawford Drug Store
	Leech Printing Ltd
	Eastman Photographic Materials Ltd
Subject Access:	Seed Industry
	Seed Catalogues
	Brandon Business
	Seed Photographs
	Brandon Photographs
	Seed Packets
	Agriculture
	Women Workers
	Labour Relations
	A.E. McKenzie
	J. Lasby Lowes
	A.R. Swanson
	William Moore
	Anthony J. Maruca
	Pat Kelleher
	Keith Guelpa
	Raymond West
	Brett-Young Seeds
	Sabetha
	Steele Briggs Seed Co
	Pike & Co
	McFayden Seeds
	Seed Marketing Co
	Brandon Board of Trade
	Brandon Allied Arts Council
	McKenzie Foundation
	Regal Greetings and Gifts

Repro Restriction: Because the A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. was a crown corporation, the records in the fonds are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

Storage Location: RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Company fonds

Related Material: Additional records regarding A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. are housed at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba. In order to gain access to these records it is necessary to contact the Archives of Manitoba.

Arrangement:

RG 3 A.E. McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Fonds

McS 1 Board of Directors

- 1.1 Documents
- 1.2 Minutes/Meetings
- 1.3 Management Consultant Reports
- 1.4 Miscellaneous
- 1.5 Financial Records

McS 2 Office of the President/General Manager

- 2.1 A.E. McKenzie
- 2.2 J. Lasby Lowes
- 2.3 Comptroller
- 2.4 Properties
- 2.5 Marketing
- 2.6 Reference Library
- 2.7 Miscellaneous Publications/Correspondence

McS 3 Acquisitions

- 3.1 Brett-Young Seeds/Sabetha
- 3.2 Steele-Briggs Seed Co.
- 3.3 Pike & Co.
- 3.4 McFayden Seeds

McS 4 Seed Marketing Co.

McS 5 Photographs

- 5.1 McKenzie Seed Co. Ltd. Executives
- 5.2 Construction at McKenzie Seed Co. Brandon (two files)
- 5.3 Exterior Photographs of the A. E. McKenzie Co. Building
- 5.4 McKenzie Seed Co. Plant Operations and Workers (2 files)
- 5.5 McKenzie Seed Co. Equipment and Plant - Head Office 1983
- 5.6 McKenzie Seed Co. Field Operations and Workers
- 5.7 McKenzie Seed Co. Strike 1944
- 5.8 Fires at McKenzie Seed Co. 1910, 1945, 1972
- 5.9 McKenzie Seed Co. Centennial Exhibition 1996
- 5.10 Miscellaneous McKenzie Seed Co. Photographs
- 5.11 People Connected to McKenzie Seed Co.
- 5.12 Princess Anne's Visit to McKenzie Seed Co. 1982
- 5.13 Onion Set Production Book
- 5.14 Irene Cullen Photographs - McKenzie Seeds Employee Photos
- 5.15 Josiph Airey Photographs - McKenzie Product Photos
- 5.16 Alan R. Mundie Seed Production Photographs
- 5.17 Steele Robertson/Steele Briggs Seeds Photographs
- 5.18 Seed Packet Display Units Photographs
- 5.19 Product Photographs
- 5.20 Parade Photographs
- 5.21 Oversized Photographs

5.2.1 Oversized Photographs

- 5.21.1 Drawer #1: Executive Photographs
- 5.21.2 Drawer #2: Office and Equipment/Plant Photographs
- 5.21.3 Drawer #3: Miscellaneous Oversized Photographs
- 5.21.4 Drawer #4: Artifacts

McS 6 Miscellaneous

- 6.1 Centennial Exhibition
- 6.2 Miscellaneous Publications
- 6.3 Scrapbooks

MG 1 A.E. McKenzie Fonds

- 1.1 Brandon College Inc.
- 1.2 McKenzie Foundation
- 1.3 Brandon Allied Arts Council
- 1.4 Brandon Board of Trade
- 1.5 Miscellaneous



Agricultural Extension Centre

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions9365>

Part Of: RG 11 Lawrence Stuckey fonds

Creator: L.A. Stuckey

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 3.1

Item Number: 1-2002.3.1DA15

Accession Number: 1-2002

GMD: graphic

Date Range: March 11, 1978

Physical Description: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Material Details: Negative

History /

Biographical:

Designed by Victor Horwood, Provincial Architect

Built 1912 as Brandon Normal School

First course began 1913, last class graduated 1941

B.J. Hales (of Winnipeg) first principal, 1st term - 184 students

1941-1945 used by military as part of army A-4 training center - the normal teacher training courses were then held in Daymin Court (12th St & Rosser), Bell Block, and the old Central School

Transferred to Manitoba Department of Agriculture 1946, Became Agricultural Extension Centre 1959

Custodial History:

For custodial history see the collection level description of the Lawrence Stuckey collection.

Scope and Content:

Agricultural Extension Centre, Brandon, Man.

Name Access: Brandon Normal School

Agricultural Extension Centre

Subject Access: schools
 normal schools
 Brandon Schools
 Agriculture

Repro Restriction: The McKee Archives is the copyright holder for the Stuckey materials.

Storage Location: Lawrence Stuckey collection

Images





C. J. Barnes fonds

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4808>

Part Of: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript Collection

Description Level: Collection

Accession Number: 20-1997

GMD: textual records

Date Range: ca. 1962

Physical Description: 2 cm

History /

Biographical:

C. J. Barnes was born in Brandon, Manitoba in February 1884. His parents were native Nova Scotians who arrived in Brandon in the early 1880s. In 1884, the family settled on a homestead near the present town of Lauder. This homestead was sold in 1899, and the family moved to farm in the district of Medora. C. J. Barnes took over the operation of this farm in the early 1900s. He farmed until 1924. Barnes was educated in schools in the Truro School District and the village of Lauder. He was active in the original Territorial Grain Growers' Association.

Custodial History:

This fonds was accessioned by the McKee archives in 1997. Prior custodial history is unknown.

Scope and Content:

Fonds contains a pamphlet written and published by C.J. Barnes titled *Seventy Years in Southwestern Manitoba*. The pamphlet contains an account of life in rural southwestern Manitoba from the 1880s through to the 1940s. The pamphlet is based on a variety of sources including diaries written by Mr. Barnes' father. Fonds also includes some hand-drawn maps not included in the published version of the pamphlet, as well as four letters c.1962, between C.J. Barnes and Rev. Robert Harvey in his capacity as a columnist for the *Brandon Sun*.

Notes: CAIN No. 202605

Subject Access: Rev. Robert Harvey

Lauder

Medora

Deloraine

Southwestern Manitoba

Agriculture

Boundary Commission Trails

Storage Location: 1997 accessions

Storage Range: 1997 accessions



Wheat Market

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions9654>

Part Of: RG 11 Lawrence Stuckey fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 3.1

Item Number: 1-2002.3.1H1

Accession Number: 1-2002

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1887

Physical Description: 3 1/2" x 5"

Material Details: Negative

Custodial History:

For custodial history see the collection level description of the Lawrence Stuckey collection.

Scope and Content:

The wheat market

Notes: View of Pacific Avenue looking east from 8th Street
Closest elevator: Kelly Bros. Second elevator: Parrish & Lindsay
Courtesy of The Brandon Sun.

Name Access: Wheat Market

Subject Access: Wheat
Agriculture
hotels
Grain elevators
Brandon Industries

Repro Restriction: The McKee Archives is the copyright holder for the Stuckey materials.

Storage Location: Lawrence Stuckey collection

Images





Wilcocks & Currie Livestock Auction

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions9655>

Part Of: RG 11 Lawrence Stuckey fonds

Description Level: Item

Series Number: 3.1

Item Number: 1-2002.3.1H2

Accession Number: 1-2002

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1891

Physical Description: 3 1/2" x 5"

Material Details: Negative

History /

Biographical:

New City Hall almost completed - will open Feb. 29, 1892.

Custodial History:

For custodial history see the collection level description of the Lawrence Stuckey collection.

Scope and Content:

Wilcocks & Currie livestock auction

Notes: Located in City Square, just west of City Hall.

From the collection of Jeff Sutherland.

Name Access: Wilcocks & Currie Livestock Auction

Subject Access: Agriculture

auctions

Livestock

cattle

horses

Brandon Industries

Repro Restriction: The McKee Archives is the copyright holder for the Stuckey materials.

Storage Location: Lawrence Stuckey collection

Images

