Civic Raymore
by Alne Cameron

At the beginning of 1908 no Raymore existed. However, The Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad was constructing its line towards this area and the town- site had already been chosen. As the management of the railroad had decreed that the town sites along the line be named in Alphabetical order, a name beginning with the letter "R" was needed to follow Quinton. As far as can be determined the town was named after an employee of the railroad who was working on the construction crew. A very prosaic origin.

In the spring of 1908 two people arrived at the town site to commence business- A. G. MacLean, a general merchant, and slightly later a pharmacist H.E. Martin.

The combination of business and railroad soon attracted an influx of other business and tradesmen as well as the representatives of grain companies. Before long the population was such that it was felt that a municipal structure should be erected, a village, as the required population of 100 had been exceeded. A petition had been forwarded to the Province asking that the Village of Raymore be pro- claimed. This proclamation was issued in the Saskatchewan Gazette to be effective the first day of September, 1908.

In the first elections J. W. Partridge was elected overseer and H. E. Martin was appointed the first secretary-treasurer. Since that time 25 men have served as Overseer and three persons have been Mayors and nine persons have been secretary-treasurers or town administrators.

Among the long-serving officials A. J. Burrows served as Overseer for ten years and W. S. Dunville was Mayor and Overseer for nine. In the administrative branch J. J. Cameron was secretary-treasurer for 24 years and his son Alne Cameron held the position for 29 and a half years.

The table below shows that for many years the population of the village was fairly stable. The two most important periods of growth were in years following World Wars I and II:

1906 no community	
1911 - 126	1946 - 305
1916 no census	1951 - 378
1921 - 280	1956 - 434
1926 - 267	1961 - 503
1931 - 293	1966 - 537
1936 - 267	1971 - 523
1941 - 266	1976 - 562
	1979 - 605 (local)

When the town was formed it consisted of four blocks and the G.T.P.R. right-of-way. These are the blocks on Main St. and bounded on the north and south by Third Ave. and First Ave. and on the east and west by King St. and Queen St. but the whole municipal area was that portion of 19-28-18-2 which lies north of the boundary of the right-of-way of the railroad.

Some years later the town site was increased to contain the whole of Section 19 and then later again reduced to the former size. The last change was to add portions of land on either side of Highway No. 6, which is the nominal boundary of the town, to the town site.

There are also new business establishments outside the town site which yet have not been annexed to the town site which improve the business community but still belong to the rural municipalities adjacent to the town. Other property owned by the town, but not included in the town site are the Municipal Cemetery across the highway from the northwest comer of the town and the former site of the C.N .R. dam which was purchased some years ago which contains about 57 acres and was to be held in reserve as a temporary water supply in case of emergency.

Raymore has always been known as the village which had more sidewalks than any other village in the area; and so in photos of 1911 can be seen several blocks of wooden sidewalks which together with graded blocks of streets were the main capital works undertaken until after 1921.

These same photos show that the site was treeless and bare.

Following the First War, and with an increase in the number of business premises and population, the Council of the day undertook to have several blocks of concrete sidewalks built and a tender was called and the contract was awarded to A. MacKay of Semans. In tribute to his work several are still in good repair and use.

Again, in 1927 the 60 anniversary of Confederation the village fathers thought that in tribute to the event the village should be improved and beautified and under the aegis of the Overseer, Dr. Nelle's, and his public works councillor, James Tate, a park was begun on the south side of First Ave. extending from Queen St. to King St.; and also that several new blocks of streets should be treed, which over the years has added greatly to the beauty of the town.

Starting about this time it became the custom of the councils to have the more used streets surfaced with gravel and later with cinders obtained from the railroad and which gave a fairly good all weather surface; and also built at least one block of sidewalk annually.

This latter project suffered abandonment in the late thirties, and was not revived until after World War II until at the present, nearly every block is fully done and all blocks have at least one sidewalk.

In 1915, after a few years of a volunteer bucket fire brigade, the council was petitioned to have a regular fire engine and fireball which would have a water cistern under it. The project was undertaken and a fireball with a bell and hose drying tower, 15,000 gallon cistern, fire engine room, and fire engine and meeting room was constructed. The first engine and pumper unit was a Waterous and served the village until the 50's. At later dates T-Model Ford trucks were added as fire chief's vehicles, hose reels and hose, and also a chemical unit for fast work and to hold the fire in check until the main hose line could be run out. By the early 50's this equipment became obsolete except for the pumper, so a war assets truck was purchased and 500 gallon tank mounted for quick service.

This equipment was good until 1962 when council floated debentures to build a new fire hall and house a new truck and pumper under over seer back, before the new fireball was more than a plan, it was decided to add a 50,000 gallon cistern and also include in the building a council meeting room, comfort stations for the public and a small suite of rooms for a live-in couple who would be caretakers of the whole.

The latest firetruck played out and a new one was purchased and it too went the way of obsolescence. During his term Mayor Riach and council formed a Municipal Fire Protection District with the R.M. of Mount Hope. As a final stage and at present a new fire hall is being constructed. The old building will remain in use as it contains the water treatment units, the restrooms, offices and living quarters. The offices section is used for almost wholly for a doctor's office and for the various provincial health services.

In 1962, as so many of the towns and villages of the province were doing, the village council under Overseer Hofmeister went all out to install a sewer system, but he did not see it completed as he lost office and S. Dunville was to complete this work . This system was a great boon to the village folk, who could now live part of their life in comfort; but it meant having cisterns and the constant hauling of water to keep the system in service properly. Council therefore decided that the debt should be increased and a town has been served by innumerable wells, dug and bored and drilled, and nearly all with questionable quality, being heavy impregnated with customary prairie alkali salts. These wells together with farm dugouts and the C.N.R. dam site were hard pressed in wintertime to supply sufficient water to service the sewer, and so the new project became a necessity.

The search for a suitable source of sufficient water to supply the population of about 500 was begun. Many test drillings were made and in all directions from the village, wherever a good well existed or a spring flow served a well or a large amount of water could be pumped from a well. Finally the drilling struck three levels of water on the Earl Dunville farm, and after test pumping which showed more than the needed supply, a well was established.

 Just prior to the letting of debentures for the water system the town had reached a population mile post and with over 500 persons resident applied for town status and by proclamation in the Saskatchewan Gazette it was raised to the status of Town of Raymore effective the first day of August, 1963. This meant that the borrowing power of the community had been raised from 15% to 20% of taxable assessment. With this increase in borrowing power the water system was an easier undertaking, but even then it was necessary to have the Local Government Board allow a debt over-run of several thousand dollars so that the work could be fully completed.

Following War II as the village suddenly spurted ahead in population, it was necessary to add greatly to the amount of land that was subdivided and with subdivisions a great increase in the blocks of streets that needed sidewalks and all-weather surfacing. This meant building and graveling roads and then maintaining the same all year. During the early 70's Mayor Riach and his council decided that a paving program was needed and the necessary machinery was set in motion and dust-free fully paved streets in much of the town was realized. The cost was covered by frontage prepayments, provincial grants and de-bentures. This program was further enhanced by Mayor Orthner and his council until all but the very newest blocks are paved. The foresight of the council in paving rather than oil surfacing is proving a boon in the low cost of maintenance.

Many other projects, mostly smaller, have been done during the years. The first fairly comprehensive storm sewer system was established in the early 20's and served usefully until 40 years later. The old storm sewers were added to but were not fully effective. However, with the advent of the street surfacing program, it was mandatory that a good system be built to make effective drainage a fact and to keep the streets free of excess moisture.
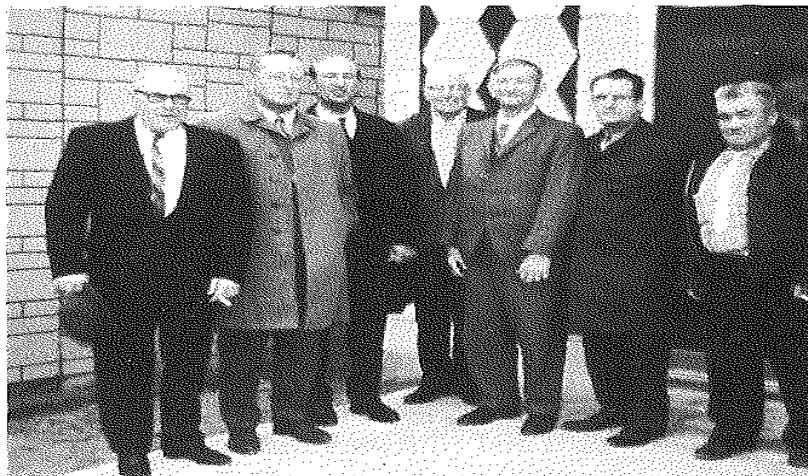
In their time, jails have been built or added to buildings, council chambers, and halls in which the town has either been sole builder or has assisted. Among the latest are a fine new Town Office building and a part ownership with the school the school unit of a large gymnasium-auditorium, the first time in the province, which serves the community as a centre of social activities where large numbers of people can be accommodated.

Just recently the Town purchased the farm acreage to the east of the built-up area. This property is for several uses. A 22 unit Senior Citizens Low Cost Housing development has been built, and at writing is nearly full; two or three blocks have been subdivided from it and all lots are now sold and a new division is ready for working on; the unused acreage is farmed by the town and is revenue producing.

Eastview Lodge.

Even councils have changed , for in the beginning, and for many years, three men were elected to office and from among their number they chose the village Overseer; then came the five-man councils elected in the same manner because of the extra work entailed in operating utilities; and now a seven person council with a Mayor and six aldermen. Even more changes are forecast as a Provincial Commission has been studying municipal government for the past year. It must be noted that to date only three women

Town Council -opening of new office. Bob Braun, Ian Riach, Mayor —Steve Pylypuk, Alne Cameron, Sec.-Treas. – John Buitenhuis, Casey Hanna, Joe Doidge. Missing, Ray Keim.

have been elected to council, Mrs. Violet Morrow, Mrs. Rose Kirkby, and Mrs. Gladys Kram. It must be further noted that of the nine secretaries, the last three have been l a d i e s .

The following is a list of the Overseers, Mayors, Secretary-treasurers and Town Administrators and their terms of office:

Overseers
1909 — Dr. J. W. Partridge 1910-11 — Thomas W. Scott 1912 — Harley W. Paine
1913 — Archibald G. MacLean 1914-16 — George Stokehill
1917-18 — Archibald G. MacLean 1919-20 — George Tweedy
1921-22 — Thomas Greenwood 1923 — Harley W. Paine
1924-25 — James Tate
1926 -30 — Dr. A. P. Floyd Nelles 1931-32 — James Nottingham
1933-34 — Dr. A. P. F. Nelles
1935 — Harley W. Paine 1936-40 — James Tate
1941-50 — Alfred J. Burrows 1951-52 — John C. Morrow 1953 — John C. Taylor
1954 — Maximilian Lang 1955 — Martin F. Huber
1956-57 — W. Shirley Dunville 1958-59 — Anton Osczevski
1960-61 — Albert Back

1962 — Frank J. Hofmeister
1963-part 64 – W . Shirley Dunville Mayors
_Part 1964-69 — W. Shirley Dunville 1970-75 — Ian D. Riach
1976 – Robert Orthner Secretary-Treasurers
1909-11 — Harold E. Martin 1912-20 — Cecil E. Drake 1921 — Albert I. Gillies 1922 — Barney Holden
1923-46 – J. Julian Cameron 1946-64 – Alne J. G. Cameron Town Administrators

1964-75 — Alne J. G. Cameron 1975-78 — Mrs. Gloria Howse
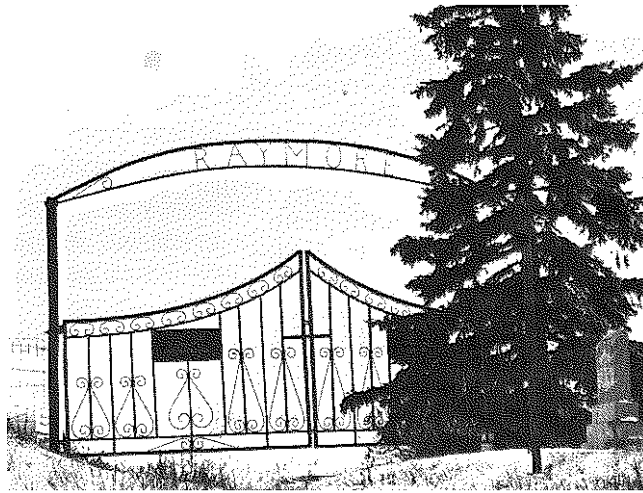Part 1979 — Mrs. Marcella Purdue 1979 — Mrs. Ruth Buitenhuis

It would hardly be proper to complete the story of the municipal government of the Town without mention of two positions undertaken by various persons, those of policeman and town handyman. We have been unable to discover much on either position during the early years, but the first we come across is George Sauter, a local drayman. We do not know when his term began but we do know that he was so employed from the latter years of World War I to the time of his death in the early 20's.

During the war, the story is told that some misguided soul ran up the German flag on the village flagpole. Mr. Sauter was informed and rather than take it down the usual way he hitched his dray team to the pole and brought the whole thing down. His deed was duly applauded by patriotic Raymoreites, but the village did not have another flag pole until 1927.
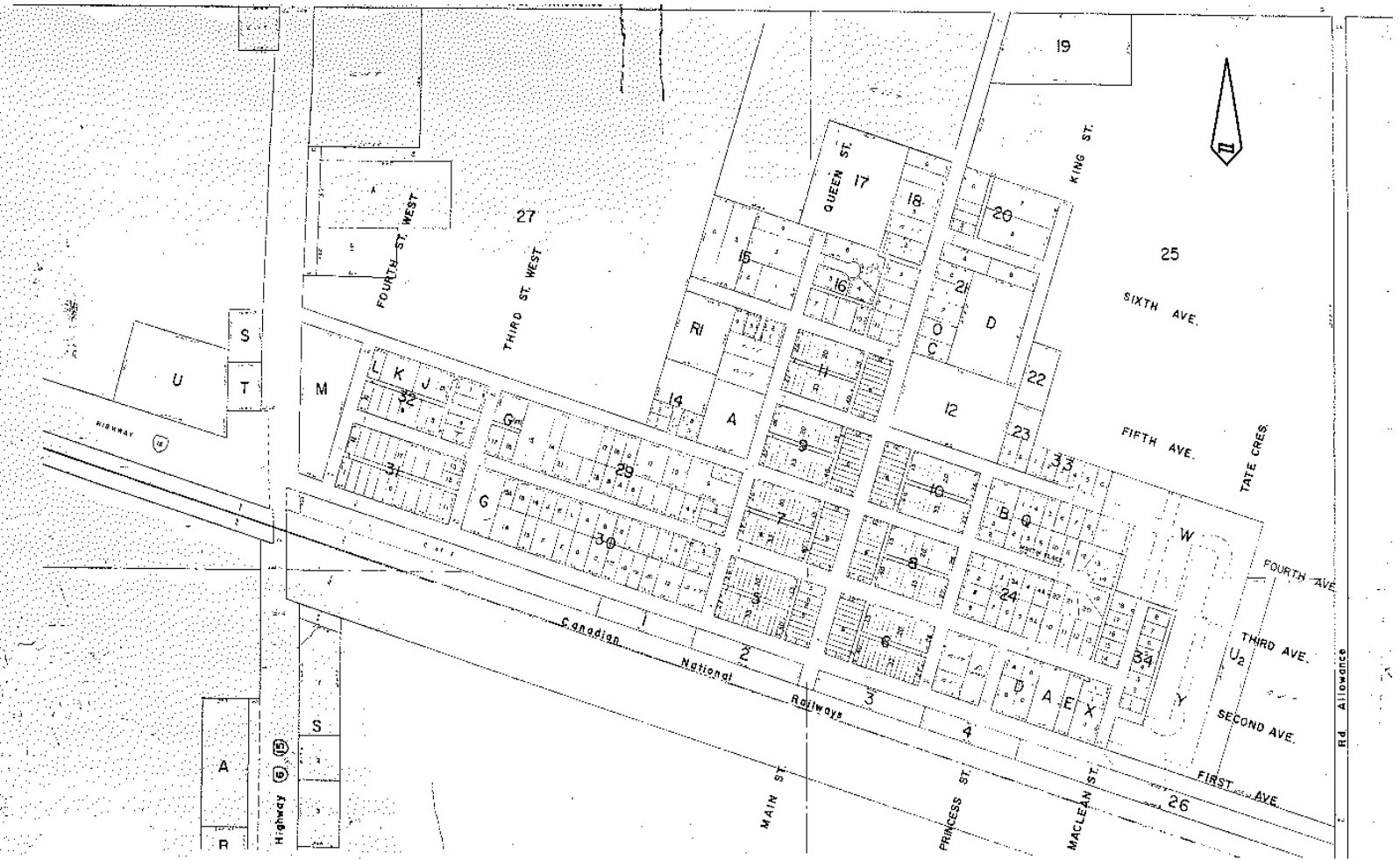
Sauter in turn was followed by others, and again we cannot find the full list, but among them were Robert Lunniss, Tinker Purdue, Fred Worth, William Froats, Anton Osczevski, Odreal Eby, Frank Fleischhacker and Roy Stewart. Some years ago, council decided that it would be more effective to have policing done by a regular force and a contract was signed with the Province's Attorney-General and the R .C.M.P. and this situation is still in force.

As to handyman, it is much more difficult to find just who the men that did this service early on were. It seems that in the early years what little scavenging was done was by the local draymen, and construction, when needed, by local contract or local hire. Following War II and with the influx of new citizens it became a must to have a regular man, sometimes a combined job with the policing. Such men were Odreal Eby, Frank Fleischhacker, Roy Stewart, John Horodka, Dale Orthner, and the present employee is Ron Hido.

Law and order for minor infractions was the business of the local policeman, and to help him in his job early councils had a jail built in the first fireball, and latterly a separate building adjacent to the second fireball. Several rare tales are told of the custodians who were not always the local constabulary, of the offenders, but who wanted to earn an extra dollar or two. However, those stories are better left untold.

One of the pair of Memorial Gates at Municipal Cemetery.

Recent Town Plan Map.