ELK POINT HISTORICAL TRIVIA

ELK POINT:
- Hamlet from 1907 to 1938
- Became a village April 27, 1938 – Mayor DC Nelson
- Became a town, Oct 17, 1962 – Mayor Mike Habiak

WHY ELK POINT?

First called Elk Point by Mr. Higby (originally from Elk Point, South Dakota) who traveled here from Vermilion and made his home in a cave on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River where the bridge is now. Later, when the Post Office was built and the town was officially named, of the three choices, Elk Point stuck.

FERRY SERVICE:

Hopkins Ferry was installed 4 miles west of the current bridge in 1907. The ferry at the current bridge location was installed in 1913 and was first operated by Charlie Magnusson.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE:

The telegraph was first established in this area in April of 1910 at Mr. Ed Boyd's, who lived 3 miles west of the current town site. The telegraph office in Elk Point was opened in March of 1921 and was discontinued in 1927.

TELEPHONE SERVICE:

Telephone lines were in place in 1912. Service began August 9, 1913, installed at the post office.

COMMUNITY HALLS:

Armistice Hall was built in 1926, Stoney Lake Hall was started in 1939 and finished in 1940. The Elk's Hall in 1961.

POST OFFICE:

The post office was originally established in 1907 on Mr. Charles Hood's farm. It took an average of two weeks for it to come to Elk Point from Vermilion.

AGRICULTURAL FAIR:

The first agricultural fair was held on September 25, 1912.

Banks:

The Bank of Commerce was operating in Elk Point in 1919. The T.D. Bank opened here in June of 1947.

DOCTORS/HOSPITALS:

Dr. F.G. Miller arrived in July of 1920, A.G. Ross in July of 1922 and Dr. A. Weigerink in 1939. The first hospital was established in December of 1923. The Municipal Hospital #18 was built and opened November 26/28. The current hospital opened in September of 1976.

RAILROAD/ELEVATORS:

Rail lines reached Elk Point in 1927. The first elevator (U.G.G.) was built in the fall of 1927 with Eugene McDonnell as agent. The Victoria opened in Nov. of 1927 with agent L.W. Sumpton. The Alberta Wheat Pool opened in 1929 with Jack Fitzsimmons as agent. In 1927 a combined shipment of 160,000 bushels left by rail; in 1976 the combined total was 600,000.

CREAMERY:

The original building was done in 1929 and later was used as a slaughterhouse. The second creamery was built in 1959, closed in 1973 and now serves as a

bottle depot.

SCHOOLS:

The first school actually built in Elk Pont was in January, 1929 - currently situated by the R.C.M.P. barracks. Occupation of the new elementary school was Easter of 1957 while the new high school was Easter 1961.

BRIDGES:

The first Elk Point bridge was built in 1949 and opened in June of 1950. It was dismantled after the current bridge was built in 1985.

THE EMPRESS:

Bought by Jean Slywka from Joe Wong in 1967. The old cafe was moved to Jean's farm and the business closed for a period of time while the new building was erected. The grand opening of the Empress was May 26, 1979. The lounge addition was built in 1985.

Other Trivia:
In 1939, Main Street was graveled and streetlights installed. The highway linking Vermilion, Elk Point and St. Paul was completed in 1951. The curling rink was built in 1961 with the artificial ice plant installed in 1967. 4H was established in 1965 with Ray Hellquist as leader. The Centennial Library opened in July of 1966. The new town office was built in 1967. The RCMP were established here in 1968. In 1973, the A.G. Ross Arena was opened.

PETER FIDLER

In 1788, Peter Fidler began working for the Hudson's Bay Co. as a surveyor at the tender of age of 18. He was instrumental in building the fur-trading forts of Buckingham House and Fort George and married a First Nations woman.

Fidler was an important figure in the early years of the region, so when the town of Elk Point wanted to celebrate the 200-year anniversary of the fur posts, townsfolk chose to memorialize him by creating a carving.

The Chain-saw carving stands a shade over 9 metres (30 feet) tall and is holding what is reputed to be the largest sextant in the Province.