

Hillhurst-Sunnyside Remembers

Margaret Tanko

Published by Hillhurst-Sunnyside
Community Association, 1978



Early Days

Hillhurst-Sunnyside welcomed a wave of settlers in 1907. Jessie Fleit was one of the newcomers that year.

"When I came to Sunnyside it was just a village," Mrs. Fleit recalls. "There were just wooden sidewalks and mud. There was no plumbing or electricity in our houses at that time so it was quite a problem to carry water from the Bow River to the house."

They gradually acquired the habit of carrying water with the daily routine. My mother didn't mind carrying water. There was no sidewalk back here on 40th Avenue, not even for a few feet. There were very few trees — that was just prairie. Park was a town and they kept horses there. I think Hillhurst was a town when I was born in 1914.

Flora W. arrived in Hillhurst in 1914. Following a long journey, she found a place to live in Hillhurst.

FOREWORD

Hillhurst-Sunnyside is one of Calgary's oldest communities. Located in the northwest sector of the city, its boundaries stretch from Centre Street North to 18th Street North West. It is bordered by the Bow River on the south, the North Hill on the north.

For those of you who have lived in and grown up with this community, hopefully some of these recollections will take you back to times and people you had almost forgotten. For those of you not familiar with Hillhurst-Sunnyside, let this be your introduction to its past and present. The insight gained from reading about some of the people who built the community will better help you understand what this community is all about. A community in transition, it seeks to blend the old with the new, resulting in a very unique place to live.

She recalls High Street being a dirt road with only a few houses along it. The bricks of Hillhurst were made in an old wooden brick kiln and the area was mostly populated when she and her family settled in.

"My dad built a house here when we moved," Mrs. Gillespie says. "He added on

men's were unacquainted.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Campbell of Westwood Road, just west of 14th Street, recall the dirt sidewalks were finally laid on their street. The year, 1947.

"All the children on the block got dressed up and we had a little parade up and down

INTRODUCTION

Hillhurst-Sunnyside is the kind of place you wish you'd grown up in. It's a community with a population of approximately 10,000, forty per cent of whom are senior citizens. The small well-kept houses and tree-lined streets are the result of over 80 years of hard work by people who came to make the community their home. Nellie Kerslake came to Sunnyside in 1925 and remembers it as "just an ordinary working class area; nice little homes, nothing fancy but well-kept."

"Hillhurst," remembers May Maclean, "was a very nice community." Having since left the area, Mrs. Maclean thinks back on her arrival in 1917 with warm feelings.

"I was happy in Hillhurst. Very nice people lived on 11A Street."

Garfield Barnett has lived in the same house in Sunnyside since 1921.

"You used to know everyone around then," Mr. Barnett stresses. "Families lived in their houses for years and years. Their children grew up in them." A person boarding a streetcar in Hillhurst-Sunnyside in the early days was sure to know half the people on it as well. "One knew all the patrolmen too," says Harold Pemberton who was chased by them on more than one occasion.

"We used to get spuds from the empty lots and hide and knock off the patrolmen's hats," says Mr. Pemberton who arrived in Sunnyside in 1913. "They used to wear these high

hats and they patrolled on foot. There was a Chinese restaurant on Kensington Road just past 10A Street. We'd run in there, it was like our headquarters, and the patrolmen would come in looking for us. We'd be sitting there." Mr. Pemberton chuckles as he thinks back on those times. "Oh, they knew who we were but they could never catch us actually doing it. Besides, we were all friends."

The community has since lost some of the intimacy that the old timers remember from those early years. Present lifestyles reflect the rapid growth of a large city and the mobility of people today means neighbours no longer stay for years and years. Yet the residents of Hillhurst-Sunnyside possess a strong sense of community somewhat unique in Calgary. The Community Association provides not only sports and recreation for the residents but a number of social services as well. The Association is aware that the community must undergo certain changes but is determined to have a say in those decisions which affect the community.

Because of its close proximity to the city centre, Hillhurst-Sunnyside is sought by developers interested in making it the bedroom for the downtown area. Residents are therefore anxious to retain the small-town atmosphere and family-oriented neighbourhood that has existed since its beginning. For them, Hillhurst-Sunnyside is home.

Early Days

Hillhurst-Sunnyside welcomed a wave of settlers in 1907. Jessie Flett was one of the newcomers that year.

"When I came to Sunnyside it was just a village," Mrs. Flett recalls. "There were just wooden sidewalks and mud. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity in our houses in those days so it was quite a problem to carry water, particularly if you had a family. To have a good well was a sign of prestige. I was never so thankful that I was brought up in the country. I knew what it was like to carry water. There weren't many people in Sunnyside but the immigrants were coming in thick and fast."

As a young girl, Mrs. Flett helped one of the first doctors in Hillhurst-Sunnyside, Dr. Gow.

"He'd always come to get me if there was a case of birth," she recalls. "I'd say 'wait until I get a clean apron,' but he'd say 'no, there's no time.' So, I'd go. At that time women gave birth at home. They had to. Nobody went to the hospital then. I was just a girl at the time so many times I was scared. The first time I had to wash a newborn baby I asked him to stand over me and see that I did it right. But he'd always come and call at the house and I never had time to prepare. He'd just say, 'no, come on, I need you now.'"

Mrs. Flett's husband William was affectionately known in the community as the "Mayor of Sunnyside." The Fletts were a highly respected couple whose advice and help was often sought by other members of the community. Mr. Flett's nickname stems from the fact that he twice put up his house as security to help save the mortgage on the Hillhurst United Church.

Margaret Gillespie was another to arrive in 1907. She recalls 10th Street being a dirt road with only a few houses along it. The bridge at 10th Street was "just an old wooden structure" and the area was sparsely populated when she and her family settled in.

"My dad built a two-room shack when we first came," Mrs. Gillespie says. "He added on

to it gradually and built the house (a common practice with the early settlers). You see, there wasn't much money then. There was no sidewalks back here on 4th Avenue, not even wooden ones. There were very few trees — this was just prairie. Riley Park was a farm and they kept horses there I think. In Hillhurst there wasn't much west of 14th Street."

Florence Wilson arrived in Hillhurst in 1914. Following several moves, her family settled for a time in a house in the 600 block of 3rd Avenue in Sunnyside.

"Our house on 3rd Avenue was one of a row of small bungalows," Mrs. Wilson explains. "They called them Bennett's Bath Houses in the twenties. I think the reason they called them bath houses was because they were so small and on single lots."

"They had no street lamps at all back here on 2nd and 3rd Avenues," Mrs. Wilson adds, thinking back. "At night you couldn't see the houses from the streetcar. You had to watch carefully when you were coming home late to make sure you didn't miss your stop."



*View of Sunnyside from North Hill above 10th Street, circa 1917
- Alberta - Glenbow Institute*

Primitive conditions were soon improved with the influx of settlers. By 1910, residents in the central areas of the community welcomed the arrival of cement sidewalks and in 1915, 10th Street was paved. However, in the outlying areas of Hillhurst-Sunnyside, it was a good many years before the same improvements were undertaken.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Grindley of Westmount Road, just west of 14th Street, recall the day sidewalks were finally laid on their street. The year: 1947.

"All the children on the block got dressed up and we had a little parade up and down

the sidewalk,” recalls Mrs. Grindley. “We rented a horse from Ike Ruttle on 17th Avenue S.W. and the kids took turns riding it.”



Norfolk Street (10A Street) carved in the sidewalk; A reminder of Hillhurst - Sunnyside's British heritage

The bulk of the early settlers arrived from England and Scotland and the area took on a distinct British flavour. The streets were originally given English and Scottish names and Norfolk Street can still be seen written on the sidewalk at the corner of 10A Street and Kensington Road. Tenth Street was once called the Morleyville Road because it follows the same path as the Morleyville Trail that led to the Methodist mission at Morley. After the community became more settled, the streets were given numerical names and even Kensington Road was called Centre Avenue for a number of years.

Memorial Drive was called Sunnyside Boulevard east of 10th Street and Westmount or Hillhurst Boulevard west of 10th Street. After World War I, trees were planted along the Boulevard as a memorial to soldiers who

had lost their lives. Name plates bearing the names of soldiers were nailed to the trees and Harold Pemberton recalls watching the proceedings.

“I was watching with a friend and his brother’s name was placed on a tree. He was so pleased when he saw it there. That was what got me to call it Memorial Drive.”

It wasn’t until the fifties, however, that the name Memorial Drive was officially adopted.

Much of Sunnyside was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 1800’s. One of the first known settlers in the area was J. J. McHugh, a squatter who staked a claim on some C.P.R. land. He succeeded in getting a “free acre of land through a court battle with the Railway. The cost of contesting the suit — a mere \$2,000. The former site of the McHugh house is the playground at the corner of Memorial Drive and 9A Street.

Hillhurst, in turn, was part of a large land holding of the Riley Family’s, belonging to son Ezra H. Riley. He sold the land to the city in 1904 and by 1906 the land was being surveyed and sold. Sunnyside was surveyed into 25 foot lots which were small considering the land that was available at the time. Lack of money has been suggested as one reason why larger lots weren’t sold but Mr. Barnett says that’s just the way the city did it.

“Water hook-ups were set up every 25 feet so plots were sold every 25 feet,” he says emphatically.



Sunset Lodge - former residence of Ezra H. Riley.



Thomas Riley Family. Ezra H. Riley, front row, second from right.

Alberta - Glenbow Institute

The community was incorporated into the city in 1907. It was still sparsely populated but growing. In 1909 Sunnyside Cottage School was built at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 9th Street. The following year the Hillhurst Cottage School went up on 12th Street. In 1911 the Carscallen Block was built on 10th Street and the sandstone Hillhurst Elementary School was completed on 7th Avenue.

Permanent houses began to mushroom and many of the larger store blocks were built the following year. However, there still remained many empty lots and open space in the community.

"I remember we used to be able to walk to Hillhurst School in almost a straight line," says Mr. Pemberton who lived on 9th Street in Sunnyside.

In the early days, much of Sunnyside was nothing more than slough, to the chagrin of many of the new residents. One of the biggest pools was on the site of the Safeway parking lot. Mr. Barnett remembers it well.

"At one time," he explains, "it was all slough south of 4th Avenue. That's why the land slopes on the south side. Most of the homeowners filled in the fronts of their lots when they built on 4th Avenue, but left the backs as they were. That's why their backyards are so much lower than their front yards.

"Fourth Avenue used to be an old Indian Trail that followed the edge of the slough," Mr. Barnett adds. "So did Gladstone Road. That's why it cuts on an angle the way it does."

Another slough was located on the corner of 5th Avenue and 10th Street across from the Baptist Church. At one time the water ran right across 10th Street and one resident recalls having to cross a bridge to get across the creek.

"Everyone used to skate on that slough," remembers May Jones. "I learned to skate there and I remember you could check your shoes in a little shack for ten cents." The shack was operated by none other than Mr. Pemberton who feels it was quite ingenious on his part.

Sunnyside is also located on an old river bed. It lies low and numerous springs and heavy moisture in the soil have caused residents headaches over water seepage in their basements.

"It used to be the people across the street had water in their basements all the time," says Mr. Barnett. "When the water level rises, the water table in the ground rises and people in the low areas get water in their basements. They used to have one pair of waders between the neighbours across the street. If someone wanted to go down into their basement he'd have to go running around and see who had the waders."

Because of the seepage problem, most residents in Sunnyside had pumps installed in their basements. Some people had their pumps going all the time and others, "fortunately," only when it flooded.

The areas in Sunnyside hardest hit by the floods were those on the east side. Mr. Barnett recalls Mrs. Murray who lived in the second last house on 4th Avenue.

"When the flood came," he remembers, "she'd open up the front door and the back door and just let the water go through."

In the early 1900's spring floods were the biggest threat. However, it was after the construction of the Ghost Dam in 1930 that Hillhurst-Sunnyside had one of its worst winter floods.

Vera Staples, a teacher at Sunnyside school since 1921, recalls the flood that filled the school's basement with water.

"It was the worst flood — just after they put in that dam. We sat up and watched and waited. We were alerted to be prepared to evacuate if necessary. We never got any water in our home but the school's basement was flooded. At that time the toilets were in the basement of the school and as a result we couldn't use them. If it flooded in the summer it would only last a day or two so we'd close the school and let the kids have a holiday. They'd love it to flood. In the winter, however, a flood would last a couple of weeks so we had to keep the school open. We'd let the kids go without recess and send them home 15 minutes early to compensate but then

some of the parents complained. So, we had to parade them down to the cottage school at 9A Street and 2nd Avenue to use the toilets. Can you imagine six teachers taking six classes twice a day? You should have heard the name they called our parade! Finally that summer they built the toilets upstairs, but after that it never flooded again.”

Fred Aspden of Memorial Drive had his share of headaches with that same flood. At the time, Mr. Aspden was in the process of painting storm windows.

“We were painting in the basement. That night we went to bed and during the night the flood came. All the paint cans tipped over. We came down in the morning and there was water all over and scum from the paint floating on the surface.”

Strangely enough, there are people in the community who have never had any problems with flooding, not even in Sunnyside.

“It’s strange,” says Hilda Benson of Memorial Drive, “one house would get water in the basement and the one next door wouldn’t. It seems some houses were built on gravel beds. I remember them building a house on 3rd Avenue. There was so much water they finally gave up and quit.”

In an effort to prevent further flooding, dikes were built along Memorial Drive and the river dragged to deepen it. Completion of the Bearspaw Dam in 1953 helped control the winter flooding and the threat has virtually been eliminated. However, the possibility of a spring flood still exists and the community is designated as a flood plain. A flood warning system is employed should the threat of a flood occur. Once a disaster is declared, appropriate measures, which include evacuation, will be taken. In addition, any building being constructed in the flood plain must now follow specific guidelines.

Heavy moisture in the North Hill bordering Sunnyside presented another threat to the community — mud slides. A serious mud slide in the spring of 1948 forced people to evacuate their homes in the 600 block of 9th Avenue, just below the hill. Hilda Piper, whose house was threatened, remembers it well.



Flood scene of Sunnyside.

“I was standing on my clothesline porch and saw water oozing out of the hill,” she recalls. “Then the hill started to come down. The trees and flowers just started to slide. It came right up to the back door. Apparently there’s an underwater lake in the north hill that stretches to 20th Avenue.”

“One of the engineers suggested I evacuate,” Mrs. Piper explains. “The city engineers were afraid it would slide more and cause the gas lines to rupture and explode. The city moved all our things out and put us up at a hotel downtown until it got too expensive for them I guess. Then they moved us into the war-time huts they had up on the hill. Then they moved my house over to 2nd Avenue.”

Because of the slide, the city installed more drain pipes to deal with the heavy moisture. Grading and landscaping of the hill was undertaken to help stabilize it and prevent further sliding.

The Churches of Hillhurst-Sunnyside

In the early days, the church was an important part of the community. Many social events centered around the various churches and events such as the fall Harvest Supper and spring teas were looked forward to by all.

The first churches were built almost as soon as the first houses. The first church in the area was St. Barnabas Anglican Church, a frame structure built in Hillhurst in 1906. The following year, 1907, Methodist and Presbyterian services were started in Riley's Hall (corner of 11A Street and 5th Avenue), and the Morleyville Road Baptist Church was completed on 10th Street. In 1908, St. Paul's Methodist Church was completed on 12th Street and the Hillhurst Presbyterian Church held its first service in the new church at 1127 Kensington Road.

In 1912, a second St. Barnabas Church (a stone structure donated by Ezra H. Riley in memory of his mother, father and daughter), was built. In 1957 however, the building was gutted by a serious fire which destroyed all but the tower. The old tower was incorporated into the present church.

Sunday schools were quickly organized for the children and numerous groups and organ-



*St. Paul's Methodist Church, 12th Street, circa 1920 - 25.
- Alberta - Glenbow Institute.*



St. Paul's Methodist Church, 1978, currently the Oddfellows Hall.

izations sprang up. One of particular interest is Hillhurst's own chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) which held its first meeting in St. Paul's Methodist Church in 1912. In 1913, the group changed its name to the Hillhurst Chapter from the Northwest Chapter. Regular monthly meetings were held and the Sunday Schools were involved in the group's campaigns.

Following World War I, there was a great influx of Catholic immigrants to the community. St. John's School was built on Kensington Road in 1917 and in 1928, St. John's Church was completed on 10th Street.

At present, Hillhurst United Church, St. Barnabas and St. John's are the only churches still in use as churches in the community.



St. Barnabas Church, 1912 - 1957.



Hillhurst Presbyterian Sunday School group in anti-liquor campaign in front of Ross Block, circa 1912 - 1916.

Alberta - Glenbow Institute.

Lifestyles

The first immigrants from England and Scotland were true pioneers who homesteaded.

“At that time I kept chickens,” says Mrs. Flett. “We all did. Everyone had a vegetable garden and empty lots could be rented out so people could cultivate them.”

“My dad had a regular farm,” recalls Mrs. Gillespie. “He had two teams of horses and a cow. We had a great big barn.” In the early days, barns were a familiar sight.

“Almost all of 4th Avenue was owned by a Mr. Macdonald right back to the hill. He kept teams of horses on his property,” Mrs. Barnett recalls. “He was a big contractor and at that time they used horses to do all their heavy work.”

Water and sewer hook-ups became available in 1912 and by the twenties most residents had the convenience of indoor plumbing. However, up until the thirties, there was

a period of about six weeks each spring when the water in the taps was so muddy, most residents had to get their supplies from fresh water springs.

One popular watering hole was a spring on the hill in the vicinity of Senator Patrick Burns Park. On the weekend the people of Hillhurst-Sunnyside would line up for water, filling everything they could carry.

“It was quite the thing to go for water,” remembers Mr. Pemberton. “There was always a great gathering on Sundays. It was a real social occasion.”

Other sources of fresh water includes various other springs along the north hill and if you were lucky you hit a spring on your own property.

Mr. Aspden recalls an old Irishman building a house next door and hitting a spring. Tapping the spring, he proceeded to draw his own ‘free’ supply until the city eventually caught up with him.

Water was also sold during this period and vendors would hit the streets selling water at 25 cents a pail.

Some immigrants from England were surprised to find coal being used for heating. Some were already accustomed to the convenience of gas. However, it wasn't until the late twenties that most houses had converted from coal to gas. Ben Choppen did so, reluctantly. He made sure he could convert his furnace back to coal in a switch. He's never trusted that gas will last forever.

Women had to contend with ice boxes in the early days with the ice man coming twice a week.

Before the automobile came into widespread use, transportation took the form of horses and rigs, according to Mr. Pemberton. And in the winter, the wheels were replaced by runners.

If you were "lucky" enough to own a Model 'T' Ford in the twenties, getting it

started in the winter (when we had *real* cold as one resident claims) was quite an effort.

"They didn't use anti-freeze in those days," Ted Jones explains. "On cold nights you had to drain the radiator. In the morning you'd pour buckets of boiling water into the radiator and crank the car. The back had to be jacked up so the back wheels could be kept spinning and in turn keep the motor running."

People today tend to think of those pioneers as enduring terrible hardships. The old timers, on the other hand, think nothing of those times.

"The pioneer days were tough," Mrs. Flett admits, "but we didn't think of it then."

"We were all in the same boat," Mrs. Gillespie points out. "Nobody had anything and we were always glad to share what we had. A neighbour was a neighbour."

One resident captured the philosophy of the pioneers beautifully: "Then we made do."



Homesteaders in Sunnyside (formerly known as New Edinborough), circa 1911

The "Good Old Days"

"We had less money in the old days but we were happier," says Mr. Pemberton. "You knew the value of a dollar then. You could have as much fun with that dollar as you could with 50 dollars today. Only half the time you didn't even have the dollar."

"We used to make our own fun." Lulie Grindley remembers. "We used to hike along the river to Bowness Park." Ask Irene McDougall what she did for fun as a child and her eyes widen.

"All of us kids would get together and play games. There was a barn on Bowness Road just past the Plaza Theatre. It had a blacksmith's shop in it. They kept horses there too. It was a great place to hide if you were playing 'run sheep run' (an old version of 'hide 'n seek' where one team searches out another team).

"Or, we'd go downtown to the Princess Theatre," Mrs. McDougall adds. "It was five cents for the show and five cents for fish and chips to snack on."

As a young man during the depression, Art Grindley remembers going to the coffee shop in the basement of the Bay downtown with his friends.

"It was five cents for a bottomless cup of coffee," he remembers. "One guy would buy a cup and the rest of us would drink from it."

Hillhurst-Sunnyside kids were as adventurous as any and naturally fascinated by empty houses. Mr. Jones remembers going into an abandoned house once with some friends.

"We found a dumb-waiter and played with it for a while. We looked around but we never caused any damage. Vandalism was practically non-existent. Oh, you'd have some kids throwing stones at street lights but there wasn't a great deal of it."

"I can't recall a school ever being vandalized by kids," says Mrs. Grindley.

"In the early days," she explains, "we'd leave our doors open and never thought of locking them, even at night. During the dirty thirties I remember the men would come in on the trains. They would jump off and come

up to the door asking for a bit of bread or a sandwich in exchange for work. We were never scared of them."

One person who has a wealth of tales about old-fashioned fun is Harold Pemberton. He came from England in February, 1913. In those days, he recalls, boys in England wore knickers and socks and what he calls "little Oxford jackets".

Arriving in Calgary in minus twenty fahrenheit degree weather, Mr. Pemberton was quite a sight standing at the railway station in his knickers.

"I couldn't figure out what was hitting me," he recalls. "It was like bees attacking my legs and my head. I kept slapping at my legs and then at my head but I couldn't figure out what was stinging me. I had never been in that cold weather before and didn't understand what was happening."

During his first spring in Sunnyside, Mr. Pemberton remembers playing on the north hill below S.A.I.T. The hill was completely covered with buffalo skulls and bones, bleached white by the sun. In those days, according to Mr. Pemberton, everyone in Hillhurst-Sunnyside had a skull on their fence.

"We used to play up on the hill and there were so many bones you couldn't walk without stepping on one," he explains. "The Indians used to slaughter the buffalo on the hillside — it was their killing ground. When the war began in 1914, the government came and gathered them all up. I think they made bone meal for chicken feed out of them. That must have been the first time anything was recycled in Canada."

"Once," Mr. Pemberton recalls, "we were lying on the hill just looking up at the sky and I happened to look down into the coulees. They were big ditches at the bottom of the hill. I saw these depressions in the bottom so my friends and I went down to investigate."

Mr. Pemberton and his friends began to dig. They found arrowheads, pieces of pottery

and much to Harold's delight, a beautifully sharp hunting knife.

"Then," Mr. Pemberton recalls, "we unearthed a skeleton. We notified the police and it turned out we had uncovered an Indian burial ground. Indian burial grounds are sacred and cannot be disturbed but this one wasn't marked so we were all right. We had to give up everything we found though, and the city covered up the coulees. Those graves are still down there but they're buried under about 20 feet of dirt."

Mr. Pemberton and his friend Yonk Sheriff were quite a pair of pranksters. Next door to the restaurant on Kensington Road where they used to gather, was a coal office run by a Mr. Card.

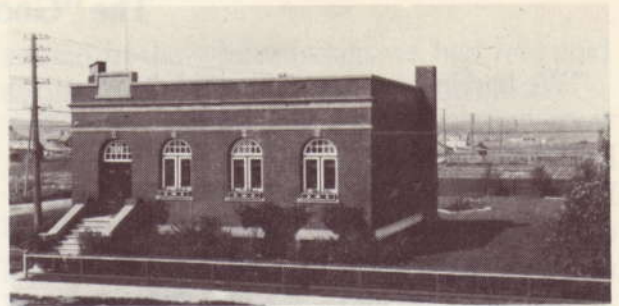
"He had a phone installed in the house with loud bells in order to hear the phone while he was out in the yard," Mr. Pemberton explains. "We used to watch until he got out into the yard and then we'd ring up his number and watch him come all the way back into the house. Then we'd hang up. We drove him crazy!"

"I remember one time," he continues, "we told some of the other boys that there was a special board on the side of the restaurant. We told them if you pressed this board a bell would ring. We got them all outside pressing different boards. Then I went and rang up Mr. Card's number. The phone rang out loud and you should've seen it. It was the funniest thing, all these boys were sure they'd pressed the right board.

"They used to have dances upstairs in the Ross Block," Mr. Pemberton remembers suddenly. "One time we found out the fuse box was in the basement of the building and one night, when they were going strong upstairs, we pulled the fuse out. They had to come outside to get down into the basement to fix it. We'd be sitting across the street at our "head-quarters" watching everything."

Jim Finney, who moved to the community in 1929, remembers Hillhurst-Sunnyside as a good place to grow up.

"I watched the Plaza Theatre being built in the early thirties. It was renovated from an



Louise Telephone Exchange, 14th Street and Kensington Road with coal yards in the background, circa 1922

old garage. We used to spend all our Saturdays there. The cost of a show was 10 cents. Half the time we'd sneak into the place. The first guy had the dime and he'd have to go in and open the back door and let the rest of us in because we didn't have the money."

The river, despite the threat it poses, was a constant source of adventure for the kids too, says Mr. Finney.

"We'd make rafts and kayaks and go out on the river. We made everything in those days."

Prior to the construction of the Ghost Dam in 1932, the Bow River used to freeze solid in the winter. The ice was smooth and made for excellent skating. The ice, says Mr. Pemberton assuredly, was three to four feet thick.

"When we lived on 9th Street in Sunnyside we'd just walk straight down to the river and cross to Prince's Island and go downtown. You'd see people crossing all the time, especially at suppertime, coming home from work." There are reports that some people were even brave enough to drive their cars across the frozen river.

Since the construction of the Ghost Dam however, there has been an uneven flow of water in the Bow. Ice now tends to jam and freezing is uneven, making it impossible to skate on and too dangerous to cross.

In the summer, the river was a favored place and many picnicked at 14th Street. Surrounded by trees, the spot was quiet and secluded.

Fishing was also popular and Edith Morgan recalls her husband going down to the Bow with a friend, Mr. Manley.

"Mr. Manley was a shoemaker in the Vendom Block on 2nd Avenue," Mrs. Morgan

explains. "He had a beautiful black dog, a Lab. When he and my husband went fishing, Manley would be on one end and my husband would be on the other. Manley would put a bottle of beer into a bag and tell the dog to take it down to Morgie."

The north hill was another source of great fun for the kids.

"We used to ski a lot on the Hillhurst hill," remembers Jim Finney. "There used to be toboggan runs and ski runs. They'd ski from the top of the hill right down 12th Street and over to Hillhurst School on 7th Avenue. I did a lot of skiing there — and did a lot of crashing into the fence at Riley Park at the bottom."

The sight of kids sliding down the hill on pieces of cardboard was also common. Riley Park, donated to the city by the Rileys in 1910, was a favorite as was Prince's Island. In the early days Prince's Island was wild.

"It used to be just a little place," recalls Mrs. Flett. "Now it's much larger. Much of it has been reclaimed."

The popularity of the two parks continues today. Pick a nice spring or summer day and they're sure to be crowded.



Wading pool at Riley Park 1978.

Sports

Of course one of the biggest activities to bring people of Hillhurst-Sunnyside together was sports.

"Hillhurst always had good support for their teams," says Mr. Finney who participated both as a player and later as a coach.

"They supported their hockey and fastball clubs and they were good. They were always enthusiastic. In the dirty thirties that's about all we had to do; go and watch the games. It didn't cost anything. Soccer, hockey and American football were popular."

The Hillhurst Athletic Park stood at 14th Street and 5th Avenue and was sold by the Rileys to the city around 1910. A grandstand, bleachers and dressing rooms were built in 1912. The dressing rooms later became the community hall and was used as such until 1978. In the summer of that year construction began on a new sports and recreation complex and the old hall was demolished. A previous addition, built in 1953-54 was incorporated into the new complex.

In the twenties and thirties various city teams came to the park to take on Hillhurst teams. The Calgary Stampeders of the old Western Canada Football League used the Hillhurst Ball Park (as it was commonly called) for their practices. Many of the high schools held games there as well.

"We went to the Hillhurst Ball Park to watch high school rugby," remembers Carrie Forrest. "We had a fair number of kids supporting the school."

"During the depression we had a lot of good hockey players," Mr. Finney reminisces. "But when the war came many went overseas and many were killed."

"We were always strong in junior and senior soccer and won the Dominion Championship in 1922," Mr. Finney recalls. Pictures of various championships and finalist teams adorn the walls of the community hall.

Fred Aspden played soccer for a second intermediate team called the Hillhurst Rovers. "Everything was Hillhurst in those days," says Mr. Aspden, "and soccer was big."

"I used to run around Riley Park to train," he remembers. "There used to be a road that ran around the park and my dad would drive the car. I'd run behind wearing a heavy sweater so I'd sweat and lose weight. You really had to get into shape to play soccer. But we always had a good team. Black and gold."

HILLHURST FOOTBALL CLUB
 Alberta Provincial Champions 1933



Left to right: Back row - J. Wormald (Manager), E. T. Girling (Secretary), L. Tucker, A. Mitchell, C. Pinnell, H. Newton, A. Grierson, W. Stenhouse, W. Hayward (Executive), E. W. Thomas (Treasurer), Middle Row - J. Fish (Vice-President), P. Dutton, R. Law, T. Connelly (President), E.H. Riley (Hon-President), J. Wright, D. Jowatt, R. Blatchford (Executive), Front Row - S. Steven (Trainer), A.B. Carrwright, T. Akenclose, H.J. Paynter (Captain), G. Tate, E. Ellaby, J. King (Steward), Sons of Scotland (Charity) Cup and Campbell (Provincial) Cup.



Dominion Champions 1922.

“We were always strong in hockey as well,” says Mr. Finney. “My brother Sid played for the Calgary Stampeder’s Hockey Club for 14 years and then went on to play for the Chicago Blackhawks of the National Hockey League for two years. Lloyd Turner (Mr. Hockey) was from Sunnyside and went on to manage hockey at the Corral for years. He’s in the Hockey Hall of Fame.”

“We had some excellent fastball pitchers during the thirties too. The best in the city if not the province.” Names begin to come as Mr. Finney thinks back.

“There was Dodger and Stiff Lewis — we used to call him Stiffy. Dodger played for the St. Louis Browns of the old American League. Then there was Billy Lewis, no relation. He was a great softball pitcher but he was killed in the war.”

“There were the Fish boys, Ronny and Walt. Excellent. And Donny Shantz who played hockey and everything.”

Ken Morgan, a barber on 10th Street for many years, was one of the first merchants to set up teams. He managed baseball and hoc-

key clubs and his shop was a ‘hangout’ for all the sportsmen.

“We’d go in and tell a lot of lies,” Mr. Finney recalls. “We had a lot of fun.”

The Dairy Rich ice-cream parlour was another place the sportsmen gathered. They were good supporters of the teams as well.

“You see,” Mr. Finney explains, “there was very little money around and we used to scrounge from the merchants in the area to help out. They would sponsor a club and they’d put the name of their business on the sweaters. The merchants were very good to us. We were very fortunate to have them.”

Mr. Finney coached hockey clubs in Hillhurst and saw one juvenile team through an undefeated season in the early fifties. Coaches for the most part were from the community and all were volunteers. Sunnyside did have some fastball and football clubs of their own but they usually played with Hillhurst. “There was never any professional rivalry between the two,” says Mr. Finney. “We usually reserved our fight for the teams from Riverside.”

In the fifties, Bernice and John Corless, caretakers at the community hall, were active in the community's sports programs.

"My husband did the ice. He was manager of the teams and helped the coaches," explains Mrs. Corless.

"Hockey was the most popular sport in the fifties. We had good teams," says Mrs. Corless. "We took lots of teams out of town and competed in the provincial finals which I think is pretty good. We tried baseball in the summer but it's vacation time and now families go away. We also noticed that since television became so popular, kids seemed to be less active in sports."

"Our coaches were all volunteers except for figure skating and dance instructors. We paid experienced teachers to come in. After the season the dancers would put on a recital at St. Barnabas Hall."

Two ice rinks were maintained at the community grounds: one for hockey, the other for pleasure skating. The pleasure skating rink was always packed.

"We had the best outdoor skating rink in the city and people would come from all over," Mrs. Corless says proudly. Music was played and skaters used the old hall to change and warm up. Parents helped out in the concession and the check room.

"We had some wonderful workers," she says thinking back. "A lot of kids played over at the hall. To me the community is one of the best in the city."

Tennis courts were opened up in the mid fifties and square dancing was held regularly in the hall.

"We also put on banquets for the athletes in the hall," remembers Mrs. Corless. "We had some wonderful times and used to bring down the little Indian boys from Morley to play hockey with kids their own age here in the community. We had a hot meal for all the boys. Then they would invite our kids to come out and play an exhibition team up there. The kids would just be thrilled!"

"You know we dedicated all our time over there but we loved it!"

Gordon Langston was involved with sports during the sixties and seventies. He started as a hockey coach and eventually became sports director for the community for one year.

"We always managed to get people to coach," says Mr. Langston.

Lacrosse started up in Hillhurst in the late sixties, one of the first places in the city. According to Mr. Langston they used the old hockey rink which just had a dirt floor.

"I remember we tried to organize a teen night once but that didn't go over too well. We had shuffleboard and ping pong set up for them but the teens just weren't interested."

Presently, hockey and baseball are the strongest sports being played at the Hillhurst-Sunnyside community grounds and soccer is just making a comeback. Sports always has been and probably always will be a big part of the community. The Black and Gold are as strong as ever!

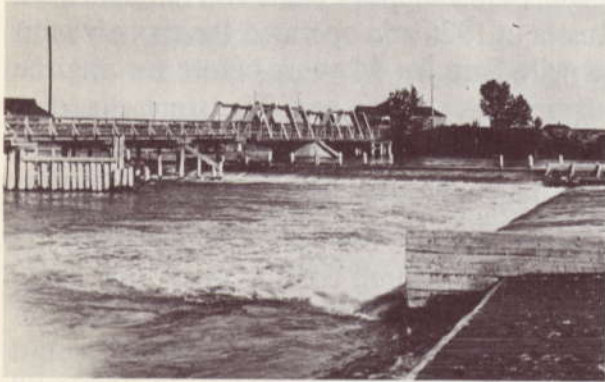
Transportation



Hillhurst Bridge with old Louise Steel Girder Bridge on right, circa 1921. Alberta - Glenbow Institute.

While most suburbs have a plaza or shopping mall to serve their needs, Hillhurst-Sunnyside has its own main street dating back to the early 1900's. Today the business district is concentrated along 10th Street from Memorial Drive to the foot of the hill. The shopping area is now called the Louise Crossing. The bridge at 10th Street is commonly referred to as the Louise Bridge, however, its official name is the Hillhurst Bridge. Louise is actually the name of another steel girder bridge which once crossed the Bow approximately one block west of the present one.

(The cement foundations of the former steel bridge are still standing). Built in 1909, the steel bridge was named after the deceased daughter of W. H. Cushing, Mayor of Calgary, 1900-1913, and provincial commissioner of public works at the time. The first of the 10th Street bridges, a wooden structure called the Bow Marsh Bridge, was built by Mr. Cushing in 1883.



Bow Marsh Bridge (1883), first of the 10th Street Bridges, circa 1901. Alberta - Glenbow Institute.

The steel bridge was just large enough to allow one streetcar across with almost no room to spare. If a wagon carrying a load of hay ventured across the bridge, the driver was almost certain to lose half his load as it caught along the rails of the bridge. Harold Pemberton chuckles as he relates how you had to take your chances and "drive up to see if there was anyone on the bridge." It sloped on an angle and a driver couldn't see another car coming until he was half-way across.

"If two cars or wagons met in the middle, they'd argue and scrap about it until one person backed off," Mr. Pemberton explains. "Even the streetcars would meet each other and refuse to back off."

One tragedy occurred on the bridge and Henry Lee remembers the incident.

"I was riding home on the streetcar one night and as we were going over the bridge the car suddenly began to jerk, bang, bang, bang! The driver stopped and got out. He had hit a man and killed him. The man was drunk and had been leaning against the girders. There wasn't enough space between the side of the rail and the car for a man. But I remember the car suddenly jerking, bang, bang, bang."

In 1910 two streetcars served the community. One was the red line which went through Hillhurst. It came across the Louise Bridge to 10th Street, along Kensington Road to 14th Street, up 14th Street to 5th Avenue and back to 10th Street.

A second car went up 10th Street to the foot of the hill and made a loop in Riley Park.

In later years a third car served Sunnyside. It went up 10th Street to 2nd Avenue, up the Sunnyside hill and down the Centre Street Bridge. At one point the streetcar only went to the top of the hill. There the driver did a turnabout and headed back down the same route.

"We had 10 minute service then," says Miss Vera Staples. "But they had to stop the car going up the hill because of the mud sliding."

At one time there was a sight-seeing car that toured Calgary. It made a trip into Sunnyside and cost of a tour was 25 cents. The streetcar, decorated with mirrors, was a real attraction.

In earlier days, a special C.P.R. streetcar came into Sunnyside every morning to take people who worked for the railroad out to Ogden.

"At that time," says Mr. Barnett, "about 90 per cent of Sunnyside's working population worked for the railroad."



Special Sight-seeing streetcar in Calgary.

In the thirties, another streetcar, the Grand Trunk, went through Hillhurst as far as 24th Street in West Hillhurst. This streetcar was a smaller one known as a "dinky", but as Vy Bergerson remembers, it used to be called the "Toonerville Trolley," because it was so small.

"It used to just shake the dickens out of you!" she recalls.

According to Ted Jones, two people used to man the cars. The driver was at the front and the conductor sat at the back in a small compartment and took the tickets. Later only one man operated the streetcars and the conductor's "office" became the smoking room.

"Poor man who wanted a smoke on the streetcar," says Irene McDougall. "A bunch of us kids would pile into it and that was that!"

The 14th Street bridge (officially called the Mewata Bridge) was not built until 1954. Until then it was a long walk into downtown for those who lived in the west end of Hillhurst.

Commerce

Prior to the construction of the North Hill and Market Malls in later years, the residents of Hillhurst-Sunnyside could get everything they needed right in the community. Your "friendly neighbourhood grocery stores" did a thriving business and most would shop at one store regularly.

"I used to do a lot of my own shopping at a little corner store on 11th Street and Kensington," says May Maclean. "I was run by Mr. Chennels. I remember his wife used to help out in the store and he had a boy deliver for him after school." Quality and convenience were taken for granted.

Deliveries sound a luxury now but in the early days it was a rare store that didn't deliver. According to Ted Jones, you didn't need a credit card in those days. The grocer would just put the bill on your account. The merchants knew all their customers and could trust them.

"I remember the Wood Brothers had a store on the corner of 14th Street and Kensington Road. Our family dealt with them for years," recalls Mr. Jones. "There were two brothers and they had a falling out. One brother built a second grocery store right next door. That was quite funny."

Other businesses in Hillhurst included Palleson's Dairy and Mathew's Studio and Photo Lab on 14th Street and Leckie's Grocery on the southwest corner of 14th Street and Kensington, later replaced by Pemberton's Hardware. One of the oldest businesses in the area was Sam's Cosy Corner Store which opened up next to the Telephone Exchange on 14th Street in 1927.

Mr. Sam Lubinsky came to Hillhurst from Russia in 1926 and operated the grocery with his wife Sara for 44 years before turning the business over to his son. The store closed in 1977.

"When we came from Russia we didn't know a word of English," Mr. Lubinsky recalls. "The children coming in to buy candy taught me English, word by word. Many of those kids now live in different cities but when they come back to Calgary, they still come to see 'Sam and Sara!'"

Many of the neighbourhood kids used to gather in the Cosy Corner Grocery because, as Mr. Lubinsky explains, there weren't many places back then where they could get together. During the war, Mr. Lubinsky posted the names of those boys who had gone overseas, and later, when word came that some had been killed, their names were marked in black. Many immigrants came to find their 'fortune' in the 'new world'. Mr. Lubinsky found his in Hillhurst.

In Sunnyside, residents reminisce over the days when a loaf of bread and a quart of milk each sold for 10 cents. There were two butchers in Sunnyside and Holbrook's was one that sold good meat for over 40 years, according to Florence Wilson. Morgan's Meat Market was another favourite on 2nd Avenue.

"We'd deliver with a bicycle and a basket," remembers Edith Morgan. "Some of the ladies used to say to me later, 'remember when Morgie used to give liver away?'"

"Yeah," Mr. Barnett says thinking back, "the prices were sure cheaper in the old days. Of course you've got to remember you were lucky if you worked for a dollar a day and many worked seven days a week."

“We had all we wanted to eat though and could save some money as well,” he adds. “If you went in and bought ten dollars worth of groceries then, you *couldn't* carry them home — you had to have them delivered. Now, well, you can put ten dollars all in one bag.”

Mrs. Gillespie recalls a grocer from Riverside coming to your door *asking* if you needed any groceries. According to Mrs. Gillespie, he'd take the order and then have it delivered later that afternoon.

Milk was delivered to every household by horse and cart until the late forties. Many people had the same milkman for years. The milkman in turn usually had the same horse for years. Those horses were smart, recalls one resident. The milkman wouldn't have to tell them to stop. They knew when.



Horse-drawn milk delivery wagon, East Calgary circa 1912: Once a familiar sight in Hillhurst - Sunnyside. Alberta - Glenbow Institute

Fruits and vegetables were delivered to the door as well and Art Grindley even remembers a travelling nursery. “A man used to come around selling trees at the door,” he recalls. “They were guaranteed for five years. You could really trust people then.”

The Palace Bakery ran a large operation on 2nd Avenue next to Holbrook's. Miss Staples remembers taking the youngsters in her class over to see them making bread.

“They were very good at showing the children the different processes,” she remembers.

Unfortunately, one of Sunnyside's few serious fires occurred at that Bakery in the early forties.

“We woke up one morning and heard the delivery horses running around,” recalls Hilda Piper.

“I remember watching it burn,” says Carrie Forrest. “I think it was snowing. One of our

neighbour's nephews died in that fire although we didn't know it at the time. It was a big fire.”

Luckily for the residents of Hillhurst-Sunnyside, a fire station was located just west of the 10th Street bridge on Memorial Drive.

“The back end of that firehall was a stable for the horses,” explains Jack Flatt, former Deputy Chief with the Calgary Fire Department and resident of Sunnyside. “In those days the firetrucks were quite a bit lighter and only needed one horse to pull them because we didn't have the sophisticated equipment we have now.”

Tenth Street

Before construction of the 14th Street bridge, 10th Street was a busy thoroughfare and the focal point of the community. Fred Aspden remembers it as one of the busiest places in the city and when King George and Queen Mary came to Calgary in 1939, their parade even came down 10th Street where almost everyone in the community was on hand to greet them.

Tenth Street was also the place to shop and you could usually get just about anything you were looking for. Some people used to call the shopping area “The Bridge” and according to Amil Speckmaier, 10th Street was a going concern.

“Every place used to be full,” he recalls.

Ask any old timer about some of the old businesses on 10th Street and Webb's is the first one to come to people's minds.

“It was a drygoods and notions store,” explains Ted Jones. “I remember it had dark brown oiled wooden floors. It was crowded with tables full of goods. It was years ahead of the Co-op in giving patronage dividends. ‘Save your sales slips and get back 50 cents for every 10 dollars spent’ they used to advertise.”

“When we were children the highlight of our existence was to go to Webb's on 10th Street. Especially at Christmastime,” recalls Mrs. McDougall.

“Webb's was so exciting for us,” she explains. “It was such a big store and there was so much

to look at. At Christmas there was a large display of gifts in the centre of the store. You'd usually meet people you knew there so it was like a meeting place as well."



Ross Block, 1978: In 1912 it housed the famous Webb's.

Just down from Webb's was the Rossland Confectionery. Mention the name to anyone who's been around and the eyes light up. There doesn't seem to be one person who doesn't miss it with a passion. It was run by a Greek gentleman by the name of Chris. He made his own chocolates and candies right on the premises.

"They made the most beautiful sweets," says Labeeta Speckmaier. "They even made their own candy canes. We sure miss it!"

"They sold ice-cream too," Ted Jones remembers. "In the old days people ate ice-cream sodas and sundaes for pleasure. Not all these hotdogs and hamburgers."

The success of the Dairy Rich Ice-cream parlour, another favourite on 10th Street, is proof of ice-cream's old-fashioned popularity.

"They made their own ice-cream I believe," says Mrs. Speckmaier. They had a doughnut machine in the window and sold eggs as well."

Then there's Black's Drugstore, "The oldest established business north of the Bow River." Blacks originally opened in the Carscallen Block approximately two doors north of its present location at 106A - 10th Street. The old store housed an ice-cream counter in addition to the pharmacy and Black's has operated a post office "since time immemorial," according to Bill Mitchell who took over the business in 1937.

Times have changed, however, since Mr. Black first opened up shop.

"There was a lot more compounding of medicines then," explains Mr. Mitchell. "There were very few prepared medicines put out by the drug companies." Digging out an old iodine label bearing the old telephone number of the business with the "L" (Louise) exchange, Mr. Mitchell explains that the label dates back to the days when the druggist would buy iodine, glycerine and olive oil in bulk and bottle it in smaller quantities themselves.



Carscallen Block on 10th Street housed Carscallen Hardware, Dr. Robert B. Francis, Physician and Surgeon's Office and Black's Drug Store and Ice Cream Parlour. Alberta - Glenbow Institute.

Wing Lee's grocery store was neighbour to Black's back in the twenties. Previously, Mr. Lee had operated a restaurant on Kensington Road. His son Jim later opened a larger grocery store around the corner on Memorial Drive East.

One of the early confectioneries on 10th Street was the Royal at 120 - 10th Street. Fred Aspden recalls his mother running the store from six a.m. to 12 p.m. — definitely a long day.

"We sold mostly cigarettes and got all the people in the morning on their way to work," says Mr. Aspden. "We had an ice-cream counter and even had a couple of slot machines. They were legal then. I was just a kid and I used to take a nickel out of the till and try to beat it. Never did. The young guys used to come in all the time. I'd come in at noon and watch over the place while mother made dinner in the back."

The Sunny Confectionery was located on the corner of 10th Street and 2nd Avenue in the Garnet Block for many years. The Garnet Block was originally called the Gordon Block and was situated on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 7th Street where the Sunnyside Bungalow

School sits today. Classes were held in the basement of the Gordon Block from 1914 to 1923 until the Sunnyside Bungalow School was completed. A few years later the block was moved.



One of several houses moved to make room for the Sunnyside Elementary School, 7th Street and 2nd Avenue. Heading along 1st Avenue, the house is being moved by horse and platform, circa 1921

“Mr. Kerr bought the Gordon Block and wanted to move it onto Memorial Drive and 8th Street,” says Miss Staples. “He wanted to use the lower part as a store and rent out suites above. In order to do that though, he had to get signatures of residents for approval. One of the residents he approached was Mr. Murdoch. He didn’t like the idea so he went down to City Hall and bought up the lots on that corner, later building Glenwood Manor on it.”

Mr. Kerr then had to settle for the location at 2nd Avenue and 10th Street. Harold Pemberton remembers the day the Garnet Block was moved.

“The block had to be cut in half,” he says. “They used horses and turnstiles to pull the platforms. It took quite a while to move it. We had a garden on the northwest corner of 9A Street and 2nd Avenue. When they came to the part where the road curves they couldn’t make the jog. So, Mr. Kerr paid my father for the garden and they moved the blocks straight through it. He named it the Garnet Block after one of his sons.”

The community has always been served by the Royal Bank which has had three locations on 10th Street. It was first situated in the Ross Block at the corner of Memorial Drive and 10th Street. The Bank then constructed their

own building on the opposite corner. Their third move, in 1974, was to their present location at 10th Street and 3rd Avenue.

In the thirties, the bank was hit by a pair of would-be robbers. Lacking the expertise and finesse of professionals, the two nonetheless gave it a good try. Harold Pemberton, whose friend was an accountant in the bank at the time, recalls the incident.

“The robbers came in and demanded some money. One of them was armed, but as they were leaving, the accountant grabbed their gun. The robbers were so shocked they dropped the money and ran.”

“I was fishing out at the Ghost Dam with a friend that day,” Mr. Pemberton explains. “On the way home the Mounties stopped us. They jumped out of their cars with their guns drawn. Our hands went up so fast! It turned out we were driving the same kind of car as the robbers.”

Recounting the bank incident reminds Mr. Pemberton of another cops and robbers episode on 10th Street involving a pair of counterfeiters.

“Barrett and Garrett ran a watchmaking shop on 10th Street. One of them was an expert engraver and made plates for a twenty dollar bill. They had a press in the basement. When the police finally cracked down on them they found three million dollars in the basement. Some 200,000 dollars had already been circulated. Some of us kids watched the police burn the money. What we would’ve done to get a hold of a twenty!”

Tenth Street was also famous for its bakeries and oldtimers in Hillhurst-Sunnyside still miss them. The Blue Ribbon Bakery opened in the Kerr Block on Memorial Drive in 1912. In 1915, R. W. Long opened the famous Uneeda Bakery on 10th Street. He sold the business in 1920 but bought it back in 1925. He provided almost 20 years service in total, building a reputation for the best bread in town, according to one resident.



Hillhurst Business Section - 1920, 10th Street N.W. and Memorial Dr.

Hillhurst United Church, Hillhurst, Hillhurst's First Sixty Years.

The Miles Apartment building was home of the Miles Bakery in the thirties and McGavins was situated on 10th Street. During the forties and fifties, surplus bread could be bought at half price on Saturday afternoons.

While many of these businesses boasted twenty, thirty and forty years service in earlier days, the construction of suburban shopping malls in the fifties drew much of the business

away from 10th Street. The fifties and sixties saw many small businesses come and go. But, during the seventies, there's been a renewed interest in 10th Street as a business area. A number of interested and caring merchants formed the Tenth Street Business Association in 1977 and the name, Louise Crossing was chosen to give 10th Street a new image.

A New Hillhurst-Sunnyside Emerges

Looking at Hillhurst-Sunnyside in the late seventies, the changes are apparent. As the city of Calgary expanded, old houses in the community were replaced by apartment blocks. Because of its close proximity to downtown, the community became the ideal location for single working people. The number of families with children began to dwindle. Developers buying up property allowed houses to deteriorate while waiting to demolish and begin construction. The face of the community was changing and residents were determined to have a say in the direction in which their community was going.

In 1973, the Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Association was formed. (A previous community association had existed since the late forties but its main purpose was the organization of sports.) The Association helped organize the residents' fight against drastic redevelopment in the community. Proposed widening of Memorial Drive and plans for Light Rail Transit up 10th Street threatened to disrupt what had always been a quiet community.

In 1977, a Design Brief compiled by the community's Planning Committee was adopted by City Council. The brief calls for more family units in future developments, stressing the need for adequate parking and playground facilities.

Declining enrollment at the community's elementary schools threatened to close them. In an effort to prevent the children from being bussed to school in neighbouring communities, the schools were given Community School status. This allows the schools' facilities to be used by the community after school hours, justifying their remaining open.

In 1975, Hillhurst-Sunnyside was designated a Neighbourhood Improvement Program (NIP) area. Under NIP, the federal government subsidizes 25 per cent of any local improvements the community undertakes. This includes the installation of new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, as well as the paving of back

lanes as was undertaken in 1977. The program also allows for the construction of creative playgrounds and park areas.

Included in NIP is the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP). Under RRAP, people whose homes are in need of repairs to bring them up to minimum local health standards, can apply to the federal government for a loan and grant. Some 600 homes in Hillhurst-Sunnyside have had improvements made to them under RRAP.

The Community Association has also instituted a number of social services in the community. A handyman service provides free upkeep and repair services to senior citizens and the handicapped. The community feels strongly that seniors should be allowed to stay in their homes as long as possible. The community also has volunteers who will make home visits to the sick or the elderly.

The seniors of Hillhurst-Sunnyside are one of the more active groups in the community. They meet every Tuesday afternoon to play cards and talk over tea. The group also plans special trips during the year. Starting out with four women, the group has now grown to almost 40.

The Association operates an Information Centre on 10th Street and encourages people to drop in if they have any questions about the community or the city. The staff is more than willing to help out with any problems.

Hillhurst-Sunnyside, it becomes apparent, is not your average community. The residents realize they can and do have a say in decisions that affect the quality of life in their neighbourhood. They've gone after and achieved programs that have improved it. Hillhurst-Sunnyside is a strong community. Residents are organized and they have a common goal: In another eighty years, the residents want to be able to say that Hillhurst-Sunnyside is still a nice place to live.

Bibliography

Books

Accounts by Calgary Authors, *Past and Present — People, Places and Events in Calgary*, Century Calgary Publications, 1975 (pg. 117, 118, 151).

McNeil, Leishman, *Tales of the Old Town*, Calgary Herald, 1966 (pg. 16).

Rasporich & Klassen, A. W. & Henry, *Frontier Calgary, Town, City and Region, 1875-1914*, University of Calgary, McClelland and Stewart West, 1975 (pg. 211).

Local Histories

St. Barnabas Church, 60th Anniversary Historical Brochure, 1966.

Hillhurst United Church, *Hillhurst's First Sixty Years*, 1967.

History of Hillhurst-Sunnyside (Text Part 1), (Dave Diver & Claire Sreenivasen, Editors), 1974.

Sunnyside History, (Doris Fraser, Editor), 1967.

Other Sources

Calgary Herald, May 11, 1948, October 1, 1977.

History of Calgary Transit, Compiled by . . . Passenger Services Division of Calgary Transit, 1977.

Glenbow Archives, Province of Alberta in the Matter of the Bow River Floods Commission, Vol. 1 (pg. 33), Vol. 2 (pg. 1894-1895).

WCTU Hillhurst Branch Minutes.

Personal Interviews

A special thank-you to the following residents and former residents of Hillhurst - Sunnyside.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Aspden
Mr. Garfield Barnett
Mrs. Hilda Benson
Mr. Ben Choppen
Mrs. Bernice Corless
Mr. Fred Evans
Mrs. Jessie Flett
Mr. Jim Finney
Mrs. Margaret Gillespie
Mrs. Annie Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. Art Grindley
Mrs. Lise Hanson
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Jones
Mrs. Nellie Kerslake
Mr. Gordon Langston

Mr. Henry Lee
Mr. Sam Lubinsky
Mrs. Eva Long
Mrs. May Maclean
Mrs. Irene McDougall
Mr. Bill Mitchell
Mrs. Edith Morgan
Miss Ida Nelson
Mr. Harold Pemberton
Mrs. Hilda Piper
Mr. and Mrs. August Schieman
Mr. and Mrs. Amil Speckmaier
Miss Vera Staples
Mrs. Florence Wilson

Subsidized by Alberta Culture

Lithographed in Canada by Graphic Press Service (Calgary) Ltd.