

3928 187h Ave.,  
Regina, Sask.,  
Dec. 15, 1978

Dear George,

I was surely pleased to get your letter in October followed by your second letter earlier this week. The few bits of information you mentioned about your father I found most interesting and am looking forward with anticipation to receiving anything that you can recall of your parents pioneering experiences at Tivnan and Francis.

I'm quite certain that your dad was one of the first four or five business men to arrive in Tivnan. Mr. John Simpson, a landsman for the Stoner Land Company was first and he was instrumental in bringing in Earl Bishop and John Redden (June 1904) who started the first general store, also in August his nephew James Buchan, a young man of twenty-four recently out from Scotland, who started a Livery Stable and Horse Exchange. About the same time an Englishman from the Barbados, Richard Hutchinson, got a farm implement business under way. Your dad must have arrived about the same time and according to my information he had a lumber yard, a photograph business,

and before leaving Dywan he built and operated a confectionery store. The rails were laid to Dywan in September and the first train through was on November 9, 1904. Following this event the townsite was rapidly developed - 1905 and 1906 could be termed boom years. I have always heard that your folks house was the first built in Dywan (all those other chaps named were bachelors and lived in their place of business)

Now I think you will be interested, and perhaps a bit surprised when I tell you that I visited one of those originals the day before yesterday. Jim Buchan is the grand old man of Dywan and will be 99 next June. Physically and mentally he is almost a youth, but unfortunately both his hearing and eyesight have failed - the loss of the former makes visiting a bit difficult. He was surprised when I told him I'd heard from Henri de Savoie's son. He remembered your folks well and told me your dad had the first lumber business. He couldn't recall a Mr. Plisson and didn't think he'd been in Dywan as a business man.

A few weeks ago I was talking with a long time friend whose father's (Mr. Wood) homestead bordered on what was to become Francis. In 1902-'03 (before the townsite was surveyed), the district was referred

to as the Wascana Settlement. She would have been six or seven years old then. I told her that I'd had a letter from a man who was born in Francis in 1904. She asked who it was and when I told her George de Savoye she said, "Oh, I remember Mr. de Savoye. He use to come to our place for milk. I'll bet for that baby."

Yes, the photo-copy you sent was taken at Sivan. Any museum would be happy to have that baby buggy now. I am able to identify every building in the background. The picture was taken from a point just north of the railroad tracks looking north-west and your folks house is the one with the cottage roof on the extreme right. My parents always referred to that house as the de Savoye house. My generation called it the Marren house. Your dad probably sold it to Pete Marren. The Marrens had a farm and while the family was young they wintered in town and lived on the farm in summer. Later the house was rented. Over the years several families lived in it. When Mr. & Mrs. Marren retired from the farm about 1940 they returned to it and in about 1947 they had it moved to Lampman a distance of about sixty miles so that they could be near their daughter. I have very unhappy memories of that little house as in my

pre-teen years my parents got the idea that I should be a pianist - the music teacher lived in that house and how I dreaded going there for lessons. The confectionery store your dad built managed to escape the several serious fires that over the years destroyed most of the business buildings in Tyrav. However, depression and war were too much and it became vacant. In a short time it was dismantled and the material used to build a house which still stands.

You mentioned that your dad was fond of hunting. I'm wondering if he hunted for fox in the bush country south of Sentaluta. Waldron Hutchinson gave me a picture of his dad's hunting horse and told me that he used it to hunt fox in the Red Fox Creek district which is about 25 miles north-east of Tyrav. I just remember now that there was a small stable at the rear of your folks lot, so probably he had a horse or two.

I note that your dad lived to be 92. Those old pioneers were living proof that good honest work doesn't hurt anyone. My dad died in 1967 three months short of his 95th birthday. Mother died in 1948. They had homesteaded three miles west of Tyrav.

We were neighbors of the Houstons. We last saw Stewart and his wife on November 7th. They planned to go to Victoria for the winter about the first of December. I think Stewart is 91, and pretty well for his age.

Well, I've rambled on long enough. I don't know whether or not I've told you anything of interest to you, but thought you'd be interested in knowing that there are still a few around who remember your folks.

I appreciate very much the help you are providing me - both information and pictures. I have quite a few pictures of the 1903-1933 era and some of the earliest were taken by your dad. I'm anxious to see if you have a picture of the first train into Tyrav, and the first general store which consisted of two granaries. I have copies of these but the originals were unfortunately not in very good condition. After Christmas I hope to get back to the archives to continue my research. I've been endeavoring to locate and plot the main prairie trails.

It has been so nice to hear from you. Please wish your brother well for me, and a joyous Christmas and happy, healthful New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Wylee K.



It is likely that your dad took this picture, and you may have the original. It was taken from approximately the same location as the photo-copy you sent. Also the photo-copy would have been taken before this one, as the square house to the south of your home is not in the photo-copy. The square house was the home built by J. J. (Jack) Stevenson who was appointed to the Canadian Senate about 1940. I see that your mother had her wash out on the line.

W.

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Now here we are with a bunch of Zerox copies - you will note how much better they are - the last batch were from an old model of copier.

I hope some of these will be of help to you. I noted that you were looking for a photo of the first train into Tyvan. I have not got that one. However my father's photos apparently were divided up between us three sons and my sister France. I shall pass the word around and have them look over their photos and who knows something real good may come to the surface.

I shall get busy and put down on paper some of the stories my father told us of his experiences opening up new businesses in this new land. These I shall send you later as writing is a new-thing to me.

Now that we are Tyvan conscious, I must admit that I have never gone back - neither to Francis where I was born and where I was the first baby. One of these days I shall make that jaunt just to see. A couple of years ago I was at Foremost (south of Medicine Hat on an antelope shoot. So you see I was not that far away. Yes we did get two antelope on that shoot.