

In 1972 they decided to enter a float in the Rodeo parade and won the comic trophy. The following year they won again. These trophies are on display in the Manor.

On March 30, 1976, they entered the first Carpet Bowling Tournament held in this area. There were members from Gypsumville, St. Martin, Steep Rock, Faulkner, Hilbre, Ashern, Eriksdale, and Lundar and Moosehorn, who hosted the tournament.

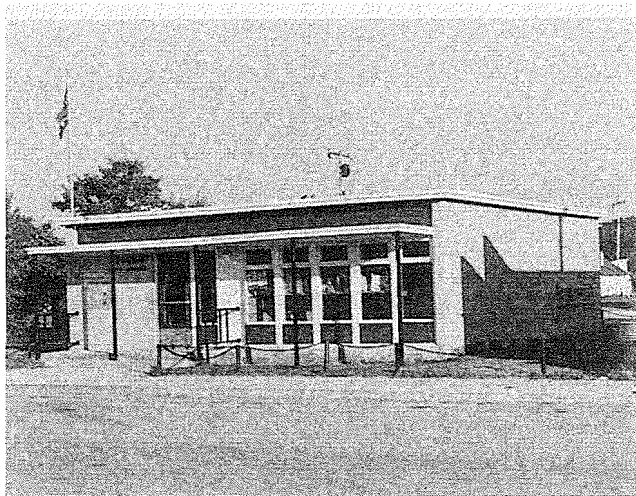
The Club has purchased the C.N. Station in Ashern, for a Museum, also property on which to place it. This should be an interesting addition to the area.

The Club is assisting in the local history book being compiled at this time.

Ashern Post Office

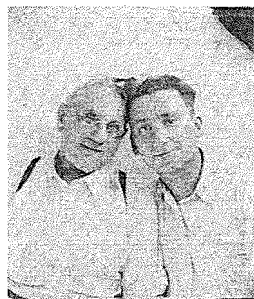
A new modern post office was built on the present site in 1964. Previous to this time postal facilities were in four different buildings on Main Street.

Earlier post masters were: Mr. Bert Hyde, Mr. F. Pickersgill, Mrs. Ethel Hyde and Mike Patola (who is our present post master).



Left to right: Rachel Johnson, asst. postmistress; Mike Patola, postmaster receiving 25 year pin. P. N. Clacken, area supt. (1976)

Mr. W. H. Hyde, our first postmaster and our present postmaster, Mike Patola.



Geological Field Studies — Interlake Area

by Andrew D. Baillie

In 1949, and in the early '50's, field studies of the geology of the Interlake Area were initiated by the Manitoba Mines Branch and also by several oil companies spurred on by a large discovery of oil and gas in Alberta. The oil and gas in Alberta, discovered in 1947, occurred in ancient coral reefs that flourished in shallow marine waters in Western Canada during the period described by geologists as Devonian, some 385 million years ago. As Devonian rocks were known to outcrop along the east shore of Lake Manitoba and along the shores and on the islands of Lake Winnipegosis, oil company and government geologists were all anxious to see if the rocks outcropping in Manitoba had similarities to the oil bearing rocks of Alberta. As Ashern was centrally located in the Interlake Area, the Ashern Hotel enjoyed a spurt in its business during these years as field geologists scoured the area to study the outcrops. The results of the Manitoba Mines Branch field studies were written up in a series of reports which were published by the Department of Mines and Natural Resources.

One item in these reports of particular interest to residents of the Ashern community was the naming of a rock formation the Ashern Formation, after the Town of Ashern. Rocks of the Ashern Formation are brick-red to orange in colour, and are exposed in scattered small outcrops north of Moosehorn and west of Mulvihill. These rocks mark the spread of the Devonian seas to this part of Manitoba and extending into Saskatchewan, Alberta, and U.S. in what is known geologically as the Williston Basin. The Ashern Formation contains the oldest Devonian beds in this area and it is a prominent subsurface marker well-known to geologists in Western Canada and U.S.

Another outcrop of rock that was of considerable interest, particularly to oil geologists, was on Red Deer Island in the farm yard of Mr. Gunlaughson, an early settler in the area. The outcrop was in the form of low mounds that were actually reefs made up of material not unlike that which composes the rock that produces the oil in Alberta reefs. The discovery of these mounds in 1949 caused a great flurry of excitement in the oil industry. Subsequently, many more reefs were found outcropping along the shores on the islands of Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis.

To the east of Ashern, and throughout the whole Interlake Area, there are many outcrops of another group of rocks that were deposited in a much earlier time called the Silurian. During Silurian time, more than 400 million years ago, warm shallow seas covered most of the interior of North America. The rocks quarried near Lundar and Inwood, and exposed in many outcrops in this general area, all belong to this group which was named by geologists the "Interlake Group" after the Interlake region.

Although no oil or gas has been found in the Devonian or Silurian rocks of Manitoba, they are important to the Province as a source of limestone for many industrial uses.

The technical reports on these Interlake Area rocks, published by the Department of Mines Branch, are: