

places of interest, museums or parks and enjoying supper together.

The officers for 1997 are President, Lee Tomchuk, Secretary, Mary Sylvester and Treasurer, Margaret Watson.

SIDNEY

This is a recap of the Sidney history, prepared by Arlene Jarema, Bert and Margaret Lintott and others. Sidney has its own history in "Footsteps in the Sand" published a few years ago.

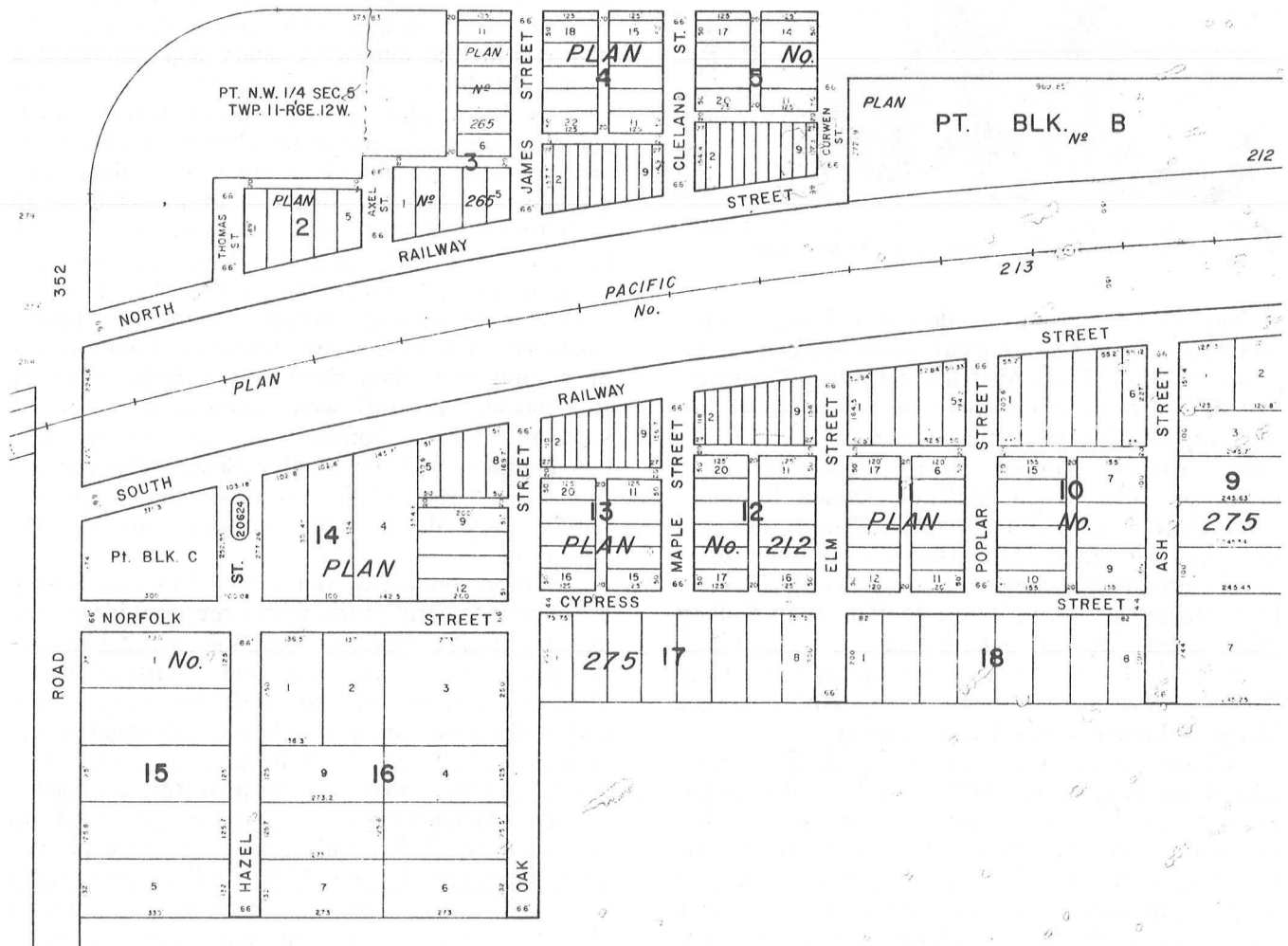
The Sidney area land survey had been completed in 1874-75 and the area was opened up for settlers. The CPR railway was built from Winnipeg to Sidney in 1881, reaching Oak Lake, MB by December 31, 1881. In August of 1881 the Marquis of Lorne named the town Sidney, some say for a correspondent for the London Times, while others say for an Estate in England called Sidney Hall. Take your pick, who knows for sure!

In 1820 the Red River ox cart formed the Carlton Trail which ran through this area. Johnsons first settled in this region in 1878. Babb, Pollard, Moore, Chester and Stephenson families had all filed on homesteads by 1880.

Thomas Babb and his three sons were the first to build a house which was to become the first post office until it was moved into the village in 1891. Pollard and Tucker ran the first store, later to become J. McElrea's store. The building burned in 1963.

Sidney was a thriving little town at one time with its lumber yard, livery barn, newspaper, jeweller, doctors, drug store, bake shop and cafes. There were three brickyards in the area at one time. Dougal Beswitherick had the first service station which met its demise when the highway came through. Howard Thorn, then owner, moved to the other side of the Trans Canada.

In 1900, with the persuasion of the local councillor, Alfred James, the long distance phone line was placed through Sidney. A long distance phone was installed in McElrea's store. Local telephones



Street map of Sidney