

SCHOOL SPORTS IN MIAMI — SEPTEMBER 1924 — JUNE 1929

These were the final years of the "Boom" between the two World Wars. This was the Boom that ended when the Stock Market Crash of November 1929 ushered in the "Depression" of the 1930's.

In these years before the "Crash", people had been thinking more and more of such things as Art, Music, Drama, the Speech Arts, and Sport.

It was our good fortune at that time to have, at the head of our Inspectoral Division, one of the greatest Inspectors of the province in the person of the late Dr. D. S. Woods, a man of vision, possessed of tremendous energy, and a great leader. It was through his efforts that the already established "School Fair" idea was extended to include activities such as: a Festival of Speech Arts and Music, an Ice Meet and a Field Day, all at the level of the Inspectoral Division rather than at the Community level only.

These events were held at different times throughout the year. The Divisional Fair took place in the Autumn, (September or October) in conjunction with the Teachers' Convention, the evening programs taking the form of a miniature Musical Festival and a Public Speaking and Story Telling Contest. The judges were usually from Winnipeg, people like Miss Ethel Kinley who was doing outstanding work in Music at that time.

The Ice Meet was held in the late winter or early spring, and the Field Day in early June, well before the Departmental Examinations.

The towns large enough to provide facilities for these activities took turns at acting as host to the others. Each town, plus its surrounding one-room schools, would have its own School Fair. The winners then went on to compete at the Divisional Fair. In the same way each town school chose its representatives to compete in the Musical (and or) Public Speaking events, the skating races and the Track and Field events.

The Ice Meet was one of the favorite events of the year. For this the competitors travelled by train (as this was before the days of "All Weather Roads"), and they were billeted in the homes of the "Host" town.

All winter long they practised hard at races and hockey (both boys and girls teams). The rinks were never idle from December to February. Each evening was practice time, in preparation for "The Meet". We had several winning teams in those five years, and many girls and boys found themselves to be champions in two or more events in one year. Competition was keen and citizens as well as staff members of the school were ready to coach and encourage the students. They will be sure to recall those enthusiastic sports lovers; principals D. S. McIntyre and J. A. Leslie, as well as staff members such as Ruth (Owens) Leslie, the late Blanche