

The Prairie Rose Baseball Team

Late comers to the community missed something for not having the opportunity of seeing this team in action. The curve that Bill Munro could pitch with his left hand could trick the most skilled batters. Each player just suited his position in the infield and outfield and played with precise co-operation. Jim Donald is of the opinion that the team could have matched favourably with the teams of the major leagues of that day. The team practised and played their home games on the diamond in the pasture of Mr. W. W. Hunter. The crowning year of the team was 1915 when they played 31 games and lost just 5.

In 1908 the players were: Pitcher W. Munro, Catcher W. McDougal, First Base N. Paul, Second Base S. J. Paul, Third Base K. Paul, Short Stop P. M. Munro, Right Field C. Caldwell, Left Field B. J. Caldwell, and Centre Field C. A. Caldwell.

The Prairie Rose Baseball Team in 1915.



Tennis in the Pipestone Area

There were private tennis clubs in Reston as early as 1920. Dr. Clark had a court on the lawn of his residence on Fifth Street South. This is now the grounds of the Howard and Jennie Dempsey residence. Lawyer A.K. Cates had a court opposite his home, now the Russell Manning residence on Main Street North. The nets and other fixtures were only removed after Mr. Cates died and the grounds became Manning property. Tennis courts were in the original plan when the Memorial Park was started in 1921. They were levelled and made ready by the next year with the grass surfacing being done by tennis club volunteers. In 1938, the courts were surfaced with clay from the nearby dugout and they were fenced with a wire netting eight feet high. Steel posts were constructed from old boiler flues. The work was overseen by I. McMurchy and A. D. Anderson of the parks board and paid for by the tennis club. It functioned for a number of years and then interest died out and the tennis club disbanded.

The Push-mobile Races

In the late twenties, the sporting event of the year was the push-mobile derby held on Main Street in late summer. Youngsters lined up to race in their home constructed soap box push cars. Fathers were there to cheer for most of them had a big hand in the construction of the little vehicles. The little wagons were covered with every imaginable type of front from radiator shaped to stream lined circular models. There was a seat for the young driver, a steering wheel, and something for the pusher, who ran behind, to hang onto comfortably. Few events stirred the youngsters of Reston as much as these races. They also put the town on the map for a few days and pictures of at least the May, 1929 race appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press. That year there were thirteen entries but numbers seemed to have no significance to the enthusiastic young people or the officials. That year, 450 spectators lined Main Street to watch the race. Main Street was gravel then so it was not the easy pushing that it would be today.



Sinclair tennis courts, 1909.

Parting thoughts

One of the pleasant things about small town life is that everyone, whether rich or poor, liked or disliked, has some kind of a role and place in the community. I never felt that living in a city – as I once did for a couple of years.

— Edward Abbey

History overflows time. Nothing is ever lost, and we are compacted together forever, even by our failures, our regrets, and our longings.

— Wendell Berry