



NAME DROPPING

NUTANA COLLEGIATE 1941-1945

What's in a name?

Nicknames were in vogue when I went to Nutana. They were so commonly used I sometimes forgot the real names of my friends. (Odd names weren't unusual to me because my mother's nickname was Pink.) Everyone knew who you were talking about when you asked about: Plug, Turk, Sak, Red, Bugs, Shaver, Gint, Tex, or Bucky. Nor did teachers escape colourful nicknames. "Butch" Morgan was menacing and "Squirt" Wilson was vertically challenged. I didn't have a nickname in school although later in life my boss called me Mud - as in "clear as mud!"

Whatever happened to...?

Many questions come to mind when I browse through *Hermes* - and a lot of fond memories too. What became of my pal **Turk Houston** who at one time worked at MaKague Funeral Home in Saskatoon. I met **Plug Berry** in Winnipeg in the late 1950's. And I stayed with **Lorne Thurston** in the 1940's after he moved to Calgary. **Jack Housey** and **Don Halliday** also moved there. My best pal since our early days at Thornton school, **Wilf Godfrey** still lives in Stampede City. **George Hunt**, coached our soccer team and later owned a clothing store on 23rd street called "*Hunt for the Best*". **Elwood Flynn** once worked at Mallin's Men's Wear. **Jackie Fraser** became a highly successful business man in Winnipeg. **John Scrimshaw** worked at CHED in Edmonton. **Julian Smith**, visited with me a few years ago. Julian played hockey for the Quebec Aces with Jean Beliveau. I was told **Les Snelling** lived nearby in Barrie but has returned to Saskatoon. **Matt Baldwin** who curled at Nutana later won the Brier. What became of **Spero Leakos**, our gentle 1945 "Senior Watch". In school we worried about **Don Hamm** because he had a ruddy complexion. When I saw him in 1985, he said "See - my face is still red!" I remember my first week at Nutana in 1941. There was a ruckus in a cloakroom when senior students held **Orm Murphy** on the floor while they shaved off his moustache. When his class picture was taken it had grown back again. I was not surprised when bright **Clifford Wright** became Mayor of Saskatoon. In 1967 I met **Corey Nichol** in Montreal. Corey, who had a speech stammer when he went to Nutana said the problem disappeared when he moved to California. **Jack Woodman**, a test pilot for the RCAF, was one of only 3 pilots ever to fly the famous Avro Arrow. **Jack Suttle**, a pilot in an RCAF Reserve Squadron, sadly lost his life in a training flight. Everyone had a crush on Jack's sister, the vivacious Mariette. **Bill White** was the school heart-throb. He was quarterback of the football team. As well as being good looking, he wore penny loafers and saddle shoes while we serfs made do with Sisman Scampers. **Gerry Couture** was a star with the Detroit Red Wings. **Will Godfrey**, **Denny Prince**, **Ken Arthen** and **Bob Early** were key members of championship Hilltop teams. Wilf and Bob later played for the Roughriders and Stampeders. **Ruth Walls** married my brother Hector and her brothers Alan, Victor and Roger all went to Nutana. In his 1942 *Hermes* pictures **Alan Walls** stand out in a suit, shirt and tie. **Bob Thompson** wrote a book called *Penny Candy, Bob Skates and Road Apples*. In 1941, he and **Stew Parr** amused the school by painting their shoes yellow with multi-coloured polka dots. **Bob Locke** had a dental practice in Toronto and I often saw him when I travelled to Toronto from Winnipeg. **Bud**, **Mavis**, and **Hugh Hardy** lived near me on Taylor Street. Hugh married **Betty Joan Hillyard** and later was a VP at Royal Bank in Montreal. In the 1970's, I met **Audrey Philpott** at a New York ad. agency. I learned she was my neighbour on Lorne Avenue when she attended Nutana. I wasn't interested in girls then. What happened to **Dick Moody**? I enjoyed 30 years in the broadcasting industry. After 8 years at CJOB Winnipeg, I retired in 1985 as an executive of Standard Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto. My work assignments included travel to New York, London, Milan and other interesting places. Our Chairman then was Bud McDougald, head of the Argus Corporation. He was replaced by the now infamous Conrad Black. A binder detailing my life's adventures, "*A Word to the Wise*" is in Saskatoon's main reference library along with another binder detailing my brother Hector's war record. Covered in dust, they have the distinction of being the least read books in the library. Heck's wartime life was filled with death-defying adventures, such as landing barges on Normandy beaches on D-Day. My life escapades are much more mundane. But none of it could have happened had I not been able to produce my *Nutana Collegiate Grade XII Diploma*.

