

MRS. GERTRUDE DYKE--Norah Street

The first thing she remembers is living in Port Arthur and that there were board sidewalks all over. She thinks they were made of white pine planks, there was no cement at all. The boards had cracks in them and for fun they used to try and get money that was dropped between the cracks out they used pliers or a pick or anything to hook the board so they could get the money out. There was just one public school and she doesn't know the date this was. It had just two rooms and they were divided. It is now a double house next to the Baptist Church in Port Arthur, this is the original building they did build on to it and it is now the front of the Central School near Gore Park. About 65 years ago there was a new Methodist Church being built and the old one was moved down the hill and down Bay Street to where the Second School is and that was the first school besides the Central School, the next school was on St James Street. Port Arthur and Fort William were built fourth the first to be built up was the East End were McLaughlin and McTavish Streets are. The first home was at this end of Court Street before Bay from there on there was just wilderness. In the forties intercity was still swamp area. They said they could never build anything on it, it was full of frogs and when they did try to build the sand just sunk and it drained.

When people settled here they brought the best furniture as they did come from good families down East. The nice homes were built on Court Ridge and many years later they started to build in Mariday and it was swampy this was out towards Chippewa Park this was suppose to be the residential area but industry crept in. When she was young she was never part of the excursion that went to Silver Islet for Sunday picnics. There was no highway or any other way to get out of town so they had to use old boats that were sold down East and brought here. The picnics used to consist of potato salad, cabbage salad, sandwiches, cakes and pie. In her day there was the usual drinking, there were four

saloons, and it was men that worked in the bush that used to drink all their wages up in one night of drinking. She said it was outlawed to drink and it wasn't educated people who drank then but she thinks there would be better people if they didn't all drink so much, crime wouldn't be as bad if there was no drinking. Around the year 1873 CPR was coming through.