

It's Brazier - - - with Charming Little Houses, Trees and Roses, Fragrant Under the June Sun

By LILLIAN GIBBONS

FIFTY years ago the first subdivision in Elmwood was opened and property put on sale for home lots. The men who gave land were Albert Brazier, E. Roch and James Watt, whose names now mark the three streets east of Henderson Highway and parallel to it. This story is about Brazier Street. Union Street was named for all three of the men, says Allen H. Brazier, son of Albert, who lives at the corner of Brazier and Melrose Ave.

"In 1898 we lived where the Elmwood Telephone exchange is now, at Brazier and Martin Ave. It was all prairie then," said Mr. Brazier. "In 1906 we moved north, building the house on the creek now numbered 1025 Henderson Highway. It's the East Kildonan-East St. Paul Health Unit today. The people call it Brazier Creek though in pioneer days it was known as mill creek because there was a flour mill on it."

The first Brazier, Charles, came out from Cambridge, England, in 1872 to be a gardener at Bishop's Court, St. John's, in the regime of Archbishop Machray. He was the grandfather of Allen. Allen's mother, Mrs. Albert Brazier, 142 Poplar Ave., says Archbishop Matheson as a boy used to eat lunch in a tree by the creek when he went to his uncle's school, The Elms. Henderson's directory for 1901 shows Albert Brazier listed as engineer of St. John's college, and William Brazier as sexton of St. John's Cathedral. When the family moved east of the river they collected for the building of two small Anglican churches, first St. Cuthbert's and then St. Stephen's.

Today Brazier street runs from Midwinter Avenue to Eldorado, or by the new owners, the Michael Wichuks, who have just been in it a year. No. 772 is a charming bungalow of brown shingles with a white gate set invitingly in the

the old family home is just north of the creek. The last house on Brazier is No. 888, Samuel Morton's. "We came here in 1916 and this end was called Cawdor then," said Mrs. Morton who was visiting her grandchildren.

There are really two houses north of Morton's but, strangely they are numbered 300 and 301, for Roberts Ave, the cross street. "The people have been to the municipality to get it changed but nothing happened," laughed Mrs. Morton.

This north end of Brazier is a charming, rural place, like a summer resort: wooden sidewalks running under fir trees and June roses, exquisitely fragrant in the hot sun. There are pumps at the corners. The light posts bear a picture of J. Leslie Bodie "Your Progressive Conservative candidate for Springfield." J. S. Powers, 788, has a long walk made of narrow wooden slats, the kind children lose their nickles down, flanked by deck chairs. His two black baby spaniels kept up such a chatter it was hard to talk with him. No. 776 is an old house made of shingles, painted dark red with Gothic windows that suggest a church past. "Yes, it used to be a Gospel hall," said the willing neighbors, "and then a labor hall." At Martin is the Elmwood Telephone Exchange, dark red brick

hedge; Mr. and Mrs. A. Ferguson's home.

New houses are going up all through the district: No. 792, a cedar siding bungalow owned by William Newbiggin, is typical.

A great piece of road building machinery blocked the way last week as a new road was being built after a sewer was laid. Just out of the rough was a house at the corner of Melrose embowered in greenery. This turned out to be Allen Brazier's home. As a sideline he raises flowers, carrying on his grandfather's occupation, and breeds Labrador dogs. He has been there 13 years.

Between Sydney and Neil Streets is Prince Edward school, a one-storey brick structure of modern design, built in 1920 and named for the Prince of Wales. After Trent the street makes a jog westward coming straight again at Donald and Munroe where St. Alphonse Catholic parochial school has stood since 1922.

At the corner of Montrose is a grocery store with sub-post-office No. 24 inside. Across the street is Tony's shoe clinic, George's Barber shop and Almee's beauty shop, a community shopping centre. Montrose is the last avenue in East Kildonan. At Harbison our street enters Elmwood. There at the corner is the old Elmwood curling club. At Martin is the Y.M.C.A., newly painted cream and green but with Gothic windows that suggest a church past. "Yes, it used to be a Gospel hall," said the willing neighbors, "and then a labor hall." At Martin is the Elmwood Telephone Exchange, dark red brick

At Johnson it crosses the Morse Pierce street car line. On the south corner a baby was asleep in a carriage with her feet where one would logically look for her head. "It's all right," laughed her mother, "she's double jointed. She's from Edmonton and she came to visit her grandparents—Mr. and Mrs. William Prophet. She was a year old June 17."

At Poplar is Gordon United church, brown insul brick, with Rev. D. R. Patterson's name on the sign and a big WELCOME. Across the street is Lord Selkirk school, white brick amid elms, built in 1912. A little girl leaned on the fence: "Kin you tell me the time?" she pleaded. She was Bernice Warren, Poplar Ave., waiting for her pals to come out of school. Just as she talked to the reporter the school bell rang, the door burst open, and Bernice ran to greet her friends, who were important enough to go to school and be waited for.

At McIntosh, the other side of the school, is St. Cuthbert's, Anglican church where Canon R. E. Park is rector. It's brown insul brick like its neighbor the United church.

No. 142 to 128, Gordon to Dearborn Avenues, is a neat row of wooden houses 30 years old. No. 78 is a wee green painted house set in a bower of purple birches. No. 68 within view of the Red River, is Mrs. Harry Srogen's. "It's about 40 years old," she estimated. "You're at the bottom of Brazier street now out on sunny Midwinter with Louise Bridge to the left, and Brown and Rutherford's lumber mill straight across."