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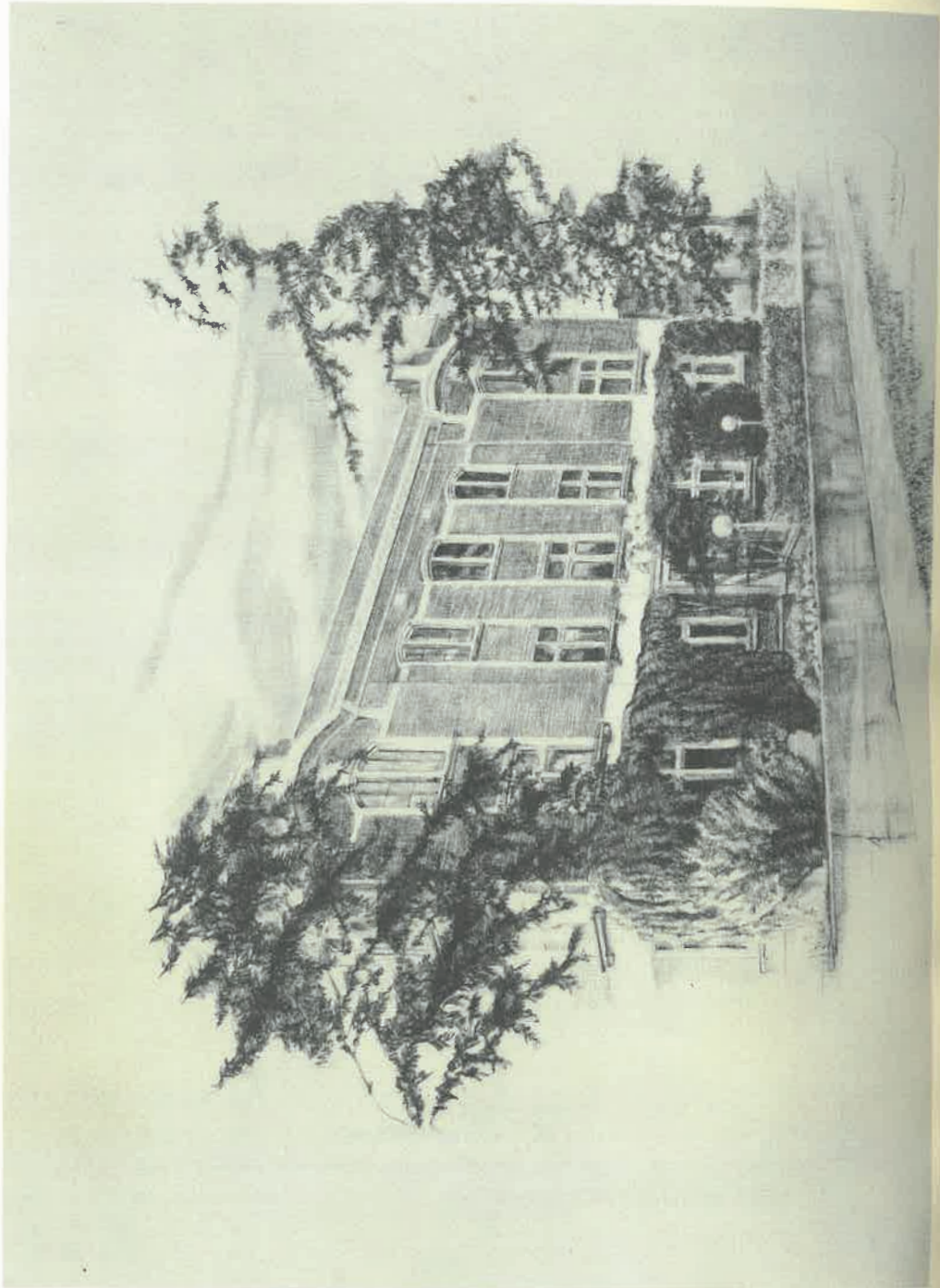
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A SHORT HISTORY
of
THE RANCHMEN'S CLUB
(A Light-Hearted Account)

Best Review by a Critic
"This Slim Volume . . ."

Calgary
A Centennial Project
1875-1975

PROLOGUE

On December 21, 1893, 18 years after the founding of Calgary, ceremonies headed by Lieutenant-Governor Mackintosh were held in Calgary to commemorate Calgary's incorporation as a city. Present, and posing for the historic photograph of the occasion taken by Robert Randolph Bruce, were several members of the Ranchmen's Club. At that time, the population of Calgary stood at 3,876 souls. The C.P.R. had been completed less than eight years before (November 7, 1885) so one could travel east or west by rail. But only prairie trails wound north to Edmonton with horses or bull trains offering the only means of transportation (which no doubt accounts for that community's somewhat retarded development). Whiskey was 75¢ a bottle with no tobacco juice added.

In these auspicious circumstances the oldest continuing local institution in Calgary — the Ranchmen's Club — was introduced to the rest of Canada and can today in 1975 be honestly said to represent a landmark in the development of the Canadian West. It is true that the Manitoba Club, founded in 1874, in the Hudson Bay headquarters of Winnipeg and the Union Club in Victoria (1879) are older. But in the vast area between those two very sizeable cities, it is a remarkable fact of history that in a town of less than 4,000 people, a gentlemen's club of the British style should be organized and sustained by a handful of British Stock Colonials (as Western Canadians are still described in Pembroke College in Cambridge).

The Ranchmen's Club was formed then by gentlemen to whom the British Club was an integral and unique way of life. To them then, and to many now, there was, and is, in fact, nothing quite like the British Club.

In 1616, the famed playwright "o rare" Ben Jonson, founded the Apollo Club which met in the Devil Tavern by Temple Bar (the club even had special ladies' nights where ladies were admitted for very special occasions). About the same time the Bread St. Club was organized by Sir Walter Raleigh. It met in the famed Mermaid Tavern.

The Elizabethan period and that of the Stuart following, was one of great ferment and consequently many of the clubs of the 17th and 18th centuries were in reality political clubs.

White's, for example, certainly one of the great continuing clubs of England, began as a Tory stronghold in 1693 although it did not become a private club until 1736. It moved to its present site on St. James Street, nineteen years later. Brooks's was White's Whig counterpart. Here Charles Fox spent his evenings gambling for high stakes,

drinking excessively, only to appear on the floor of Parliament the next day to electrify his contemporaries with one of his great speeches.

Boodle's, named after its long time manager William Boodle, was another of the famed early clubs. It was founded in 1763. Noted for its cuisine, along with White's and Brooks's it became an important social club in the British tradition. All three of these clubs are still very much alive and all of them are still in their magnificent 18th century houses.

There were also literary and artistic clubs — although they came later. In 1764, Dr. Samuel Johnson and Sir Joshua Reynolds founded "The Club" whose early small membership included such luminaries as Oliver Goldsmith, Edmund Burke, David Garrick, James Boswell and Sir John Hawkins of Spanish Main fame. It was Dr. Johnson who first used the description "clubbable man", actually a good self-description of the great lexicographer. The word "Club" of course, by now, had gained wide usage as it had been known to the English language for over 100 years. John Aubrey, the English antiquary, was probably the first to define it. "We now use the Clubbe", he wrote to his friend Anthony a Wood at Oxford, "for a sodality in a tavern." Samuel Pepys, shortly thereafter (in his diary for 1660), mentions going with his friends to Woods' tavern on Pall Mall "for clubbing."

Pall Mall, of course, is the present site of the Atheneum Club, the most famous of the literary and artistic clubs — Sir Walter Scott and Tom Moore were early members — and one with perhaps the longest waiting list. It was founded in 1823 and presaged the rise of what might be better described as a Victorian Club as contrasted with the Elizabethan Club. The earlier clubs, both Elizabethan and Stuart, were tavern clubs. Their talk was racy, colourful, essentially highly individualistic and highly controversial. One still sees some of this in the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. One can also find it simply by reading Shakespeare, whose command of marvellous expressions and expletives is even today in some high schools a source of embarrassment to English teachers.

The Victorian period, in sharp contrast was, at least as far as polite society was concerned, entirely decorous. Dr Johnson's Dictionary (1775) was replaced by the Oxford Dictionary (1879) and a great deal of earthy controversy was lost in the process. The fire of Dr. Johnson, James Fox, Edmund Burke, and the rest of the early clubmen of note was diminished. Controversy gave way to what used to be described as politesse. Politics was now considered somewhat depraved: "Confound their politics, frustrate their knavish tricks, God save the Queen." It was all pretty quiet.

Two very important developments emerged in club life, however, during the 19th century. One was the move to permanent clubhouses following the example of White's, Boodle's, and Brooks's. Clubs vied with each other in securing the services of well-known architects to build their imposing houses and today these clubhouses represent a magnificent addition to the dignified architecture of London.

The second development was that of a vast proliferation of clubs. Beginning in 1804 with the fashionable Union Club, one finds dozens of clubs being organized, among them: the Carleton Club (1831); the Conservative (1840); the Cobden (1866); the Savile (1868), generally regarded as a waiting place for the Atheneum; St. Stephen's (1868); and the Devonshire Club (1875). With this proliferation, eventually, the British Club came to be seen essentially as Victorian, as indeed did most institutions during the reign of the Great Queen, even though the older clubs were old when Victoria ascended the Throne.

It was during this period, too, that the British Club moved abroad following the flag of Empire. This kind of club really never caught on the Continent however, primarily because the French and German traditions were so different.

Even in the United States, the true British Club never really caught on. The prestigious Union League Clubs of Philadelphia and San Francisco, which are about as hard to get into as it would be for a rich man to get into the Kingdom of Heaven, are bastions of enormous wealth and their clubhouses show it. But the purposes of the clubs are really different and not too many members would fit Dr. Johnson's intimate term "clubbable."

Other types of clubs, of course, were now competing. Women's clubs began to emerge in the last years of the Victorian period. Sports clubs, both in England and elsewhere became important centres of yachting, racing, boxing, fencing, golfing, tennis, and cricket. The so-called Service clubs of today were a much later addition and were essentially American although the idea spread rapidly around the world.

Canada, however, or at least a small part of it, remained true to the earlier traditions. Club life, as it was known in Great Britain came to Canada almost intact. The St. James Club of Montreal was the first, founded in 1857. It moved in to its fine home on Dorchester Street in 1871. Twenty years later the concept of an English Club had reached Calgary.

THE HISTORY

It all began on May 5, 1891, when a general meeting was held in Calgary, in rented rooms, for the purpose of organizing the Ranchmen's Club. Present were Messrs. McPherson, Lee, Ricardo, Andrews, Alexander, Stine, E. Cave, B. Cave, Bevan, Jephson, Christie, Stimson, and Rawlinson. It was reported that 27 gentlemen had paid the entrance fee — \$50.00 in those days — and had committed themselves to paying annual dues of \$25.00.

Little is known of the forces that moved the Club to its formation although there is evidence of informal meetings among those later described as the organizers of the Club since the year preceeding.

The Ranchmen's Club was well named. Of the original founders, Messrs. Andrews, MacPherson, Lee, Alexander, Samson, Harford, and Cross described themselves as ranchers. D. H. Andrews was the manager of the 76 ranch near Dunmore. He had come to Alberta with the Powder River Cattle Co. of Wyoming and became the second president of the Western Stock Growers Association. D. H. McPherson was identified with the High River Horse Ranch although at the time of the formation of the Club he was Inspector D. H. MacPherson, NWMP in charge of southern detachments. He had had a distinguished career with the Mounties. T. S. C. Lee of Lee and Metcalfe was the first president of the Ranchmen's Club and served longer in that office than any other president. He was also a land developer and real estate agent and in his early days an ardent polo player. H. B. Alexander was also a rancher and although the Club still knows the brand used on his ranch, the name itself appears to be lost. Messrs. Samson and Harford, both of whom partnered their ranching responsibilities under the ranch names Samson & McNaughton and Samson & Harford clearly worked together in other ways. Sir Frances McNaughton, an original member of the Club and partner with Mr. Samson, credits both Mr. Samson and Mr. Harford — along with Inspector MacPherson — as being prime movers in the Club's organization.

A. E. Cross was owner of the A7 ranch, but of all the founders, his interests were the most widespread. Travelling almost constantly between Montreal, Regina and Calgary, he built one of Calgary's early financial empires. Only once, apparently, did he fail in a major effort. He tried to get the exclusive whiskey franchise from Hiram Walker in Ontario for the District of Alberta. The correspondence in the Glenbow archives shows Mr. Cross's unremitting efforts — but in the end did not get it. However, he still had most of the beer — he was president of the Calgary Brewing and Malting Co.

Two of the Club's original organizers were not ranchers. A. D. Braithwaite was a banker. He was active in the Club's affairs, making the original motion to move from rental quarters to a clubhouse and to incorporate. However, he submitted his resignation on September 26, 1892, only 8 months after the Club was organized. The minutes give no explanation for this.

In many ways the most colourful of the founders was J. P. J. Jephson, long-time secretary of the Club and later president. He was a Cambridge University graduate and a noted scholar in Greek and Latin which he displayed to astute advantage before the local bench (he was a barrister, the firm Muir and Jephson was well known), by quoting the English judgments from the original Latin. While he did speak English, he gave little away to others, always being careful to point out that no one could properly speak the English language without a thorough grounding in Greek and Latin. He married Christina Drevor, daughter of one of Winnipeg's old families. They had four children. His oldest son was killed in France in World War I.

The original members, other than the founders themselves, pretty well followed the career patterns found among the organizers. By far the largest number were ranchers. To mention a few. There were the four Cochranes. Senator Matthew H. Cochrane had originally set up the great Cochrane ranch to the west of Calgary in 1881. W. Gordon-Cumming, youngest son of Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon-Cumming brought out the first herd of polled Angus cattle from Scotland. Thomas Stone came west with Sir John Lister-Kaye and was for several years general manager of the CCAC ranch. He held office as president of the Board of Trade. A. H. Goldfinch came to the Military Colonization Co. ranch originally and later ranched on the Bow River. H. R. Jame-son was manager of the great Quorn ranch. And so it went. Alberta in those days was essentially ranching.

To return to the actual organization of the Ranchmen's Club. The early Elizabethan model was followed. Rooms were leased by the membership on Stephen (now Eighth) Avenue over Mariaggi's Restaurant with an eye to the food and drink below that is the life blood of any worthy club.

Meals were brought up from the Restaurant by means of a dumb waiter. Clearly, however, they weren't all dumb as the Committee was at least once asked to take action in the case of servant impertinence. Draft beer was available by the glass and mixed drinks were offered although they must have been a motley mix as the Club was asked to rule that all drinks would be mixed in the presence of the member ordering them.

Besides eating and drinking, the Club membership did perform the usual business responsibilities required. A constitution was adopted, largely modelled after that of the St. James Club in Montreal. Two or three of the rules did show some deviation from some of the older traditions of the British Club. For example, the Second article read: "Politics and religious questions of every description shall be absolutely excluded from the object of the Club." This would certainly have made Charles Fox or Edmund Burke turn over in their graves, but it did reflect a certain North American reticence to discuss controversial subjects. Presumably the subject of the ladies or of horses is not controversial. Nothing was said at this time about business discussion as such, although briefcases and display briefs were prohibited from the Club lounges and later — in 1958 — to be exact — a very strongly worded notice went out to the membership stating that "It is a rule of the Club that business is not discussed in the lounges of the Club," which would certainly indicate that this was a very old tradition and one that the Committee expected to be respected by the membership.

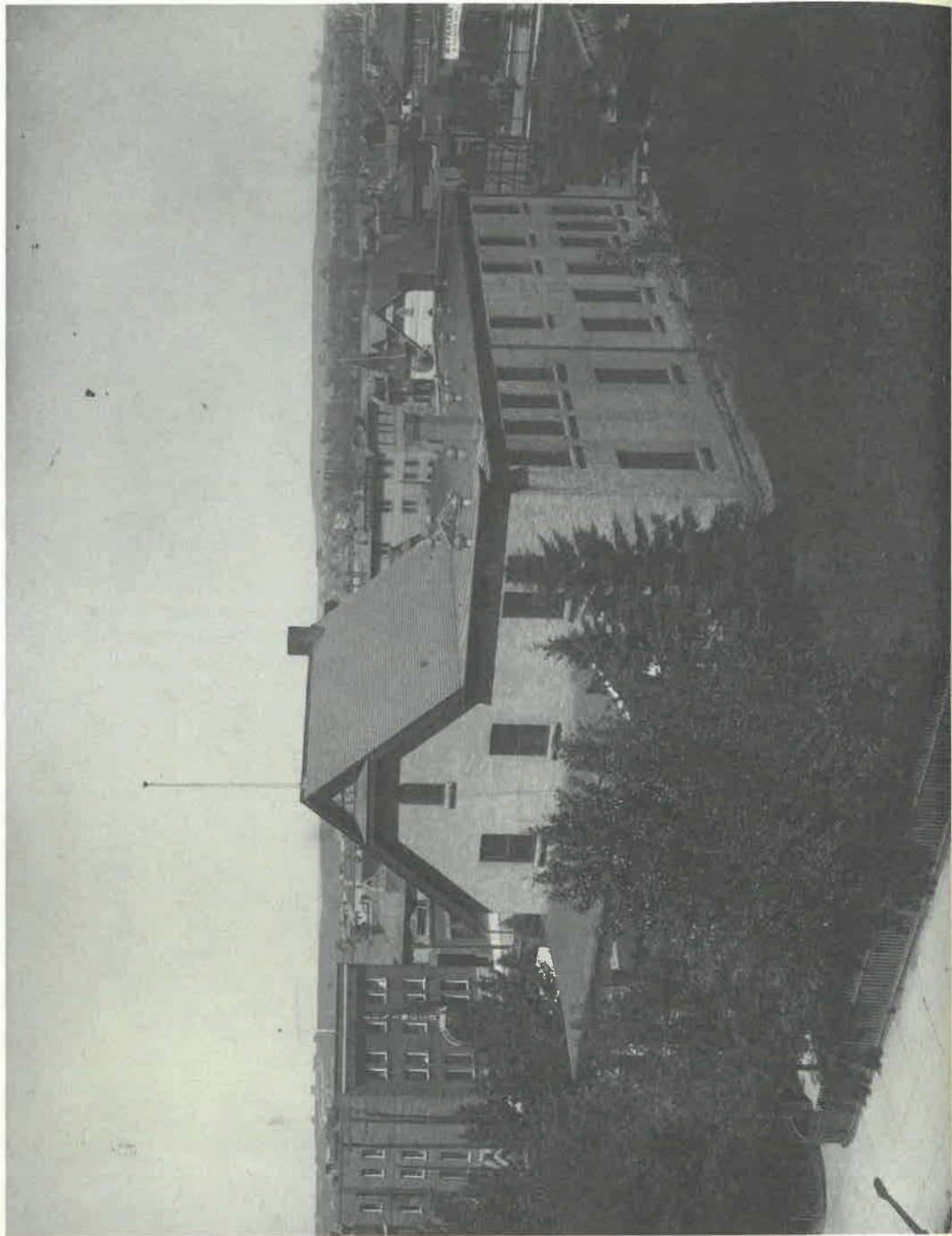
After the Club moved into its own quarters, special rooms were set aside for business discussion leaving the lounges — as from the beginning — a place where members of the Club could discuss more diverse interests with their fellow members.

No dogs were to be permitted in the Club, according to the Constitution, but nothing was said about horses. No Club members ever recall, however, anyone trying to ride up the grand staircase although it is hard to see much difference between this and a chicken dance performed in the foyer around a bonfire (which it is rumored, once happened).

The original rule 29 prohibited smoking in the dining room and several members were admonished for an infraction of that rule. Neither was crap-shooting allowed. The slang expression "no dice" obviously had more decorous beginnings than is today ascribed to it. But once again, English gentlemen in London Clubs gambling for high stakes would have found this rule somewhat puzzling.

The first really important order of business after the Club's organization and adoption of a Constitution was the ordinance incorporating the Club. This was passed by the First Session of the Second Legislative Assembly of the NWT meeting in Regina and assented to on January 25, 1892. In terms of incorporation, therefore, the Ranchmen's Club proudly took its place in the annals of the law as being older than either Alberta or Calgary.

Two days after incorporation, there was a meeting of the membership to consider the purchase of a property for the construction of a Club



house. The proferred property was on McIntyre (now Seventh) Avenue, a site roughly approximating that of the present Bay parkade. There were 45 members of the Club at the time, but as 136 gentlemen had been introduced by members during the past year, there was good reason to believe that the membership could be increased to help carry the load of new construction. This proved to be a justifiable surmise as the annual report of the next year showed a membership of 72.

An affirmative vote was taken on the new location then, and it became the decision of the Club to proceed with the construction of a Club-house. Tenders were called for and the minutes of a meeting on July 30, 1892 are proudly headed "in the Club."

One of the first responsibilities of a Club is, of course, to see that no members die of thirst. Mr. Cross, who had spent a lot of time looking for a brewer a few years earlier and who received several letters of congratulations from Club members on the success of that important venture was now called upon to use his great expertise to procure a liquor license for the Club. There are several letters of encouragement in the Glenbow Archives from Mr. Samson to Mr. Cross impressing upon the latter the urgency of this important assignment. Mr. Cross sat at this time as an MLA and consequently was in Regina quite frequently. The proud announcement of a license was finally made. The cost? \$200.00 to the legislature; \$200.00 to the town. It was really pretty substantial for those days. Two year old whiskey in that year (1892) was \$1.25 a gallon and "old" whiskey \$2.00 a gallon.

Although on its own property, no modifications were made regarding the rules except that at the November meeting of that year it was agreed that while no cards could be played on Sunday — the original rule — billiards could now be played. Of course in those days, there was a charge to the membership for the use of the tables and what small revenue it brought in (15¢ player charge — 10¢ billiards) was still welcome.

One of the real advantages of having a Club House was the opportunity of the individual member to "spread out" and utilize the space and the facilities that a Club House offered. One of the great traditions of the British Club was the reading available to members. This tradition, the Ranchmen's was now in a position to follow.

Subscriptions were listed the following year to several publications, most of them sadly now long gone!

Illustrated London News	Graphic
Illustrated Sporting & Dramatic	Harpers
Weekly edition of the Times	Century
Pall Mall Budget	Punch
Review of Reviews	Life

Scientific American
Saturday Review
Black & White
World
Scribners

The Field
Puck
Sketch
Truth

Meanwhile the minutes of the period did show some rather amusing side-lights involving the nuances of elections and resignations of members.

"In view of Mr. H. having told members of the committee that his name had been put up for election without his authority, it was decided that the Secretary write the following letter to Mr. H.

" 'Calgary, 8 July 1892.

" 'Sir I am directed by the Committee of the Ranchmen's Club to request you to take back your cheque for \$75.00 which is enclosed herewith.

" 'There seems to be an idea that your name was put up for election under some misapprehension as to your wishes in the matter, and on this ground the Committee would not hold you or your proposer or seconder in any way responsible for the non-payment of your subscription.

*" 'I am Sir
" 'Your obedient servant,
" 'J. P. Jephson,
Secretary' "*

There were perhaps some frank conversations over night. The Committee met next day to consider Mr. H's letter "re-enclosing my cheque" which was duly accepted.

The Committee did not conceive, as Mr. Charles Dickens said, when he resigned from it, in 1858, that the Committee of the Garrick Club did conceive, "That it shakes the earth."

But it had a proper sense of its own dignity and of the Club's.

A second item in the minutes read as follows:

" '27th May, 1897.

" 'A letter was read from Mr. X tendering his resignation.

" 'Proposed by Mr. M., seconded by Mr. P., that resignation be accepted. - - Carried.

" 'Proposed by Mr. M., seconded by Mr. P., that the secretary be instructed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. X's letter of

27th inst. and to inform Mr. X that he was invited to become a member of the Ranchmen's Club as a recognition of his position in Calgary. The tone of Mr. X's correspondence with the Honorary-Secretary is however such that the committee having regard to the gentlemen who compose the Club, are extremely pleased to have Mr. X's resignation in their hands — and that Mr. X be informed that the same has been unanimously accepted. Carried unanimously, and that the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of the resolution to Mr. X — Carried.' ”

The financial picture of any club is seldom a rosy one and is often quite somber. The joys and advantages of a clubhouse therefore are always tempered by the financial problems that accompany them. The Ranchmen's was no different. Within two years, things were difficult enough that the Committee decided the Steward was getting paid too much and reduced his salary. Not unexpectedly he resigned.

By 1896, matters had not improved and had, in fact, considerably worsened. On December 3rd of that year, an extraordinary meeting was held “for the purpose of considering the financial position of the Club . . . ” and to decide “either to continue the Club as a running concern or to close its Clubhouse and wind up its affairs.” It was a real crisis and several members resigned including E. Cave and D. H. MacPherson, one of the original organizers.

The Bank of Montreal was leaning pretty hard on the small membership, several of whom appear to have been in arrears on a number of things. For the sake of accuracy, because this was the most serious crisis that the Club ever faced (the “Dirty-Thirties” did not reach such crisis proportions), it seems desirable to reproduce in full a Memorandum of Declaration of Trust that rests in the Glenbow archives. This is one of two long quotations in this brief volume, the other being in the form of a parody known as “The Lay of the Last Minstrel” that also rests in the Glenbow. These historic pieces, one a legal document and the other a piece of folk art, in a sense bracket the early period of Club history. Like Janus, they show clearly the two faces of Club existence, each of which is important to and dependent on the other. Without both, a Club cannot exist. For at once a club is both theatre and financial institution. We are, as Shakespeare tells us, all players, but we are also responsible men.

To return to the Memorandum. It shows how much any club, in time of crisis, responds to that eternal cry of Englishmen “Into the breach, dear comrades.” Now, three generations later, we bear witness to that single act of faith.

MEMORANDUM OF DECLARATION OF TRUST

whereby Thomas Somerville Charters Lee of the City of Calgary in the North West Territories of Canada, Real Estate agent, and John Pascoe Jermy Jephson of the same place, Advocate, do acknowledge that they and their legal representatives hold certain hereinafter described bonds in the Ranchmen's Club IN TRUST for certain persons hereinafter mentioned.

WHEREAS the Ranchmen's Club of the City of Calgary in the North West Territories of Canada was at various times during the last four years indebted to the Bank of Montreal in sums varying from \$9000. to \$3400. secured by the promissory notes of the said Club:

AND WHEREAS the said Bank did as further security to the notes of the said Club demand and receive from the following persons as promissors viz, the said Lee and Jephson, Alfred Ernest Cross, Duncan Haldane, MacPherson, Arthur Douglas Braithwaite, Herbert Samson, Henry Bruen Alexander, Thomas Stone and Thomas Nichol Christie — being the committee of the said Club at the time of such demand — their joint and several promissory notes payable to the said Bank on demand in sums equal to the amount of the indebtedness of the said Club to the said Bank due from time to time:

AND WHEREAS by way of further security for payment of its said notes the said Club did issue to the said Bank, thirty-four of its only issue of bonds, which are numbered from 057 to 090 both numbers included for the sum of \$100.00 each:

AND WHEREAS the said Bank threatened to sue the said promissors unless they paid or caused to be paid all the indebtedness of the said Club to the said Bank which indebtedness at the time of such threat amounted to \$3400.00.

AND WHEREAS the said Bank being unable to obtain any part of said indebtedness from said Christie and Stone sued them and on the 23rd day of July 1897 recovered a judgment against them for \$749.67 claim and \$33.72 for costs:

AND WHEREAS one Robert Stone, brother of the said Thomas Stone, has since the recovery of said judgment paid to the said Bank the sum of \$38.15, interest on part of said indebtedness \$11.90, the costs of action brought by the said Bank \$33.72, and \$16.23 costs of obtaining an assignment of said judgment and of drawing these Presents — in all \$100.00:

AND WHEREAS the said indebtedness of \$3400. of the said Club to the said Bank has been paid by the following persons in the sums set opposite to their respective names:—

T. S. C. Lee	\$444.55
J. P. J. Jephson	444.55
A. E. Cross	444.55
D. H. MacPherson	444.55
A. D. Braithwaite	444.55
Herbert Samson	444.55
H. B. Alexander	444.55
Robert Stone for Thomas Stone, deceased	38.15
William Edward Cochrane	100.00
D. H. Andrews	50.00
Oswald A. Critchley	50.00
A. R. Springett	50.00
	<u>\$3400.00</u>

and the Bank has delivered over the 34 bonds numbered 057 to 090 to the said Lee and Jephson IN TRUST for the persons whose names appear in the above list as payers of the said indebtedness, and has assigned the said judgment to the said Lee and Jephson:

AND WHEREAS the said Lee and Jephson have each retained for their own use and benefit four of the said bonds and have caused to be delivered four of the said bonds each to the said Cross, MacPherson, Braithwaite, Samson and Alexander and one bond to said Cochrane:

AND WHEREAS, each bond of the said Club being of the amount of \$100., it is impossible to deliver to each person entitled the exact number of bonds representing the amount advanced by him to pay off the said Bank, and it is therefore desirable that the remaining five bonds not so distributed as aforesaid viz, bonds numbered 086, 087, 088, 089 and 090 be held by said Lee and Jephson IN TRUST for themselves and all others whose names are below set out for the amounts set opposite to the names of the said persons respectively:

NOW THEREFORE we the said Lee and Johnson do hereby acknowledge and declare that we are possessed of the said bonds numbered 086, 087, 088, 089, 090 for the only use benefit and advantage of the persons following and each of their legal representatives in the proportions of the sums set opposite to each of their names viz.

T. S. C. Lee	\$44.55
J. P. J. Jephson	44.55
A. E. Cross	44.55
D. H. MacPherson	44.55
A. D. Braithwaite	44.55
Herbert Samson	44.55
H. B. Alexander	44.55
Robert Stone	38.15
D. H. Andrews	50.00
A. R. Springett	50.00
O. A. Critchley	50.00
	<u>\$500.00</u>

and that the said five bonds are held by us the said Lee and Jephson from motives of convenience for all the said persons: and that the said bonds and all interest and advantage accruing thereon are and shall be held by us and our legal representatives only for the convenience use benefit advantage of us and them as aforesaid and we will account to and pay over all moneys interest and profits (except so far as we are entitled to a portion thereof as aforesaid) that shall by us or our legal representatives have been received thereon:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and seals this fourth day of December A.D. 1897.

*Thomas Somerville Charters Lee
John Pascoe Jermy Jephson*

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

in presence of

J. H. Johnson

**CANADA
NORTH WEST TERRITORIES
TO WIT:—**

I, James Herbert Johnson

*of the City of Calgary in the North West Territories of Canada,
Clerk make oath and say:—*

- 1. That I was personally present and did see the above written instrument and nine other originals of the same duly signed, sealed and executed by Thomas Somerville Charters Lee and John Pascoe Jermy Jephson, parties named therein.*
- 2. That the said instrument and nine other originals were executed at the City of Calgary aforesaid*
- 3. That I know the said parties.*
- 4. That I am a subscribing witness to the said instrument and nine other originals.*

*SWORN BEFORE ME at the City of
Calgary in the North West Territories
this 7th day of December A.D. 1897*

J. H. Johnson

*A Commissioner for taking affidavits
in and for the North West Territories.*

In 1903, the Club had a membership of 78 and 907 visitors had been introduced. The next year the membership had upped to 92 members although the number of visitors introduced had slightly lessened. By 1906 with the major finance crisis behind them the members' conversation around the Club moved to an enlargement of the premises or even to a new Club House.

At the annual meeting on May 15th, 1906, the Committee was instructed to secure plans for the alteration and enlargement of the Club premises at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, the necessary funds to be raised by debentures to be held only by members of the Club.

The Committee arranged at once for some construction (at a cost of \$1,142) and offered the debentures. But away from the mutual stimulus of the annual meeting members were coy; the response was disappointing and, on July 4th, the notice was ordered to be taken down and members who had subscribed were released from their obligations.

Next year, on May 2nd, 1907, the Committee was of opinion that if satisfactory financial arrangements could be made a new club house should be built on lots 38, 39 and 40. A compliant annual meeting, on May 21st, instructed that plans and estimates should be prepared, a scheme of financing formulated, all to be submitted to a special meeting within two months.

The Committee saw architects, contractors and loan companies but reported to a special club meeting on October 23rd that "in the present condition of the money market," a new club house was impossible, but it had a plan for an addition which could be built for \$2,600 and furnished for \$1,500 without borrowing. The meeting accepted the more modest plan; a further meeting, on November 15th reaffirmed it. No time was lost; for payment to a contractor (apparently in full) was authorized on January 8th, 1908.

On November 19th, 1908, the Committee arranged that the "magazine room and the writing room should be used for the purpose of a cafe-serving room." But the menu was a limited one — cold meat, boiled eggs, sandwiches, cheese, crackers, jam and tea — with a minimum charge of 35¢. The hours were less restricted, 10:00-11:30, 12:00-3:00, 6:00-9:00.

Some additional rooms, including a dining room, were added in 1909 and the dining-room was opened on November 26th. Except for the austere provision of the preceding twelve months, no meals had been served for nearly eighteen years. But a bar had been operating continuously and the Committee placed frequent orders for Glen Grant 10-year-old Scotch whisky, bringing it from Edinburgh, usually two barrels (80 gallons) at a time. (There were 104 ordinary members that year). One shipment was some eighteen gallons short and the secretary was instructed to make claim on the C.P.R. for \$85. Just a year later he was instructed to hand the claim for collection to a comparatively recent member, Mr. R. B. Bennett.

In the spring of 1911 there were many committee meetings and an extraordinary meeting of the Club. The Club premises could, it was thought, be sold for \$200,000. Many suitable sites for a new building were available — an option was actually taken on one of them; but nothing happened and the official records fall silent. The Club now had time for the arts. The "Lay of the Last Minstrel", (the original had been written by a clubman, Sir Walter Scott, of course) was the Club's first great literary effort:

*In solemn, serious conclave, with sober mien and grave,
The members of the Ranchmen's Club their close attention gave,
While in his smoothest manner, in tones both firm and bland,
The brewer read the fateful sheet clutched tightly in his hand.
Which recommended shortly, in language most direct,
The purchase of another site, and, that the club erect
Upon the same, a building worthy of the glorious fame
Which, throughout all its history, has crowned the Ranchmen's
name:*

*And, that to raise the money needed for this venture bold,
The present holdings of the Club in whole or part, be sold.*

*Poor Mac sat stricken in his seat, a tear-drop in his eye,
"What! Leave this dear old home?" he cried, "by God! I'd
sooner die."*

*He lingered for a moment, with face deep-set in gloom,
Then picking up his traps, he staggered from the room.*

*Bill Thompson simply muttered, "Hell, it's ruination for us."
Then made a feeble effort to excite his anvil chorus,
But failing — for his signals were indefinite and hazy —
Subsided, with the coarse remark; "The buggers must be crazy."*

*Dear Larry realized for once that argument was vain,
And sat as though way up his stern there ached an awful pain,
He twisted, and he shuffled, and he emptied many glasses,*

Then softly murmured to himself: "The poor old silly asses."
The others, barring three or four, acclaimed the scheme as great,
And made a wild rush to form a buying syndicate.

The men of moderate means were there with nerve and pluck
a'plenty

And quickly signed their names for shares, from one right up
to twenty

And just to show what, in a craze, a reckless man will do,
Why, here and there, a millionaire signed for a share or two.
And when the meeting ended, it seemed settled beyond doubt
That everything suggested would be fully carried out.

But when the morning broke a very different tale was told:
The feet of many boosters over night had turned stone cold,
And those who'd taken time to give the matter careful thought
Came forward, just like little men, and signed their names for
naught:

While absent ones who, it was thought, would take the unsold
shares,

Declared, with unanimity, no syndicate for theirs.

And so the glorious scheme collapsed, and sadder still to tell,
Three hundred cold hard dollars of cash money went to hell.
So, listen for a moment, while I tell my one best bet,
That many moons will wax and wane, and many suns will set,
Before the present quarters are deserted by the crew
Of loyal fans, who love the joint on Seventh Avenue.

Its Poker-room will long salute John Lee, as Pirate King,
And Bob will raise an awful roar when Teddy starts to sing,
Its bridge-room long will see George Lane in frenzied high
finance,

And give a round of cheers each time MacNaughton takes a
chance,

Its billiard-room will witness shots admired by those that shoot'em
Like little Georgie Parker, and old Fox Pro Pelle Cutem.
Its dining-room will be the butt for many a merry jest
By those who for a quick lunch price want service of the best.
Its other rooms will fill with mirth when Paddy's feeling fit,

Or Kelly does some freakish stunt with effervescent wit.
Young Muir, for many years, will want whene'er he feels the
notion

To tell some wondrous story of his trip across the ocean;
And Johnny's laugh, and Thompson's yarns, and Billy Cochrane's
song,

And Larry's jokes will make the dullest day seem aught but long.

*Oh! blessed walls, oh! sacred halls, may thugs despoil thee never;
God Save the King, and Heaven bless the Ranchmen's Club
for ever.*

August 5th, 1911.

But the change had been merely postponed. The Committee at a meeting on September 9th, 1912, had before it an offer to buy the Club property for \$250,000. When it came before a general meeting on September 30th the offer was \$300,000 and it was unanimously accepted. The original purchase in 1892 had included three lots, but adjoining ones were purchased (at prices of \$200 or \$250) each as available and the annual statement dated April 30th, 1904, noted that the Club then owned eight lots. These were now sold: in the balance sheet of April 30th, 1912, they stood at "Land \$2,576.74, building \$10,000."

The purchaser was willing to rent his newly acquired property back to the Club but new premises had to be bought and a general meeting on October 29th, 1912, decided on the purchase of the present property for \$78,000. The choice was not circumscribed; the meeting was asked to decide on one of eight properties selected from fifty offers received by the Committee.

The same meeting instructed the Committee to have the new Club building erected with the least possible delay.

A building committee and a furnishing committee were appointed later. They made their final report at an extraordinary meeting on February 24th, 1915, with audited statements of expenditures.

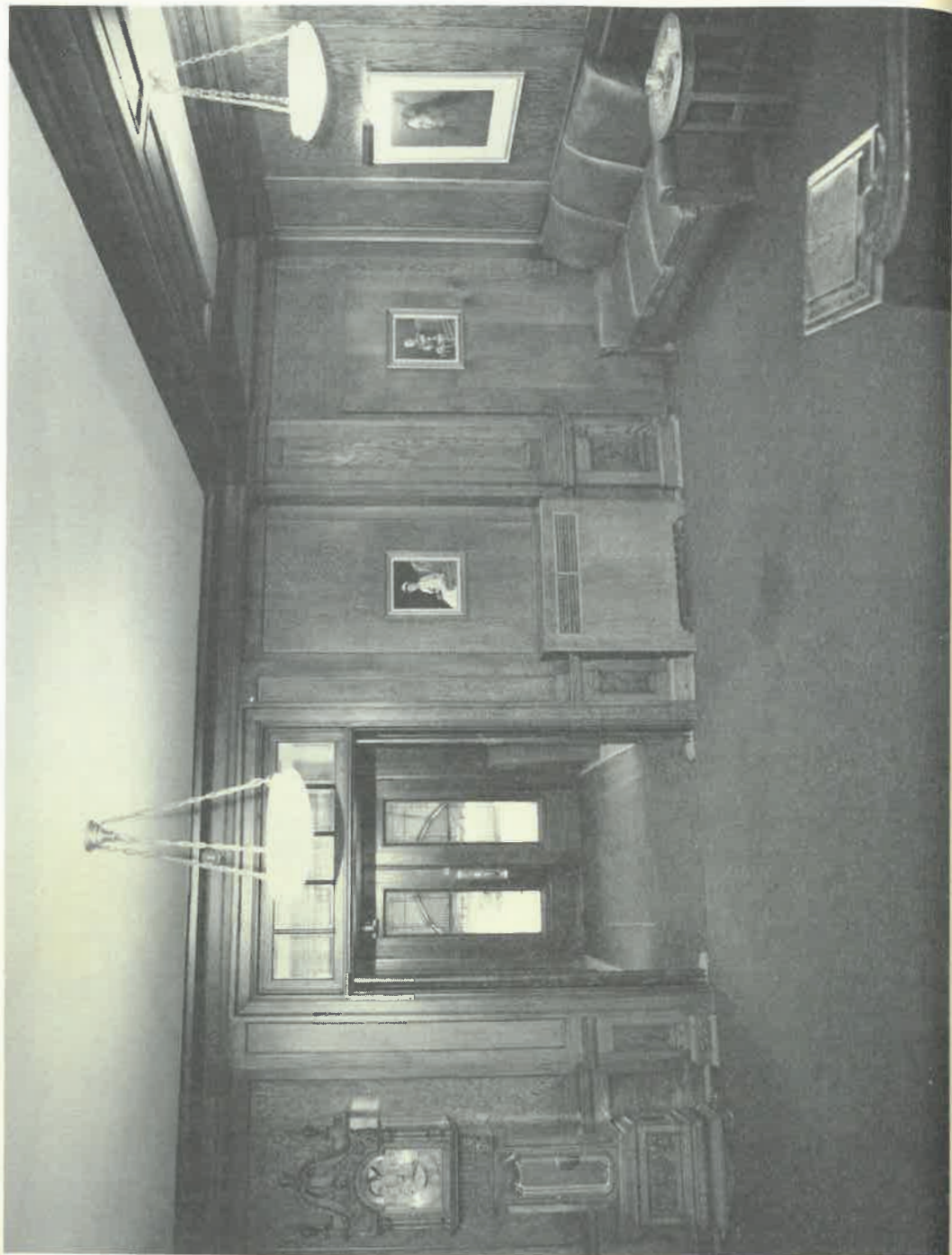
Building Committee: \$119,541.88. Furnishing Committee: \$25,683.39.

The Committees were duly thanked for the "very successful and complete manner" in which their duties were performed.

The work of the regular committee supervising the ordinary life of the Club went on without intermission. It was concerned with less ambitious projects and more modest outlays — as on March 4th, 1914, when it was informed that "Vanity Fair" had amalgamated with "Hearth and Home"; and decided that the subscription to this Ladies' Magazine should be discontinued — and "La Vie Parisienne" substituted for it.

Indeed the Special Committees had finished their work some months before their final report. For while the lights were going out over Europe, as Lord Grey once described it with such poignant pessimism, the Club was moving from its old home to its new. The last property to be moved, after several months and after some correspondence, was a number of evergreen trees which apparently the Club had planted around its old home and which still stand around the new.





The present building was opened to members on July 20th, 1914. The first Committee meeting was held on July 22nd and the first Club meeting on September 23rd.

The war which began (for Canada) on August 4th, 1914, changed the world, but its immediate effects on the Club were not pronounced.

Indeed it was at the beginning of the second year of the war that the Committee recorded briefly (August 11th, 1915) the acceptance of an offer by Mr. Henry Smith of a cup for a golf competition. It was an offer that deserves mention. It has given Mr. Smith that impersonal immortality that is the only reward for donors. As the Davis cup suggests international tennis, not Mr. Dwight Davis, so in its narrower sphere, mention of "the Henry Smith" refers to the tournament, not to the man. Yet Mr. Smith deserves to be remembered for himself. Born in England he had ranched in Wyoming and Arizona before settling in Alberta. With Mr. William Tee he bought the Keystone Ranch on the Highwood in 1897, later retiring to Calgary, where he died in 1920. An expert dry fly fisherman but an indifferent golfer, he was anxious to provide a competition in which the poor player might have at least a little hope. So he "decreed in words succinct" that the lower handicapped player in each draw should give to his opponent in strokes the full difference (not three-quarters) between their handicaps; and there should be no penalty for a lost ball; the player who cannot find his ball drops one where he thinks the first one should have been.

The "Henry Smith" has become a great event in the Club year. It has inaugurated a dinner, formerly held on Derby Day, now in the third or fourth week of May, at which the draw is announced and the players are drawn for and the tickets auctioned. The tournament proceeds at a leisurely pace throughout the summer. A later development, a custom that has become almost a law, is that the holders of the winning tickets give, in the late fall, a dinner for all players and ticket holders.

Henry Smith has earned Mr. Asquith's commendation: "There are few greater benefactors of the species than the man who discovers a new bond of human companionship and a fresh excuse for social intercourse."

In the first month of the war (returning after this digression to 1914) increased taxes on tobacco and liquors were reflected in the price lists. On September 2nd, the Committee fixed new prices — "a pony" of whisky 10¢ "straight": (a slang expression for a small glass of whisky) "a horn" of whisky 15¢ "straight" (fortunately not as large as the German "boot") — and with that entry these intriguing measurements fade from the records — and have faded not merely from the vocabulary but from the memory of most members.

In 1915, provincial prohibition made all price lists invalid and banished the item "Bar profits" from the balance sheet. In the two years before the war the profits had been \$5,618 and \$5,130. These were satisfactory figures until Government control replaced the naked greed of "the trade" and left distillers, brewers and club committees (like Warren Hastings) with good reason to stand astounded at their own moderation.

The advent of prohibition did not suggest, however, that immediately all members went on the wagon. To the contrary, in a small room on the third floor, individual bottles of members were sequestered, each in its own little bag. This was a fine stroke of policy. Three floors is a lot to walk up for a drink so one had to really mean it if he suggested to a fellow member that they share a little fellowship. (There are no recollections of anyone falling down the stairs afterwards.)

Later new provincial legislation caused a brief flurry by the requirement that liquor could only be served in a room with a bed (referring in the first instance, of course, to room service in a hotel). Resourceful members moved a bed in to one of the third floor rooms which was thereafter known as "Mr. Smith's, bedroom" and to which the membership repaired for the necessary libations.

Food prices, too, gave concern to the Committee until on November 5th, 1917 it rather apologetically let the members know that thereafter it would be necessary to charge 50¢ for a tenderloin steak.

Later generations "ordered this matter better." On March 12th, 1951, the Committee decided, almost casually, that "all food prices be increased by 25% from March 14th, 1951." Probably very few of the members even noticed the difference.

A revised Constitution was printed in 1917 and in the accompanying list of members asterisks indicated "members at present absent with the Allied Forces." In all 34 were starred — 22 out of 114 ordinary members.

During the war 42 members were on active service; "active service" for Club records, meaning that they had given up their usual occupations; were in uniform; were not resident in Calgary, and were carried as members in good standing without the payment of subscriptions. Two were killed in action, Messrs. E. W. Buckler and A. C. Shakerley.

But at the war's end, the Club could make a boast surely unique outside of British Clubs and rare if not unprecedented even there: On the roll of members were three holders of the Victoria Cross; men in the

memorable phrase of the Prince of Wales "belonging to what is at once the most democratic and the most exclusive of the Orders of Chivalry."

These gallant officers will live always in the annals of Canadian history. G. R. Pearkes came from England, F. M. W. Harvey from Ireland and H. Strachan from Scotland, and each of them had unmistakable characteristics of the soil from which he sprung. The divergence in place of birth was followed by a curious symmetry in career. Each of them came to this province (Albertans by voluntary choice) as a young man for a vigorous outdoor life, before the outbreak of the first World War. Each volunteered for the Canadian Army without a commission.

In a world once more at peace the Club was ready to move through quiet days which produced no particular history, though, indeed, the Committee did have to deal with complaints (April 11th, 1920) that some members were using more than one peg in the cloak room.

There was no indebtedness and some \$75,000 was invested in Government bonds.

In the years following the end of the Great War, the Club turned its interest to sports. In 1925, the Club moved to erect a Sport Annex, part of the outer walls of which can still be seen at the rear of the Club House, now, of course, making what is known as the "Ladies Section." Three squash racquet courts and four badminton courts were constructed. They received their first baptism of fire in December of that year when leading gentlemen athletes came from England to show how the game should properly be played. Many living members recall with great affection their first introduction to those games and the popular response that the courts drew.

There was also a bowling green available to the members which the minutes complain required considerable funds for "plowing and reseed-ing."

One real bonus attending this emphasis on sports was the introduction of the ladies to the games. As ladies were new to the Club, they appear to have first been considered a part of what might have been called the sporting complex. The minutes describe them as "sports members" and apparently their activities were the responsibility of the Sports Committee — even the one dance held that is mentioned in the minutes— or perhaps one should say dispatches. Eventually, as one might expect, as the gentlemen got used to having ladies around, (although even twenty years later there was much grumbling when ladies came on the first floor to check out new drapes and carpeting) the more dignified term "Lady Associate Members" was adopted.

Meanwhile billiards had gone up to 40¢ an hour.

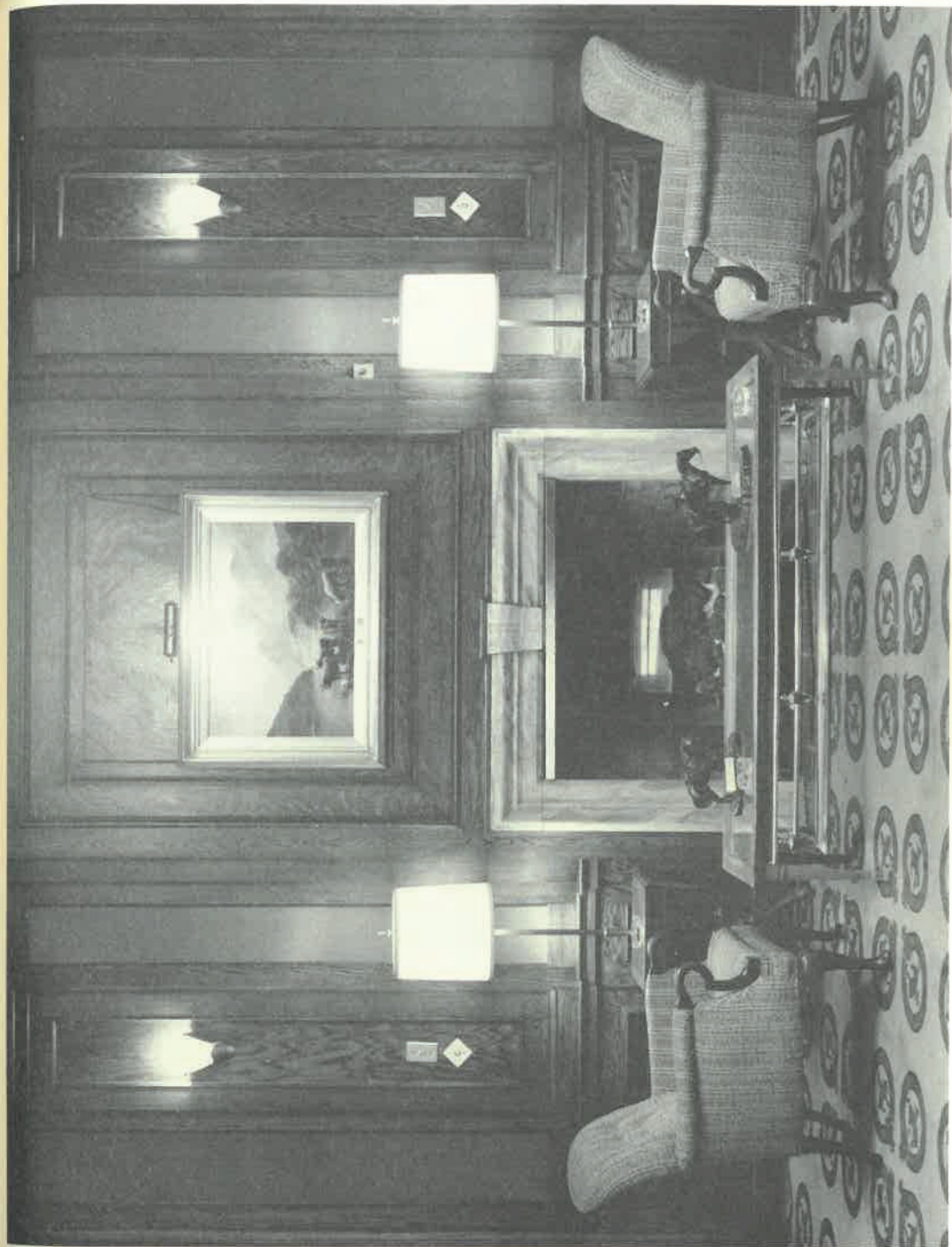
For eight years, the Sports Annex was used as originally planned. But the Great Depression of the 30's hit the Club hard, as it did everything else. The first reaction of the membership was to cut down. In October, 1933, the Chef's wages were reduced to \$125 per month and board and the second cook's duties were combined with those of dishwasher at \$45. Most of the other suggestions were of a smaller vein, one helpful member even proposing that deck quoits be introduced and the prices of meals and rooms reduced to defray the costs of the Depression.

The Sports Annex came partially to the rescue. Enterprising members conceived of a new class of membership, the so-called "Privileged Sports Members". They were not actually members of the Club but they were permitted the use of the Sports Annex, the Ladies Lounge, and the Dining Room from October 1 to April 30. That membership began with 52 for the year 1933-34 and ultimately rose to a high of 132 in 1939-40. This helped considerably with the revenues.

But the big boost came with a change in policy that for the Ranchmen's Club was breathtaking.

Traditionally the Ranchmen's Club was just that. The ranching spirit had moved into the new Clubhouse and the size of the membership was pretty well maintained at around the 100 mark with the black-ball being freely used. There were lawyers, of course, in the Club, a tradition established by the original founder, J. P. J. Jephson and vigorously maintained by the legal profession. There were also executives of senior rank. But no one in trade had ever been admitted to membership and junior men had to be pretty exceptional and well placed to get in.

The story is still told around the Club of the manner in which those who escaped the black ball and were finally admitted were welcomed to the membership. The north lounge in those pre-depression years was the stronghold of long time senior members. Here the presidents of the Club held court. No new member would have thought of walking up to that group and introducing himself. Rather, he waited until an invitation was extended to him to meet the president. When the great moment came, he was brought in by a senior member and across to the fireplace where the president usually stood with one foot on the heavy rail fender. After a few gracious words of welcome, he was escorted out. Hopefully, after many years, he would feel more at home in the room.





In a sense, the tradition of a special room for senior members is carried on today in the small room on the main floor known to the membership as "the Kremlin". Here, unlike the lounges, meals may be taken, but there is no reading or game play. No visitors are allowed and the room is so marked.

The momentous decision of the Club in the face of the Depression (or the "Dirty Thirties as senior members still describe it), was to consider the application of anyone, irrespective of his calling, so long as he met the other requirements of membership — to wit, responsible and important position, known reputation, and acceptability to the membership in the form that had always obtained. At the same time the initiation fee was dropped to \$50 from \$200.

Yet, it was not all financial worry for the Club.

The famed New Year's Day luncheon was started in 1933, a tradition that is still carried on. It was, and still is, the only function of the Club to which ladies are invited to enter through the front door.

The first menu consisted of chicken, suckling pigs, salmon, tongue, hams, lamb, turkeys, Boar's head plus the usual drinks and desserts. The same menu was pretty well followed in subsequent years although it is noted that loin of buffalo was added and the consumption of rum dropped and sherry rose. \$240 was the profit realized the first year, half of which was distributed to staff. \$220 was the figure for the second year, but by 1939 it was down to \$86.37.

In 1938, the minutes report a rather acrimonious discussion over the fact that while the YMCA and the YWCA could get triennial risk insurance the Club couldn't. (The rumour was that at least two "high jinks" fires in the Clubhouse may have had something to do with it.) Threats were made to go to Lloyds of London but Messrs. Toole and Peet prevailed on the Committee to keep their business in Calgary. Shortly thereafter, perhaps to pour oil on troubled waters, R. B. Bennett donated 30 volumes of "The Gentlemen's Magazine Library" to the Club.

The 30's also saw the beginning of the Bridge League, originally organized by Leslie Bell. It was a deliberate effort to provide a winter counterpart to the "Henry Smith" as well as provide additional revenue. It was conducted on Tuesday nights from October to April. The League was made up of teams of eight men. Each team played each other twice and is once host to and once guest of each other at dinner preceding the game. This continuing tradition of the Club opened with the first play on October 22nd, 1935.

Although the stakes have always been light in the League, there was in the Club — again in the best English tradition — bridge played by individual members for much higher stakes. Living members can recall wins of \$300 - \$400 a month by talented players. One such member recalls that he stayed away from the Club for a year to break himself of the habit of winning through easy afternoons while his business suffered. More timid members recall losing \$50 in one session during this period (no one admitted to losing \$400).

World War II found many members returning to the uniform and the Club turning to new problems. By now, of course, members who had fought in World War I were considerably older and of senior rank. Generally speaking those members of the Club who were in this position were upped to privileged members (after the War they were returned to ordinary membership). Every effort was made to accommodate the usual disruptions of war. For example, the billing of members in the East and abroad was held in abeyance where exchange was difficult. The membership list took a more martial appearance. Military ranks and decorations were to be shown but academic titles and degrees were not to be shown.

The Club opened its doors to visiting officers from Canada and the United Kingdom and bade them welcome. A slight flurry in the routine of the day was prompted by a proposed visit by Their Majesties (it never materialized) and it was agreed to decorate the windows with bunting and to hire three commissioners to protect the grounds should they come. No mention was made in the minutes of protection for Their Majesties.

There were a large number of resignations by male sports members taking the uniform but their ranks were filled by more ladies. However, in the spring of 1942, an agreement was reached with the Calgary Squadron of Air Cadets allowing them the use of the Recreation Building, rent free, for the balance of the War. Consequently, the privileged sports member as an adjunct member of the Club ceased to exist. When the membership was discontinued in 1942, the number stood at 91, down from the 132 high in 1939-40.

The Club again subscribed to some \$75,000.00 in war bonds. This, of course, was apart from subscriptions by individual members.

The fiftieth anniversary dinner of the Club was held on May 1, 1941. A menu signed by all present can still be seen in the minutes. There were the usual canapes and relish trays, clear turtle soup, vol-au-vent of Seafood Newburg, saddle of lamb, English style (one wonders what the original ranchers would have thought of *that*), fresh asparagus, coupe Floradora, petit-fours, demi-tasse, Dewars Scotch, sherry, Darviote White Sparkling and Grand Marnier were drunk in turn.

Reading subscriptions kept pace with the world ferment. In January, 1942, 36 subscriptions to various publications were noted in the minutes including one entitled "Asia", the first publications devoted to the Orient ever to grace the subscription lists of the Club. Apparently none of the then members were fighting in Asia, however, or else the exotic East was in Bret Harte's expression too "inscrutable" for the European "oriented" membership of the Club, so the subscription was dropped the next year and no other publication devoted to Asian affairs was ever substituted.

From 1942, with the Air Cadets in the Annex, the social life of the Club slowed considerably. When the Cadets moved in 1946, as a parting gesture of good fellowship on the part of the Club, the young men were given the lockers. One wonders why the Air Cadets wanted them and what they were going to use them for, but their letter of thanks to the Club was so profuse that it suggested that young men were then — as always — resourceful and had already found a use.

The years immediately following the war found the membership steadily moving up. At the January meeting in 1949, 32 applications were received; the next month 21 more — this despite the fact that the entrance fee was now back up to \$200 from the \$50 of the Depression years. Even after lifting the total ordinary membership from 250 to 375, the Club still found itself deluged with applications. In 1956, the entrance fee was raised to \$300. Even so, the deluge — at least by Club standards — continued. The minutes of August 10, 1951 noted for the first time the setting up of a waiting list for membership. It was noted that "when vacancies occur", new members would be considered. The original waiting list stood at 24 and remained fairly consistently at this figure through 1954 when it was still noted in the minutes that there was a waiting list.

Alberta's new prosperity, reflected in the improved financial status of the Club as well as in the enlarged membership, at the same time served as a reminder by contrast with the difficult days of the "Dirty Thirties" and the legacies inherited from those and earlier days. The glaring contrast was rectified by two major developments within the Club.

The first was added consideration given to the faithful staff who had so long served in the Club and who were such an integral part of its life. Prior to this time there had been no retirement provisions made for staff. When staff left, a parting gift of money was made which tended to vary according to the length of service of the staff member and the available resources of the Club at the time. But increasingly it was realized that this was not good enough. Staff members like Sid Broom-

field, a devoted, dedicated secretary, maitre'D, chef, and general jack of all trades who served for some 30 years handling an enlarged staff as the years went on with great skill was a man still remembered by senior members. It was impossible to ignore such loyalty to the Club and consequently a pension system was put into effect after World War II which co-ordinated with that of the government plans to give retirement security to long time staff. This pension plan was revised upward again in 1969. In addition, in the latter year, a surcharge on food and bar service and Christmas benefits were established in lieu of the formal annual Christmas contributions. All in all, the Ranchmen's was keeping step with the general trend in society toward providing financial security for those in service who were not in a position themselves to accumulate any measure of wealth.

The second end result of the new enlarged membership and increasing flow of revenue that emerged out of World War II, the development of the oil industry, and the generally advancing prosperity of Calgary and Alberta, was the extensive renovation of the Club House.

Clearly this was an expensive operation. Since 1914 no real renovations had been made. A large reserve set up at the time the Club House was completed in 1914 was used over the next 35 years to make such improvements as were absolutely necessary, but some senior members still recall — with mixed feelings — the rather old fashioned, somewhat musty and even dusty tattered furnishings with lots of trophy heads somewhat askew that still defined the Club House at the end of the war.

Apparently the kitchen was a sight to behold. It is an educated guess that no Club president ever walked into the kitchen until this time. The first one who did found staff washing dishes in a washbasin. Between expert cajolery and veiled threats to call the Health Inspectors, the membership was finally convinced that a new kitchen should be installed. It cost some \$30,000. Members were assessed \$100 apiece to continue the good work. The windows were reset to withstand the gales of winter — by this time they were probing into the lounge rooms. The leather chairs were recovered and the black painted dining room oak chairs (all the vogue in 1914) were stripped, finished, and recovered. Hence the chairs in Centennial year that grace the Club are for the most part original furniture.

A "Picture Club" was formed — dozens of trophy heads scattered around on the walls were interesting but a little out of style. Some \$6000 was raised among the members by private donation and some pictures were given by members. It is estimated that the value of the Club pictures today is in the neighbourhood of \$100,000 (in those days, you could pick up an A. Y. Jackson — of which the Club has 2 - for \$700) and it comprised a memorable selection.

A carpet was loomed in Toronto for \$10,000 or \$10 a square yard. It lasted 17 years and was finally replaced by the present one. The fine oak panelling that is a hallmark of the Club's first floor was put in at this time, as well. Lady members were called in to give advice on drapes, doing the ladies section, etc. All in all it was a period of considerable excitement, some grumbling, but general good fellowship as the Club took on its new look. The best guess is — itemizing it would be a Centennial project in itself — that \$100,000 was spent refurbishing the Clubhouse from 1948-49 to 1952.

Liquor — the mother's milk of any gentlemen's club — was also a concern of this period. The third floor of the 30's was too far away. Consequently in 1949 the small room on the main floor that houses an office was set aside for lockers for the bottleship of members — or rather the bottles of membership. Members were charged 10¢ to have their liquor served. This procedure, which is still in vogue at the Vancouver Club — as it is explained to the visitor because they are so short on money — was, however, considered generally unsatisfactory. Free access to booze is important. Fortunately, about this time, Alberta was moving to liberalize its liquor laws. A member of the liquor control board — checking out the Club even though he knew of the locker room — suggested that other clubs were requesting that a special room be set aside for the servicing of liquor. The Club refused to buy this, contending that the Ranchmen's was, in effect, a private home and that a member should be able to drink anywhere he wanted in his own house. The liquor board finally bought this due to the skillful advocacy of some members talented in this sort of thing and the Club went to the present system in 1952 (drinking in the men's room however, was prohibited by the Board on the grounds that this should be preserved as an East Calgary tavern procedure.)

While a major victory had been won, there was all that liquor in the locker room that had to be removed. The Club announced on short notice that all bottles would have to be picked up by Friday night. By general agreement — so they say — the members waited until Friday night and then drank up to save the trouble of carrying the bottles home. The individual lockers were torn out and the room was turned to less colourful use.

In May 1956 — time seemed to be moving faster now — the Club celebrated its 65th Anniversary and the speaker for the evening was Dr. L. S. Mackid, one of the early members. His talk is still preserved in the files and was a model of discreet recollection. The more bawdy stories that circulate in any club were left unreported and the membership dined well as the menu shows once again — as on the 50th anniversary — starting with green turtle soup. But this time the main course

moved to bouchee of fresh lobster and larded tenderloin of beef. *Floradora*, a word that was now history, was replaced by *strawberry coupe*. *Asparagus* and *petit fours* remained on the menu. A heavier wine selection included *Amontillado*, *Haut-Sauterne*, *Chauvet Sparkling*, and the usual *Grand Marnier*.

For many years now, special dinners honouring special members had been a feature of the Club's social life. In 1919, a white tie dinner had been given for Edward, Prince of Wales. Mr. R. B. Bennett was so honoured twice — when he became leader of the Conservative Party in 1925 and when he left as Viscount Bennett to live in England. A member recalls on the latter occasion that the Viscount became quite emotional over leaving his Club. In January, 1946, a dinner was given for General H. D. G. Crerar with 86 members in attendance.

In the years that followed, a large number of dinners were given for special occasions. Some of them honoured members with long years of membership in the Club; some on the occasion of a member's elevation to the Bench; some for election to the presidency of the Canadian Bar Association; some for distinguished public figures. All in all, there were dinners aplenty. Meanwhile the subscription reading list fell from a high of 43 in 1954 to 19 in 1965. Men were perhaps reading less for pleasure now as the demands on the Club membership were very great. A cursory check of the membership list shows that over the years the Ranchmen's Club produced 1 Prime Minister of Canada, 2 Premiers of Alberta, 7 Chief Justices of the Alberta Supreme Court, 2 Presidents of the Canadian Bar Association, and 1 Federal Cabinet Minister to say nothing of the various corporation presidents and senior executives that graced the Club and still do, and — never to be forgotten — leading ranchers (some, descendants of original members). Among them was the owner of the E. P. Ranch, the then Prince of Wales, late Duke of Windsor.

In 1967 a series of 5 club dinners were arranged to honour prominent Albertans and Club members who had made major contributions to Alberta history. The Governor-General of Canada was guest at the final dinner in October of that year (another Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir, had been so honoured earlier.) At the head table were all of the living past presidents of the Club — a generous memorial to dedicated membership.

The Club membership of course, good natured as it is, would never really admit that presidents ever did very much. But everyone of these gentlemen had his own style. One kissed the ladies both on the way in and the way out of the New Year's reception despite the hazards of a broken arm. Another said he was so worried about the Club finances, he

really couldn't remember anything "that happened during his term of office." A third, after an all night session, was driven home by the next president and a member followed to drive *him* home. And so it went. Good fellowship all.

Ten years after its 65th anniversary, the Ranchmen's Club moved to open up in earnest the question of affiliations with other Clubs. By now the membership was travelling much more extensively. Business leaders easily outnumbered the ranchers and their interests, of course, were less confined than had been their early counterparts. The modern corporation is nothing if not mobile, and such requirements offered the opportunity to the Club to settle once and for all a question upon which there had been no agreement since the founding of the Ranchmen's.

On May 16, 1966, the discussion on affiliation was opened with surprisingly little dissent. Surprising because of the past history of the Club regarding affiliations. As early as September, 1891 in a letter to the Club, Mr. Cross — then in Montreal — wrote urging "an exchange of privileges with the St. James Club." The Secretary wrote by return letter asking what this involved and the next year was authorized by the Committee to write the St. James Club requesting affiliation. This was on September 26, 1892. The minutes do not report whether or not the St. James Club was prepared to affiliate and if it was done, it clearly lapsed after only a few years as the Ranchmen's more and more turned inward on the matter of Canadian affiliations. In June, 1936, for example, the Laurentian Club of Toronto wrote suggesting reciprocal privileges. The Secretary wrote back that it was not the policy of the Ranchmen's Club to give them. In September, 1954, the City Club of Halifax similarly asked for an affiliation and was turned down as per policy.

The curious thing about all this is that in 1961 a letter from the Hurlington Club in London informed the Ranchmen's Club that visitors privileges would be discontinued. The minutes nowhere mention affiliations with London Clubs so it must be assumed that these were entirely informal arrangements as no reciprocal letters went forth from the Ranchmen's taking the same action.

But to return to the meeting of 1966. Individual members were asked to contact clubs across Canada on a personal basis in the first instance with a view to establishing an affiliation. It was decided that the following Canadian Clubs would be contacted: Union Club of Victoria, Vancouver Club, the Manitoba Club, the Toronto Club, the Rideau Club (Ottawa), the Garrison Club (Quebec City), and the St. James Club (Montreal).

The individual members selected moved positively and with dispatch. The response was favorable from all but one. Whereupon the President

and the Secretary were authorized to take immediate steps to establish Club affiliations across Canada. It was a major step forward as those members who have used the facilities of the affiliates can attest for a home away from home is important for a clubman.

EPILOGUE

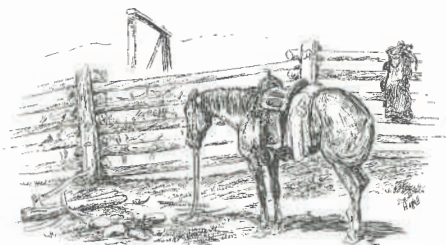
In Calgary's Centennial Year, 1975, the Ranchmen's Club membership stood as follows: Ordinary 428; Senior 27; Privileged 6; Ladies 209 (incidentally, they were admitted to the main dining room in 1968); Country 16; Honorary 1; Absentee 101. A random poll was taken in the summer of the year, of 69 of the ordinary members representing roughly 17% of the ordinary membership. The poll showed 25 members in Who's Who in Canada, 3 in Who's Who in America and 5 in Who's Who in the West (both of the latter — Marquis Who's Who, the publisher, is Chicago based — include prominent Canadians as well as Americans). Members were also listed in Who's Who in Europe, the International Dictionary of Biography, the Financial Post Directory of Directors, etc. There were 3 Doctors of Philosophy and 6 holding honorary doctorates. There were several Fellows of various institutes. Apart from military honours, there was listed quite a variety by members — 4 Orders of the British Empire, a Freeman of the City of London, a Grand Cross Order of Knights of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, Companion-Order of Coventry Cross, Order of the Crown (Belgium) and an honorary Indian Chief. Business was represented by several corporation presidents, engineers, bankers, geologists, stockbrokers, chartered accountants and several executives in oil and gas. Most of the others answering were judges, lawyers or retired. There was 1 Bishop and 2 published authors.

Six answering the questionnaire had fathers who had been a member of the Club and one had a grandfather.

No Club defines itself in terms of mere power and prestige. These things can and are attained by men who do not belong to Clubs. But what members of the Ranchmen's Club have in common apart from what worldly achievements they may accomplish is the fact that they sought membership in the Club. They asked to be Clubmen.

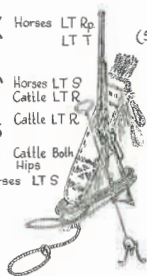
What is a Clubman? In a classic sentence Dr. Johnson described Boswell as a very "clubbable" man. In his dictionary he defines a club as "an assembly of good fellows meeting under certain circumstances." Dr. Johnson's usual accuracy — we all recall his definition of oats as a grain eaten by men in Scotland and horses in England — escaped him at this point. "Good fellows meeting under certain circumstances" is not inaccurate but it is not clear. And perhaps this is as it should be. A Club is many things to many men. Each man offers what he has to offer and receives in turn that which he seeks and needs in Club life. Some members are more gregarious than others. Some are noisier than others. Some play bridge. Some don't. Some golf, some don't. Some, like the late Noel White, are an adornment to the billiard room. Others can't even hit the cue ball.

But one thing they all share in common — the sharing itself. It is a fine, robust, civilized way to live.



FOUNDERS OF
the
 RANCHMEN'S CLUB
 ~ 1890

D.H. Andrews (Andrews & McKentye)	1L	Horses RT T	H. Samson (Samson & McLaughlin)	X Y	Horses LT T Cattle LT R
Duncan H. McPherson (High River Horse Ranch)	X	Horses LT R LT T	A. Harford (Samson & Harford)	XY XY	Horses LT T Cattle LT R
T. S. C. Lee (Lee & Metcalfe)	⊕	Horses LT S Cattle LT R	A. E. Cross	a7	Cattle LTR Horses LTS
H. B. Alexander	V S ••	Cattle Both Hips Horses LT S	J. P. Jephson		Barrister
			A. D. Braithwaite		Banker



ORIGINAL MEMBERS
OF THE RANCHMEN'S CLUB
1891-92

There does not appear to be an "official" list. This has been prepared from the surviving records and is nearly, though perhaps not exactly, accurate.

GEORGE ALEXANDER	A. H. GOLDFINCH
H. B. ALEXANDER	H. HARFORD
D. H. ANDREWS	L. C. HILL
P. M. BARBER	COL. A. G. IRVINE
H. W. BEVAN	W. R. JAMESON
A. D. BRAITHWAITE	J. P. J. JEPHSON
A. BREALEY	T. S. C. LEE
W. BREALEY	J. A. LOUGHEED
E. CAVE	F. A. MACNAGHTEN
E. C. B. CAVE	D. H. MACPHERSON
T. N. CHRISTIE	D. D. MANN
E. COCHRANE	C. C. McCAUL
T. B. H. COCHRANE	W. R. NEWBOLT
W. E. COCHRANE	WM. PEARCE
W. F. COCHRANE	H. S. PINHORNE
R. W. COWAN	W. C. PODGER
H. D. CRITCHLEY	R. H. M. RAWLINSON
O. A. CRITCHLEY	W. C. RICARDO
T. O. CRITCHLEY	JUDGE ROULEAU
A. E. CROSS	H. SAMSON
W. F. C. GORDON-CUMMING	F. S. STIMSON
C. L. DOUGLASS	THOS. STONE

PRESIDENTS
OF THE RANCHMEN'S CLUB
1891-1975

LEE, T. S. C.	- - - - -	1891-1901
MORRIS, M.	- - - - -	1901-1902
JEPHSON, J. P. J.	- - - - -	1902-1906
CROSS, A. E.	- - - - -	1906-1908
LOTT, C. S.	- - - - -	1908-1911
CROSS, A. E.	- - - - -	1911-1912
BERNARD, M. C.	- - - - -	1912-1913
HOGG, W. H.	- - - - -	1913
PEET, G. L.	- - - - -	1913-1914
TOOLE, W.	- - - - -	1914-1915
BERNARD, M. C.	- - - - -	1915-1917
PEET, G. L.	- - - - -	1917-1919
BERGERON, P. J.	- - - - -	1919-1920
BERNARD, M. C.	- - - - -	1920-1921
SANDERS, LT.-COL. G. E., C.M.G., D.S.O.	- - - - -	1921-1923
MELVIN, H.	- - - - -	1923-1925
WALKER, G. A.	- - - - -	1925-1926
GEMMEL, R. M.	- - - - -	1926-1927
MACLEOD, J. E. A.	- - - - -	1927-1929
WATSON, W. J.	- - - - -	1929
BERNARD, M. C.	- - - - -	1929-1930
ALLISON, H. A.	- - - - -	1930-1931
COUTTS, G. B.	- - - - -	1931-1933
HARVEY, F. M.	- - - - -	1933-1935
JOHNSON, G. R., v.D.	- - - - -	1935-1937
COUTTS, G. B.	- - - - -	1937-1949
EGBERT, W. G.	- - - - -	1949-1952
MANNING, F. C.	- - - - -	1952-1956
ROGERS, LT.-COL. D. F., M.B.E., E.D.	- - - - -	1956-1958
MACKID, B. S.	- - - - -	1958-1960
SPRUNG, D. A.	- - - - -	1960-1962
TAPRELL, W. R.	- - - - -	1962-1964
SAUCIER, J. J., Q.C.	- - - - -	1968-1970
ALEXANDER, J. R.	- - - - -	1966-1968
BURNS, R. J., Q.C.	- - - - -	1968-1970
McGILLIVRAY, W. A., Q.C.	- - - - -	1970-1972
LYLE, K. R.	- - - - -	1972-1973
BLACK, R. G., Q.C.	- - - - -	1973-1975
LOCKWOOD, G. E., M.B.E., E.D.	- - - - -	1975-

