

HOEFLE

Ocean Park resident Dora Hoefle, 96, has had a variety of homes throughout her life. Though she has lived in Holland, Edmonton, Northern Alberta and Surrey, she has spent the most time – over half of her life – in Ocean Park.

In 1948, after their children, Stan and Joyce had moved out of the family home in Cloverdale, Dora and her husband Eugene came to Ocean Park. They built a gas station and bought a piece of property on Tuttle Road (now 129A Avenue) where they made their home.

That gas station, of course, stood where the Ocean Park Arco now stands, on the northwest corner of 16th Avenue and 128th Street. Mrs. Hoefle remembers the gas station costing roughly \$2000.

Though her memory isn't as strong as it once was, Mrs. Hoefle can still remember a fair amount about her and Mr. Hoefle's early years in Ocean Park. For four hundred dollars, the Hoefles bought two vacant lots beside their own, and while he ran the gas station, she cleared them. She was a strong woman, and enjoyed the physical work. Once cleared, the lots sold for five hundred dollars.

The Hoefles' son Stan later took over the gas station, and eventually sold it. Mr. Hoefle continued to work there, taking over while the new owner, Bob McKechnie, went home for lunch, until he retired about two years later.

In 1960, the Hoefles sold their property on Tuttle and bought a lot on the northern corner of 16th Avenue and Ocean Park Road. Mr. Hoefle built a house right on the corner, and the couple lived there. He later built a house on the Ocean Park Road side of the lot, and sold the corner half. These homes that Mr. Hoefle built still stand, and Mrs. Hoefle continues to live in the second one, though Mr. Hoefle passed away in 1990.

For many years, Mrs. Hoefle was an active member of the Ocean Park Community Association. She was president and vice-president of various committees, and was one of two women who spent a day cleaning the painting which now hangs at the back of the stage in the Hall. Although she is no longer actively involved, Mrs. Hoefle maintains that it is extremely important for people to be involved in their community, and is glad that the OPCA is still running strong.

Mrs. Hoefle has now lived in Ocean Park for over fifty years. She doesn't get out much anymore, but her family and friends visit and take care of her, and neighbours keep her informed of community news. To many of us she is an integral part of Ocean Park, with a large community spirit.

by Kathryn Marlow

CHRISTOPHERSON

Ytra-Nes, meaning Outer Ness was a 90-acre waterfront estate bought in 1904 by Sigurdur Kristofersson from Iceland. Located near Crescent, the land had been previously owned by a Scotsman and was the site of an ancient Indian fort (mound). The property also had fruit and walnut trees. Over the years, Icelandic neighbours established themselves nearby, including the Sveinn, Brynjolfsson, Kristjan, Runolfur, Anderson, Bjornson and Stoneson families. In 1912, Ytra-Nes became the home of son and daughter-in-law John and Vala Christopherson and the new home, built prior to 1907, has remained in the Christopherson family ever since. Presently the home of granddaughter Carrie Humber, Ytra-Nes was among the places visited by President Vigdis Finnbogadottir of Iceland during her trip to British Columbia in 1988. *Source: 1995 Icelandic Heritage Calendar, Icelandic League of North America.*

Carrie's father moved his family from Elgin to the homestead in 1925 when his mother died. The property was later divided among the seven Kristofferson offspring, and Veiga Dawe and her husband lived in the house. Mrs. Dawe was a substitute teacher at Crescent School. Carrie and her Mother moved back to be with Aunt Veiga when she became frail. Carrie notes that her grandfather first moved from Iceland to Argyle, Manitoba, to escape the famine and the volcanoes in his home country. He encouraged many Icelanders to settle in North America. Carrie's aunt had wanted the road named Argyle, rather than Christopherson. *Source: Carrie Humber to Shirley Stonier*

Researching History

Here are several variations on the origin of the name 'Ocean Park' which shows difficulty in determining the correct history and name spelling.

1. "In 1905 a former Methodist minister, W. Pascoe Goad, with grandiose ideas of land development, obtained 136 acres which he divided into five-acre lots and sold to a number of men. The western portion of this block of land was designated as a park and was named 'Ocean Park'.

– from a pamphlet entitled 'Camp Kwomais History ... Trivia'

2. "About 1910, a Rev. W. P. Goad, variously described as a 'wealthy philanthropist' or 'a promoter' floated a stock company to purchase Ocean Park as "a site where (church) members, preachers and others could spend their vacations near the sea and amid the beauties of nature and enjoy a period of recreation undisturbed by outside cares. The name of the stock company was 'Ocean Park', from which the community gets its name."

– from a pamphlet written by Garry Cooper c. 1992

3. A letter written by H. T. Thrift stated: "In the year 1905-06 I purchased land on behalf of Mr. W. P. Goad, at that time of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The latter wished to subdivide it and wrote to me to furnish him with a rough sketch and suggestion of the proposed subdivision and also a suitable name. The sketch was furnished, also the name 'Ocean Park', which I thought was very appropriate for the object Mr. Goad had in view of the place on behalf of the Methodist Episcopal Church as a site where members, preachers and others could spend their vacations near the sea amid the beauties of nature and enjoy a period of recreation undisturbed by outside cares."

– letter from Mr. C.O. Jenks, V.P. per Mr. E. A. Dye, G.N. Rly. Co.

4. "In 1905 a former Methodist minister but now a real estate promoter, W. Pascoe Goad, from Winnipeg, with grandiose ideas, obtained 136 acres bounded by the present 130th Street, 16th Avenue, and the waterfront. He divided his holdings into five-acre blocks which he sold for \$1,250 each to a number of men who became known as the 'Syndicate' . . . It was Mrs. Goad who suggested the name 'Ocean Park' for this area. It applied originally only to the 'Syndicate' property."

– from 'The Ocean Park Story' by O. M. Sanford

– Research by Dave Henderson, Anne Helps

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