

Ekins Residence: 441 Vancouver Avenue

Built in 1927, for Dr. William Edward James Ekins, the residence reflects the period revival styles popular in the years between the two World Wars. It is a very good example of the English Arts & Crafts style, a romantic form that recalls an idealized medieval past. It has many elements of the style including a very steeply-pitched, bell-cast hipped roof, dormers, stucco cladding, tall brick chimney, and tall multi-paned wooden-sash casement windows. Visual interest is provided by a gable projection over the front entry, a hip dormer and a larger jerkin-headed dormer facing to the front. The house has been very well maintained by the present owners. The beautifully landscaped garden provides an appropriate setting.



Who lived at 441 Vancouver?

- 1. Dr. William Edward James Ekins and Aileen Birdie Walmsley: 1927-1932**
- 2. Elmer Pearce Bradshaw and Ethel Ogilvie Bradshaw: 1934-1936**
- 3. Frank Llewellyn Davies and Margaret Louise Eden: 1940**
- 4. Howard Harding and Thelma Bailey: 1944-1945**
- 5. Bellamy, George and Florence Margaret Scott: 1946-1952**
- 6. Edward Wellington Richardson Best and Joyce Morrison: 1953-1959**
- 7. Frank Anzik and Margaret Helen Polonyi: 1965-1971**
- 8. Rudolphe Jean Alain and Patricia Myrna Allary: 1974**

1. DR WILLIAM EDWARD JAMES EKINS & AILEEN BIRDIE WALMSLEY: 1927-1932

Dr William Edward James Ekins was born on Mar 30 1877 in Thorold, near Welland, Ontario the son of Walter J Ekins Jr (1832-1911), a teamster, and Jane Quinn (1844-1936) both Protestants born in Ireland.

Dr Ekin's father's family led by his grandfather, Walter Ekins Sr (1781-1876) had emigrated from Westport, County Mayo, Ireland to Canada around 1851 and the family appeared in the *1851 Census of Canada West* in Artemesia Township, Grey County, Ontario when Walter Ekins Jr was just 19. Dr Ekin's mother's family also emigrated to Canada in 1850 from Bigpark, Drumhome, Donegal Ireland and they too appeared in the *1851 Census of Canada West* initially settling in the Township of Cartwright, Durham County which is east of Toronto. By the *1861 Canada Census*, however, Jane Quinn's father, Arthur Quinn, now a widower had relocated to Proton Station in Grey County just 25km north of Melancthon, where the Ekins family lived.

Walter Ekins Jr and Jane Quinn married on Dec 22 1860 at Melancthon, Grey County, Ontario. By the *1881 Canada Census*, they had relocated south to Thorold, Ontario which lies along the Welland Canal, 4 miles south of St Catherines. The town grew with the development of the ship-canal in 1873 as well as the locks and its unique hydraulic power which all gave impetus to an increase in employment. The *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Lincoln and Welland, Ont.* 1876 noted that: "Thorold has unlimited water power and other facilities for manufacturing establishments of which it contains a number at the present time, it bids fair to soon take the lead of many other places in the county. At the present time the place has several good grist and saw-mills, and nearby are very extensive stone quarries which furnish excellent stone for building purposes. In 1875, the town built a high school."

Walter and Jane had at least nine if not ten children of whom, William James Ekins was the second youngest. In the *1881 Census of Canada*: William is 4 years old, living in Thorold with parents Walter, age 40; Jane age 30 and siblings: Claudius H, 18; Jane Mary “Jennie”, 16; Walter John, 14; George A, 12; Helena Maude, 10; Minnie R, 8; Henrietta 6; and David Frank, age 3.

In the *1891 Canada Census*: William is 14 years old still living in Thorold; and in the *1901 Canada Census*: William is 23 years old and a student living in Thorold. William decided to become a doctor and in 1903 was admitted to the faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

U	1887	M.B.	Ego, Angus	Markdale.
T	1903	M.D.	Ekins, Wm. Edward	Thorold.
T	1903	C.M.		
T	1888	M.D.	Elliot, Henry Chas.	Schomberg

With a degree for an eye-ear-nose and throat specialist in hand, William headed west where, in 1906, W.E. Ekins was working as a clerk in the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture at a salary of \$945.00.¹ In 1907, he was even photographed as part of the staff of a visit by members of the Department of Agriculture to the farm of W.R. Motherwell.²



Motherwell Homestead (Lanark Place) in the Qu’Appelle Valley just south of Abernathy was established by William Richard Motherwell (1860-1943) in 1882. He was elected a provincial MLA in 1905 and appointed Minister of Agriculture in 1906. He ran federally in 1921 and became Canada’s Minister of Agriculture under Mackenzie King. He retired in 1939 at the age of 80 and died May 24 1943. His homestead was designated a national historic site in 1966 because of its architectural interest and its historic associations with his career, and as an illustration of a prairie homestead of western Canada's settlement period.

In the meantime, in the *1906 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta* a Birdie Walmsley age 17, is living with parents Samuel Benjamin Walmsley (1858-1904) and Jennie Bryce Shaver Walmsley (1864-1936) in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Her parents had married, Mar 25 1885 at Norfolk, Ontario and in the *1901 Canada Census*, the Walmsley’s were still living in Norfolk, Ontario about 100km east of London. A short time after that, they would have journeyed to Saskatchewan. Two homestead applications are on file, related to a Samuel Walmsley (NW 22-23-08-W3) and Samuel Benjamin Walmsley (SW 2-26-06-W2).

From 1872 to 1930, to encourage settlement in Western Canada, the Dominion Government offered a grant for a free homestead of 160 acres (also known as a quarter section) for a \$10 registration fee to those individuals and families who were prepared to live on and cultivate the land during a qualifying period of time. Once in Saskatchewan and on their chosen quarter section of land, settlers had to meet certain obligations before the patent – or ownership – of the land was transferred from the Crown to the homesteader. The process of fulfilling the duties was referred to as "proving up" the homestead. In 1914, for example, the settler was required to enclose the whole quarter section by a substantial fence

¹ Public Accounts of the Province of Saskatchewan, 1906-1907

² Saskatchewan Archives: 1907: Part of the staff of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture at W.R. Motherwell's farm (photo not available online): H.V. Scott, Francis Hedley Auld (DM Agriculture 1916-1946), A.P. Ketchen (Deputy Commissioner, Sask Agriculture Department 1907, later with Ontario Agricultural College), Angus McKay, Mrs. Fred Bradshaw, W.R. Motherwell, Mrs. Scott(?), T.N. Willing, W.E. Ekins(Clerk Sask Dep Agriculture), Fred Bradshaw (clerk with Sask Dep Agriculture), John Bracken, W.A. Wilson (superintendent of dairying, Sask Dep of Agriculture).

On Oct 1 1907, Samuel Benjamin Walmsley died at Yorkton at the age of 48. By 1916, his wife, Jennie Shaver, had married again to Robert McFarlane, as: "Jennie Bryce MacFarlane" and in the *1921 Census of Canada*, she lived in Saskatoon at 731 Temperance Street. Jennie Walmsley MacFarlane died 1936 in Saskatoon.

In 1908, a W.E. Ekins was on the payroll for the 95th Saskatchewan Rifles for 12 days. Saskatchewan had entered Confederation in 1905 and personnel was actively enlisted for the regiment with companies located at Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Regina and Saskatoon.



On Jan 19 1911, William's father, Walter J Ekins, father, died in Welland, Ontario at the age of 79. He was born Mar 8 1832. His mother Jane Quinn Ekins lived until Jul 11, 1936 when she died also at Welland, Ontario.

In the *1911 Canada Census*, William Ekins, age 34, physician, is now boarding with a William Beattie and his family in Theodore Village, District of Mackenzie, Saskatchewan. He seems to be working in a drug store. Boarding at the same place is "Bertha Wampley", age 23 who is a teacher.

Theodore is located on the Yellowhead Highway about 50 km north west of Yorkton. The Canadian Pacific Railway main line completed in 1883 went right past the village on its way to Saskatoon. The town was incorporated in 1907 and in 1904 a new school had been erected with about 35 children attending.³



In the *1911 Canada Census*, a Peter Yemen was the principal of the school where "Bertha Wampley" was a teacher. Peter, unfortunately, came to an untimely end in 1918 as a result of the Spanish flu. He apparently obtained what medicine he could at Theodore and: "using to the utmost his scanty store of medical knowledge, the community teacher went in a car from door to door, throughout the settlements with food, medicine, advice, working alone in a district extending seventy miles. But even his giant's strength gave way, and influenza made rapid conquest of a depleted constitution. After a few days of delirium during which he kept repeating 'the foreign problem can be solved', Peter Yemen joined the ranks of the immortals".⁴ He died Dec 1918, age 43 and is buried in the Theodore Town Cemetery. Today, Theodore is a village of about 400 people.



Saskatchewan has no online marriage records to confirm a date but at some time between 1911 and 1914, William E J Ekins married Aileen Birdie Walmsley that teacher at the Theodore school whose name was transcribed as "Bertha Wampley" in the *1911 Canada Census*. On Oct 24 1914, their son, William Ewart Ekins was born in Theodore, Saskatchewan. In the *1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta*: William Ekins 39, wife Birdie 27, son William, age 1 year, are still living in Theodore, Saskatchewan where William Senior is a doctor. Their specific location is: "Townships 27 and 28, ranges 6 and 7, W. 2. M., including the Villages of Springside and Theodore." At some point, William applied for his own homesteader grant in Township 28, Section 7 W2 which would appear to be located in or near the village of Theodore.

³ <https://www.saskhistory.ca/theodore-village-of/>

⁴ Thesis: Social Values in Public Education, Manitoba 1910-1930 by Fay M Gonick 1974

File Number	Name	Part	Section	Township	Range	Meridian
1751307	Ekins, William Edward	NE	25	28	7	W2

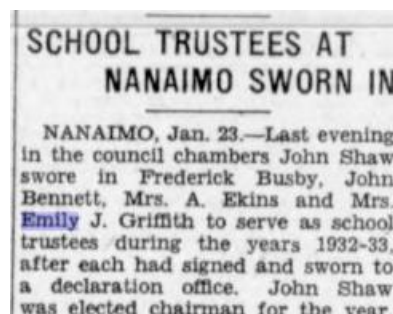
William and Birdie had another son, Walter W Ekins born in 1920. They remained in Theodore until at least 1921, as on Sep 4 of that year, an Aileen Ekins, age 32, is a passenger on the *President* arriving at Victoria on her way back to Theodore Saskatchewan by CPR. She had left Canada via Winnipeg in Dec 1919 to go to California.

In 1923, however, the couple are now living in Nanaimo at 218 Kennedy. William had established himself as an eye, ear, nose and throat doctor at 16 Commercial Street. **In the 1928 Wrigley's BC Directory, the Ekins are now living at 441 Vancouver.** They would stay here until at least 1932.

Aileen "Birdie" Ekins was a keen golfer and also involved herself in various activities in Nanaimo. On Sep 24 1929, the Nanaimo Free Press reported that the Nanaimo Golf Club ladies which had included Mrs. Ekins had won over the Upland Golf Club of Victoria by one point. Unfortunately, they had previously been beaten by a Duncan team in May 1929.

On Friday Jun 20 1930, she was one of the convenors of the annual garden fete organized by the Women's Canadian Club held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leighton, Machleary Street. On Oct 28 1930, she was elected second vice president of the Club.⁵

Always the teacher, Aileen ran successfully as a school trustee in the 1932-1933 election in Nanaimo. John Barsby was acclaimed as Mayor and her fellow elected trustees sworn in on Jan 23 1932 were: John Shaw, Frederick Busby, John Bennett and Mrs. Emily J Griffith. Aileen was appointed to the Finance and to the Social Welfare Committees.⁶



The 1932 Wrigley's BC Directory is the last time that Dr Wm E J Ekins' name is included in a city directory for Nanaimo. By 1935, William and Aileen Ekins had moved to Victoria with their sons, William Ewart Ekins and Walter W Ekins and they would live there for the rest of their lives. Son, William would become a seaman; and son Walter, an architect.

On Mar 10 1976, Aileen Walmsley Ekins died in Victoria; and on Jun 17 1978, William E.J. Ekins died, also in Victoria.

2. ELMER PEARCE BRADSHAW AND ETHEL OGILVIE: 1934-1935

Elmer Pearce Bradshaw was born Jan 15 1907 in Nanaimo, the son of George Bennett Bradshaw (1871-1940) and Charlotte Mary Pearce (1876-1956). Elmer's father was born Sep 7 1871 in Barrell Hill, Derbyshire, England and had emigrated to Nanaimo in 1893 becoming a mine foreman by the 1901 *Canada Census*. Elmer's mother was born Oct 13 1876 in Thames, New Zealand. Her family, originally from

⁵ Nanaimo Free Press, Oct 29 1930: "Officers Elected by Nanaimo Women's Club".

⁶ The Daily Colonist, Jan 24 1932: School Trustees at Nanaimo Sworn in

Cornwall, England, arrived in Nanaimo via New Zealand and the United States just prior to the 1891 *Canada Census*. George Pearce, Charlotte's father, was a coal miner.

George Bennett Bradshaw and Charlotte Pearce (see picture) married on Jun 30 1903 in Nanaimo. In the 1911 *Canada Census*, the Bradshaw family was living at 125 Vancouver Avenue and Elmer Pearce Bradshaw was 4 years old. In the 1921 *Canada Census*, the family is still living at 125 Vancouver Avenue and George is now a mine manager at the Douglas Mine in the south end. He was also an active elder of St Andrew's United Church.

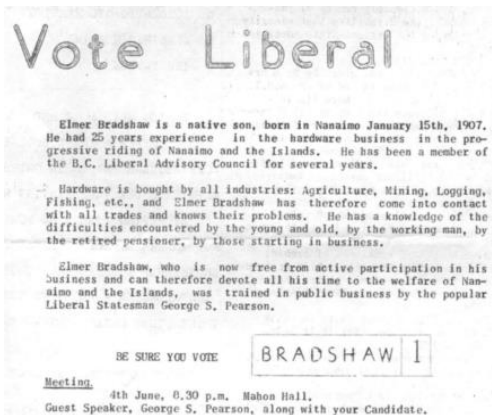


On Jun 8 1934, Elmer Pearce Bradshaw married Ethel Ogilvie in Vancouver. She was born, about 1910, in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She emigrated to Vancouver with her parents, Andrew Ogilvie (1881-1945) and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bridgeford (1881-1940) arriving via Quebec on Jun 9 1913. **Elmer and Ethel moved immediately to 441 Vancouver Ave.** By 1936, they had moved to 200 Vancouver. Elmer wouldn't stray far from Newcastle, however, as from 1953 to 1949, he and Ethel were living at 245 Stewart Ave. From 1965 to 1974, they were at 288 Cypress Street.

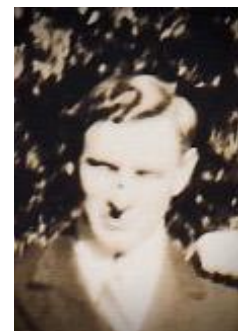
Elmer worked initially for Paul Bennett at his store, Bennett Hardware at the corner of Gordon and Commercial Streets, near where the Port Theatre is located today. When Paul Bennett retired, he sold the business to his son-in-law, Stan Walls who partnered with Elmer. For 23 years, they operated the store as the first discount department store to open north of Victoria selling everything from hardware to housewares. The business closed in 1967 and the building was razed.

Elmer served as president of the Chamber of Commerce and was one of the founding members of the Gyro Club. In 1986, a \$1000 scholarship was established in memory of Elmer and of Jack Ryan who presided over the Gyro Club in 1934 and 1935.

In 1941, Nanaimo lobbied to have wartime wooden-ship-building contracts come their way. The Newcastle Shipbuilding Co. Ltd., located adjacent to the Civic Arena, of which Elmer Bradshaw was secretary, took up the challenge. The company subsequently built a total of three minesweepers and six air-force auxiliary vessels.⁷



Elmer ran as a Liberal in the 1952 and 1953 BC Elections which both ended up in a run off between Dr Larry Giovando for the Conservatives and David Stupich for the CCF with Dr Giovando being the eventual winner. Another Newcastle resident, Earle Cathers Westwood also ran in the 1953 election for the Social Credit.



Elmer was a keen golfer and the Nanaimo Golf Club initially played at a nine-hole course on Wakesiah Avenue leased from the Western Fuel Company in 1920. A narrow bridge over the Millstream (Millstone) River joined the course to the first clubhouse, today known as the Quarterway Hotel on Bowen Road. In 1948, a New Course Committee negotiated the purchase of

⁷ Harbour City: Nanaimo in Transition, 1920-1967 by Jan Peterson, page 129

123 acres from Lynburn Estates for \$10,000.⁸ The new course opened on May 15 1962 with only 14 holes to begin with under the eyes of its founding members which included Elmer Bradshaw. Elmer hit the first ball off the No. 1 tee.⁹

Elmer passed away Jan 23 2000 at the age of 93. He was predeceased by wife, Ethel, in 1980.

3. FRANK LLEWELLYN DAVIES AND MARGARET LOUISE EDEN: 1940

Frank Llewellyn Davies was born Nov 20 1903 in Atlin BC, the son of LeBaron Bottsford Davies (1869-1937), a miner, and Annie Elizabeth Wyse (1874-1955) both from New Brunswick who married in New Westminster on Oct 22 1901. Frank grew up in New Westminster, became a mechanic, and on Apr 8 1929, married Margaret-Louise Eden born Aug 17 1905 in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba and living in New Westminster. By 1935, Frank L Davies, mechanic, and his wife were living on New McLellan Road in New Westminster.

Frank L Davies worked for Finning Tractor & Equipment as a part time trainer during WW2 to meet the government's need for tank mechanics. Owner Earl B Finning had been asked by the Canadian Army to organize such a training program and would later receive the Canadian Armed Forces Award for that effort.

Davies taught army personnel to dismantle and reassemble D7 and D8 tractors at Finning's Station Street headquarters in Vancouver. Then he sent the budding military techs to logging camps for field experience. Frank continued after the war, still part-time to run the company's marine training program. These trainees had Department of Veterans Affairs credits that subsidized wages and helped to reintegrate soldiers into the workforce. As one recruit noted: "Frank Davies was our mentor and we were his boys. He had us work in the shop until he figured we were ready for the field."¹⁰



Davies was finally hired on a full-time basis in 1947 when Finning realized that the company would need to develop an ongoing training program. The company had also been asked to take on the administration of the province's first four-year heavy duty technician apprenticeship program.

Frank and his wife appear to have only lived in Nanaimo for one year in 1940 and that was at 441 Vancouver.

4. HOWARD HARDING AND THELMA BAILEY: 1944-1945

Thomas Howard Wyndham Harding was born 1917 in British Columbia, the son of Stanley James Harding (1892-1951) born in Stratford, Ontario and Margaret Ellen Green (1892-1933) born at Union Mines BC. The Harding family had emigrated to Stratford Ontario from Bath, England arriving at Quebec on Aug 6 1887. Oldest son, Ernest Wyndham (E.W.) Harding, 24 years Stanley's senior, made his way to Nanaimo BC and presumably Stanley followed suit.

⁸ Backspin: 120 Years of golf in British Columbia by Arv Olson, page 75

⁹ Harbour City: Nanaimo in Transition, 1920-1967 by Jan Peterson, page 187

¹⁰ Tracks & Treads, Spring 2008. <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/40119071/everyday-heroes-meet-finnings-service-finning-canada>

Stanley and Margaret married on Mar 4 1913 in Nanaimo. Stanley Harding was a jeweler and for a time worked for his brother, E. W. Harding also a jeweler in his brother's store on Commercial Street.



The jewelry store was robbed on Oct 1 1912 with a large number of items stolen. Then on Dec 14 1919, Stanley accidentally shot himself in the leg while duck hunting: *Stanley Harding, a watchmaker employed by his brother, E. W Harding, jeweler, Nanaimo, was accidentally shot while hunting ducks at the lagoon, some three miles from the Black Diamond city on Vancouver Island. Harding stumbled over a log and his shot gun was discharged, the contents of the charge entering the right leg below the knee. He was picked up twenty minutes after the accident and brought to the Nanaimo hospital, where he lay in a serious condition for some time, due to shock and loss of blood.* Source: *The Trader* - February 1920



In the *1921 Canada Census*, the Hardings were living in Nanaimo at 211 Kennedy Street. Stanley Harding then owned his own retail store on Victoria Crescent which he moved out of in 1921 to make way for a fruit and vegetable store. At some point, Stanley had donated a championship cup to the Juvenile Football Association which somehow went missing around 1927. By 1930, they still hadn't been found despite a plea to the newspaper for its return. By 1938, Stanley was operating his jewelry business at 141 Commercial Street.

On June 30 1933, Margaret Green Harding, Howard's mother died in Nanaimo. His father, Stanley, remarried on Jun 2 1938 in Victoria to a Lucy Allen.

On May 3 1936, Howard Harding, clerk, married Thelma Bailey, telephone operator, at All Saints Church in Westholme BC just south of Chemainus. The marriage was later dissolved on Jul 9 1951.

Howard Harding became a government agent, par none. He started as a Junior Clerk with the BC Department of Finance and on May 17 1937, the Minister of Finance approved an adjustment to Howard's minimum salary to raise it to \$900 per annum and that he be appointed to Junior Clerk, Grade III-B in Nanaimo.¹¹ In 1938, Howard and Thelma were living at 360 Union which today is Terminal Avenue North; and in 1939 they moved to 350 Union. **In 1944 and 1945 Howard Harding and wife Thelma would live at 441 Vancouver Avenue.** In 1946 they moved to 425 Union, now Terminal, where the Cheeky Monkey Glassworks and Pioneer Fireplace are.

On Oct 15 1946, Harding was transferred to Port Alberni as Acting Government Agent and assigned the following positions: Acting Water Recorder, Acting Official Director of the West Coast General Hospital, Acting Gold Commissioner, Acting Mining Recorder, Acting sub-mining Recorder, Acting Land Commissioner, Acting Registrar of Voters as well as Acting Tax Collector, Acting District Registrar of the Supreme Court, Acting Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Acting Marriage Commissioner and Acting Clerk of the Peace in and for the county of Nanaimo. He eventually was promoted out of an acting position and remained at Port Alberni until 1953 when he was transferred to Prince Rupert.¹²

¹¹ BC Order in Council 583/1937

¹² BC Order in Council 2479/1946

Thomas Howard Wyndham Harding died Oct 19 1991 at the age of 78 in Nanaimo.

5. GEORGE W BELLAMY AND FLORENCE MARGARET SCOTT: 1946-1952

George Bellamy and Howard Harding appeared to have exchanged domiciles in 1946. George had been living at 425 Union in 1945 and moved to 441 Vancouver while Howard moved into 425 Union prior to his transfer to Port Alberni.

George William Murray Bellamy was born Nov 6 1907 in Manchester, England the son of George Augustus Bellamy (1881-1961) and Elizabeth Ellen Murray (1884-1971) who were both born in England and married in 1906 in Salford, Lancashire. George Jr arrived in Canada on Jul 2 1911 at Quebec with his mother and sister Elizabeth who were coming to join his father in Hamilton, Ontario. By 1912, the family had settled in Port Alberni BC.



On July 19 1941, George Jr married Florence Margaret Scott the elder daughter of Walter J Scott and Mabel Nelson of Parksville BC. Margaret was born in England around 1908 and had immigrated with her parents in 1910 first settling in Burquitland, now a neighbourhood of Coquitlam BC. At the time of the marriage, Margaret was a school teacher working in New Westminster and she continued that profession in Nanaimo. George's place of residence was 176 Bastion, Nanaimo which is also from where he ran his insurance business. After the marriage, the couple first resided at 425 Union (Terminal Ave N). **By 1946, they had moved to 441 Vancouver.** In 1948, Margaret Bellamy was noted as a member of the Nanaimo Women's Canadian Club.

In October 1951, George Bellamy joined Frank Ney along with other realtors Ernie Butcher, Hugh Wilson and Jack Evans to create the Nanaimo Real Estate Board and were its first Directors.¹³ At the end of 1951 the first eight Nanaimo Real Estate Board Members included: George W. Bellamy, Frank Ney, Leo La Pas, Jack Evans, Ernie Butcher, Ken Guest, Cyril Black, and Hugh Wilson. George was a member of St Paul's Anglican Church, a life member of Nanaimo Lodge 110, and a long-time member of the Yacht Club.

In 1953, George retired and sold his real estate company to Allan Armstrong who had worked for him as a salesman. That year, George and Margaret left 441 Vancouver and moved to 560 Aldorann in Nanaimo.

At some point, Margaret Scott Bellamy might have passed away and George married Ethel May Price. Ethel was born in Sydney Mines, NS on May 14 1908 the daughter of Thomas Price and Mary Gertrude Gee both from England. Ethel passed away on Mar 25 1992 at the age of 83. George William Bellamy died on Dec 9 1996.

6. EDWARD WELLINGTON RICHARDSON BEST & JOYCE MORRISON 1953-1959

Born in Foochow, China in on Mar 14 1920, Edward Wellington Richardson "Ted" Best arrived in Vancouver on *Empress of Russia* on Jul 11 1921 at 1 year old with father, Dr Albert Edward Best (1888-1974) 35, mother Gertrude Jemima Taylor (1890-1971) 38; brothers Stanley Chamberlin Best 4 ½ (1916-1985) and Douglas Willard Samuel Best 3 ½ (1917- 2008). His father was a physician and a missionary with the United Church of Canada. Father, Albert Best, was born in Madoc Ontario and his mother was born in

¹³ http://www.vireb.com/assets/uploads/vireb_book_final_proof_1840.pdf

Keene Ontario. They married May 26 1913 in Peterborough Ontario. All the Best boys were born in China so his mother and Father must have gone to China just after they were married in 1913.

Jun 10 1931, Best arrived again from China this time at Victoria BC on the *Empress of Japan* with his father, mother and brother Douglas Willard Samuel. Where they subsequently lived in Canada is not known but it may have been in Oshawa, Ontario. In 1944, Ted Best graduated from the U of T School of Medicine.

On Apr 30 1945, Ted Best married Joyce Evelyn Morrison (1920-2011) and they had 2 children: C Douglas Best on Nov 19 1951 (died Oct 23 2020) and Trudy Best Warner. Joyce was born Aug 17 1922 in Iroquois Falls Ontario. She graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children in 1944.

On July 28 1950, Dr Edward W. R. Best was appointed as Director of the Central Vancouver Island Health unit in Nanaimo. In the 1953 *Victoria City and Vancouver Island Directory*, Edward W.R. Best is Medical Director, Central Vancouver Island Health Unit and living at 955 Wentworth. **By the end of 1953, the family had moved to 441 Vancouver with Dr Best's occupation noted as Medical Health Officer.**

On Apr 23 1953, the *Nanaimo Daily News* reported that Dr. E. W. R. Best, director of the Central Vancouver Island Health unit was a member of a symposium of guest speakers at the PTA meeting of John Shaw Junior High School at the corner of Selby and Franklyn. Dr. Best spoke on the causes and prevention of mental illness. He drew to the attention of PTA members that this is an "increasingly important part of our lives today." Although an old-fashioned concept that mental health was not a topic for discussion prevailed, he pointed out that it was important to each and every one to know more about-mental health and thereby promote good mental health. "We are in a transitional stage of thinking concerning public health," said Dr. Best. "Now the move is from prevention of sickness to promotion of health." He commented on the fact that it was just as important to consider healthy minds as healthy bodies.¹⁴ Many people reacted differently to situations of mental stress and strain which often led to mental illness. Shortly after this, the John Shaw High School was demolished to make way for Nanaimo District Secondary School.

Joyce Morrison Best continued her profession as a nurse and was President of the Nanaimo chapter of the Canadian Nurses Association in 1953. Having graduated from the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, she always considered herself to be a 'Sick Kids' nurse and loved babies and young children.

In 1958, the Bests are still living at 441 Vancouver but on Jul 27 1959, Dr Best's appointment as Medical Health Officer in Nanaimo was rescinded. He would take up a position with the Department of National Health and Welfare in Ottawa. Dr. Best's distinguished career in community health included serving as senior medical consultant for the Ontario Ministry of Health and teaching at U of T's Faculty of Medicine. He was also the recipient of an Arbor Award in 1989 which honours the contribution of exceptional and longstanding volunteers to U of T.

He and his wife retired to Oakville, Ontario where Dr Best died, at 89 years, on Oct 1 2009. Joyce Morrison Best died Mar 31 2011 in Oakville.

CLASS OF 1944



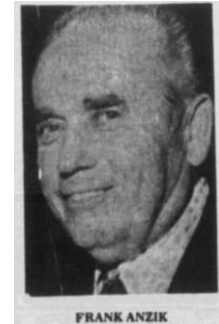
Dr. E.W.R. (Ted) BEST, in his 90th year on Oct.1, 2009, in Mississauga, ON. Dr. Best's distinguished career in community health included serving as senior medical consultant for the Ontario Ministry of Health and teaching at U of T's Faculty of Medicine. The recipient of an Arbor Award, Dr. Best was the loving husband of Joyce; father of Trudy (David) and Douglas (Dawn); and grandfather of four.

¹⁴ Nanaimo Daily News: Thursday, April 23, 1953

7. FRANK ANZIK AND MARGARET HELEN POLONYI: 1965-1971

Francisc Anzik was born Jun 27 1910, the son of Josef Anzik and Julianna Vojtku in Livada, Satu Mare County in northwest Romania near the border with Hungary.

Frank left Romania via Hamburg on Oct 3 1929, at the age of 18, and arrived at Quebec City aboard the *Montcalm*, on Oct 12 1929 speaking only Hungarian. He was on his way, as a farm labourer, via the CPR to stay with his brother in Tramping Lake, Saskatchewan about 100km west of Saskatoon. Whether he got there or not is unknown, but he did have a sister, Wilhelmina Velma Julia Anzik (1904-1991) and a brother, Nickolas Nicelea Anzik (1902-1976) who were living in St Catherines, Ontario. His brother had arrived in Canada, at the age of 24, on Mar 27 1926 to St John NB on the *Minnedosa* via Antwerp Belgium. He was supposedly headed to Winnipeg care of the CPR Colonization Department.¹⁵ Frank's sister had arrived in 1928 and married Lazlo Ladislaw Csiczak on Oct 26, 1929 in Welland, Ontario.



On Oct 18 1936, Frank, age 26, is reported crossing the border into Buffalo giving his sister as his nearest relative. Frank gave his occupation as steel mechanic. From 1936 to 1942, the whereabouts of Frank Anzik are unknown.

Margaret Helen Polonyi was born Aug 8 1923 in Sajokaza a village in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County in northeastern Hungary the daughter of Margit Marton and Steve Polonyi. On Jan 24 1936, she left England, at the age of 12, on the *Montclare* with her mother, Margit Polonyi, 32, and her sister Irane Polonyi, 8 destined for Halifax NS. Her mother Margit was born Feb 26 1904 and died Dec 11 1990 in Vancouver. Her father, Steve Polonyi, was born Aug 31 1900 in Hungary and died April 5 1972 also in Vancouver. Steve Polonyi had preceded his family to Canada and in 1935 was working as a miner with Canadian Collieries in Nanaimo, living at 261 Richards Street. In 1939, Steven and Margit Polonyi were also living in Nanaimo at 261 Richards and then the family moved to 366 Milton Street.

On Jun 27 1942, Frank Anzik married Margaret Polonyi in Nanaimo. At the time, they were both living at 366 Milton Street. Frank was working as a steel worker and Margaret was a chambermaid at the Plaza Hotel on Church Street formerly the Opera House, then the Windsor Hotel, at one time the Villa Hotel and now the Dorchester. Frank was also in active service with the military.



By 1947, Margaret's parents had moved to Vancouver where mother, Margit, operated the Koffee Kup restaurant. Margaret's sister, Irene, born Dec 24 1926 in Hungary married Sam (Mickey) Baker in 2001. They were owners of the Shirtland Laundry on Powell Street in Vancouver. She died May 6 2008.

In the meantime, Frank and Margaret Anzik settled into Nanaimo. Their eldest daughter Linda Anzik was born and then Gayle Anzik was born on Jan 10 1947. Frank was working as a mechanic at Hughes Motors

¹⁵ [Canadian Pacific Railway. Department of Colonization. Settlers' guide: A handbook of information for settlers in the Canadian Pacific Railway Irrigation Block. Calgary: Canadian Pacific Railway, Department of Colonization, 1908.](#)

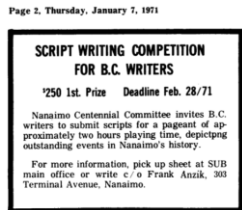
at 102 Crace Street and the family was living at 360 Kennedy. On Apr 16 1945, it was reported in *Automotive News* that the owners of Hughes Motors had instructed a Vancouver architect to prepare plans for extensive alterations and remodelling of their service station and garage. By 1948, Frank was working at Alexander Motors which had opened in 1946 at the corner of Nicol and Milton. In 1952, Frank was working as a machinist and the family was living at 144 Howard Avenue.

The couple turned to other ventures. In 1953, they took over from TM Aitken Jr the running the Park Store grocery at 553 Comox between Wallace and Prideaux and eventually moved to the back of the store. According to daughter Linda Anzik: “My Mom& Dad (Anzik) owned the Comox Rd Park store... we lived in the back & my sister & I grew up working & living there. Loved the days when the Empire Parade & Midway was in the ballfield. We spent the day selling ice cream cones!” Other Nanaimoites remember the store’s “yummy penny candy.”

In 1954, Frank opened his own car dealership selling Datsun products at 303 Terminal Avenue called FRANK ANZIK CENTRAL CAR SALES LTD. He would be in this location for the next 21 years. **He and his family would move into 441 Vancouver Avenue in 1965.** His daughter, Linda Emily Anzik married George Charles Addison in 1965; and daughter Gayle Anzik married David Stolarchuk on May 25 1967. Daughter Gayle would become an active business woman in downtown Nanaimo working for over 12 years with Harbour City Subaru and Suzuki.



Frank was also active in the community. In response to the 1956 revolution in Hungary, he was a founder of the Nanaimo Hungarian Benevolent Society created to assist refugees. In 1961, he helped establish the Nanaimo and District Water Safety Association to pay for lifeguards at Nanaimo beaches. He was a keen participant in the annual Nanaimo Bathtub race sponsoring the Frank Anzik Memorial trophy for the “bathtubber” placing 2nd in the modified category. On Jan 20 1968, Frank Anzik, as past president of the Vancouver Island Regional Library accepted a donation of 50 books, written in Hungarian, from the Hungarian Society. He was a past director of the Kiwanis Club of Nanaimo, president of the Nanaimo Business Improvement Association and at the time of his death he was serving on the Downtown Steering Development Committee. He was also a veteran of WW II, a member of Branch 10 of the Royal Canadian Legion, and a past director of that organization.



By 1976, Frank, age 66, decided to retire. On Jan 30 1976, the *Times*, Nanaimo reported that Frank Anzik, President, Central Car Sales, had appointed Mr. Bud Aalten and Mr Al Descoteau as co-managers of Central Car Sales Ltd. Both men brought to the dealership several years of experience in automobile sales and financing. Al Descoteau would move the business to Parksville from Nanaimo in 1979 as Terminal Autobody and he’s now retired while his children run the shop.

In the meantime, the Anziks must have moved out of 441 Vancouver Avenue as it appeared to be empty in 1971 and the next owner moved into the house in 1974.

Frank Anzik passed away on Sep 11 1980 at the age of 70. His wife, Margaret Helen Polonyi died on Jul 13 2001. She was a past president of Branch 10 Legion Ladies Auxiliary and a member of the Kiwanis Ladies.

8. Rudolphe J an Alain and Patricia Myrna Allary: 1974

The house at 441 Vancouver was next occupied in 1974 by Rodolphe J an Alain, born Mar 18 1931 in Sudbury, Ontario, son of Paul Philibert Alain and Cecile Patrie; and his wife, Patricia Myrna Allary (1932-2003) who he married on Jun 15 1954 in Sudbury, Ontario. He was an electrician and may not have lived very long in Nanaimo. He passed away Jul 24 1980 in Atlin BC.