

LIFE AFTER TANFIELD



NAME Joan Wanless Olund

PUPIL AT TANFIELD (SGS) FROM 1952 TO 1959

MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD

After “graduation” from the Upper Sixth I attended a Teacher Training College, and taught locally before emigrating to Canada at the age of twenty-two. My plans were to stay for two years and work my way back to England via Australia.

I sailed from Liverpool to Montreal, then by train to Winnipeg with two college friends where we had jobs with Winnipeg School Division.

My first year in Canada took us to Minneapolis, Toronto, Niagara Falls and Christmas in Calgary with my cousins David and Jean (Hetherington) York. The summer holiday was a camping trip to Vancouver, down the coast of Washington, Oregon, California, across to Vegas, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park and back to Winnipeg just in time to pick up Elisabeth Dawson who had decided to come to Canada.

I met and married my husband, a grain farmer, and the next year I began a new life as a farmer’s wife living ten miles from the nearest town, learning to raise a vegetable garden, bake bread, churn butter, but not milking or driving tractors!

We did have international young farmers with us for seven months for a few years which was an interesting experience.

When both our children were in school I returned to teaching in Winnipeg, driving forty miles each way.

My husband had to retire from farming in his forties because of health problems. We rented out the land and began another very busy era of our lives. We bought a general store, ice cream, coffee shop and Post Office combination in Wasagaming in Riding Mountain National Park on the shores of Clear Lake.

When I retired from teaching, our summers were spent at the lake and winters in South Texas seven miles from Mexico and close to the Gulf of Mexico; this was our retired life for thirteen years.

I have returned to England many times to visit family, became reacquainted with friends from SGS and attended the 100th Anniversary of the school.

Our last years together were spent in a small town close to Winnipeg until my husband’s illness and passing, when I moved to a condo in Winnipeg, back to where my life in Canada began.

Joan (Wanless) Olund