

MEMORIES - DIAMOND CITY/COMMERCE/SHAUGHNESSY

BURTON A SHIELDS -ages 5 to 15 (1947-1957)

1. **Cousins** - Clyde Shields children -Ethel, Edward, Sylvia, and Robert (Bob)
 - Leland Shields's children - Earl, David, Thomas (Tom)
 - Ned Shields children -Sharelyn, Byron, Marlene
 - Morris shields -Burton, Doris, Martin, Wayne, Karen, Ruth

Note: there were others, from time to time, and not all at any one time.
2. **Places-Diamond City** (school, church, coulees, Danielson's Store, elevators, old brick yards, cemeteries, fields)
 - Commerce -home of Clyde Shields family, canals, old schoolhouse (2 room brick structures, ponds, old equipment, barns, neighbours (the Bodnar's, etc.)
3. **Park Lake** -where all the good parties/family reunions, July 24, etc. were held.
 - swimming, annual Track Meets, camp outs (official or otherwise)
 - diving platforms, fishing, horseshoes, gigantic checkers, softball games
 - no one had boats, except inner tubes,
 - little store for ice cream (Danielson's?)
4. **Shaughnessy**-home of the grandparents' house and interesting barns, the "blacksmith shop", orchards with fruits, that only could have come from Utah (Lulu Shields), animals, fields, crops,
 - nearby Shaughnessy itself, with Ko Sings store, Kotch's store, the coal mine, the schools, the Shaughnessy Hotel, the West 1/4 section, with all its canals
 - various Shields families lived here in these years, sometimes on the lower floor, sometimes on the second level, and yes, the Attic, with the access via the stairs that had to be lowered to get up there (where old musty things were stored) and where one slept sometimes.
5. **Fond Memories-Activities-**
 - Some visits were with the whole families, other times, just short "cousin and cousin" times. Because many of the above listed cousins were close in age, we all joined in, to whatever thing seemed fun. Exploring at the Clyde Shields home was always at the top of the list. Exploring around the house itself, and its self-feeding coal fired furnace and other modern conveniences were great. They had indoor plumbing, which did not exist at the Morris Shields, W C Shields house and maybe others.
 - special times were the overnight visits, exploring the attic of the old schoolhouse might have been forbidden, but we did not seem to know that.
 - Edward (Eddy) and Bob (Robert) were experts at devising new schemes, such as blowing up frogs with a tire pump. They devised jumping from the upper oft of the barn to a pile of hay conveniently left just below.
 - Swimming in the irrigation canal, that just happened to run right through the whole place, was most convenient, and later constructing a "diving" board at the

deeper and wider place, just off the road, was great. Often there were snakes that like to swim with you. Swimming suits may have been optional, as you did not want your play clothes to get wet??

-Later on, Uncle Clyde happened to raise turkeys in the old schoolhouse, which really made playing there very messy and noisy.

I have the advantage of telling almost anything, now that Ethel, Eddy and Bob are no longer able to dispute these “facts”. Oh, maybe Sylvia will dispute some.