

## **Chapter 11. Places that I stayed in Saskatoon while attending University:**

Now the search for a place to stay was on! I was advised to pick up a list of places (from the Administration Building) where Room and Board opportunities were being offered. That I did and just as I was wondering where I could get to a phone, I bump into a familiar face, Bill Chernoff from Veregin. We compared notes and he advised that he was with his family, and they were going to (Nick) Trofimenkoff's place and that I was welcome to join them.

I did not need to be coaxed and so we went. There we had access to a phone and that was the first time that I ever used a dial phone. There were two possible prefixes to the Saskatoon telephone numbers at that time.

We decided with Bill, that we would try to be roommates to start as Bill had in mind to have supplies sent him from home and all he needed was a room with a hot plate.

Many phone calls later (many places were already taken) we had two options, a place on about 2000 block Ewart Avenue that would take both of us and a place on 2500 block that would only take one person after a month or so as it was still under construction.

So that evening Bill and I became roommates for a month with a rent at \$55.00 each, per month, which suited my budget. Bill thought that was too high as he felt he could do better with a room only and support from home in Veregin. The 2500 block option was also \$55.00 a month so I was fixed in a month's time and that was my decision going forward.

Hey, I had a surplus of \$14 a month for bus fare and whatever expenses may come about!

This is the list of all the places I stayed in Saskatoon over the next five (5) years:

- a. 2000 block Ewart Avenue September 1958***
- b. 2518 Block Ewart Avenue October 1958***

My father passed away in late October 1958 and I just returned from the funeral and watching the cattle being sold and all the chickens, etc., disposed of. I actually considered staying back, especially when my dog Duke, had to find another home.

I was unceremoniously put back on the bus by my family and I mourned my situation for days after returning. Catching up was tough as it was walking 35 blocks or so. One day, I was crying almost uncontrollably as I approached what appeared to be a pile of clothes on the sidewalk. As I neared, I recognized a man having a smoke while sitting on the sidewalk adjacent to crutches.

My eyes really opened up when I noted that he had no legs whatsoever. He asked me how I was doing, and I had to swallow and admit "fine" in comparison to his condition.

I asked if he needed help getting up and he replied "no thanks" as he methodically organized his crutches to erect himself. He waved as he hobbled along quite swiftly with a "have a good day, now!" salute.

I watched him for a few minutes and then realized I may have had just been visited by an Angel to help me. See my blog at [https://elmerverigin.wordpress.com/An Omen? An Angel Perhaps?](https://elmerverigin.wordpress.com/An-Omen?An-Angel-Perhaps)

**c. *"House of Moe" with Lawrence Cheveldayoff, winter of 1959 to end of school year***

Lawrence was from Blaine Lake and a gregarious member of the Saskatoon Doukhobor Youth (SDY). There was no question, that if he wanted to, he could somehow get to you and he did. Lawrence stayed in a large Boarding House at the bottom end of College Drive overlooking the 25th Street Bridge that crossed the South Saskatchewan River. It was only 5 blocks from university so an enticement to make a change as I could not afford buses.

Lawrence lost his roommate sometime (dropped out) before Christmas and just as I had returned to Saskatoon after Christmas break, he came at me very strongly to leave where I was staying and join him. I felt obligated to the place where I stayed as I realized how much my \$55 a month meant to that young struggling family. Lawrence became stronger in his persuasive manner (he later became a church Evangelical Minister that handled all of the bible schools in South America). He was a persuasive person.

This place only served breakfast and dinner, so lunch was on your own. Yes, there were many hungry times.

There were twelve other students there and I learned to fight for my share of toast and pork chops however rare they were served on two platters at each end of a long table.

**d. *Back to 2518 Ewart Avenue with Anton Pryslak 1959 / 1960***



This is where Tony and I could predict our land lady's choices for menu for dinner:

- Two (2) meat balls, mashed potatoes, and a vegetable

- One (1) hamburger, mashed potatoes, and a vegetable

Needless to say, these two farm boys were always going to bed hungry.

I got to know Tony much better even though we attended Pelly School for eight (8) years together. These were special times.

Tony ended up with a Masters in Geology.

My emotional challenges with the future at that time were expressed (see my blog [https://elmerverigin.wordpress.com/A Poet's Musings as a University Student at Age Twenty](https://elmerverigin.wordpress.com/A-Poet's-Musings-as-a-University-Student-at-Age-Twenty/)).

***e. 401 Avenue H, with Keith Tarasoff, 1960 / 1961***



I was invited to stay with my friend Keith after he heard of the trials and tribulations with my experiences at the Ewart Avenue place. It was like being adopted into a family as that is the way Ruth, Donna, Keith's sisters accepted me along with my "Land Lady" Susan and Bill, Keith's parents.

Keith had the family car which offered mobility after two (2) years in Saskatoon. Mitch Ozeroff would travel in from his farm in Langham to "bother" us attending university. Keith was in third year Agriculture, and I was in third year Chemical Engineering. Alfred Kabatoff was in second year Education.

Somehow the four of us seemed to enjoy each other as part of the larger thirty (30) member Saskatoon Doukhobor Youth group.

This one Saturday we travelled to Blaine Lake and returned Sunday with an invitation to visit Alfred's folks on the farm. As always, we were well behaved.



Keith is on the left with Alfred Kabatoff next to Mitch Ozeroff on my left. Alfred invited us to his parent's farm in Blaine Lake to show off his friends. I am not sure if we were drinking at the time.

Doukhobor hospitality prevailed. We were overwhelmed with the feast that the Kabatoffs provided.

***f. 400 Avenue G, with Marilyn from December 1961 through to April 1963***

Marilyn and I became the “operators” of this Rooming House.



Oh, the stories that became part of that experience with a Divorcee and her City Police Sargent as her boyfriend. A pretty girl who kept company with a married man that culminated in his wife showing up on the scene one day

Then there were the three (3) bachelors throwing parties downstairs.

Need I tell more?

Marilyn, Nona, and I had the Owner’s one (1) bedroom suite.

The rent was reduced because we “looked after the place”.

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