

Biographies

The years in brackets are the years each woman played for the Grads. Thanks to University of Alberta Press, Glenbow Archives and City of Edmonton Archives for permission to share these stories and photos.



Abbie Scott Kennedy (1922-1924)

Abigail Esther Scott was born on October 6, 1902 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the youngest of Frank and Salome Scott's four children. Her father migrated to Canada from Scotland in 1878 to work for the Hudson's Bay Company in Fort Edmonton. He returned to Edmonton in 1911, working for the Canadian National Railway as a machinist before sending for the family the following year. Before attending McDougall Commercial High School, Abbie attended to Oliver, Norwood, and Parkdale public schools, playing basketball throughout her school days and with a ladies mercantile team. After finishing secretarial training at a business college, she worked as a stenographer at the Coca-Cola Company.

Abbie was invited to play for the Commercial Graduates in the fall of 1922, as Coach Page needed someone to play when Daisy Johnson was unable to attend practices and games due to her teaching commitments. Noted for her stamina on the court, Abbie continued to play as a substitute player during the 1923 season, and joined the regular lineup by 1924. *Edmonton Bulletin* sports columnist

Deacon White often praised Abbie in his column, calling her “the best lady athlete on the floor” and “one sweet basketball player.”

Abbie left the team after returning from the August 1924 European tour and a fall series against American teams. She married Robert Kennedy in the summer of 1928, and the couple had a daughter the following year. Abbie was involved with numerous women’s organizations throughout her life. Abbie said that the Grads, “the best friends I’ve ever had,” helped her make it through when her husband passed away in 1952. Abbie died on February 24, 1991 in Edmonton at the age of eighty-eight. When filmmakers Allan Stein and Mairi MacLean, who made *Shooting Stars*, a documentary about the Grads, had a daughter, they named her after Abbie.



Noella “Babe” Belanger MacLean (1929-1937)

Noella “Babe” Belanger was born on May 8, 1911 in Edmonton. Her parents were originally from Quebec, and her father worked for the city telephone company as a cableman. Babe went to Parkdale Public School before starting high school at McDougall Commercial. Just less than 5’3” tall, Babe was an all-around athlete, who excelled at sprinting and high jump, and she played for the Gradettes.

Babe was called up from the Gradettes to play as a substitute in an international series against a Seattle team in March 1929. She stayed with the Grads for eight years. At first she played as a relief forward for Margaret

MacBurney and Millie McCormack, and took Millie's spot in 1932. She became a star on the court and was known for her speed and accuracy in shooting baskets. Babe was called "one of the classiest little forwards ever seen in the game," and became the Grads' third highest scorer of all time. (Cruikshank, 1934, 17) She was on teams that travelled across Canada, to the United States between 1929 and 1937 and to Europe in 1936. After the Grads played in an international series against the Tulsa Stenos in June 1937, Babe announced her retirement from basketball.

Babe worked as a stenographer at the *Edmonton Journal* after leaving the Grads, and married Ian MacLean, an undercover RCMP officer, before moving to Verdun, Quebec. They had two children and moved back to Edmonton in the early 1950s, where Ian worked as an athletic trainer for a number of professional football and hockey teams. Babe was apparently quite modest about her days as a basketball star, and her children only learned about her time with the Grads much later on. Babe died in Edmonton on January 7, 1999 at the age of eighty-three.



Betty Bawden Bowen (1939-1940)

Betty Bawden was born on December 22, 1917 in Edmonton, and grew up near Edmonton's Borden Park. She loved swimming and diving when she was young, and learned the basics of basketball at Parkdale School. She attended

McDougall Commercial High School and moved up through their junior and senior teams, and played with the city league's Imps before joining the Gradettes. Betty was described as a fast player and accurate shooter. In December 1939, it was announced she would be joining the Grads. Betty was the final player to become a Grad, only playing with the team during their last season. Her first home game was against the Vancouver Westerns in May 1940. The Grads beat the Westerns in two games, allowing the team to retire as Canadian champions.

Betty started working as a clerk in Woodward's department store in 1936, and was the manager and buyer in the hosiery department by 1942. She married childhood friend Bob Bowen, an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, in June 1944. The couple lived in Edmonton and had two children, Rowena and Robert. Betty encouraged her children's athletic pursuits, taking them to baseball, hockey, and figure skating. She later worked in the library at Victoria Composite High School.

Betty was a driving force in preserving the legacy of the Grads in memorabilia and correspondence, and keeping the teammates connected by organizing reunions. She did this work for the Grads until her health began to fail and she moved to Oakville, Ontario in the late 1990s to be with her daughter. At the age of eighty-nine, Betty died of heart failure on October 17, 2007. She left behind her children, two granddaughters, and a great-grandson.



Betty Ross Bellamy (1936-1939)

Mary Elizabeth “Betty” Ross was born on April 3, 1914 in Edmonton, the youngest of Thomas and Margaret Ross’s three daughters. Betty went to Oliver Public School and then attended McDougall Commercial High School. She played for the Gradettes for four years as both a centre and forward, and had her first trial with the Grads in the fall of 1936. At 5’5”, Betty was considered too short to play centre effectively, but she was used on both offence and defence. She was one of the new recruits to join the team in the spring of 1937, and played her first game as a Grad in a series against Cleveland. That fall, however, she and the other new players went back to the Gradettes, though Betty played as a substitute for the Grads throughout 1938. She was a regular team member by early 1939, and went on the goodwill tour of eastern Canada and played throughout the rest of the season.

Betty worked as a cashier at the Hudson’s Bay Company after graduation from McDougall Commercial. She married Jules Gardner (Bill) Chevalier on August 23, 1939, and the couple had two sons before the marriage ended in divorce. Betty married her second husband, Oscar (Ray) Bellamy, and they had three children. She and Ray lived in Edmonton for most of their married life, and moved to Summerland, British Columbia in 1985. Betty died in Kelowna on May 16, 2010, at ninety-six years old, survived by her children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Connie Smith McIntyre (1920-1926)

Constance Smith was born on October 5, 1903 in Walsall, Staffordshire, England. Before she turned one, Connie, her parents, and her three older

brothers sailed in the summer of 1904 across the Atlantic, landed in Montreal and then travelled to Edmonton. Her father, who was a farmer in England, worked as a building contractor and then a government building inspector in Edmonton. The Smith children went to McKay Avenue School. In 1920, Connie was a graduate of McDougall Commercial High School and was working as a stenographer for Alberta Government Telephones.

Connie played defence for the Grads and played on the 1922 Canadian championship team. She was one of the younger players on the team, but improved her game as she continued to play basketball. When the Grads adopted men's rules in 1923, Connie was switched to centre, thanks to her 5'9" frame and skill in tipping the ball to her teammates. Connie became the team captain when Winnie Martin left after their 1924 trip to Europe, and she held this position until she retired from basketball in the fall of 1926.

Connie married professional hockey player Lloyd McIntyre of the Edmonton Eskimos of the Western Canadian Hockey League in 1927. Lloyd played hockey for another decade in a number of minor professional leagues, and was also a skilled baseball player. Connie and Lloyd moved to Viking, Alberta in 1945. They were married for fifty-seven years and had one son, Alan. Connie was an active community member as a charter and life member of the Royal Purple and the Eastern Star in Viking. Connie died on January 9, 1990 in Viking at the age of eighty-six.



Daisy Johnson (1920-1927) and Dot Johnson Sherlock (1921-1927)

Margaret Jane Johnson, better known as Daisy, was born on November 26, 1902. Her sister Dorothea Lily Johnson, or Dot, was born on January 22, 1906. They lived on a farm in Jumping Pound, Alberta, with their parents and two brothers. The family moved to Edmonton in 1911, where the two sisters went to public school at McKay Avenue, before each spending a year at McDougall Commercial High School. Dot played basketball at McDougall, and went on to take their two-year business course. Daisy transferred to Victoria High School and after graduating, she completed teacher training at Edmonton Normal School, where she played on the basketball team and in 1920 for the Commercial Graduates.

Daisy was teaching at a rural school southeast of Edmonton in 1922 when she was invited by Percy Page to play on the team heading for the Dominion basketball championships, as the team was short one player. After graduating from Commercial in 1922, Dot worked as a stenographer and was the youngest member of the team, at just sixteen years old. Daisy and Dot continued to play basketball for the next five years, with Daisy known for her speed and scoring ability and Dot for her consistency. Nicknamed "Flash" because of her style of play, Dot became the team captain in the fall of 1926, while Daisy became president of the Commercial Graduates Basketball Club. Both were highly respected as leaders by their teammates, the Johnson sisters left the team in the fall of 1927.

Daisy and taught school in Edmonton, mainly at Woodcroft and Eastwood Elementary Schools. She retired after teaching for forty-seven years, and died of cancer on March 16, 1979 at the age of seventy-six. Dot worked as a stenographer from 1924 to 1934, and then married Ronald F. Sherlock. The couple had one daughter, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Dot died in Kelowna on March 20, 2003 at the age of ninety-seven.



Doris Neale Chapman (1929-1936)

Doris Neale was born on June 26, 1911 in Ottawa, and her family moved to Edmonton when she was two years old. Sadly, her mother died in childbirth with the family's seventh child. Doris went to school at H.A. Gray and Parkdale public schools, and then attended McDougall Commercial High School for three years. She worked as a stenographer at Northern Hardware before joining the Radio Department of the *Edmonton Journal*, where she worked for several years. Doris learned to play basketball at Parkdale and continued to play while at Commercial, joining the Gradettes in 1927. Though she was only 5'3" tall, Doris was a quick and dynamic player who played the guard position.

A highlight of Doris's career with the Grads was playing in a two-game international series in October 1929 against a team from Cleveland, in which she was chosen to fill in for Mae Brown on defence. In attendance at the second game was James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, who came all the way from the University of Kansas to see the Grads play. The Grads beat the Cleveland team both games and Naismith praised the team for their skill on the court.

Doris retired after the Grads returned from their 1936 European tour, and continued to work at the radio station CFRN. She married Edwin (Ed) Chapman in 1938 and the couple moved to Toronto. She was invited to play on the Toronto Ladies basketball team in January 1939, when they were about to play the Grads, but she declined. Doris and Ed had three children before divorcing in the early 1950s. She and her children moved to High River, Alberta in 1953 before returning to Edmonton where she returned to her job at Sunwapta Broadcasting. She

retired when she was sixty-five, but became bored with retirement and returned to work for another five years. Doris died of cancer on February 27, 1992 at the age of eighty.



Edith Stone Sutton and Helen Stone Stewart (1931-1934)

The second set of sisters to play for the Grads, identical twins Edith and Helen Stone were born on April 9, 1910 in Edmonton. The Stone family moved to England when the twins were six years old, and then returned to Edmonton in 1918. Edith and Helen attended Parkdale Public School and McDougall Commercial High School, where they played on the high school basketball teams. The twins played for the Gradettes from 1927 through to the 1930 season. Helen played forward and Edith played centre. The Stone sisters played their first game with the Grads against the Calgary Centrals in the senior ladies' provincial championship in March 1931, and in May they played in their first international series against Chicago's Forest Park Cardinals.

Edith and Helen were primarily substitutes in the 1932 season, and went with the team to the Los Angeles Olympics. Helen took Elsie Bennie's place on defence as a regular player early in 1933, while Edith remained a substitute. The Stone twins retired from the team in the fall of 1934, after eight years of playing for the Gradettes and Grads. They were both working as stenographers by 1929, and later both worked at the University of Alberta, Helen in the library and Edith typing manuscripts.

Just before the start of World War II, Helen married Charlie Todd. They divorced during the war, and later Helen married William James “Jimmy” Stewart and moved to Vancouver, but their marriage was also short-lived. Helen had no children, and had a successful career in real estate. Helen died on June 24, 2011 in Vancouver.

Edith married Elmer Sutton in 1940. The couple had two children and lived in Calgary for a few years before returning to Edmonton in the early 1950s. Edith volunteered in the library at the University of Alberta Hospital and at the Winnifred Stewart School for students with developmental disabilities. As the years went on, Edith worked to preserve the Grads’ legacy by speaking to groups and giving interviews. Edith passed away peacefully on May 9, 2012, in Edmonton, at one hundred and two years.



Eleanor Mountifield Vogel song (1919-1924)

Eleanor Mountifield was born in Fort Yukon, Alaska on May 20, 1902. Her family arrived in Edmonton in 1904, and eventually expanded to include nine children. Eleanor and her siblings were encouraged by their athletic father to become active in sports, and she excelled in basketball, golf, and skating. After graduating from McDougall Commercial High School in 1919, she joined the Grads, playing the centre position. She was team captain briefly while Winnie Martin was studying at Queen’s University. Eleanor played right guard when the Grads started using men’s rules in 1923, and became skilled in sensing when and where to pass the ball to her teammates. The *Edmonton Bulletin* wrote that “At

guarding Captain Eleanor ranks with the best in the game and she is likely to break away any time and electrify an audience with a sparkling basket.” (22 May, 1922, 5)

Eleanor left the Grads in the fall of 1924, and continued to work as a bookkeeper in Edmonton before moving to Seattle in 1925 to work as a secretary at the General Insurance Company. She married Charles D. Vogelsong in the summer of 1927. While living in Seattle, Eleanor played basketball for a team called the Rhodes. The couple had a son, also named Charles. The Vogelsongs were living in Lewistown, Idaho by 1937, and they moved to Edmonton for a short period during the 1940s, where Eleanor coached a basketball team. Eleanor and her husband divorced, and she moved back to Lewistown by 1946. She worked for the Potlatch Corporation, where she became the supervisor of their steno pool before retiring in 1967. Eleanor died on February 5, 1985 in Lewistown. The epitaph on her tombstone is inscribed “Gold medal athlete.”



Elizabeth Elrick Murray (1918-1923)

Elizabeth Elrick was born on January 15th, 1901, in Glasgow, Scotland, and arrived in Canada with her family when she was eleven years old. Elizabeth was the third of five children. Her family made their home in Strathcona, Alberta. Elizabeth graduated from McDougall Commercial High School in 1918 after finishing secretarial training, and was hired as a stenographer soon after by the Canadian National Railway. She played on the Commercial girls' basketball team for two seasons, and then continued her basketball days with the Grads team. She found it challenging in 1923, when the Grads changed from women's to men's

rules, as she found that playing only by women's rules did not allow her to develop an accurate shot as a guard. As a result, she played substitute guard throughout the 1923 season, but she was described by the *Edmonton Bulletin* as a "steady, reliable player who can be depended upon to watch her check closely." (18 May 1923, 5)

Elizabeth married Rex Murray in September 1923 before returning to Edmonton, where she played basketball for one season with the Morris School of Physical Culture's team in the mercantile league. Elizabeth and Rex had two daughters, Maureen and Rhoda, and lived in Winnipeg and North Vancouver. Throughout her life, Elizabeth was involved with the United Church of Canada and was active in the United Church Women. Interestingly, Elizabeth did not attend any reunions held for the Grads, and her daughter Rhoda revealed that while her days with the Grads were a happy, meaningful part of her life, she didn't feel as though she deserved the accolades given to the team, and was very humble about her skills as a player. Elizabeth died at the age of eighty-three on June 29, 1984 in Winnipeg, leaving behind five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Elsie Bennie Robson (1925-1934)

Elsie Norrie Bennie was born in Stirling, Scotland on May 10, 1908, and arrived in Edmonton with her family in 1913. After her schooling at McCauley Public School and McDougall Commercial High School, Elsie was hired as a stenographer for the City of Edmonton. Elsie's time with the Grads began in the fall of 1924 as a member of the Gradettes, and after many Grads left the team after their European tour, she was invited to play on the Grads team. Her first

game was an exhibition game against the Winnipeg All-Stars on February 2, 1925, which was played on the stage of the Empire Theatre in downtown Edmonton in front of a packed audience.

Elsie said that her widowed mother, always supportive of her daughter's athletics, never missed a game, and was the team chaperone on a number of team trips. Elsie and Kate Macrae made a strong duo on defense from 1925 to the end of the 1929 season. Elsie was the team captain for at least half of her ten year career with the Grads. Elsie left the Grads at the end of the 1932 season for reasons unknown, but returned in the spring of 1934 and toured eastern Canada and the United States with the team that summer. However, Elsie is not in the 1934 team photograph, and there is no mention of her playing with the team during the following season.

Elsie helped coach the YWCA team later in her basketball career, and was the second vice-president of the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association. She was named honorary president of the Commercial Graduates Club in 1940 for her years of involvement with the team. Elsie married W. Donald Robson on November 20, 1937, and the couple had two daughters and lived in Regina and Calgary. Elsie died on June 15, 1999 in Calgary, at the age of ninety-one.



Etta Dann Soderberg (1935-1940)

Etta Dann was born on March 29, 1913 in Edmonton. She attended H.A. Gray public school before attending McDougall Commercial High School, where she played for the junior and senior basketball teams before moving up to the Gradettes. Her first game with the Grads was in the spring of 1935, during a west

coast trip. In a game against the Vancouver Province team for the western Canadian championship, Etta substituted for Doris Neale and played wonderfully. Her skill promoted the media to predict she would be developed by Coach Page into one of his best guards. When Margaret MacBurney retired at the end of 1935, Etta filled her place, and throughout her career, she played wherever she was needed, both offence and defence. Not only did she play defensively and move quickly, she could also make baskets herself. Etta was also one of the most popular Grads, coming second in the voting for the 1940 all-time, all-star team. Etta was with the team until it disbanded in 1940. She played in 118 games with an average of 8.6 points per game, putting her in the top ten highest scorers in Grads' history.

We do not know much about Etta's life after leaving the Grads. She was quiet and shy, and worked as a bookkeeper and stenographer at Hillas Electric in Edmonton during World War Two. She married Leland Soderberg on March 1, 1953, and they had a son named Edward. We know that at some point, they moved to a farm near High River, Alberta. Due to cataracts, she lost her eyesight, but, after an operation, it was restored in one eye. Etta died on August 22, 1978 in High River at the age of sixty-five, after a long battle with cancer.



Evelyn Coulson Cameron (1933-1934)

Evelyn Coulson was born on January 28, 1912 in Calgary, the youngest of a family of four daughters. Her father encouraged his daughters to get involved in sports, and Evelyn started school in Calgary before her family moved to Edmonton in 1918. She attended Cromdale and Parkdale public schools before going to

McDougall Commercial for high school. She was a member of the Gradettes by 1928, where she played for five years before joining the Grads in the spring of 1933. She was used mainly as a relief player along with Edith Stone and Jessie Innes. She was one of the eleven players on the team that Coach Page kept on for 1934. She also was part of the team that travelled on an exhibition tour to eastern Canada and the United States that year. She left the Grads at the end of the season, having only played for little over a year. Margaret MacBurney Vasherese later said that although Evelyn “wasn’t outstanding ... she was a good calm player and a good shooter.”

After Evelyn graduated from McDougall Commercial in 1930, she worked as a stenographer for Swifts Meat Packing plant, staying there for fourteen years. She married Alfred (Alf) Cameron on November 9, 1935, and continued to work, which was unusual for women at the time. She worked until her first child was born in 1944, and the Camerons had a second child in 1948. Evelyn focused her attention on her family and was proud of her children’s athletic achievements, particularly in hockey and baseball. Evelyn died on February 11, 2001 at the age of eighty-nine, leaving behind her two children, nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.



Frances Gordon Mills (1937-1938)

Frances Gordon was born in Red Deer on January 19, 1915 to Swedish immigrant parents. She went to high school in Red Deer before enrolling in teacher training at the Edmonton Normal School. After teaching for two years in a one-room school, Frances decided to pursue a business education and started

training at McDougall Commercial High School. She played with the Gradettes for two years before trying out for the Grads at the end of 1936. Her career with the Grads was relatively short, and most of her time was spent as a Gradette, but the press reported that Frances played basketball skillfully.

Frances got her first opportunity to play with the Grads in an international series against Cleveland, and was announced as part of the team in the spring of 1937. Because Frances was over 5'9", it was thought she would be a good relief player at centre, but Jean Williamson, who had been called up from the Gradettes, turned out to be a better candidate as replacement. Frances didn't play much as a substitute, and was back with the Gradettes during the fall of 1937, trying out for a regular position on the Grads roster. She was brought back up in the 1938 season as a substitute player for a couple of international series, but was not given a regular position. She played with the Gradettes again in 1939, and stayed until they were disbanded in 1940.

After working as a stenographer at the Gutta Percha and Rubber Company, Frances returned to Red Deer in 1946 to work for the city. She married Oswin "Ossie" Mills on December 3, 1948, and the couple had two sons. Frances was always active and loved speed skating, tennis, downhill and cross-country skiing. Though she became deaf in her later years, she enjoyed playing the piano and watching sports on television. Frances died at the age of eighty-four on April 14, 2004 at a Red Deer nursing home.



Gladys Fry Douglas (1927-1936)

Gladys Alberta Fry was born on a homestead near Kitscoty, Alberta on February 26, 1907. Her family moved to Edmonton in 1911, where her father, John W. Fry, served as a city alderman from 1932 to 1937 and as the mayor of Edmonton between 1937 and 1945. Gladys went to Queen Alexandra Public School and Strathcona High School, and later studied home economics at the University of Alberta, making her the first “south side girl” to join the Grads and one of the only players not to graduate from McDougall Commercial. She was playing for the Varsconas, a joint team from Strathcona High and the University of Alberta in the spring of 1927, when the Grads beat them to win the city championship. That fall, Coach Page asked Gladys to try out for the team.

Her first game as a Grad was against the Chicago Taylor Trunks in an international series in October 1927. She continued to play for the Grads and the University of Alberta until she graduated in 1930. Interestingly, Gladys was the only left-handed Grad, and her tall frame helped her to follow up on her rebounds. Even though it was announced she was among a number of players retiring in the summer of 1934, Gladys returned in the fall and became team captain in the fall 1935. Though it was assumed she would retire after marrying Jack Douglas in May 1936, Coach Page convinced her to join the team on their 1936 European summer tour before leaving the Grads. With 161 games and an average of 10.4 points per game, she was the fourth highest scorer of all time.

Gladys and Jack had two sons and later lived in Calgary. She was active in sports all her life and volunteered with various charitable organizations. She was inducted into the University of Alberta Sports Wall of Fame in 1986 for her achievements in basketball and track. Gladys died on March 17, 1991, at the age of eighty-four.



Harriett (Hattie) Hopkins (1925-1927)

Harriett McCleave Hopkins was born on March 12, 1908 in Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland. Though her family does not appear in the 1911 Canadian census or the 1916 Prairie census, she and her parents and two siblings immigrated to Canada at an unknown date. What is known is that Hattie started public school in 1914 and completed grade eleven at Victoria High School. In addition to basketball, Hattie enjoyed skating, tennis, badminton, and swimming. Her love of basketball was nurtured at McDougall Commercial High School, where she took the one-year business course and played for the Gradettes.

Shortly after turning seventeen, Hattie debuted with the Grads in April 1925 as a substitute against the Toronto Young Women's Hebrew Association team in the Dominion championship series. Most of Hattie's time with the Grads was spent as a substitute, playing both offence and defence with equal skill. She resigned from the Grads in the fall of 1927.

Hattie worked as a stenographer and secretary for a number of businesses in Edmonton before enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division as a clerk stenographer in January 1942. She obtained the rank of sergeant during her postings, and was honourably released in October 1945 for medical reasons. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in January 1946. Hattie suffered from endometriosis, and was advised to pursue a career that would put less strain on her health. After taking a one-year course in handicrafts in Montreal, Hattie returned to Edmonton in 1947, and taught the handicraft program at the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital a year later. She left her job in the summer of 1953 to

travel with her sister to her brother's home in Vancouver. Sadly, Harriett passed away suddenly on August 13, 1954 in Vancouver, at the age of forty-six. The cause of her death is not known.



Helen McIntosh Davidson (1923-1924)

Helen McIntosh was born in Toronto on December 23, 1905, the only girl in a family of six boys. Her family arrived in Edmonton sometime between 1911 and 1916. She attended McDougall Commercial High School, and, upon graduation, worked as stenographer at Woodland Dairy until she was married in 1927.

Helen, who was the star player on the Commercial senior team for two years, was only with the Grads for just over a year. Her first appearance in the lineup was as a substitute in an international series against the Chicago Brownies in October 1923. Though she did not play in that series, she did play in the next series against the Warren National Lamps. Sports writer Deacon White wrote that Helen had “style and poise, the very two things that you find in all the big leaguers.” (*Edmonton Bulletin* 23 April, 1924, 3) Helen became known as the most improved player on the team by the following spring, but she remained a substitute, as the lineup featured top scorers Winnie Martin, Abbie Scott, and Connie Smith. When the team embarked on their Europe tour in the summer of 1924, Helen and her mother only travelled as far as Montreal, a decision that had to do with cost and the number of players Coach Page needed. The fall of 1924 found Helen as a spare player who rarely got a chance to play. She left the team at the end of year.

Helen married Victor Floyd Lees in November 1927, and had three sons. The couple divorced, and Helen eventually married her second husband, George Davidson. They moved to Chilliwack, British Columbia in 1954. Helen died on October 28, 1975 at age sixty-nine, leaving behind her sons and eleven grandchildren.



Helen Northup Alexander (1934-1940)

Helen Northup was born in Arcadia, Florida on March 16, 1916. Her family moved north to a farm outside of Vegreville before moving to Edmonton. Helen went to H.A. Gray and Highlands public schools and then Eastwood, where her teacher, former Grads' player Daisy Johnson, encouraged her to play basketball. Though her family wanted her to attend Eastwood High for high school, Helen chose to attend McDougall Commercial to do business training and to play on an excellent basketball team.

When she arrived at McDougall in 1932, she played for the senior team right away and joined the Gradettes a year later. Though she was the smallest Grad ever, at barely 5'2", Helen was invited to fill in for Margaret MacBurney on the team's August 1934 exhibition tour of eastern Canada. That fall, she practiced with the Grads and officially became a team member by early 1935. When Margaret retired from the team in October, Helen took her position, and she was noted for her speed, gracefulness, and accuracy on the court. Helen said the highlight of her days with the Grads was their trip to Europe and the Berlin Olympics in the summer of 1936, especially due to the chance to travel and meet famous athletes at the Olympics. Helen was the sixth highest scorer of the Grads.

After returning from the Grads' 1936 Europe trip, Helen worked as a clerk at the Metropolitan store before becoming a secretary at Wilson's Stationery. She married Harry Alexander in June 1940, and they had two sons. Helen took up golfing and was part of a curling team that won the 1952 provincial championship. Helen and Harry retired to the west coast. Helen passed away on May 15, 2009 at the age of ninety-three, in Sidney on Vancouver Island, leaving behind her two sons, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Jean Williamson Quilley (1937-1940)

Jean Williamson was born on February 4, 1919 in Edmonton, and was another player known as a "south side girl," as she went to King Edward Public School and Strathcona High School before attending McDougall Commercial High School. By 1937, Jean had played on the Gradettes for two years as a student at Commercial and was the team captain. She was one of the taller players and was noted for her speed and accurate shooting. She was brought up from the Gradettes in April 1937 during the Grads' series against Cleveland. In that first game, she was excellent despite being nervous, and the game was special for her older brother, Gordon, who called the Grads games over CFRN radio.

After playing a close series against the Tulsa Stenos that spring, the Tulsa manager said Jean played like the next Noel MacDonald. Unfortunately, Jean often played in Noel's shadow until the latter retired in 1939. Jean played centre when Noel was injured and worked on her shooting skills during the 1938 and 1939 seasons. In an especially good game for Jean during a fall 1939 series, *Edmonton Journal* sports editor George Macintosh wrote that "This starry

forward, whose development as a sniper in the last two seasons has been remarkable, led the scoring parade with a total of 16 points.” (*Edmonton Journal* 2 October, 1939, 12) From her 71 games as a Grad, Jean had an average of 7.6 points a game, making her ninth in the all-time Grads high scorers.

Jean worked as a stenographer for the City of Edmonton after graduating from McDougall Commercial. She married Thomas Quilley in June 1941, and they had three children. Jean and Thomas were very interested in dog breeding and judging, and were lifetime members of the Canadian Kennel Club. Jean passed away on March 3, 2003 at the age of eighty-four, on the same day her first great-grandchild was born.



Jessie Innes Maloney (1933-1934)

Jessie Innes was born on January 16, 1911 in Edmonton to Scottish immigrant parents. She attended Parkdale School before going to McDougall Commercial High School. She was a good athlete during her school days, and excelled at diving in addition to playing on the Toddlies baseball team. She started playing for the Gradettes in 1928 and was the team captain before being called up to the Grads in the spring of 1933. Along with Edith Stone and Evelyn Coulson, Jessie was primarily a relief player for the team. The 1934 roster had eleven players, and as only eight players could be used at a time, Jessie didn't play as a Grad until she had to replace Mabel Munton, who had been seriously hurt in a truck accident just before a series against a Tulsa team. Though she didn't get to play in the Tulsa series games, she played in exhibition games throughout the

team's tour of eastern Canada in the summer of 1934. After the Grads came home, Jessie and several other players retired from the game.

Jessie worked as a stenographer for a number of Edmonton businesses after she graduated from McDougall Commercial. She later worked for the Woodland Dairy company until she married Edward Maloney on June 30, 1938. The couple had one son, Bill. Jessie died in August 1987 at the age of seventy-six.



Joan Johnston McEwen (1927-1929)

There is not much known about Joan Johnston, but according to the 1911 Canadian census, her given name was Joanna and she was born sometime in April 1907 in Alberta, to parents Joseph and Anna Johnston. Joan's father was a farmer in Saskatchewan. By 1916, the family had moved to Strathcona, by then part of Edmonton, where he was manager of a city dairy. The little information available suggests Joan learned to play basketball in the small community of Castor, Alberta, where her team won the 1923 Central Alberta basketball championship. Later, she played for Strathcona High School and Camrose Normal School, suggesting she may have trained as a teacher after high school.

Joan only played with the Grads for a short time, beginning in mid-October of 1927 as a substitute. Her first chance to play with the Grads came during an international series in Edmonton versus the Chicago Taylor Trunks. Though she was featured with a photo in the paper having played a "splendid" game in a series with the Minnesota Bankers, she remained a spare forward during her short career with the Grads.

When the team was preparing to leave on their European tour in the summer of 1928, there were only enough funds for six of the seven players to travel. When the team met to discuss who would be left behind, Joan offered to stay home because she felt her game wasn't as strong as the others. She played as a substitute the following spring, but cannot be found on the roster by the middle of April. We know she married a Mr. McEwen and had a son. She didn't attend any Grads reunions. While an obituary hasn't been found, a list in the City of Edmonton Archives states Joan died in December 1989.



Kate Macrae Shore (1925-1929)

Catherine Macrae was born on July 16, 1905 in Glasgow, Scotland. Her father immigrated to Canada in 1910, and she came a year later with her mother and brother. The family came to Edmonton, where her father worked as a teamster and then started a hauling business. Kate went to school at Norwood and Westmount, and then went on to high school at McDougall Commercial, graduating in 1921. After graduation, Kate worked as a stenographer in a doctor's office before becoming a stenographer for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1924.

Kate played on many basketball teams, beginning at Commercial High School. In late 1924, she was a member of the newly formed Gradettes, and also played on a team for the Morris School of Physical Culture and later for the Hudson's Bay Trappers in Edmonton's mercantile league. On February 22, 1925, Kate played her first game with the Grads as a reserve player on defense for Mary Dunn and Elsie Bennie. Her game improved over the next four years, playing on defense with Elsie Bennie, and Kate was seen as a star player. Her last game was

against the Detroit Centrals on June 10, 1929 in Edmonton during an international series, in which she was called “a tower of strength to the Grads.” (Edmonton Journal, 11 June 1929, 9)

Kate married future Boston Bruins defenceman Eddie Shore on October 8, 1929. The couple had one son, and while Kate and Eddie became American citizens and lived in the United States during the hockey season, the family spent springs and summers on their farm near Daugh, Alberta until 1942. Kate, a talented athlete in many respects, was also a competitive golfer and loved to skate. Sadly, Kate passed away on September 17, 1945 in Springfield, Massachusetts, after a year of illness with breast cancer. She was forty-one.



Kay MacRitchie MacBeth (1939-1940)

Kay MacRitchie was born on January 22, 1922 in Saskatoon. Kay’s first time playing basketball was in 1935 when she was thirteen at Edmonton’s Westmount High School, when Gradette coach Bill Tait visited the school to teach a lesson about how to do a lay-up shot. Tait saw Kay had talent and invited her to try out for one of the teams at McDougall Commercial. By 1936, Kay was playing for a junior team called the Wasps, and later a team called the Cubs.

Kay was working out with the team by September 1938, though she still played for the Cubs and led them to victory in the provincial intermediate championships the next spring. When Babe Daniel retired, Kay, just seventeen years old, replaced her and played in an Underwood international series against a team from St. Louis. Kay was the only player to move up to the Grads from a junior team without playing for the Gradettes first. Her first official point as a

Grad was scored on a free throw and earned her an ovation from the fans. After the team disbanded in 1940, Kay and several others started to play for the Comets.

Kay and her family moved to Vancouver in 1941, where she played basketball for the Vancouver Hedlunds. Kay also excelled at fastball, but declined an offer to play on a semi-professional team in Little Rock, Arkansas, when she was married to D. Ross MacBeth in July 1946. They had two children and eventually moved back to Edmonton. Kay retired from basketball and softball in 1951, and turned her attention to golf. She was also passionate about music, playing the organ and piano and directing the youth choral group at her church. Kay is the only Edmonton Grad still alive, living in Comox, British Columbia.



Mabel Munton McCloy (1933-1940)

Mabel Munton was born on March 30, 1914 in the small community of Winterburn, now part of Edmonton. She was the youngest of four daughters, and her family lived on a farm before moving to Edmonton. Mabel went to Norwood Public School and Victoria High School before attending McDougall Commercial High School. She was an excellent guard for the Gradettes during 1931 and 1932, and moved up to the Grads as a substitute player in June 1933. She was announced as officially a Grad in October of that year.

In June 1934, Mabel and two Gradettes were hit by a truck on their way to basketball practice. Though she was hospitalized with a concussion, lacerations, and fractured ribs, she recovered in time to join the team on an exhibition tour a few months later. Mabel became a regular on defence by 1935, and was part of

the team that travelled to Europe in 1936. Before the start of the second of two Underwood international challenge series in September 1939, Mabel married Jack McCloy, an Edmonton fireman, keeping it a secret from Coach Page and the team just in case they wouldn't let her continue to play. Mabel surprised the team with the announcement of her marriage a couple of weeks later, and she continued to play with the team until their final series in June 1940.

Mabel and Jack had two children, Patricia and Robert. She was also very involved in curling and was a member of Edmonton's Thistle Club. She was part of the rink that won the Ladies' Northern Alberta championship in 1953 and the Alberta championship in 1957. Mabel died on January 16, 1994 in Edmonton at the age of seventy-nine, survived by her husband, children, and four grandchildren.



Mae Brown Webb (1927-1930)

Mary "Mae" Brown was one of two players who did not attend or graduate from McDougall Commercial High School. Mae was born on August 15, 1903 in Minnedosa, Manitoba, not long after her Scottish family arrived in Canada. Soon, the family moved to central Alberta, homesteading in the Lougheed area. Mae learned to play basketball on her family farm, using a bushel barrel as a basket. Mae moved to Vancouver after attending Alberta College in Edmonton, and played basketball on the local YWCA team.

Mae played for the Vancouver All-Stars when the Grads played them in April 1925. In March 1927, her team, the Vancouver Canucks, came to Edmonton to play the Grads for the Western Canadian championship. Mae moved back to

Edmonton, worked as a stenographer, and was officially named a member of the Grads in November 1927. Mae's first game as a Grad was in early December of 1927 against the Minnesota Bankers. It seems that Mae played for both the Grads and Gradettes, and though she was mostly a substitute player for the Grads, she was what was known as a "utility" player, able to play forward or guard with equivalent skill. She was a regular member when the Grads went on their summer 1928 Europe tour and on a trip to the west coast of Canada and the United States in the summer of 1930.

Mae retired from the team in October 1930, and worked as a stenographer until she married Bruce Webb in September 1937. The couple had two children and lived in Edmonton. Mae was a very active volunteer, especially with the Edmonton YWCA. She loved to talk about her time as a Grad. Mae passed away on April 7, 2000 at the age of ninety-six, leaving behind her children, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Margaret Kinney Howes (1929-1930)

Margaret Kinney was born on February 1, 1912 in Edmonton, the youngest child in a family of athletes. Margaret studied at a number of school and colleges in Edmonton, including McDougall Commercial High, Edmonton Normal School, and the University of Alberta. She played on the University of Alberta's Varsity basketball team during 1928 and 1929, while also on the Gradettes roster. She

spent only less than a year as a Grad, one of the shortest careers with the team. She became a substitute in November 1929, and her first game was an exhibition game in Regina, playing in front of a crowd of 3,500. It was announced that Margaret was officially a Grad in March 1930, and though she was mainly a substitute, she played often that season. She was with the team for the provincial, western Canadian, and national championships that year, as well as two Underwood trophy challenge series and a summer tour along the west coast of British Columbia and the United States. By the fall of 1930, Margaret was back playing for the University of Alberta, as new rules prevented players from playing for two teams within the same league.

As a university student, Margaret also worked part-time for the Student Christian Movement. After graduating, she became the organization's national secretary, and was later the national industrial secretary to the YWCA. Margaret married Dr. Frederick S. Howes, an electrical engineer at McGill University, in 1943. The couple lived in Montreal and were married for fifty-two years. Margaret became a producer at CBC in 1946 and stayed with them for twenty years, where she eventually became a regional supervisor for English language public affairs radio and television programming coming from Quebec City and Montreal. Margaret passed away on September 9, 1995 at the age of eighty-three, several months after her husband died.



Margaret MacBurney Vasherese (1926-1935)

Margaret MacBurney was born on April 9, 1909 in Fernie, British Columbia. While not much is known about her family, we do know that they moved to

Edmonton when Margaret was young. She attended Queen's Avenue and Garneau public schools before attending McDougall Commercial High School, where she played basketball on the high school teams and later the Gradettes. Her first chance to play with the Grads came as a spare on an April 1926 road trip. Later that fall, she was given a permanent spot on the team.

Though she had poor eyesight, Margaret was known for being very fast and for her amazingly accurate shot, coming from about anywhere on the court. She was often the high scorer in the game, and in 1931, she made a new world record with sixty-one free throws in a row. Margaret was part of the team that travelled to Europe in during the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics and to the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. Her skills on the court and leadership abilities earned her the title of team captain between 1932 and 1935. Margaret left the team in October 1935 due to knee injuries. She was the second highest scoring Grad, and was one of the Grads who played the longest.

Margaret worked as stenographer and billing clerk for almost ten years at the *Edmonton Journal* before moving to Vancouver in 1937. It was there she met her husband, Victor Vasherese, and they married in July 1939. Margaret worked as a stenographer until she retired at the age of seventy. After Victor died, Margaret became active in volunteer work, especially related to seniors, and she started the Burnaby Arthritis Support Group. She moved back to Edmonton in 1994 to be closer to her family. Margaret passed away at the age of ninety-eight on June 27, 2007.



Marguerite Bailey Jacobs (1926-1927)

Marguerite Bailey, better known as Rita, was born on October 31, 1906 in Toronto to an English family. The Bailey family was living on a farm in the Battleford district of Saskatchewan by 1911, and by 1916, they were settled in Edmonton. Rita attended Sacred Heart Public School and Victoria High School before completing business training at McDougall Commercial High School. A good athlete, Rita came in third in the 100-yard dash in the 1924 Olympic trials at Edmonton's South Side Olympic Grounds when she was just sixteen.

Rita played for the Commercial senior team and the Gradettes, and she was invited to play with the Grads during a trip to the west coast for a number of exhibition games in April 1925. She and two other Gradettes were invited on a busy two-week trip with the Grads to play throughout eastern Canada and the United States, including the Dominion championships against the Toronto Lakesides; however, Rita and her fellow Gradettes did not receive much playing time. In October 1926, Rita became an official Grad. She was a reserve player in two international series, and played mostly as a substitute from January to May 1927. She resigned from the team in the fall of that year.

Rita first worked as a clerk at Woolworth's in Edmonton, and then became a stenographer at the University of Alberta around 1926, a position she held until at least 1942. After her marriage to Horace Jacobs on March 2, 1943, Rita becomes difficult to track. She was living in Los Angeles at the time of the 1955 Jubilee reunion of the Grads and was unable to attend. When she attended the 1965 Grads reunion, she was living in Hawaii, where she lived until the mid-1980s. She was divorced sometime before she left Hawaii. Rita died on October 28, 1992, two days before her eighty-six birthday, in Vancouver.



Mary Dunn Dickson (1922-1926)

Mary Dunn was born on March 6, 1902 in Hamilton, Scotland, the middle child in a family of eight children. Her family immigrated to Canada in 1913 and settled in Edmonton. Mary went to school at H. A. Gray, where she learned to play basketball outdoors. When she came to McDougall Commercial High School for grades nine and ten, she began to play basketball on an indoor court. When she was seventeen in 1919, Mary started working as a stenographer at the Soldier Settlement Board. After a few years, she moved on to a job with the Northwest Company, a subsidiary of Imperial Oil, as the assistant to the manager. Her evenings were open for basketball practice with the Commercial Grads.

Mary played left guard, replacing Winnie Martin when the latter left the team. Though she was only 5'4", the girl known as "Wee Mary" was known for her speed and shooting ability on the basketball court. One of the highlights of her time with the Grads was travelling to Europe in the summer of 1924 with the team, an opportunity she cherished throughout her life. An *Edmonton Bulletin* sports reporter wrote that Mary "was a constant threat to her opponent at shooting baskets for [she] can dart away occasionally into a good opening and hoist the ball into the goal."

Mary left the team in early 1926, marrying Robert G. Dickson on February 3. Robert, who worked at Imperial Oil, played and coached basketball and was known as "Speed" for his skill on the court. He coached the YWCA team on which Mary played. Robert and Mary had four children, and the family moved to Calgary

in 1950. When Mary died at the age of ninety-four on August 4, 1996, she had eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Mildred McCormack Wilkie (1926-1932)

Mildred Ruth McCormack was born on June 21, 1909 in Buffalo, New York, and moved to Edmonton with her family three years later. Millie attended Highlands, McCauley, and Victoria High, and while finishing her studies at McDougall Commercial High School in 1926, she played basketball with the Gradettes. Her career with the Grads began when she, Margaret MacBurney, and Marguerite Bailey were invited to join the Grads on their April 1926 road trip through eastern Canada and the United States. Known for her consistency as a player, Millie was mainly a substitute throughout the 1927 season, and moved up to the starting lineup by the time the Grads went to Europe in 1928.

Millie played on the forward line with Margaret MacBurney for most of her time with the Grads, together creating a challenging duo. An American coach once commented that in Millie, he had “never seen more accurate or more graceful shooting, and this goes for men as well as for girls.” (*Edmonton Journal* , 11 May 1929, 8) Coach Percy Page claimed that she was probably the best ball handler the Grads developed. Millie and Margaret often shared the honours of high scoring.

Millie started working at the United Typewriter Company as a cashier in 1926, and later became a stenographer and bookkeeper for them. She also played baseball for the Edmonton Toddlies, who won the 1926 and 1927 senior ladies’ championship. She was unable to play basketball during the first months of the

1932 season due to illness, and resigned from the Grads team in May 1932. Millie was the fifth top scorer in the Grads' history, with an average of 9.8 points per game. She continued to work until she married lacrosse player Walter Wilkie in December 1936. They lived in New Westminster, British Columbia and had two sons. Millie died on May 10, 1991 at the age of eighty-one.



Muriel "Babe" Daniel Loughlin (1937-1939)

Muriel Rosamond Daniel, better known as "Babe" for her baseball skills, was born on May 30, 1917 in Camrose, and was raised in the Bonnie Doon area of Edmonton. She went to Victoria Composite High School and then completed business training at McDougall Commercial High School. She, like a few other Grads, was a "south side girl."

Babe played for the Gradettes for three years before being invited to replace the retiring Babe Belanger in 1937. At this time she was also a star pitcher for the Muttart Pats and was known as a talented athlete. She was fast on the court, and could play both the forward and guard positions. She was mainly a substitute forward during her time with the Grads, but had knee problems. Although she had an operation to remove some cartilage in her knee early on in the 1939 season, Babe's knee was injured again and after a few months she had to give up playing softball and basketball. She remained active, however, focusing on golf and bowling.

Babe worked for many years as a secretary at the University of Alberta Hospital. She was married four times throughout her life. She married Ralph Morgan, the coach of the Muttart Pats softball team, on January 22, 1940, and

they adopted two daughters before divorcing in 1969. She married Michael Lickoch in September 1972, and they divorced after a few years. Her third marriage was to George Lineham in the summer of 1977, but he died in February 1981. Babe married her fourth and final husband, Reginald Loughlin, whom she dated in high school, in 1986, but tragically they both were killed in a car accident while travelling through British Columbia on October 5, 1995.



Nellie Perry McIntosh (1921-1924)

Ellen Perry, known as Nellie, was born on February 4, 1903 in London, England. She immigrated to Saskatchewan with her parents in 1906, where her brother and sister were born. Nellie's family moved to Edmonton sometime between 1911 and 1916, where her father worked as a car mechanic. She attended McKay Avenue and Oliver schools before studying at McDougall Commercial High School. After graduating from Commercial, she worked at a local business for a short time before becoming a clerk at Canadian Pacific Railway, a job she had for several years.

Nellie first appears in an *Edmonton Journal* sports report in January 1922, in which the impressed reporter writes that she "does not shoot an overhead ball such as characterizes the average lady player but snares the ball on the run and shoots with deadly precision that might well be the envy of many of the male players around the city." (13 January 1922, 18) In a game against the Lethbridge Barons for the 1922 provincial championships, Nellie and Daisy Johnson scored on more than fifty per cent of their shots, a statistic not often seen in women's

basketball at the time. Nellie was also a member of the team that won the 1922 Canadian championship.

Nellie used her outstanding shooting ability to help her adapt to the switch to men's rules in 1923. Although her job at Canadian Pacific often kept her from going to practice, she was able to join the team that toured Europe in the summer of 1924. Nellie left the Grads when the 1924 season wrapped up, and married Gordon McIntosh in 1927. Nellie and Gordon had seven children. She was an active member of her church and the local bowling community, managing junior bowling teams and playing five- and ten-pin bowling herself. Nellie passed away in Victoria on April 16, 1991, at the age of eighty-eight.



Noel MacDonald Robertson (1933-1939)

Noel Marguerite MacDonald was born in Mortlach, Saskatchewan on January 23, 1915. An only child, Noel went to several public schools in Edmonton before attending Victoria High School and completing the two-year business course at McDougall Commercial. Noel, a skilled basketball player in her school days, was invited to join the Gradettes in 1931. She was also just over 5'10", the tallest player ever for the Grads. She played centre, and her height allowed her to rebound under the basket and tip the ball to her teammates.

Noel's first game with the Grads was during the June 1933 series against the Durant Cardinals, when they lost three games in a row. She was officially a Grad by October of that year, and though she began as a substitute forward, her skill on the court showed she was ready to play on the first-string. She became the first-string centre when Gladys Fry left the team after the summer of 1936.

That fall, Noel became the team captain, and was noted for her leadership and talent. She worked as a stenographer in the Small Debts Court and then for the Muttart Library. Though rumours swirled that she would be married and leave the team in the fall of 1939, Noel had actually eloped with Harry Robertson, a former amateur hockey star in Edmonton, that August.

Noel was voted the greatest player in the history of the Grads by fans in June 1940. She is the Grads' all-time high scorer. Noel was named Canada's female athlete of the year in 1938, and was later inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1971 and to the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame in 1978.

After leaving the Grads, Noel focused on coaching basketball, particularly at the high school level, and on the progress of girls' basketball. She and her husband had two children, and as Harry was an oil company executive, the family lived throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan, and even in Tripoli, Libya. The couple lived in Alaska before retiring to British Columbia and then Arizona. Noel passed away at the age of ninety-three on May 13, 2008 in Edmonton.

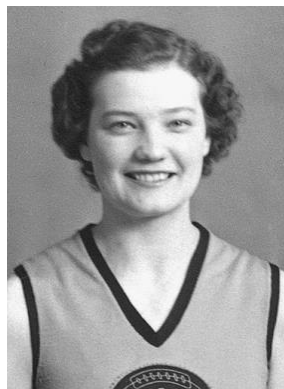


Sophie Brown Drake (1935-1940)

Sophia "Sophie" Brown was born on September 21, 1916 in London, England, the youngest of three children. Her family arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick in April 1921, and headed west for a farm north of Edmonton in Egremont, Alberta. Later, the family moved to Edmonton, and Sophie went to school at North Edmonton Public School before completing business training at McDougall Commercial High School.

Like many other players, Sophie began her basketball career by playing for the junior and senior basketball teams at McDougall Commercial and then joined the Gradettes. Her first time playing with the Grads was during a trip to Vancouver for the western Canadian championships in the spring of 1935. Along with new recruits Etta Dann and Helen Northup, Sophie played well in the trio's first international series, playing a team from Des Moines in Iowa. The three of them also played softball together for the Muttart Lumber Pats, who won the city championship later that year. Sophie went to Europe for the Grads' summer exhibition tour in 1936, but didn't play much that winter due to knee problems. Sophie originally played guard, but she was switched to forward during 1937, and became a regular in the lineup by the end of that year. Sophie was still with the Grads when the team disbanded in 1940.

Sophie worked as a stenographer at the Provincial News Company after graduating from Commercial. She married Frank Drake on November 15, 1941, and they were living in Victoria by 1949, where they had a daughter and a son. Sophie was a member of the Victoria Lawn Bowling Club for many years, and in 1979 she was widowed. Sophie died suddenly on July 4, 1986 at the age of sixty-nine, and was survived by her two children, a grandson, her sister May, and several nieces and nephews.



Winnie Gallen Reid (1936-1937, 1939-1940)

Winnifred Phyllis Gallen was born in Mawer, Saskatchewan on July 4, 1917. Winnie went to Eastwood School in Edmonton, and after high school she wanted to become a nurse, but decided to go to McDougall Commercial High School to

play basketball for Coach Page. She joined the Gradettes by 1934 and played with them for two year before being given a trial with the Grads as a guard. At this time she was also a pitcher for the Army and Navy Pats softball team. In the spring of 1937, Winnie was one of the new members announced on the Grads roster, but she and other new recruits were sent back down to the Gradettes for the 1938 season. Winnie was the captain of the Gradettes during 1938 and 1939. She continued to play top-level softball, pitching her team to the senior women's provincial championship in fall 1939.

Earlier in 1939, Winnie was called back up to the Grads in preparation for international series against Des Moines and Chicago, and played with the team until they disbanded in June 1940. She worked as a stenographer at the Muttart Library before working as a clerk at the Hudson's Bay Company store. She married Peter Reid, a commercial artist, in April 1943. In 1946, Winnie was invited to play semi-professional softball for the Parichy Bloomer Girls of the National Girls Baseball League of the Chicago area, where she played for one season.

In addition to track and field, softball, basketball, and hockey, Winnie also excelled at curling, a sport she played up until she was in her seventies. Winnie was inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in 1989 for her individual achievements. Winnie passed away from heart disease at the age of seventy-eight on February 5, 1996.



Winnie Martin Tait (1915-1924)

Winnifred Amanda Martin was born September 28th, 1899 in Petrolia, Ontario, and raised in Edmonton, one of three children. After finishing at

McDougall Commercial High School in 1915, she attended Victoria High School, and at this time became eligible to play on the newly-formed Commercial Graduates basketball team. Soon after joining the team, she was named the team captain and proved herself as a defensive powerhouse on the basketball court. An article in the *Edmonton Journal* in November 1915 called her a “star performer.” (19 November 1915, 14) After finishing high school, Winnie went to the Camrose Normal School before starting her studies at the University of Alberta in 1918, where she was awarded the university’s all-round athletics championship while still playing for the Graduates. She then attended Queen’s University in 1921, where she excelled in basketball and tennis, and graduated with degrees in arts and commerce. Winnie was the only original Grads team member to play on the 1922 Canadian championship team.

In 1924, Winnie married medical student Robert Tait in Montreal after returning from the Grads’ 1924 European tour. The couple had six children and lived in Maine, New Jersey, and Washington before settling down in Vancouver in 1930. Winnie has been described as someone brimming with energy for the many projects she was involved in over the course of her life. She was a champion typist, composed piano music, and instilled a love for sports in her children. She took a great interest in mining in northern British Columbia, and helped her husband with the business side of his practice. She taught business to recruits in the Royal Canadian Air Force Women’s Division in Edmonton during World War II, and later worked as a court reporter in Vancouver. Winnie died in Vancouver on April 27th, 1974, at the age of 74.