



ELMER McLAUGHLIN

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

H-T clippings tell history of Bezanson and area people

*...and give
Elmer McLaughlin
lots of great,
great memories*

By MARY-ANN THURBER
Herald-Tribune staff

Leafing through the pages of Elmer McLaughlin's scrap books, it's obvious that they are more than the memories of a man for his family and friends — the stories are a large part of the history of the Bezanson-Grande Prairie area.

McLaughlin has been clipping and saving newspaper articles about people he knows for years now. Most of the stories are about fellow residents of Bezanson, but as more friends move around, the clippings cover much more area.

For a long time the articles would sit loosely in a box, but as the pile began to grow McLaughlin decided to start pasting them in a scrap book.

That was 15 years ago.

Now he has eight scrap books of clippings from articles in the Herald-Tribune newspaper, some dating as far back as 1934.

The ever-growing supply of scrap books vie for space with his over 30 photo albums, and although the collection threatens to take over all available closet space in the house, McLaughlin loves to keep everything.

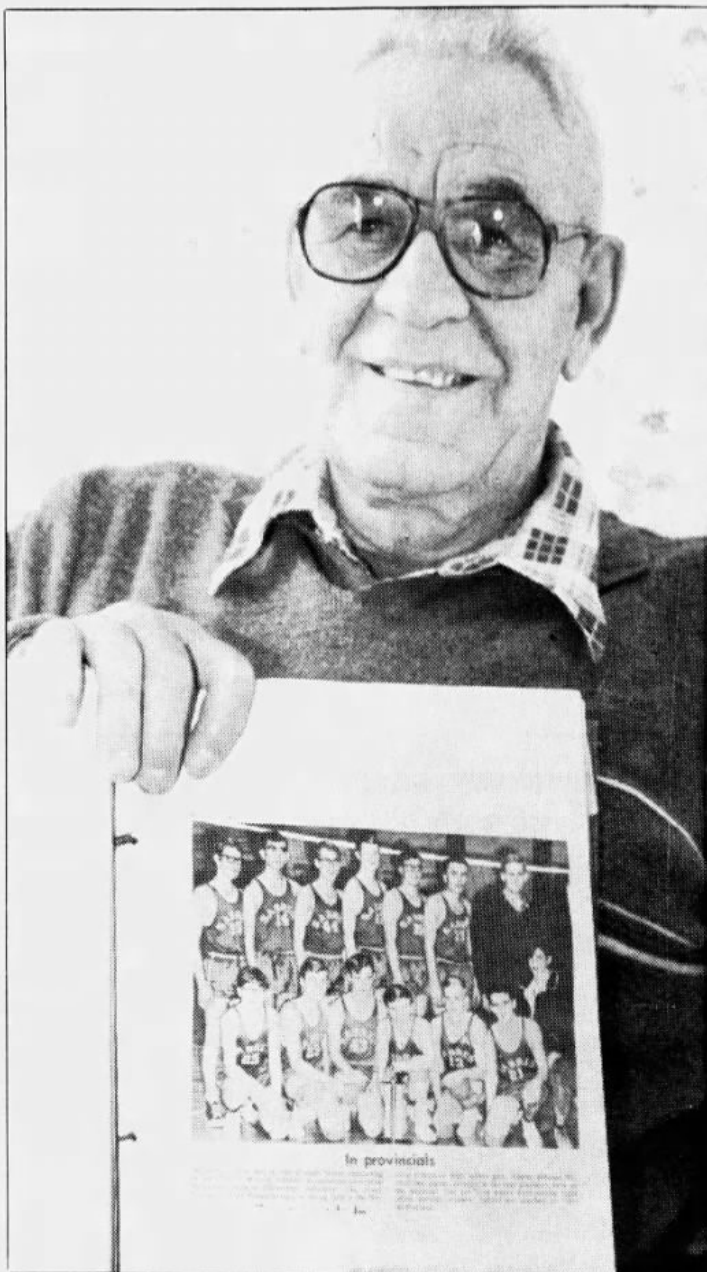
His father Ira was the Social Credit MLA for Grande Prairie for 30 years, so naturally he has a number of clippings from that era, but he only began saving articles in earnest when his sons were growing up and getting involved in local sports.

Every time they made the paper the also made their father's scrap book.

FAR BEYOND THAT

But the clippings extend far beyond that to encompass the lives of virtually everyone in Bezanson and surrounding area. McLaughlin has lived in this area virtually all his life and his wife Pearl was born here. After all these years it seems like they know everybody.

The scrap books cover the ups and downs in the lives of the people McLaughlin knows. From the story about the one-hit ball game his brother "Hap" pitched in the '30s to the picture of the car accident that injured his daughter, McLaughlin has kept them



Elmer McLaughlin's finds memories on every page of scrapbooks

all — whether happy or sad, each story represents a big part of the lives of his friends and family.

"I check the paper every week to see if there's something in there we need and pretty near every week I find something," he says.

McLaughlin said when he first started the scrap books he never imagined he would end up with so many — but he doesn't intend to quit. He says he likes the fact that he has so much information at hand.

"(Sometimes I) think of somebody

and all I have to do when I want to know something is look back in the book."

He finds it nice to keep track of people and know what's going on in their lives, and believes the scrap books and photo albums will be a interesting legacy for his children to enjoy.

They would also make some interesting reading for anyone who felt like going through them.

"Anybody who wants to look at them can spend all day looking," laughs McLaughlin.