

boulevards were constructed; however, no sidewalks or concrete curbs were planned. Moreover, there was no provision for storm sewers in the development, necessitating the open drainage ditches still in use today.

In September of that same year, the VLA began construction on twenty-five houses at Montgomery Place. Three veterans built their own homes, giving a total of twenty-eight residences. The homes built in Montgomery Place were typical wartime houses, except that they had full basements. They were small and had no eaves. The original houses consisted of four basic floor plans--two bungalow styles and two one-and-a-half storey styles--ranging from about 600 to 800 square feet. All the houses had full basements, four to five rooms and a bath. Unfortunately, the sewer and water lines were not hooked up until the fall of 1946. Some veterans, desperate for a place to house their families, signed temporary agreements with the VLA that summer, permitting them to move into the all-but-completed houses before these connections were made. These agreements stated in part:

I, the undersigned...understand the sanitary conditions under which I undertake entry to this property and will make the necessary requirements until connected

with sewage and water.<sup>19</sup>

The first four families to move into Montgomery Place in the summer and fall of 1946 were the G.L.V. Moonies (3149 11th St. W.), the Thomas M. Mainlands (3145 11th St. W.), the Robert L. Coopers (1101 Lancaster Boulevard) and the Arthur H. Gents (3211 11th St.). According to Mrs. Margaret Gent, when she and her husband and their three small children moved into their new home in September, water and sewer had still not been hooked up. Bob Cooper, a veteran who worked at Intercontinental Packers, brought in barrels of water for the residents on his truck and hauled their garbage out. For several weeks, these first neighbourhood residents disposed of sewage in holes dug in their back yards.<sup>20</sup> No telephones were installed for several months and mail had to be picked up in the city. Despite these considerable inconveniences, the veterans initially took it all in their stride, happy to be building new homes for their young families. There were, however, rumblings of discontent from some of the original twenty-eight homeowners at Montgomery Place--rumblings that eventually made themselves heard the following year.

On January 21, 1946, the City of Saskatoon agreed to provide to the VLA the use of their sewer and water



*Montgomery Place, September 1946.*