

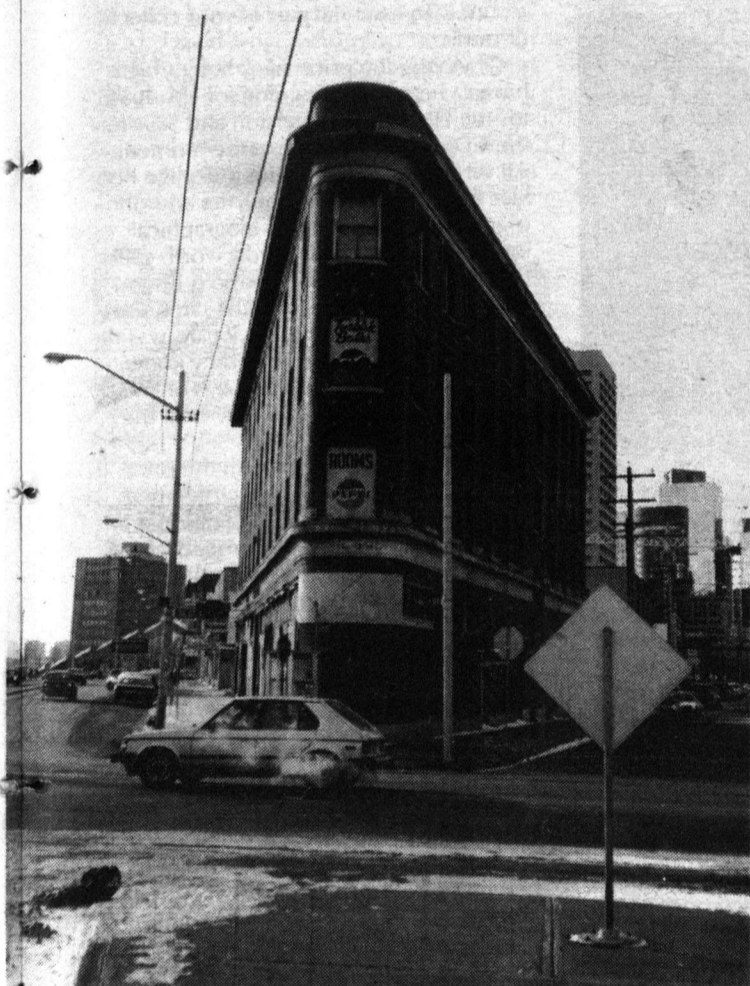
DD in Edmonton



Coronation Park — strange example of new architecture.



Klondike Mike — our city's enlightened character.



Gibson Block — a strange example of new architecture.



the cosmopolitan centre of the universe.

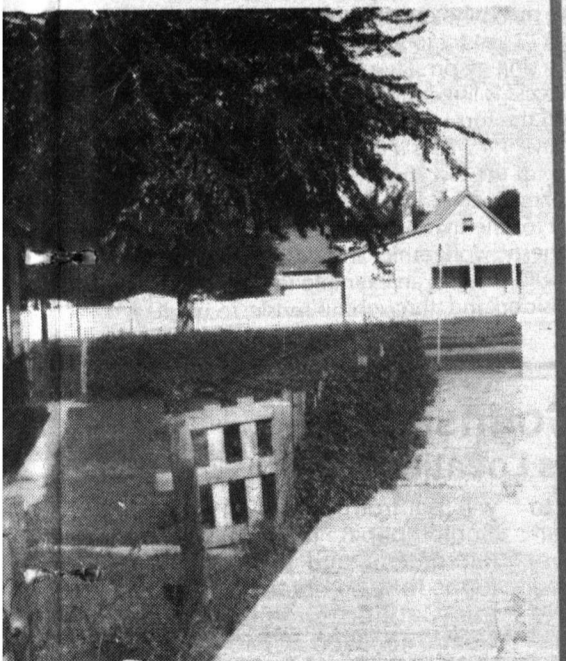


Photo courtesy M. Levenson

glass. Looking at it, we get the impression of a tent, looking somehow as if it is about to collapse.

As we continue our journey across the north side of the city, we reach another important landmark.

Aside from West Edmonton Mall, a major tourist attraction of Edmonton has been Klondike Days. And the symbol of Klondike Days, of course, is Klondike Mike. We have all seen pictures of him, the symbol of the Yukon Gold Rush of the 1890's, which attracted those in search of wealth from all over the world.

Does Klondike Mike really exist? Maybe not as a person, but certainly in the form of a statue.

Although his exact whereabouts are not widely known, we were fortunate enough to find him. So just where is Klondike Mike? For being such a widely-recognized symbol of Edmonton, his location at the south end of the Exhibition Grounds is remarkably unknown. The way he

stands out of the surrounding landscape on a bleak Edmonton winter day is a strange reminder of just how odd our city is: can that statue really be the symbol of a major tourist attraction?

From Klondike Mike, we next head back towards the river valley. Just to the south east of downtown, in the river flats by the Dawson Bridge, is a very old neighborhood called Riverdale.

Riverdale is probably the oddest district of Edmonton. Within its 30 or so square blocks lie a shantytown, a brick and cement plant, some small parks, and streets which look more like alleys. Some of the roads aren't paved, and there are Riverdale residents who are not even sure of their own addresses (apparently it makes no real difference to them). The district is unfortunately subject to some heavy flooding; but in the 40 or so years between each major flood, it is a fascinating neighborhood to explore.

If we head north from Riverdale along the Alex Taylor Road to our final destination, we pass through the Boyle Street neighborhood.

It really isn't part of our journey, but note the five-way intersection at Jasper Avenue and 96th Street, with the strange triangular building on the corner, the historic and now deserted Gibson Block. This is without a doubt the most unusual intersection in the city.

Our tour is now almost over. It's been a long, cold winter day, and doubtless you are now very hungry. So, in keeping with the vein of our trip, we head to La Sceppa Trattoria and Delicatessen for our final stop of the day.

A couple of blocks north of the Brick Warehouse, there is a restaurant which has its main entrance off a back alley. There is also an entrance from 101st Street, through a very long corridor. The food, Italian, with a home-made style of cooking, is very good. And though there are windows in the dining room, as we sit there we aren't exactly sure just where we are. The restaurant is not really widely known, but the mayor and some of the Edmonton Eskimos have been known to eat there.

It's now the end of the day. We can leave the restaurant, and head back to the University through Downtown. During our tour, we have visited six places each unusual in their way. But that really only skims the top layer of Edmonton's interesting spots. In the end, exploring the city for yourself is always fascinating no matter where you go.