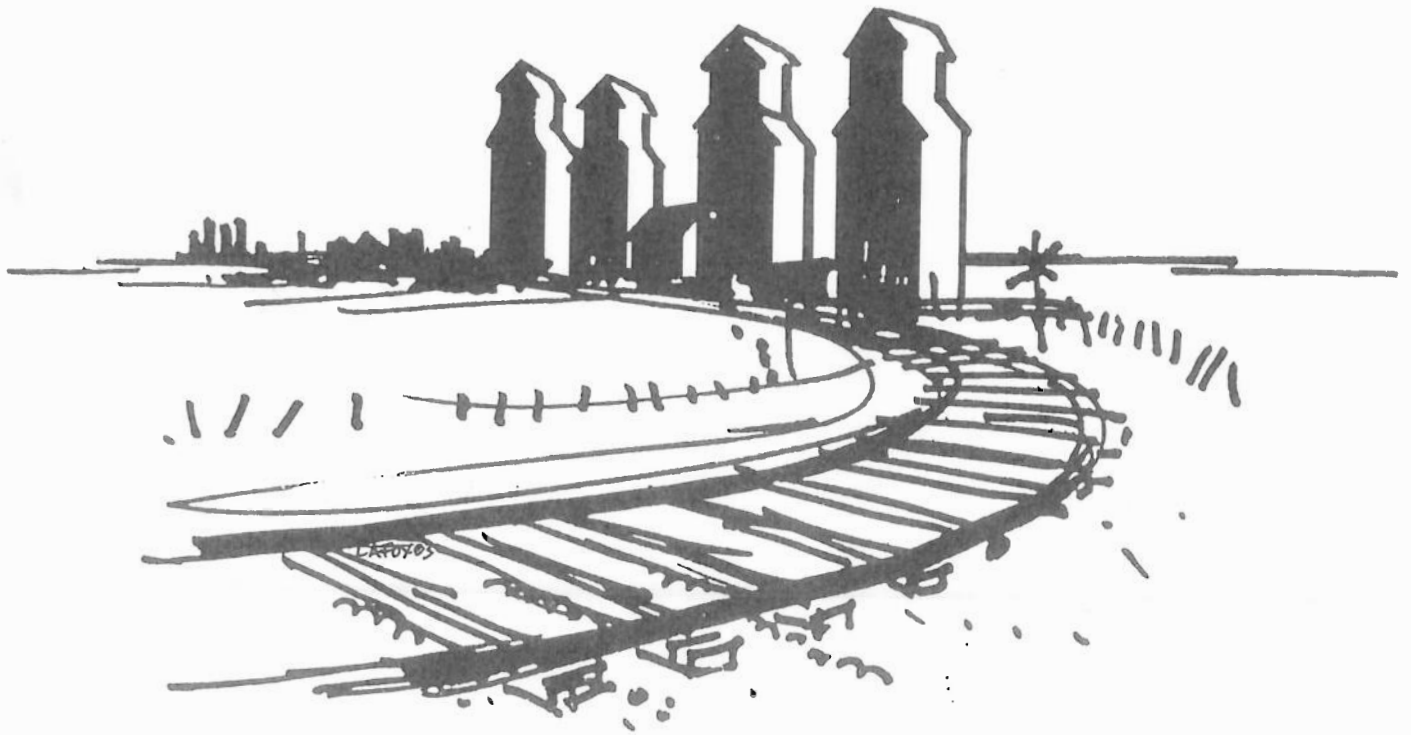


# **"the ties that bind"**



**ESTLIN GRAY RICETON BECHARD**

© Copyright Bechard, Riceton, Gray and Estlin History, 1984

All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review to be printed in newspapers or magazines.

ISBN 0-88925-456-7

Published by  
Bechard, Riceton, Gray and Estlin History  
Box 31  
Riceton, Saskatchewan T0L 0T0  
Canada

First printing, 1984

Printed and bound in Canada by  
Friesen Printers  
a Division of D. W. Friesen & Sons Ltd.  
5720 Macleod Trail S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2H 0J6  
Canada

Head Office  
Altona, Manitoba R0G 0B0  
Canada

# Table of Contents

---

## Bechard-Riceton

Towns .....	591	Knox — Bruce Jones .....	653
Bechard		Richardson — Wilber Moats .....	655
— Patons .....	591	Churches and Organizations .....	659
— Bladon .....	593	Pilgrim Lutheran Church and	
Riceton		Organizations .....	659
— From Its Beginning to the Present ....	594	The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic	
— Wilford Schultz .....	601	Church .....	662
— Bill Bladon .....	604	The United Church and Organizations ...	662
— Art Richardson .....	605	Agriculture .....	667
The Jubilee — 1905-1955 .....	606	Farming in Southern Saskatchewan .....	667
The C.N.R. ....	611	Steam Threshing .....	668
The Riceton Telephone Company .....	613	Well Digging .....	669
The Riceton Co-op and Credit Union ...	615	Mules .....	669
The Riceton Fire Brigade .....	618	Five Tons of Energy .....	672
The Bunn Bros. ....	618	Grains .....	673
Sports .....	621	The Hughie Ranch .....	674
Schools .....	625	Twelve Days of Harvest .....	675
Badger Hill		The Depth Indicator .....	675
— Thelma Kushnir .....	625	The Ne-De Systems .....	676
— Myrle Bechard Story .....	629	R.M. of Lajord #128 .....	677
Centre View		Assessment Maps .....	688
— Thelma Kushnir .....	630	The Bechard Drainage .....	693
Cross		Focus on 4-H .....	697
— Otto Bohlken .....	633	Bechard Homemakers .....	700
— Walter Reich .....	636	Riceton Woman Honored .....	701
— Clair Bobier .....	636	Community Spirit .....	701
— Irene Teece .....	641	Way Back When .....	703
— Noreen Kimery .....	642	Early Days .....	703
— Mrs. Jones .....	643	Firewood and Water .....	703
Denver		Heating and Energy .....	705
— Jean Coldwell .....	644	How Things Were Done .....	707
— Tom Bobier .....	651	Fire on the Eagleson's Farm .....	708
— Mrs. Jones .....	651	Early Washdays .....	709
— Connie McKim .....	652	The Tree Planting Car .....	709
— Pat Taylor .....	652	McEwen Runaway .....	710
— Candid Views .....	653	“A Wake” .....	710
		The Chautauqua .....	711
		C. W. Williams Dies .....	711

The Ducking .....	711
The Outhouse .....	711
E. B. Moats Records .....	712
Remember When? .....	712
Why Pools Were Formed .....	714
Sessford Kemp's Accident .....	715
Easter Sunday .....	715
Forty Below Winters .....	715
Hauling Grain in 1912 .....	716
Winter Chores .....	716
Twins .....	717

Fiftieth Anniversaries and Over .....	719
Generations .....	736
A Tribute .....	738
Veterans .....	746
In Memoriam .....	761
Family Histories .....	769
Pictures .....	1039
Pictures of Interest .....	1039
Transportation .....	1057
Hunting .....	1059
Disasters .....	1060



# Acknowledgement

---

We are indebted to Norma Wallace from the "New Horizons" for her assistance and for the grant we received to help us meet our expenses. Many thanks to the staff of the Provincial Archives, the Central Library History Room, the Department of Agriculture, Lands Branch and the Experimental Farm, Regina, Saskatchewan who so cheerfully and capably assisted many of us in preparing special material. We are grateful to Eileen Lupastin and Celeste Rider who shared their experiences from their own book productions. To Mae Quale of Lang and Harvey Kliever of Friesen Printers, Altona, our thanks for their advice and assistance.

Our sincere thanks to all who contributed their

histories, pictures and documents that have helped to make this book a reality.

We are grateful to the R.M. of Bratt's Lake #129, the Bratt's Lake Recreational Committee, the Estlin Sports Club and to private individuals for their financial assistance.

Others we owe our thanks to are the following:

— The R.M. of Lajord #128 for opening their books for our use and for their financial assistance.

— The people of Gray for allowing us to use the Heritage Room in the rink for the committee meetings.

— Charles Auld, Edmonton and the C.N.R. from Montreal for their information.



Historical Committee Meeting. Standing: Edith Frisk, Neva Lafoy, Beryl Clarke, Marnie McQuoid, Clyde Merean, René Bechard. Sitting: Isobel Boesch, Wilber Moats, Thelma Kushnir, Rita Bechard and Gladys Schultz.

- Those who searched files on histories of churches, clubs and schools.
- The Riceton Credit Union (Marg Maloney).
- Those people that searched through family diaries and records for material.
- The Bechard Wheat Pool Committee for their donations.
- Dora Girsberger and Walter Reich for their donations.
- Milestone Book Committee for their information.



Wilber Moats and Beverley Ulrich — Chairman and Secretary.

Our Project Committee members are as follows:

Chairman — Wilber Moats  
 Secretary — Beverley Ulrich  
 Project Co-ordinator — Thelma Kushnir  
 Finance Committee — Beryl Clarke — Business  
 Manageress, Isobel Boesch, Dorothy Greenman,  
 Rita Bechard, Mike Kushnir

#### Estlin Book Committee

District Co-ordinator — Marie McQuoid  
 Sub Co-ordinators — Loreen Cross and Edith Frisk  
 Book Committee — Loreen Cross, Edith Frisk, Clyde Marean,



Rita Bechard, Beryl Clarke and Isobel Boesch.



Gladys Schultz, Leo Ulrich, Margaret Lewis.

Marnie McQuoid, Gerald Myers, Carl Webster  
 Editor — Loreen Cross  
 Typist — Loreen Cross, Betty Jefferson, Mary Marean, Marnie McQuoid, Etta Pearce, Arlene Phillips, Pauline Webster  
 Proofreaders — Beryl Clarke, Helen Flavell, Marnie McQuoid, Merle Smith, Elsie Ulrich, Ervin Webster  
 Pictures — Co-ordinator — Leo Ulrich  
 Picture Committee — Loreen Cross, Edith Frisk, Pauline Webster  
 Research — Clarence Taylor (Archives and Municipal); Robert Frisk (Machinery Identification)  
 We wish to acknowledge the Homecoming Committee:  
 Chairman — Josie Black, Secretary-Treasurer — Elaine East, Myrna Bonsor, Dorothy Gooding, Arlene Phillips, Carl Webster and their volunteers. They deserve special recognition for their monumental efforts to make this whole project a success.

#### Gray Book Committee

Co-ordinators — Neva Lafoy and Bill Gillis  
 Editors — Neva Lafoy and Earl Lewis  
 Typists — Crystal Brunas, Audrey Bechard, Susan Carnegie, Sharon Davis, Joan Gillis, Phyllis Sundwall, Rita Bechard, Dorothy Burwell, Laurie Hozempa, Beverley Ulrich  
 Pictures — Margaret Lewis, Sharon Frei, Hazel Lafoy, Edythe Bratt, Hartford Lewis, Dorothy Burwell, Joan Gillis  
 Proofreaders — Neva Lafoy, Shirley Boesch, Earl Lewis, Hugh McGillivray, Thelma Kushnir, Todd Lewis  
 Homecoming Committee: Chairperson — Kay Ford, Secretary — Shirley Boesch, Treasurer — Betty Lafoy, John Ford, Maxine Hendrickson and their many helpers.

#### Bechard-Riceton Book Committee:

Co-ordinators — Bruce Jones and Thelma Kushnir  
 Editor — Becky Malone  
 Proofreaders — Virginia Bingaman, Isobel Boesch, Beryl Clarke, Edna Moyse, Gladys Schultz, Thelma Kushnir  
 Typists — Rita Bechard, Margaret Clark, Laura Coupal, Shirley Desautels, Beverley Ulrich  
 Pictures — Rita Bechard, Bruce Jones, Wilber Moats, Gladys Schultz, Beverley Ulrich, Mike and Thelma Kushnir  
 Research — Rita Bechard, Bill Bladon, Jean Coldwell, Bruce Jones, Emma and Wilber Moats, Leona and Mac Paton, Walter Reich, Mike Kushnir  
 Homecoming Committee: Chairperson — Marge Larson, Secretary — Leona Paton, Treasurer — Jean Coldwell, Registration — Edna Moyse, Parade and old Machinery Display — Max Hill

# Foreword

---

## **Historians of Bechard-Riceton-Gray-Estlin by Norma G. Bryden (nee McElmon)**

This history book is being compiled toward a conscious awareness of greatness inherent in the lives of the region's early settlers. We, who were born to them and grew up among them, were generally oblivious to this quality; being in the midst of it we couldn't see the forest for the trees. But in the perspective of time, (and distance) it was greatness that impelled them to leave comfortable homes and secure positions in milder climates for whatever ultimate goal they had in mind. It fortified them with vision, initiative and stamina sufficient to lay the sturdy foundation upon which a progressive community might build.

While my knowledge of the settlers is mainly confined to the area of our day-to-day activity from Kronau westward to No. 6 Highway, and the Weardale-Estlin districts in particular, the panorama of pioneer effort represented therein must have its counterpart in other areas throughout the region.

My father used to maintain that the people of southern Saskatchewan were too self-effacing; that they have earned the right to walk and talk with assurance among people anywhere. This being the case, it is the "fault" of his generation: they were too reticent. Perhaps Nature kept them humble.

Some communities, in some countries, are founded on ancestral traditions of tearing flesh and whining bullets, brawling and lawless living, and they call it "greatness." Yours was founded principally upon diligence, love of family, respect for community and reverence for God.

Somewhere, I think it was in Weardale School, I read as a child that Greatness not always wears a fine overcoat. Our parents and grandparents would have laughed at the thought of our applying that maxim to them, because they had human faults, and to their

way of thinking, their doings were unspectacular. But think:

Who was it but Greatness in overalls, whose hand was on the breaking plough: in the ground, and in the community? Who built his habitation and voluntarily endured harsh winters in primitive isolation and never lost sight of his high standard of right living? Who knew in his heart of hearts that in the exercise of labour of both body and mind, was a vent for the adverse passions and hostilities that afflict mankind? Who sacrificed his comfort and risked his life to the raging elements in order to give physical comfort and sustenance to animals in the barn, and always fed his animals before himself? Who never locked the door of his house, lest some traveller be in need of shelter, food or rest? And who was the wayfarer who came in and finding no one at home, made himself a meal of whatever he could find, left money, if he had it, on the kitchen table and continued on his way, leaving things as he found them?

It was Greatness in Victorian skirts and calf-length dresses who opted to subordinate the importance of Women's Equal Rights to Preservation of the Family; who carried her talents into bleak abodes in lonely places and furnished them with gentleness and love, wall to wall; who guarded her family's health and prepared delectable repast against all the odds; and in privation or plenty, who elevated her perception above the mundane and passed along to her family the benefit of her farsightedness. At the same time, she was not above putting her hand to any task for which she had the strength, if there was the need. She left a legacy of Total Commitment.

No one but Greatness, in the midst of perennial prairie drought, would have looked upon another season's withering crops and brought the community together for a ballgame and a potluck supper. Who but Greatness kept music in our lives, and laughter? Who never faltered in determination to educate the

children for a better tomorrow? Only Greatness would stride mile after mile through the stormy night in dead of winter to demonstrate a moral principle beyond the shadow of a doubt.

In general stores and tradesmen's shops and lumberyards Greatness in armbands and aprons served his brothers with fair measure for an honest dollar. Greatness continued to man the railroads and elevators through hard times when there was little grain to market.

Who rattled the roads in buggies and old cars in the garb of prairie ministers and priests, to bring assurance of God's eternal love? Who in those unecumenical times, with a Roman Catholic rosary about his neck, contributed a share of labour with his neighbors to help to maintain a Protestant church? In

well-pressed suits shiny with age, and in tired dresses with fresh trimmings, who held up their heads and straightened their backs and always could find a dime or a quarter for the collection plate at Sunday morning services, and another for the Sunday School? Thereby, through a period of intense hardship, was sustained for ongoing generations the focal manifestation of the community's spiritual fibre.

And in all conscience, we must remember who in fringed buckskins, prior to it all, for centuries maintained there a tradition of Man in tune with Nature; who withdrew in dignity and deference to the new Law, allowing it all to happen unmolested, and leaving no clutter behind him but a few arrowheads.

That was Greatness.



Premier  
of Saskatchewan

# Saskatchewan

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada  
S4S 0B3

(306) 565-6271

## MESSAGE FROM PREMIER GRANT DEVINE

I have many fond memories of the Hamlet of Gray, and the communities of Estlin, Riceton, and Bechard. My grandparents, Fred and Bessie Ford, lived at Gray and raised four children including my mother Bette. I can still recall the good times I had as a child skating and curling at the community rinks.

Communities such as these are the backbone of our province. Through their agricultural endeavours they give our province its economic life blood. In rural Saskatchewan the traditional values of family and home remain strong and that makes these communities a stabilizing influence on our society.

Although these communities are relatively small in size, they are big in heart. Their friendly and caring atmospheres are a reflection of past and present residents of these communities.

It is very important that all Saskatchewanians are able to identify with their roots. I wish to commend all those involved in the compilation of this publication as well as the residents of Gray, Estlin, Riceton, and Bechard for sharing their story with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grant Devine".

Grant Devine

Premier

A message from the Premier, Grant Devine.

# Introduction

---

## **Wilber Moats — Chairman**

This book has been written to honour the pioneers who have built and the contemporaries who are continuing to build the society in which we live.

Our pioneer community was Buck Lake, established twenty or more years before the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. It gave rise to the Hamlets of Estlin, Gray, Riceton and Bechard.

The past hundred years have seen this area transformed from virgin prairie to almost complete cultivation; from the Qu'Appelle-Willowbunch trail to a system of all-weather roads; from a few isolated shacks with meagre farming equipment to modern homes, and farmsteads with labour-saving utilities and equipment; from lives of grinding hardship and sacrifice to lives of relative ease and comfort. Those Pioneers' dreams have become our reality.

People from many parts of North America and Europe as well as a few from Asia have settled here. Several Christian religious denominations are represented. French families settled in the Bechard area but there are no other real ethnic groups.

We realize this book is probably thirty years too

late as none of our original pioneers are with us. However, a very few of them did write down their experiences and these manuscripts are certainly treasured. We have been unable to contact many former residents and we apologize to anyone who was missed.

Compiling this book has enabled us to learn so much more about the people of the territory encompassed; their family ties, their accomplishments and abilities, their attributes, their hopes and their fears. Most of this has been quite gratifying, some of it outright exhilarating.

We have tried to emphasize the history of the earlier pioneers. We hope that our readers will enjoy this book and that many will write down their own experiences in order that another generation may produce a better sequel.

We sincerely thank those who contributed family history and other stories as well as the use of their treasured family pictures and documents.

It has been both a challenge and a pleasure to produce "The Ties That Bind."

# Preface

---



Thelma Kushnir.

Too often, we in our own busy little world, have failed to take time to think of the heritage left to us by our forefathers that came to the vast open prairies in the late eighteen eighties and early nineteen hundreds. The hardships, heartaches and loneliness they must have felt after leaving their loved ones behind to venture afar and begin a new life. We will never know of all the problems they must have encountered. Their histories should have been recorded years earlier but to our knowledge this has never been done.

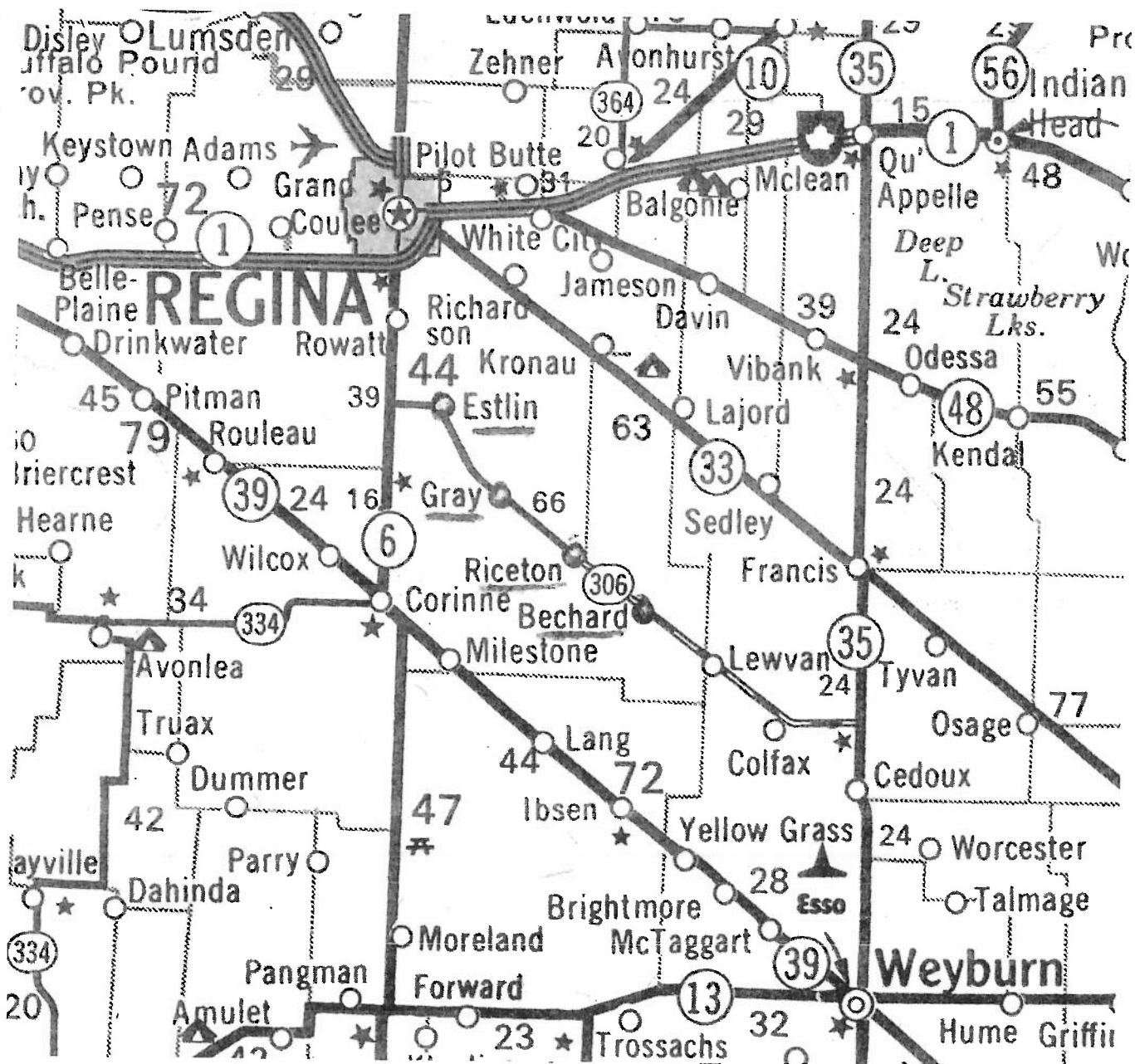
We, the Historical Committee of the districts of Bechard, Estlin, Gray and Riceton, have tried to gather information and compile these stories in book form for future generations. A sincere thanks to all who contributed their histories, pictures and documents as you have helped to make our book possible.

The committees have spent many hours going over all of the material. During the editing some have had to be shortened and we tried to eliminate any repetition. We are sorry that we were unable to use all of the pictures due to space required and the cost involved.

We hope we will be excused for any errors or omissions.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with the Historical Committee executive, the proofreaders, the editors and the picture people. Without all of their help and assistance "The Ties That Bind" would not have become a reality.

Thank You  
Thelma Kushnir,  
Project Co-ordinator





### **The Book Title**

The Historical Committee held a contest open to the public to submit titles for our history book. The response was great. After some months a meeting was held on September 20, 1983 to select a title. A vote by ballot putting first, second and third choices took place. The winning title, "The Ties That Bind" was submitted by Bill Gillis from Gray. The logo is of the four elevators, one for each of the towns, Estlin, Gray, Riceton and Bechard with the railway tracks and the ties that run along the CN line.

### **The Book Cover**

"The Ties That Bind" book cover was designed by Manley Lafoy, Regina, formerly of Gray, Saskatchewan.



David 36 Hirby	A.G. 31 Nelson	R.J. Cross 32 G.E. Hustan	R.J. 33 Cross	Miss E.A. Rodger 34 C.V. Williams	J. G.I. 35 Clark 36 Paul	C.W. 37 William	S.S. 38 Paul	R.J. 39 Albott	C.F. 40 Bristol	L.C. 41 Shipman	Paul 42 Willa	H.B. 43 H
M. Green 25 F.M. Frisby	R.L. 44 Gabe	J.N. 45 Horton	A.A. 46 Rodgers	J.W. 47 Huston	D.E. 48 N. Parrott	A.S. 49 Paul	Wm. J. H. 50 Hirby	J. G.I. 51 Clark	C.F. 52 Bristol	L.C. 53 Shipman	Paul 54 Willa	H.B. 55 H
Mrs J. G. 28 Hodg	E.M. 19 Frisby	J.S. 20 Cross	A.L. 21 Felt	Mrs. D.E. 22 Huston	D.E. 23 Clark	M.H.A. 24 Paul	L.J. 25 Albott	C.F. 26 Bristol	L.C. 27 Shipman	Paul 28 Willa	H.B. 29 H	
Mrs M. White 18 F.T. Nelson	Jas 19 Robinson	A. 17 Paul	M.H. Clark 18 G.W. Mc Williams	J. G.I. 19 Clark	A. S. 20 Paul	M.H.A. 21 Paul	L.J. 22 Albott	C.F. 23 Bristol	L.C. 24 Shipman	Paul 25 Willa	H.B. 26 H	

# Bechard-Riceton

## Bechard by the Patons

Bechard is a small hamlet six miles south-east of Riceton on NE ¼-2-13-17W2 formed in 1912 when Grand Trunk Pacific built the railroad. Since no townsite was purchased by Grand Trunk Pacific, the land for the townsite was purchased in lots from the landowner by the elevator companies and individuals. The town was on land owned and homesteaded by Abraham Bechard but was named Lindley after a Mr. Lindley who homesteaded two miles west of the town. Some dispute arose over the naming of the town and in 1914 it was renamed Bechard.

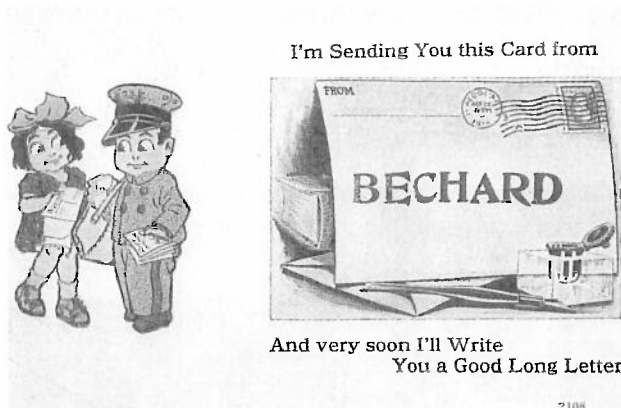
Bechard grew rather steadily during the late teens and the twenties until by 1930 some fifty to sixty families were using it as a trading centre. Many people left in the thirties and the mid-forties saw a steady decline begin. The decline has continued and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool is the only business left. Its closing in 1983 will spell the end of the hamlet of Bechard.

In its heyday Bechard had four elevators, three of which sold coal; two bulk oil plants, two implement agencies, a store, and a post office. A section forman and crew were also in town. Top population numbered around twenty-five. The need for elevators was probably the only reason Bechard existed. The first



Bechard.

elevator built was the Security Elevator Co. in 1912. It later became the Northern Elevator Co., then National Grain, and finally Cargill Grain Co. The elevator was closed in 1975 and was demolished in 1982. Some of the buyers were Jack Purves, Tom Kemp, Marshall Palmer, Art Downes, Jerry Harrick, Fred



Bechard card.



L. to R.: Francis Lewis, Vivian Bruce and Jack Lewis.

MacDonald. Art Downes was a long time buyer — well over thirty years.

The second elevator was built in 1913. It was the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator. In 1926 this elevator became the property of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. It is of interest to note that this plant was bought for \$11,837. In 1949 a new elevator was built on the site with the old elevator used as an annex. Some of the buyers at this elevator were Jim Barnett, Emil Giroux, Doug Bruce, Orlo Sterling, A. Carlson, M., Nelson, H. Schmidt, P. Matsalla, V. Selinger, J. Doege, W. Grams, D. Cross, T. Taylor, L. Campbell. The first Saskatchewan Wheat Pool agent was Doug Bruce. Gordon Stewart was the first chairman and G. R. Glaze the first secretary of the Wheat Pool Committee. Doug Bruce was a long time buyer of thirty years.

The third elevator was built in 1914. It was the Farmers' Independent Grain Co. This was a local company with only four shareholders — Mr. L. Hughie of Hughie Ranch, Oscar Glaze, Bob Somerville, and George Buffum. In 1917 it was sold to the Western Grain Co. who operated it till 1949 when it was sold to the Federal Grain Company. In 1972 it was sold to the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. It was



Main Street, Bechard.

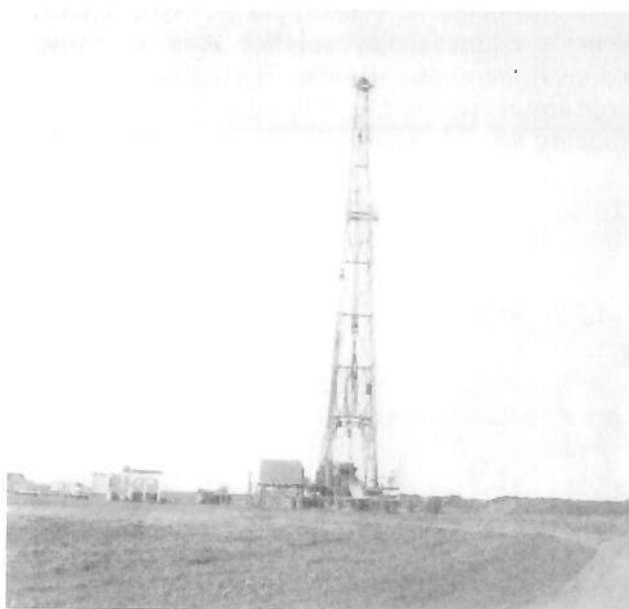
demolished in 1981. Some of the buyers at this elevator were J. Mitchner, C. Conklin, J. Paton, M. Charbonneau, and C. Blish. Jack Paton was a long time buyer with twenty-eight years in Bechard.

The last elevator was built in 1927 by the Federal Grain Co. In 1930 the office burned, creating some excitement in the village. This elevator was sold in 1972 to the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and is still in use. Some of the buyers were Paul Ouellette, Frank Walsh, Joe Paré, Gaylord Wight, Martin Van de Kamp, and Con Bechard. Con Bechard was an agent here for twenty-three years. Four grain buyers in this town must have found some strange attraction to keep them in Bechard.



Bechard Elevators.

The first store in Bechard stood about where Bob Balfour's farm is located. About 1915, Mr. L. Hughie built a store across from the Farmers' Independent Grain Elevator. In 1916 George Broder built a new store near the present location of the Gord Glaze residence and moved the Hughie store up near it for a storage shed. This store burned down in January of 1921 while Mr. Shannon was operating it. Mr. Dupont then came and fixed up the storage building for a store and opened in the fall of 1921. This building with various additions and improvements served as the store in this community until it closed in 1971. Except for the period after the store burned in 1921 until it re-opened in the fall, the post office was also a part of the storekeepers business. During that period it was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Paton. It is of interest to note that for a period of five years — from 1922 to 1927 — the store was operated by the Bechard Mercantile Co. Since then it has been operated by J.



An oil rig in the Bechard district in 1951.

Kuperstien, John Lewis, Russ Hart, Clyde Tannahill, Walter Gardiner, George Desautels, Jim Higginson, Jerome Schmidt, and Homer McIvor.

Two oil companies built bulk oil plants in Bechard to serve the area. In 1918 Mr. M. A. Case started the Pure Oil Co., later to become the Puritan, Farmers, HiWay, and Royalite Companys. The oil shed was located between the Saskatchewan Pool and National Elevators. Jack Paton, M. Van de Kamp, J. Schmidt, J. Higginson, G. Desautels, and H. McIvor were some of the agents. Imperial oil built a bulk plant across from the store in 1926. C. O. Baker was instrumental in having this plant started. Some of the agents were Stan Purves, Paul Ouellette, Joe Paré and then the storekeepers took it over. Walter Gardiner was the last agent. This plant closed in the mid-fifties.

In 1929 the Cockshutt Machine Co. started an agency in Bechard. The agency had been Phoenix & Rheil Implements situated on the Bob Somerville farm five miles northeast of Bechard. J. Paton took it over and ran it until 1940 when the storekeeper Russ Hart took it over. When he left it was closed down. Mr. Philip Coupal came into Bechard in the early twenties and built a garage and opened a McCormick-Deering agency. This building is still in Bechard, just northwest of the old store.

While the railway line from Colfax to Regina opened on October 30, 1912, it was not until 1921 that the station was built in Bechard. It was a third class station and was built at a cost of \$3,000. For the first years a station agent would arrive before harvest and stay during the busy shipping season. Then the section foreman had it as a residence when it was decided an agent was not required. The first foreman to live there was W. Williams. Some others were J. Matheson, J. Temple, A. Erickson, J. Salamanchuk, N. Sawchyn, G. Ellis, and C. Beckett. The station was sold and demolished in 1974. The station over the years played another important role in Bechard. Until the mid-forties everyone in town carried water from the station cistern for their household use. The cistern was filled every week by the train crew.

Since 1912, Bechard has never had a school. The children from Bechard were transported by various means to Badger Hill School about two miles northeast of town. Finally in 1949 the Milestone School Unit moved Centre View School from its location three miles south into Bechard. Badger Hill School was sold and the children came into Bechard. This school was closed in 1956. The children then went to either Lewvan or Riceton.

It's sad to watch a town slowly disappear, but the memories live on for all of us who were a part of it then and now.

## Bechard

by Bill Bladon

A train whistles, the year is 1912. The Canadian National Railway builds its track from Northgate to Regina extending service to homesteaders and established farmers. Towns and hamlets will appear with high grain elevators marking their locations. A familiar sight to us with its three elevators was Bechard. A closer delivery point for our grain, Bechard would serve the community for 70 years. There was a small



Bechard.



Bechard Station.

store with post office. Later on a railway station was built which housed the section foreman and his family. Various grain agents bought grain and served also as coal dealers. As I recall, later on grain buyers like Jack Paton, Doug Bruce and Tommy Kemp spent many years until their retirement serving the needs of farmers. Later on, in the forties, another elevator was built. Art Downes and Gaylord Wight were two dedicated buyers for this one.

The little store changed hands a few times in the





Winter 1935-1936. Back: Cora Paton, Jacqueline Paton, Jeanette Paré, Lindsey Paton, Gabe Paré, Joseph Paré. Front: Eddie Paré, Jackie and Francis Lewis, Harold and Robert Smith.

years that followed. George Broder was one of the first owners that comes to mind. Other owners were the unforgettable J. P. Lewis, Clyde Tannahill and George Desautels and the final storekeepers were Homer and Mrs. McIvor.

Taking a swing around the hamlet, in the early days we will mention farmers who made this small but important place their delivery centre. Travelling east were Charlie and Mrs. MacDonald, George Bechard, Louis Coupal, Julius and Mary Schmidt, George Brown, Garland Glaze, Jack Allan, Gordon Stewart, Bill Ramsey and the McKechnie Brothers. In the north east corner was the Hughie Ranch, a big operation run from the States. Heading west we get to Bakers, Charles Blish, Bill Larson, Richardsons, Gibeaus and the Walkeden Brothers, with Joe Gilbert located on the edge of town. West were Hank Jasper and living on the edge of Riceton marsh, a bachelor Jack Hughes, a real character. We go south a couple of miles to A. D. Bechard, Bill and Archie Rader. Down the road lived G. N. Buffum, breeder of pure-bred Aberdeen Angus cattle and Shropshire sheep.

Across the road lived the smiling Irishman Joe Irvine, and further west was I. B. Cushing, Jack Caldwell and Fred Schmeling located one mile east. Travelling south once more we get to Charlie Maynard, Bill Grams and L. S. Long. On the west again



Bechard gumbo.

were Clarence Wight and Chester Kinter, while completing the swing around were John Annegers, Derland Baker, and A. R. (Dick) Bladon. These are names I remember from 1910-1920. I may have omitted some.

Most of the people are gone now, leaving their sons and daughters to carry on their work of tilling the soil and making a living during good years and



The Bechard ladies. Back Row: Anna Buffum, Mrs. Blish, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Smith. Front Row: Mrs. Lewis, Jessie Sommerfeld, Shirley Hart, Vivian Bruce, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Paton, Mrs. Allen, Mac Paton.

bad. For their many years of making a living, raising families, enduring many setbacks, these pioneers deserve our heartfelt thanks and recognition. They were the ones who settled this country and gave us the chance to carry on to bigger and brighter goals.

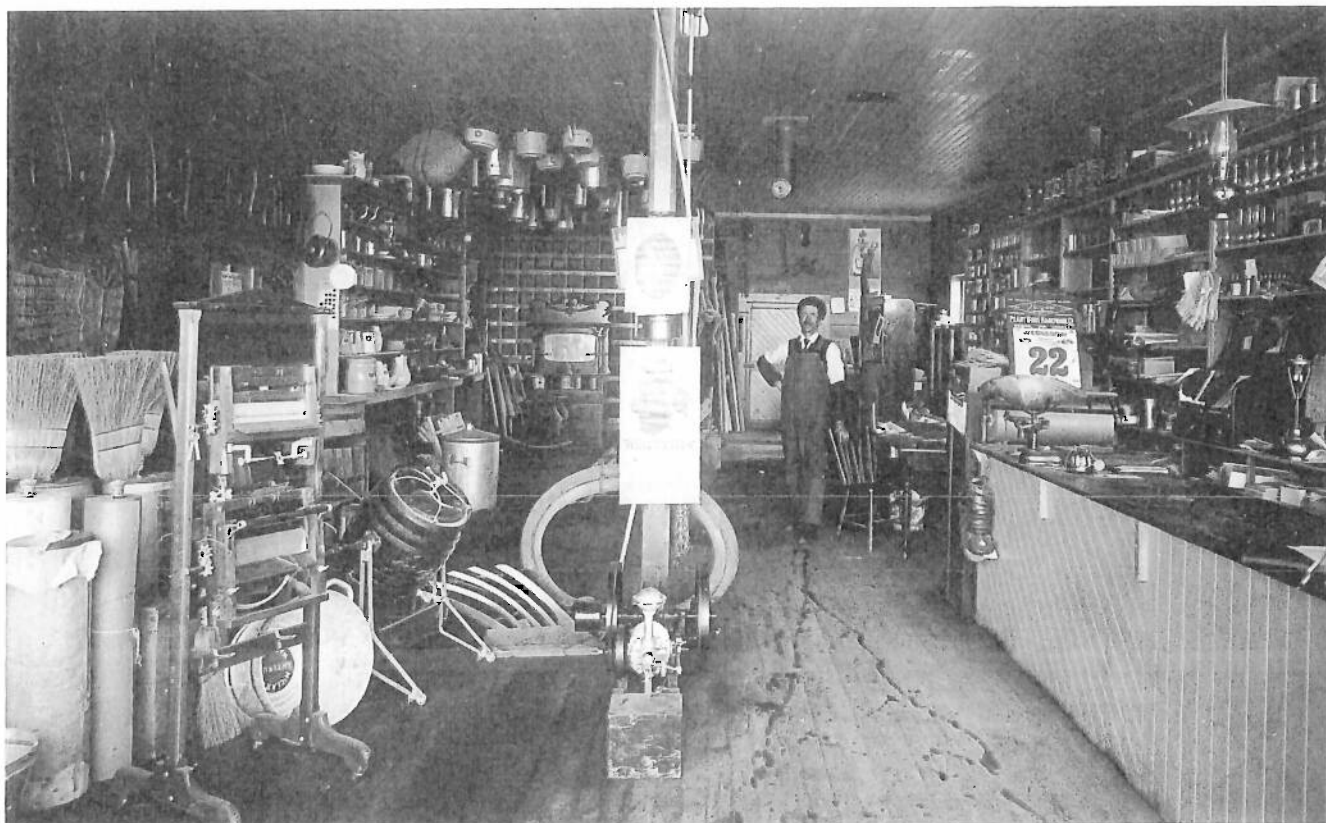
## Riceton

### From Its Beginning to the Present

Settlers by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rice came to the area in 1902 to take a homestead in SW¼-30-13-17-W2. In 1906 Mr. Rice donated the north-east portion of the quarter for a townsite. The name given for the town was Riceton with the name "Rice" and the "ton" coming from another early



Schultz Hardware.



Schultz Brother's Hardware Store taken in 1914. Fred Schultz is in the picture.

pioneer by the name of Mr. Alonzo Johnston. Thus Riceton had its beginning.

The first pioneers usually arrived on the Soo Line by train stopping at Lang or Milestone a distance of fifteen miles or more. The remainder of their trip with their belongings would be made by horse and wagon. Such a place to come to — a flat, treeless country that stretched as far as the eye could see. Wind, rain, fires and mosquitoes had to be contended with in the summer while winter meant cold and long severe storms. Supplies had to be brought from Kronau and Milestone with water and wood being hauled from several miles distance.

In 1911 the first grocery store was opened and operated by Mr. Enos Harvey. This store was situated where the present Co-op Station is. The building was two-storeys with a hall on the second floor used for dances, boxing matches, etc. The store on the main floor was a general store selling supplies in bulk and a considerable amount of dry goods kept on hand. The first post office was located in the store. In 1918 Mr. Tom Ryan purchased the store and post office. There were living quarters in the back. The Van Scheltinga brothers of Sedley had a partnership in the store. On January 22, 1943 this building was destroyed by fire. It is said that a cat woke the Ryan's up and they were able to escape the fire.

A livery stable was built in 1911 and owned by

Mr. A. McPhail. Another early pioneer to the district was Frank Hill who came in 1909. In 1912 he bought the livery stable that was very much in demand as horses were the means of transportation. When the flu epidemic of 1918 hit, Doctor Tyerman of Milestone would get fresh horses from the livery stable while making calls on the many sick people in the area.

Mr. Ernie Nichol built the first hotel with a restaurant, pool hall and barber shop. Mr. J. Johnston helped run the business. This building was located north-east next to what is now the Co-op service station. Men who worked on the construction of the railway spent their spare time at the pool room. The barber shop was run by Mr. Pitt.

In 1912 the Canadian Grand Trunk was completed with a passenger train and freight service being supplied to Riceton and Bechard. The first passenger train went from Regina November 10, 1913 and returned to Regina November 11, 1913.

Fred and William Schultz arrived from Kronau in 1912 and bought a lot, the lot where the Store now stands. Here they built a new hardware store — the first in Riceton. The Schultz Hardware was later sold to Paul Aarness with John Peck running the business. October 26, 1931 the Aarness Hardware burned.

The Standard Bank opened in 1912 with W. Reid as Manager. A short time later the Bank of Com-



Everybody in the District is invited to participate in MARQUIS STORES' Big Event



# HARVEST SPECIALS



Special Case Prices for Quantity Purchases in this Event!

**ROGERS' GOLDEN SYRUP**  
Special---10 lb. tin **79c**

**WHEAT FLAKES** 2 for **23c**

**IVY BRAND RICE** 10 lb. **53c**

**NEW CROP CURRANTS** 3 lb. **43c**

**DOUBLE HANDY SODAS** IN THE LARGER BOX (12 cans, 3 each 6 ounces) Extra Harvest Value. **75c**

**PURE DUTCH COCOA** 2 lb. **23c**

**CALIFORNIA MIXED FRUITS** 5 lb. **67c**  
Apricots, Peaches, Pears, Silver Prunes

**OVER FRESH SWEET BISCUITS** 25c

**CHOCOLATE DROPS** Per lb. **19c**



**COFFEE**

3 LB. SEALED CARTON FOR

**95c**

With that fine rich fragrant flavor that only strictly fresh roasted coffee can give you.

**BLACK PEPPER** 18c

**FANCY KETA SALMON** "Hot Box" brand. Fine Per doz. 2 **25c**  
net wt. 1.35 lbs.

**AUSTRALIAN SULTANA RAISINS** FINE NEW CROP FRUIT 4 lb. bag **47c**  
8 lb. bag **90c**

**WHITE CLOVER HONEY** FINEST NEW CROP EXTRA RICE No. 10 TIN **95c**

**"OUR OWN" BLEND TEA** Not to be confused with low grade Tea. While low in price this Tea has splendid cupping qualities. 3 lb. **\$1.25**

**FAIRHAVEN SARDINES** Special Introductory Price Superior quality 14 oz. tin **55c**

**MARQUIS TOMATOES** 2 tins **29c**  
Hand packed red ripe. Tins brimful Whole Tomatoes. Per doz. **\$1.57**

**MARQUIS STORES**

We Have Never Staged as Big an Event as This Before!

**QUAKER CORN FLAKES** 6 for **47c**  
Extra Special---



**JAM**

APPLE & STRAWBERRY  
APPLE & RASPBERRY  
APPLE & ASSORTED

4 lb. **53c**  
Tin

2 tins **\$1.47**

**MRS. WHITE COCONUTS** 21c

**BEVERLY SOAP** 6 bars **25c**  
Fine White Milled Toilet Soap

**HEAVY DUTY BROOMS** EACH **49c**

**WHITE HATHA SOAP** Unwrapped 10 bars **35c**

**SELECTED DATES** Unpitted Fine Quality 3 lbs. **27c**

**GRY FRENCH MUSTARD** "Pure" packed by Keweenaw 1/2 lb. **25c**

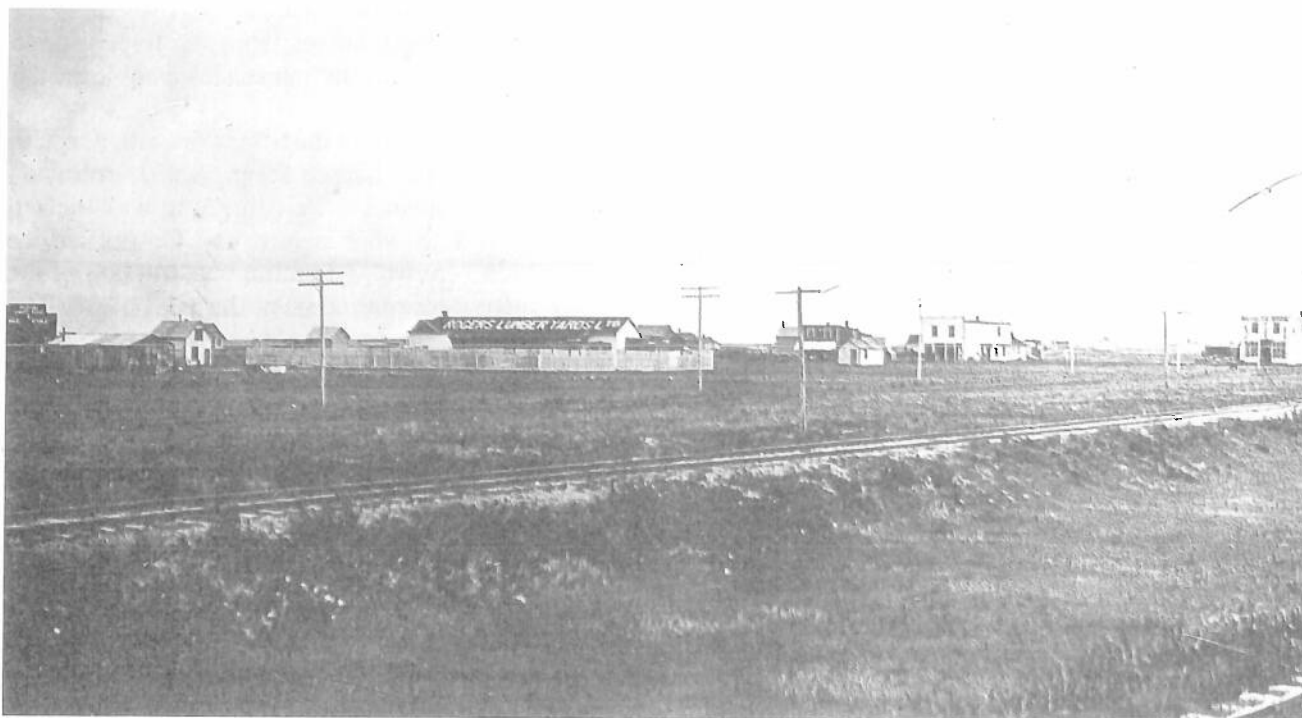
**MARQUIS MOLASSES** No. 6 tin **37c**

**CANADIAN CHEESE** Special 5 lb. **89c**  
Fine Flavored Harvest Bazaar

**MARQUIS BRAND PUMPKIN** No. 2 1/2 lb. 3 for **44c**

ALL ROADS LEAD TO — — **MARQUIS STORES** LOOK FOR "Not Advertised" Specials

Sale flyer for Tom Ryan's store September 1935.



Riceton Livery stable, Frank Hill's home, lumberyard, telephone office, Chinese cafe, Pool room, Scheltinga and Ryan's Store and Schultz Hardware.



Riceton's Livery Stable.




Riceton Station.



Riceton's first elevator, the Standard.

RICETON, SASK. 19\_\_ No.

**THE STANDARD BANK OF CANADA.**

 PAY TO \_\_\_\_\_ OR BEARER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

100 DOLLARS

Blank cheque for the Standard Bank of Canada, Riceton.



Riceton Main Street — Standard elevator and the Co-op elevator under construction.



Delivery trucks — Riceton, Schultz agent 1927.

merce took over but with the "crash of '29" it soon closed its doors.

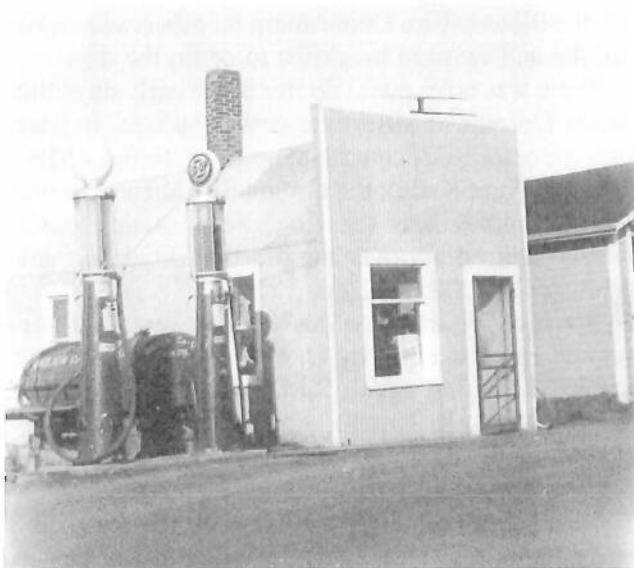
In 1912 the first elevator, the Standard, was built and managed by Wm. Schultz. Lt. Governor Brown built the second elevator that was later sold to the Pioneer Grain Co. The Pool bought out the Pioneer Grain. A third elevator in the town was also owned by the Pool and both elevators they now owned were torn down to build a new one. The fourth elevator, the Province, was owned by the Bunn Bros. for some time and later became the Reliance elevator. In the late forties Parrish and Heimbecker bought the Reliance. The first elevator, the Standard, was taken over by the Searle Company. The Pioneer Grain Company built a new elevator.



Line up of cars on Main Street, Riceton.



Frank Hill's share in the Riceton Rink.



Credit Union, Riceton, 1944-1948.

In 1983 all elevators except the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the Pioneer have been torn down.

There was a great demand for lumber as the community needed houses as well as outbuildings so in 1913 the Monarch Lumber Company came into being. A second lumber company, The Rogers, started up but by 1917 went out of business. The Monarch Lumber Company closed in 1938 and remained closed until it was bought by N. Kawuza to be converted into living quarters. When the Kawuza family left Mrs. Kay Forsberg owned the residence. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. K. Fahlman.

The Duncan Machine Agency, owned and operated by A. E. "Dunk" Duncan, was next door to the Standard Bank. A full line of machinery, democrats, buggies, etc. were carried. There was big business in horse drawn implements such as drills, harrows, plows and wagons. During the 'flu epidemic of 1918 "Dunk" died.

Mr. Steiner and Mr. Rowe owned and operated a blacksmith shop next door to the Monarch Lumber. They repaired wagons, buggies and machinery as well as shoeing horses. A second General Repair Shop was owned by Mr. Dewalle.

Telephone service was very restricted but an office was set up in the General Store with a company being formed. (See "The Riceton Rural Telephone Co. Ltd." by Walter H. Reich).

General dray work was done by Mr. Place and Mr. W. Schultz as there was need for wood and coal to be hauled. This was the only fuel in those days. Water and freight were also hauled.

Marriage licenses were acquired from Mr. E. Harvey, Notary Public.

After the pool room and restaurant burned down in 1934, E. Nichols moved a small house owned by



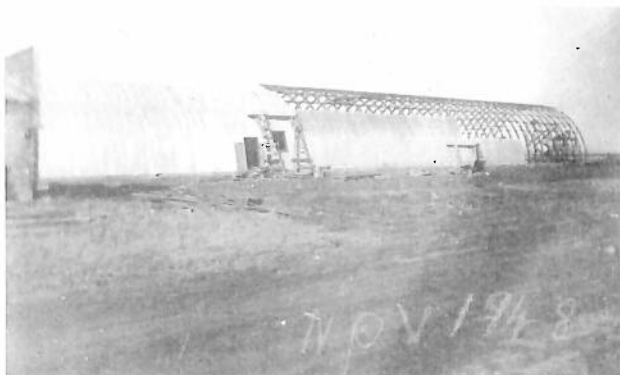
Riceton Rink, 1927.



Riceton Fire Hall and Pump House.



Riceton Co-op service station. Manager Rick Zolc and Alice Moats.



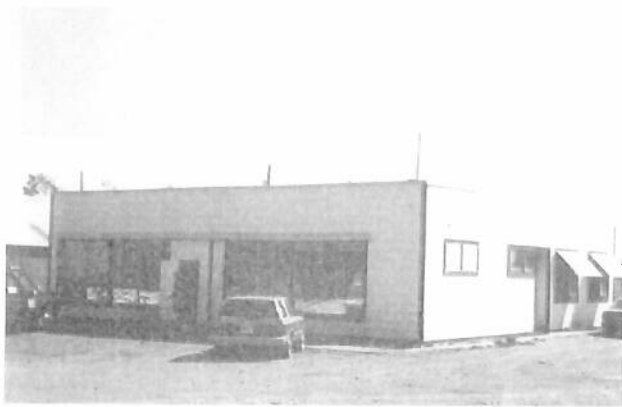
Working on the new Riceton Rink and Hall, 1948.



Mark Hill into the lot opposite the telephone exchange and started another café. In 1940 the café was taken over by Yee Gong where he remained until the late forties. The building was sold to Mr. G. Olson and remodelled for living quarters. When the Olson family bought another home the little house was torn down.

At one time Riceton had a nine hole golf course that started at the CN Station and went completely around the town. A tennis court was located between the restaurant and Harvey's Store.

The first rink was an outdoor one but a covered rink was in demand so in 1927 a rink was built. Curling started shortly after and a hockey team started with Nichol and McEwen the coaches. The first rink caretaker was Mr. L. Johnston. In February of 1947 this complex blew down. In 1948 a new Community Centre was built consisting of a hall, skating rink, kitchen and washrooms. Due to a fire in



Riceton Store and Riceton Credit Union.



Riceton Cemetery.

1974 this Community Centre was destroyed — a great loss to the community. Another centre has been started but to this date has not been completed.

June 26, 1913 the first Sports day was held at the Denver School with several types of races and softball taking place. Sports days are still held each year

with the Riceton Fire Department members serving a pancake and sausage breakfast to begin the day.

There was no resident doctor in the early days but Doctor Tyerman of Milestone served the area. In later years a Doctor's Office was set up at the home of Mrs. Ed Graff (Aunt Katie), the community nurse. Doctor George Bradley was the first doctor with Doctor Mesbur later taking over the practice. Once a week the doctor came to Riceton.

Some of the machine dealerships were — International Harvester run by O. Myberg with Clarence Schultz as the first agent; Paul Aarness had the Case and Cockshutt, R. Houghtaling ran the Massey Harris dealership, Alex Fahlman had a garage and the John Deere.

When the motor vehicle came on the scene the livery stable was converted into a garage with Mr. Jack Doege running the business. Horses were now not playing such an important role in the everyday life.

The first meat market was in the bank building with Bill Reid in charge. In later years Mr. T. Spry purchased the building with a butcher shop on the main floor and a family residence on the second floor. When this business folded the next to occupy the place was F. Reil who set up a cafe. The next cafe owners were Paul and Peggy Kawuza. When the Kawuza's left Ed and Carrie Branning took over the business adding a pool table for the "pool sharks" and a barber chair for Ed to cut hair. When the Ryan residence became vacant the Brannings' moved their business there now running a Confectionary store in the front and having their residence in the back. The old bank building was demolished. The Brannings moved to Regina and Viola Hall now owns the residence.

Board and room could be obtained at the Johnston, Jenson, Nichol or Steiner homes.

In 1945 W. Walsh started a Massey dealership as well as the Imperial Oil business. A shop was built on Main Street where the Ryan Store had been. A house converted from the Estlin Store was moved into Riceton and put next to the shop. May 1949 Warren Page and Leo Hill took over from W. Walsh. Hill and Page also had the Hugh Gas dealership from Regina. Warren Page set up a radio supply and repair shop. In 1952 Hill bought out the Page share of the business. The Riceton Co-op bought from Hill and now run a garage and service station. The Co-op fuel tanks are still on the south side of the tracks on the north-west corner of town.

At the same corner of town Pete Kawuza had the Cockshutt Agency, a garage and service station. This business was sold to a Mr. Parker but after his death in a car accident the business remained closed for some

time. In the seventies R. Derry bought the business but didn't remain open very long. At the present T. Lolacher owns the business and is running Terry's CARS.

Electricity came to Riceton and district in 1952. Natural gas was installed in 1960.

On August 16, 1974 Riceton, as a hamlet, formed its own town council with the first board members being Mrs. R. Coupal, S. Purves, and M. Kushnir.

Water works were installed in Riceton homes December, 1978.

Another fire in the town was the CN Station on September 2, 1976. Fires certainly took its toll on business places in our town.

When the Riceton Co-op grocery and hardware sold it was bought by Ed and Pat Ratcliffe of Regina.

The postmistress in town is Geraldine Deschner.

Two miles east of the town is the Riceton Cemetery. Great care is taken on the upkeep with much credit going to George Spry and his helpers Don Moats and Mike Kushnir. Gates have been installed that were donated by the family of the late Wm. Forsberg.

At the present time, September, 1983, there are forty residences, three churches, a store, a service station and garage, a Credit Union, a post office, a fire hall, a pump house, a two-room school, an auto body shop, two elevators, a partially built hall and a Saskatchewan Telephone office.

Information obtained courtesy of "Early Days In the Community of Riceton" by Mrs. D. Devereaux, "Recollections and Memories" by W. Schultz, the diaries of the late Mrs. C. O. Baker and from L. Hill.

## **Recollections and Memories of the Early Days in the History of Riceton, Saskatchewan 1912-1940**

by W. C. Schultz

Riceton! The name stems from an early pioneer homesteader and farmer in the district for many years, by the name of James S. Rice. He homesteaded the land on which the town now stands and donated land with the hope that the town would be named after his only daughter, Bernice. However, the railroad officials demurred and suggested Riceton, which, of course, it became.

After the railway arrived it was not long before a number of businesses were established to serve the new settlers flocking in to buy land or to take up homesteads. The hardware store built by Schultz Bros. stood across the street from the new station. It became apparent early on that there would not be enough business to keep two families, so my father became a grain buyer for the Standard Elevator, the



Main Street Riceton 1927 — Schultz binders, Clarence Schultz agent.

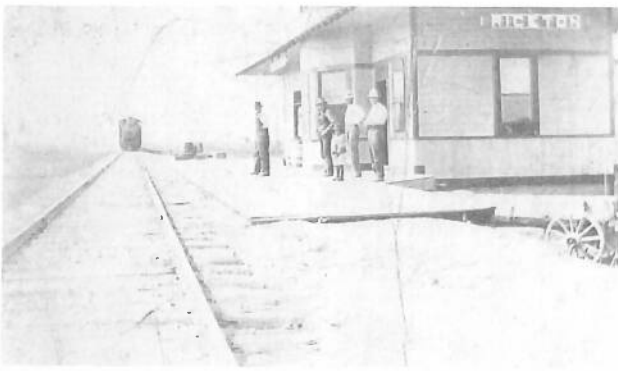
first one to be built. Later Lieutenant Governor Brown built the second elevator to which he delivered the grain from his four-section farm N.E. of town. The elevator was later sold to Pioneer Grain and my father ran it for them as well. It was again sold to the Pool who were owners of the third elevator. The fourth elevator was the Province and father bought grain for them for a year or so until the Pioneer built a new elevator. The Pool then tore down both of their elevators and built a new one.

Mr. Enos Harvey owned and operated the first grocery and dry goods store and was also the postmaster. He sold the store to Van Scheltinga Bros. of Sedley, after which he with his wife and sons Cecil and Lyle, moved to Yellow Grass.

Ernie Nichols and Jack Johnston, built and ran the first two-storey hotel and restaurant, which also included a barber shop and pool room. The barber at the time was W. Pitt who later married a local girl, Hazel Place, and later moved to Calgary. When the Rural Telephone Co. was first organized, the switchboard was temporarily placed in the "lobby" until the new telephone office was built. Van Scheltinga Bros. later purchased the building and moved the



Louis Hill, Sr. in the car, Frank Hill beside the car and Fred Schultz in front of Schultz Hardware.



The train arriving at Riceton station 1912.

grocery store from the Harvey building. Tom Ryan, who was running the store, bought out Van Scheltingas. Some of the people who clerked for Tom Ryan were Amos Warnke, Red McPhee, Horace Lenson, and Warren Kirkpatrick. The top storey of this building was the "town hall". It had a stage and dressing rooms to either side. Dances, boxing matches, political meetings and the annual school Christmas concerts were held here.

Schultz Bros. hardware store became a victim of the depression and was sold to Paul Aarness. The store was more or less left in charge of John Peck.

Shortly after the Harvey building became vacant, it was occupied by George "Pop" Shady, and wife. They were from the New York show business world



Riceton.

via Sedley. They had no children of their own, but always had four or five foster children to care for including the two Sherwood children, Alec and Audrey. "Pops" prize possession was a grand piano which he would play at the slightest urging and sing the popular show ditties that he had played on the stage in New York. When Mrs. Shady died, the



Part of Riceton.

children were sent to other homes and "Pop" left town. The pool room of the day was a building built as a rooming house owned by Henry Jansen. It was moved from its original location behind Harveys Store on Second Ave. to Main Street and the partitions removed. After the Shadies vacated the Harvey building it became a Chinese restaurant. It succumbed to fire along with the pool room next door. While the pool room operated, it also housed a barber shop and at one time Bill Mitchell was the barber. He was a veteran of the first World War and came from Fergus, Ontario. Years later the building was closed and the pool tables sold. When the new telephone office was built the switchboard was moved from the Nichols and Johnston building. Some of operators were Krewsons, L. P. Stevens, Mrs. Anna McCuaig Place, and Maude and Herbie Aitkens, A.E. Duncan was one of the first implement dealers, and he had his business premises across the street from the telephone office. Unfortunately, Mr. Duncan was a victim of the 1918 "flu" epidemic. Mrs. Duncan was a sister of Frankie Hill, the wife of Bill Hill, a cousin of Frank Hill, a long time resident of the district and farmer.

Originally there were two lumber yards in town, the Monarch and the Rogers. The Monarch survived the longest and it was across the street from the livery stable. Some of its managers were Meyers, Harry McDonald and Tom Kinghorn. The Rogers, which fronted on Railway Ave. directly behind the hardware store, went out of business in 1917. After the Monarch closed in 1938, it was vacant until the office was purchased by Nick Kawuza and converted to living quarters.

A livery stable was a necessity in the early days and was built and owned by A. McPhail. It was situated across the street from the Monarch Lumber Yard. Later it was taken over by Frank Hill, who also kept a cow or two and supplied milk to the town. Later Frank moved house and cows to his farm, and our milk was delivered. The livery stable closed when the motor cars began to appear, and the premises was converted to a garage. Jack Deagan was the first garageman. The last one was Herb Aitken.

In those early days we also sported a blacksmith shop. It was next door to the Monarch Lumber and was owned by John Steiner. It was kept busy as long as the horse was a source of power on the farm.

In those early days we also had a general repair shop across the street from the Hardware store. It was owned and operated by Mr. Dewalle. His chief business was the repair of harnesses and like the blacksmith shop, when the horse was replaced, the need for harness repairing also disappeared, and the shop was closed.

The Province Grain at one time sold their elevator to the Bunn Bros., John and Charles, who operated the elevator for a few years and then sold it back to the Province. Among the buyers for Province were George Mitchner, Olie Myberg, and W. H. Schultz Sr.

Next door to the Duncan Machine Agency was the Standard Bank. The first manager was William Reid who occupied the bank residence across the street from our home. Mr. Reid was an avid hunter.

Over the years some of the managers were R. J. Temple, Sam Hayes, and a Mr. Spalsberry. Some of the tellers were Zack Hamilton, who roamed about town in the dead of winter in shirt sleeves, and Mac McDonald. In 1915 the Standard was absorbed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. which provided service until it too closed.

Bill Minshull and McDonald were the employees at the time of the closing. The bank building was later purchased by Thomas Spry, who operated a butcher shop and pool room in the building while residing upstairs.

In the early days Denver School was a one-room affair situated south of the A. R. "Lon" Johnston farm. In 1914 it was moved into Riceton. Margaret McMurray boarded at our place and was one of the early teachers. Some of the later teachers were the Misses Hunt and Black. As the number of school children increased, it became necessary to build a new two-room school, which was done in 1926. However, before it could be built a second classroom was established in the hall above Ryan's store, which had ceased to be used as a hall. At the time Harold Samway was the teacher. Some of the teachers at the new school were Mr. Jenkins, Robert Lough, Lil Ganshorn, and Tom Bobier.

William Place, father of Arno Place and long-time resident and elevator agent for the Pool, ran a dray business. In the early days coal and wood were the only fuels available and with freight and other commodities, provided a livelihood. Mr. Place left Riceton for the Hatton area to homestead. Later Bill Schultz Jr. provided these services.

Sport in the early days was one form of entertainment and teams for hockey and baseball were organized. Tennis was also played, but never became very popular — possibly due to the inability to provide a suitable playing surface. The first rink was an outdoor affair which used the old Rogers Lumber Yard office as a waiting room. Water to flood the rink was hauled into town from wells on the surrounding farms, mostly the Johnnie Boesch farm. After a couple of years it was decided that a covered rink was needed, so committees were struck and a canvass of the district procured enough money to begin con-



struction of a skating and curling rink in 1924. A hockey team was organized and later a league formed with the surrounding towns. Some of the players were the Kawuza Bros., Pete and Paul, Carl, Henry, and Babe Mohr, Kelly and "Chink" Crawford, Bill Grills, Ross Purves, Clarence Fines, Phil Scheibel, L. Johnston, and myself. Later some of the younger fellows like Garth Boesch, and Earl Schultz took over, both of whom played for Father Murray's "Hounds". Garth Boesch later graduated to play with the Toronto Maple Leafs. Sports days in the summer were popular and baseball teams were organized to play in them. Most of the boys who played hockey were also on the baseball teams.

Lorne "Chet" Chester, who made his home with John Mohr and his family provided a veterinary service to the farmers of the district as well as many of the surrounding towns.

### Recollections of Riceton Community by Bill Bladon

These are just a few recollections and tales that I have of people of the Riceton community. Most of the folk were pioneers in a district that had its beginning in this century, but really becoming a community after the railroad went through in 1912.



Main Street, Riceton.

Stories were told to me and as I grew older I participated in some of the events that took place in the town of Riceton. We came to know most of the people of the district, such families as John Mohrs, John and Henry Boesch, Tommy Orr, O'Briens, the Purves brothers, George and Joe Lekivetz's, E. B. Moats', A. McEwen, Moon's, Miller's, Ernie Jones and many more.

Ryan's store, for years was the centre of trade until it burned down. Many strange acts took place that night in an attempt to save some of the contents. Later Paul Aarness built and ran a grocery store with the help of John Peck. The early business men I was not familiar with.



Riceton.

John Mohr, a farmer from Illinois, raised three fine sons who grew up to be top-notch ball players. Incidentally the Mohrs lived not far from us in Illinois.

Grant Miller, another pioneer bought land in the district. This was taken over by his family. We well remember Grant and Mrs. Miller who were our neighbors in Stronghurst, Illinois. Grant was an affable personality, big in stature, and with good voice when friends gathered around the piano.

As I recall, Dick and Burr Miller loved to hunt and the story is told that Dick in his big roadster caught sight of a deer. Bob McKim was along and the chase was on. Down the road, through the fields with Bob hanging on for dear life, when about this time the deer jumped the fence at the railroad track. This didn't shake Dick up much as through the fence and over the track the chase continued. We never did find out whether or not the deer escaped but Bob remarked later that he was as cool as a cucumber. Dick smiled and allowed that the sweat was dripping off Bob's face. This story was told many times to the enjoyment of everyone.

One real wet spring in the late twenties, George Lekivetz and George Lalonde were trying to move horses and equipment to Lewvan and had to detour twelve or fourteen miles due to poor road conditions. They arrived one afternoon quite late at my brother Art's place, a half mile west of here where the road was washed out and water was running through our pasture in a stream about 100 yards wide. George Lekivetz decided to wait until morning when men and animals would be rested to ford the stream. He hoped by going across the pasture the sod would provide more solid footing. We were all up early this lovely spring morning in order to watch the event. In the distance we could hear the chugging of the Rumely Oil Pull, a two cylinder tractor, pulling the bunk car and some machinery across the fields. They

came into our pasture and up to the water. George Lalonde had 12 horses hitched ahead of the tractor driving them from on horseback. Amidst the barking of dogs, George Lekivetz yelling at George Lalonde (and what a voice he had), and the racket of the tractor they started across. Truly this was a sight to remember! There was first the hesitation of the horses to enter the water, the urging of Lalonde, with the vocal support of the boss and then they made it across without incident. Later on they made a couple more trips to get the rest of the equipment. That was quite a morning on the A. R. Bladon farm, until the two Georges got everything hitched together and proceeded on their way. We later heard they reached their destination. This trip was always a topic of conversation whenever we would happen to meet.

Those who lived through the thirties will never forget all the tough times. They produced a courage and stubbornness to see it through rather than quit. We sustained each other and made it through to experience better times.

The winter of 1931-32 was the worst. Coal was shipped in for heat, and feed for our animals as well as shipments of food. A government man was always on hand to allocate each one his share. At times this led to some controversy and hard feelings. We think of one bitterly cold winter morning in Bechard. Most farmers who delivered grain to Bechard were there trying to warm up by the elevator stove. The office was crowded and in walked Ernie Jones. Ernie could really express himself at times and this was one of them. He provided a lot of laughs even if I can not quote him. At times humor was scarce in those days so this was one of the moments you don't forget.

Other Englishmen I must mention were Bert and Dick Gynn, fine fellows, always good for a laugh or a helping hand. Later on they moved to the Lang district where they farmed until their retirement. Prior to this they farmed I. B. Cushing's land. I must mention Mr. Cushing at this time. Later in his life he became interested in weather forecasting and published books on it. He was also interested in grain trading. He was on the radio with his weather as well as grain quotations, including his own observations.

As varied and interesting as the people of Riceton were, when something had to be done or something to improve the way of life in the community was needed, they were not lacking in pulling together and getting the job done. What more can one say about his fellow man?

### **Riceton District** **by Arthur Richardson**

Let us start from our arrival at Milestone, Assinboia, North West Territories before there was a



Riceton.

Province of Saskatchewan, which change took place about 1905 or 1906.

My dad, Edward Richardson and my Uncle George Oak were the first homesteaders to settle on their homesteads in the Riceton District. The next settlers were Henry Steppler and family and Eric Blish and family. Next came Johnnie Baker who was single at that time. The Smith's Sr. and sons Ralph and Ira, also Roy came later. There were also three girls in the Smith family. They came with the mother a few years later. Their names were Musett, Annett and Ninett (all music teachers). Annett and Ninett Smith taught piano in Regina. After leaving our neighborhood a number of years later Ralph Smith joined a brother-in-law in the Real Estate business in Regina.

The Mumford family farmed a couple of miles north from us. They had a large farm as I remember it. They bought their land.

In the Mason family, were Mr. Mason Sr. and sons Ernest, Archie and George. They were half a mile from us. Ernest Mason's homestead joined my Uncle George Oak's land. George Mason never owned land but lived with his dad and mother. There were also two daughters in the Mason family, Nettie and Mrs. Fred Webster. Nettie later married Tony Holskamp and lived in Regina.

Now for the Hughie Ranch: Mr. Hughie Sr. came to Saskatchewan and bought a lot of cheap land as it was then and started farming. It seemed any place that came up for sale Hughie Sr. bought it. He must have had five or more sections. He had a foreman by the name of Al Semerath known as big Al to run and manage the farm. I'm not sure how many years big Al was there but I know he was still there in 1914, the year I left that part of the country.

I'm not sure how many binders were working but there were anywhere from ten to twenty stookers. They also had their own threshing outfit.

After big Al left, Mr. Hughie Sr. had his son Lester Hughie run the farm. He was lacking in farm experience.

Not many years later I was home on a visit and my dad asked if I would like to go to Hughie's Auction Sale. We went and that's the last I know of the Hughie Ranch.

The farm LeMoynes Baker has, belonged to the Allan Ranch. I was working for Ira Smith near by. It was the fall of 1909 that George Mitchner built the house on the land LeMoynes has now. This property was taken over by Mrs. Helen Mitchner who was a



Riceton.

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allan (owners of the Allan Ranch).

It was while I was working with the threshing machine, that was in 1909 that George Mitchner and carpenters were building the house on the Mitchner place, as it was known then.

One time my dad and I were caught in one of the worst blizzards I ever witnessed on our way home from Kronau, Saskatchewan. There were no land marks of any kind to go by, no fences, roads, buildings, nothing but the flat prairie. We didn't get home that day. We missed our place and landed at Uncle George's and stayed there overnight. There were no telephones, no electric lights, just coal oil lamps. It is different now, and so are people. Those days the whole neighborhood was like one big happy family, all anxious to help each other.

In the early days the buildings were poorly built. Many of the houses only had one ply of poor siding on the outside, but nothing on the inside of the studs, and only an old coal stove for heat.

Some of the barns, we called them sheds, were low but when the stock were in they were good and warm.

I remember a couple of times we had to open a corner on the roof of the barn so we could feed the stock as the low barns were completely covered and would take hours to shovel out a doorway. There was no lack of hay as there were two or three long stacks

close to the barn, several more at the big slough. Hay was so plentiful those days we used to bed the stock with it.

One cold winter day dad went shopping at Sedley. It was after the hotel had opened the Bar Room. It was so cold he went alone. He hitched old Bert and Barney to the bob sleigh with an empty double grain box, and away they went shopping. The first thing was to put the team in the feed barn for feed and water. Next to the store for groceries and from the store to the hotel. While there he had a few too many and also bought a bottle of Scotch to take home. On the way home the team got straddled in a high snow drift and tipped the box off up-side down with dad under it. Needless to say but dad spent that night under the grain box. The following morning we set out looking for the sleigh box and dad was still under it happy as a lark. After checking to see if we had everything, I said, "Dad I can't find the can of paint or the bottle of whiskey." Dad said, "Never mind about the paint, I know where the whiskey went".

## **Riceton Celebrates 1905-1955**

### **Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee Riceton Jubilee Committee**

Chairman — Mr. E. B. Moats

Secretary — Mrs. H. Bohlken

Parade Committee:

Mr. E. Reich

Mr. W. Layman

Mr. Amcie Purves

Mr. H. Bohlken

Mrs. Garth Boesch

Mrs. Jack Purves

Mrs. Henry Boesch

Program and Display Committee:

Mrs. H. Kirkpatrick

Mrs. B. Robinson

Mrs. E. Jones

Mrs. I. Kinvig

Mrs. M. Boesch

Mr. Ron Moats

Mr. Garth Boesch

Miss Emma Oltmanns

Mrs. R. Miller

Lunch Committee:

Mrs. Lucille Layman

Mrs. Mary Bohlken

Mrs. Florence Otten

Mrs. Bill Hill

Mrs. Kay Reich

Mrs. Bernice Moon

Mrs. Esther Hill  
 Mrs. Mary Harrington  
 Dance Committee:  
 Mr. M. Boesch  
 Mr. L. R. Richardson  
 Mr. M. Kushnir  
 Mr. I. Zorn  
 Mr. T. O'Brien  
 Sports Committee:  
 Rev. J. Dunnett  
 Mr. Wilbur Moats  
 Miss M. Stewart  
 Reporter:  
 Mr. P. A. Roy  
 Decorating Committee:  
 Mr. Henry Boesch  
 Mr. Jack Purves  
 Mrs. P. A. Roy  
 Mrs. Brian Muller

### Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Celebration at Riceton June 10, 1955

Three hundred and seventy-five to four hundred people attended Riceton's Golden Jubilee celebration on June 10, 1955.

The parade took place at three o'clock. The following floats described below participated:

**Four Generations of McKims:** Riceton's non-egenarian, Robert (Bob) McKim and Mrs. McKim, their son, Frank, and his wife, Madeline, grandson, Kenneth, and his wife, Gladys, and

twin great granddaughters, Lois and Lynn. The driver of this float was Alex Fahlman.

**Riceton School:** A group of school children in full Indian regalia surrounding a teepee mounted on a hay rack followed in the parade. This float was drawn by a homemade garden tractor and operated by Henry Boesch.

**Riceton Women's Association:** This portrayed a quilting bee and featured a number of the pioneers as follows: Mrs. Ernest Reich, Mrs. W. C. Layman, Mrs. Ed. Graff, Mrs. R. E. Miller, Mrs. Frank Hill, Miss Lena Place, Mrs. T. F. O'Brien and Mrs. E. W. Jones. Walter Reich pulled this float with his homemade tractor.

**The Old Back Breakers:** This float featured some of the arduous tasks performed by the past generation such as washing by hand on a scrub board (Mrs. Garth Boesch), churning butter with a stone churn (Mrs. Henry Boesch), a grindstone operated by Mrs. E. B. Moats and W. C. Layman. Looking after the children while these tasks were being performed was Mrs. Jack Purves. Eldon Layman supplied the power to pull this float.

**Barn Dance:** The Cross School District teacher, Mrs. Andy Kimery and her pupils square danced to phonograph music. This float was drawn by Edwin Moon.

**Land Seekers:** The pioneer trekking westward in search of a homestead was featured by LeMoyne Baker and family riding a horse-drawn democrat. This was particularly applicable to the Bakers this year, due to the extensive flooding of their farm.



Grandma, Lulu McKim ready for the Centennial Parade, 1955.



Land seekers, LeMoyne Baker and family riding in a horse-drawn democrat.

**Grain Binder:** A grain binder in working condition was contributed by Moats Brothers. Wilber Moats drove the horses.

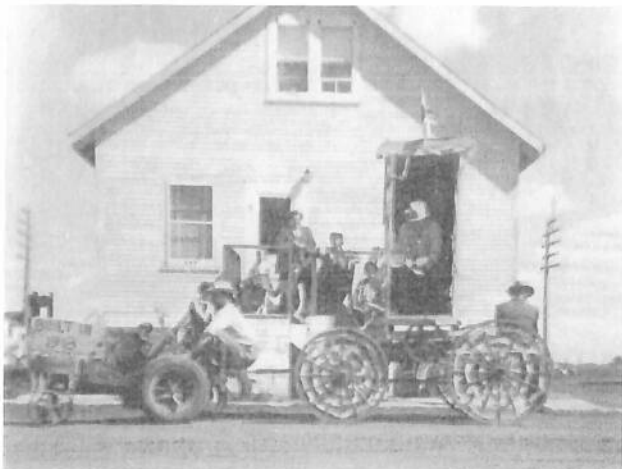


The boys dressed as cowboys riding their tricycles.



Float put on by the Riceton School children.

**The Old Reliable:** This was master-minded and engineered by Garth Boesch. It featured a building common to the farmstead. Leo Hill occupied a prominent position on this float. Designer Garth Boesch pulled the float with a homemade garden tractor.



The old Reliable, a building common to the farmstead.

**1919 Deluxe Model:** The Ronald Moats family drove this old Ford in the parade. The 1919 license plates and the attire were in harmony.

**Co-op Trucks:** The Riceton Co-op trucks, carrying flags, streamers and slogans, were in the parade. These were driven by John Schneider and Walter Euteneier. The Co-op at Riceton is the creation of its pioneers and the trucks were in the parade as a tribute to those pioneers.

**The Younger Generation:** In a parade honoring the pioneers it was fitting indeed that the children should participate. Eleven little girls pushed their gaily colored doll carriages. They were followed by the little boys dressed as cowboys mounted on their tricycles all decorated for the occasion. This section drew many favorable comments and applause.



The little girls pushing their doll carriages.

**The Great Lovers:** An amusing addition to the parade was Max Hill in a Prince Albert and Mac Patton resplendent in long dress and tresses. They provided much amusement with their feats in an old Crossley car which appeared to be in difficulties much of the time.



Riceton Women's Association having a quilting bee.





Youngsters that took part in the parade.



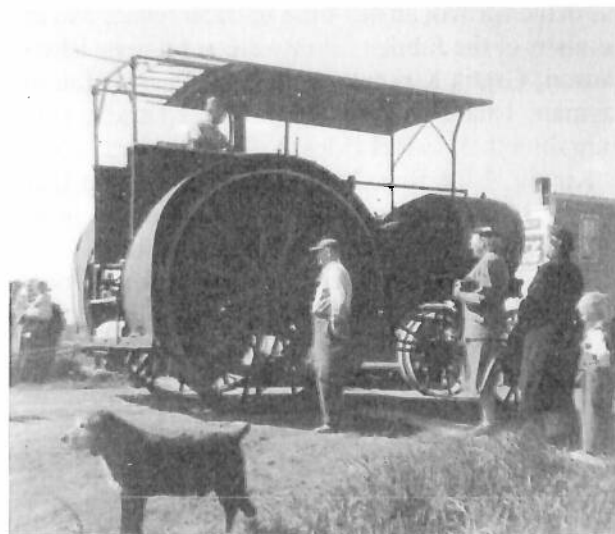
Beryl Purves, Tim Maloney, Robin Boesch, Kelly Maloney.

**Aultman - Taylor:** This tractor was brought from Lang for this parade. Owned and operated by Louis Schmidt, it brought back memories of the days when it pulled the plows that turned the virgin soil into our present fertile fields. This twelve-ton giant of 1922 vintage was in excellent working condition. A six-furrow breaker plow owned by W. A. Purves was drawn by the 30-60 horse power engine. Mr. E. B. Moats stood on the plow for the parade depicting the early settler.

**Stook Loader:** An item of interest was a stook loader owned by Alex Fahlman. This was drawn by a tractor operated by Edwin Reich.

**Two Firsts:** A tractor owned by Thos. O'Brien, the first rubber tired tractor to come to Saskatchewan in 1935, and drawing the first grader owned by the Rural Municipality of Lajord was driven by Gerald O'Brien.

Following the parade races of all descriptions were held for the children. The happy crowd then



Aultman Taylor tractor owned and operated by Louis Schmidt.

moved to the hall where a Pot Luck Supper was served.

One of the interesting highlights of the day's proceedings was a display of relics and antiques. Many items, old when they were brought to this country by the pioneers, attracted the attention of the younger generation. One article of interest to many was an oxen yoke displayed by Mr. Edward Kelly. Many items dated back to the early 19th century.

The evening program was opened by Mr. E. B. Moats, Chairman of the Jubilee Committee, who introduced some special guests. Among these were Mr. Enos Harvey, Riceton's first general merchant 1911-1918 and Mr. Duguid, the district's first school teacher in 1908 at Denver S.D. and Cross S.D. All pioneers in the district before 1915 were introduced and tribute was also extended to the many who have gone on to their eternal reward. Mr. Moats spoke in detail on the settling of the Western plains, first by the tribes of Indians and then the Metis and white race.

At this point of the program, Mr. Moats performed the pleasant task of introducing Mrs. E. Graff, known by all as "Aunt Katie". She was being honored because as a trained nurse she has been an angel of mercy to everyone in our community, and had been in attendance at no less than twenty-seven blessed events during a period of twenty-five years. A bouquet of roses and an album containing the pictures of all "her children" was presented to Mrs. Graff by little Katherine Olson. Kathy is named after Mrs. Graff because she is one of the children "Aunt Katie" delivered.

Master of Ceremonies for the program was Garth Boesch. Portraying a very, very old pioneer, he had young and old in stitches all evening. The program

was in the form of an old-time musical revue, and the members of the Jubilee Choir were as follows: Rhoda Ranson, Gratia Kirkpatrick, Edythe Purves, Lucille Layman, Iola Bohlken, Harriet Kirkpatrick, (program director), Isobel Boesch, Mrs. E. Jones, Mrs. E. Kinvig, Lina Roy, Jack Purves, Rev. John Dunnett, Fr. J. Malloy, Bruce Jones, Ernest Jones, Merle Boesch and Ronald Moats (Choir Leader).

Mrs. Kinvig gave a reading on the early pioneers and the origin of Riceton entitled "Reminiscence", after which the choir rendered several numbers. This was followed by a solo by Gratia Kirkpatrick. Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKim were then honored on the stage and the chorus sang appropriate numbers.

One of the few early settlers with us is Mrs. Ernest Jones who came to the district in 1903. To appropriately honor the Jones family a place was given them on the program. Rhoda (Mrs. Ranson), Bruce and Mr. and Mrs. Jones sang two very nice selections.

The next item on the program featured Rev. J. Dunnett and Mrs. Dunnett in a recitation "That Old Sweetheart of Mine".

A program of this nature would not be complete without the old Barber Shop quartet. Garth Boesch, Merle Boesch, Bruce Jones and Ronald Moats sang two very fine songs. The second number "Goofus", featured the can-can dancing of Danny Kirkpatrick and Max Hill. Danny also appeared in a previous number by the chorus, "Oh you Beautiful Doll", as the "doll".

The male voices in the choir then sang two rousing numbers, "Home on the Range" and "Stout Hearted Men". Father John Malloy, parish priest from Milestone, was soloist for the second number. This was followed by the song "Bicycle Built For Two". The two-seater was operated by Max Hill with Dan Kirkpatrick playing the role of the sweet young thing.

Mr. and Mrs. Reich then danced an old-time dance. All agreed "Ernie" can still drive the nails home. The chorus closed the program with the songs "Land of Hope and Glory" and "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You".

Piano music for the entire program was supplied by Mrs. J. Cornish of Regina. Mrs. W. N. Robinson, who had planned to play and had attended all rehearsals, had to go to the hospital that day and her niece Mrs. Cornish graciously consented to play.

Following the program everyone danced to the modern and old-time music supplied by our own orchestra. Playing in the orchestra were Harold Larson, Lorne Mohr, Garth Boesch, Ronald Moats and Mr. and Mrs. Merle Boesch. Mr. Fred Williams supplied the "fiddle" music for old-time dancing.

Many of the early settlers came back to Riceton for its jubilee celebration. To mention a few of these we are risking the possibility of overlooking some of our visitors, however it is not intentional. Some of the out-of-town visitors were: Mr. Clarence Wight, Regina; Mr. Art Stinson, South Dakota; Mr. Samuel Moyse, Sedley; Mr. Geo. Staves, Regina; Mr. Joseph Lekivetz, Regina; Mr. J. Bunn, Regina; Mr. C. B. Bohlken, Regina; Mr. Thos. Moon, Lang; Mrs. H. B. Moats, Regina; Ben Johnston, Parkman; Mrs. Morley Place, Calgary; Mrs. Dot Boesch, Regina and Mrs. A. C. Sonder, Lang. The wives of the above men were very busy renewing old acquaintances and it was gratifying to have them with us for the day. It was heart-warming to see J. H. "Herb" Aitken at the celebration. "Herb" has been confined to a wheel chair the past few years.

Souvenir Golden Jubilee ribbons were sold during the day by three of the High School girls — Deena Dunnett, Helen Koszman and Gail Bohlken.

The Jubilee Committee greatly appreciated the effort and enthusiasm of the people of Riceton and district without whose support this celebration could not have been such a successful and happy event. We especially thank Phil Roy for a grand job of reporting the day's proceedings.

### Reminiscence

Today we celebrate Jubilee Year,  
We are pleased there are so many here,  
To honor these — our pioneers,  
Who have braved the hardships through the years.

Leaving kindred and friends behind,  
They started out their fortune to find;  
And came to this vast prairie land,  
Hoping things would turn out as planned.

They settled on claims quite far apart;  
But friendships grew right from the start.  
When trouble came each helped the other,  
And nothing was ever too much bother.

Money was the greatest lack,  
Food was scarce in many a shack.  
But, if a stranger chanced their way,  
They shared what they had without thought of pay.

Parents then were strong and brave,  
For oft times conditions were very grave.  
Blizzards raged and prairie fires roared,  
But they held fast to their faith in the Lord.

Yes, they had wet years then as now;  
But thought next year would be better somehow,  
The dry years too with scorching sun,  
Made it hard for everyone.

In Kronau or Milestone their trading was done.  
A trip from morning till setting of sun.

Mule or horse was mode of travel then;  
 The trip was made mostly by men.  
 South of the Johnston farm they built a school  
 Where children were taught the golden rule.  
 Some walked seven miles to and fro;  
 Their's was indeed a hard row to hoe.  
 In order to keep out the winter's cold  
 It had to be back plastered, so I'm told.  
 Still it could not keep out the chilly blast,  
 And school was closed till winter passed.  
 Years later, when the town was planned  
 They moved it in, and there a band  
 Of people worshipped on the Sabbath Day,  
 And taught their children the truth and the way.  
 Even then it would not hold the heat;  
 For at one evening service a lady froze her feet  
 When the new school was built, it was moved west  
 of town  
 And made into a house where children played  
 roun'.

In nineteen twelve, oh! what a thrill,  
 The C.N.R. passed a bill  
 To build a railroad through this way,  
 And work commenced without delay.  
 No power machinery was heard of then,  
 The work was done by mules, horses and men.  
 The grade was finished; all but the packing,  
 And for this job nothing was lacking.  
 "I drove mules down that grade." says Mr. Moats;  
 Of this feat, he proudly boasts.  
 To drive a mule is no vain whim;  
 But I'm convinced the mules drove him.  
 Mr. Rice, a man of foresight,  
 Donated the land for the townsite.  
 They wanted it named after Bernice, their daughter,  
 But the Company thought it not very proper.  
 Rice was too short, so they named it Riceton,  
 And that was how our town begun.  
 Mr. Harvey built the first general store.  
 Mr. Wm. Schultz had the first elevator.  
 Schultz Brothers built the first hardware.  
 In nineteen fourteen the telephone office located  
 there.  
 The lumberyard and bank soon followed after,  
 And the restaurant and barbershop. The town grew  
 faster.  
 The first church was built in nineteen twenty  
 By the community. There was work aplenty.  
 The men did the work and the ladies served tea.  
 A worthwhile project, as all can see.  
 Today we have a thriving town.  
 The cleanest and the best aroun'.

May we keep it so and build for the future  
 A land of promise and great culture.  
 We are grateful to these — our pioneers,  
 Who have built and saved throughout the years,  
 To leave to their posterity  
 A land of great prosperity.  
 They like to talk of the good old days,  
 They say they were better in many ways.  
 No electricity, power machinery, cars. We wonder  
 why.  
 But they had something money could not buy.  
 Happy homes, where parents and children worked  
 together.  
 Parents were respected, even if they did use the  
 leather.  
 Friends who were tested, tried and true.  
 God bless you all. Our best to you.

Irene Kinvig  
 Riceton, Sask.

## **The Canadian National**

The strangest whistle is heard, the air is full of the  
 smell of diesel, you look up to see what is happening  
 and before your eyes are the oddest looking self-  
 propelled cars going along the CN tracks through  
 Riceton on toward Bechard. The first thing one  
 thinks of is "Where did this strange setup come  
 from?"

On April 21, 1926 car #15823 was received from  
 the builder Ottawa Car — C.N.Rys. It is known that  
 this car operated between Riceton and Weyburn in  
 1938. Table #273 shows a copy of the 1941 public  
 timetable with the schedule from Regina to  
 Weyburn, then Radville and the return trip to Regina.  
 The conductor who soon became a friend to all was  
 Mr. Sam Quigley.

Because of the odd smell that filled the air and the  
 two bright stripes up and down on the front, this car  
 soon became known as the "Skunk".

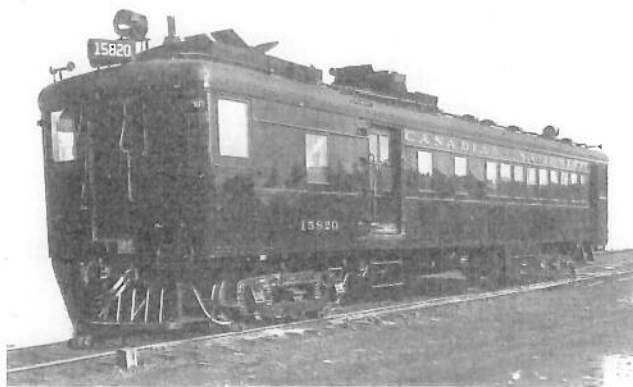
It is known that the CN at one time, had over fifty  
 such cars. Late in 1949 Car #15823 was sold to the  
 then Pacific Great Eastern Railway — now British  
 Columbia Railway.

## **Canadian National Railways Magazine October, 1925**

### **New Chapter in Railroad History Oil Electric Cars Prove latest Development in Motive Power — May Bring About New Era in Development of Modern Transportation**

The oil electric car is the name given to the new  
 type of motive power. Two sizes of cars have been  
 designed and are in service. One has a body with an  
 overall length of 60 feet set on two four-wheel trucks.





C.N.R. "Skunk".

REGINA—WEYBURN—RADVILLE—LAMPMAN—NORTHGATE

Read Down			TABLE 273			Read Up		
M306 Mon. Wed. Fri.	5 Daily	Miles	Mountain Time (Fort Garry Hotel)			6 Daily	M307 Tues. Thurs. Sat.	
	P.M.	0.0 to	WINNIPEG, MAN.		A.M.	8.55		
	8.00	356.0 to	REGINA, SASK.		7.30			
	8.15							
M70 Ex. Sun.	A.M.	9.10	0.0 to	REGINA, SASK. 240, 262, 274.		6.45		
	9.38	11.5	Rowett		6.10			
	9.51	12.8	Estlin		5.56			
	10.03	25.6	Gray		5.42			
	10.18	32.6	Rieton		5.28			
	10.31	38.5	Boehard		5.16			
	10.44	45.0	Louvan		5.04			
	10.58	51.1	Colfax		4.52			
	11.12	58.2	Cedoux		4.38			
	11.26	64.9	Worcester		4.24			
	11.38	69.8	TALBAGE		4.14			
	11.46				4.09			
	12.00	76.5	Manaur		3.55			
	12.15	83.6	Weyburn		3.40			
	12.30	89.5	Union Jack		3.30			
	12.50	92.9	Goodale		3.10			
	12.57	99.4	Greenfield		3.03			
	1.10	103.7	Dandonnau		2.50			
	1.18	109.1	RADVILLE 272, 274		2.42			
	1.30				2.30			
	12.55	0.0 to	WEYBURN		A.M.	1.35		
	1.45	13.8	TALBAGE		12.50			
	2.15	20.3	Brough		12.30			
	2.35	26.9	Giffin		12.10			
	3.00	32.7	Innes		11.45			
	3.20	38.5	Hunter		11.25			
	3.40	43.8	Woodfield		11.00			
	3.55	50.7	Senson		10.45			
	4.25	56.4	Woodley		10.20			
	4.50	62.5	Mineard		10.00			
	5.04		LAMPMAN 272		9.35			
	5.10	63.9			9.30			
	6.20	68.6	Bresca		A.M.	8.35		
	6.35	73.0	Stallman		8.22			
	6.50	82.4	Frabisher		8.10			
	7.20	89.0	Openshaw		7.48			
	7.40	95.1	Souris River		7.33			
	8.00	98.6	Elcott		7.10			
	8.20	102.1	NORTHGATE, SASK.		7.09			
	8.35				7.00			
					A.M.			

REFERENCE MARKS—Tables 267-277

Mon., Wed. and Fri. M Mixed Train. Motor train.  
 Tues., Thurs. and Sat. Dark face figures denote p.m. time.  
 Stop on signal. Light face figures denote a.m. time.  
 Sun., Tues. and Thurs.  
 Sun., Wed. and Fri.

Numbers following certain stations refer to Tables showing connecting trains.

C.N.R. Schedule Regina — Weyburn — Northgate.

This car can pull a trailer if desired. The second and larger car is known as the articulated. It consists of two bodies, with a total overall length of 102 feet set on three four-wheel trucks.

Both the small and articulated cars are built to carry passengers, express and baggage. The small car has a passenger carrying capacity of 56, of which number 18 can be accommodated in the baggage end.

The large car can carry 126 passengers, of which number 35 can be accommodated in the baggage end.

Relatively speaking, the principle behind the power which drives the car is simple although an entirely new departure as far as the rail transportation industry is concerned. In one end of the car is located a light fuel oil engine, the lightest of its kind in the world outside of aero practice, the weight of that in a small car being 2,576 pounds and in the large car 5,450 pounds. The engine operates an electric generator and this provides the actual energy to move the car. The engine itself is started by a small electric motor deriving power from storage batteries and these batteries are recharged from the generator so that, to the layman at least, the cycle of performance is a close approach to perpetual motion. The engine is constructed on the Diesel principle but has been adapted in such a way to transportation needs that the name "Diesel" is scarcely a correct description of its type and the term "Oil Electric" has been adopted for classification purposes.

The engine for the small car has four cylinders and produces 185 h.p. at 700 revolutions per minute. That of the large car has eight cylinders and produces 340 h.p. at 650 R.P.M. In both cases the engines are self-governed; that is they run at a constant speed though at stations they can be slowed down to any required speed. There is a driver's compartment at each end of the car and the control switches are operated from either compartment so that it is never necessary to reverse the car on a turntable or a "Y."

Extravagant claims for the oil electric car are not made by those responsible for its creation. Exhaustive tests and trial runs that have been made, however, warrant the belief that the car will prove a valuable adjunct of railway equipment and justify the faith of its builders. It has proved its ability to produce and maintain speed and its low fuel consumption cost stamps it as the most economical motive power unit in use on any railway in the world. For example there are two typical achievements.

On September 4, the small car which had been undergoing a series of tests on various lines in Western Ontario, returned from Toronto to Montreal under its own power. The mileage between those points is 334 miles. The fuel consumption of the car cost \$3.50. The cost of lubricating oil averaged one-seventh of a cent per mile or a total cost of about 48 cents for the entire trip. Adding the two together the complete fuel cost was \$3.98. To have operated a steam train with a similar passenger carrying capacity would have entailed a fuel cost of at least \$66.00.

On Saturday, September 19, the large car was given a trial run from Montreal to Ottawa and return.

On board were representatives from Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa newspapers and a number of officers of the company. The outward trip to Ottawa was made in two hours and fifteen minutes actual running time or an average of 52 miles per hour. The mileage for the complete round trip amounted to 235 miles and the fuel cost to \$5.87. The fuel cost for the same trip of the most economical type of coal burning locomotive would have been at least \$40.70.

It was during this test trip to Ottawa that the full story of the creation of this car became known, the telling of it being done by Mr. C. E. Brooks, Chief of Motive Power of the Canadian National Railways, on the request of Major Graham A. Bell, Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, who with Major J. H. Balharrie of Ottawa and representative citizens met and inspected the car on its arrival in Ottawa.

Courtesy of Canadian National, Montreal

### **The Riceton Rural Telephone Co. Ltd.**

by **Walter H. Reich**

Early in the year of 1914 a group of Riceton area residents decided to form a telephone company for communication among the pioneers of the day in the area. Although the precise document requesting government officials of the formation of a telephone company have never been found, all other documents have been historically preserved in the Archives (Saskatchewan), Library Building, University of Saskatchewan, Regina.

It was on April 22, 1914 that Messrs W. H. Mabee, I. B. Cushing, E. N. Swanson, E. B. Moats, J. W. Baker and R. L. Purves, Sr. called their first Board meeting, having been duly elected as Directors of the Riceton Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. Mr. R. L. Purves was elected as chairman and President of the Co. E. A. Duncan was appointed as Secretary-Treasurer. No doubt there had been several organizational meetings beforehand and on June the twenty-seventh, 1914 they agreed to borrow by debenture from the Standard Bank of Canada, in Riceton, 13,000 dollars at 7½% for fifteen years to build some of the lines needed for the system. Approximately fifty miles of single and multi-circuit lines were built in 1914., by J. L. Woods and W. D. Craig, telephone line contractors.

By May 1, 1914 the Company had sixty-five shareholders at \$5.00 each, and some of the first subscribers were Fred Bohlken, A. K. McEwen, W. H. Mabee, Ernest Reich, C. O. Baker, R. L. Purves Sr., E. B. Moats and Robert McKim. The first switchboard operator and lineman was E. L. Krewson at a salary of \$620.00 per year. He served until 1919, then L. P. Stevens, Mrs. McCuaig for a number of years, Jack Deagon, and in 1926 a young couple,



L. to R.: Riceton Telephone office, garage, A. M. Place house and the United Church.

who had just been married, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Aitkens, began what proved to be their lifetime careers as operators and lineman for the Riceton Co. Herb served the Company expertly and faithfully until in 1952 he was badly injured while repairing and was forced to retire from linework. He still, however, managed to keep a close watch on the overall operation and offer some helpful suggestions along the way. Maude Aitkens and her daughter, Marilyn, kept the switchboard going for almost ten more years and in 1961, after thirty-five years of untiringly faithful service, the Aitkens family moved to Regina. Herb and Maude had a family of five children who also helped at various times in the many tasks of keeping a home as well as operate a switchboard. Words cannot express the Company's sincere appreciation and thanks for those thirty-five years of endurance and perseverance. A most honourable mention is hereby endorsed.

During these years of organization no doubt the executive found it hard to call meetings of the board together, so the records show the first general meeting as being held on March 17, 1917. A directors meeting on April 16, 1917 provided a motion to build a Central Office building on Lot 1, Block 4 in Riceton, which had been purchased from Schultz Bros. earlier for \$250. The lumber for the building was purchased from the Monarch Lumber Co., Riceton, for \$550. No records show who actually built the building and it existed, with some modifications, until the Company had no more use for it in 1970.

The first annual shareholders' meeting was recorded as being held on January 20, 1919. Switchboard hours, which were changed quite frequently through the years, were from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. in 1919. The decision was also reached to have all poles in Riceton, that would occasionally have horses tied to them, covered with tin a distance of 3 or 4 ft. from the ground upwards. This was to prevent damage to the poles.

On August 16, 1917 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was granted a free telephone installation and rental as a convenience to the area people. This remained a rental free phone for a long time and in the early fifties the C.N.R. became liable for regular plus business subscriber dues by Board action.

Over the period of years from 1914 to 1922 the Company took debenture loans from the Standard Bank of Canada, in Riceton, totalling \$21,000, at 7 to 8% interest and from ten to fifteen years for line construction. Nowhere is it shown who actually bought the telephone instruments. Perhaps they were supplied by the government of the day, however later legislation provided that all telephone instruments and related material that was connected to a system belonged to the company involved.

On October 24, 1929 a joint meeting with Gray Rural Telephone Co. was held to discuss possible amalgamation of the two companies. A motion, which was later rescinded, provided that this was to occur. This topic was later discussed again on several occasions, but never actually took place as far as the Rural Companies were concerned. Now, however, many years later, Gray became an important part of the Riceton, Gray, Bechard, Community Dial Office system we have today.

By 1935 Riceton rural had eighty-one subscribers and approximately twenty-two in the Hamlet of Riceton. The system had approximately seventy to seventy-five miles of single and multi-circuit lines. The records show that the Boards of the day had many problems with rental and fee collections during those trying times. The minutes of nearly every meeting indicate board concern over delinquent accounts. The thirties passed us by, but not without some form of casualty in communication systems around the surrounding districts. In 1940 two or three subscribers from Ifield Rural Telephone Company applied to become part of the Riceton system. Also, in 1944, the Lajord Rural Telephone Co., which was having operating difficulties, petitioned the Minister of Telephones to have the Riceton Rural Telephone Company accept all Lajord's assets and liabilities by assimilating Lajord's entire system, as such, for \$1.00. This had been contemplated as early as 1935 but actually occurred in 1944. Lajord Rural had approximately twenty-five miles of line with twenty-three subscribers. As well, they had a Central Office building in Lajord, which the Riceton Company returned to the R.M. of Lajord as repayment of outstanding back taxes owing. Riceton area then became directly linked with the R.M. office for many years. This long stretch of open line required many extra painstaking hours of supervision and repair, so in 1973 the Lajord area subscribers were taken over

from Riceton Rural by Sask Tel, and cabled into Lajord and Regina.

During the period from 1914 to 1926 there were several line contractors who did the Company's maintenance work. From 1926 to 1952 Mr. Herb Aitkens did all maintenance, reconstruction, and repair. Sometimes this required working under very adverse weather conditions. This most often mattered not to "Herb", the line was repaired. We can still visualize Herb, up a pole, 30° below zero, jacket flapping in the wind, bare handed, making connections on an open line. Meanwhile, Maude kept things going at Central. Such dedicated service knows no reward.

After Herb's serious accident in 1952, Mr. Le-Moyne Baker took over as Company Lineman and contractor. He served as such, much the same until the demise of the Company in 1977.

During the years 1957-1967 Riceton Rural undertook a reconstruction program, whereby all rural lines were rebuilt completely and placed a distance of from 80 to 100 feet from the centre of the existing right of way. This was accomplished without debenture as Special Levy was used instead. Approximate cost of the reconstruction was \$410.00 per mile, or a total of \$28,700. Part of this cost was absorbed by Government and Municipal grants for right of way easements, poles, wire, etc.

Also, during those past number of years, the Board of Directors had been discussing a proposal that Sask Tel be asked to take over the Hamlet of Riceton installation, including the switchboard, subscribers phones, etc. After several general and Board meetings, on February 19, 1962 the Board made an agreement with Sask Tel regarding the above. On January 20, 1964 Sask Tel paid Riceton Rural Telephone Co. \$900.00 for the plant and installations in the Hamlet of Riceton. They then began operations whereby Riceton Rural Co. paid Sask Tel for connection and switching fees as per each rural subscriber and circuit so connected. Any of Sask Tel cable used by the Company was subject to a cable rental fee also. By August 1965 Sask Tel had also agreed to take over the installations in the Hamlet of Bechard. By this time Riceton had had several switchboard operators and linemen. After the Aitkens family left the district, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Lanes were the most prominent lineman-operator combination. They remained at Riceton for several years and provided an excellent service to the area. In 1967 Mrs. Geraldine Deschner started as switchboard operator for Sask Tel and remained until the Company disorganized on December 25th, 1977.

At a January 24th, 1968 board meeting, the board felt that, in view of the fact the Co. was in good

financial condition, a removal of non-run-off parcel Special Levy was desirable. The Dept. of Rural Telephones agreed and this was done effective that year. About this time it also became increasingly obvious that the Central Office building and Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, in Riceton were not going to be needed much longer due to Sask Tel's reconstruction program in the Hamlet of Riceton. Riceton Rural Telephone Company offered the buildings and lots for sale and they were sold in January 1970. Sask Tel acquired the land property on which they established a new Community Dial Office in 1971 and 1972. They started conducting an automatic service from their new builings, while Riceton Rural still continued paying cable rent and connection fees to Sask Tel.

In the years 1971 through 1973 Riceton Rural again reconstructed its entire rural network by installing underground cable instead of open line. This was made possible by normal taxation through Special Levies, gov't cable grants, and sale of materials recovered from the existing open line removal. Also, in 1973 Sask Tel began collecting all Rural and Hamlet Long Distance and toll accounts. We were gradually phasing ourselves out of operating a communication system that required more full time attention than we could provide ourselves, even though it had provided an excellent service for sixty three years.

As discussions with Sask Tel regarding an Automatic system at Riceton had started as early as 1972, no one really believed so much could be accomplished in so little time. By March 1977 some of our wishes were beginning to bear fruit in that the proposed assimilation with Sask Tel and complete automatic service became a reality. So much so that on March 24th, 1977 motion was passed unanimously to wind up the affairs of the Riceton Rural Telephone Company Ltd. and become a part of Sask Tel. Sask Tel took over the complete operations of Riceton Rural Telephone Co. on Automatic Service for all intents and purposes on December 25th, 1977.

The final Board meeting of the Riceton Rural Telephone Company was held on January 10th, 1978. At that time all surplus funds and equipment were turned over to the custody of Sask Tel. We are presently, and have been the past year or so, operating under the direct dial system to Regina.

Board members serving at date of final meeting were —

Mac. Paton — Pres. Walter Reich — Sec. Treas.

Ron Ulrich, LeMoyne Baker, Jim Crawford, and Tom Maloney.

**(FOOTNOTE)**

During the sixty years of official operation as a Rural Telephone Company many people served in various

capacities for the benefit of everyone. We must give credit to the early pioneers who through daring and foresight decided to embark on a venture to provide a community service, second to none and so vital to that growing community.

These people have since passed on, and through the years since, various community spirited people have let their efforts command the affairs of this important service.

Perhaps we tend to take things like these for granted too often, and especially in times when economic conditions are quite somewhat different than under which a service such as the Rural Telephone was started.

Therefore, words seem quite futile to express our most sincere thanks to the switchboard operators and their families, the linemen and Board members, who gave so freely their time and efforts to provide the area people with an excellent service these past sixty-three years.

### **The Riceton Co-operative Association Limited and The Riceton Credit Union by Becky Maloney**

Born of drought and depression in April 4, 1931, the Riceton Co-operative Association began because the community members felt they were being charged far too much for oil and gasoline by Imperial Oil; these two being the most costly items in farming. Riceton and eleven other communities nearby started their own retail stations.



Mary and Bob Ketchin and son Gordon.



Robert (Bob) Ketchin presenting first prize to Carolyn and Karl Posehn at the Co-op talent show held at Riceton.

The first Provisional Board of Directors included: J. P. Boesch, R. O. Runkle, H. H. Hanson, M. Lynch, Geo. Betcher, E. E. Frisk, G. W. Stewart and R. Borland as Secretary-Treasurer. This Board purchased the Puritan Oil Company as individuals and held the Company in trust for the Association until December 22, 1932, at which time the transfer of ownership was made from the Provisional Board to the Association.

During its first year, the Co-op saved enough money to pay the \$3,500 cost of purchasing its own storage tanks; the gross margin totalling 30.62%.

Despite its immediate success, the members of the Co-op still believed they were paying too much for fuel, so in 1935 they built their own refinery. Although \$150,000 was needed, the "drought-poor" members could subscribe only \$34,000. They began business with a makeshift outfit and within the first ninety days of business, they had cleared \$28,000,



Co-op Staff party. Back L. to R.: C. Sheltgen, Phil Roy, Burness Robinson, Tom Maloney. Front: Wm. Hill, Margarette Maloney, Lina Roy, Frances Hill.

which was almost the cost of the plant. They found that they could produce gasoline, which was then selling for 27.5 cents a gallon, for 10.5 cents. The money saved from having their own plant was a great boon to the members, who enjoyed the benefits of profit sharing and by 1952 the company had become a multi-million dollar operation.

It is said that the Riceton Co-op saved the community from becoming a ghost town. At the time of its initiation, things were not going at all well in other lines of business. No one had money to buy new implements or to keep fast-moving machine repairs on hand. Bennett-buggies were replacing cars, stocks in stores were seriously depleted and people had great difficulty in obtaining their needed staples. The Banks closed as soon as things got bleak and refused even part-time service to the community. The result of all this was, that by the time the economy had begun to pick up again, people had become accustomed to going elsewhere for supplies.

The Riceton District Savings and Credit Union Limited was incorporated and commenced business in 1943. This was due largely to the fact that in 1930, the area within a twenty mile radius of Riceton had been served by fourteen banks and one sub-branch, but by the year 1933, with the onslaught of the Depression, the Community had been deprived of all banking facilities whatsoever.



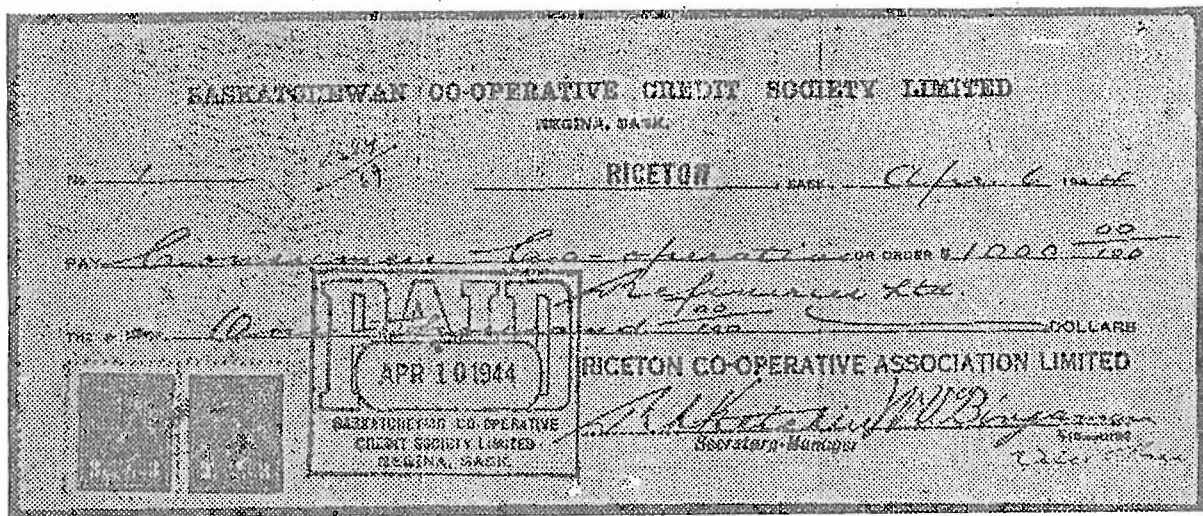
Frank Forsberg, Co-op truck driver, 1946-47.

On the 26th day of October, 1943, a Memorandum of Association was filed with the Registrar of Credit Unions for Saskatchewan to form the Riceton District Savings and Credit Union Limited. The requirements were for ten residents to sign the request to be incorporated under the provisions of the Credit Union Act. The request was signed by: R. E. Miller, A. M. Purves, E. W. Jones, G. D. Bingaman, Wm. C. Layman, C. B. Bohlken, James Watts, C. E. Kinvig, J. P. Boesch and E. J. Graff. This memorandum was signed November 2, 1943 with charter number 121.

During the organizational meeting held Novem-



# First Cheque Cleared by Sask. Co-op Credit Society



The first cheque cleared to the Sask. Co-operative Credit Society under the new checking system is shown here. It is for one thousand dollars and was issued by the Riceton Co-operative Association to the Co-op. Refinery. The date of issue was April 6 and payment was made by the Credit Society on April 10. A number of organizations are now using this service regularly and by the end of April, the first month of operation, over 20 Co-ops and Credit Unions had made checking arrangements. During the year ended April 30, the Society has experienced its greatest growth to date. Paid up capital has increased by \$60,000 to total \$83,000 at the end of the year. For the same period deposits showed a tenfold increase from \$13,000 to \$137,000.

First cheque cleared by the Sask. Co-op Credit Society.

ber 16, 1943, the following people were appointed for a one-year term. Directors included: J. P. Boesch (President), W. V. Bingaman (Vice-President), L. T. Moon, Frank Burden, C. J. Fahlman, E. L. Lafoy and Walter Boesch. The Credit Committee was made up of Chairman Wm. A. Purves, J. P. Boesch and R. L. Ketchin. G. D. Bingaman was the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee which also included J. A. Burwell and O. D. Lewis. R. L. Ketchin was appointed Secretary Treasurer. At the first Annual Meeting held January 22, 1945 stated assets at December 31, 1944 were \$110,930.03. Membership was at 135 and net savings totalled \$1,274.29. Dividends paid on shares stood at 2%, while interest on deposits was at  $\frac{3}{4}$ % and the Patronage Refund of loan interest was at 10%.

It was important that the community have its own facilities for other reasons. Prior to the incorporation of the Credit Union, an individual in need of temporary seasonal credit was faced with having to present himself to a bank or business institution which had previously had no dealings with him, no record of past operations and no knowledge of his character and integrity as a citizen. The lack of available small loans resulted in great financial handicaps to farmers and other community members.

The building which presently houses the Credit Union and the General Store was erected in 1948 at a

cost of \$25,000, paid for with savings accumulated over a very short period of time. The Co-op and the Credit Union were originally in an uninsulated shack located on the CNR right-of-way.

By 1952, Riceton was a Co-op town from end to end. Along Main Street were the following Co-operative businesses: a bulk oil and coal shed with an office that sold Co-op Hail, Fire and Casualty Insurance, a general and hardware store with an agency for the sale of farm implements, a Credit Union office and a Pool Elevator. At that time, over eighty percent of the residents were members; the Co-op stores doing ninety per cent of the town business.

The Toronto Star Weekly ran a story on December 13th, 1952 by Harold Hilliard, which praised the community Co-operatives not only for having survived the tough times but for surviving the prosperous ones as well. In it, Virgil Bingaman of Riceton was described as a Saskatchewan farmer who had "found a way of turning a \$40 investment into a \$3,400 bankroll without resorting to the stock market or the sweeps". Co-op shares at that time were \$40 each and there were three hundred available from this association whose mandate was to supply its members with "gasoline, all fuels, twine and provisions".

What the Co-op movement did to help Canadian consumers in general was not only to offer patronage

dividends and reasonable prices but it instilled in the community members a sense of unity as well.

## **Riceton Volunteer Fire Brigade**

**by Neal Moyse**

The Riceton Volunteer Fire Brigade was organized during the first and second week of March 1975 following the complete loss of the Riceton Hall and Rink complex, February 28, 1975. There had been some talk of the purchase of equipment by a few members of the community about thirteen months earlier when the D. Parker's residence was completely lost due to fire. In both cases the fires were discovered at an early stage but due to the distance of the nearest fire fighting equipment the fires were uncontrollable when the Milestone Fire Department



Fire Equipment — Riceton.

arrived. A meeting was called by D. Kirkpatrick and N. Moyse after the rink fire with an attendance in excess of fifty people present. It was agreed that the project be financed by subscription of memberships at the rate of \$100 for a five year period. At this meeting a six-man committee was formed.

On March 14, 1975 an order was placed with Wilson and Cousin Ltd., Brampton, Ontario for a portable fire pump, fourteen hundred feet of hose, protective gear, nozzles and other basic equipment.

In April, 1975 three of our members attended a fire school in Montmartre, Saskatchewan and received their certificates. That prompted our department to host a fire school in Riceton in November, 1976 with instruction from the fire commissioners office in Regina. We had about forty people attend ranging in age from seventeen to ninety years old with fifteen members receiving their certificates.

After a very destructive fire on the W. E. Moats



Riceton's fire truck.

farm September 6, 1976 it was decided to upgrade the Fire Department. Later that year a 1965 International 1600 cab over chassis was purchased and rebuilt over the course of the winter. The following winter saw a six hundred gallon water tank, auxiliary engine driving a four hundred and twenty gallon per minute pump, hose racks and some compartments added. During the 1978-79 winter the truck was completed to its present day state. The following fall the fire hall was purchased from the Riceton Co-op and moved across the street to its present location. There were a number of items manufactured locally; pike poles, ice chisels, intake float, several forceable entry tools, a roof ladder, portable tank and hose washer.

The Department is supported by members from the communities of Gray, Riceton and Bechard. Provincial grants, our annual Fireman's Ball proceeds and a pancake breakfast every June help to maintain our Department.

Many thanks for the time, labour, materials and shop facilities that were donated by our dedicated members.

## **Bunn Munro Elevator Co.**

**by Bruce Jones**

One of the companies that had a grain elevator in Riceton and Gray was the Bunn Munro Company. One of the owners was John R. Bunn, who had homesteaded at Milestone and also had relatives in the Riceton area. The majority owners were Charles and George Munro. They also had elevators at Lewvan, Diana and Wilcox. In 1922 Charles Munro became sick and later died of a brain tumor. It was a surprise to all to find that after a small bequest to his sister all of his estate was left to the Salvation Army. To settle the estate the assets had to be liquidated and so the end of the Bunn Munro Company.

# SPECIAL BINNED STORAGE RECEIPT BUNN BROTHERS LIMITED

RICETON

Elevator

192

4144

Gross Weight.....lbs.  
Wagon Weight.....lbs.  
Net Weight.....lbs.

Received into Store from.....  
..... Bushels ..... pounds, Kind of Grain..... Bin No.....

(weight and identity of grain guaranteed by this warehouse) to be stored and insured against loss by fire under the following conditions:  
The charge for receiving, cleaning, insuring against loss by fire, handling, storing 15 days and shipping grain is..... cents  
per bushel. (It is provided by law that this charge shall not exceed 13 cents per bushel). Each succeeding 30 days or part thereof is  
..... of a cent per bushel, including insurance against loss by fire. (It is provided by law that this charge shall not exceed  
one-thirtieth of a cent per bushel per day.)

Upon return of this receipt and tender or payment of above-named charge, accruing up to the time of the return of this receipt, the  
identical grain so received into store will be delivered within the time prescribed by law to the person above named or his order, or  
from this elevator or warehouse, or, if either party so desires, in quantities of not less than carload lots at any terminal elevator  
Western Inspection Division, on same line of railway or any railway connecting therewith, as soon as the transportation com  
livers the grain at the said terminal and certificates of grade and weight are returned, subject to freight, weighing and inspection  
at such terminal point. It is guaranteed that the weight of such grain to be delivered will conform as nearly as poss  
weight first above mentioned, on Government weighing thereof at terminal point.

Gross Weight.....Bus.....Lbs.

Dockage.....Bus.....Lbs.

Weight Net.....Bus.....Lbs.

Net weight in words.....

By *Mon. Office*

Bunn Brothers storage receipt.



Riceton.



# Riceton Sports

## Riceton Sports

Sports activities played a very important part in the Riceton-Bechard area from the early days. Golf and tennis were played and the first rink was an outdoor one with water being hauled to flood the surface. In the early twenties it was decided that an indoor rink was greatly needed so shares were sold to enable the district to build their first covered complex. The rink was built and opened for curling and skating in 1927.

The first hockey team in the district consisted of the Kawuza brothers, the Mohr brothers, Johnston, Schultz, Scheibel, Purves, Crawford, Norman Bradon, Jesse Rice, Ralph Smith and Grills, to name a few. The teams usually played to a full house.



Riceton Junior Hockey Team, 1927-28. Back: Ted Baker, Leland Baker, Norman Braden, Alec Sherwood, LeMoyne Baker, Bob Ketchin referee, Pete Kawuza, Sess Kemp. Front: Paul Kawuza, Roy Smith, Frank Kemp.



Riceton Hockey Team 1927. Back: Ernie Nichols, Kelly Crawford, Babe Mohr, Chink Crawford, Bill Grills, Carl Mohr, Jesse Rice, Ralph Smith. Front: A. Gough, Norman Braden, Clark, Steele.



Riceton Hockey Team 1931-1932. Back: Pete Kawuza, Shoop Lafoy, Melvin Stimson, Paul Kawuza. Front: Walter Reich, Ernie Dunning, Melvin Leach, Joe Leach, Lindsay Johnston, Florie Van de Kamp. Sweaters were from Eaton's in a deal \$3.00 each.



Riceton School Hockey Team 1933. L. to R.: Lindsay Johnston, Tom Kemp, Garth Boesch, Merle Boesch, Earl Schultz, Gordon Toombs, Alex Reid, Roscoe Mooney, Fred Ferris.



Riceton Hockey Team. Back, L. to R.: Lee Moats, David Purves, Darrell Mack, Bruce Jones, Mel and Rocky Purves, Danny Keen. Middle: Clay Reich, Eugene Diekrager, Mark Leach, Vance McNab, Earl Kinvig, Jeff Reich. Front: Colin Jones, LaVerne Bohlken.

Carnivals and broomball tournaments were very popular. Moccasin dances were another great form of entertainment in the winter.

Week-long bonspiels brought curlers in from Gray, Lang, Lewvan, Sedley and Bechard. The ladies of the district served the meals for the week. The ladies' bonspiel was usually held after the men's spiel ended. In later years, school bonspiels were started. Then came the mixed spiels with both ladies and men.



Riceton Ball players. Back: Jack Purves and Carl Mohr. Front: Henry Mohr and Lorney Purves.



Riceton Ball Team. Front: Garth Boesch, Jake Loewen, Ernie Nichols, Ken McKim, Earl Schultz. Back: Fritz Otten, Eldon Layman, Pete Kawuza, Paul Kawuza, Tom Bobier.



Garth Boesch, Toronto Maple Leaf hockey player.



Amcie Purves with trophies won in shuffle tournaments.

The next line of hockey players was made up of the Kawuza brothers, Frank Kemp, Lindsay Johnston, Ross Purves, Roy Smith and LeMoyne Baker. In the late thirties Earl Schultz, Garth Boesch, Walter Reich, Melvin Stimson and Ross Purves were some of the ones who took over. Earl Schultz, Garth Boesch, and Bill Kawuza Cook went on to play at



Ken Bohlken, Frank Forsberg and Donald Bohlken ready for a ball game.

Notre Dame at Wilcox. Garth Boesch went on to play for Toronto Maple Leaf Hockey team.

Sports days in Riceton started in the late nineteen hundreds. Ball teams came from several points to take part. Hardball was the game played then and in later years fast ball was played. Men's and ladies teams took part. One of our prominent umpires was Pete Kawuza. After each sports day was completed the day ended with a dance; a tradition which is still carried on today.



Riceton.

# Bechar'd Riceton Area Schools

# Badger Hill School #2194

by T. Kushnir

The petition for the formation of Badger Hill School District was presented to the Commissioner of Education at Regina on April 29, 1905.\* At that time the population of the district was fifty persons, with seventeen children between the ages of five and sixteen and ten children below the age of five years. The number of actual residents within the proposed district that were liable to school taxes were nineteen Protestants and two Roman Catholics.

Fourteen resident ratepayers attended the first meeting on August 22, 1908. Then on September 22, 1908 the school district became known as Badger Hill School District No. 2194 of the North West

J. W. BAKER, Chairman      THOMAS J. G. LANE, Treasurer      C. H. JEFFERSON, Secretary

**Badger Hill S. D., 2194**

G. W. STEWART  
ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO  
THE SECRETARY

BECHARD, SASK. 1907-1927

Department of Education  
K-12

In answer to your letter of the 15th.  
 we changing teachers 3 times during 1923.  
 I might say that Mrs. & Potomac left us to get married  
 which was no fault of ours  
 Mr. Roy Smith left to take up a course with the  
 Queens University.  
 Mr. Victor Tuzighe left us in July 1924 to help his  
 father on his ranch at White.  
 Hoping that this gives you the required  
 information.  
 Yours truly,  
 Chas. B. Black

Territories. The first trustees were Mr. C. E. Blish, Mr. Murray, Mr. Thomson and Mr. L. A. Thomson being the first treasurer with a salary of \$30 a year in 1908. In 1910 the salary was \$50 a year.

On February 10, 1910 the Minister of Education authorized the Board of trustees to borrow the sum of

PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT.

To the Commissioner of Education,  
 Ottawa, Saskatchewan.

The humble petition of the undersigned sheweth:

1. That the undersigned are actual residents within the area hereinafter proposed to be formed into a school district and that they constitute a committee for the purpose of procuring its formation;

2. That the proposed name of the said district is "The Baden Hill School District";

3. That the following are the lands which it is desired to include within the limits of the proposed district, namely: Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

4. That the number of acres in the said proposed district is about 12,500 and the number of acres of arable land is 5,000;

5. That the population of the proposed district is 14; the number of children between the ages of 5 and 16 years inclusive residing in the proposed district is 14 and the number of children below the age of 5 is 0;

6. That the total number of actual residents within the proposed district who would be liable to taxation for school purposes in case the said district is formed is 21; and that of these 19 are Protestants and 2 Roman Catholics;

7. That the map hereto attached shows the boundaries of the proposed district, its principal legal subdivisions; the position of lakes, rivers, creeks, swamps, bridges and travelled roads; the quarter sections upon which the actual residents live; with the names of such residents and the number of children between the ages of 5 and 16 years inclusive on each quarter section.

Therefore your Petitioners pray that the said proposed district may be created as provided by The School Act.

Dated at Baden Hill, this 29 day of August, 1900.

John Murray ..... Committee.  
G. B. Thompson .....  
L. G. Thompson .....

DECLARATION.

I, George B. Thompson, of Baden Hill, P.O., in the Province of Saskatchewan, do solemnly declare:

1. That I am a member of the committee mentioned in the foregoing petition;

2. That I am a bona fide resident ratepayer of the proposed School District mentioned in the said petition;

That the statements contained in the said petition and the map of the proposed district hereto attached are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act 1893.

Declared before me at Baden Hill, this 30 day of August, 1900.

G. B. Thompson .....  
L. G. Thompson .....  
John Murray .....

Form 1-308-2-7, 1900

Letter from Badger Hill to the Department of Education.

Formation of the Badger Hill school district No. 2194.



## Minutes of First School Meeting

I hereby certify that the following is a true copy of the minutes of the first school meeting held in connection with the organization of the proposed Madison Heights High School School District at Madison Heights, Michigan on the Twenty-ninth day of August, 1905.

Andrew J. Murray  
(Signature of Chairman)

## MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the resident ratepayers of the proposed Boston Hill .....  
(if instant name of District)  
School District was held at A. B. Thomas's, 12, S. B. 17, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day  
of August ..... 190 8.

The meeting was called to order at one o'clock in the afternoon; Mr. A. Murray  
was duly appointed Chairman and Mr. E. A. Doherty was appointed Secretary.

After the resident ratepayers had signed the declaration required by Section 18 of The School Ordinance, a poll was taken of the votes of the resident ratepayers for and against the formation of the proposed district.

The poll remained open for one hour and the result of the vote was as follows: For the erection of the district... 12 ✓; against the erection of the district ... 0. ✓

The following persons were then nominated for the office of Trustee in the order given:

1st	Nomination	Mr. <i>W. B. Fisher</i>	Mover	Mr. <i>J. S. Baker</i>	Seconder	Mr. <i>H. B. Fisher</i>
2nd	"	Mr. <i>W. B. Fisher</i>	Mover	Mr. <i>C. G. Thomson</i>	Seconder	Mr. <i>G. B. Fisher</i>
3rd	"	Mr. <i>J. S. Baker</i>	Mover	Mr. <i>C. B. Fisher</i>	Seconder	Mr. <i>C. B. Fisher</i>
4th	"	Mr. <i>C. B. Fisher</i>	Mover	Mr. <i>C. B. Thomson</i>	Seconder	Mr. <i>C. B. Thomson</i>
5th	"	Mr. <i>C. B. Thomson</i>	Mover	Mr. <i>E. Dugan</i>	Seconder	Mr. <i>G. B. Fisher</i>
6th	"	Mr. <i>C. B. Thomson</i>	Mover	Mr. <i>E. Dugan</i>	Seconder	Mr. <i>G. B. Fisher</i>

A poll was then opened for the election of Trustees and remained open for one hour. The result of the vote was as follows:

Mr. <u>Allen</u>	obtained	9	votes
Mr. <u>Harvey</u>	obtained	8	votes
Mr. <u>J. L. Smith</u>	obtained	7	votes
Mr. <u>E. J. Smith</u>	obtained	5	votes
Mr. <u>Johnson</u>	obtained	9	votes
Mr. <u>Johnson</u>	obtained	9	votes

(Sgd.) *L. A. Thomson* ..... (Sgd.) *Andrew Murray* .....

### Enrolment and Record of Pupils

[illegible]

PUPIL-DAYS ATTENDANCE

PUPIL-DAYS ENROLMENT

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGES 1 AND 2 CAREFULLY

The teacher is required to keep a record of all days pupils are absent, indicating the reason therefor, i.e., sickness, distance from school, weather, truancy, parents' indifference, work.

Minutes of the first school meeting for Badger Hill School.

Enrolment and record of the pupils at Badger Hill School.



Badger Hill School Students, 1921. Back: Jean Bechard, Everett Blish, Rose Bechard, Miss Simpson, Teacher, Laurence Baker, René Bechard, David Lyons. Front: Veronica Baker, Eugene Bechard, Marius Jacques, Clara Blish, Beatrice Bechard, Harry Blish, Leonard Baker and dog, George Blish.





Alice Common (Downes).

\$1,500 for the purpose of erecting and furnishing the school house.

The school was built and opened November, 1910 with the first teacher being Janie MacKay. The teacher's salary was \$60 a month. A telephone was installed in the school in the 1920's. A piano was bought for the school by the Bechard Homemakers.



Miss Simpson, teacher at Badger Hill school.



Badger Hill students and Miss Common with transportation van in background. Back: Vivian Bruce, Sandy Paton, Jacqueline Paton, Juanita Hughes, Miss Common. Front: Cora Paton, Mac Paton, Shirley Hart.

There was a little cottage in the school yard where the teacher lived. One room was the kitchen and living room combined, another room was the bedroom and there was a little walk-in pantry for supplies to be kept in. It was a cozy little place.

For the students that drove a horse to get to school there was a barn to keep the horses in.

The teachers are listed as follows:

Janie MacKay	Roy Smith
W. J. Miller	V.J. Gatzkey
P. D. Sweeney	Phoebe Dinsmore
Helen McArren	Mrs. Mary Copeman
May Roberts	Juliette Poissant
C. B. Ferguson	Flora Cameron
Clara Schwiger	Dorothy Rice
J. Stewart	Myrle Kildea
Sadie McDermid	Alice Common
Lucy Porter	Norma Romuld
Viola Sanford	Mrs. M. McCombe
Irene Miller	Miss C. Della Woodward
George Broder	Mrs. Zarembo
Helen Lindsey	Walter Mynett
Myrtle Simpson	Ann Obrianyk
Mrs. Wm. Whaley	Tom Harder
E. J. Bothwright	Alice Downes

Badger Hill School closed its doors in 1949. The school was moved to Francis and is owned by Jack Helfrick.

The piano was sold and is now owned by Ross Downes, formerly from Bechard but now of Sundre, Alberta.

Whatever became of the little cottage is now a mystery. We cannot find out whether it was sold or torn down.



Badger Hill students and teacher in Regina for the Royal Visit May 25, 1939. Back: Miss. Common, Teacher, Thelma Purves, Ova Blish, Isabel Brown, Cora Paton, Marie Blish, Joyce Purves, Jacqueline Paton, Madeline Wight. Front: Lois Hart, Georgina Brown, Sandy Paton, Vivian Bruce, Joyce Richardson, Lois Richardson and Mac Paton.



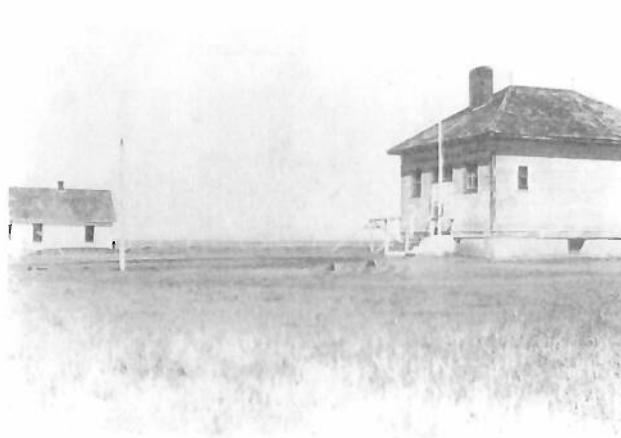
Juanita Hughes, Dorothy and Donald Richardson.



Badger Hill. L. to R. Back: Sandy Paton, Mac Paton, Vivian Bruce, Lois Richardson, Gean Brown. Middle: , Juanita Hughes, Dorothy Richardson, . Front: Duncan Stewart, Alfred Hughes, Don Richardson and Bob Glaze.



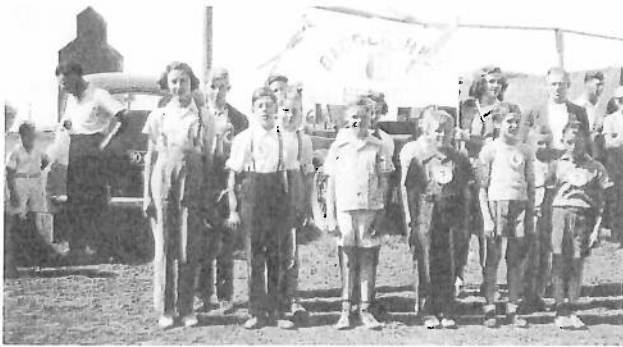
Badger Hill students ready for the parade at Field Meet.



Badger Hill School and Teacherage.



Badger Hill dance group for a concert. L. to R.: Peggy Dodd, Marshall Stewart, Raoul Gibeau, Isabel Brown, Bernard Bechard, Jacqueline Paton, Thelma Purves, Roland Bechard.



Badger Hill students at Field Meet.



Badger Hill softball team won the cup at the Field Meet. Back Row: Grant Gieg, Lindsey Paton, Gabe Paré, Jack Brown, Ova Blish, Ralph Purves, Chester Blish. Front Row: Phil Gieg, Isabel Brown, Jeannette Paré, Thelma Purves and Everett Blish, coach.

### Myrle Bechard Story by Myrle Bechard

"I love a little school house, I love a cottage small." So go the words to an old song, which clearly express my feelings for a little school that is no more. Badger Hill S.D. #2194, which, with its teacherage, was located about two miles north east of the hamlet of Bechard.



Myrle Bechard.



Eugene Bechard.

For the benefit of those who will never see a one-room rural school, I must state that it was exactly what the name implies, one room, grades one to ten. There was no gym, no science lab, and no school bus. Pupils arrived and departed, some by horse and cart (there was a barn to house the horses) and some walking. We did have good books, at the back of the classroom. At Badger Hill, we were fortunate that all text books and teaching supplies were provided by the School Board. We also had a piano which stood proudly at the front of the room and on the teacher's desk sat the symbol of it all: the school bell.



The Bechard children conveyed to school by George Richardson.

It was on a hot August day in 1932 that I began teaching at Badger Hill, fresh out of Normal School and brimming with enthusiasm. For weeks I had been preparing for that day. The timetable was complete in every detail, and the lesson plans were organized, but nothing could prepare me for the nervousness I felt that morning. When the pupils started trooping in, all scrubbed and clean and neat, my nervousness approached panic. There were twenty-nine of them that day, and I wondered how I could ever cope with so much responsibility. Later, I was to learn that the attendance would keep growing. More desks were added and the room didn't quite burst at the seams.

Somehow, we all got through that first day, and the school year had begun.

One of the highlights of the year was the Christmas Concert. Preparations began about the middle of November. The wealth of talent in that one room was amazing. Singers, dancers, clowns, speakers and actors, they were all there. Planning a program was a pleasure. Each week the excitement mounted — decorations were hung, the blackboards were covered with giant Christmas Greetings, and the whole room took on a festive air. Thanks to the mothers, beautiful costumes were made and the men built a stage. On stage they came, act after act, fairies in lovely frilly crepe paper dress, angels with their tinsel-trimmed wings. Everyone ready for what we hoped would be a great performance. The singers sang, the dancers danced, the speakers spoke, and finally we all breathed a great sigh of relief that no grave errors had occurred. No parent was ever prouder of a child than I was proud of my pupils.

Another talent began to manifest itself — artistic ability. One year we entered the Art Competition at the Regina Exhibition and every entry was a prize winner. It was a most rewarding effort.

All was not triumph during those teaching years. There were troubles too. But trouble is a challenge to be met, conquered and left behind. Memories, on the other hand, are forever, so I have chosen to mention a few of my happiest.

It is my privilege now to pay tribute to those of my pupils who served in the Armed Forces during World War II. And sadly, with the greatest respect, I honor those who gave their lives in defence of our country.

When I left Badger Hill, at Christmas, 1938, to be married, I felt that my life had been enriched by contact with the finest people I would ever know. Five years later we returned to Bechara to farm and I felt I was going home.

The twenty-six years we spent in the community will never be forgotten.

With the introduction of the larger School Unit the rural schools began to close, and children were transported to the larger schools. The buildings and their contents were either sold, or moved to other places, to serve other needs. An era had ended.

## Centre View School District #4490 by T. Kushnir

The petition to form the organized school district was dated December 26, 1921 with the names of the committee being that of Mr. A. M. Wood, Mr. Thos. Budding and Mr. L. H. Harder.

The number of persons actually residing within

the proposed district liable to be assessed for school purpose was seventeen. There were thirteen children between the ages of five and sixteen years in the said district.

The number of acres of assessable land was eleven thousand and seven with the total value of \$495,-315.00.

The first meeting was held February 22, 1922 at the Fred Schmeling residence. Secretary was Mr. L. H. Harker and Mr. Chas MacDonald the chairman. From this meeting the trustees elected were L. H. Harker, A. M. Wood and Fred Schmeling.

Resident ratepayers were; G. N. Buffum, A. N. Wood, D. Grams, Thomas Budding, Jack Doig, L.

### MINUTES OF FIRST SCHOOL MEETING

Meeting held at Fred Schmeling on Feb. of sec. 26 tp. 12 rge. 17  
west of the 2 Mer. on Feb. the 22 day of Feb. 1922

Meeting called to order at 2 P.M. (standard time).

Secretary L. H. Harker.

Chairman appointed by the residents present at meeting Chas. MacDonald.

Declaration in form "G" signed by chairman and residents.

Poll for and against the district declared open by chairman Two ten o'clock

Poll closed Three ten o'clock.

Vote Nine for None against,

Nominations for trustees called for by the chairman Three fifteen o'clock.

Candidates:

<u>L. H. Harker</u>	moved by <u>A. M. Wood.</u>	seconded by <u>John MacDonald.</u>
<u>A. M. Wood.</u>	moved by <u>Thos. Budding</u>	seconded by <u>L. H. Harker.</u>
<u>Fred Schmeling</u>	moved by <u>J. B. Doig.</u>	seconded by <u>H. Stewart.</u>
<u>4</u>	moved by	seconded by
<u>5</u>	moved by	seconded by
<u>6</u>	moved by	seconded by
<u>7</u>	moved by	seconded by

Nominations closed Three twenty five o'clock.

Poll for election of trustees opened by chairman three twenty five o'clock.

Poll closed Four twenty five o'clock.

Trustees elected:—

L. H. Harker P.O. address Lawran Sask. to hold office until the third annual meeting after erection of the district.

A. M. Wood, P.O. address Lawran Sask. to hold office until the second annual meeting.

Fred Schmeling. P.O. address Bechara Sask. to hold office until the first annual meeting.

Secretary Charles MacDonald Chairman  
Certified a true copy L. H. Harker Secretary

Minutes of the first school meeting for Centre View School District.

H. Harker, Fred Schmeling, Hugh Stewart, Charles MacDonald and John MacDonald.

April 11, 1922 the board of trustees were authorized by the local Government Board to borrow four





## SECTIONS 26 (2) 27 (1 AND 31)

## DECLARATION OF RESIDENT RATEPAYERS

Proposed School District of Saskatchewan

General location; Township 12 Range 67/17 West of the 2<sup>d</sup> Meridian

The undersigned severally declare each for himself or herself that he or she is of the full age of twenty-one years; that he or she actually resides within the above mentioned proposed school district and that he or she (or his or her wife or husband) has resided therein and owned or has been occupant of assessable property therein for a period of at least two months immediately prior to this date.

Signatures of resident ratepayers	Property owned or occupied			
	Sec.	Tp.	Rge.	Mer.
A. N. Buehner	35	12	17	2
A. M. Wood	N 1/2 29	12	16	2
W. Grooms	W 1/4 22	12	17	2
Thomas Budding	W 1/4 32	12	16	2
Jack B. Boig	W 1/2 23	12	17	2
L. H. Harker	S 1/2 29	12	16	2
Fred. Schmeling	26	12	17	2
Hugh Stewart	14	12	17	2
Charles McDonald	N 1/4 31	12	16	2
John McDonald	N 1/4 30	12	16	2

Witness to above signatures;

Charles McDonald  
Chairman

L. H. Harker  
Secretary

Dated this twenty second day of February 1922.

Centre View School District ratepayers.



Centre View School.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Form A. Section 14 (2)

## PETITION FOR ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. It is proposed that the boundaries of the district shall include the following lands, namely  
 S. 32-12-16 S. 29-12-16 S. 20-12-16 N. 1/4 17-12-16  
 W. 1/2 S. 18-12-16 W. 1/2 13-12-17 W. 1/4 14-12-17 W. 1/4 18-12-17  
 S. 22-12-17 S. 27-12-17 S. 34-12-17 S. 33-12-17  
 S. 36-12-17 S. 31-12-16

2. The number of persons actually residing within the proposed district who on its organisation will be liable to be assessed for school purpose is Eleventeen

3. The number of children between the ages of five and sixteen years inclusive actually residing within the proposed district is Thirteen

4. The number of acres of assessable land in the proposed district is 11007

5. The total value of the assessable property within the proposed district \$495315.00

6. A suitable school site can be obtained at the centre of the district. (If this is not the case state reason why central site is unsuitable.)

Center site can be obtained as shown by plan, this being as near center as possible and still be on public road

We, the undersigned school committee, hereby certify that the above statements are true and that the plan of the proposed district accompanying this petition contains all the information called for by section 14 of The School Act.

Dated this 26th day of December 1921.

A. M. Wood  
 Fred. Schmeling  
 L. H. Harker  
 Committee

Secretary L. H. Harker P.O. Lewvan Sask.

Petition to organize Centre View School District.



Bechard students ready for school.

thousand dollars for erecting and equipping a one-roomed school with a basement. The debentures to be repayable in fifteen equal consecutive annual installments of principal and interest combined, interest at a rate not exceeding eight per cent per annum.

The teachers, starting in January 1923 were:

Helen Karras  
 Kathleen Viola St. John  
 Lulah May

Mrs. A. M. Dundie  
 Grace Howard  
 Ruth Puschelberg



Marion McMorris  
Annie E. McMorris

Helen Skika  
Jane E. Common

When Centre View was moved to Bechard it was given the Badger Hill name.

### **The Cross School District** by Otto Bohlken

Cross School was named after one of the early settlers, Mr. J. A. Cross. In 1908, the school was in a granary given by Mr. W. H. Kirkpatrick with no desks or blackboard. On June 10, 1908, Mr. A. A. Rodgers wrote to the Commissioner of Education that they would like to form a School District and build a school. It was accepted. They had to send in who lived in the District and how many children there were.

The first settlers were W. H. Kirkpatrick, F. H. Bohlken, J. A. Cross, John Wilshusen, A. A. Rogers, F. W. Peacey, Fritz Franke, G. W. Eastwood, Frank Hill. There were fifteen school-age children and five under school age.



Cross School 1954-55.



Cross School Teacherage.

On the third of December, 1908, fifteen hundred dollars were borrowed on the security of the Cross School District No. 2188 to be paid back in ten equal payments at no more than eight per cent per annum. This was to build a school, barn and separate privies for boys and girls. On June 4, 1908 the Department of Education gave permission to hold school two or three months in the granary until the new school was built. The first teacher was William McNally. Cross School joined the Milestone School Unit in 1964.



Hilda Bennett, school teacher at Cross School, on Nellie.



Cross School before 1914. Front: Bill Bohlken, ? Cross, Fred Bohlken, Ernest Kirkpatrick and Molly Bohlken. Second Row: Mary Bohlken, Tracy Bohlken, Emma Oltmanns, Isabel Cross. Back Row: Miss Bennett.



School Students at Cross, 1918. Top L. to R.: Robert Stimson, Gerald Stimson, Molly Bohlken, Freddie Bohlken, Miss Bennett, teacher. Middle: Otto Bohlken, Franklin Lafoy, Herman Bohlken, Harold Stimson, Ella Oltmanns. Front: Burdette Stimson, Hannah Bohlken, Norma Kelly.



Cross School students — Ella Oltmanns, Molly Bohlken, Norma Kelly, Betty , Hannah Bohlken.



Cross School Students, 1937-38. Back: Walter Forsberg, Donald Stimson, Kenneth Templeton, Gerald O'Brien, Don Layman, Jim Templeton. Mid: Kay Forsberg, Edith Johnson, Irene O'Brien, Hilda Forsberg, Theresa O'Brien, Dorothy Bohlken, Lois O'Brien, Edna Forsberg, Ruth Layman. Bottom: , Jim O'Brien, , Ed Forsberg, Eddie Johnson, Wes Templeton, Elmer Reich, Don O'Brien, Eddie Reich. Missing: Wilf, Evelyn and Annie Moyse.



Cross School Students — Lorena Mabee, Clara Oltmanns, Mary Bohlken, and Emma Oltmanns.



Cross School Students 1939. Starting at the front: Annie Moyse, Phyllis Moyse, Helen Forsberg, Wesley Templeton, Kay Forsberg, Edward Johnson, Lois O'Brien, Ruth Layman, Doug Templeton, Edith Johnson, Edna Forsberg, Donald O'Brien, Irene O'Brien, Jim O'Brien, Dorothea Bohlken, Hilda Forsberg, Walter Forsberg, Kenneth Templeton, Donald Layman and Jim Templeton.



Cross School students at Field Meet 1952. L. to R.: Jay Phillip Shaw, Dale Otten, Barry Otten, Valerie Otten, Gloria Bohlken, Faye Moon and Lois Bohlken.



Cross School students 1952. Back: Faye Moon, Lois and Gloria Bohlken, Phyllis Shaw, Dale Otten. Front: Valerie Otten, Sylvia Moon, Jimmy Crawford, Barrie Otten.



Cross School Students 1958-59. Front: Guy Reich, Vicky Reich, Joanne Mack, Pat O'Brien. Second: Rhett Mohr, Shirley Kimery, Leone Bechard, Colleen O'Brien, Joan Crawford. Back: Gary Mack, Duane Bohlken, Terry Moon behind Duane, Bill Crawford, Clint Kimery, Don Mack.

### Teachers of Cross School District

1908	No Teacher	1916	Hazel Selig
1909	Wm. McNally		C. J. McPherson
	Jeannie Duguid	1917	Hazel Selig
1910	Eric R. O'Brien		Jessie Johnston
1911	Isobel Ramsay	1918	Gladys Amer
	Eloise MacDougal		Jessie Johnston
	Eloise McDougal	1919-1920	Jessie Smyth
1912	Bertha Charter	1921	Hilda Bennet
1913	Emma Weathered		John S. Blacklock
1914	Margret Forbes		
1915	Emma Sundstrom	1922	John S. Blacklock
	C. J. McPherson		

	Mrs. Rachel Cloake	1943-1944	Doris Kelly
	Hilda Bennet	1945-1946	Joyce Richardson
1923-1924	Hilda Bennet	1947-1948	Dorothy Beddow
	Hazel Lafoy		Albert Matt
1925-1927	Clarence Fines	1949	Albert Matt
1928-1929	Elmer Fines		Margaret Warner
1930-1933	Edith Cross (Lehr)	1950-1951	Margaret Warner
1934	John Thompson	1952-1954	Irene Shaw
	Claire Bobier		Irene Shaw
1935-1937	Claire Bobier	1955-1961	Noreen Kimery
1938-1940	Claire Bobier		Noreen Kimery
	Dorothy Gowan (Hannan)	1962-1963	Marie Nichols
1941-1942	Hervey Sykes	1964	Marie Nichols
	Doris Kelly		Illa Eckberg
			Illa Eckberg
			School Closed

## Cross School District

by Walter Reich

First formed about 1910. Composed of 83 quarter sections. Disbanded and amalgamated into Milestone School Unit #12 in 1964. Last mill rate set at 10 mills on about 378000 assessment. Some of the first board members were Fred Bohlken, Mr. J. Cross. Composed of the following quarters and sections — EG W of 10, W½ of 10, SW of 2, SW2, Sec. 10-10.

### Twp 14 — Range 17

WH 5, N6, 7, 8, W9, W14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, W23, SW28, S29, S30

### Twp 14 — Range 18

N1, NE2, E11, 12, 13, E14, E23, 24, S25, SE26

There were 83 quarter sections in Cross School District. It was named after Mr. Cross who lived on NW 12-14-18.

### Early Residents of Cross School District

Matt Sattler	SW 30-14-17	Ed Kelly	SW 18-14-17
Tommy Staples		Wm. Layman	SE 17-14-17
James		Art Stimson	NE 16-14-17
Templeton	22-14-17	Sam Moyse	NE 15-14-17
Ed Stimson	21-14-17	Fred Bohlken	NW 9-14-17
Saunders	SW 20-14-17	Wm. Bohlken	NW 8-14-17
Mabee		Oltmanns	SE 8-14-17
Tom O'Brien	SE 24-14-18	Kirkpatrick	SE 7-14-17
Judisch	W½ 19-14-17	Fred Gibbons	E½ 12-14-18
McGarrah	SW 29-14-17	Ernest Reich	NW 5-14-17
Hoover	SW 13-14-18	Wm. Forsberg	NW 4-14-17

### Present Residents of Cross School District

Walter H. Reich	Sw 20-14-17	Olaf Raaen	NE 16-14-17
Otto and Duane		Jim Crawford	SE 8-14-17
Bohlken	NW 9-14-17	Edwin Reich	NW 5-14-17
Ron Ulrich	Nw 8-14-17	Tom and Gerald	
Lorne Mohr	SE 11-14-18	O'Brien	SE 24-14-18

Some School Teachers I remember:

Mrs. Wayne Lafoy, Mr. Clarence Fines, Mr. Elmer Fines, Mr. Clair Bobier, Mrs. Doris Kelly, Mrs. Jack Lehr, Joyce Richardson, Mrs. Eckberg, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Kimery, Mrs. Lawrence Nichols

## Memories of Cross School Days

by Clair W. Bobier

In the fall of 1934 I arrived green as grass, at Cross School to take up my first teaching position. By this time the people of the district and in the little town of Riceton had already adapted to the drought, the dust storms, the low price of grain and the generally flat economic conditions. Fortunately because the area was situated in the clay belt, the crop failures, except for that of 1931, were never quite as bad as they were in some other parts of the province. This meant that most farmers were able to carry on their operations, feed their families and maintain their machinery, including keeping the family car in some sort of repair. It also meant that the teacher got his monthly salary regularly without having to accept notes from the school board with promises to pay some time in the future.

I couldn't afford a car on my fifty dollars a month and at the same time save enough to take me to summer school the next summer at the university. However, I managed to get rides with the neighbours to Regina for shopping or attending the annual teacher's convention, or to Gray or Lewvan for the occasional Friday night dance or, as sometimes happened, to the beer parlour at Lang for celebrating in a proper manner a victory or loss of the Riceton ball club.

Cross School was situated some three and one-half miles north of Riceton on what I think was called the Gray Road and east about a quarter of a mile from Ed and Lila Kelly's home. The school was a nearly square wooden structure, built sometime in the twenties as was the three room teacherage that was situated close by. The school had a basement in which was a furnace, a coal bin, the boy's lavatory and a larger open space, often referred to as the "gym", where in cold weather some of the students, mostly bigger boys, participated in games of one kind and another, as well as in various forms of mayhem, judging by the howls that rose up the stairwell to the classroom above. When investigated these calls for aid were usually found to have emanated from younger fellows being 'disciplined' by their older brothers for "throwing lip".

The gym equipment was meagre, consisting of a football, usually in a deflated state, some bats, balls, a catcher's wire face mask, a mitt and belly protector and, as was to be expected in those good old days, a set of boxing gloves. These were thought to be of value as a means for relieving tensions after the kids had been cooped up inside for several days by bad weather. I always declined, when invited to put on the gloves by my students for big guys like Melvin Stimson and Gerald O'Brien could play rough and I

had no great confidence in my ability to maintain control in such instances. So when they suggested in all sincerity, that we put on the gloves for what they termed "a little sparring around" I would reply with equal sincerity, "No, You fellows go ahead and I'll referee".

I taught at Cross from 1934 until 1938. The number of pupils averaged about twenty-eight. Usually there were ten grades. My pedagogical training had been acquired in a number of ways. I had attended Normal School in Regina. Also of importance was the fact that my mother and her sister, my Aunt Minnie who lived with us, were teachers as was my older brother Tom. This being the case the conversation around home often got around to teaching. Another strong influence was my older cousin Reda, who whenever we visited there, would drag us younger ones off to play at school. Even after I started school Reda would take up a part of our recesses and noon hours exercising her penchant for teaching. I remember that she gave us spelling lists and reading exercises and later when we were mature enough to handle the stress of it, she would drill us in mental arithmetic. You know, "What is seven and seven and seven, add six and divide by nine, divide by three, add two and subtract one?" As was to be expected, Reda became a teacher and I think she had a lot to do with my becoming one. In any case I know she had a lot to do with the methods I used at Cross, when teaching reading to my first grade one class. That class by the way was comprised of Lois O'Brien, Ruth Layman and Douglas Templeton, an attractive trio if I ever saw one. We would all four of us, crowd into one of those old maple and wrought iron desks and struggle away with, "Apples, apples fine red apples. Will you have one? Oh, please take one, etc." Or was it "Dick and Jane", I can't remember. They took turns reading and while one read the other two squirmed and enthusiastically signalled with upstretched arms, their willingness to help the reader when he faltered. It is difficult for me to believe that all that happened half a century ago and that those three youngsters are now old enough to be grandparents.

Because I was young at the time, barely out of my teens and not so far from being a big kid myself and because teaching was for me a novel experience, my memories of those days are quite vivid and fortunately for me, most of them are happy ones with many humorous side lights. Indeed! It would be impossible for me to reflect on my life at Cross School with anything but fondness. Now, having said that, having said that I was happy at Cross, I will be accused of being naive, of having placed a board over my eyes and of being overly sentimental. Some

will say, "But that isn't what Max Braithwaite said about teaching in a country school during the depression in his now famous book, **Why Shoot the Teacher?**" In that story, the teacher found the experience one of desolation and humiliation midst a community, that had lost its capacity to be charitable and show pity. Be that as it may the community at Cross was very different, as were the two teachers themselves. True the people were sick of the depression and the blow dust and the russian thistle, and while they relished in telling wry jokes about their bleak prospects, they were not embittered souls nor hopelessly scarred by their experiences. In **Why Shoot the Teacher**, the teacher had been brought up in the city. He was a city kid. As such he had never had the opportunity to know farmers and their ways and found himself alone, because he could not bridge the town-city social gap. His tale was sad and pathetic.

In my case being a country kid, this gap did not exist. I had ploughed and threshed and driven horses and had swapped endless stories with farmers for years. Furthermore I had been on my father's farm for the years 1931-33 and had faced the reality of drought and depression before ever going to Cross. I knew and respected farmers and had no difficulty in making friends of them.

One can't recall the depression without remembering the political scene. It was the time of Roosevelt's New Deal and in Saskatchewan the beginning of the rise of the C.C.F. I had begun my sojourn into socialism while still in Normal School in Regina, where I attended small evening gatherings in various city schools listening to M. J. Coldwell. Coldwell was a school principal at the time with a good platform manner and a good blackboard style. As I remember his talks, he would often draw two water tanks (really filled with money) one large and one small. They were connected by means of a pipe. I've forgotten, but I think the large one belonged to the capitalists and was always being filled by the connection with the small one, which represented the farmer's and the worker's share. At the time it all seemed so reasonable to me.

When I arrived at Cross the process of my socialization continued. The political activists, so to speak, in this case were The Chairman and The Secretary-Treasurer of the school board in the persons of Tommy O'Brien and Ernie Reich respectively. They were aided by any other able members of the community as Billie Layman, Dick Miller and my older brother Tom, who at the time was teaching in Riceton. These people were articulate and all of them loved talking. With them political discussion became a game, much more exciting than bridge and many a long winter's evening was spent in dreaming



of a better and fairer world. The clincher in my political education came, when I heard Tommy Douglas debating with the local Liberal M.P. in Weyburn's hockey arena. The place was packed and Douglas put on a great show. There was no doubt about his being a winner. He was relatively young at the time, full of humour and capable of hammering his opponent with scathing sarcasm. From then on I was a C.C.F.'er. At least for the time being. Looking back and having lived these fifty years since then in this exasperatingly complex and maddingly discordant world, I now marvel at our faith in simply stated remedies.

But to return to Cross School of that time and the students who attended then. As I have said my teaching experience there was pleasant. This was because the kids were good kids, if I may use an old fashioned term, which for me still has a lot of meaning. For the record I want to name each of them and I am sorry that my only available snap shot, taken in 1937 does not include all of them. I shall begin at the far east of the district and work westward:

Wilfred and Evelyn Moyse — children of Sam and Mrs. Moyse.

Edith, Lucy, Jim, Kenneth and Douglas Templeton — children of Jim and Mrs. Templeton.

Melvin and Donald Stimson — children of Art and Mrs. Stimson.

Hilda, Eddie and Elmer Reich — children of Ernie and Mrs. Reich.

Walter, Edward, Hilda, Annie and Katie Forsberg — children of Bill and Mrs. Forsberg.

Donald and Ruth Layman — children of Billie and Mrs. Layman.

Edward and Edna Johnson — children of Enerd and Mrs. Johnson.

Ray Kelly — son of Ed and Mrs. Kelly.

Gerald, Teresa, Irene, Donnie, Jim and Lois O'Brien — children of Tommy and Mrs. O'Brien.

Earl Gibbons (Gibby) — son of Fred and Mrs. Gibbons.

Stanley Kawalchuck — who lived for a time with Nick and Mrs. Kawuza.

You may find it odd that in the above listing I have used in the case of the parents, first names for the men, but not for the women. I don't really know why this was so, except at the time I wouldn't dream of calling Mrs. Kelly, Lila, or Mrs. Gibbons, Nellie or any of the other women parents by their first names. In turn they always called me, Mr. Bobier (sometimes teacher). Was it a form of male chauvinism perhaps or maybe some manifestation of a matriarchal tendency in the society of the time? In any case I will leave the question to the sociologists to explain since my wife tells me that I don't know anything about those things anyway.

Looking back to Cross days is now without sorrow. Early in the Second World War, Earl Gibbons lost his life when on active service. Earl was a gunner on an R.C.A.F. bomber. It was so characteristic of Earl, or Gibby as he was affectionately called, to be in the thick of things. Quick to respond, quick to smile and loving life. I will always remember an episode that involved Earl and me. He had a spirited horse, as spirited perhaps as was Earl himself, on which he burned up the road to school and back each day. You could hear the pounding of hooves a quarter of a mile away. Once when I had been invited to visit the Gibbon's overnight, Earl asked me if I would like to ride home with him behind the saddle. I accepted, but even before we had left the school yard, I was sorry that I had. Here was a chance to have some fun with teacher and Earl started out full pelt. I hadn't been on a horse for some years and I really had to hang on to keep my place. I hung on to Earl, the saddle back, anything that would support me, while we covered the distance in record time. It was not only the fastest ride that I had ever had, but the roughest. The horse had a rough gait, it seemingly couldn't gallop, but pounded its feet down on the hard road as might a champion coach horse. As a result, having no stirrups to ease my bumps, I was pitched up and down and my poor backside was flogged mercilessly. I clung as best I could by trying to clutch the horses sides with my legs, which by the time we reached home were like jelly and would not support me. When I got off I sank to the ground and had to remain there for several minutes. The next morning when Earl asked me if I wanted to ride to school I had to decline. I can still see his dancing blue eyes and freckled face framed by his fiery red hair, break suddenly with laughter in which I couldn't help but join. I was stiff for a month and I haven't been on a horse since.

I would also like to remember two other students, now deceased but very much alive at the time. They are Elmer Reich and Raymond Kelly. Elmer drowned accidentally when still a young man, Raymond by cancer in his late fifties.

Elmer had taken a university degree in Biology at The University of Saskatchewan and at the time of his death was pursuing post-graduate work, which would eventually have earned him a doctorate. Elmer was exceptionally bright and even as a young boy, he showed the curiosity and perseverance of the scholar. Had he lived, I feel that he would have made a very worthwhile contribution to our society. Elmer was the youngest in the Reich family, shy, genial, often alone with his thoughts, very much loved by his family and respected by all his classmates.

The first two years that I was at Cross, I arranged to take my evening meals with the Kellys. Later I



arranged to board with them. Although a teacherage was available for my use, I couldn't at the time stand the loneliness of it. Besides, I was a rotten cook. At first I wasn't quite sure just where I stood with Ed Kelly (senior). He was a character. For instance during my first meal with them, while I was eating my second helping of meat and vegetables, he said turning to his wife Lila, "For heaven sakes pass the professor (he always called me professor) the tooth picks. We've got to stop him somehow". Raymond at the time would be about eleven years old. I remember he seemed to understand his father and the whole thing amused him. Mrs. Kelly on the other hand thought that I might not understand and said to me afterwards, "You mustn't take Ed seriously, he is only fooling". As the years went on I got to know all the Kellys, including Ray's older brother, Edward, and his older sister Norma, who was teaching in Iowa at the time, but who used to come home for the summer vacation. I became very fond of them all. They were like family to me.

Raymond was also an excellent student. Gentle like his mother — but his gentleness was peppered with a nice sense of humour and irony that no doubt came to him through his father. I did not have Ray as a student at Cross for long for he took his high schooling in Iowa, where he had relatives. Like Norma, Raymond used to spend his summers at home, so I saw him frequently and was able to follow his progress in high school and later in university, where he took an engineering degree. After graduation he practised his profession in Miami for many years. His early death in 1979 was not only a great loss for his wife and children, but also for Norma and Edward and his mother, who at the time of his death was still living in Gray. Ray is fondly remembered by all who knew him at Cross.

I am going to turn now to some memories of men, flashbacks as it were, of those at Cross. One of the prettier sights to see on a bright summer morning was Dorothy Bohlken with her blue eyes and blonde hair, coming down the road to school in her cart and black and white Shetland pony, like a story book character. I'm not sure just how all the Templeton kids got into their buggy. I think Edith and Lucy and Douglas shared the seat and Jim and Kenneth sat behind on the floor. This was before Jim and Kenneth grew big and husky as they did later, in which case they would have needed a buck board. Two other buggies came from that direction, with Wilfred and Evelyn Moyse in one and Donald and Melvin Stimson in the other. As I recall the Stimsons often picked up Donnie and Ruth Layman, although the Laymans often walked or were brought to school by their parents.

Strictly for entertainment I used to keep my eye

on two groups coming and going to and from school, the Stimsons and the O'Briens. The O'Briens I thought, usually put on the best show, but that was because there were six O'Briens and only two Stimsons. Come to think of it the entertainment was mainly because of two principal actors, Donnie Stimson and Donnie O'Brien. I don't know what is in the name Donald, that endows those so named with the ability to get into an uncommon amount of hellery. We had three of them at Cross, the two just mentioned above and the other, Donnie Layman. Each of these could electrify any situation and spark some sort of violence for others. Donnie Layman for instance couldn't walk past his older brother Eldon without provoking some kind of attack (I've witnessed these skirmishes, while visiting the Laymans). It might be something spoken or something more physical in nature. In any case there was some kind of protest, which usually was followed by a skirmish that ended on the floor. Not just Eldon and Donnie, but often father Billie who usually entered the ranks with the excuse, "Eldon you big bully picking on little Donnie like that". Then all three would be wrestling. They loved it, of course. This went on until some one yelled quits or as often happened Mrs. Layman, who was no taller than five feet, if that, took her broom and ordered a stop to the shenanigans in the interest of her clean floor and the furniture.

But to get back to the kids coming to school in the mornings. Melvin Stimson was big and husky. Fortunately, he was also good natured, a fact that saved his younger brother Donnie on many occasions. Donnie was lively, easily bored and very agile. He just could not resist the temptation to tease and molest his big brother. One morning I heard a commotion down the road. There was Donnie standing up in the buggy urging on the horse with Melvin out behind trying to catch up and hollering threats of one kind and another. Whenever he got near the buggy, Donnie would drive off on the gallop and Melvin would be left behind again. This was repeated several times until Donnie finally decided that he had had his fun and stopped the horse to let Melvin back in. When Melvin made ready to climb in however, Donnie took the precaution of jumping free from the buggy just in case Melvin might retaliate. This jumping free was accomplished by doing a back hand spring over the buggy seat. An act in itself that was worth the price of admission.

Part of the theatrics provided by the O'Brien family came about because of the caravan in which they drove to school. While you couldn't see much, when they were inside in their places, some of the exits were extremely interesting. This caravan was in

the form of a long black box mounted on a set of sleighs. There was a small window in front so that the driver of the team of mules could see the road and a slot for the reins. At the back was a door to accommodate the passengers. With all six O'Brien kids inside the caravan was full.

You might say that all the O'Brien Kids were vocal and spirited (two had red, red hair). As well they tended to carry on a lot of their inter-communications in some physical way, such as applying simple cub-like cuffs, wrestling one another to the floor or when they were displeased with someone's behavior by throwing his or her hat out the door. Gerald was generally believed to be in charge, but he shared some of the responsibility of looking after the kids in the back with Teresa who was next oldest. Irene was next in line and one of her responsibilities, at least as she saw it, was to look after Jim and to protect him from Donnie's pranks. Lois was the youngest and of sweet disposition. But Donnie!? At that time Donnie was about nine or ten and quite small for his age. I would say that he was hyperactive, incapable of sitting still. He was always in a hurry and tried to spit out his words so quickly that he sometimes stuttered. Like Donnie Layman he couldn't pass by one of his brothers or sisters without something happening. Of course he had to be careful for Gerald and Teresa were both bigger than he was and I dare say that Irene could handle him as I am sure she did on a few occasions. This left Jim subject to his greater physical power and experience. However, Donnie was not to be daunted and he just couldn't help but frequently getting Gerald's goat. The funny thing about Jim was that for a little kid he had a deep voice and when mad, he sort of bellowed. One morning upon arrival at school it seemed that Gerald had, after stopping the mules, stepped into the back of the caravan to establish order and hand out whatever disciplinary action that he felt necessary. From the shouting going on inside, one knew that something was about to happen. Suddenly the door flew open and out flew Donnie born on a trajectory that carried him at least ten feet beyond the door. It was obvious that he had gained considerable momentum, while still inside the caravan. He was closely followed by Irene and then Gerald, both yelling at him and then by Jim who by this time was really bellowing.

I never did find out what had happened in the caravan to earn such a monstrous response and it wasn't really any of my business. Donnie did the only sensible thing under the circumstances. He came to me and we talked quietly of other things until the storm was over and it was bell time. I doubt if he caused much mischief on the way home that day.

I am not just sure why, that in my seventieth year,

I am telling these particular stories about my pupils. I could have told others. About the school concert for instance. Early in the fall we began our preparations. Everyone had to be included of course and you had to balance the parts as well as possible and try not to play favourites. Children can be very sensitive and hurt if they believe they have been treated unfairly. I tried but at times I did not succeed. The truth of the matter is that some kids like some adults have far better stage personalities than others. Some too are terribly shy and seem to suffer the agony of the damned when they have to get up in front of an audience. Ruth Layman, I remember as being very shy but she could sing and so made her contribution in that manner. Some of the bigger boys were casting problems, particularly when they were at that stage in their development where they wouldn't be caught dead either singing or reciting something while using their maximal potential. They knew only too well, that if they did, one of their peers would take the opportunity to snigger in the midst of it and send the class room into whoops of laughter. The result of this was that the final performance in front of a live audience was apt to be better than were the practices, even the dress rehearsal. We were lucky at Cross. There was a lot of talent present. We had a bunch of good singers and enough mature young ladies like Hilda Reich, Teresa O'Brien, Evelyn Moyse, Edith and Lucy Templeton to make the skits work and with the help of the older boys and some others like Edward and Walter Forsberg who turned out to be real hams, we were able to put on quite successful concerts.

The same was true of their athletic ability. It just happened that the Cross kids were, as country schools in the area went, fairly numerous, relatively big and generally good athletes. I remember one field day that our students won so many prizes, that it was almost embarrassing for them to take so many firsts. Of course, we were pleased.

I said earlier that Walter Forsberg had a lot of ham in him and enjoyed a joke. I am reminded of another episode and one that I am certain Walter told on many occasion. I joined the air force in December 1941, just after Pearl Harbor. I was sent to manning pool at Brandon and the first day there, even before we were issued uniforms, I ran into Walter Forsberg, who had enlisted much earlier than I, and who by this time had won his wings and had been promoted to officer's rank. I didn't find it particularly funny, that here I was confronted with one of my old pupils, who not only considerably outranked me, but who was seeing me in a rather demeaning circumstance, brought about by my having been ordered by the corporal on duty to, "Sweep up the floor", just moments before

Walter had come upon me. His reaction was complete and hilarious. Walter has a face, by the way, which when he laughs caves in completely. It was sometime before he recovered sufficiently to suggest that we make a date to get together and renew old times.

The only other student from Cross whom I met in the service was Donnie Layman. He had joined the R.C.N. and was doing duty overseas, when we met at a dance in the Scottish town of Gourock, where we were both stationed. We got together after and swapped stories of what we had heard from home and Riceton and the people of Cross School district.

One has some very bad luck at times and this next story should be remembered by the pupils that were at Cross in the fall of 1934. I had just begun that fall and knew that one day the inspector of schools would drop in to see how the new teacher was doing. I need hardly say that this first visit was dreaded, since the new teacher is in a vulnerable position. They have no experience on which to fall back. They are often coping with new material and lessons, which they haven't always mastered and sufficient time has not elapsed for them to have developed a suitable time table. At the time I was also anxious about making spelling mistakes. I had done so on several occasions and the kids would bring them to my attention. They thought that was great sport, of course. For instance I once wrote 'towill' for towel and 'commity' for committee. Naturally I was afraid that I might misspell a word in the presence of the inspector. So I diligently prepared my lessons for the following day.

It was a beautiful fall and day after day passed and still no inspector. "Perhaps", I thought, "He has postponed his visit until next spring". Soon it was the middle of October and Thanksgiving time and the World Series. I had a radio in the teacherage and listened to as many games as I could. Because of the time difference between New York (Yankee Stadium) and Cross, these games used to end usually during my noon hour, that is if they didn't end in a tie at the end of nine innings. It was a good series. I've forgotten whom the Yankees were playing, but up to the final game it was a three three draw. The final game was a doozer. Tied at the end of the seventh, tied at the end of the eighth, tied at the end of the ninth. It was almost one o'clock and time for me to ring the bell. I waited until a quarter after one, then I went over to the school and called in the kids. I told them that I would like them to take their seats and go on with their seat work, I would join them shortly. When I got back to the teacherage the game had gone into the eleventh inning. It was still tied at the end of the twelfth. I think it was the thirteenth, when Lou Gehrig hit a home run and ended it. What a game!

My elation at the Yankee win was short lived, however, for as soon as I stepped out the door, I saw the inspector's car and inside the school sat the inspector at my desk, waiting. He said simply, "Where have you been?" What could I say? My first teacher's report was not a good one.

Well, one could go on reminiscing for some time to come the good times, the bad times, the times never to come again, but I must call a halt, at least for the present.

In what I have said above, I have confined my remarks and stories to include only the students and their parents of The Cross School District as I found it in the mid-thirties. During that time I also made many friends outside the district with such families as the Kirkpatricks and the Mooneys and the Millers and Boeschies and Places and Schultzs and Hills and many others but that is another story.

I would like to take this opportunity to send my very best wishes to all my old students, wherever they may be and to all my old friends in the Riceton area.

## **Cross School**

**by Irene A. Teece (Shaw)**

In July, 1951, I applied and was accepted as teacher of Cross School. I had been back teaching two years after twenty-five years raising a family of seven on a farm near Moose Mountain.

Such a dear little school with hardwood floors, big windows, piano, indoor toilets and a coal furnace so clean, polished and well cared for. We fell in love with it before I applied.

When my two boys, Jason, twelve and Phillip, ten, and I arrived to begin in August, everything was shining and fresh flowers on the table in the teacherage, thanks to Mary Bohlken. It was the beginning of one of the most pleasant three years of my teaching career and I always did have nice schools. The children were so eager and happy it was a pleasure to teach them. It seemed like one big happy family. I had only a second class teacher's certificate and had to up-grade it and go on by correspondence courses and summer classes. So with school, family and studying there was little time for anything else. My husband, Leigh, was with us during the winters but went back to the farm in the spring. In 1954, Beth, sixteen, stayed with us and went to Riceton High, thanks to the kindness of Lyle Bohlken who drove every day.

School opened with the following pupils: Lois and Gloria Bohlken, Dale, Barry and Valerie Otten, Faye and Sylvia Moon, Jimmy Crawford, Jason and Phillip Shaw, Donald Mack. I believe that Jimmy,

Sylvia and Donald started school the following spring.

We had two Malcolm children for awhile, who went to Riceton but came in the spring when roads were bad and they were on the farm seeding.

I'll list some memories I have of those three years. There are no bad ones except the terrible roads when it rained and the difficulty of getting out and in at Easter on that gumbo.

I remember: Electricity and an oil burning furnace were installed and the resulting comfort.

Cross School competed in the Milestone Field Meet and won the trophy for the highest points.

May 26, 1953, after school the parents arrived with a cake, candles and all and celebrated my fiftieth birthday. No wonder my heart warms with memories of Cross School.

Flocks of white swans covered the wheat fields in the spring.

Mr. Bohlken shot a fox and the children all had their pictures taken with it. Every one scratched for awhile afterwards — it was lousy.

I still smile when I think of the time I was teaching Gloria to make change. We had set up a toy store. I purchased something and she gave me 25¢ too much in change. She smiled up at me and said, "It's all right, Mrs. Shaw, I don't mind for you."

I still have the clothespin dolls Fay Moon made for me for good luck. Maybe that is why I'm so fortunate in my old age.

Parents did everything they could to help us in our school activities, concerts, excursions, speeches, field meets, picnics. School was fun.

Such fortunate children and teachers of Cross School. I was so glad Noreen went there when I got my First Class Certificate and so moved to a Unit with a big raise in salary.

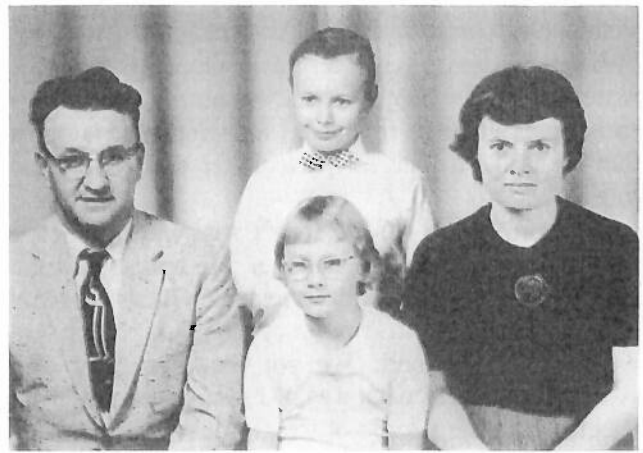
It will be so interesting to see how all my children have fared in life.

I'll be eighty years next month, still active, paint, do stone work and yoga, and of course, keep house and garden.

## **Cross School**

### **Noreen Kimery**

First the aphids came, sucking the life from our crops, then came the hail and wind storm of August 1953 completing the destruction. Despite the fact that we had bins full of grain from previous crops, the quota system prevented us from supporting both a farm and a growing family on farm income alone. Thus, with two pre-schoolers, I returned to teaching. We were just starting out farming and were struggling to buy two quarters of land between Windthorst and Kipling. Four thousand dollars seemed an im-



The Kimery family, Andy, Clint, Noreen and Shirley in front.

possible amount to meet payments on, and the thousand I would earn teaching would release farm income for farm upkeep. We sold our livestock and bought a second-hand car. Andy began grain farming only, enabling him to help out at the teacherage during the fall and winter.

After spending my first year back at Fine View School in the hills north of Arcola, Saskatchewan, I applied for and got Cross School, out on the prairie about four miles north of Riceton, Saskatchewan.

School began in August so Andy and a neighbor, Kendal McGuire, decided to move the children and me up with two truck loads at once. I drove the car packed with the children, food, and bedding piled to the roof top. These were the rainy years and it rained and it rained and then it rained some more. It had rained the day before we left but in our part of the country one was able to travel a few hours after the sun came out so without any second thoughts we set out early in the morning, never realizing how impossible the "gumbo" to come, was to be.

All went well until we headed out from Kronau for Riceton. The further we went the worse the gumbo became, rolling up on the wheels and packing them so full we soon came to a stop. Paddling around barefooted, we tried the impossible job of cleaning them off. Finally, Beth, my young sister who was going to babysit for me until she began her studies later on that fall, decided to walk for help. She had lived at Riceton when my mother, Irene Shaw, taught there earlier in the fifties. Farms were large and spread far apart. Beth walked miles to finally reach Bill Bohlken's and help; for which they would accept nothing in payment.

What a dirty, tired crew greeted Bill and Lyle Bohlken that long ago August day! By now it was dusk and the children were tired of the adventure. Slowly, but surely the tractor pulled us through the bad spots and saw us safely to the Cross School

teacherage. There we found Beth soaking her feet and chipping the gumbo from her toenails.

After a quick clean up we all sat down to a feast of freshly picked cucumbers and tomatoes between slabs of home-made bread Mrs. Bohlken had sent with Beth. We unpacked only enough that evening to set up beds and crawl in. Thus, was our introduction to Cross, our home-to-be for the next seven years.

What happy, wonderful memories we all hold of the fine people of Cross community. How lucky we were to know them. Their kindnesses, concern and caring will never be forgotten. Mary Bohlken's and Ella Crawford's freshly baked bread and buns, jars of thick cream and sweet yellow pads of butter dropped off at the teacherage after school when they came to pick up the children, have never been topped.

I was lucky too, to be in Cross in what seems now to have been the "Golden Age" of the prairie community. Gerald O'Brien, was the Chairman of the Board and Otto Bohlken the Secretary-Treasurer. The board and the parents were proud of their school and kept it in tip-top shape. Water cisterns were filled, toilets pumped and fuel provided. Automatically, the platform went up for concerts and Mary Bohlken's "Rinso-White" sheets were hung for backdrops. I never had to ask — things were planned and done before I even had the chance! I wonder now if I ever expressed my appreciation sufficiently.

The school had a small enrollment, only ten the first year, becoming eight when the two Ed Moon children moved away that fall. The children seemed to span the grades from one to nine but being some of the most co-operative students I have ever taught, we managed to help one another as in a large family. I find that I have an impression of the creativity and ingenuity of the parents and the children, and I think that there was a high standard of educational attainment. I don't believe that there was a single pupil who, if eighteen or nineteen years old today, would not be able to succeed in a post-secondary education. Cross pupils themselves contributed to that before-mentioned "Golden Age".

The Christmas concert! From late November to the day in December when that wonderful night arrived, Cross "practiced". We started slowly, ending up frantically. Most had two or three parts to play, often having to take a part for the opposite gender. Once, when the enrollment was particularly low, the parents gathered each Monday night at the school and put on two plays to help out the program. What good sports they were and what fun we had preparing "Out the Window is Down" and "A Mouse to the Rescue". Ignorance being bliss, I played the piano for the choruses with one finger and a few luckily placed chords, as the children burst forth in song with never

a worry about singing on the vowels or slurring a word. Our "sh's" hissed at the end of words but we had fun and did our best. Parents beamed and praised and each left for home feeling good about themselves and their concert.

The teacherage was a small three-roomed cottage with a cistern for water. In winter we melted snow when it was clean enough for washing and used the cistern for cooking and drinking for both ourselves and the school cooler. A coal and wood stove heated the teacherage and an oil furnace heated the school. Later on the stove in the teacherage was converted to oil. This meant we were able to leave the teacherage without fear of everything freezing up. Once upon returning one Sunday evening with the two children the first fall after the oil conversion I found the oil had congealed in the pipe leading into the teacherage. I spent the night pouring electric kettles of boiling water over it to keep the stove going and the cottage warm enough. How relieved I was the next morning to turn the problem over to Walter Reich who had the summer oil changed to winter.

For six or seven winters Andy hosted the Cross men's coffee row in that little cottage kitchen. Most of the world's problems were well hashed over until suddenly it was soup time and the children and I would walk in to find Andy scurrying around to get it on the table and the visitors hustling away home.

Our children spent more years growing up at Cross than at any other school and to this day we are thankful for the good influence Cross community had on them. They were fortunate indeed. Both keep special places in their hearts for all the fine memories they have of their first school even though Mom was their first teacher. Each Christmas when we gather we use the set of beautiful dishes given us upon our departure in June of 1961. The "Remember whens" come thick and fast. Remember the Little League ball games, the doll's birthday parties, the house parties, card parties, and the bountiful feasts, the friendliness, the bonspiels, the end of the term picnics, the dust storms each spring, and oh, so many, many other things too numerous to list. Yes, we'll always remember and be interested in the people of the Cross.

## **Cross School**

**by Mrs. E. Jones**

In 1909-10 we had a chap called Charlie come to work for his board. As there was not much work he took on the job of driving me to school seven miles away to the north. This chap went to school with me and then we drove home after school. Toward spring this chap found work someplace else.

On the first of March I started to ride horseback



the seven miles to school. This day, about halfway to school, it started to snow big fluffy flakes. By the time school started there was a young blizzard blowing. By the time school was over you could not see any distance away.

The teacher tied string on the school door button when he went to the barn to fill the coal buckets. When he got to the barn he tied the other end to the barn door. By holding on to the rope he was able to come back to the school alright.

While he was in the barn he fed the horses with some of the oat bundles I had been storing to take care of my horse. When I started to ride horseback I could not carry sheaves everyday. The children thought they were going to starve and so the teacher, Mr. Duguid, brought a handfull of oat strands in with him. How the children went after the oats. Mr. Duguid put a pail of snow on top of the pot bellied stove to melt for drinking water.

As it grew dark children grew tired and sleepy. The girls huddled in their coats close to each other on one side of the stove and the boys on the other. I sat up in Mr. Duguid's chair with my feet on my desk seat. Mr. Duguid pulled two seats together and tried to rest on them. He was very tall 6'4" so quite a lot of him was left over.

Around midnight he went to the door to look out at the storm. It was almost over and he could hear sleigh bells. What a welcome sound and sight! One of the boy's parents were worried about their son and the Dad had come to take him home. The people Mr. Duguid boarded with had told the driver to bring all the school children with him to their place for the rest of the night.

So we gladly went to that home. The lady Mrs. Cross had some supper ready for us all, about twelve, and found room for us to sleep. A boy and girl belonged to this home.

Breakfast was served next morning. Our school boxes were packed with lunch and were taken in the sleigh once more for another day of school.

We had no telephones in that day so could not tell my folks. As I rode past our nearest neighbours home, she was standing out by the road to ask me how I made out. This lady Mrs. Johnston had had a lot of trouble in her life but she still could worry about me. She did not keep me talking long so I could get home. I had one more mile to go. Dad and Mother were glad to see me and to hear how the Cross family had taken us all under their wings. This was the only time we got caught in a blizzard while going to school.

## Denver School by Jean Coldwell (Purves)

During the first few years of pioneer settlement

there were no schools and education was at a minimum except for special tutoring in some cases.

The organization of the first school in the District took place on December 30, 1905 by J. Rice and Mr. Bunn. On April 30, 1906 a debenture was signed for \$1,500 to build Denver School and furnish it. The School was located on Sec 19-13-17-W2. Mr. Cave and Mrs. Lang were two of the first trustees of the Denver School.

The first teacher was Mr. George Duguid. He was followed by Miss Garland. Salaries at that time were \$800 a year. School was held only in the summer because travel was too difficult for the children in the winter. The teachers were not very strict and played with the children. About ten children attended the first school and, unlike now, attendance was not compulsory.

Classes were taught up to Grade eight, and in-

ROCKFORD BRICK & TILE COMPANY

Rocktex  
Face Brick  
and Tile

MANUFACTURERS OF  
DRAIN TILE, HOLLOW BUILDING TILE  
AND BRICK

ROCKFORD, IOWA

February 12, 1926.

Mr. A. R. Johnston,  
Riceton, Sask. Canada.

I have just had a talk with your brother Harry and Mr. Gus Michell regarding the new school building which your community expects to build. We would, of course, be very glad to make the sale and will quote you our very lowest price on both Select Smooth Face Commons and our rough texture Rocktex Face Brick. Unfortunately, however, we do not happen to have the freight rate to Riceton in our files and will ask our Des Moines traffic man to furnish us this rate which we should have within the next day or two, and will then be prepared to give you the quotations.

Naturally, the freight charges from Rockford to Riceton will be more than the average rate that we pay on our sales and yet it should be considerably less than rates from this district to Florida and to cities in the East where a considerable amount of brick from this district moves.

We have, however, a very beautiful rough texture brick and can furnish them in either the light or dark range. If after you have received our prices and then decide that you are interested we will be very glad to send several samples of both our light and dark range face brick, and also our smooth face common brick. I think you have visited Rockford since the Methodist church was built and probably have seen this building as it is just one block North of where Gus Michell lives. This building was built with Rockford Select Common Brick and for Common Brick it is a very attractive job. There will be \$8.00 per M. difference in the price of our Rocktex Face Brick and this Select Smooth Face Brick, for we will quote you \$17.00 per M. Face, and \$25.00 per M. Rocktex rough texture brick, F.O.B. cars our factory.

You will hear from us again within a few days and we hope that you will write us and let us know if our quotations are of interest to you.

Yours very truly,

ROCKFORD BRICK & TILE CO.

By G. H. Galvin  
m.  
President.

Rockford Brick and Tile Company.



Denver School 1960

T 13 R 18

T 13 R 17

J Shay 34	Ed Smith 35	J Witschusen 36	T S Warner 31	M. S. Leach 32	Mark Hill WE Nichols B.A. Snell C Ludwig	33
			Morgan		Simmons	
27	26	25	Resen J.S. Rice J.S. Rice	T. Ponto 30	29	28
	M.N. Smith	Robert McKim S Kathrapa				L. Hill Christel Braun Ira Young F Young
22	23	T Maytin T Martin	A. J. Mooney 19 Mooney AR Johnston Turner	George Brunes Brunes A Fisher E Hill	21	
15 Miche	14	G Long 13 Miller Miller	M. Pettyjohn W.H. Cave John Suiter		17	16
				Fraeburge		Eagleson Ingle
10	11	12	7	Bunn	8	9
3	2	1	6	Louis Hill Henry Sunstrom Fred Whitefoot	5	4

Denver School map.



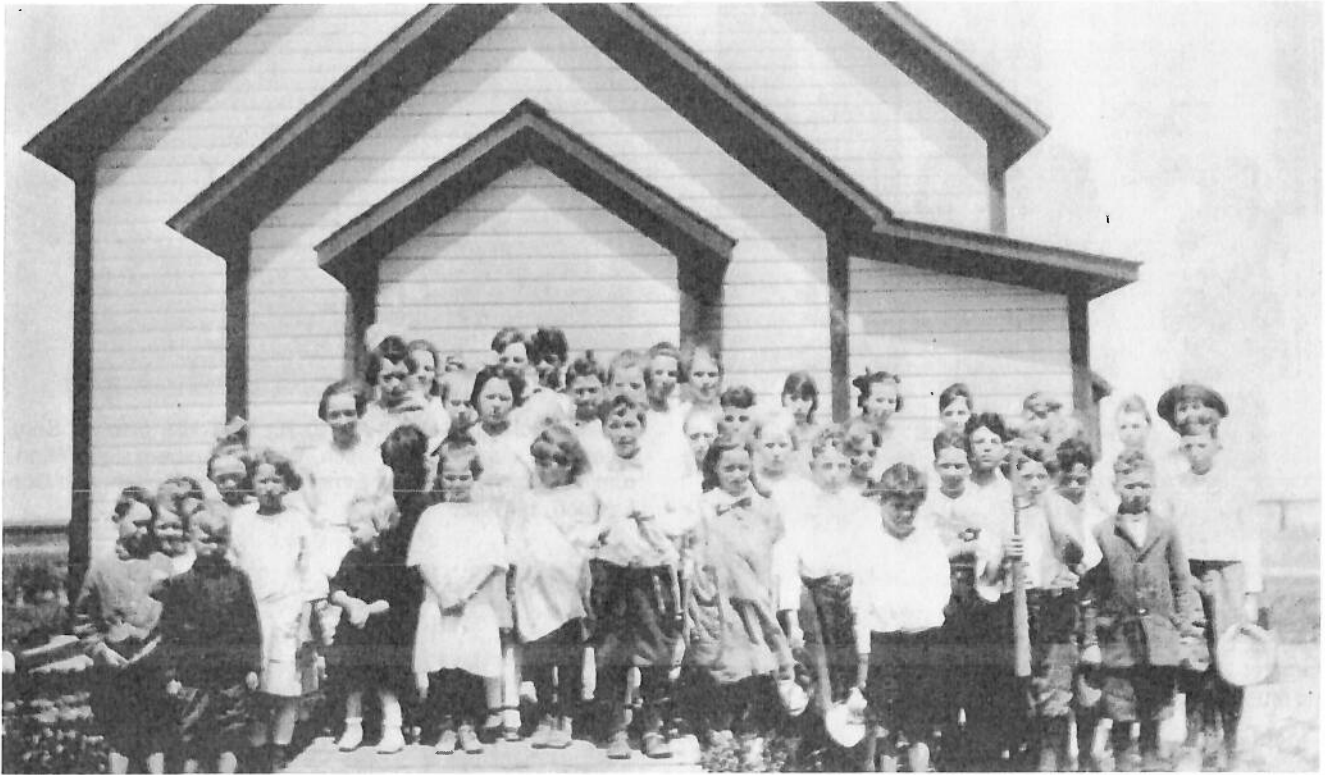
Denver School and pupils 1914.

cluded spelling, arithmetic, geography, history, reading and writing. In the early years students used slates which were probably the teacher's "pet hate". They also had drawer style desks equipped with ink wells and used dip pens.

Between April and July of 1912 Denver School was removed from the L. Johnston property and placed in Riceton in the centre of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -30-13-17-W2 (or on Block Six in the Hamlet of Riceton). School was opened August 31, 1912. As there was no



Denver School July 4, 1909. Back L. to R.: Mr. Lindley, Mr. Kirkpatrick, H. Ingle, Howard Gates, Mr. Kinter, Jack Howard, , Andy Mooney, Mr. Rice, Mr. Cave, , Mr. Rogers, Front L. to R.: Mrs. Ingle, , Mrs. Lindley, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Cora Rogers, Ethel Cave, Mrs. Kinter, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Neles Smith, Ernest Jones with the flag over his face, , under the flag Mrs. Cave.



Denver School. Front Row, L. to R.: Clarence Wallace, Hazel Hill, Doris Mitchener, Joe Shady, Lenora Leach, Frank Kemp, Pete Kawuza, Paul Kawuza. Second Row: Emma Hill, Lucille Shriver, Marguerite Schultz, Audrey Sherwood, Francis Leach, Annie Jansen, Geneva Mohr, Jim Mooney, Lena Otten, Otis Mooney, Gladys DeWalle, Alec Sherwood, Sess Kemp, George Hancock, LeMoyne Baker. Third Row: Mary Shriver, Mary Shady, Wilf Schultz, Wilber Hancock, Mary Kemp, Grace DeWalle, Edith Mitchener, Bernice Rice, Madeline Schultz, Bessie McCuaig, Lena Wallace. Five on the left: Wilma Wallace, Freddie DeWalle, Gladys Schultz, Clara Nichol, Olga Kawuza. Teacher: Miss Georgina Hunt, 1922.



Miss Riddell, teacher at Riceton.



Riceton School Students, December 1927. Back: Ted Baker, Leland Baker, Paul Kawuza, Frank Kemp, Bernice Rice, Florence Hill, Marguerite Schultz, Emma Hill, Alliece Allan. Front: Ben Johnston, Bill Martin, Bill Husband, Gladys Schultz, Agnes Lekivetz, Olga Kawuza, Lenore Leach, Clara Nichols.



Riceton's new school and Denver School.



Field Day at Riceton, 1941.



Riceton High School girls and teacher, 1942. Back: Dorothy Williams, Loretta Leach, Mr. McKay, Ruth Ann Diekrager, and Margaret Lekivetz. Front: Mary Lekivetz, Margarette Purves and Muriel Williams.

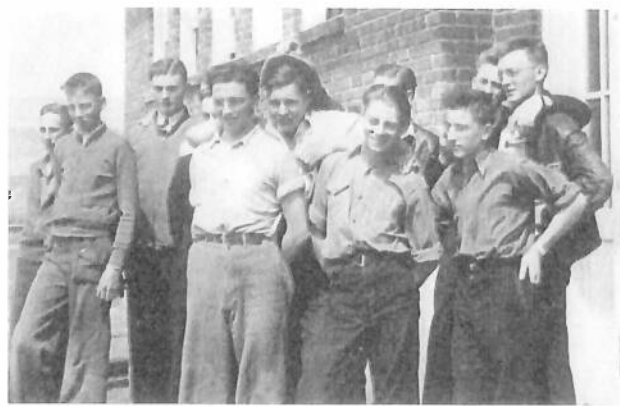


Riceton High School girls, 1941-42. Front: Mary Lekivetz, Margarette Purves. Back: Margaret Lekivetz, Maxine Mohr, Loretta Leach, Dorothy Williams, Ruth Ann Diekrager, Muriel Williams.

teacherage yet, the teachers had to board somewhere in town. Mrs. Fred Schultz boarded the men teachers and Mrs. Place kept the women teachers.

A drinking water cistern was added in 1919.

In 1926 a debenture for \$10,000 was registered for the Denver School District #1460 to build a new two-room brick school. The contract was awarded in 1926 to Hamilton Construction Co. of Regina to



Riceton School Students. L. to R.: Max Hill, George Spry, Gerald O'Brien, Merle Boesch, Walter Forsberg, Lyle Windrum, Leo Hill behind Lyle, Elmer Reich, Ken McKim, and Don Layman, 1941-42.



Riceton High School pupils 1949. Back: Eddie Hernblad, Jean Purves, Shirley Schultz, Hartley McKim, Mac Paton, Henry Diekrager. Front: Norma Osley, Charlotte Clark and Laura Diekrager.



Riceton School students. L. to R.: Gary Schultz, Shirley Stimson, Rose Elleen Mohr, Shirley Schultz, Billie Lloyd, Marilyn Aitken, Ruth Layman, Donald Leach, Keitha and Grace Deeks, Arvena Boesch, Loretta Leach, Miss Riddell, Teacher. Beth Aitken, Herbert Aitken, Eddie Loewen, Gwain Aitken, Morley Schultz, Douglas McKim, Hartley McKim, Don McKim, Laurence Nichol, Lorne Mohr.



Riceton School Students 1965. Back: Mrs. Ekberg, Cindy McKim, Sharon Larson, Tracy Kirkpatrick, Darla Olson, Annette Diekrager, Debbie Lanes, Yvonne Sargent. Mid: Charlene Bohlken, Marlene Bohlken, Holly Kirkpatrick, Barbara Bohlken. Front: Mel Purves, Chris Bohlken, Darrell Mack, David Moats, David Purves, Larry Bohlken, Doug Johnston.



David Bohlken, Deena Dunnett, Gail Bohlken, Helen Koszman — Grade XII graduates.

build the school on Sw $\frac{1}{4}$ -30-13-17-W2. In 1922 there were too many students for the school house so grades six, seven, eight and nine held classes above the T. J. Ryan store until the new school was built in 1926. Correspondence courses were used for grades eleven and twelve until 1929 as not many children went past grade nine or ten.

At a meeting on January 21, 1933 it was moved by Mr. J. P. Boesch and seconded by Mr. R. E. Miller that the name of the school be changed from Denver to Riceton School District.

Riceton joined Milestone School Unit in Decem-

ber of 1945. It became known as Riceton School under Milestone School Unit #12 on January 1, 1946. On January 1, 1979 it changed to Riceton School, Milestone School Division #74 and on January 23, 1980 it was re-named Riceton School of Prairie View School Division #74.

In the early '50's there was a high enrollment at Riceton School resulting in a crowded condition particularly in the Junior room. To warrant the addition of another room there had to be sixty pupils in the school with an average attendance of fifty-five. During the summer of 1955 Richardson School was placed beside the brick school and used for the Primary pupils. Later it was used for the High School students. In 1959 a choice was given to parents of this district to send high school students to Lang or to Milestone since a high school teacher for Riceton could not be found. Milestone was chosen by a vote of the parents of high school students. Therefore, in the fall of 1959 Grades nine to twelve were bussed to Milestone.



Junior Room at Riceton 1969-1970. Back Row: Earl Kinvig, Danny Keen, Mrs. Purves, Rocky Purves, Jamie Coupal. Middle Row: Robert Mack, Clay Reich, Jeff Bohlken, Jeff Reich, Jimmy Purves. Front Row: Mary Jo Diekrager, Peggy O'Brien, Dannelle Kirkpatrick, Blayne Richardson, D'Arcy McKim, Rosemary Coupal.

Richardson School closed its doors again in the fall of 1969 leaving Riceton School with two rooms and four grades in each room. After many years of use the brick school was in need of replacement. Cliff Hill, the Division Board Representative asked if Riceton was interested in obtaining the Lewvan School. At a meeting of March 30, 1974 Cliff Hill reported that the Unit Board had accepted a tender for the foundation and cement work. A. C. Bechard of Sedley, Saskatchewan was awarded the contract for moving of the Lewvan School to Riceton in the fall of 1974.

Teacher cuts were proposed in the spring of 1980.





Junior and Senior Room at Riceton 1976-1977. Back Row: Mrs. Purves, Danny Keen, Tricia Paton, Debbie MacDonald, Steven Glaze, Dannelle Kirkpatrick, Janis Bohlken, Blayne Richardson, Mr. Brownridge. Next Row: Leane Mohr, Gene Desautels, Daren McKim, Alice Moats, Michael Paton, Regan Deschner, Darla Ulrich, Mitchell Leach. Front Row: Robin Brownridge, John Herman, Wade Ulrich, Todd Herman, Susan Jones, Kim Richardson, Onalee Brownridge, Amy Desautels, Blayne Ulrich, Lana Purves, Robbie Bechard.

Consolidation was again looked into by the local board but the proposal was turned down. The teaching staff was changed to one full-time teacher with a full-time aide for the fall of 1980. Grades seven and eight were moved to Milestone School in the fall of that same year. In 1981-82 a part-time teacher was employed with the full-time teacher and an aide working twenty hours a week. This remained intact for two school years. Now with rising enrollment, two full-time teachers have been employed with a part-time aide for the 1983-84 school year.

Kindergarten was started in Riceton School in September of 1980 and continues at present.

Transportation of students to schools seemed to be a problem. In 1953 a grant was given to parents if they lived over two and a half miles from the school at the rate of 40¢ a mile one way per day for the distance in excess of two and a half miles. This method carried on until 1959 when a bus route was planned for Riceton rural students and those attending High School in Milestone. There were two bus routes; one picked up all the children north of town, and the east run which picked up children south and east of Riceton. One bus dropped off the Riceton School children and picked up the High School children, then carried on to Milestone. With the bus service, no children would be on the bus before eight a.m. In September of 1979, separate buses were run for high school students and public school students. It was felt this system did not work well and cost more money. The bus routes were changed back.

Some of the bus drivers on the routes were: Len

Richardson, Mike Kushnir, Fred Otten, Eldon Richardson, Mel Leach, Wayne Baker, Adam Mack, John Keen, Duane Bohlken and Stan Purves. We owe our bus drivers a vote of thanks for safely driving our children to and from school everyday. A list of teachers for Riceton School follows: No teachers were listed for the years 1906, 1907 and 1910.

George Duguid — 1908-1909  
 Francis Garland — 1911  
 Ellen Fraser Taylor — 1911  
 Gertrude Steinhoff — 1912  
 Cyrus S. Marshall — 1913  
 J. Alex Lefurgey — 1913  
 Roy F. Stewart — 1914  
 Murdoch, MacKay — 1914-1915  
 Margaret McMurray — 1915-18  
 Georgina Bradshaw — 1918-19  
 Pearl Irene Potter — 1919-21  
 Catherine G. Hunt — 1921-22  
 James Oma Jenkinson — 1922-23  
 Harold H. Samway — 1923-26  
 Elsie J. Helstrom — 1924-26  
 Mrs. S. I. Smith — 1925  
 Jean E. Beattie — 1926-1930  
 George B. Harper — 1926-1927  
 Merrick A. Leet — 1927  
 Ralph B. Smith — 1927-28  
 Rhoda Jarrett — 1928-29  
 Annie L. MacPhail — 1929  
 Bessie Mae McDonald — 1929-30  
 Annie Black — 1930-32  
 Isabel Hill — 1930  
 Robert Lough — 1930-32  
 Thomas Richard Bobier — 1932-39  
 Lily Helen Ganshorn — 1932-35  
 Euphemia Jeanetta Riddell — 1935-40  
 Mrs. Marcella Ryan — 1935  
 Vaudray Pals — 1935-36  
 Reginald M. Dewar — 1939-40  
 Isobel Anne Barton — 1940-41  
 Milton Edgar Windrim — 1940  
 Mrs. Leta M. Gillis — 1941  
 Orris J. Keehr — 1941-42  
 John Royden MacKay — 1941-42  
 Madge Greenfield — 1942-43  
 Della Harlton — 1943-45  
 Joseph Braun — 1943-45  
 Ann E. Brennan — 1943  
 Marie Buckingham — 1945-46  
 Stewart P. Thompson — 1945-47  
 Mary Irene MacMillan — 1946-47  
 LaVerne Morrison — 1947-48  
 Mrs. Violet Forsberg — 1947  
 Mary M. Forer — 1948  
 Helen Eileen Anderson — 1948-50  
 Gladys Shirley Sambrook — 1948-49  
 Mrs. Mary S. Lowenberger — 1949-50  
 Clarence Cantrill — 1950-53  
 Teresa Kuntz — 1950  
 Norma Jean Thue — 1951  
 Eleanore M. Hawrish — 1951-52  
 Ida Pearl Loucks — 1953  
 Margaret I. Stewart — 1954-55  
 Irwin H. Zorn — 1955-57

Mavis J. Hadland — 1956  
 Gordon I. Hoag — 1957  
 Shirley Anne Carlson — 1958  
 Eleanor Karen Dicken — 1958-59  
 N. W. Romaniuk — 1958  
 William R. Beck — 1959-61  
 Annie Remple — 1960  
 Joan L. Beck (Devereaux) — 1961-69  
 Marilyn M. Beck (Deters) — 1962-1964  
 Herbert Duguid — 1965  
 Ila Ekberg — 1965-66  
 John Wasylowich — 1966-68  
 Valerie P. Schaefer — 1969-76  
 Esther Purves — 1970-73; 1977  
 Joan Lovequist — 1974  
 Elaine Santbergen — 1975-76  
 A. Brownridge — 1977-78  
 Connie Pickering (McKim) — 1978-1980  
 Phyllis Walter — 1979  
 Susann Mack — 1980  
 Pat Ellis (Taylor) — 1981-82  
 E. Sutherland — 1982-83  
 Walt Roberts — 1983  
 Judy Zolc (Teacher's Aide) — 1981

## Riceton School 1932-1939

by Thomas R. Bobier

I came to Riceton in August 1932 as principal of the school following Mr. R. J. Lough and taught the senior room which consisted of Grades seven to ten. The teacher of the junior room was Miss Lillian Ganshorn who began her duties at the same time and continued as the junior room teacher until April of 1934 when she resigned to enter nurse's training.

After Miss Ganshorn's resignation, the balance of the term was completed by Mrs. Thomas Ryan. One incident, I remember during Mrs. Ryan's term as substitute, concerned one of her students, Max Hill, who had just learned to ride a bicycle. Mrs. Ryan was a rather frail person and had a foot problem which made her rather unsteady on her feet. Max, who had just learned to ride, had no wish to tackle the ruts and furrows of the gumbo road. He transferred to the sidewalk without realizing that it was already occupied. Mrs. Ryan, on hearing the approaching bicycle, turned around to see Max wobbling down the sidewalk and fearing the worst, let out a scream and stood right in the middle of the walk. This procedure must have so unnerved Max that he panicked and he and the bicycle crashed into Mr. Ryan knocking them both to the ground. After much consternation, the principals of the accident were assisted to their feet. Poor Mrs. Ryan was so shaken up that she decided to spend the rest of the day at home and the junior room had a holiday.

When school opened for the fall term, the new teacher for the junior room was Miss Euphemia Ridell who had been teaching at Gray.

As time went on, there were requests that the

higher grades of eleven and twelve be added. Grade eleven was started in the fall of 1933 and grade twelve was started in fall of 1938.

One of the greatest thrills was to learn that all the students who wrote their Grade Twelve Departmental Examination in 1939 passed and a great deal of credit must go to their ability and to their understanding of their position as rather underprivileged students since time for instruction was definitely limited and equipment in scientific subjects was sadly lacking.

In 1935-36, I attended the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon and Mr. Vaudrey Pals substituted as principal.

By attending Summer schools and taking extramural classes during the winter, I finally received my degree in 1938.

In 1937, I married Bessie McCuaig and we set up housekeeping in a small two room house which had a lean-to kitchen and porch attached. Lon Johnston was the owner.

During the early part of 1938, the municipality found itself short of funds and was not able to pay my salary with the result that we had to go on relief which at that time amounted to twelve dollars per month plus a ton of Souris coal for a five dollar voucher. Had it not been for Tom Ryan allowing us some credit, I am afraid we should have found it rather tough going.

In June 1939, I resigned after seven years as principal to begin a new career in Optometry and we left for Toronto that fall.

## Denver School

From Mrs. Ethel Jones' Journal

One other big happening was the building of Denver School house. This was on the corner of Johnston's homestead which made one mile for me to go to school, one-half mile east and one-half mile north of our home.

In the summer (1906) Mother had started a Sunday School. With the new school a minister drove out for morning church service. Mother always left a lunch on the kitchen table for this minister, Mr. Glover by name. After Church while we had Sunday School he ate his lunch and left. Mr. Glover went part way back to Lang and held services in Lakeview Church and then on to Lang for evening service.

Most people who had settled in the area were from the United States. So on July 4th we had a picnic at the schoolhouse. A Mr. Eagleson dressed up as Uncle Sam. We had lots to eat for a picnic supper and then home.

Mr. Duguid: He had filed on a homestead and for three years he taught in Denver School. When he proved up and got his homestead he got work in

Milestone instead of teaching. Some children moved away so there were not enough left to get the school grant so our Denver School was closed for a time. We still went there for church services.

Miss Garland: In the winter of 1910 she stayed with the two Cave girls Vic and Myra and Ernest Jones the hired man while Mr. and Mrs. Cave, Ira and Ethel went to Springfield, Illinois for the winter.

She had signed up to teach at Denver School when it opened in the spring. When the Caves returned home she went to board with the Purves family.

## Riceton School

by **Connie McKim (nee Pickering)**

I taught at Riceton School from September 1977-June 1980. In 1977-78 I had twelve students in grades one to three; in 1978-79 I had eleven students in grades one to four; and in 1979-80 I had thirteen students in grades one to four.

I taught all subjects in all of these grades. Extra duties included teaching Music (one year) and French (one year) to grades five and eight, as well as being Principal of Riceton School in my last two years at the school.

Our school participated in various competitions both within itself and within the larger School Unit. Some of these were field meets, Read-a-thons (for Multiple Sclerosis) and Red Cross Bike-a-thons. Riceton always participated with good attitude and spirit and were particularly successful in the Bike-a-thon Competitions.

There was an annual Christmas Concert held at Riceton United Church just before the students were dismissed for Christmas Holidays. It was very exciting for the students — their chance to recite poems, act in plays and sing songs for friends and family. A visit from Santa highlighted the evening.

In winter months, Riceton School enjoyed skating and curling at Gray Rink as part of Physical Education Class. We also went to Lang School and rink for skating parties, and very much enjoyed time spent with students and teachers of that school.

Riceton School participated in other activities such as; canvassing for the Cancer Society, selling poppies for the Royal Canadian Legion, and joining in the Pitch-In Campaign. We also sold Christmas candles to help purchase a film projector for the school.

We enjoyed films shown to us by visitors such as the R.C.M.P. (Bike Safety), the local Fire Department (the fire truck was also brought to the school for a demonstration), as well as many others.

Year-end tours included; a picnic trip to Avonlea

Badlands, a visit to Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park and Western Development Museum, a visit to Regina's Legislative Buildings, Diefenbaker Homestead, and R.C.M.P. Museum.

During all of these the students of Riceton School were both enthused and well-behaved.

I very much enjoyed teaching at Riceton School. I appreciate having had the experience of teaching in a multi-grade classroom.

I married Wade McKim on August 5, 1978 and we now have two children; Jordan and Lauren.

Wade and I and our two children continue to live on a farm three miles from Riceton. Wade commutes to work at Sears Ltd. in Regina.

## Riceton School — 1980-82

by **Pat Taylor (Ellis)**

During the school year 1980-81, I was teaching eighteen pupils at Riceton School. Judy Zolc was working as the teacher aide. We had three students in Kindergarten, three in grade one, two in grade two, one in grade three, five in grade four, three in grade five and one in grade six. We had our Christmas concert at the United church in December. Other activities during the year included field trips to Regina and Weyburn, skating and curling at Gray, Bike Rodeo and a simulated airplane flight.

In the 1981-82 school term with the addition of eight Kindergarten pupils, Betty Sutherland taught half time. One exciting event in the autumn was the filming of a short documentary, "Country School", by a film class at the University of Regina. We had a Winter Carnival in March to celebrate Education



Riceton School students and Mrs. Taylor 1980-1981. Back Row: Wade Ulrich, Carmen Bechard, Michelle Moon, Robbie Bechard, Adair Richardson, Scott Moyse, Myles Leach, Lana Purves and Jennefer Whiteman. Centre: Stephen Moon, Crystal Whiteman, Leah Purves, Renee Purves, Lori Moyse, Michelle Lolacher, Keri Lyn Larson. Front: Kelly Banga, Troy Baker, Janelle Ulrich, Dean Dovell, Tara Campbell, Leanne Bechard, Jason Bohlken, Jared Larson, Trevor Raaen.

Week. The snow drifts south of the school were over seven feet high.

### Taken from Candid Views

#### Riceton School paper 1938 and 1941

"Now children", said Mr. Windrum, "Write down all you know about King Alfred but don't say anything about the burning of the cakes, I want to find out what else you know." Half an hour later Geraldine handed in her effort. "King Alfred visited a lady at a cottage, but the less said about it the better."

Muriel: "I hate stubborn people".

Joyce: "So do I".

Muriel: "As a matter of fact I make a point of never giving in to that sort even though I know I'm wrong".

Gerald: "Did you shave this morning?"

Donald: "No, is there one missing?"

Bob was wandering home much later than his usual supper time. A friend of the family who happened to meet him said, "Why, Bob, aren't you afraid you will be late for supper?" "Nope," replied Bob, "I've got the meat."

Grocer: "Two cents more little girl. Bread's gone up since this morning."

Muriel: "Then give me yesterday's loaf."

Merle, who thought he could ride, mounted a pony in front of a lot of cowboys. The pony soon threw him. "Well!" said a cowboy helping him up. "What threw you?" "What threw me? Why she bucked something fearful. Didn't you see her buck?" "Buck," said the cowboy "Rats! she only coughed!"

Joe: "I am the fastest man in the world. When I run up steps it sounds like a machine gun."

Mac: "That's nothing. One night I ran into the house, slammed the door behind me, ran upstairs, undressed, turned off the lights and was in bed before I heard the front door being shut."

The scale was out of order but no notice to that effect had been posted. Dorothy clambered on and inserted a penny. Among the anxious bystanders was an interested gentleman who intently watched the dial which registered seventy-five pounds. "My gosh," he exclaimed hoarsely "She's hollow."

Most car accidents result from men hugging the wrong curves.

Mr. Bobier: "Rowland can you give me a quotation from the Bible?"

Rowland: "Judas went forth and hanged himself."

Mr. Bobier: "Very good, now give me another one."

Rowland: "Go thou and do likewise."

Woman: "And what may your name be little boy?"

Leo: "It may be Jim, but it ain't."

Donald: "You hammer those nails like lightning."

Earl: "I'm fast you mean."

Donald: "No, you never strike twice in the same place."

Walter: "Which burns longer, a wax or a tallow candle?"

Merle: "Why a tallow candle of course."

Walter: "Nope, you're wrong."

Merle: "A wax candle then."

Walter: "Wrong again. It's neither one, they both burn shorter."

### Knox School District #826

by Bruce Jones

The first school meeting for Knox was held on

#### AGREEMENT

Between Trustees and Teacher

The Board of Trustees of The Knox School District No. 826  
of Saskatchewan hereby contracts with and employs Don F. McBriggs  
who holds a Provisional Class Certificate of Qualification from the Depart-  
ment of Education for the Province of Saskatchewan as Teacher in the said District at the rate of  
seven hundred and twenty dollars  
per annum  
from and after the 5th day of July, 1913, and it further  
binds itself and its successor in office faithfully to pay the said teacher, during the continu-  
ance of this agreement, the sum or sums for which it hereby becomes bound in accordance with the  
provisions of The School Act.

And the said teacher hereby contracts with the said Board and its successor in office and binds  
itself to teach and conduct the school of the said District according to the provisions of The School  
Act and Regulations of the Department of Education.

This agreement shall continue in force until end of year 1913 from  
the 5th day of July, 1913, unless the Certificate of the  
said teacher shall in the meantime be recalled, and shall not include any teaching on Saturdays or on  
other lawful holidays or vacation decided on, all such holidays and vacation being at the absolute dis-  
posal of the teacher without any deduction from salary whatever.

The vacation mentioned shall consist of \_\_\_\_\_

(Attention is called to the following provisions of Section 125 of The School Act):  
"The salary of a teacher who has been engaged in any district for four months or more continuously  
shall be estimated by dividing the rate of salary for the year as set forth in the teacher's agreement by  
210 and multiplying the result obtained by the actual number of teaching days the school has been in  
operation during the period of the teacher's engagement."  
"Provided however that if the salary stated in the teacher's agreement is given at a monthly rate  
the rate of salary for the year shall be deemed to be a sum equal to twelve times the said monthly rate;  
"Provided further that if a teacher has taught more than 210 days in any calendar year he shall  
be entitled to only a year's salary; and  
"Provided further that notwithstanding anything herein contained the board of every district  
shall have power to enter into such contract with its teacher regarding the amount of salary to be paid  
as may be mutually agreed upon and set forth in the agreement provided herein.  
"(2) Either party thereto may terminate the agreement for teaching between the teacher and board  
of trustees by giving thirty days' notice in writing to the other party of his or its intention so to do."  
The Board of Trustees reserves right to close  
school at any time without notice any time  
after Nov 1st.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 1913  
Signed on behalf of the Board \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness to Chairman's signature, Mrs. Swank Chairman,  
W. C. Wright Don F. McBriggs Teacher,  
Witness to Teacher's signature, \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tested \_\_\_\_\_

Agreement between Trustees and Teacher for Knox School.

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 1912

In pursuance of notice duly given according to law. The First School Meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Mr. E. C. Wight. Mr. E. C. Wight was nominated and elected chairman and Mr. C. S. Kinter was appointed secretary.

After signing "The Declaration," the "Poll for Organization of District" was opened at 2:15 P.M. and closed at 3:15 P.M. Five votes were polled - all in favor of organization.

Nominations for Trustees were opened at 3:20 P.M. and closed at 3:30 P.M. The nominations were as follows: Messrs M. K. Swank, E. C. Wight, C. S. Kinter and C. S. Kinter.

Poll for trustees was opened at 3:30 P.M. and closed at 4:00 P.M. Five votes were cast resulting as follows: Mr. Swank 4 votes, Mr. Wight 4 votes, Mr. Kinter 3 votes and Mr. Kinter 1 vote.

The following names for the School District are suggested: "Knox", "Wild Horse", "Cannon River", "Chadron".

C. S. Kinter  
Chair

First school meeting for Knox School.

Saskatchewan Stations, Limited, Regina.

# FIRST SCHOOL MEETING

Public notice is hereby given that the First School Meeting for the Organization of the Undermentioned Lands into a New School District and for the Election of Trustees, will be held on Saturday the twentieth day of April 1912 at E. C. Wight's Residence

The meeting will be called to order at two o'clock in the afternoon (standard time). The poll for voting for and against the district shall remain open only one hour. Ten minutes will be allowed for nominating trustees. The poll for trustees shall remain open thirty minutes.

The boundaries of the district proposed to be voted upon include the following lands:

All of sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 in Tp 12, Rge 17;  
All of sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in Tp 13, Rge 17;  
East of section 31 and all of sections 25 and 26 in Tp 18, Rge 18 and all of sections 1 and 12 in Tp 13 Rge 18.  
All west of 2nd meridian.

Date of posting this notice: The 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1912.

E. C. Wight  
C. S. Kinter

First school meeting for Knox School District.

Saturday, April 20, 1912. The first trustees elected were Mr. M. K. Swank, Mr. C. E. Wight and C. S. Kinter. Mr. Swank was elected chairman and Mr. Kinter as secretary-treasurer.

The original location for the school was the SW 1/4-33-12-17-W2 which is about two miles east and five south of Riceton. The school building was 26' x 34' x 11' and cost \$1,575.00. The barn cost \$325 and could accommodate sixteen horses. The cistern cost \$100. A cottage was built in 1928 at a cost of \$1,100. In 1922 the school was moved a mile west of the NE 1/4-32-12-17.



Knox School at Field Meet. Back: Marg Purves, Arnold Grams, Earl Moon. Front: Ethel Jones, Edith Grams, Jean Purves.



Knox School Students. Fred Grams, Leo Jones, Tillie Grams, Fred Ferris, Louis Moon, Emily Cushing, Ira Cushing, Bob Cushing, Irma Grams, August Grams, Claude Jones, Vera Grams, Armand Martin, Lloyd Moon, Maude Jones, Edwin Moon.



Mr. Kinter served as secretary until 1919 when Bill Purves took over. Mr. Wight served as chairman until 1920 when George A. Bell took office. Thomas Moon became chairman in 1922 and held that office with Bill Purves as secretary until the school closed in the mid forties.

People who served as trustees at different times were C. S. Kinter, C. E. Wight, Ira B. Cushing, L. S. Long, Wm. A. Purves, Thomas Moon, W. Hill, E. W. Jones, Frank Burden, M. K. Swank and G. A. Bell.

When the school opened in the fall of 1912 there was an enrollment of nineteen between the ages of ten to sixteen. The first few years the salary was between \$720 and \$840, by 1920 it reached \$1,050 per year. The school year ran from the first of March to the end of December. The school was closed for January and February.

A list of teachers follows:

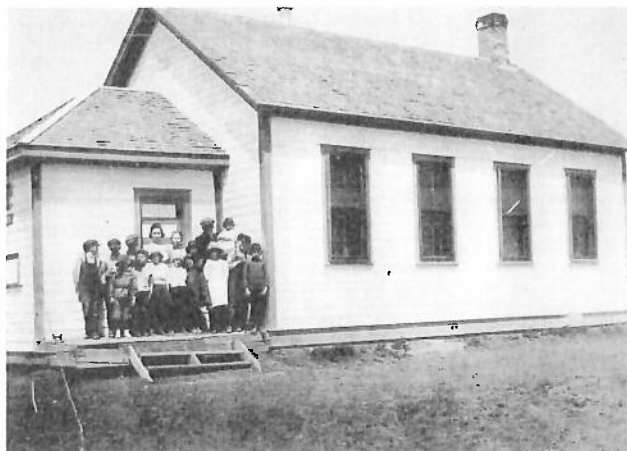
Dan F. McInnus — 1912	Floyd P. Drader — 1924
Edna Latimer — 1913	Clarence M. Fines — 1924
Emma B. Weathered — 1914	Gladys E. Wintes — 1925
Alex Stapleton — 1915-16	Dorothy I. MacIntosh — 1925
Elizabeth A. W. Hobson — 1916	Flora M. Cameron — 1925-26
Martha M. Lavigne — 1917	Lila M. Brown — 1927
Lottie L. Myers — 1917-18	Jane E. Williams — 1928-29
Flora K. McCallum — 1919	Lyman E. Newman — 1929-31
Margaret C. Morton — 1919-20	Jessie M. Hyland — 1931-33
Thomas M. Dyer — 1921	Viola E. A. Porohl — 1933-34
Flora Coons — 1921	Irene O. P. Hesla — 1925-38
Mabel L. Brown — 1922	Hit Olmstead — 1939-40
Elizabeth S. Sinton — 1923	Esther Tillier — 1940-41

## Early Days of Richardson School by W. E. Moats

Richardson School was located on the northwest corner of Section 36-13-17-W2, five miles east and two miles north of Riceton.

A document dated at Sedley, April 29, 1908 states the proposed Richardson School District had fourteen children between five and sixteen with ten children under five. There were sixteen people liable for taxation, fifteen Protestant, one Roman Catholic. There were fifty-four people resident in the district.

The first minutes of the Richardson School district No. 2148 named Ed Richardson as chairman,



Richardson School Students — Bakers, Richardsons, Mr. Taylor, Poissants, Larsons, McEwens and Roy Smith.

Dominion of Canada—North-West Territories.	
Canadian Currency.	Transferable.
The <u>Richardson</u> School District No. <u>2148</u> of the North-West Territories	
Registered <u>23 October 1909</u>	Debenture No. <u>One</u>
THE Board of Trustees (or Official Trustee) of The <u>Richardson</u>	
School District No. <u>2148</u> of the North-West Territories promise to pay to the bearer at the	
<u>Northern Crown Bank</u> at <u>Sedley</u> the	
sum of <u>One Thousand five hundred</u> Dollars of lawful money of Canada	
in <u>Ten</u> equal consecutive annual instalments with interest at the rate of <u>5 1/2</u> per	
cent. per annum on the terms and in the amounts specified in the coupons attached hereto.	
COUNTERSIGNED <u>this 23rd day of October 1909</u>	<u>G. J. Cook</u> CHAIRMAN
<u>George A. Bell</u> Commissioner of Education	<u>G. B. Mason</u> TREASURER
DATED this <u>First</u> day of <u>October</u> 1907	

Debenture No. 1 for Richardson School.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN TRUSTEES AND TEACHER

The Board of Trustees of The Richardson School District No. 2148 of Saskatchewan hereby contracts with and employs Mrs. Rita Bechar who holds a Class Certificate of Qualification from the Department of Education for the Province of Saskatchewan as Teacher in the said District at the rate of

Salary Five dollars per month from and after the 17th day of April, 1916, and it further binds and obliges itself and its successors in office faithfully to pay the said teacher, during the continuance of this agreement, the sum or sums for which it hereby becomes bound in accordance with the provisions of The School Act.

And the said teacher hereby contracts with the said Board and its successors in office and binds herself to teach and conduct the school of the said District according to the provisions of The School Act and Regulations of the Department of Education.

This agreement shall continue in force for eight months from the 17th day of April, 1916, unless the Certificate of the said teacher shall in the meantime be revoked, and shall not include any teaching on Saturdays or on other lawful holidays or vacation decided on, all such holidays and vacations being at the absolute disposal of the teacher without any deduction from her salary whatever.

The vacation mentioned shall consist of one week in July and August

(Attention is called to the following provisions of section 202 of The School Act):  
"The salary of a teacher who has been actually engaged in teaching in any district for four months or more continuously shall be estimated by dividing the rate of salary for the year as set forth in the teacher's agreement by 210 and multiplying the result obtained by the actual number of teaching days the school has been in operation during the period of the teacher's engagement."  
"Provided however that if the salary stated in the teacher's agreement is given at a monthly rate the rate of salary for the year shall be deemed to be a sum equal to twelve times the said monthly rate;  
"Provided further that if a teacher has taught more than 210 days in any calendar year he shall be entitled to only a year's salary; and  
"Provided further that notwithstanding anything herein contained the board of every district shall have power to enter into such contract with its teacher regarding the amount of salary to be paid as may be mutually agreed upon and set forth in the agreement provided herein.  
"(2) Either party thereto may terminate the agreement for teaching between the teacher and board of trustees by giving not less than thirty days' notice in writing to the other party of his or its intention so to do."

Other conditions of agreement.

Dated this 18th day of April, 1916  
Ed Richardson Witness to Chairman's signature.  
Ed Richardson Witness to Teacher's signature.  
Signed on behalf of the Board { Corporate Seal }  
G. J. Oak Chairman.  
Rita Bechar Teacher.  
No. of Saskatchewan Certificate 5  
Issued 1916  
Teacher's P.O. Address Richardson

Form 37

N.B.—The teacher must sign this agreement with Christian name in full as an authentic seal.

This agreement will not be accepted by the Department unless complete in every detail.

Agreement between Trustees and Teacher.

*Declaration of Office*  
I, Ira M. Smith do hereby accept the office of Chairman of Richardson S.D. No. 2148 N.W. and will to the best of my ability honestly and faithfully discharge the duties involving in said office.  
Dated this 11th day of Jan 1910

*Certificate of Declaration*  
I, G. J. Oak do hereby certify that Ira M. Smith former Chairman of Richardson S.D. No. 2148 N.W. has this day made before me the Declaration of Office as prescribed by the School Ordinance in that behalf.  
Dated this 11th day of Jan 1910 George J. Oak Notary

Declaration of office — Ira M. Smith.



Richardson School concert, 1943. L. to R.: Patsy Warner, Doreen Koch, Peggy Warner and Trudy Frei.



Rita Bechar on her first day at Richardson School. Back: Mrs. Betcher, teacher, with Bob and Mac McEwen on either side. Annabeth Moats on the left. Front: Rita Desautels, Florence Desautels, Norton Frei.

Ralph Smith as secretary, George Oakes and G. B. Mason as trustees. Notice is given that unless a poll of ratepayers is demanded the board will apply to the Commissioner of Education for authority to borrow \$1,700 by the issues of debentures for a frame school on concrete foundation, dates January 29, 1909.

A sworn declaration by Ed Richardson states that notices of intent were posted in five widely separated and conspicuous places in the school district a well as in the Post Office in Lajord on February 2, 1909. Mention is made that the school shall have seats, maps and charts, stove and secretary-treasurer's supplies. The secretary-treasurer was instructed to notify the Commissioner of Education that a tax levy of 8¢ per acre has been levied on the district.

A list of school building expenses November 29, 1909.

Lumber.....	\$579.00
H. G. Hanson for hardware.....	78.35
E. L. Christas for notice and supplies.....	14.55
R. Hunt for hauling.....	27.00

Ed Richardson for hauling lumber.....	10.73
C. L. Mason for hauling lumber and fuel .....	38.81
Building School .....	415.00
Extras .....	5.95

The meeting November 1, 1910 states the term of school for 1911 be open approximately April 1st and close December 25th, and that \$25 be set aside for a caretaker for seven months.

A special meeting December 19, 1912 passed a resolution that \$382 be borrowed from the Standard Bank of Canada to pay running expenses of the school for 1912 and to February 1, 1913.

The deferred annual meeting January 31, 1913 reduced the assessment to 5¢ per acre for 1913 and instructed the secretary to hire a teacher for not over \$300.

The annual meeting June 15, 1915 mentioned W. G. Crawford and Thomas E. Jory.

Minutes of January 18, 1919 mentioned a motion by A. K. McEwen and C. O. Baker that the secretary get all available information on the Waterburg heating device for schools. Moved by A. K. McEwen that Cora Richardson be appointed caretaker for 1919 at \$90.

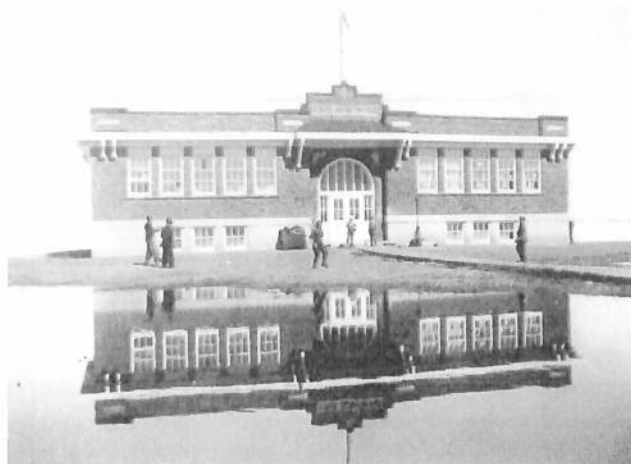
At a trustee meeting January 27, 1923 it was moved by A. K. McEwen seconded by Ed Richardson that a suitable cottage be built and arrange other buildings in a more suitable position and repair same, and to make a levy on the district for \$3,000.

Richardson Schools heyday was in 1929 when three families, the Strohms, the Martins and the Giegs came into the district and brought attendance to about thirty.

The school closed in June 1945.

Following is a list of teachers for the Richardson S. D. No. 2148, established July 13, 1908.

Year	Teacher(s)
1908-1909	No teacher listed
1910-1911	Gertrude Steinhoff
1912	Amelia MacLean Emma Weathered Ina Cooper
1913	Emma Weathered Mabel Wickett
1914	Alma Boddy Effie Willniot
1915	M. Simpson Lily Wilson
1916	Lily Wilson Bertha Bowen Dorothy Harrold
1917	Dorothy Harrold
1918	Mary Hyndman
1919	Rachel Thompson
1920	Hilda Bennett
1921-1922	John Taylor Paul Smith
1923	John Taylor Marion Langdon
1924	Marion Langdon Dorothy Macdonald
1925	Dorothy Macdonald George Rogers
1926-1936	George Rogers
1937	George Rogers Marjorie Betcher
1938-1939	Marjorie Betcher
1940-1941	Florence Hill
1942	Florence Hill Edith Lehr
1943	Mary Perry
1944-1945	Eileen Kerr
1946	Pupils conveyed



Reflection of Riceton School 1947.

**And He Won't Run From The Posse . . .  
from the United Church Observer**

Gray . . . There it was on the wall of the prairie hamlet's only store — an official-looking Wanted Dead or Alive poster, offering a \$5000 reward for Laird White, horse thief.

Now the Rev. Laird White enjoys a good joke but he couldn't let the poster go unanswered. So soon there was a hand-printed message tacked below:

"The above mentioned may be contacted at the United Church Hideout, known only to a few devoted followers. This noted gang with its now famous (or infamous) leader will be found here every Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. There is room for all who seek a reward."

# Bechard-Riceton Area Churches and Organizations

## Riceton Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church

by some of its members

Around 1908 a few Lutheran settlers arrived in the Riceton district, but had to drive to Lang to the Lutheran Church there.

In 1927 Rev. D. R. Ludwig of Corinne visited the Riceton District and found there was ample opportunity for a mission station there. Arrangements were made and the first service was held in the Cross School on the 6th of November, 1927 — the attendance was thirty-five. After a few services in Cross



Dedication of the Riceton Lutheran Church on June 10, 1951.

School the congregation asked the board of the Community Church of Riceton if they could hold services in their church but were not permitted. As a result the Lutherans, on March 11, 1928, held services in the Denver School in Riceton. A meeting was held and the board of officers were elected. The first ones were trustee Walter Boesch, treasurer Ole Myberg, secretary John Boesch. Rev. D. R. Ludwig had services in Riceton on the second and fourth Sunday of the month in the Denver School. In 1928 they formed a building committee and elected J. P. Boesch, C. B. Bohlken, W. Boesch, P. Jasper and G. Olson. Due to poor crops no steps were taken to get subscriptions for building a church.



Confirmation class at Riceton Lutheran Church, 1944. L. to R.: Helen Forsberg, Katie Forsberg, Rev. Harry Huth, Peter Boesch and Lawrence Boesch.

Mrs. Chris Bohlken was the first Sunday School teacher. Rev. D. R. Ludwig accepted a call to Estevan, Saskatchewan and was succeeded by the Rev. L. S. Winter of the St. Louis Seminary. He lived in Corinne. In the fall of 1931 Edgeworth and Pangman were added to the Corinne, Riceton Parish. Rev. Winter, on March 18, 1934, organized the first Lutheran Ladies' Mission Circle.

In the fall of 1938 Pangman and Ceylon were added to the Coronach parish, leaving Corrine, Riceton, Edgeworth and Bures in one parish. In June 1939, Rev. L. S. Winter accepted a call to Estevan and was succeeded by Rev. A. E. Oldehoeft. The board gave Rev. Oldehoeft two weeks vacation so he could get married. The congregation paid for the pastor's 1943 coal bill as the salary those days wasn't very much. In 1943 Rev. M. H. Leedahl was Pastor for one year.

On December 3, 1944 the congregation held a meeting and all agreed to join with Redeemer Lutheran Church of Regina and Rev. H. A. Huth as pastor. In 1946 lots were selected for the purpose of building a church. When to build, size, finances, style and plans were prescribed by Rev. Huth. Rev.





Confirmation class at Riceton Lutheran Church 1934. L. to R. Back: Frank Forsberg, Garth Boesch, Fritz Otten, Graydon Olson, Donald Bohlken. Front: Suea Forsberg, Wanda Boesch, Rev. Winter, Eileen Bohlken and Toiny Forsberg.



Lutheran Confirmation Class 1942. Lorne Mohr, Rose Elleen Mohr, Arvena Boesch, Edna Forsberg and Rev. Huth.

H. A. Huth was succeeded by Rev. F. M. Sass in 1949 and 1950 was the year the church was built. It was all done by the congregation; the main carpenters were John Boesch, Walter Boesch and Chris Bohlken. When the cement was poured for the basement it was all done by hand; shovelling sand and cement into the cement mixer with water and put into a wheelbarrow then pushed up a ramp and poured into the walls of the basement. It was such a warm day when the basement was poured and with all the help we knew we would be finished early, so we sent someone to Sedley for a little refreshment.

In the fall of 1950 most of the church was built. There is one more person that needs to be mentioned, Karl Pedersen. No matter where, a foundation for a house, cistern or any kind of cement to mix, Karl was there to give a helping hand.

In the spring of 1951 the pews and altar came by

train and were put in the church. A double privy was built; one side for the ladies and girls and one side for men and boys, a cool place in the winter but it served the purpose. On May 13th, 1951 the board decided to ask Rev. L. S. Winter to come for the dedication service. He was unable to come so they asked Rev. Triet. Mrs. John Boesch and family Garth, Wanda and Arvena, and Walter Boesch donated an organ in memory of John Boesch. This was put up in the balcony of the church. On June 10, 1951 Rev. F. M. Sass had a short service at the Riceton School in the morning then Rev. Sass led the congregation and walked from the school to the church and finished the service. In the afternoon Rev. Triet helped Rev. Sass in the dedication service. A large crowd was in attendance. A cold plate supper was served for two hundred people. Mary and Anna Bohlken carried water from Mrs. Martha Hill's, across the street, for coffee and dishes. Coffee was made in a large copper boiler and heated on a coal oil stove.

As years went by improvements on the church were made. In 1952 electricity was put in. Now with lights, services could be had in the evenings. A rug was put down in the aisle and altar. The basement was finished with tables, chairs, cupboards, dishes and a rug. Since the hall had burnt down, meetings, showers and anniversaries are held in the church basement. Water and sewer and a gas furnace were put in and two wash rooms put in the basement.

Rev. F. M. Sass was succeeded by Rev. R. R. Raedeke in 1958. He had morning services in Riceton at 9 a.m. every Sunday weather permitting and a service at 11 a.m. in Regina. Rev. Raedeke stayed until 1976.

One son of the congregation became a Lutheran Pastor. Peter Boesch graduated from the Seminary at Springfield, Illinois and was ordained into the ministry at Riceton in 1958 by Rev. Raedeke. Peter accepted his first call to Australia and is still in that country.

Our present pastor is Rev. D. K. Ramsey and services are the same. Because of the foresight and faith of those who built the church present and future congregations can and will enjoy this fine structure as a place for worship, praise and Christian education.

#### **Sunday School and Vacation Bible School**

In April 1928, Pilgrim Lutheran Church organized a Sunday school for the children of its members.

Until 1945, the church council elected Sunday School teachers. The first teacher was Mrs. C. Bohlken who taught all the children under the age of eleven. The children above eleven years of age were taught catechism lessons by the minister. In 1970 the United Church in Riceton felt they didn't have

enough children to run a Sunday School, so they were sent to the Lutheran School where they have remained.

Our present enrollment in 1983 is twenty-one children. We present an annual Mother's Day Program and Tea and the Christmas Eve program. We also participate in Mission projects.

The first record of Vacation Bible School was in 1953. At that time expenses were absorbed by the congregation. Later, in 1955, the Ladies Mission Circle took care of the expenses.

The first Vacation Bible School class was held in the church with only children from the Lutheran Church attending. We gradually grew as children from Riceton and the surrounding communities started to join us. In 1975 we moved to the Riceton School but by 1982 we were outgrowing a two-room school so one class moved back to the church basement and a trailer was added to accommodate all the children.

The classes held are for all children from the age of three to grade eight. In 1982, we had a total of sixty-five children attending.

On the last day of this five-day week, we have a closing afternoon program. This program, held in the United Church because it is larger than the Lutheran Church, is for parents, grandparents of the children and friends in the community. A Bar-B-Que follows the program.

### **Riceton Mission Circle and Lutheran Womens Missionary League**

On March 18, 1934 Rev. Winter, who was serving at Corinne, called attention to the ladies at Riceton to the needs of Edmonton Concordia College Commissary Dept. Mrs. Walter Boesch invited the congregation especially the ladies, to her home for tea to hear more details of this particular need. It was also decided to hold regular monthly meetings of this kind from then on.

An organizational meeting was held in July of 1939. The group was formally named Pilgrim Lutheran Mission Circle. A constitution and bylaws were adopted. Mrs. W. Boesch was the first president and Mrs. J. Boesch was the first secretary-treasurer.

During the war years 1939-1945, under the guidance of Pastor Oldehoeft, the Mission Circle worked closely with the Red Cross. Endeavors mentioned were; rubber salvage, clothing drives, bonds, quilt making, milk for Britons, bundles for Britain, ditty bags, support of sons of the congregation and community in the forces.

As early as 1941 the Circle donated \$50 towards the Building Fund for the new church. From the years 1944-58 three pastors served the parish and helped



Lutheran Ladies meeting at Forsberg home, 1944.

the Mission Circle: Rev. Leedahl, Rev. Huth, and Rev. Sass.

After the church was dedicated in 1951, carpet, candelabra and candles, altar linens, hymn books, Sunday School materials, fixtures, altar hangings, dishes and silverware, stove, tablecloths, construction of cupboards and tables for the basement, painting the basement and making curtains for the basement windows were all financed by the Mission Circle.

The last bazaar was held in December of 1954.

In 1956 the "Mite Box" was adopted for use to collect mites (pennies) which would be used for the Mission outreach of the church. To support the mission work in Hong Kong, teas with the sale of materials made in Hong Kong became an annual event from 1958-1965. Vacation Bible School was an annual event supported by the Mission Circle both in talent and money. Part of the Mission outreach program included the decision to "adopt" children at the Saskatchewan Training Centre in Moose Jaw (Valley View Centre). Children are visited, remembered for their birthdays, etc.

In June of 1961, while Rev. Raedeke was pastor, the Pilgrim Mission Circle agreed to affiliate with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the official auxiliary organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Mrs. Hulda Bohlken was the first president, Miss Emma Oltmanns the first vice-president, Mrs. Iola Bohlken the first secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Lottie Mohr remained secretary-treasurer of the Mission Circle.

Two years later the group became one. The thrust of the Lutheran Womens Missionary League is towards mission education, inspiration and service. In the succeeding years the members of the Pilgrim Lutheran Womens Missionary League have endeavored to accomplish these objectives through the inspirational and educational programs of the League

and in service to their homes, church and community.

## **Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church — Riceton**

by Gerald O'Brien

The Riceton Catholic Parish was first organized in 1937 with services held in the Riceton School classrooms.

In 1939 the present church was moved to Riceton from west of Kronau. First services were held in the fall of 1940. Father O'Donnell was the first priest to say Mass in the school.



Riceton Altar Society meeting 1922.

The first church council was: Chairman Tom F. O'Brien, Henry Boesch and George Lekivetz; Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Ryan. Soon there were over twenty-five families in the congregation.

In the mid-sixties Gerald W. O'Brien became chairman, Real Coupal became Secretary-Treasurer. Con Bechard, Raoul Gibeau, Bob Diekrager and Audrey Bechard in later years succeeded Real as Secretary-Treasurer. Con Bechard and Gerald O'Brien are still on the Council at the present time.

Organists for the same period were as follows: Mrs. Tom Ryan, Mrs. Eugene Bechard and then Audrey Bechard. During the last few years there hasn't been anyone on an every Sunday basis.

Since opening, Riceton, Lang, and Milestone parishes have had the same pastors. The priests are as follows:

Father Trainor was pastor to 1946

Father Daly for a short time in 1946

Father C. S. Godin to 1955

Father John Malloy to 1959

Father Lionel L'Heureux from 1959 to 1961

Father Peter D'Aoust came in 1961 to 1965

Father L. Sullivan to 1968

Father A. Vandendriesche was pastor from Sept. 1968 until 1970

Father Patrick Murphy 1970 to 1971

Father Zimmer 1972 to 1974

Father John Weckend came in Sept. 1974 to July 1979

Father Gary Kuntz, August 1979 and is presently the pastor as of June 1983.

The parish was blessed for years with a good choir comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Ouellette, Eugene and Myrle Bechard, Reg Coupal, Phil Roys, Gerald O'Brien and Alex Fahlman.

For years the parish had a very active Altar Society.

## **Riceton United Church**

by Gladys Schultz

The early pioneers felt a need for a church. Mrs. E. Jones' mother, Mrs. Cave and Mrs. J. Rice started a Sunday School in Mrs. Cave's home in 1905 or 1906. Mrs. Cave was superintendent and Mrs. Rice, the teacher. About 1907, a school was built south of town on the A. R. Johnston farm, and they met there. Church services were also started. Later the building was moved to town. Rev. Glover, the minister at Lang, came over Sunday mornings and held services before Sunday School. Mrs. Cave would leave a lunch on her table. He would eat and then continue on to hold services at Lake View.



Riceton United Church and Manse.

The first quarterly meeting of the Riceton Circuit was held at Bratt's Lake in May 1914. Representatives from Riceton were Mr. Rice, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Lathrop; from Buck Lake, Mr. J. Bratt and Mr. H. B. Moats; and from Gray Mr. Howlett and Mr. Cross.

On Aug. 22, 1919, Riceton decided to build a church. Mr. Rice, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mr. D. C. Bingaman and Mr. E. B. Moats met to decide on a plan for the building. The basement was dug that year.

A Trustee Board, consisting of Mr. E. B. Moats, Mr. J. Rice, Mr. D. C. Bingaman, Mr. J. Rasmussen, Mr. H. B. Moats and the minister, Rev. Hancock was elected on May 1, 1920. The first minutes were written on any kind of scrap paper which are now so fragile they can't be handled. The men worked voluntarily that year and the women were happy to feed them. The church was opened in the fall of 1920.

On June 19, 1936 a meeting was held to organize the Riceton, Gray and Estlin charge. Mr. D. V.

Runkle, Mr. R. Girsberger, Mr. R. Myers of Estlin; Mr. H. B. Moats, Mr. T. H. Roche, Mrs. F. B. Lewis of Gray and Mr. E. B. Moats, Mr. F. Williams, Mr. T. Kemp of Riceton were appointed representatives.

The inside fixtures, pews, pulpit, side chairs, and choir chairs carried a 2% sales tax. There were two letters of apology that the brick from Alberta and lumber from Vancouver could not be shipped on time due to the shortage of railway cars.

Money was always a problem. In 1921 due to weather conditions and falling wheat prices, the Board appealed to the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund for a loan. This was turned down due to deferred payments. Again in 1944 they applied to the Home Mission Board for \$600 to pay off the mortgage on the church and manse, which was gratefully received. On June 12th of that year, they held a special service and burned both mortgages, an occasion for thanksgiving and rejoicing.

Chosen to represent the church were Mr. E. B. Moats, Mr. D. C. Bingaman, Mr. Rice, Mr. McKim, Mrs. C. E. Kinvig to represent the W.M.S.; and Mrs. A. M. Place, the Ladies Aid as it was known then; and Mr. T. Kemp represented the Sunday school.

Mr. A. M. Purves, who had played an important part in collecting funds, was asked to place the mortgages on the plate and Mr. Rice to light them.

It was agreed that each point have two representatives to burn the manse mortgage. Mr. E. B. Moats and Mrs. Rice represented Riceton. Gray and Estlin were asked to choose their own.

Mr. G. Glover was first choice as guest speaker, but he was unable to attend and Rev. Ball very ably and willingly complied.

The Riceton choir sang "I Was Glad" and Mrs. E. Jones sang "Open the Gates of the Temple". Both numbers had been sung at the time of the dedication in 1920.

The church was under the Methodist Presbytery but in 1925 it was changed to the United Church, same for the manse.

Through the years there have been some very active organizations connected with the church. The Baby Band, ably led by Mrs. E. Graff; Mission Band, which in 1944 received standard of recognition at Presbyterial; Canadian Girls In Training, Tyros, Ladies Aid, and Women's Missionary Society who for years held an annual serving bee and pot luck dinners to send baby garments to Korea. The Choir, led by Mr. Geo. Rogers, and a junior choir, led by Mrs. E. Jones, put on a play to raise money for a piano for the church basement.

As there was no place in town to hold meetings, the Church Board reluctantly allowed the church to be used. The Ladies Aid sponsored plays. Chautau-

quas with community backing were an annual event. The church was always filled to capacity for these events.

We are grateful to those pioneers who felt the need of a church and who sacrificed so much to leave us this heritage, and for the privileges that have come to us through their faith.

Ministers down through the years have been as follows:

Rev. G. Glover	Rev. J. Watts
Rev. Mason	Rev. G. Wilson
Rev. W. Hancock	Rev. F. Passmore
Rev. E. Smith	Rev. J. Dunnett
Rev. H. Toombs	Rev. M. Thomas
Rev. J. Smith	Rev. W. Banks
Rev. H. Robertson	Rev. B. Colquhoun
Rev. Johnson	Rev. L. White
Rev. W. Lloyd	Sharon Davis
T. Malcolm	

## United Church Organizations

by T. Kushnir

The Ladies Aid was organized in 1911 and was responsible for the upkeep of the Manse and the Church. Fowl suppers, bake sales, teas and bazaars were held to raise money. In later years the organization became known as the U.C.W. (United Church Women).



W. M. S. Meeting, Riceton. Back: Mrs. Spry, Mrs. G. Richardson, Mrs. Graff, Mrs. Kinvig, Mrs. Nichol. Front: Four ladies from Francis, Saskatchewan, then Mrs. Paton, Gladys Schultz, Mrs. Reich, Mrs. W. Hill, Mrs. W. Layman.

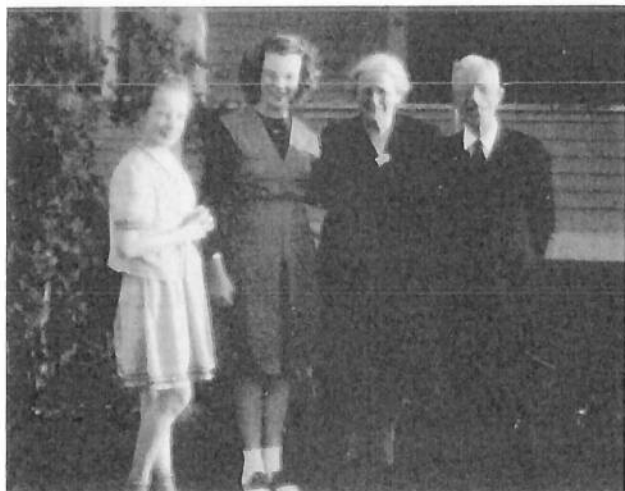
The Women's Mission Society was started in the early twenties. This group of ladies sent aid to needy places overseas in the form of clothing and money to help in missionary work in the United Church. Each June for a number of years a sewing bee was held with baby layettes being sewn and quilts made. The parcels were sent to Miss B. Bourne, a missionary in Korea.

In early 1960's the group disbanded and joined the U.C.W.

The C.G.I.T. (Canadian Girls in Training), the Baby Band and Mission Band were other Church organizations but due to lack of leaders and members all of the above groups have disbanded.



Ladies Aid Meeting, 1930. Back: Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Graff, Mrs. R. McKim, Mrs. Madeline McKim, Mrs. Carder, Grandma Graff. Third: Mrs. T. Johnson, Mrs. Orr, Mrs. Ponto, Mrs. McEwen, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Rodgers. Second: Mrs. Place, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Kinvig, Mrs. Williams, Miss M. Moats, Mrs. Hill and Max, Mrs. Pickering. Front Row: Mrs. Reich, Mrs. Kemp, Mrs. Nichols and Laurence, Mrs. A. Purves and Annabeth Moats, Edna Ahlers and Dorothy Williams, Lydia Epp.



Olive and May with parents. Mrs. Johnson and Rev. Johnson.



U.C.W. Quilting Bee. Emma Moats, Deena Jones and baby; Gladys Schultz, Mrs. Graff, Frances Hill.



Bonnie Hill, Diane Layman, Lynda Mae Kushnir, Janet Otten, Dorothy Blish, C.G.I.T.



A group of C.G.I.T. — Alliece Allan, Emma and Florence Hill, Geneva Mohr, Bernice Rice, Madeline Schultz, Annie Jansen, Mrs. Smith, Marguerite Schultz, Lenora Leach.





Junior Choir on Mother's Day 1944. L. to R.: Beth Aitken, Shirley Schultz, Grace Deeks. In Back: Ruth Layman, Ethel Jones, Jean Purves, in back Maude Jones, Audrey Watts, Marilyn Aitken.

Riceton C.G.I.T. 1956. L. to R.: Jean and Judy Richardson, Geraldine and Lily Deters, Lois and Mary Bohlken, Marilyn and Ann Olson, Esther Hill, Mary Harrington, Karen and Rose Dunnett, Carol Olson, Mrs. Graff.



Baby Band graduation, 1950. Bev Purves, Karen Hannan, David Mooney, Marlene Jones, Linda Ray Kelly.



Clarence Cantrill and the Tyro boys 1953.



Baby band graduation, Mrs. Graff, leader.

# Agriculture in the Becharard-Riceton Area

## Farming in Southern Saskatchewan Interviews with Frank Cross Sr. by Mary McDowell and Frank Cross Jr.

The first crop was flax, a high dollar crop, but one which could be grown only one year, after that blight would ruin the crop. The virgin sod was turned once and the flax planted. Harvest would bring \$3 per bushel and about twenty bushels to an acre, which would pay for the land, leaving the farmer free and clear.



Neighbors putting in the crop for Albert Blish when he was very sick.

After the initial crop, wheat, oats and barley were grown. At threshing time the grain was loaded into granaries which were about twelve by fourteen feet and built on skids to be moved about.



Seeding just north of Riceton about 1923.



Binders cutting grain on Cushing farm.



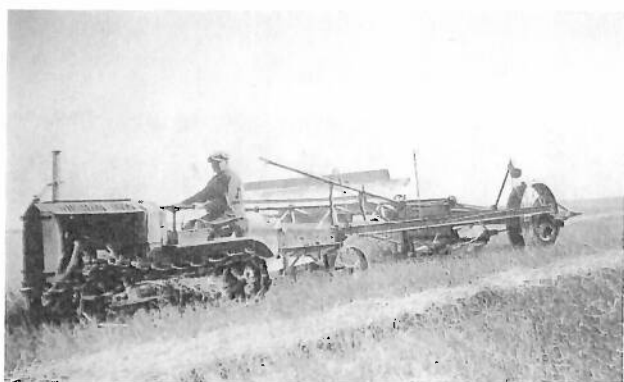
A field of stooks on the Jack Allan farm.



Carl Mohr's threshing outfit, 1919.



Stimson — Lynburner threshing outfit, 1927. L. to R.: Don Stimson (front of truck), Melvin Stimson, Mrs. Laura West, Mrs. Ada Stimson, Harold Stimson, Hazel West (Stimson), Pauline West (Hill), Lorne Evan, , Nick Nohorff, Charlie Lynburner on separator, Bob Stimson, Fred Fisher, unknown on three racks, Bill West in front of the tractor, Art Stimson, Calvin Stimson. Threshing on Bill West farm, now Norman Desautels'.

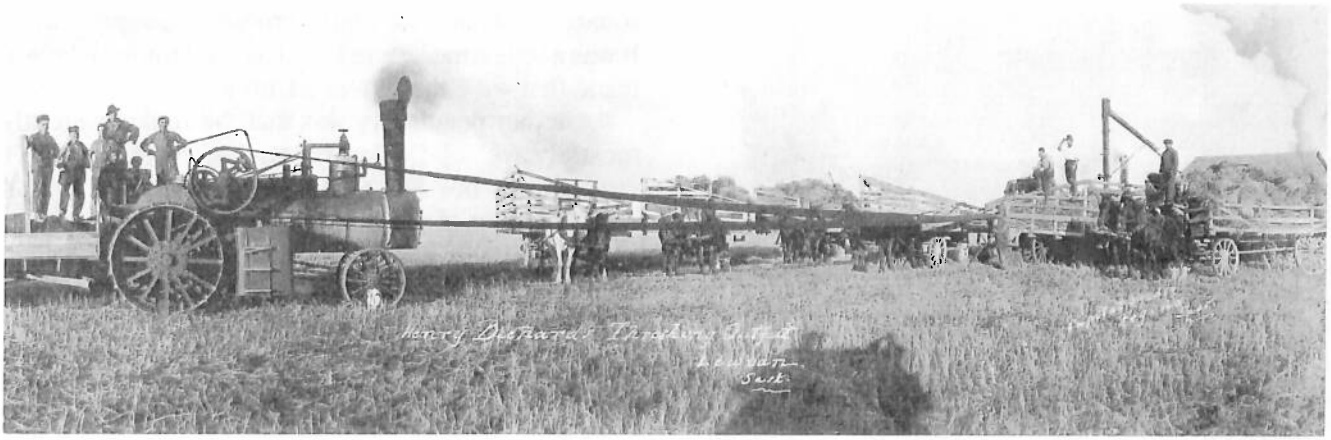


George Brown swathing with Cletrac.

### Steam Threshing — 1914

Notes made by Frank Cross Jr. from  
Information by Frank Cross Sr.

At threshing time Dad had the job of stoking up the steam engine. He would get up about three in the morning to get up a head of steam by five in the morning when the crew would start to work. The steam engine was fired with wheat straw. It kept one man busy all day just pitching straw into the firebox. I think it was an 1899 Rumely steam tractor designed to burn straw. Horse drawn wagons would bring the wheat sheaves from the field, stooks to the threshing machine. Workers pitched the sheaves into the



Henry Bechard's threshing outfit 1913-1914.



Waterloo Boy and a breaking plow. The owner unknown.

thresher's cylinder. The clean grain went into a wagon to be moved to the granary. The threshed straw coming off the walkers was fan blown into a stack near the machine, some to be burned in the steamer and the rest to be left in the stack for the winter fuel, feed and bedding. Later the steam threshing machine was fitted with a clean grain elevating leg which lifted the grain directly into the granary.

About 1916 or 1917 James Cross bought a 1916 Waterloo Boy N-12-25. This tractor was the forerunner of the John Deere tractors. It had twelve horsepower on the drawbar and twenty-five horsepower on the belt pulley. The steering wheel was geared to a chain winch which pivoted to front axle to steer the tractor. It had a two cylinder horizontal engine with the cylinders mounted to the rear of the crankshaft. (Later the John Deere tractors had the two cylinders mounted forward.) The manifold was practically in the driver's lap and Dad said it got awfully hot! Another fault with the tractor was the final drive which consisted of big spur ring gears riveted to the rims of each drive wheel. A pinion gear meshed with the ring gear to drive the wheels. It was simple and strong, but the gears were out in the open and the dust and dirt soon wore the gears out.

Dad said they used the Waterloo Boy to drive the thresher instead of the steamer after 1916 and this saved a lot of stoking labor. Also, he didn't have to get up as early to get up the steam. The Waterloo Boy started with a hand crank and burned kerosene.

One day during threshing the engine set up a terrible knock. They shut it down and began tearing into it. Dad found one of the rod bearings burned out. He said he got up about four the next morning and began melting down Babbitt Metal (alloy of copper, antimony and tin) to pour a new bearing in the connecting rod. He poured and then fit it to the crankshaft by scraping away the soft metal with a knife until the bearing had the proper clearance. He said he had the engine running good by nine in the morning and it ran well for a long time after.

## Well Digging — 1909

Notes made by Frank Cross Jr. from information by Frank Cross Sr.

Frank Cross said he was helping his father, James, dig a well on the homestead. He was digging at the bottom of the well and filling a bucket with the dirt and rocks. His father would haul the bucket up on a rope, dump it, and send it down again. The bucket weighed about fifty pounds when full and on one trip up, the rope broke when James had it almost to the top. He hollered and young Frank had just enough time to squeeze up against the wall before the bucket whizzed past his nose and smashed to pieces on the bottom. The bucket had fallen about twenty feet.

They finally finished the well and this relieved Frank of the chore of hauling water in a horse drawn wagon from the creek. The well water was a lot better, also — no wigglers in it!

## Mules

by W. E. Moats

When I was a small boy my father had all mules



Two mules and four teenagers.



Clipping mules on Bingaman farm, 1922.

except for the pony, Billy, which I later rode to school. The first horses were a team of broncos, Tex and Polly that came in 1923.

I should describe mules, in physical terms, that is. They were taller, rather spindly in proportion compared with horses, longer legs and of course big long ears. It would take a fairly big male to weigh thirteen hundred pounds. Also, a mule had a small rather steep walled hoof. A mule shoe would measure only three and a half to four inches across.

Also, mules were trimmed up or groomed differently. The mane and forelock were kept trimmed short, with the upper part of the tail bone, a foot or so clipped short. The end or brush was then cut off

square to give a mule's tail a broom-like appearance. It was a long time before I realized that mules weren't made that way, that it was a trim job.

Another peculiarity was that the mules were almost always solid color, no stars or socks. One exception was our last mule, Barry, who had a star about the size of a quarter, the only one I ever saw.

One thing my father liked about mules was their ability to take the heat of summer, much better than horses. By contrast, those mules which got straw-stack only for winter care, became old mules pretty fast.

Mules were different in many ways. One of their peculiarities was that they did not shed their hair as horses do when the weather turns warm. So, every April, one of the fairly big two-or-three-man jobs was clipping mules. One man cranked the clipper. The gear box was on a three legged stand and transferred the power down a flexible tube about six feet long to the clipper head. This was about three inches wide and the speed depended on the man on the crank. This clipper head occupied the second man. The third man held the mule which almost always had to be twitched. Then there was an extra attachment necessary for two or three mules, a heavy chain across the barn door about two feet high so the kicks didn't get across to the clipper man.

All the dark colored mules were a mousy grey after clipping, the white ones a dirty white at first. Of course, they had to be kept in the barn at night until after the first of June as the April and May nights were too cold.

Another peculiarity of mules was their instinct to not overeat on grain; that is, they never foundered or got laminitis. Usually, they wouldn't eat much grain until they were well cooled off. My father had a weekend system that worked well for mules. The main pasture, fifteen acres or so, was some distance away from the barn. On Saturday night the mules were led down there and turned loose. There was a big feed trough with a block of salt and then they put in two bags of oats. Not a mule went near the trough on Saturday night. Sunday morning they would be there one or two at a time, a total of fourteen mules to sixteen mules. By Monday morning, the oats would be all cleaned up. That system surely wouldn't work with horses.

Another peculiarity of mules was their habit of rolling as soon as they were turned out after work. I mean roll and roll and roll, till all the sweat was sort of ground off. Horses roll too, but not to such an extent.

Mules are sure footed and have that instinct not to get in certain difficulties. When I was quite small, I remember a man getting a horse down between the



loading platform and a box car. My father said that never happened to a mule. This happened to be at Bechard and this is where our oats went to be shovelled into the box cars. This was called loading over the platform.

Mules are also extra smart, and stubborn. My father used to say that whenever he got a new hired man the mules always found out right away who was boss and if they were — look out!

One story our neighbour, Art Stimson told me happened about the turn of the century. When Art was young somewhere in the United States he went to harness someone else's team of mules. As he went to put the collar on the mule stepped over and stood on his foot. Try as he would he couldn't get him off. In desperation he took the collar off to beat the mule with it and as he did the mule just stepped off. He learned that that was a standard trick of that mule every time he was harnessed and if he missed the first time he didn't try again, but he got every stranger.

There is the saying "balky mule". My father had a team, Bill and Jim, big tall white mules but they were "educated" before my time. They would both balk together, instantly, an example of good communication. Then Jim, the right hand mule, would get his left front foot over the neck yoke. One episode before my memory, my father and George Currie were each loading wagons with grain at the granary north of the barn. My father had the last load and Bill and Jim. He pulled away from the bin, and went back to close the door while George Currie went on. The mules balked. Father tied up the lines and went to the barn directly while George Currie had to drive around the pasture. When George got to the barn father was already doing chores. George said, "I wonder if we can't lick that out of them". They were both in the mood so they went to the shop, lit the forge and welded a good sized ring into about four feet of light chain. It worked. George got up on the wagon and applied the chain. My father held back on the line and when the wagon was going faster than he could run, he handed the lines up to George.

After that they carried a piece of chain on the wagon. One rattle of it was enough. I saw them balk once. Father took the neck yoke down and extricated Jim's left front leg and sent someone for a chain. One rattle was all it took.

Another specialty of some mules is that they were death on dogs and a strange dog usually got hurt. One of the stories my father told was about a team of mules, one of which was called Jack. As they came near a farm yard the dog came out to bark at the team. That dog wasn't acquainted with Jock — yet. As he came close to the mules' heads Jock whipped out of

the traces, caught the dog with both hind feet and sent him flying.

Well, the day came when the mules were getting old and there were no young ones to buy here. My father decided to raise his own. About 1927 he bought a third interest in a Jack donkey, with his brother Bernard of Gray and Frank Hoover of Gray. They paid \$1,000 for him. Afterward, they found out that he had a bad sickness and fever. He seemed to be infertile. He was left to run with the mares at night for a while in the summer of 1928. During the winter we discovered that the bronco mare, Polly, was in foal. Polly was highly fertile. One stallion left only two colts in one season, one of them was Polly's.

In due course she had her mule colt, Jock II. Little Jock was one of the rare trotting mules. Most mules are good walkers but poor trotters. Jock was so quick, and death on the dog. When he was a colt at times he would be in the yard behind the barn with other colts when we were milking. We would leave the door open so we could turn out each cow right after milking and the dog, Snip, would try to keep the colts out. Quite often he would come in as hard as he could run with Jock's hoofs ringing on the concrete as he tried to get him.

Well, Jock II never did much work on our farm. We had some hired men who were very good horsemen but they were no match for Jock.

One episode in harvest time, one horse or mule was playing out so Jock was put in with his mother Polly and her mate Tex, the broncos, and a rattle-headed Percheron mare Bertha — a bad combination. The binders were a quarter of a mile south of the yard and on the way down Jock bolted. The driver held on as long as he could but they got away and went on both sides of a telephone pole. There was quite a mess of broken bridles and lines and horses and a mule to catch. Then there was the fix job — standard for the dirty thirties — haywire, but in half an hour we were ready to go. Jock was in another team with three big quiet Percherons he couldn't bolt with, and a different driver. That driver swung the whip until he was played out, Jock lagged all afternoon.

Next spring Jock was in for some kind of episode every time he was hooked up. One Sunday, Adelard Bechard, who lived five miles south and had been trying to buy Jock since he was born, drove in the yard and offered \$65 for the mule. He got him. You could buy a fairly good horse for \$10 in 1933. Next morning about seven Eugene Bechard was here to get the mule. Jock had a good rawhide halter and a three-quarter inch rope braided right to it. Those people didn't handle horses that way. They wore their halter

year round and there is a cling snap. Jock was back home by eleven o'clock.

A year or so later, after school one night at Richardson School, Jock was in the barn with a single driving harness on him. Outside was an open cutter — standard winter transportation in those days.

The Adelard Bechard family were good mule skinner and had no trouble with him.

About the end of the thirties at the annual horse sale in Regina in spring, Jock was sold. He and his half sister brought in by my Uncle Bernard were the only young mules in the sale.

In the intervening forty years I have probably seen less than ten mules.

## **Five Tons of Energy — The Story of a Tractor**

by **Ronald and Wilber Moats**

August 29, 1938. There it sat in the morning sunshine in the middle of the Moats yard — Serial #4G9120W, bright yellow and new — a D4 Caterpillar. Ronald had driven it home from Regina the previous evening, and a prouder sixteen-year-old there never was. In the late thirties new tractors were rare in the Riceton district, and this was one of the first diesels. During the next few years it left its imprint on the neighborhood.

E. B. Moats and sons Wilber and Ronald had been looking forward to the new tractor for quite a while. It was ordered in the spring of 1937 but poor crop prospects cancelled that — even with a good outlook \$3,300 was a lot of money then — so the old 2-ton had to do for another year. Back in 1925, the R.M. of Lajord had bought a "60" Cat to grade roads. Reeve Moats and Council were so impressed by it that a second one was ordered from the Calgary Dealer in 1926 and "E. B." bought a small one for the farm, the 2-ton (15 h.p.). The disappearance of four-legged horsepower proved a bit much for the "little cat". It was just too small to farm two and a quarter sections, but its sure-footed tracks and versatility made a "cat" a Moats must. Jerome Bechard of Lajord had a D4 in 1937 and its performance made the Moats selection a certainty.

Over twice the horsepower of the old little gas cat, it used no more fuel. Diesel fuel then was 11¢ a gallon, about two-thirds the price of a gallon of gasoline. The machinery of the farm had been used behind horses or the little cat. The new one flew over the fields. Soon the hitches had to be reinforced, the 21-foot disc was enlarged to 28 feet and multiple units were being towed — often achieved by borrowing implements from neighbors so that on occasion 40 feet of seed drills were used, (this was pre-discer

and heavy duty cultivators). There were no trucks on the farm so grain was hauled to the Pool in three grain tank wagons — up to 450 bushels per trip at five and one-half miles per hour, or in winter across the fields in 300 bushel lots with two grain tanks and bobsleighs. The diesel even replaced the three horsepower stationary engine pumping water on the farm for it used less fuel and required no attention, while on the high horsepower end the old 40-80 gas Avery threshing engine never was used again after the D4 was belted to the threshing machine — not that the cat had as much horsepower, but it required no attention and was a quarter of the cost. Plowing was still done in fallowing, particularly on underpowered farms. When weeds got too big for a disc or duckfoot cultivator to handle, two 4-furrow disc plows were hooked in tandem behind the cat — 6 feet of cut, about two acres per hour.

With the boys out of high school, the tractor could be run around the clock in busy seasons. Quickly the home field work was done and the outfit went custom ploughing for neighbors. However, it was the work of a blacksmith, Julius Boras which made the cat a community machine. From scrap metal on the farm he built a one-and-a-half yard tumblebug scraper, a far cry from modern carryalls but a far cry too from horse drawn fresno and slush scrapers, and the machine was off digging — fills in roads, grade approaches, basements for houses (Frank Hill, E. W. Jones, R. L. Ketchin, Frank Armstrong). This was the era of PFRA 2,000 yard or larger farm dugouts and it dug nine of these, including one for Lewvan hamlet. Work went on in fair weather and foul. A few old dugouts were cleaned out. It was at Jim Rice's farm that the cat finally got stuck. The old hole was a mixture of blowdirt and water. The cat was unstickable, so Ronald thought, but finally it became mired so badly that Pop Moats had to be summoned with the old 2-Ton and slush scraper. After hydraulic jacks had lifted up the low side and a large post slid under the track it came unstuck on its own power, losing most of a day's work — end of lesson number three. Lesson number two happened at Riceton Co-op Agricultural field day in 1939. It was hitched to a six furrow plow for a fourth gear test. Just before the test started someone dropped the back plow lever in all the way, and the tractor labored along, never getting up to full power.

"A good operator would have shifted down to third gear" quote Prof. Hardy of U. of S. (Humiliation!). Lesson number one — don't use summer fuel in the cold of winter. Ron celebrated his birthday, Jan. 19, 1939 by stalling the tractor while dragging down snow on the road to town — the fuel had

congealed, so the tractor sat on the road till a warmer day.

Then there were no municipal maintainers and snow blocked roads were a problem. Often the tractor was hired with tumblebug to move or pack snow or to pull a municipal blade grader to clear roads in the Riceton or Gray area. Walter Dunning, Gray Councillor, also hired scraper and tractor to fill pot-holes and rebuild the Gray elevator road at the rate of \$2 per hour, tractor, scraper and operator.

There were other extra jobs. Gravel was hauled to Riceton from Wright's pit for the Co-op coal shed and Ryan's basement — 16 miles each way, hand loading three wagons with help at the pit. There were no ear muffs then and the ears rang for a while when those trips were over. Bill Hill's house was moved from the Geo. Lekivetz farm on two skids — Brown's TD9 cat on one skid, Moats' D4 on the other, working side by side. Frank Hill's house was to be moved from the Terry farm near Wilcox by a Weyburn mover with a "60" cat and steel sleighs, but it was springtime and sleighing was spotty — the D4 was hooked ahead of the "60" and the Hill house arrived safely.

Roads had no gravel on them and cars bogged down in muddy times. Walking was not crowded. On a muddy day Mrs. Hernblad rode to catch the train at Riceton by cat and trailer. Exam time in 1939 was very muddy and the same equipment got Deeks, Bohlkens, Ruth Kinvig, Larsons and Moats to school on time.

Getting show horses to the winter fair was done in a different way in 1940. The snow wasn't overly deep that March. LeMoyne Baker had a small granary for storing coal. It was borrowed, two stalls readied in it and Percherons — stallion Duke and colt Snooper skidded across the fields toward Regina behind the cat — across the creek and down Pasqua St. to the Exhibition grounds with no trouble . . . almost. On the return trip the tractor ran out of fuel five miles from home. There was a leak in the fuel line.

Most unusual event was on Burns' Day, Jan. 25, 1941. Mrs. Fred Schultz's funeral was held in Riceton United Church, but there was such a blizzard that the hearse never left Regina and the casket was sent by train. Mr. Frank Malcolm, the minister called for the cat and sleigh. Luckily the tractor had a stall in the Moats barn so it was ready shortly. Winter equipment included motor hood covers and a metal cockpit to shield the driver and bring back warmth from the motor. Old reliable was soon on its way on a very cold, stormy day. In spite of zero visibility the first fenceline just east of town was reached without straying. At the church, Kinvig's sleigh carrying minister, male relatives and pallbearers was hitched behind the sleigh carrying the coffin and the journey was made

to the cemetery and back successfully, except for frostbites.

At the time of writing, the old D4 cat sits in a garage in retirement on W. E. Moats' farm. It was amply sized for its day but puny compared to 4-wheel drive giants of the present. Compared to modern air-conditioned tractors it was noisy and dirty to operate. It occupied a period of great agricultural transition. As a single machine its mark on the community is without equal.

The hour meter shows 32,667

Three motors did over 10,000 hours each

Two sets of tracks did over 13,000 each

The metal brake pedals are well worn by shoes.

The track grousers are still sharp.

## Grains

by Pauline Webster

Red Fife was the first important variety to be introduced into Western Canada in the year 1882. This variety proved to have very high milling quality as well as being a good yielder. Red Fife became the leading spring wheat variety but it possessed certain serious defects. It matured too late and was susceptible to smut. The introduction of **Marquis** in 1908 was a very important event. It originated from a cross between Hard Red Calcutta, an early maturing variety from India, and Red Fife. The chief characteristics of Marquis were its ability to mature from six to ten days earlier than Red Fife, greater strength in straw, non-shattering and greater resistance to rust and produced a higher yield. Marquis soon became the leading variety in the west and retained that position until stem rust resistant varieties were produced. **Thatcher**, produced in the United States, was the first stem rust resistant variety to be distributed in Canada in 1935. It is early maturing. Although it is stem rust resistant, it is susceptible to leaf rust. In spite of this it was definitely superior to the old varieties. **Selkirk**, 1953 is equal to Thatcher in height and maturity but usually its yield is lower. Selkirk has good resistance to stem rust and loose smut but is fairly susceptible to leaf rust. **Manitou**, 1965 is two or three days later in maturing than Thatcher. It has good resistance to stem rust but is only fairly resistant to leaf rust. **Neepawa**, 1969 outyields Manitou and Thatcher. It matures two to three days earlier than Manitou. It has good resistance to stem rust and is only fairly resistant to leaf rust. **Glenlea**, 1972 yields ten to twenty per cent higher than Neepawa and matures one to two days earlier. It is inferior to Marquis in quality and is not eligible for C.W. grades but has good resistance to stem and leaf rust. **Benito**, 1979 has good leaf rust resistance, is earlier maturing and easier to thresh than Neepawa. **Columbus**, 1981

has good leaf rust resistance and has better sprouting and weathering resistance than other varieties. Columbus is later maturing and should be sown early.

**Durum Wheats — Pelissier** was licensed in 1929, has good resistance to leaf rust and loose smut but susceptible to stem rust. **Ramsay**, 1957 is equal in yield to Stewart 63 and is two to three days earlier in maturing. It has good resistance to stem and leaf rust. **Stewart 63**, 1963 yields less than Wascana or Wakooma. Stewart 63 is about six days later than Hercules but generally out yields it. It has good resistance to stem and leaf rust. **Wascana**, 1971 is about six inches shorter than Stewart 63 and has good resistance to leaf and stem rust. **Wakooma**, 1973 is seven to eight inches shorter than Stewart 63 but matures two to three days earlier. Its yields are higher than Stewart 63 and it has good resistance to stem and leaf rust and loose smut. Wakooma has superior macaroni quality with high gluten strength.

**Barley — Oli**, 1936 is a very early maturing variety but yields below other varieties. It is susceptible to stem rust, leaf rust, covered smut and loose smut. **Parkland**, 1956 yields below currently grown varieties. Its maturity is classed as mid to late and is moderately tall with fair resistance to lodging. Parkland has resistance to stem rust but is susceptible to leaf rust. **Conquest**, 1965 yields ten to thirteen per cent less than Bonanza but is two to three days earlier. It has good resistance to lodging and stem rust but only has fair resistance to covered smut. **Bonanza**, 1970 yields higher than Conquest but is a few days later in maturing. It has good resistance to lodging, stem and loose smut but has only fair resistance to covered smut.

**Oats —** With reference to the Grain Growers Guide — 1920. Characteristics of Leading Varieties — **Banner** — heavy yielding, having a fine but strong straw. Late maturing. **Victory** — is a heavy yielder and has a stiff straw of medium height, also a late variety. **Gold Rain** — is also a heavy yielder, has a strong straw, shows slightly more quality than most other varieties and is two to three days earlier than Banner or Victory. **Daubeney** — is a white oat of high quality, earlier than those mentioned but less productive.

**Garry** — 1953, a cross involving Victory, Hajira and Banner. It yields less than the current varieties. Garry is susceptible to stem rust but has fair resistance to leaf rust. **Harmon** — 1965, yields three to five per cent higher than Garry but is slightly later in maturity. Harmon is susceptible to stem rust but has fair resistance to leaf rust and good resistance to smut."

**Flax** — Quote from Grain Growers Guide — 1920. "The Choice of Varieties — The most widely

sown and probably the best variety of flax for general use is **Premost** or **Minnesota No. 25**, a pedigree sort developed at the Minnesota Experimental Station.

**Norland** — 1954, has white flowers, generally yields three to ten per cent less than Redwood 65 and matures about the same time. Norland has good resistance to current strains of rust. **Raja** — 1954, has blue flowers, yields are fifteen to twenty per cent lower than Redwood 65. Raja is slightly earlier than Norland and has good resistance to rust. **Redwood 65** — 1965, blue flowers, currently it is the highest yielding variety. It matures later than Raja or Norland, has good resistance to rust and wilt."

## The Hughie Ranch

### As I Remember It

by Leonard Baker

With reference to the Hughie Ranch, I remember it being started by a man Mr. Hughie and his son Lester. I don't ever recall hearing what Mr. Hughie's first name was, but we knew he was a lumberman from the United States. He brought his lumber from the United States to put up many of the buildings on his ranch.

**What** was this ranch? It was made up of six and one-half sections of land, a foreman known as Big Al Demereth, a crew of thirty to forty or more working men and a cook or two. One of the cooks for these hungry men was a Mrs. Hammersmith, Mrs. George (Gladys) Richardson's mother.

**Where** was this ranch? At the time, it was approximately seven miles east of Riceton or five and a half miles north east of Bechard. The main headquarters for the operation of this ranch was on Section 19-13-16-2 better known now as the Leonard Baker farmstead.

**What** was raised on this ranch? Besides the growing of crops, horses, cattle, sheep and pigs were raised on a large basis. Much of the lumber from the United States was used to build large sheds for these animals. In later years the sheep shed was torn down and used to build a barn on the farm of LeMoyne Baker.

Farming was done by horses, later on by steam engine and later by a Rumely tractor. Mr. Hughie was known to have had the first little Case tractor in the area; a tractor that had its motor sideways instead of the conventional way.

The horses on the ranch were the Percheron breed and were very large. A team was often sold for \$800, a very good price in those days. Four of these horses, when hitched up tandem-wise, were used to pull and haul three, one hundred and fifty bushel grain tanks or wagons of grain to Bechard.

It is not known by this writer just when the

Hughies came to this area but whether it was bad luck, mismanagement or what have you, the first of a Sheriff's sale was held in the fall of 1923 and the second one in April 1924. All the land was lost to several banks and later sold in smaller parcels to other farmers.

Tenants who now own parts of the six and one half sections include: Leonard and Robert Baker, Frances Baker, Luddie Baker, Robert Glaze, Carl Koch, Poissants, Alex Sakundiak, Lois Blish, and Don Delparte.

**Incidents** remembered about happenings at the Hughie Ranch.

1. Mr. Hughie was a sort of thrifty person. He liked to save when he could. He would come from Regina to Lajord on the train and then walk home ten miles, just to save gas.

2. His son Lester liked cars and had a car called 'The Lojar'. It was a big car by our standards. He thought one winter that one could put gas on the snow, set it afire, thus melting the snow and he could get out with his car.

3. The Hughies brought a drilling outfit from England to dig for water. Needless to say, none was found.

4. It would rain, day after day, or for long periods of time and the thirty to forty or more men had to be fed. The men became restless as did the cooks. Animals would also become restless and often during these rainy periods pigs would get out of their enclosures and get into neighbors dugouts or watering holes. When this would happen, everyone and everything would get disgruntled.

One old timer recalls George Currie working as a blacksmith on the ranch with the son Basil turning the forge by hand for many hours at a time.

It is thought that the Hughies finally returned to the United States — where, no one knows.

### **A Farm Wife's Version of the Twelve Days of Harvest**

On the first day of Harvest, my true love said to me, with our kids to help he wouldn't need me.

On the second day of Harvest the kids all laughed with glee, 'cause the chicken chores and milking would now be up to me.

On the third day of Harvest my husband said to me, "Help tie the tarp down, run this half load of corn into town, pick up some salt blocks and then check the cattle, 'cause we're too busy."

On the fourth day of Harvest they gave a broken part to me, "Try the Co-op at Beeler and then every implement dealer, just keep driving till you find the right pulley."

On the fifth day of Harvest my husband said to

me, "We're moving to the other field, you bring up the pickup, fill up the gas tanks and water jugs, put in the tool box, a can of bolts with nuts and locks, better bring out dinner and this time don't forget the iced tea."

On the sixth day of Harvest my daughter called to me, "The elevator's tied up and I can't get unloaded. Take the old Chevy truck, make sure it's gassed up, check the oil and battery and get over to the west field in a hurry."

On the seventh day of Harvest my husband said to me, "We're going to bring some wheat in, will you clean out the north bin?" Then they set up the auger and left me scooping breathlessly.

On the eighth day of Harvest my husband gave a list to me, "Don't know if this belt will last, better get to town fast, I need another reel slat, filter and bearing. Bring it by the field, throw in an extra scoop and don't forget the goop that makes the chain run free."

On the ninth day of Harvest as I was baking chicken, the clutch went out on the combine, and he called on the CB. Said: "Find the heavy log chain, get the Ford tractor and come pull me."

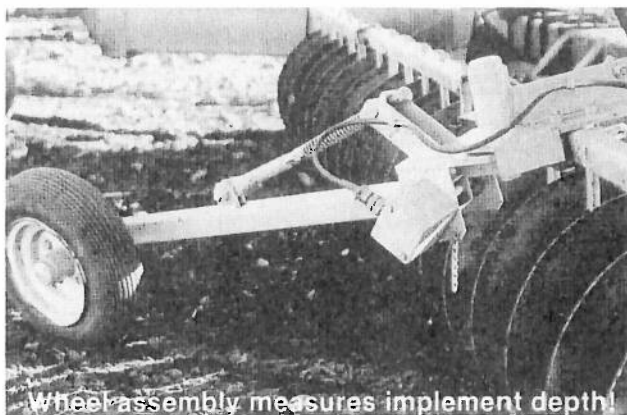
On the tenth day of Harvest my true love snapped at me, as I handed tools up to him, very nervously.

On the eleventh day of Harvest the whole crew said to me, "Want to fill the gas tanks while we eat, take home this load of wheat, and bring back one wrench, one lug, another water jug and a spray bomb for the sweat bees?"

On the twelfth day of Harvest my husband grinned at me, "If everything goes right, we should be done by midnight," and "aren't you glad you didn't have to help, my little Pee Wee?"

### **The Invention of the Depth Indicator** by Don and Jim Sakundiak

When the two and three discer seeding outfits came into use, it became necessary to monitor implement depth from the tractor. Don and Jim worked



Sakundiak wheel assembly measures implement depth.



together for seven years developing such a device. Their first monitor measured the position of the hydraulic cylinder and displayed the readings on a dial in the cab. It enabled the operator to synchronize the discer depths one to another but did not display actual implement depth. After several modifications a wheel assembly housing a potentiometer was used to gauge the depth of the disc gang in the soil; the signal was sent to a monitor in the tractor cab and the actual depth was displayed on ammeter dials. This system was patented and manufactured on the farm for sale in the spring of 1976; it was called the SAK DEPTH METER and was displayed at several farm shows. Feedback from these shows indicated farmers were interested in using the device on cultivators and air seeders to help eliminate depth control problems. At this time Jim entered a development contract with the federal government to develop an automatic depth control system. The result of this contract was a

product which is presently being manufactured and sold by Inventronics of Brandon, Manitoba.

In January of 1983, Jim became a founding partner of Microtek Inc. and their first product was patented as the "Microtec Auto Controller". It enables the operator to pre-set a depth range on his monitor and the implements can be maintained at a constant depth automatically. It was first introduced in 1982 and is at present available in both Canada and the United States.

### **Ne-De Systems**

**by Neal and Lorraine Moyse**

Three years ago we became involved in the manufacturing of shaft monitors and with Denis and Dorothy O'Brien of Riverhurst formed a company, Ne-De Systems Limited. The manufacturing of our product takes place in Riverhurst.

### **Livestock**

Livestock are animals that are bred and raised in the country to keep the farmers broke and buyers crazy. They are born in the spring, mortgaged in the summer, pastured in the fall, and given away in the winter.

They vary in size, color, weight, and the man who can guess the nearest to their weight and market grade is called a livestock buyer by the public, a robber by the farmer, a poor risk by the banker and a bologna peddler by Mrs. Murray.

The price of livestock is always set by someone who doesn't own a hoof and invariably goes up after you have sold, and down when you hold them.

When you have light ones, they want heavy; when you have cattle you find they want sheep, or vice versa. When they are thin the top price is for the "fats", and when they are fat you are told that the tallow market is now "shot to heck."

Thirty years ago I swore I'd quit the business, but the way Conquest barley produces, what in heaven's name would you do?

# R.M. of Lajord #128

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT



*W. B. Steinhilber*

### Of The Rural Municipality of Lajord No. 128

From JANUARY 1st 1922 to the 31st day of DECEMBER, 1922

R. BORLAND, Secretary-Treasurer

A. W. GOLDIE, Auditor

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
Balances January 1, 1922:				Administration Expense:			
Actual Bank Book Credits:				Salaries: Sec. Treas. ....	\$	1,650.00	
General .....	\$	119.94		Audit Fees, \$109.30; Sundry Legal Exps. \$1.00 .....		110.30	
Prov. Treas. Trust Fund .....		7,297.28		Printing Staty. and Postage .....		530.62	
Cash on hand:				Sundry Office Expense (Insurance, Telephone, Maintenance, etc.) .....		278.20	
General .....		4,934.22		Tax Sale Costs, Adv. ....		131.25	
Prov. Treas. Trust Fund .....		947.42	13,298.86	Council Ind. Exps. \$593.70; Delegates' Expenses, \$132.60 .....		726.30	
Receipts on Account Municipal Revenue:				Sundry (Bond premium, Association Dues, etc) .....	\$	88.55	\$ 3,515.22
Municipal Taxes, including Municipal Arrears sold at Tax Sale .....	\$	84,401.09		Destruction of Pests:			
Tax Sale Costs .....		131.50		Wolf Bounty (\$1.00 per head) .....		2.00	
Rents, \$45.00; Licenses, \$120.00 .....		165.00		Grasshoppers .....		42.80	
Interest on School Advances .....		842.00		Weed Inspectors' Fees .....		200.00	244.80
Tax and Redemption Certificate Fees .....		23.00		TOTAL DIVISIONAL AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE of Roads as per statement below: .....			9,756.47
Prov. Treas. Commission on Taxes remitted .....		568.47		Aid and Relief (not chargeable to persons):			
Commission on Hail Reports, etc. ....		151.00		Grants, General .....		50.00	
Destruction Grasshoppers .....		132.25		Sanatorium .....		100.00	150.60
Highway Dept. Grants, General .....		964.35		Health and Sanitation:			
Highway Dept. Grants, Spec. Maintenance .....		555.55		Medical Health Officer .....		12.50	
Supplementary Revenue Taxes .....		10.89		Sundry Outlay:			
Divisional Credits .....		781.50		Hospital Aid (Chargeable to person) .....		32.00	
Refunds to Kronau Hamlet .....		435.65		CAPITAL OUTLAY, DIVISIONAL AND GENERAL, per statement below .....		14,342.60	
Refund re Gray Townsite .....		116.09		Schools, Rural Acct. Current demand .....		33,787.55	
Penalty on N. S. F. cheque .....		67.14		Schools, Village, \$777.28; Telephone Companies, \$8,337.15 .....		9,114.43	
Sundry .....		7.83	89,353.31	Hail Association .....		5,852.18	
Loans, Municipal (total original loans) \$44,000 .....			99,800.00	Gray Townsite .....		254.63	63,383.39
Overpaid Taxes .....			1,430.38	Loans, Municipal, Prin. \$99,800; Int. \$1,561 .....			101,361.00
Wild Lands Taxes (including arrears sold at Tax Sale) .....		464.30		Refunds, Overpaid Taxes .....		1,383.36	
Public Revenue Taxes (including arrears sold at Tax Sale) .....		13,063.11		Drainage Tax, R. M. Lajord .....		119.48	1,502.84
Redemption account Other Purchasers, including penalties .....		3,284.70		Trust Moneys Remitted:			
Drainage Taxes .....		998.23	17,810.34	Wild Lands (Remitted and deposited) .....		686.06	
RECEIPTS ON ACCOUNT ASSETS				Public Revenue (Remitted and deposited) .....		17,044.29	
Final Instalment—Engine .....			2,140.00	Taxes, Drainage .....		1,815.07	
Total .....			\$223,832.89	Tax Sale Redemptions account Other Pur. ....		2,445.90	21,991.32
				PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT LIABILITIES			
				Outstanding Cheques paid .....		6,028.70	
				Overdraft paid, note .....		6,000.00	
				Outstanding accounts, etc. ....		1,299.79	13,328.49
				Total .....			\$215,246.03
				Balances, December 31, 1922:			
				Actual Bank Book Credit, General .....		4,633.12	
Outstanding Cheques, Current Year .....		8,103.83		Cash on Hand:			
				General .....		8,832.65	
				Prov. Treas. Trust Fund .....		3,224.92	
Total .....			\$231,936.72	Total .....			\$231,936.72

## STATEMENT OF DIVISIONAL APPORTIONMENT AND EXPENDITURE

	Amount of Apportionment (Sec. 182) After adjustments Drs. & Crs.	Other Highway Grants	Total Credit	Total Divisional Payments as above	Unpaid Amounts	Over-expended	Under Expended Balance
Division No. 1	4,687.93	611.11	5,299.04	5,299.04	73.00	73.00	
Division No. 2	4,405.27	83.33	4,488.60	4,488.60	13.00	13.00	
Division No. 3	2,923.69	83.33	3,007.02	3,007.02			
Division No. 4	3,209.12	331.12	3,540.24	3,540.24			
Division No. 5	3,927.19	547.68	4,474.87	4,435.57	1,091.00	1,051.70	
Division No. 6	3,124.32	83.33	3,207.65	3,183.25			24.40
	22,277.52	\$1,739.00	\$24,017.42	\$23,953.72	\$1,177.00	\$1,137.70	\$24.40

## SUMMARY OF CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS

Capital Outlay, New Construction:	
Total Div. and Gen. Payments as above	\$14,217.25
Pounds (incl. compensation)	125.35
Repair and Maintenance:	
Total Divisional and General Payments as above	9,756.47
Carried to Receipts and Payments statement	14,342.60 9,756.47

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT DECEMBER 31st. 1922

## ASSETS

Cash on Hand (General)	\$ 8,832.65
Accounts Receivable—Sundry:	
Prov. Treas. Commission on Amounts Remitted	596.00
Highway Dept., Grants	220.00
Hospital Aid, chargeable to person (\$794.15, probably Uncollectable)	88.10
Account Gray Townsite	
Uncollected Taxes:	
Municipal Taxes per Tax Roll	18,897.19
Total	\$28,633.94
Trust Assets:	
Cash on Hand, Prov. Treas. Trust Fund	3,224.92
Supplementary Revenue Taxes Uncollected	72.81
Wild Lands Taxes Uncollected	40.48
Public Revenue Taxes Uncollected	3,199.27
Drainage Taxes Uncollected	121.83
Total Current Assets	\$35,293.25
Fixed Assets—Value at cost less uniform Depreciation:	
Buildings: House, \$2,000.00; Office, \$760.00	2,760.00
Office Furniture and Fixtures	700.00
Tools and Machinery	9,550.00
Real Estate	240.00
Total Assets	\$48,543.25

## LIABILITIES

Bank Overdraft, including Outstanding Cheques (General)	\$ 3,470.71
Sundry Accounts payable per statement below	1,588.14
Overpaid Taxes	340.72
Redemption Receipts due Other Tax Sale Purchasers	870.00
Hail Association, Crop Report Penalties	33.50
Total	\$ 6,303.07
Trust Liabilities:	
Provincial Treasurer, Wild Lands:	
Due Account Uncollected	40.48
Provincial Treasurer, Public Revenue:	
Due Account Collections	3,224.92
Due Account Uncollected	3,199.27
Drainage, Due Account Uncollected	121.83
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 12,889.57
Balance Assets over Liabilities	35,653.68
Total	\$48,543.25

## RURAL SCHOOL TAX ACCOUNTS

NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT	Current Levy		Debits	
	Assessed Value	Rate	Amount	Interest Charges
Andreasheim	92,356	4.5	415.60	412.17 3.43
Badger Hill	329,037	3.1	1,245.30	1,212.70 32.60
Boyle	35,200	5.0	176.00	176.00
Bristol	380,212	4.0	1,520.98	1,486.56 34.42
Crocus Prairie	285,901	6.3	1,801.15	1,754.82 46.33
Cross	354,288	6.0	2,125.73	2,079.79 45.94
Davin	252,039	3.0	908.72	884.49 24.23
Denver	407,928	5.0	2,345.05	2,289.29 55.76
Fairview	86,905	6.0	521.43	508.36 13.07
Frenchville	321,376	1.0	321.08	321.08
Glenn	16,896	5.3	89.56	87.20 2.36
Gough	168,056	5.8	974.72	949.87 24.85
Gray	418,613	7.0	3,233.73	3,160.26 73.47
Ifield	289,278	6.2	1,793.54	1,715.27 78.27
Kronau	349,395	5.2	1,817.00	1,771.58 45.42
Knox	140,800	3.2	450.56	441.31 9.25
Prairie Flower	487,230	8.5	4,442.03	4,353.32 88.71
Rastadt	283,904	5.3	1,504.76	1,466.45 38.31
Richardson	334,440	6.0	2,006.70	1,952.70 54.00
St. Johannes	133,760	5.6	749.12	729.00 20.12
Scott	155,823	7.0	1,391.35	1,358.90 32.45
Speier	181,606	6.6	1,198.65	1,166.29 32.36
Sunny Corner	135,488	6.1	826.59	810.67 15.92
Weardale	316,096	6.1	1,928.20	1,874.62 53.58
Total	\$5,956,677.00		\$33,787.55	\$32,962.70 \$824.85

## VILLAGE SCHOOL TAX ACCOUNTS

NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT	Current Levy		Debits	
	Rate	Amount	Payments	Interest Charges
Sedley	11.5	777.28	760.13	17.15
		\$777.28	\$760.13	\$17.15

## RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY TAX ACCOUNTS

TELEPHONE COMPANY	Amount Current Levy		Debits	
	Amount	Current Levy	Payments	
Davin	280.60		280.60	
Downing	525.50		525.50	
Estlin	248.25		248.25	
Hanson	455.10		455.10	
Ifield	592.80		592.80	
Gray	1,670.65		1,670.65	
Kronau	1,259.85		1,259.85	
Lajord	568.75		568.75	
Lewvan	295.65		295.65	
Pibrook	309.60		309.60	
Riceton	2,130.40		2,130.40	
	\$8,337.15		\$8,337.15	

# INDEMNITY (Sec. 46, R. M. Act)—Fees For Meetings and Mileage

Name of Council Member	No. of meetings at \$4.00	No. of miles travelled at 10c	Total Remuneration
1. J. J. McMorris	11	290	73.00
2. E. B. Moats	12	294	77.40
3. W. E. Lafoy	10	484	88.40
4. Jacob Geis	12	188	66.80
5. Chris Fahlman	12	264	74.40
6. Chas. Torville	12	480	96.00
7. F. B. Lewis, (Reeve)	\$5.00 11	627	117.70
			\$593.70

I hereby certify that I have audited the accounts of the R. M. of Lajord No. 128 for the year ending December 31st, 1922, and compared the said accounts with their relative vouchers and that I find the same to be correct and in accordance with the foregoing financial statement.

A. W. GOLDIE, F. C. A., Auditor

I certify to the correctness of the foregoing financial statement. Dated at Lajord this 11th day of January, 1923.

R. BORLAND, Secretary-Treasurer

Rural Municipality of Lajord, No. 128

Annual financial statement for the Municipality of Lajord, #128, 1922.

## Rural Municipality of Lajord #128

In 1910 the Municipality of Lajord was organized with the first Reeve being Mark Hill. The first councillors were as follows: Division I — Henry Stepler; Division II — J. W. Irwin, Division III — R. Smith; Division IV — J. Wilthausen; Division V — W. S. McIntosh; Division VI — Henry Lewis. The first secretary-treasurer was W. H. Skeele.

Reeves holding office from 1910 to the present are as follows:

1910 — Mark Hill	1941-1945 — J. A. Downes
1911 — W. S. McIntosh	1946-1947 — T. F. O'Brien
1912 — W. A. Day	1948 — J. A. Downes
1913-1916 — H. H. Hanson	1949-1951 — T. F. O'Brien
1917-1918 — D. B. English	1952-1960 — H. G. Euteneier
1919-1925 — F. B. Lewis	1961-1962 — Walter Reich
1926-1934 — E. B. Moats	1963-1972 — E. L. Lafoy
1935 — F. B. Lewis	1973-1979 — E. W. MacKenzie
1936-1937 — E. B. Moats	1980 — Leonard Bechard
1938-1940 — Ray Fahlman	

Secretary-Treasurers holding office from 1910 to the present are as follows:

1910 — W. H. Skeele	1961 — Hanson — Gerber
1911 — J. M. Stephens	1962 — Gerber — Gerla
1912-1917 — M. S. Hesla	1963-1974 — M. Gerla
1918 — Hesla — Keeping	1974-1977 — Mihalicz
1919 — Keeping — Glover	1978 — Mihalicz — Ennis
1920-1948 — R. Borland	1979-1981 — Ennis
1940-1960 — Ken Hanson	1981 — Rod Heisse

## Rural Municipality of Lajord #128

Taken from the Minutes of 1919-1940

by Wilber Moats

The Depression and its Problems

June 18, 1931

Council and fifty ratepayers present for the discussion of feed and relief. Whereas farmers are in a position to go North and cut wood and whereas the haul to home destinations are long distances, moved by W. V. Bingaman seconded by J. W. Baker that the

## TO RECIPIENT:

The Saskatchewan Relief Commission does not desire relief applicants to suffer from lack of the necessities of life, but wishes to restrict limits of the subsidizing of making the aid and accepting no more relief than is absolutely necessary. Each recipient of relief before receiving consideration by the Commission entered into an agreement with the Commission to repay the full amount of such relief supplied to him by the Commission, and this obligation he will be expected to fulfill. It is, therefore, to the advantage to ask for only the amount that is necessary from time to time to relieve his distress.

With the advent of winter, even as foodstuffs and fuel are starting to lay, the necessity of applicants have their own meat, eggs and dairy products. A special reduction in food allowances has been put into effect, and each applicant's food order is the minimum amount which the Commission can advance to assist in securing staple groceries.

Should you have occasion to communicate with the Commission, in regard to this matter, please interview your local Relief Officer, through whom all requisitions and requests should be submitted.

On the reverse side is shown the list of authorized groceries from which you select your requisitions when having your relief order filled, together with maximum prices merchants are allowed to charge.

SASKATCHEWAN RELIEF COMMISSION.

## MAXIMUM PRICE LIST

	May 21, 1931
Potatoes	per bush. 3.00
Baking Powder—16-oz.	per lb. .25
Beans	per bu. .45
Butter—dairy	per lb. .15
Coffee	per lb. .25
Crude Oil	per gal. .25
Cocoa Meal	per lb. .40
Flour—97's (Grade No. 2)	per sack
Flour—100's—4's	per lb. .11
Compound Lard—4's	per lb. .39
Lard (Saskatchewan)	per lb. .11
Nuts—(Compound)—20's	per bush. .60
Pepper	per lb. .41
Potatoes	per bu. .65
Roller Oats (Saskatchewan)—20's	per sack .80
Salt—rock—60's	per sack \$1.18
Salt—course—60's	per sack \$1.10
Sugar—Crown	per bu. .07
Syrup	per lb. .10
Sugar (Albion)	per bu. .04
Tea (Bulk)	per lb. .20
Yeast	per pkg. .07
Beef	per lb. .07
Pork (Saskatchewan)	per lb. .06
Pork	per lb. .07

Saskatchewan Relief Commission.

provincial government be asked to absorb the freight on wood cut in the North and shipped home by them for use in their own homes. Moved by J. I. Allen and seconded by J. W. Baker that the Provincial Government set the price of fuel oil at five cents per gallon as under existing conditions there are no reasons why



November 17, 1931.

Lajord, Sask.,  
August 17, 1937.

Mr. J. W. Lajord,

Lajord, Sask.

In reply to your letter of recent date asking for further clothing needs, we enclose you a requisition form and would ask that you fill out what further needs you require, returning same to the Saskatchewan Relief Commission, Regina.

We would draw your attention to the printed list below. The goods listed are the only goods that the Commission allow.

Yours truly,  
*L. W. Lajord*  
Manager Clothing Department.

GENTS			
Little Boys Blue Tip B.H.	1.70 Fr	Mens Overall Pants	
Youths Blue Tip B.H.	1.65 "	" " " " " "	1.25
Boys Blue Tip or Plain B.H.	1.55 "	" " Overall-with bib	1.50
Boys Two Piece Tip or Plain	2.25 "	" " Denim Jeans	1.25
Infants Kid Ties	.65 "	Boys " " " "	1.10
Child's Blue or Red Side Onf B.H.	1.75 "	Mens Shirts-Ass't'd Colors	1.05
Womens " " " " " "	1.35 "	Boys " " " " " "	.85
Womens " " " " " "	2.25 "		
CHILDREN			
Girls Three Piece Combination		Mens Mackinaw Coats	3.60
" " " " " "	.75	Boys " " " " " "	3.10
Girls " " " " " "	.85		
Womens " " " " " "	1.10	Mens Juvenile Knit Sweater	2.25
Boys " " " " " "	.85	Boys " " " " " "	1.75
Mens " " " " " "	1.30	Girls Sweaters	1.65
WOMEN			
Mens Coats	.25 Fr	Mens Leather Pullover Mitt	.55 Fr
Womens Men's Hats	.40 "	" " " " " "	.55 "
Womens Cotton Hats	.30 "	Boys Leather Covered Mitt	.35 "
Womens & Youths Cotton Hats	.15 "	Girls Wool Mitt	.45 "
" " " " " "	.35 "		
Boys & Girls Cotton Hats	.15 "	Mens One Buckle Overcoat	1.25 Fr
" " " " " "	.30 "	Boys " " " " " "	1.15 "
Knitting Yarn	1.10 lb	Youths " " " " " "	1.05 "
Domestic Yarn-Wooling	.80 "		
Thread	.05 Sp		
Synthetic Plannel 20" Dress Goods	.25 Yd	Womens Three Buckle or Low	
Mackinaw " " " "	.25 "	Boys Fastener Roll Top	1.50 Fr
Print " " " "	.20 "	Mens Three Buckle or Low	
White Flannellette 20"	.20 "	Boys Fastener Roll Top	1.35 "
Wool Plannel for Babies' Wear	.55 "	Children's Three Buckle or Low	
Denim	.25 "	Boys Fastener Roll Top	1.20 "
Shirting	.27 "		
House Cloth	.05 "		
Cotton Bats	.25 Ea		

Dear Sir:

Re: 1937 - 1938 Relief.

In the event you anticipate that you will require relief, I am enclosing you a form which you might kindly complete and return to me at once in the stamped, addressed envelope so that my Council may be in a position to compile its requirements on an application to the Government for assistance.

The following is the policy of the Government in regard to assistance being given to the Municipality -

"Government assistance will be given to farmers to feed their livestock during the winter months, provided they have reduced their stock to the schedule set out below: (This applies only to farmers who are not in a position to finance their own requirements.)

"HORSES: One work horse per each 35 cultivated acres, after deducting acres to be farmed with available tractor power; maximum number of work horses must not exceed 12, with 1 colt colt for each 4 workhorses.

"CATTLE: Where there are not more than 2 dependent children; 2 milk cows; 3 to 4 dependent children, 3 milk cows. Maximum; 4 milk cows. In addition to the above the equivalent of one steer for meat, if other sources of meat supplies are not available.

"SWINE: Maximum of one brood sow, plus one pig for every 3 members of the family.

"POULTRY: Maximum flock of fifty birds. In Addition to the above, we are prepared to grant assistance for half grown poultry to December 31st, next, with the distinct understanding that by supplying this extra food there will be some saving in the direct relief, that is to say, if the poultry are used for meat by the family during the winter, or disposed of for cash - on or before 31st December, the probable revenue from the sale of such birds should be taken into consideration when approving their applications for direct relief or other necessary assistance."

In case relief is required, it is essential that this form be returned at once.

Yours truly,

R. Borland,  
Sec. Treas.

Drygoods relief document.

oil companies should make large profits but should take a loss as farmers are doing. Otherwise pressure be put on Dominion Government to conscript wealth of the country.

June 27, 1931

Moved by Councillor Bingaman that grant of \$1,500 be expanded as a relief measure in the divisions as follows:

Division 1 — \$234.00 Division 2 — \$133.00 Division 3 — \$133.00 Division 4 — \$400.00 Division 5 — \$300.00 Division 6 — \$300.00

(The Municipality had about four hundred families at this time.)

Moved by Councillor Bingaman that wages of men employed on road work be as follows: men \$2.00 per day, each horse 75¢ and an eight hour day.

July 31, 1931

Moved by Councillor Bingaman that the relief commission appoint a representative in each Municipality to co-operate with the council in distribution of relief. Moved by L. E. Hanson that two cars of Talisman Flour (second grade) be ordered from the Robin Hood Flour Co. One car to Lajord and one car

Relief Policy 1937-1938.

to Riceton at a price of \$1.70 per ninety-eight pound sack.

August 3, 1931

The question of fodder having been discussed and agreed a committee be appointed to go North West for the purpose of securing sheaf oats and look for pasture.

July 30, 1931

Re: Hay lands at Swan Lake. Moved by Councillor Hanson the Department of Lands in Manitoba be wired re: hay lease and if open to send contract as the Municipality would like to handle as relief measure and that twenty men and twenty horses be employed and if possible to advise Department of Agriculture, Municipal Affairs.

August 10, 1931

Moved by Councillor Hanson steps be taken to

SASK. RELIEF COMMISSION

**SEED GRAIN ALLOTMENT No. 27232**R.M. No. 128 Applicant. Joseph LekivetzSec. 10 Twp. 14 Range. 18 Mer. Post Office.  Station. Riceton.**ALLOTMENT**Wheat — Not to Exceed Four Hundred & Ninety-five Bus.Oats — " " " Thirty-five Bus.Barley — " " " Thirty Bus.Rye — " " "  Bus.Flax — " " " Twenty-five Bus.Approved. 

SASK. RELIEF COM.

The above allotment of Seed Grain can be secured by the applicant

at  Elevator at Relief Officer Specimen of  
Applicant's Signature. 

This allotment ticket must be produced when requested by Elevator Agent or Relief Officer. In case of loss, report at once to Relief Officer or Head Office, giving allotment number.

Seed grain allotment No. 27232.

deport X family of Y as he had become a public charge.

**July 30, 1931**

Applications for Fuel Oil Relief were passed as follows: (twenty-two farmers' names with amounts ranging from \$30.00 to \$195.00).

**October 27, 1931**

Re: Application for well near Frank Hill at Riceton. Moved by Councillor Hanson that the Municipality meet the cost of material on pump for the digging of a well at this point and the Reeve and Councillor Reich appoint a local committee to undertake the work voluntarily.

Whereas and whereas. Therefore be it resolved that the Dominion Government provide for a bonus on all the seeded acreage for the year 1931, the basis for payment to be one dollar per acre . . .

**January 4, 1932**

Moved by Deputy Reeve Bingaman the following resolutions be passed in view of the financial stringency — that it is unwise to raise taxes until

every effort is made to reduce expenditures. That we suggest the government reduce the minister and members of the legislature, also all other civil servants. That those receiving \$5,000.00 or over be cut fifty per cent and all others on a pro rata basis.

**February 3, 1932**

Moved by Councillor Bingaman that the Municipality oppose the application of the Canadian National Railway to close station at Gray —

**April 5, 1932**

Moved by the Reeve "that this Municipality protest against any legislation being enacted by the Provincial Government at the present session that will interfere with security held by the Municipality for Advances made to farmers prior to the Saskatchewan Relief Commission functioning."

**July 11, 1932**

Discussion of the question of the amount required by tractor farmers for gas and oil for the season 1933 and amount required for the living expenses of the individual farmer the opinion of the Council was that \$125.00 should be retained by the tractor farmer for each quarter section of land he farms and the cost of maintenance be \$100 per head.

**July 30, 1932**

The Council advises Riceton Co-operative Association that it would be prepared to co-operate with it for sufficient advances for the farmer to start threshing but could give no actual guarantee.

**October 19, 1932**

The Secretary was instructed to obtain at least twenty bags of flour in the shipment coming in to be used for relief in the Municipality.

**February 2, 1933**

Moved by Councillor Bingaman that whereas the agricultural industry throughout the Dominion of Canada is in a precarious condition and cannot survive unless drastic action is taken to ensure the primary producer more favorable returns for his produce.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Government of the Dominion of Canada be requested to establish a Federal Marketing Board for the purpose of marketing farm products and that producers have adequate representation on said Board.

**April 29, 1933**

Whereas the Municipality is not in a position to finance relief advances for farming operations this spring and no line of credit having been obtained from the Bank, it was moved by Councillor Fahlman that all applications for relief in this connection be refused.

**June 30, 1933**

Moved by Councillor Bingaman a committee of council be appointed to take up the question of financing binder twine for the farmers.

**July 25, 1933**

Moved by Councillor Bingaman that the Municipality issue binder twine to those farmers unable to procure some from their own resources.

**December 19, 1933**

The matter of Mrs. X being under review it was moved by Councillor Downes that Councillor Fahlman be instructed to look after Mrs. X as regards getting her into the Old People's Home at Melville or Moosomin.

**March 2, 1934**

Moved by Councillor Fahlman that X be asked to pay for the coal supplied by the Municipality in the year 1932 amounting to \$71.90 — amended to amount \$33.95.

**June 4, 1934**

Moved by Councillor Purves that C. S. Kinter be appointed Bailiff for the Municipality in case of the relief advances to Mrs. X in order that seizure of the crop may be made this fall.

**July 25, 1934**

Moved by Councillor Purves that an advance of \$25.00 relief may be made to Mr. X and that two barrels of distillate and three gallons of gas also may be advanced so that he might summerfallow an additional eighty acres.

Applications Re: consolidation of taxes were considered when it was moved by the Councillors hereinafter set out that the respective applications be refused on the following grounds:

"That all payment of taxes come under adjustment scheme approved of by Municipality part eleven of the Act".

**October 3, 1934**

Moved by the Reeve that A. B. Coupal be allowed one barrel of gas for the purpose of fixing roads in his vicinity.

**November 1, 1934**

Re: Molasses. The secretary advised the meeting that two cars of molasses have been ordered. It was decided that the car for Lajord be apportioned between divisions 4, 5 and 6 and the car at Riceton among divisions 1, 2 and 3 and that each Councillor arrange as regards his portion of the car and handling and distribution for his division. The molasses to be sold at \$6.25 a barrel. (Molasses diluted with water was sprinkled on low grade feed like wheat straw to help animals survive on it.)

Re: Application by X. Moved by Councillor Downes that the Municipality guarantee the hospital bill and doctor's fee not exceeding \$100 for operation.

**November 12, 1934**

Moved by Councillor Fahlman that Councillor

Downes be allowed to spend \$100 on roads in his division.

**November 19, 1934**

The question of the seizure of Mr. X's land having been taken up, it was moved by Councillor Purves that the Secretary take steps to thresh this matter out laying necessary information and complaint under the criminal code.

**December 17, 1934**

The offer of the Provincial Government paying two-thirds re: direct relief having been considered it was moved by Councillor Purves that same be accepted. Moved by Councillor Dunning that Miss McKinnon's account re: sickness of X be paid.

**January 9, 1935**

Re: Gas Tax refund. Whereas according to newspaper reports the government is contemplating that the only gas refunds to be allowed farmers will be for gas purchases used in tractors during harvest

and Whereas there are a large number of tractor farmers in this Municipality whose engines burn gas only

and Whereas a considerable amount of gas will have to be purchased for seeding and summerfallowing

and Whereas this will mean a considerable loss to our farmers.

Moved by Councillor Purves that the Municipality petition the Government that all tax paid on gas used by farmers in tractors, combines and stationary engines be refunded one hundred per cent.

**January 23, 1935**

Re: Feed Oats. The underwritten applications were considered on allocations made as therein set out. Namely: forty-five farmers ranged from fifty to two hundred bushels.

**February 13, 1935**

Relief feed, seed and fuel applications passed:

Sixty-four farmers names for

Feed — 2,275 bushels Oats and 3,640 bushels wheat

Seed — 3,635 bushels Oats, 4,325 bushels wheat and 860 bushels barley

Fuel — 435 gallons gas, 2,235 gallons distillate and 113 gallons oil.

(Similar lists were passed in subsequent meetings.)

Moved by Councillor Selinger that the refusal of two relief applications turned down at special meeting the 23rd of January be rescinded and a grocery allowance be made in those cases.

**March 12, 1935**

Moved by Councillor Purves that grinding of the feed being supplied for spring work be awarded J. Stenerson at the rate of 8¢ per 100 pounds.

**February 7, 1936**

Moved by Councillor Purves that the Board of the Riceton Co-operative Association be asked to withhold dividends until just prior to seeding.

**April 2, 1936**

Bylaw relating to loans for seed grain and other supplies under the authority of the Municipalities Seed Grain and Supply Act, 1933.

The Council of R.M. of Lajord #128 enacts as follows: This Municipality may for the year 1936, advance seed grain, petroleum products, feed grain, fodder, repairs for implements, and parts, formaldehyde (seed treatment) and gopher poison on credit to farmers who, owing to failure of crops or other adverse conditions, are unable to procure same and the Council may, to enable it to make such advances, borrow when promissory note or notes of the Municipality (\$72,000) Seventy-two Thousand Dollars for the purchase of the supply thereof for distribution.

**October 3, 1940**

The Secretary was instructed to collect the 1931 Lean from Mr. X.

### **Rural Municipality of Lajord #128**

**Taken from the minutes of 1919-1940**

**by Wilbur Moats**

#### **General**

**March 8, 1919**

E. B. Moats moved that J. A. Coupal be secured to draw and operate elevating grader at three dollars per lineal mile and five dollars per mile on places less than a quarter mile in length.

**May 22, 1920**

Moved by Councillor Torville that the Pibroch



Machinery used to build a new road through Gray, later to become highway 306. Cat and grader operators are Martin Van de Kamp and Ernie Dunning.



Hartford Lewis on 30-60 Aultman-Taylor and Buckmaster on the grader, grading municipal roads near Riceton. (1924)



Road grading.

Rural Telephone Co. be granted permission to extend their system.

**August 11, 1920**

Assessment of NE 36-13-17-W2 of \$4,576.00 to stand.

**October 9, 1920**

Moved by Reeve Lewis that Municipality petition the Livestock Commissioner for the Municipality to be included in Pure Bred Stallion area.

**December 6, 1920**

After discussion Councillor Moats moved that two graders be placed with United Grain Growers for

sale and the Reeve take up this matter with them in Regina.

**January 3, 1921**

Moved by Reeve Lewis that Robert Borland be appointed secretary-treasurer for the year at a salary of \$1,800.00 and in the event of it becoming necessary, the council undertook to procure housing accommodation should the Secretary-treasurer have to vacate the premises occupied by him.

**February 1, 1921**

A resolution by trustees of Weirsdale School district in regard to the removal of their school to parcel S.E. corner of SE¼-23-15-18-W2 was on the motion of the Reeve (Lewis) approved of.



Outfits for the R. M. of Lajord, 1928.



Municipal road building equipment. Mr. H. Carder and Mr. Alex Pickering.



Grading roads in Riceton area.



**April 5, 1921**

On the motion of the Reeve (Lewis) the secretary was instructed to order two barrels Mobile B Oil from the Aultmann-Taylor Co. Ltd. at the price of \$2.10 per gallon and to advise them further supplies would be required.

**June 7, 1921**

The Secretary was instructed to purchase an Imperial Waggon from T. Eaton and Co. at a price of \$76.50 to be sent to Kronau station.

**July 7, 1921**

Moved by Councillor McMorris the Secretary be instructed to write Department of Highways to inquire if bridges to be eighteen feet wide as this breadth was required.

**August 10, 1921**

Moved by Councillor Fahlman that village of Old Kronau be disorganized.

**September 3, 1921**

Moved by the Reeve that application of the trustees of the Gray School District re: the site of the proposed new school be approved, viz. lots 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 blk. 4 Gray. Carried.

**December 5, 1921**

Moved by W. E. Lafoy that Councillor Moats be allowed the sum of fifty dollars for the use of his cook car 1920-1921.

**January 3, 1922**

Moved by Councillor Moats that a rate of four mills be struck as a Municipal tax for the current year and that two and a half mills be spent on roads and one and a half mills for office purposes. Carried. The Reeve (Lewis) and Councillor McMorris dissenting.

**March 11, 1922**

Moved by Councillor Moats that a letter of recommendation be sent Adams and Co. re: their Reclamation ditcher graders (Leaning Wheels) in regard to their use in this Municipality and the satisfactory service therefrom.

**March 11, 1922**

Appointments: On the motion of Councillor Moats, Lou Carter of Gray be engaged as graderman at a wage of seventy-five cents per running hour.

**February 1, 1923**

Moved by the Reeve (Lewis) that the Department of Education be asked to have the legislature amend the school act insofar as that the number of high school pupils in a country school be altered from fifteen to ten in order to be eligible for a grant.

**April 26, 1926**

Moved by E. B. Moats that a grant of \$10 be given the Saskatchewan Corn Growers Association.

**August 9, 1924**

Moved by Councillor Moats that whereas it has been found that the poles on rural telephone lines

interfere with the building of roads, therefore it is resolved that this Council petition the Government Department of Telephones to alter their specifications and have the pole line set out not more than two feet from private property.

**February 5, 1925**

The Reeve was instructed to purchase No. C Elevator Russell grader from Olsen of Regina for \$2,800 payable without interest at December meeting and if he could get these terms to close deal.

**March 1, 1925**

Moved by Councillor Torville that the following grants be made:

1. Social Service Council	\$ 25.00
2. Red Cross Society	\$100.00
3. Salvation Army	\$150.00

**April 8, 1925**

Application re: furnishing engine and running same were considered and Councillor Geis moved that Charles Bechard's offer be accepted, viz. furnish a 30-60 Rumely Engine and run same furnishing all repairs fuel and oils at \$4.00 per running mile.

**May 20, 1925**

Moved by Councillor Lafoy that the Secretary be allowed two weeks holidays, the same to be taken convenient to running the office.

**December 7, 1925**

Moved by Councillor Moats that a vote of thanks be tendered F. B. Lewis the retiring Reeve for the services he had rendered during his terms of office and that the council regret that he has decided to retire.

Moved by Deputy Reeve Moats a vote of thanks be given Councillor Lafoy on his retirement for the services rendered while a member of the council and for his congenial disposition at meetings.

**July 2, 1926**

Re: proposed road — Stoughton to Regina (#33 Highway) parallel to CP railway. Moved by Councillor Torville that this council is favorable to the scheme and would acquire the land necessary in this Municipality on debenture issue being approved, provided the government would build road as a Federal Highway and that the road go right through to Regina and further that the Reeve attend any meetings on the matter as the Municipality's representative.

**October 6, 1926**

Moved by Councillor Dunning that this council make a grant of \$300.00 to Gray skating and curling rink at next meeting on condition the residents of the district raise the balance sufficient to build an enclosed rink.

### **Special Meeting October 11, 1926**

Consideration having been made re: maintenance of roads it was moved by Councillor Betcher that the Reeve (Moats) and Councillors Downes and Reich be appointed with powers re: the purchase of a caterpillar engine and the secretary advise balance of council so that they have the opportunity of being present.

### **November 6, 1926**

Moved by Councillor Betcher that Caterpillar Sixty at present on demonstration be purchased at price of \$6,980.00. (This was the first 60 Cat in Saskatchewan.)

### **February 10, 1927**

Re: Wheel Tractors. Moved by Councillor Reich that tractors be advertised for sale in Western Municipal News as follows:

30-60 Aultmann-Taylor	\$2,000.00
35-70 Minneapolis	3,500.00

### **April 26, 1927**

Moved by Councillor Betcher that the 30-60 Aultmann-Taylor be sold at \$1,500 if an offer to that amount is received by the 15th of May. Councillor Geis dissenting. Further the secretary was instructed to cancel order for another Caterpillar 60 if neither of the engines sold.

### **May 25, 1927**

Re: Hamlet of Gray. Communication from the Department of Health having been considered it was moved by Councillor Downes that a culvert be put under road running north and south at a suitable point to run water off part of Hamlet under water.

### **August 20, 1927**

Moved by Councillor Downes that offer of \$1,200.00 by Oscar Glaze for 30-60 Aultmann-Taylor tractor be accepted.

### **January 4, 1932**

The Councillors each for his own division moved the following appointments re: pound keepers.

Division 2 — John Frei and A. Purves; Division 3 — George Axford; Division 4 — J. O. Reinhardt and Karl Renner; Division 5 — R. A. Ullrich; Division 6 — C. D. Beaumont.

### **April 26, 1932**

1932 budget total estimated expenditures \$29,060.00

### **September 14, 1933**

Re: old Qu'Appelle-Wood Mountain trail. Moved by Councillor Selinger that this council recommend that steps be taken to abandon the above trail through sections 30, 31, 32 all in 16-16-W2 as this trail is not now in use.

### **December 19, 1933**

Moved by Reeve Moats that Councillor Selinger be allowed to give the use of a cook car to the skating

rink on the same terms as last year as regards rental and insurance.

### **February 2, 1934**

Budget estimate total 1934 expenses \$23,015.00.

### **June 4, 1934**

Re: Works on Highway #33. After discussion in regard to labor to be supplied the following arrangement was made:

Division 2 — 4 teams and 6 men

Division 3 — 3 teams and 6 men

Division 5 — 4 teams and 5 men

Division 6 — 2 teams and 4 men

the balance of the work to be filled in by the Councillors of Divisions 1 and 4. Moved by Councillor Selinger that Councillor Downes have power to arrange re: renting the old elevator grader for use by Mr. Smith, the contractor on #33 highway.

## **Rural Municipality of Lajord #128**

**Taken from the Minutes of 1919-1940**

**by Wilbur Moats**

### **Water and Drainage**

### **May 24, 1924**

Moved by Councillor Lafoy whereas the onus of supervising the drainage system of the Municipality is a burden and the Municipality is not in a position to undertake the work without heavy expense in labor, machinery and engineers fees. Therefore it is resolved this Council petition the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan to have the Department of Highways maintain and supervise the said drainage system in the plan instead of the Municipality.

### **June 18, 1927**

Re: Ditch No. 2. That R.M. of Lajord #128 petition the minister to improve, extend and alter this ditch as called for in report of an engineer. The minister to have full authority however in regards the work to be done compensation to be paid to drainage district in both cases and that the work on ditch be proceeded with as soon as possible to relieve the lands flooded.

## **Rural Municipality of Lajord #128**

**Taken from the Minutes of 1919-1940**

**by Wilber Moats**

### **Roots of Medicare**

### **January 3, 1921**

On the motion of the Reeve the following appointments were made:

1. Health Officers: Dr. W. W. Tyerman of Milestone, Saskatchewan for divisions 2, 3 and 6. Dr. Machinnom of Lajord, Saskatchewan for divisions 1, 4 and 5.

### **March 12, 1921**

On the motion of the Reeve (Lewis) it was de-

cided that the Department of Education, Hygiene Branch be asked to have the schools inspected by a nurse and the Council guarantee the transportation fees of the nurse and that the secretary ask for a report from the department for submission to the Council.

#### **March 1, 1923**

Moved by councillor Moats that the secretary make an application to the Department of Education for a nurse to inspect the schools immediately after seeding.

#### **October 5, 1927**

Moved by Councillor Downes the Municipality pay half the cost to School Boards for vaccination for children against smallpox, inoculation against scarlet fever as well as inoculation against diphtheria.

#### **July 3, 1931**

Moved by Councillor Hanson that Mrs. X's application for a maternity grant be approved.

#### **November 16, 1931**

Moved by Councillor Dunning that Dr. Tyerman of Wilcox be engaged at \$35.00 per month for two and a half months to serve the Municipality and to give a report on the work done, so that information may be obtained as to how the project works out. Inquiry re: cost of surgical operations in Regina to be ascertained.

#### **April 5, 1932**

Moved by Councillor Dunning that the following committee be appointed, the Reeve, Councillor Bingaman to take up the question of the engagement of Dr. Tyerman on one or the other of the following terms:

1. On a grant of \$1,500.00, Dr. Tyerman be allowed to collect a flat fee of \$2.00 per visit from a patient.
2. On a salary of \$2,500.00 per year for free service to residents to the Municipality. In the first offer Dr. Tyerman to reside at either Riceton or Lajord and on the second offer the Doctor is to reside at Lajord.

#### **April 26, 1932**

Dr. Tyerman addressed the meeting — moved by Councillor Selinger that Dr. Tyerman be engaged to look after residents of Municipality from May 1 to December at \$100 per month. The doctor agreeing to furnish ordinary medicine in the course of his visits.

#### **January 3, 1933**

Re: Municipal Doctor. Moved by Councillor Bingaman the application of George C. Bradley of Mattituck, New York (he interned there) be accepted on the understanding that the arrangement set out by his father as regards substitutional service by Dr. Tyerman in the South West of the Municipality be part of the contract and in the event of Dr. Bradley not accepting the position on these terms then Dr. Tyer-

man to have opportunity of same and failing his acceptance Dr. Richards of Welwyn be appointed.

#### **Budget Item March 8, 1933**

Relief and Charities:

Sanitoria Levy	\$2,000.00
Hospital Aid (Indigents)	1,000.00
Medical Aid (Indigents)	3,500.00

#### **June 1, 1933**

Petition having been presented to the meeting by the resident ratepayers was moved by Councillor Fahlman that the Municipality be incorporated in a tuberculosis-free area.

#### **April 3, 1934**

Moved by Councillor Bingaman that remuneration paid Dr. Tyerman for his services to South half of the Municipality from 1st to 15th of January be set at \$62.50.

#### **July 3, 1935**

The resignation of Dr. Bradley having been placed before the meeting, it was moved by Councillor Purves that Dr. Bradley's resignation be accepted. Moved by Councillor Downes that the council express its appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. Bradley during his employment as medical practitioner for the Municipality and for the co-operation he had extended each Councillor in his work.

#### **July 27, 1935**

Moved by Councillor Bingaman a payment of \$200 be made to the Anti-tuberculosis league at this time and advise them as regards when further payment may be expected.

#### **October 18, 1940**

The matter of the health scheme was fully discussed when it was moved by Councillor Purves the scheme be put into operation as from January 1, 1941, the levy on the basis of \$8.00 per person per annum and from January 1st to end of 1941 fiscal year, \$6.00 per person. The Services cover: Medical Services from doctor as at present Municipal Doctor, Emergency and Minor operations. Chronic major and minor operations as passed on by a Medical Board. In cases of major operations, the patient to have choice of surgeon on approval of the Medical Board. Hospitalization up to twenty-one days. (This included maternity cases.)

Revenue eighteen hundred persons at \$6.00	\$10,800
Less rebate of maximum	800
	\$10,000

Expenditures:

Medical Practitioner	\$4,000.00
Major Operations	2,000.00
Minor Operations	1,000.00
Hospitalization	2,700.00
Allowing for Administration	300.00
	\$10,000.00

T. 13 R 16 W 2.

T-3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

<p>C P R</p> <p><b>31</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p>Wm Hall 1901</p> <p>scrip</p> <p><b>32</b></p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>33</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p><b>34</b></p>	<p><b>35</b></p>	<p><b>36</b></p>
<p>Wm Hall 1901</p> <p>scrip</p> <p><b>30</b></p>	<p>Alfred Jones 1919</p> <p>Denis Bowman 1919</p> <p>school</p> <p><b>29</b></p>	<p>J.R.S. North 1901</p> <p>scrip</p> <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Wm Hall 1902</p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>27</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p>C P R</p> <p><b>19</b></p> <p>1902</p>	<p>Henry Steppler 1906</p> <p>R.L. Steppler 1908</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Wm.H. Steppler 1906</p> <p>Jesse Steppler 1907</p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>21</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p>Edward MacDonald 1910</p> <p>John Laroque 1907</p> <p>scrip</p> <p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p>E B. Blish 1907</p> <p>Chas. Blish 1907</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>18</b></p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p>D. Paterson 1907</p> <p>G.W. Stewart 1907</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Jean Stewart 1907</p> <p>Hester Shuttleworth 1910</p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p>C P R</p> <p><b>7</b></p> <p>1902</p>	<p>H B C</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>1884</p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>9</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p>Milfrid Bechard 1908</p> <p>Honoruis Bechard 1911</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>10</b></p> <p>P. Diegson 1906</p> <p>J.C. Gough 1908</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p>C. McDonald 1911</p> <p>W. Cope 1913</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>6</b></p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>1902</p>	<p>G. Gordon 1908</p> <p>H. Gordon 1907</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>A. Hayresu 1907</p> <p>H. Montgomery 1906</p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>
<p>D. Coupal 1912</p> <p>T. Klyne 1901</p>					

## TOWNSHIP PLAN

T 12 R 16 W 2 =

T-3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

<p>C P R</p> <p><b>31</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p>W. Thompson      M.E. Wood</p> <p>1907      1910</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>32</b></p> <p>J.E. Starkey      J.A. Bell</p> <p>1909      1908</p>	<p>C P R</p> <p><b>33</b></p> <p>1901</p>	<p><b>34</b></p>	<p><b>35</b></p>	<p><b>36</b></p>
<p>R.B. Daniels      H.W. Winder</p> <p>1910      1910</p> <p>homestd</p> <p><b>30</b></p> <p>A. Desjarlais      F. Crestillier</p> <p>1902      1902</p>	<p>H.L. Johnson      &amp;</p> <p>Aleck Clark</p> <p>1919      school</p> <p><b>29</b></p> <p>L.S. Harker      L.S. Harker</p> <p>1919      1919</p>	<p>J. Dilworth      S.&amp;J. Dilworth</p> <p>1902      1902</p> <p>skript</p> <p><b>28</b></p> <p>S. Dilworth      G. Falcon</p> <p>1902      1902</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>

# TOWNSHIP PLAN

Township 13 Range 17 W2

Legend-- S-Scrip Lands

H-Homestead

M H- Military Homestead

D S- Drainage Sale

S G- Special Grant

P.3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

C.P.R.-1901 <b>31</b>	Clarence Leach 1907 H <b>32</b> Mark Hill 1907 H E.A. Small 1907 H D.H. Mc Donald 1902-S Knutte Kittleson 1903-S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>33</b>	Monty Leach 1907 H <b>34</b> R.W. Smith 1907 H Karl Haugen 1918 S Ira Smith 1906 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>35</b>	Ed. Richardson 1905 H <b>36</b> James Smith 1907 H Geo. Oak 1905 H James Mason 1907 H
Tip Lafoy 1909 H <b>30</b> Julius Ponto 1911 H James Rice 1907 H Andrew Mooney 1911-H J.W. Ford 1902-S	1927 Prov of Sask-- D S School Lands <b>29</b> Nick Kawuza 1929 D S	J.C. Bran 1906 H <b>28</b> Amund Vorgenson 1908 H Ira Young 1910 H Frank Young 1911 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>27</b>	George Mosou 1907 H <b>26</b> Hudson Bay Co. 1884	C.P.R.-1901 <b>25</b>
C.P.R.-1901 <b>19</b>	Geo. Brunas 1906 H <b>20</b> W.C. Haims 1905 H Knutte Kittleson 1903 S Andrew Fisher 1905 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>21</b>	Marshall Herschberger 1908 H <b>22</b> W.H. Kirk Patrick 1910- H A.C. Herschberger 1908 H Andrew Hughes 1908 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>23</b>	Knutte Kittleson 1907 H <b>24</b> Ed. Carbo 1906 H J.P. Allen 1910 H John W. Baker 1907 H
David Stewart 1905 H <b>18</b> A.R. Johnston 1905 H Wm. Cave 1908 H John Suiter 1909 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>17</b>	R.J. McLaughlin 1902 S <b>16</b> G. Eagleson 1909-S	C.P.R.-1902 <b>15</b>	M. Abelson 1909 H <b>14</b> Arthur Mason 1909 H Eliza Hughes 1909 H Ira Anderson 1910 H	C.P.R.-1902 <b>13</b>
C.P.R.-1901 <b>7</b>	Hudson Bay Co. 1884 <b>8</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>9</b>	John Howard 1908 H <b>10</b> D.S. Ward 1908 H James Johnston 1906 H John Walkeden 1908 H	Prov of Sask D.S. 1927 School Lands <b>11</b> G.T.P. Railway 1912 D.S. G.T.P. Railway 1912 D.S.	Alex Thomson 1909 H <b>12</b> L.A. Thomson 1907 H A. Smith 1909 H Arch Stitwort 1911 H
Jas. S. Amey 1911 H <b>6</b> L. Wm. Hill 1907 H Henry Lumstrasse 1906 H Fred Whitefort 1907 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>5</b>	Harold Gates 1910 H <b>4</b> Wm. Johnston 1907 H Richard Ruine 1907 H George Lindlay 1906 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>3</b>	Henry Bechard 1911 H <b>2</b> Abraham Bechard 1911 H Ubaldo Bechard 1910 H George Duguid 1911 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>1</b>

# TOWNSHIP PLAN

Township 12 Range 17 W2

Legend-- S-Scrip Lands

H-Homestead

M H- Military Homestead

D S- Drainage Sale

S G- Special Grant

P.3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

C.P.R.-1901 <b>31</b>	F. Lindlay 1906 H <b>32</b> W. Robertson-1902 S W. Robertson 1902 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>33</b>	John Hughes 1909 H <b>34</b> A. McKenzie 1907 H W. Ireland 1908 H John Woodley 1906 H	C.P.R.-1901 <b>35</b>	D.H. McDonald 1902 S <b>36</b> Harvey Ritchie 1907 H
E.A. Martin 1902 S <b>30</b> Wm. Robertson 1902 S E.A. Martin 1902 S	H.A. Smith 1906 School Lands <b>29</b> A. Bowlire 1910 H H.E. Smith 1906	Arthur Mitchcock 1902 S <b>28</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>27</b>	Eliza Bates 1907 H <b>26</b> Hudson Bay Co. 1884	C.P.R.-1901 <b>25</b>



# TOWNSHIP PLAN

Township 15 Range 18 W2

LEGEND-- S- Scrip Land  
H- Homestead  
M H- Military Homestead

7-3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

C.P.R.- 1901	Cyrus Ferguson 1904 H	Peter Jeffrey 1904 H	C.P.R.- 1901	John McMichael 1905 H	Walter McMichael 1905 H	C.P.R.- 1901	William Harrison 1905 H	Robert Rogers 1901 M H
19		20		22		23		24
David Boyle 1905 H	Robert Boyle 1908 H	John Henry 1905 H	Robert Grainger 1910 H	Edward Cleveland 1903 H	Ira DeBoice 1908 H		Charles Harrison 1903 H	Robert Rogers 1901 M H
		C.P.R.- 1901		C.P.R.- 1901		Thomas Patton 1909 S		
Sylvester Cause 1907 H	William Boyle 1908 H	17		16		14		13
			J.H. Ross 1905 S	Haus Peter Walloe 1906 H		Andrew Wright 1907 S	Joseph Harrison 1905 H	C.P.R.- 1901
C.P.R.- 1901		Hudson Bay Co.	C.P.R.- 1901	Christian Hansen 1902 S	John Martin 1912 S		Christian Hansen 1902 S	
7		8		10		11		12
Wm. Arbuckle 1905 H	Fred Smith 1909 H		Robert DeBoice 1909 H	Christian Hansen 1902 S	Douglas Johnston 1921 H	School Lands Donald A. McDonald 1910 S	Scrip 1902 S	
		C.P.R.- 1901	R. Holland 1906 H	C.P.R.- 1901		R.A. Clements 1905 S	Christian Hansen 1902 S	C.P.R.- 1901
J.A. Morris 1908 H		5	H.H. Smith 1907 H	3		Gottlieb Roesch 1912 S	R.A. Clements 1905 S	1

# TOWNSHIP PLAN

Township 14 Range 18 W2

LEGEND-- S- Scrip Land  
H- Homestead  
M.H- Military Homestead

7-3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

C.P.R.-1901	L.L. Abbot 1904 S	Christian Hansen 1902 S	C.P.R.-1901	Angelique Cardinal 1904 S	W. Wright 1904 S	C.P.R.-1901	G.W. Brown 1904 S	Andrew Wright 1904 S
31		32		34		35		36
Geo. Brown 1910 S	J.W. Ford 1902 S	Wesley McGill 1907 H	Thomas Sanderson 1908 H	Isabella Williams 1904 S	Ross Vesich 1910 H		Andrew Wright 1904 S	
		Herbert Smith 1906	J.E. Martin 1912	Norman McKenzie 1909 H	Marion Walter 1909 H	C.P.R.- 1901	H.B.Co. Charles Bristol 1909 H	C.P.R.-1901
30		29		28		27		26
Geo. Brown 1910 S	Silverl Straud 1906 H	J.E. Martin 1912		H.M. Eyre 1906 H	D.B. English 1909 H		H.B.Co.	
C.P.R.-1901	L. Abbot 1904 H	Louis Spiller 1907 H	C.P.R.- 1901	Chris Fuhlman 1907 H	Lyle Abbot 1904 H	C.P.R.- 1901	Nellie Whitford 1904 S	Geo. Brown 1904 S
19		20		22		23		24
Joe Baesche 1907 H	Chas. Burwell 1907 H	Stephen Strickland 1909 H	John Spiller 1907 H	Johann Linz 1908 H	Lyle Abbot 1904 H		Chris Hansen 1902 S	Patrick Kelly 1910 H
		C.P.R.-1901		Adelbert McManus 1906 H	Geo. Brown 1905 H	C.P.R.- 1901	Gottlieb Roesch 1907 H	Fritz Frank 1906 H
18		17		16		15		14
Wm. Greenalade 1905 H	Wm. Greenalade 1905 H		John Beatty 1907 H	Geo. Brown 1905 H			Otto Burgess 1909 H	Bruno Frank 1907 H
C.P.R.- 1901		Hudson Bay Co. 1884	C.P.R.- 1901	Wm. Rutledge 1907 H	Joe Rutledge 1908 H	School Lands John	James Cross 1911 H	Joe Keefe 1909 H
7		8		10		11		12
Fred Dixon 1905 H	Elmer Auld 1905 H		E.B. Smith 1906 H	C.B. Rutledge 1907 H	Fred Taylor 1906 H	E. Martin 1912	John Wilschusen 1909 H	A.A. Rodgers 1911 H
		C.P.R.- 1901		C.P.R.- 1901		Martin McDonough 1907 H		
6		5		4		3		2
Fred Dixon 1907 H	Frederick Lewis 1906 H		Frederick Richard 1906 H	G.G. Richard 1906 H		Joyce McDonough 1905 H	Wm. Hockley 1908 H	

SOUTH

# TOWNSHIP PLAN

Legend - S-Scrip Lands  
H- Homestead  
M H- Military Homestead

Township 13

Range 18

W2

T-3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

C.P.R.-1901 <b>31</b>	W.S. Stewart 1902 S <b>32</b> J.H. Haslam 1903 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>33</b>	W.S. Stewart 1902 S <b>34</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>35</b>	Benjamin Chaffey 1902 S <b>36</b> J.H. Haslam 1902 S W.S. Stewart 1902 S
W.S. Stewart 1902 S <b>30</b> W.S. Stewart 1902 S J.H. Haslam 1903 S	School Lands D.H. <b>29</b> McDonald 1902	D.H. <b>28</b> McDonald 1905 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>27</b>	Hudson Bay Co. 1884 <b>26</b> H.B. Co. 1884 H.B. Co. 1884	C.P.R.-1901 <b>25</b>
C.P.R.-1901 <b>19</b>	D.H. McDonald 1902 S <b>20</b> Peter McLeod 1907 S as above	C.P.R.-1901 <b>21</b>	J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>22</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>23</b>	J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>24</b>
J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>18</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>17</b>	J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>16</b> J.H. Haslam 1901 S W.F. Alloway 1902 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>15</b>	J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>14</b> J.H. Haslam 1901 S W.F. Alloway 1902 S W.S. Stewart 1902 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>13</b>
C.P.R.-1901 <b>7</b>	Hudson Bay Co. <b>8</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>9</b>	J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>10</b>	Louie and School Lands Conrad Schmidt 1945 <b>11</b>	J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>12</b> J.H. Haslam 1901 S Joseph Glenn 1903 S W.S. Stewart 1902 S
J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>6</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>5</b>	J.H. Haslam 1901 S <b>4</b>	C.P.R.-1901 <b>3</b>	Kemper Garrioch 1901 S <b>2</b> J.H. Haslam 1901 S J.H. Haslam 1901 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>1</b>

# TOWNSHIP PLAN

Legend- S- Scrip Lands  
H- Homestead  
M H- Military Homestead

Township 12

Range 18

W2

T-3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

NORTH

C.P.R.-1901 <b>31</b>	E.J. Fewings 1903 S <b>32</b> R.W. Gibson 1904 S Olie Olson 1902 S Olie Olson 1902 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>33</b>	Canada Homestead Settlement <b>34</b> Co. 1902 (Special) H.V. Bulvea 1902 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>35</b>	Canada Homestead Settlement Co. (Special) 1902 <b>36</b>
Edward Foreman 1907 S <b>30</b> John McEachern 1907 S David Allen 1905 S Henry Allen 1905 S	Luseland Co. 1909 <b>29</b> School Lands John Carmeau 1913	Geo. <b>28</b> W. Brown 1902 S	C.P.R.-1901 <b>27</b>	Can. Homestead Settlement Co. (Special) 1902 <b>26</b> Hudson Bay Co. 1884	C.P.R.-1901 <b>25</b>

# TOWNSHIP PLAN

Legend- S- Scrip Lands  
H- Homestead  
M H- Military Homestead

Township 14 Range 17 w2

7-3 Printed by S.A.R.M.

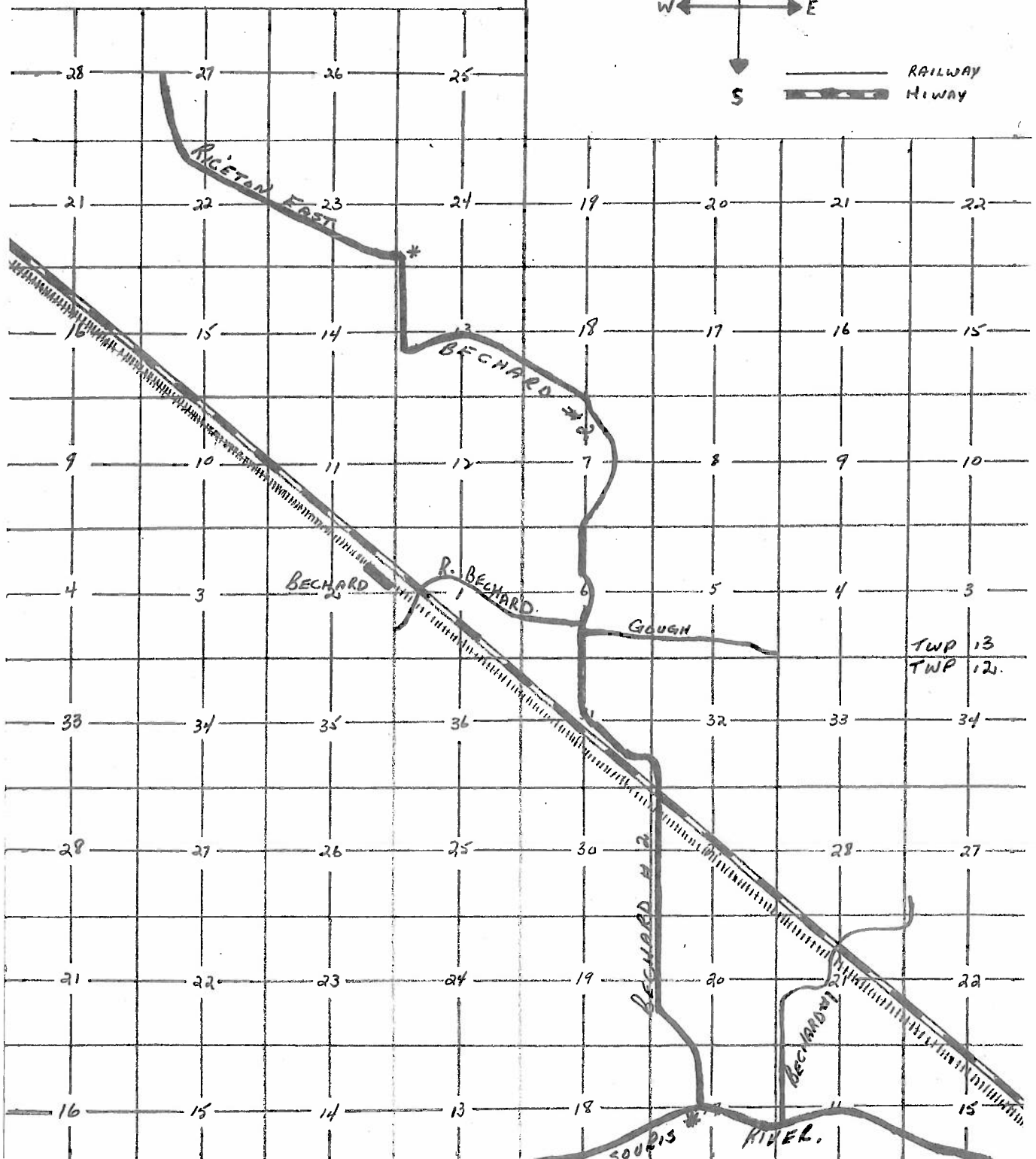
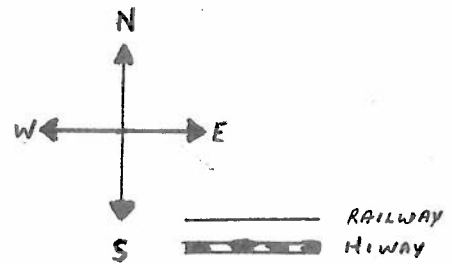
NORTH

<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>31</b></p>	<p>J. Wasson 1910 H</p> <p>Chas. Young 1914 H</p> <p>C. Coupal 1902 S</p> <p><b>32</b></p> <p>John McGregor 1912 H</p> <p>Alfred Bechard 1909 H</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>33</b></p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>34</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>35</b></p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>36</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>
<p>Christian</p> <p><b>30</b></p> <p>J. Hansen 1902 S</p> <p>Lekivetz 1910 H</p>	<p>Don McDonald 1913</p> <p>J.E. Martin 1912</p> <p>School Lands</p> <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Don McDonald 1913</p> <p>J.E. Martin 1912</p>	<p>C Coupal 1908 S</p> <p>Charles Bechard 1911 H</p> <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Frank Hill 1909 H</p> <p>E. Bechard 1910 H</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>27</b></p>	<p>Hudson</p> <p>D.H. McDonald 1902 S</p> <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Bay Co. 1884</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>25</b></p>
<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>19</b></p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>20</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>21</b></p>	<p>Micheal Buhler 1898 (Special)</p> <p>D.H.</p> <p><b>22</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>23</b></p>	<p>M. Coupal 1906 H</p> <p>W. Coupal 1906 H</p> <p><b>24</b></p> <p>D.H. McDonald 1902 S</p>
<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>18</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>17</b></p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>16</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>15</b></p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>14</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>13</b></p>
<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p>Hudson</p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Bay Co. 1884</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>9</b></p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>10</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>J. Martin 1910</p> <p>Philip Coupal 1944</p> <p>School Lands</p> <p><b>11</b></p> <p>J. Martin 1910</p> <p>A.J. Mason 1929</p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>12</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>
<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>6</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p>W.H.</p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>3</b></p>	<p>D.H.</p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>McDonald 1902 S</p>	<p>C.P.R.-1901</p> <p><b>1</b></p>

SOUTH

# BECHARD AREA DRAINAGE MAP.

RANGE 17      RANGE 16.



Bechard area drainage map.

## The Story of Bechard Drainage Area

**"Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink!—"**

by Mac Paton

Water or the lack of it, played no small part in the history of Bechard. Old maps show it was built on the edge of what was called "marshland — not suitable for farming".

Drinking water was at a premium and when my dad came to Bechard as a grain buyer in 1917, he was told the only source was in a barrel by the section house. It was filled by the train crew for the use of the section foreman. Since there was no other water available, he and Jim Barnett, another elevator agent, would take their pails over after dark to sneak enough for their own use. It wasn't long before word got around that whoever was caught in this dastardly act could expect a trip to the promised land. Not wishing to have his career come to such a quick end, Dad phoned his superintendent and explained the problem. Mr. Bancroft, being a kind and understanding man, had a barrel sent out the next day, to be placed by the section foreman's and to be filled by the train crew.

It was a simple solution to a touchy problem — unfortunately the same cannot be said for the excess water on the farmland. The homesteaders felt it would be an asset on new land but it soon became apparent it was more liability than asset.

In 1916, the farmers in the Bechard areas had decided that excess water in their farmland was becoming a major problem. After a summer survey was undertaken by the Saskatchewan Government, Engineer H. G. Phillips reported that approximately ten thousand and six hundred acres of flooded land in Townships 12, 13, 14, R16, 17 could be drained. The proposed two ditches: drain #2, running on east of Sec. 18, 19, and 30-12-16-W2; and drain #1, approximately one mile east to intercept a major run on the north of Sec. 27-12-16-W2. Today these drainage ditches are located almost identical to the original plans and are now called Bechard #1 and #2.

On September 28, 1916, after assessment appeals had been withdrawn, the Bechard Drainage District #16 was formed. By 1919 the construction of Bechard #2 was completed from the Souris River to the north boundary of Sec. 7-13-16-W2 at a cost of \$19,386.00. The right-of-way for this ditch was purchased from the farmers for between \$35 and \$60 per acre. It is of interest to note that a forty-two inch culvert was installed in the railway track to handle the water.

The year 1919 was the first of a controversy that goes on to this day. One engineer reported to the Department of Highways — who at that time were in

charge of drainage in Saskatchewan — that water from township 13-17-W2 should run to the Wascana. The Deputy Minister replied that their engineers felt it would be impossible for this water to run to the Wascana. As the years go by, this controversy rises again.

By 1923, Bechard #2 had ceased to function. The R.M. of Lajord proposed to the government that the Department of Highways maintain and supervise drainage in the area. This was not done and a "major" cleanup of the ditch was paid for by land tax. The cost of the cleanup was \$1,148.00 — men being paid \$4.50 per day and man and team \$6.50 per day.

The year 1924 saw the Wascana-Souris controversy rise again. Another government study made these recommendations:

1. Existing drainage works should be extended and capacity increased.
2. Drainage of lands in 13-17-W2 north to the Wascana is economically unfeasible.

If 1926 was the year of the big crop, 1927 was the year of the big flood. My Dad tells of never taking the car off the blocks as there was no way to drive out of Bechard. Boats and wagons were the only way to get in or out of town. As one might expect #2 was not working (a condition which persists today) and a petition was signed in the area to improve and enlarge the ditch. Two important changes were made at this time. The outlet which until this time had run straight south on the road allowance on sections 17 and 20-12-16 was moved to the southwest to take advantage of some lower land and the C.N.R. authorized the building of a bridge to replace the forty-two inch culvert through their right-of-way. The cleanup job was awarded to R. B. McLeod Construction in Saskatoon. Work began in October in less than ideal conditions — heavy rain and mud meant that equipment had to move on pads often laid in water. On October 13 that year, lights were installed on the dragline and four six-hour shifts per day worked until freezeup. This work was completed in 1928 along with the railroad bridge over the ditch. The cost of the ditch work this year was \$34,000.

In 1929 a petition to extend the ditch from 7-13-16-W2 to the west side of Sec. 14-13-17-W2 was circulated. While this was opposed by the R.M. of Scott and the Yellow Grass Drainage Districts, the extension was dug by the R.M. of Lajord. In 1930 the Deputy Minister of Highways recommended that Bechard Drainage District pay \$10,000 to the Yellow Grass Drainage District as an outlet fee. The year 1931 saw the proposal to take water north to the Wascana rear its head again. A petition circulated by John Hughes was sent to the minister. Once again,



engineers were sent out, levels taken and the decision made that the proposal was not practical.

Overall, very little was done in the area in the 1930's. Of course, they were dry years and little money was available for maintenance. A sign of the times was supplied by the government — four thousand feet of snow fence and four thousand steel posts to prevent drift soil from blocking the ditch. Maintenance costs for 1931 were \$216 and for 1932, \$97. Neither government nor the municipalities had money to do any maintenance work, but in 1934 after meeting with a delegation from the Bechard area, the provincial government made \$2,500 available for maintenance. Unfortunately, more than \$2,500 was spent and the burden of paying the extra money fell on the landowners. Also in 1934, a bridge was built on the east boundary of 14-13-17-W2, which allowed water from the west to flow to the Souris. A flood in 1936 washed this bridge out and it was not replaced — instead, it was filled with dirt. This created a dike which became known locally as the Gibeau Road.

In 1938, what became known affectionately as the "Burma Road" was built along the railroad track. A portion of this road along the track and #2 ditch on 12-13-16-W2 was on the spoil bank. A bridge was built one-half mile northwest of the present bridge to cross the ditch, and #2 ran between the road and the railroad. The cost of this bridge was \$360.

The year 1939 saw the Second World War and very little work done in the area of drainage. The year 1948 saw a large flood which forever changed the drainage in the area. The Gibeau Road was washed out and a successful lawsuit against the R.M. of Lajord made sure that the road would not again be a dike. It also brought a large area east and south of Riceton into the drainage business.

In all the years the Bechard Drainage District had been in existence — 1916 to 1950 — some \$340,000 had been spent to give drainage and flood controls to these productive lands. In 1950, the Souris Conservation and Development Area Authority was formed. This is a legal organization which was formed to co-ordinate drainage and flood control in the watersheds of the Bechard, Lewvan, and Yellow Grass Drainage Districts.

The interests of the Bechard Drainage District were looked after by three local residents elected to the first Souris C & D board. They were Garland Glaze, Rene Bechard and LeMoyne Baker. In later years Garth Boesch, Bob Glaze and Mac Paton have served on the board. Art Downs served for a time as Secretary of the Souris C & D area.

When small local organizations are disbanded and their interests looked after by a larger group many times local issues are lost in the shuffle. However, the problems of the local landowners were

in most cases addressed by the larger area authority.

In 1953 the first start on the Gough lateral was made by local farmers. Drainage has always been a slow process in the area and only now thirty years later is this lateral being completed to government standards.

In 1954 land was obtained from E. W. Baker and A. Blish to extend the ditch north west from Sec. 7-13-16 through Sec. 8-13-16 and Sec. 13-13-17 to the Gibeau Road.

In 1959 Bechard #2 on Sec. 31-12-16 was relocated north of the road which is now highway #306.

In 1962 a formal agreement was signed transferring responsibility of ditch maintenance from the R.M. of Lajord to the Souris C & D.

In 1966 Riceton East lateral was approved and constructed by local farmers. This ditch was built through sections 22-23 and 27-13-17-W2, to drain water east of Riceton.

In 1970 the Rene Bechard lateral was built through the W ½-6-12-16 and Sec. 1-13-17-W2 to drain water south and west of Bechard.

In 1976 the Souris Basin Study was begun by the Provincial and Federal Governments and construction of any drainage works in the area came to a standstill. Normal maintenance of the ditch was allowed however, and the maintenance I remember best was Rene Bechard's spring snow shovelling crew. While for many years local farmers had shovelled snow every spring to open the ditch earlier, it was Rene Bechard who attacked it as if his life depended on it. Near disaster struck on many occasions but only once did a local resident show such enthusiasm that he checked the depth of the water — fortunately he bobbed up like a cork and was rescued.

While the flow of water into the Bechard/Riceton area has increased greatly over the last few years, the outflow to the Souris River has not kept pace. Over the past sixty-seven years much time, money and effort have gone into draining this prime farmland. While this effort has produced many positive results, there have also been many failures. The heavy rains of the summer of 1983 seem to indicate that the local flooding problems in this area can no longer hope to be solved by local initiatives, but only by Government intervention on the overall water problems in the Souris Basin.

I must give credit to some people without whose help this account of Bechard's Drainage could not have been completed. Alex Schamber, Conservation and Development Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Bob Parker, District Engineer, Department of Agriculture working with Souris Conservation and Development Area, Rene Bechard and LeMoyne Baker both long-time residents and board members of the Souris C & D Area.

# 4-H, Homemakers and Community Spirit

## Focus on 4-H

by Anne (Onerheim) Clay

I pledge —

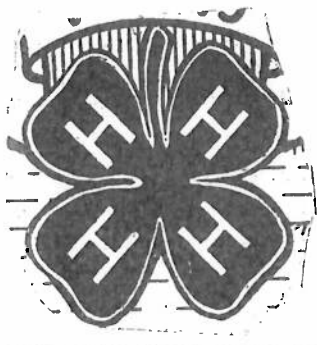
My HEAD to clearer Thinking

My HEART to greater Loyalty

My HANDS to Larger Service and

My HEALTH to Better Living for

My Club, my Community and my Country



Great Plains 4-H emblem.

In 1955 there were many boys ten years and older in the Gray-Riceton communities. Wilber Moats of Riceton decided to form a 4-H Club for the benefit of these lads — thus the Riceton 4-H Grain Club became a reality.

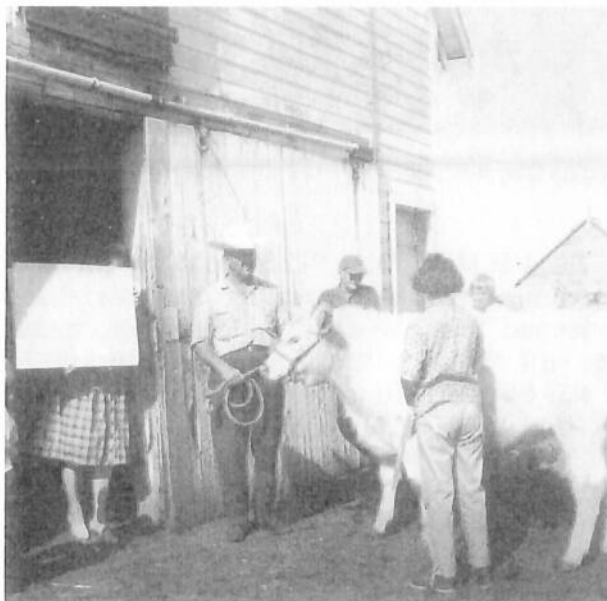
When the boys weren't busy with grain plots, Wilber had the boys involved in other activities. They all made signs for their grain plots and learned how to make a sheaf of grain for display and competition. Probably the most important project was the "Public Speaking" competition. Each member prepared a speech on the topic of his choice and presented it to a public audience, where it was judged.

In 1962 Wilber was approached by personnel from the Saskatchewan Extension, Dept. of Agriculture, University of Sask., to establish a "Multiple 4-H Club" on a trial basis. This multiple club had many projects. (About seventy different projects were available).

We started with these projects. There were two Homecraft projects led by Anne Clay and Thelma Kushnir. Leroy Moats led the beef projects; Bruce



4-H display.



A demonstration in the Beef Club. Leroy Moats, beef leader, holding the animal with Sheila Moats giving the demonstration.

Jones and Mike Kushnir had the woodwork projects; Leo Hill led the tractor project and Raymond Mohr had the grain club.

It was renamed the "Great Plains 4-H Club" with Wilber Moats as General Leader. It expanded to include Estlin, Gray, Riceton, Bechard and Lewvan districts with many new projects and project leaders. Our club was very active, mostly because of good and willing leaders (all volunteer work) willing members and co-operative and helpful parents.

The Club had its executive, elected from the membership and included president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and such additional officers as were deemed necessary. We held our meetings in club member's homes at first but with increased enrollment, the Lutheran Church basement at Riceton became the Homecraft headquarters and the Riceton hall for woodwork. Smaller project meetings continued to be held in homes.



Douglas Clay 4-H sign.

The 4-H MOTTO — "Learn to do by Doing", was accomplished by sponsoring many social activities and "money-raising" projects. These varied from year to year. Following are a few of them:

4-H banquets, family curling bonspiels with a supper, public speaking competitions, bazaars and teas, and car washes. Some years we held a "Clean-up Day", when club members volunteered their help and their father's trucks and backs to clean up yards, etc. for the townspeople and elderly. It was probably the best activity we ever had for both money making and public relations.

Another project sponsored by 4-H Clubs across Canada was the introduction, promotion and sale of



Crop Science I — 4H group. L. to R.: Claude Coupal, Douglas Clay, Reggie Coupal leader.



4-H Beef Showmanship.

the "Slow-Moving Vehicle" signs for safety — now displayed on all farm machinery sold today.

Agricultural District 7 (which was our district) sponsored a 4-H exchange of 4-H members from Iowa and Nebraska. Many of our members had the opportunity to visit in a 4-H member's home in these two states. Alternately we had return visits from their 4-H members, who became family members for a week with our selected families.

Our Beef members competed with other 4-H Beef members at Francis, at the Weyburn Fair and also at Regina Fair. Our 4-H girls had the opportunity to enter the 4-H Queen contest at Weyburn Fair. A few years we entered a float at the Weyburn Fair parade.

This also was the time Camp Raynor was started.



Great Plains 4-H Tractor Club. Bob Moats, Reg Larson, Neal Moyse, Mike Kushnir, leader, then Gary Johnston and Amcie Kushnir.

Our club contributed money to its construction and a few of the later members had the opportunity to attend camp there.

Those older and proficient members, who so wished became Junior Leaders and helped project leaders. It was good training.

Achievement Day was the highlight of the year's work. Each member displayed his completed project, his project book, his project sign and completed a questionnaire for the judges to evaluate. A program was held in the afternoon for family and community.

It usually consisted of a demonstration and one entertainment number from each project, the winning club oratory for the year, a Fashion show with



Great Plains 4-H Grain group. Front Row: , Bill Crawford, Bob Moats, Brant Mohr, Duane Bohlken, Amcie Kushnir and Keith Bohlken. Back Row: Ray Mohr, , Rodney Johnston, Wilber Moats, Gary Johnston.

Homecraft girls modelling their sewn garments, pins and award ceremony and of course lunch.

Our club continued for almost twenty years. Wilber Moats was general club leader for sixteen years. Harold Larson continued with the Horse Club and Leroy Moats led the beef club.

Because of declining population of members of the 4-H age (ten to twenty-one years); other interests and lack of leaders, our club folded in the early seventies. The clincher was the change in the school system. When Gray High school went to Regina, the complete Estlin school went to Regina, Lewvan school went to Milestone, there came the situation where there was no such thing as a "free" night without conflicting with some school activity.

Out thanks go to all leaders and parents who gave of themselves so generously for a community effort.



Great Plains Adult Committee. Irene Moyse, Mary Bohlken, Iola Bohlken and Mary Baker.



Great Plains 4-H Homecraft girls — Catherine Moats, Roberta Beaumont, Lynda Kushnir and Diane Clay.

We hope our 4-H graduates have pleasant and enriching memories and have benefitted from their 4-H skills and knowledge and developed a responsible attitude towards service to others and their community.

### **Bechard Homemaker's Club**

**by Mrs. J. Paton and Mrs. J. MacDonald**

In the year 1930 all the ladies of the district were invited to attend a meeting in Badger Hill School. Mrs. Bert Lewis of Gray was invited to this meeting to organize a Homemaker's Club. Mrs. Mary Copeman, teacher of Badger Hill School was elected chairman for the meeting and Mrs. Allan, acting secretary. Mrs. Copeman was elected first president of Bechard Homemaker's Club and Mrs. Stewart as secretary.



Bechard Homemaker's Club. Front: Lois Richardson, Madeline Wight, Marian MacDonald, Joyce Purves. Back: Joyce Richardson, Margaret Larson, Thelma Purves, Isabel Brown, Jacqueline Paton, Dorothy MacDonald.

The topics of study for the Homemaker's Club were supplied by the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon namely Legislation, Health, Arts and Literature, Agriculture, Education, Home Economics, International Relations, and we added Current Events.

This was an educational and worthwhile program for any group of ladies. There were no barriers of race, creed or religion. The officers were President, first and second vice-president, secretary, treasurer and convenors of the various topics.

A program committee of three or four ladies were selected at each annual meeting to prepare the program for each month of the year in book form stating hostess, topic, roll call and lunch committee. Sometime, if you felt you couldn't be a host you could supply the lunch for another host in this way everyone was involved. Each member received a book.

A few programs I'd like to mention. Home Economics held at Helen Paton's when Edith Rowles of the University in Saskatoon gave a demonstration on how to alter a pattern to make it fit. A few tips and guide lines suitable to various figures. We had all types of figures.

A Baby Clinic was held at Lela Bruce's home. A doctor from Regina lectured on diabetes at Mrs. J. Doron's home. Club activities for making money during the thirties were dances, box socials, concerts, raffles of quilts made.

The club bought a piano and presented it to the Badger Hill School for their use. Oratorical contests were held for surrounding schools and prizes given to winners.

The sick and needy families of the district were given suitable gifts. One lady received a cash gift to allow her to have a much needed goiter operation. All the Homemaker babies, who were presented with a silver mug with name engraved, were Duncan Stewart, Mack Paton, Vivian Bruce, Jean Brown and Ronald MacDonald.

Picnics were held in the Blish grove during the summers. Brides-to-be were given showers.

The Homecraft Club for teen-age girls were sponsored by the Homemaker's Club under the leadership of Mrs. Allan and Mrs. Richardson. The girls were Margaret Allan, Isabel Brown, Maida Stewart, Joyce and Lois Richardson, Thelma and Joyce Purves, Jacqueline and Cora Paton, Dorothy and Marion MacDonald, Margaret Larson.

Delegates were always sent to the convention for Homemaker's held at the University in Saskatoon.

The tenth anniversary of the founding of Bechard Homemakers was celebrated with a social evening held at the J. A. MacDonald home. Miss Anna Bufum made and donated the birthday cake. This was a fun night.

Many boxes of food and articles of clothing were sent to the local boys who were in the services overseas. All who returned were honored by the club. Boxes of dainties and crates of eggs were donated to the Children's Shelter in Regina. Dainties were sent to the C.N.I.B. at Christmas time.

The Red Cross provided the Club with wool so everyone learned to knit. Mrs. Mary MacDonald was a fast knitter and numerous pairs of socks were sent to service men from the Red Cross.

Many of our club members moved to other parts and the Homecraft girls who might have been members all moved to Regina and found employment. Thus the end of Bechard Homemaker's Club which is now called Womens' Institute.



## Riceton woman honored

Mrs. Catherine Graff of Riceton will be honored as one of the Pioneers-of-the-year at the annual Pion-Era show to be held June 28 to July 3 at Saskatoon.

Mrs. Graff is being sponsored by the Riceton Co-operative Association Limited.

After graduating as a registered nurse from St. Joseph's Hospital in London, Ont., she was married and went to the Riceton area in 1914. Mrs. Graff has played a prominent role in community affairs and has donated her nursing services on many occasions. She has been in attendance at numerous births, some without a doctor, and has also assisted in accident cases.

Mrs. Graff was secretary-treasurer of the United Church at Riceton for 22 years and had the annual sewing bee in her home for 23 years. She is still a member of the United Church board.

### SPECIAL AWARD

Mrs. Graff will be one of more than 25 Saskatchewan pioneers honored at this year's Pion-Era. A special pioneer-of-the-year award will be made to one of the contestants selected by a panel.

An important part of Saskatchewan's Diamond Jubilee anniversary calendar of events, this year's Pion-Era is geared to be one of the liveliest and most interesting shows on record. The old west is recreated during the colorful presentation with such features as Indian dancing, chuck wagon races and pioneer equipment parades. And for visitors who like their entertainment with a night-club flare, the world-famous Ink Spots singing group has been engaged to appear daily.

Riceton woman honored.



## Community Spirit

by Wilber Moats

I often hear comments that community spirit is gone or isn't what it used to be. I would like to describe how community spirit affected our family when misfortune struck.

It was September 6, 1976, Labour Day Monday, right at noon. The temperature was one hundred degrees fahrenheit. That was the day we expected to finish threshing, and the first big truckload of durum had been unloaded into a bin. I was the extra man and we needed a bin bottom emptied to take the durum from the last field. I was returning with gas for the small auger when I saw smoke. By the time I ran around to it, the fire believed to be caused by a spark from the tractor, was racing across fox tail.

Conditions could hardly have been worse. The year 1976 was the third year in a wet cycle that caused a good deal of the brome grass around the bins to drown and be replaced by foxtail. There had been six or seven weeks of bone dry, hot weather. The wind being in the wrong direction, drove the fire in among the granaries and toward the yard. Not far away was a big baled hay stack, which was soon ablaze. Burning next to it was the loose housing shed, the milking parlour and milk house, of my dairy establishment.

I tried to contain the fire but couldn't so ran to the house to sound the alarm. Riceton Volunteer Fire Department had just had a workout three days before, when the C.N.R. station burned. The alarm caught most people coming in for dinner. The fire department was here and had water pumping in unbelievably quick time, but the fire was spreading too fast. It had jumped three hundred feet to another bale stack about eighty feet south of the old barn. All Riceton's pump could put out, couldn't hold down the heat from that stack. Paint was running down the old barn when Milestone Fire Department arrived and started pumping. A call put out by Lorraine Moyse over the two-way radio in her truck was picked up by Rupert McCreedy, Milestone Fire Chief, twelve miles south of Milestone, almost thirty miles away. We saved that old barn by a narrow squeak, but lost nine grain bins, the complete dairy set, and a calf house with four calves. The safety valve blew on a propane tank near the milk house. Propane burned with a weird, whistling, shrieking sound that was heard by Art Downes in Bechard, five miles away. The flame didn't start until more than double the height of that old thirty-eight foot high barn.

At the height of the fire spread, we knocked down about eighty feet of eight-foot slatted fence, with the D6 cat, trying to save the old barn. We thought the fire was right there the way the smoke poured through, but it proved to be in a pile of creosoted

posts fifty feet away. Neal Moyse kept a fog spray on my son Donnie, who was driving the cat which boiled because of the intense heat.

Bill Forsberg from Milestone, came with his ambulance and treated some people for smoke inhalation. Luckily, no one was seriously hurt.

Community spirit became very much alive. Most of the local people were here without dinner, but soon the lunches started rolling in and the men were literally fed on the job. Celia Purves comforted and consoled Emmy while the spreading fire was at its worst. They did the ironing, because that day had started out as wash day too.

That was by no means all. When the fire was somewhat controlled, we realized there was a dairy herd bawling out in the pasture. There was no facility or feed left to take care of them. Our son David, was working for Elvin Haupstein, who lived ten miles east of Weyburn. He had a large dairy and would take care of the cows. Kent Coldwell and Jimmy Sargeant were drivers for Arnold Bros. Transport. They got a truck tractor from Arnold Bros. and a cattle trailer from Glenn Farr of Lewvan. The milking cows were on their way out of the yard before six o'clock never to return. The bureaucrats in the dairy division of Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture offered Haupstein extra milk quota before he had time to ask for it. Before that truck tractor got back to Regina that night, it had made over two hundred miles. It must have cost those boys plenty but they wouldn't take anything from me. Because of that I could sell my cows for full value.

Leonard Kerr of Kerr Construction, Regina, came down after dark with a Cat and front end loader to work over those smoldering hay piles. The two fire departments continued to pour on water. Finally, around midnight, the fire was out. Milestone had pumped for about ten hours, Riceton about twelve. During this, George Spry kept that pumper going, often there all by himself, away from the "heat" of the action. LeMoyne Baker stayed all night, in case the fire should break out again.

The next day, Emmy's sister Margaret and her husband Allan Nyholt, came to help. So did Uncle Paul Helstrom and Willis Clay. Damp grain was dried by Willis Clay, Bernard and Jacques Poissant, Dennis and Bud Lynch. Mixed with good oats, I used it for feed, so that grain wasn't wasted.

I had rented three or four cows from Hugh

McGillivray. Some of that rent was due, but Hugh wouldn't accept it.

We still had durum to thresh. With the help of Wilf and Neal Moyse, Leo and Richard Deters, our harvest was completed. Moyses, Poissants and Deters gave us storage for that five thousand bushels of durum. The next spring, Ron Lewis, out of turn, cleaned that wheat, burnt kernels and all.

Willis Clay gave us five hundred plus, bales of hay, delivering the first rack load himself.

Many people phoned or came to visit, just to say they were sorry.

Our veterinarian couple, son Bob and his wife Marion, came home from British Columbia. Our daughter Judy came from Battleford to lift our spirits and help in whatever way they could. I wouldn't recommend a fire as a way of accomplishing a reunion.

Community Spirit continued when one evening about the first of December, Leo Hill called on us. What a tremendous surprise and shock we had when he presented us with a cheque for over \$3,500. It came from seventy friends in the communities of Bechar, Riceton, Gray, Esltin and Sedley. We felt that many of the people whose names were on that list needed the money worse than we did.

In spite of our loss, we had many things to be thankful for. No lives were lost and our home was never threatened. However, that day, the dream home we had planned to build in 1977 went up in smoke too.

That winter we tore down Hugh McGillivray's machine shed and the Cargill annex in Gray, for lumber. During those many days, out there pulling nails and bundling lumber, mostly alone, there was no way I could feel sorry for myself.

Together with the donation of money, the insurance and the salvaged lumber, we were able to rebuild. Our new buildings are much better and bigger to meet the needs of 1977 and beyond. In 1979, we built our home, and because of the delay, no doubt a better one.

This all adds up to the fact that we never knew we had so many good friends. The psychological uplift of all that good will, help and money can't be measured in words. It's still with me.

That is what Community spirit meant to me and my family from 1976 right till today.

# Way Back When

## Early Days

by T. Kushnir

They came from far and wide  
To the prairie to reside,  
Little to know of the trouble and woe  
In the winters with ice and snow.  
The covered wagons rolled along  
Surely nothing could go wrong.  
With babes in arms and others too  
Travelling was rough all the way through.  
Some men came their fortunes to find  
While their wives they left behind.  
The first thing to do was build a shack  
To protect belongings for their back.  
A homestead quarter was what they had,  
Of this some were mighty glad.  
To find good water was a real big chore  
And then the trek for food at a store.  
To Milestone they went — their needs to buy,  
Kronau to the north had more supply.  
Then soon a man named Mr. Rice  
Came up with some real good advice.  
He donated land for a town to start  
Which in settlers' lives would play a part.  
Stores were built and lumber yards too  
A restaurant and pool hall meant something to do.  
To the name of Rice they added a ton  
And that's how Riceton was begun.  
It wasn't long 'til the rails were laid  
Supplies came closer I'm sure they said.  
A school was built to the south of town  
Where children would come for miles around.  
To learn the three R's they really took pride  
As in the community they would reside.  
The winters were hard with snow so deep  
In each home there enough supplies to keep.  
Summertime meant mosquitoes and flies  
To some these creatures would be a surprise.  
Prairie fires were a terrible fright  
Destroying all that was in sight.  
Little we knew of the trouble and strife  
The settlers had all through life.

To struggle through those real hard days  
The settler needs so very much praise.  
A thank you to each and everyone  
For a job so very well done.

## Firewood and Water

by Hartford Lewis

This whole area was opened for settlement under the Dominion Homesteads Act in the early 1880's. With the exception of the lands deeded to the C.P.R. under a railroad compensation agreement, some school and Hudson Bay land as well as some half-breed or Metis script land, the balance of the lands were available for homesteads. While settlement proceeded slowly but steadily in the area from what is now North Battleford through Saskatoon, Yorkton and on into the area from Indian Head and Carlyle to the eastern boundary of Saskatchewan and on into Manitoba; very little settlement took place on the Regina plains. Many of the first settlers in this area only stayed a short time and the list of abandoned and cancelled homesteads is quite long. The reason behind all this poor development was the dire shortage of water and no firewood within miles. While it is true that buffalo manure, generally referred to as buffalo chips when it dried, could be used in place of firewood it was a tedious job to gather it and there were some characteristic odours when using it in a stove inside a building. The water supply is the main reason why the earliest settlement in this general area centered around Buck Lake. Each year in the late fall and winter the Buck Lake settlers travelled north to the area of bluffs near Balgonie to cut wood and haul it to the plains area by sleighs after the first snowfall. Hauling in the wood supply was a much greater job than hauling their small crops to market, especially before the building of the Soo Line Railroad in 1893. After that, coal could be shipped into the area for cooking and heating.

The early settlers usually arrived at their homesteads in the early spring when there was water in the sloughs. Every homestead had its water barrel on a

stoneboat in front of the shack. The wet years provided slough water for most of the season even though it did become more brackish in taste and foul in odour as the summer progressed. Water bugs, tadpoles and flies did nothing to improve the sight of the water in the drinking dipper either. However it was still wet and better than nothing. The bugs were strained out by pouring the water through a cloth or some even set up a keg with about a foot of sand in the bottom through which the water could be filtered. By boring a small hole near the bottom, in the side of the keg and whittling a peg to fit the hole, water could be drained out when required. The water still carried the tastes and odours of the slough.

In some areas good water could be obtained by hand digging a well down some 10 or 20 feet deep to an underground water table but that didn't work in this area as there were no pockets of relatively shallow underground water. However, digging a seepage well on the edge of a good slough did work until the seepage water gradually dried up. One of those seepage wells still exists and as far as I know is still useable on the SE corner of Sec. 35-13-19-W2, on land that now belongs to the Kalina brothers. In dry years some of the farmers dug small wells in the centre of dry sloughs and were able to get a limited supply of water in them. Away back many years ago, just such a well was dug in the centre of Buck Lake after the seepage wells around its perimeter dried up and it did extend the water supply for a period of time.

Local settlers in this area had access to a test auger to use in sinking a two-inch test well in search of underground water. It had been brought to the area by the Bratt and Carrothers families when they came here from Ontario in 1889. I believe a grandson, Ken Bratt may still have the test auger. It consisted of a hand-turned cross arm similar to the type used on hand post-hole augers but the first section was less than two feet long. A hook and eye arrangement coupled additional sections so that by adding sections greater depths could be reached. The joint could only be coupled or uncoupled when the two sections were at right angles so it would not uncouple when being used for boring. The drill bit on the bottom section was very similar to a two-inch wood bit. With lots of time and much patience a test hole could be drilled to quite a depth.

In 1910 John Pope came from the states to settle on three quarters of sec. 20-13-18-W2, which he had purchased through a real estate office in his home area. He was blissfully unaware that wells would not produce in this area so he immediately bored a thirty inch diameter well on the north east corner of his property and struck water at 85 feet. Subsequently,

others in that area dug wells, some successful and others the old dry hole experience. Herb and Henry Baker were kept busy with their one-horse powered sweep auger boring new wells. However, the water vein proved to be less than a mile wide and about four miles long, starting at Pope's corner where three successful wells were dug on the three cornering farms and extending west on a slight northerly angle to the last well on the south east quarter of sec. 34-13-19-W2, where the water level was at 138 feet deep. The water was very salty and had a lot of iron in it so that it was only good for stock watering, although some people used it for drinking water. Later small pockets of water were found north and north-east of Riceton. Both of these pockets were of better quality water than the first mentioned group of wells.

Another common method of getting water in the winter time was through melting snow. A water barrel in the corner of the kitchen would melt some snow to water each day but required frequent refills of snow. The hot water reservoir on the kitchen range was also used the same way when needed or a wash boiler or tub would be filled with snow and set on the top of the range. For livestock watering, a snow melter was built out of a steel trough from six to eight feet long and two to three feet wide and it would be set over a homemade firebox made of brick or clay with a feed door at one end and a smoke stack at the other. Flax straw was the best firing fuel but wheat straw was also effective. The trough was usually fitted with a hinged wooden cover to keep the water from freezing and could be opened for stock watering. Snow was shovelled into the top tank and melted by the fire underneath. It was a slow method of producing water, especially if more than a few head were being watered. Horses that were let out to run at large for the winter fed on the straw stacks and ate snow for their water needs.

The idea of using a cistern to store water for later use was developed quite early. I can remember small cisterns being used on the farms when I was a very small boy. Most of the early cisterns were a square hole dug by hand from six to ten feet on each side and eight to twelve feet deep. They were usually lined with vertical plain lumber nailed to the outside of 2 x 6 frames or forms that were placed at two to three foot intervals for the depth of the cistern. The bottom of the cistern was usually just a plain earth floor and the top was covered with a framed lumber flat top having a manhole with a cover. While cistern pumps may have been available, they were not in general use. Bailing water from the cistern as needed with a bucket and a rope attached to the handle was common practice. In fact I now remember that John Pope used a bailing system to raise the water from his first well.

He made a small barrel with a large weighted valve in its bottom, to which a long rope running up over a pulley block above the top of the well was attached to a singletree. The barrel was dropped down the well, would fill through the valve in the bottom and then a horse hitched to the singletree would pull it to the top where it was emptied into a trough for watering the stock. He even had a vertical post fastened in the trough that would punch open the bottom valve of the barrel and release the water. The horse became so used to this job that he would walk back and forth unattended. Water tanks on wagons were known and used quite early as a necessary part of the steam engine water supply so they were adapted for use in hauling water to fill cisterns and general water transport needs.

Soft water for washing and household use was obtained by making a V trough from two pieces of 1 × 6 lumber to be used as an eavestrough to channel the water from the house and in some cases the stable roof as well into a rain barrel or a tank. Hollering down into a partially filled or empty rain barrel was an interesting pastime for the homesteader's kids. Water was always a scarce commodity and was often made to serve two or more purposes before being thrown out. For example the dishwater was saved to scrub out the slop pail and used bathwater was still good for washing the kitchen floor.

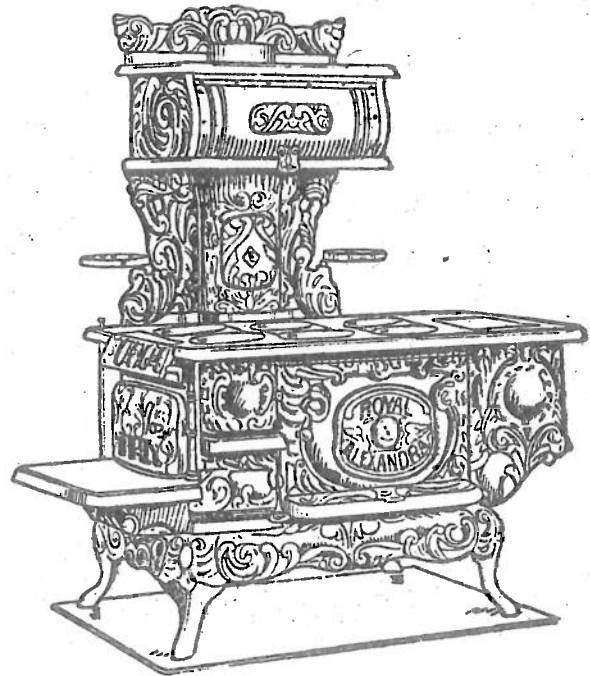
Most of the slough water and in some years the water in Buck Lake which has always been just an overgrown slough, was alkaline and of course the well waters were all too high in soluble salts to be satisfactory for use in steam boilers. For that reason and the fact that our local water supply would foam in the boiler, hastened the replacement of the steam engines with the large gas burning engines that only needed water for cooling.

Some time around the turn of the century it was discovered that a good water supply could be obtained by digging dugouts or water ponds as they were called at that time. Most of the early ones were relatively small as farmers did not have the power or the scraper equipment to dig larger dugouts. It would take a long time to make much of a showing with a slip scraper and a team of horses, or yoke of oxen. The introduction of the four horse wheel scraper about 1908 helped greatly to build larger dugouts and of course as we know today a greater depth was more important than a larger surface area to conserve the maximum amount of water and minimize evaporation losses. The gradual development of larger earth moving machinery and more power have made larger dugouts possible until today they are our main source of a dependable water supply.

## Heating and Energy

by Bill Bladon

The year 1885, the place the western prairies, lonesome and vast grasslands near dusk. The night birds could be heard as two weary travellers crouched over their small fire of twigs, leaves and dried buffalo chips providing fire for safety and heat for their evening meal. Centuries past fire was the only source of energy available to provide heat. This was attained in the beginning mainly with wood and with the discovery of coal, a whole new era began in man's quest to provide a better and safer way of heat and energy.



Cook stove in 1901 — price \$42.75.

Making fire was among man's earliest achievements and doubtless, wood formed the earliest fuels, first in caves as remains of Stone Age hearths show and later in mud and turf enclosures.

The discovery that charcoal could be made from wood to produce a fuel without smoke seems a step toward progress where only moderate warmth was needed in countries with moderate climates. Another evolution was the flue or chimney, first as a simple hole in the centre of a hut roof and later rising from a fireplace invented in Europe in the thirteenth century. Smoke and fumes no longer pervaded the living space.

Stoves, far less wasteful of heat than fireplaces, appear to have been first used by the Chinese about 600 B.C. They can be traced through Russia, into Germany and in the European countries generally



where they are still used today often as a focus of family life. The stove crossed the Atlantic to the United States where Benjamin Franklin, in 1774, invented an improved design, the forerunner of the potbellied stove.

The first scientific improvement of the fireplace was by an Englishman toward the end of the eighteenth century. His aim was to improve the efficiency of the open fire by the use of bricks of fire clay and by a canopy, both designed to increase the amount of radiant heat. Because his ideas were not accepted however, a gross fuel waste has continued up to the present day.

Heating by fire outside the space to be heated, now described as central heating, appears to have been invented by the early Greeks in 350 B.C. The floor in the Great Temple in Ephesus is believed to have been heated by flues laid in the floors using lignite fuel.

The advent of steam in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries offered a new way of heating. It was first used in factories and mills and then in assembly halls, homes and greenhouses. The use of hot water heating began to be recognized about 1830. The advantage of hot water over steam was a lower surface temperature and milder general effect. Different systems and improved methods make hot water systems popular even to the present day.

The Romans became the supreme heating engineers of the ancient world with their hypocaust system. The floors were set on pedestals where heat was guided raising in terra cotta tubes embedded in the walls. Such systems can be found to this day in Europe. Such developments and refinements of life came to an end with the fall of the Roman Empire. The Dark Ages saw a return to a less civilized form of life and crude methods of heating. Heavy fur lined cloaks were worn to keep warm. It has taken fifteen hundred years for the comfort of the Roman system of floor heating to be rediscovered by modern civilization.

This has been a short resume of the history of heating. One could go a great deal more into the scientific properties of heating and energy but it is not necessary in a short article of this nature.

On a more personal note — we came to Saskatchewan in the early 1900's. Heating and cookstoves seemed to have reached their peak in efficiency but were refined in the next twenty years until new sources of power made new designs of furnaces and stoves available getting away from the work and drudgery of handling coal, wood and ashes and providing a greater degree of comfort and safety in the home.

One will never forget the huge base burner heat-

ing the living rooms with the fire shining through its mica windows or the good smell of cooking from the kitchen's cast iron cook stove with its large oven, reservoir and warming oven. After a long, cold day outside, this room made life worth living again.

As the years passed, new sources of fuel and the designing of new stoves, furnaces, etc. to use this fuel, namely oil, natural gas, propane gas and electricity ushered in an era of comfort and ease of handling unknown to man before. Through use of and a better knowledge of insulation and ventilation, we are enjoying the best in comfort and with less use of our valuable resources.

## **Fuels and Types of Stoves Used in Early Days**

**by Willard Dunbar**

I have been asked to tell what I can remember about types of fuel and heating equipment that was used by the early settlers in the Gray and Estlin districts. In 1906 the main fuel was coal as there were no trees in this area. People would have to go 35 to 40 miles for wood, so coal became the leading fuel.

There were several kinds of coal. Galt coal, a quality coal, was harder to get. A slightly poorer grade was used the most, because it was cheaper. Briquette coal was made out of dusty coal mixed with oil and pressed together into small biscuit shapes. It was a very good coal and could be used in any type of stove.

People bought some wood at the coal yard to use to start their coal fires, also kerosene or paper was used to aid in starting the fires. Flax straw was burned in cook stoves, and stoves which were made out of oil drums. It was usually only burned in emergencies.

The Cook Stove, or Range, was a stove with four lids and an oven. They had a fairly large fire box, so both coal and wood could be used. A large reservoir was added to the range along with a few other improvements. They were used for many years, and were the only means of heat in the one-roomed shacks. The heat was uneven and had to be fired many times, both day and night.

People who had more room put in heater stoves. These were capable of handling more coal at a time and could be controlled better by the use of dampers and drafts. A hopper was added to the top of the heater so more coal could be used, and the coal was gravity fed. This type of heat was a little more comfortable.

The little two-hole ranch stove had a type of hopper and used hard coal and was also gravity fed. Another type of ranch stove had a small oven in the pipe. These ranch type stoves were used in a lot of different ways.



Public places and larger buildings such as schools, etc., used larger heaters which handled more coal, thus giving more heat. If kerosene stoves were used at that time I never saw one. As time went by, new things and improvements to the old, have brought us up to what we now have.

I think this short sketch will help people see how the heating problem was handled for the first few years.

### **How Things Were Done** **Excerpts from Letters to his Mother** **by Gordon Wolseley Stewart**

When I arrived in Indian Head in 1902 I went to work for Mr. Francis who introduced me to the foreman, Mr. Tom Needham. When Mr. Francis told Mr. Needham I was his new man, he looked at me and shook his head, but he was very kind, and put me to stooking sheaves. I don't know if you know what stooking is, but it is standing the sheaves made by the binder when it cuts the grain, which are kicked out of the binder as the sheaf is made. The process is hard to explain to you, but simple when you know what it is all about. Those sheaves were mighty heavy, and it was not long before I was kind of tired.

After the stooking is finished, the sheaves are threshed. First we fix up granaries, little buildings about 12 × 16 feet, and 8 feet high. Each holds about twelve hundred bushels of threshed grain. These buildings are built on skids, and are hauled to different places in the field and the threshing machine is pulled up beside them and the grain runs from the machine to the granaries. When a granary is full the machine is pulled to another granary and so on until the threshing of the field is completed. This is called stook threshing.

When I worked on the farm my job was mostly harrowing, and if you don't know what that is, well it is a frame with spikes through it, dragged over the ground that is freshly plowed, to break the lumps and smooth the ground. It means walking behind the harrows all day, and is very tiring. There are such things as harrow carts but we have none. Anyway, for a fellow to ride a cart is supposed to be terrible, though the new plows are equipped with seats for the operator to ride on. My idea is that it is easier or as easy on the horses for the man to ride, as it is for the teamster to walk and stumble over the rough ground and jerk the horses' mouth every stumble. One of the first things I'll do when I get my own farm will be to make a harrow cart, even at the ridicule of the neighbours. When one gets them, it won't be long till they are standard equipment. I wore out a pair of shoes lately in four days. There was a sale of men's shoes and I was in town and saw them. They were light, the

kind I like, so I bought a pair, put them on on Tuesday and threw them away on Friday. That shows how hard my job is on shoes.

Mr. Francis is trying a new scheme this year in handling the grain as it is threshed. Instead of running it into granaries, the wheat will be run into wagon boxes, and as a box is filled it will be taken directly to the elevators. It will take several teams to keep the machine running all the time without waiting for the hauling outfit to return from the elevators to the machine. My job will be driving one of the teams.

We got several boxes made that will hold seventy-five or eighty bushels at a load. Then a new box came in that is somewhat different and is supposed to hold a few over one hundred bushels, and Mr. Francis bought it. I hauled the first load with it, and the foreman and I put a little more on than was wise, but it turned out all right. I got my name in the Indian Head "Vidette". The article read "A rather large load of wheat was hauled into the Ogilvey elevator this week, when a team from the Francis farm, driven by G. Stewart, hauled one hundred and eleven bushels, said to be the biggest load of wheat up to this time ever hauled to an elevator in Indian Head." It was not long before boxes like that one were common in the district.

We hauled wheat to the Head, and the grain was shovelled into a granary from the sleigh boxes. When a grain car came in, I was taken to town to shovel the grain into the grain boxes again, while the boss and his brother hauled it to the elevator. After several loads, I was getting a bit tired, and they did get a man to come and help. I estimated that I shovelled almost a thousand bushels of wheat that afternoon. Of course this kind of thing did not happen every day, but it was one of the outstanding things I remember, for I was only a few weeks past my eighteenth birthday.

In the spring of 1904 I left Indian Head to go to my own homestead. On the way I spent the night with a family that lived near the trail. In the kitchen of their house was what they called a stove, which was made out of mud and clay. One of the women seemed to be in charge of that department. To get the stove hot enough, she stuffed an opening with hay and set fire to it. When that burned out she did it over again, and kept at it until the top was hot. Then she put the things she wanted to cook or heat up, on the top, and it was not long before the kettle was hot enough; at least she took it off the plate, and the tea she made was very good and hot. I was told by a young man that they cooked the bread in the compartment where they put the hay to burn.

When I arrived at my homestead a friend and I

started building on my shack. The roof of the shack was what was called a car roof, there being a 2 × 6 piece of lumber a foot longer than the building, and set on the end plates. One-half inch, or re-sawn lumber twelve inches wide was laid across that beam, and nailed at both ends, and was in the shape of the roof on a freight car. Tar paper was laid on the lumber, and another layer of lumber or boards on the tar paper, which made a fair weatherproof top.

We had very little room for storage, so one of the first jobs was to dig a cellar under the house. A few miles from us there were a number of American settlers, and one of the first things they did was dig a storm cellar. So I did that too. It was a hole in the ground about seven feet deep, and about seven feet square. We never did need it for a storm cellar, but it did come in very handy as a place to keep dairy products such as milk and butter, for we soon bought a cow that gave us a little of each. We could also use it to keep any extra meat supply for a day or two.

Getting water for the house and the stock was a very big problem in the early days. I had dug several wells, that were supposed to be wells, but which turned out to be just dry holes. Men would come around with what they called a divining rod, which was usually the branch of a tree, shaped like the letter Y. To find water, the man would grasp the two ends of the rod, walk over the land until the rod turned towards the ground, and there was supposed to be a stream of water under the surface. While I understand that it works in some places, it did not seem to work on our prairies. After paying the diviner his fee, usually five dollars, sometimes ten, we would go to work and dig until we struck what was called soap stone. That was a hard light colored clay, and water was never found in that formation. It was not long until I found I could get the rod to work for me, and I did "find" several streams, but while I dug as far as fifty-three feet I had no better luck getting water than did the so-called professionals. That was soon thrown out as no indication of finding water.

A few men who had some money to play with, got machines in that dug as far as five hundred feet, but they too found no indication of water.

About four miles from our buildings, there was a spring that showed promise of giving a water supply. It was developed, and supplied the district with good water for years. We had tanks to put on a wagon, that were used only for hauling water. We dug cisterns on the farm which we lined with cement and filled them for a supply for both the barn and house. But, with a number of horses and a couple of cows, it kept the tank wagons on the road too much of the time.

As long as the district was hauling water from the spring, the water was fresh and the supply was good;

but later when tractors came in, and less water was taken from the spring, the water became so impregnated with alkali that it was not fit for human consumption. This brought about the digging of dugouts. That was a hole in the ground, one of mine was one hundred and seventy-five feet long, seventy-five feet wide and twelve feet deep, and after becoming full from the spring run-off, would provide a very satisfactory supply for the stock. This water was not very good for the house, and we tried filtering and running it through sand into a cistern, but it never was nice for drinking or household consumption. Then we made two cisterns, one for the kitchen use, and one for drinking. During the last two years we were on the farm, the water for drinking was hauled from a well some twenty-five miles away. We had a five hundred gallon tank in a truck which we used to haul the water for the cistern near the house, and one tank would last nearly all summer.

## **Fire On Eagleson's Farm**

**by Ethel Jones**

That winter (1909) a terrible tragedy happened while the Eagleson's sister Mrs. Ingle and her husband and five children lived in the Eagleson's home. The folks around had all taken to using flax burners for cheap heat. This was made of a steel barrel. It had three slots in front. A fence pole was put along the openings or dampers as they were called. Flax straw was packed into this barrel and a lid was set on the barrel outside. It was brought into the house and lit and another extra barrel was taken outside and filled ready for the next shift. Each one lasted about twelve hours.

One day Mr. Ingle drove to Milestone for food and fuel. A storm came up while he was there and so he did not start home. It was the custom to stay where you were until the storm was over.

Mrs. Ingle and the son Homer brought in a new barrel and lit the straw the same as always. Only this time a flame ran up the stove pipe and set fire to the "black juice" that had run around where the pipe went into the chimney.

Soon the room was full of smoke. Mrs. Ingle ran upstairs to get the two girls, baby, and a younger son. Homer, the oldest son tried to beat out the fire with a blanket but the smoke and fire scared him. He was fifteen years old.

He tried to get upstairs to help get the family down. Homer thought if he could get outside and could get a ladder and break the window he could get in upstairs. But that only let the fire come out the window driving him back to the ground. Next he ran to the barn and got on a horse and rode to the neighbor's home for help. Soon, having seen the fire

in the sky more neighbors came. The house was a complete loss. Only Mr. Ingle and his son Homer remained.

All that was left of Mrs. Ingle and her four children was picked up and put in a wash boiler and brought to our home to await funeral services. Mama hung a sheet across the corner of the bedroom where the remains awaited the return of the Eaglesons for the service.

That night all those flax straw burners were thrown out and never used again. The old coal stoves were brought in use and new stove pipes were installed.

## Early Washdays

by T. Kushnir as told by Myrtle Purves

Washday in the days of our pioneers was certainly different than our washday of today. The day before a person planned on washing clothes, water had to be hauled from the dugout in barrels. Then the water was put into a tub or boiler to be heated on the wood stove the next morning. By the time the breakfast was over the water would be hot. Then there was the soap. You didn't go to the store for this necessity — it was homemade soap. The soap would be grated and melted in hot water. Now you were ready to start scrubbing the clothes on a washboard in the tub of water. The white clothes were then boiled in a tub or boiler on the stove as well as being punched around. To get handkerchieves white they were boiled in cream of tartar and water. These came out white. After the clothes were boiled they were rinsed twice and then rinsed a third time with blueing in the water.



Washday — Thelma Purves at the scrub board, Myrtle Purves and Joyce in the background.

Men's dirty everyday work clothes were rubbed well with soap, then rolled up and let soak. After this they were put through the wash routine. The very dirty spots were scrubbed with a scrub brush. After all the washing was completed the clothes were then hung

out to dry on the clothesline. In the winter it meant cold fingers.

When clothes were dry the white articles such as shirts, tablecloths, handkerchieves, etc. were dampened down and rolled up. Ironing was made easier and wrinkles taken out. Flat irons heated on the stove were used for ironing. This usually meant doing the ironing in an overheated kitchen in the summer. It was fine in the winter, as heat was needed to keep the place warm.

To make a supply of soap a person needed liquid grease such as beef fat, lye, borax, household ammonia, kerosene and cold water. The lye was dissolved in the cold water. Ammonia, borax and kerosene were then added. This was then poured into the thin warm liquid grease. You had to stir for twenty minutes or until it started to thicken. It was left in the pan to set or poured into moulds. If it separated it had to be heated up and stirred again for twenty minutes.

## The Canadian Forestry Association Prairie Tree Planting Car

by Wilber Moats

The Tree Planting lecture car was supplied by the CPR and free haulage was given by both railways. It also included living quarters for Alan Beavin. In 1932 it visited 133 towns in Alberta and Saskatchewan, travelled 1,851 miles, had 299 lectures and had 41,904 people attending. The 1933 itinerary on one CN loop shows it starting at Estlin on March 25, Gray on March 27, on down to the South East corner of the province and back to Jameson on May 30 and Regina May 31.

The 1932 Alan Beavin report states that: "For thirteen years, the tree planting car, a railroad coach, fitted up as a theatre with sound equipment as well as machines for use with both still and moving pictures has travelled through the rural districts of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, showing pictures and giving demonstrations on the need for planting shelter belts on the prairies".

"In many places the arrival of the car is the treat of the year. The program includes some diversion such as "Felix the Cat" and "Mickey Mouse". The stopping place may contain only one store and one house but the crowds gather from settlements and farm homes from far and near to see the show. The May 26th meeting at Strasbourg, 341 attending two meetings. On May 27th at Strasbourg there were 553 at four meetings; the car was absolutely swamped for the evening meeting, forty-one in the aisle, nineteen at the front. The car seats one hundred and twenty-five adults. During the holidays one young boy rode in on horseback seven miles to attend the evening

meetings. To make sure he would see the program he brought his entire savings, 19 cents. His only worry was that this amount might not be sufficient. On learning that everything was free his pleasure was so spontaneous and sincere it would have warranted an individual performance."

"It must be frankly stated that the last three, and in some districts four years have not been kind to the planting of trees. In these areas, which were unfortunately large in extent, it has been a most difficult thing to keep many of our older trees alive and almost impossible to set out new plantations with any great hope of success". This refers to the drought of the thirties.

### **The McEwen Runaway — 1927**

**by W. E. Moats**

The year I started to school I rode our brown and white pony, Billy. Roy Smith who lived across the road, rode with me as his pony had stepped on a nail. Roy was about fourteen and could handle Billy, I couldn't.

This particular afternoon on the first mile going west home from school, Roy forgot something. He put me into McEwens' trailer which was pulled by two horses, a two-wheel trailer that is, and went back to school. There were already five McEwens in it; Donald, the driver, sixteen years old, Hazel, Jean, Muriel and Dorothy.

When we got to the corner, Roy was still a quarter mile back and I got out of the trailer. I had my lunch pail in a white bag and I think that is what scared the team. McEwen's horses were always fat and overfed and easily spooked. Anyway, they bolted. Donald tipped over the end of the seat, the rubber tire ran right over his neck and the team took off. Hazel made an olympic record high jump. When she came down the trailer was not underneath her. The horses dashed north down the road, but not too far. There was a flood in 1927 and there was a big washout. One of the girls tried to jump but the other two held on to her. They floated out like a flag in the breeze for a few seconds. The horses turned short when they came to the washout and were soon in deep water; they slowed down pretty fast.

Hazel West was on horseback and like me, a spectator. Hazel McEwen got on her horse and she had a ride home.

In the meantime Don McEwen picked himself up. His hair stood straight on end, just like the cartoons. This is the only time I ever saw that.

Roy Smith came riding up and helped catch the team.

### **"Wake"**

**by Noella Clavel**

In the early 1920's, one of our relatives died and my mother and I went to what was called a 'wake'. This was in a very comfortable home and I remember the body was in a black coffin in the front room, or parlour. This room had an atmosphere of churchlike reverence. There were lighted candles in tall candle-holders on one side of the coffin and the people spoke in hushed tones.

As was the custom at that time, when someone in the family died, a vigil was kept for approximately three days, usually two nights and two days, with the burial taking place on the third day. Embalming was unheard of and the body was prepared for exposure and burial by a member of the family, or friend. The coffins were almost all the same style, made of wood and covered with black cloth. They were ordered from Speers in Regina and shipped via freight.

Relatives and friends came to pay their respects and many stayed until the day of the burial, in order to help and to be with the bereaved family. However, not all the people stayed for the full time and so for a day, or two, there was a continuous flow of people coming and going.

There was a large kitchen in this home and so most of the friends sat around in this kitchen. (I must mention that there was nearly always someone present in the room with the deceased.) The ladies were very busy preparing food as all these people had to be fed. It certainly made a lot of extra work. After a while, everyone would begin to relax and socialize, tell stories, etc., but all this came to an abrupt stop every hour when the rosary was recited.

It is obvious that keeping a body for such a length of time, without embalming, would create problems. It was easier in the winter as the body could be kept in a cold room, or even outdoors, for a time.

An ordinary truck was used as a hearse. In this particular case, I remember that the truck was black and certainly resembled a hearse. Possibly, it was draped with black cloth. If a funeral took place in winter, a sleigh was used pulled by a team of horses.

Burying a loved one was not as convenient as it is today with our modern funeral parlors.

It was also the custom for the members of the bereaved family to be what was called 'in mourning' for a period of at least one year. The women dressed in black and the men had a black band (cloth) sewn on one of the arms of their suit jackets. During this time, the family did not attend any social functions. I believe this custom has relaxed somewhat, thankfully.

## **Riceton's Last Chautauqua**

by W. E. Moats

It was probably 1931 with the depression firmly established and the Bennett Buggy an ever increasing blot on the landscape that the Chautauqua insisted on coming back to Riceton. In the twenties it was a very popular three-day, afternoon and evening entertainment. Also, on the previous appearances two or three years before they had no trouble at all in getting forty Riceton citizens to guarantee a certain minimum income for the show.

In 1931 however, money was scarce and when Chautauqua began to make arrangements for that year's show, the community did not want them because of pure poverty and the battle was on. The community of Bulyea was in the same predicament so a good many long distance phone calls went back and forth but Chautauqua won out in both places.

The usual place for all such functions in Riceton in those days was the United Church. The Church Board did not agree to having the Chautauqua there, so it was held in the rink with the stage set up on one side; not very convenient or comfortable circumstances.

Chautauqua was a very good show, probably the best that most rural people saw in that day and age. The ones I remember best were the Hawaiian musicians, guitarists and singers who besides their musical skill had great entertainment personalities. One girl told of the hours Hawaiian people would spend in the water daily, it was so pleasant and warm. One of their jokes was about one member who was born at sea between Hawaii Islands and United States. What nationality was he? "A Fish, of course, a Fish". The star of the Hawaiians was a fellow named "Sally." The advent of radio and "talkies" as opposed to the silent screen signalled the end for Chautauqua as an institution. The guarantors at Riceton had to produce about \$4 each, big money for 1931.

## **C. W. Williams Dies at Aurora**

February 22, 1936

Charles W. Williams, one of Saskatchewan's largest farm land owners, died at his home at Aurora, Illinois and funeral services were held there Friday afternoon. The body will be buried at Independence, Iowa, Saturday afternoon, the remains being buried beside those of his first wife.

Mr. Williams is survived by his widow at Aurora, three sons, Ross G., Park M. and Hollis Williams of the Wilcox-Rouleau district and one daughter, Mrs. Edgar Petersmeyer, seventeen miles south and west of Regina.

Mr. Williams at one time was one of the best-known horsemen in the United States, owning and

operating stables at Independence, Iowa. He later moved his establishment to Galesburg, Illinois, and was a successful breeder of race horses.

He came to Saskatchewan with the first influx of Americans who settled along the Soo Line, and bought sixty-three sections of good wheat-growing land. Most of this is located at Wilcox, Rouleau, Milestone, ten sections between Bechard, Riceton and Gray, south of Regina.

## **A Ducking**

by W. E. Moats

In the spring of 1927 flood water came in from the east and left hundreds of acres inundated from Riceton to Lewvan. Most of this land couldn't be seeded even in 1928 and some not even in 1929.

My father seeded Fred Williams' northeast corner because there would have been about a fifteen mile trip for Fred around the water.

There was a girl named Lillian Brooks working at our place and she had a sister Marion working at Chris Bohlken's. The short way was two miles; three quarters of mile would be in very deep water. The long way around was about fourteen miles.

The Baker boys, LeMoyne, Leland and Ted had a metal water trough they used for a boat. They offered to row Lillian across to see her sister one Sunday afternoon. That trip was "planned".

Ted and Leland did the honors. LeMoyne and Roy Smith got up in the back of the barn to see the fun.

The "fun" started when the "boat" got out where the water was about five feet deep. Then Ted and Leland both leaned to one side and over went the boat. Ted and Leland were up to their chins and Lillian's new Easter bonnet floated away but not Lillian. The hat came up under the boat and the water was over her head.

She came home wearing borrowed clothes while her new spring outfit was drying and was she ever mad.

## **The Outhouse**

Down on the farm, so long ago when I was just a kid,

We didn't have a bathroom like our city cousins did.

We beat a path behind the house where a little building stood —

Most people called it "outhouse," but, call it what they would,

The fact remains it serviced us all season of the year,

And this included winter, when the cold air brought a tear.

When lingering long meant freezing, I hurried up  
 real fast,  
 Made use of the Eaton's catalogue, then to the  
 house I dashed.  
 But, when summer came along and bees hummed  
 all about,  
 There was a peaceful privacy inside that  
 little house.  
 From outside came familiar sounds, the cackle of  
 the hens,  
 And the gobble of the turkeys as they fed  
 nearby the fence.  
 The new-born calf was bawling to his mother way  
 out there,  
 Where she grazed back in the pasture with  
 Kate, our old grey mare.  
 I left the door half open so not a sound I'd miss.  
 For in my days of childhood the farmyard  
 was pure bliss.  
 Now, in my modern bathroom, as dreamily I sit,  
 With silence all around me and soft tissue  
 in my grip,  
 I find myself remembering the drowsy summer  
 days,  
 When in that little outhouse I dreamed the  
 hours away.

— Author Unknown —

### From E. B. Moats records

Names of men that worked at the E. B. Moats  
 farm in the early nineteen hundreds were: Will,  
 Whiskers, Tom, Shorty, Englishman, Hutch, Spike  
 #2, Willie 2nd, Stranger, Arthur, Scottie, Henry,  
 Jeff, Mutt, Norway, Kansas, John, Slim, Shifter,  
 Oscar.

Money spent for men while threshing in 1913.

Shorty — tobacco	\$ .40
Kansas — Shirt	.90
Shorty — gloves	.15
Spike — cash	3.00
John Bill — cash	1.00
Dad — gloves	1.00
Dad — tobacco	.35
Dad — dinner	.25
Slim	.75
Kansas	.50
Spike	.55
Red	.25
Shorty	.70
Kansas — tobacco and gloves	.35
J. Oates — tobacco	.45
J. Olsen — tobacco	.70
J. Olsen — gloves	.30
J. Olsen — matches	.05

Slim — tobacco	.45
Slim — pipe	.05
Slim — socks	.35
Red — tobacco	.45
Red — Pipe	.05
Red — gloves	.15
Red — socks	.35
Oscar — gloves	.75
Jack	1.00
Wilson — tobacco	.20
Kansas — tobacco	.50
Spike — one fork	.80
Jack Olson	.80
Jack Olson — blankets	3.00
Kansas	.30
Crossman	.30
J. Olson	3.35
Slim	.55
Red	.60
Red — by Upton	.40
Red — by Ralph Smith	1.00
Crossman	.10
Kansas — tobacco	.40

### Remember When . . .

— Don Devereaux's John Deere tractor was painted  
 red one Hallowe'en.

— Leo D. put the pig on Eldon Richardson's school  
 bus and it went along for the morning ride (Hal-  
 lowe'en).

— One farmer pitched manure on the side of the road  
 to try to save the road from being washed away while  
 another farmer pitched the manure away.

— Jean and Marilyn put the chicken in the Purves  
 cabana on Hallowe'en. Haven't figured out yet who  
 got the biggest scare — Myrtle or the chicken.

— The bench in the rink was wired so that when the  
 coil was turned on a person on the bench got a hot  
 seat.

— One young fellow went courting and ran into the  
 corner of his lady friend's home — more than once by  
 the way.

— The boys removed the valve cores off Mike  
 Kushnir's school bus. When Mike asked the boys  
 where the cores would be Leo said "We put them on  
 the seat Mike." (Hallowe'en)

— Leo H. wired the toilet seat for a ladies' meeting at  
 his Mother's home. One lady got a jolt.

— The livery stable owner demanded a kiss from  
 each lady that wanted her horses hooked up.

— One Hallowe'en night Wilber squeezed a stout  
 lady's bosom thinking it was a young gentlemen. It  
 wasn't — it was real.

— A lady was taking a Saturday night bath in the old



square tub and her husband went out the bedroom window, went to the door and knocked. One would say "She took off". Maybe that was the start of the streakers.

— Leo Hill's Volkswagen was put into the freight shed on Hallowe'en.

— Two school girls decided that the stone that was used for a door stop needed cleaning. In the process of washing the stone it fell and went through the sink.

— Leo H. and Ronald M. clipped off half of Bob's mustache.

— Len Richardson went home with three bumpers on his car.

— Lawrence N. was sidetracked on his wedding day while visiting the outhouse at Dickey's filling station. Someone took off to Regina with the bride.

— Lois knocked on a door in Bechar'd to use the telephone. Lo and behold the phone was located in a back room where Mr. B was sitting in an old fashioned metal bathtub taking his bath. I don't know who was the most surprised but Lois forgot all about her phone call and was gone before anyone knew what had happened.

— April Fool morning at a Horse sale that Dave R. was holding, a gentleman that was helping out woke everyone up, then woke Bill M. to tell him his horse was gone. Bill leaped out of bed, jumped into his overalls and was out at such a speed one would think the barn was on fire.

— Mr. B. enjoyed hunting skunks, would then skin them and when he had enough would take them by train to Regina. One time while staying at the Champ's Hotel the pelts started to thaw out. There was a knock on Mr. B.'s door and the Chinese proprietor said "Skunk, Skunk". Mr. B. pretended not to understand and all the while knowing what he was referring to.

— Lucien and Abbie went to the city with a load of pigs. On the corner of Broad and Victoria the pigs got loose. What a time they had to round up those squealing pigs.

— School Days in the early 1930's; Richardson School #2148; teacher Mr. Geo. D. Rogers; subject, Ronald Moats incidents "the Strap". In the seat ahead of me, Bob McEwen, not completely "school broken" as yet, while I was a grade or so more advanced. Mr. Rogers had told an older student, Real Coupal that he could put Bob in his place should Bob continue to be a bother. I took this to be a general order, so next time Bob did the same to me, I poked him one. For me — a touch of the Belt.

— Lord Nelson was not one of my favorites. Each morning we paraded up to the front of the classroom to read aloud at the Teacher's pleasure. The three of us were in line this morning — Gerard Coupal, Grant

Geig and Ronald Moats in that order. The story was Horatio Nelson, Grant was reading. He came to the man's name, pronounced it Ho-ray-she-oh and up went my hand (we were supposed to put up our hands if a mistake was made). In my great wisdom the name was pronounced 'Horay-tee-oh' as it was spelled. Grant stopped, went back to the beginning of the sentence and read again 'Ho-ray-she-oh' and again my hand went up. Mr. Rogers, at this time was engrossed with another class and we were getting nowhere with Lord Nelson. Holding up your hand gets tiresome when things come to a standstill, so we had developed habits when this happened. My raised hand dipped a little, picked up a few hairs from Grant's head and tugged just a bit too soon. Mr. Rogers' attention returned to us. He pounced on Grant, which moved that one to tears. "Why are you crying?" he trumpeted. "Ronald is pulling my hair" whispered Grant. Abruptly the storm shifted. The teacher's lower lip began to bounce. That morning I learned more than pronunciation.

— 1941 — Most farms still had an outhouse, useful only in summer. Inside the house was a thing called a sanitary closet, composed mostly of a pail which always was full (if it wasn't, likely it was rusting out) and which had to be carried out and emptied ad infinitum. The men and boys were encouraged to avoid the closet when possible — the theory being that the pail wouldn't need emptying so often (a myth). Full toilet pails still haunt my dreams. In winter the next warmest spot on the farm to the house was the barn, and in ours, when the cows were out to water in the morning, a reasonably clean cow stall with a wall support was suitable for necessary daily personal chores. We had this batty Holstein cow called Dippy. She had been almost impossible to milk as a heifer, but produced well, so we kept her. I was in her place one morning, and didn't notice that Pop had opened the barn door to let the cows back in. Dippy came charging back into her stall looking neither right nor left. There was a lot of noise. I was quite upset but Pop thought it quite funny.

— One muddy spring day I went to town with the "little cat" (two-ton tractor) to take a can of cream to the train. While there I went over to the Co-op Bulk Station where there was a big water puddle between the side track and road. Now a cat can go through almost anything so I drove in just to demonstrate what it could do. Immediately the water rose closer and closer to the carburetor air intake. I'd made a sad mistake. It was deeper than I thought. Finally unable to turn around, and knowing that if I backed up the motor would be lowered and flood with water I stopped the tractor and jumped across to the railroad bank surveying my predicament. It seemed that the

whole town came over to look and laugh. However, someone brought over an elevator tow rope for pulling boxcars. I hooked it to the tractor hitch and the men and boys of Riceton easily hauled the "little cat" back to dry ground. I could have crawled down a gopher hole and pulled the top in after me.

### **Why Pools Were Formed** **by Gordon Stewart**

While working for a living and to gain experience in farming, I was just a hired man, and was not brought into any conversations among people I was with. But I did realize that there was considerable discontent among the farmers over the way they had to sell their grain. The elevator operators had the say as to what grade the wheat was that we brought to the elevator. The farmer could either take what the operator offered or go to another elevator, in which he would get the same treatment. The operator decided what grade the wheat was and what amount of dockage in each load. When I was hauling grain for the farmer I was working for, I was astounded at the treatment the farmers got, and the grades given and the amount of dockage taken off each load; and I was then just a kid with no experience along those matters. Later when I got my own grain to sell, I knew what a fight the farmers were really having.

About that time, some farmers took the bull by the horns as it were. I think of men I did not know, but whose names were very much a topic of conversation. I think of the Partridge brothers of Sintaluta, John Miller of Indian Head and Bill Motherwell of Abernethy, the latter later became Minister of Agriculture in the King Administration at Ottawa, having a meeting with officials of the C.P.R. and the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa. Out of that meeting there came the ruling that when a farmer wanted to ship his own grain, he could have that privilege. Up to that time he couldn't ship a bushel except through the elevators, taking the grade and dockage of the elevator company. The new ruling was called the "car order book", and was a book kept by the Railway agent, and each farmer could sign for a car, if and when available. That was a step in the right direction, but far from perfect. The elevator companies signed the book as well as did the farmer. The name at the top of the list got the car, spotted at where he designated. The car had to be loaded within twenty-four hours, or demurrage was charged against the car, and had to be paid by the recipient of the car. That meant that many farmers could not get equipment enough to get a car load into the car in a reasonable time, so lost the car. It was not really a bad rule, for otherwise a car could be held up for too long a time, while a farmer who lived some distance from the

loading platform, was hauling his grain to his car. For that reason, many farmers built portable granaries and placed them in the town and hauled the grain to their granaries. They could then load their car in a day.

But the Railway and elevator companies got around that. For instance, when the harvest was over, and I was waiting for a chance to go back to the homestead, one of the elevator men asked me if I wanted a job to work all night. I sure did, and he said to come around at 9:30 PM that night and he would give me a job leveling grain cars. He would pay me a dollar for a night's work (which I never did get). At 5:30 PM a train of empty box cars came to town and spotted at the elevators, two or three to each elevator depending on the capacity of the elevator. It was a Saturday and raining. What farmers that had been in town had gone home by that time, and there were no telephones or cars or any way farmers could be notified that a car had come. The rule was, that when cars came to the point, a list was made of the men eligible for a car, as per the car order book. If the car was not claimed within two hours, that list was taken down and a new list of the next eligibles on the car book was posted up. In two hours, if the car or cars were not claimed, that list was taken down, and the cars were given to the elevators.

When I went to the job at 9:30 PM and found out what happened, I thought what a dirty deal the farmers on the car order book got that evening. True, on Monday morning there was room in the elevators for a lot of grain, but it meant those who hauled their own grain, had to take it to the elevator and take their grade and dockage.

That and other things somewhat along the same lines, were the reasons the farmers got together and formed the Co-op Elevator Company, which was very successful, and the forerunner of the Wheat Pool. The Co-op gave the farmer what was coming to him from his sale of grain. Up to that time, any odd pounds over a bushel were not considered. When the Co-op bought grain, the pounds were paid for. A strict rule was that there was to be no overage at the end of the crop year, and if there was any it was the wheat Co-op who got it, not the elevator. The overages at the end of a crop year in some cases were huge, and were the property of the company, not the farmer. I often thought it was not always the company either, but the operator, who got the dockage, or overage as it was called.

### **Why the Pools Were Formed** **by Wilber Moats**

One of the events my father, E. B. Moats describes is the situation prevailing when he hauled

grain from the Buck Lake area to Milestone. Farmers could order box cars but they weren't coming through. He tried to shake things up by sending a telegram to the appropriate authority in Winnipeg. The Milestone station agent refused to send the telegram. He went either to Lang or Wilcox and that agent refused to send it. Then he went to the third town, Lang or Wilcox and that agent did send it. Things did get shaken up and the farmers got some box cars for a while at least. Those extra trips were about twenty miles to Lang and eighteen miles to Wilcox, with horses, in winter for one telegram but it illustrates that the grain trade had its connections.

Later in 1913 when my father was at Riceton and the new railroad was in he and H. W. Mabey bought a thirty foot chain and paddle grain loader to load box cars in town. There were no reliable small motors then so that grain loader was powered by a horse power sweep. At home the grain was loaded by shovel.

This was just one of the ways the farmers of that time tried to avoid the fleecing they got from the elevator companies.

### **Sesford Kemp's Accident in the E. B. Moats Stookloader**

by W. E. Moats

It was probably the late fall of 1926 and it happened on the NE ¼ of 27-13-17-W2 where E. B. Moats' outfit was threshing. I was a small boy and always excited at being around when threshing was going on. All at once the outfit was stopped and only the separator man was left at the machine beside me. I could see everybody else gathered behind the stookloader and of course the separator man would not tell me what was wrong.

All at once Garnet Currie's rack took off for the yard on the run. There were two or three men on it and a few sheaves. Later on I found out why.

Sesford Kemp was the "hound", the man who followed the stookloader to throw the dropped bundles either on the rack or on the loader. The loader man, Herman James, was used to Ses yelling to stop every time two sheaves dropped together but this time it sounded different. It was. Ses had sat down to ride on the frame behind the bull wheel. He put his hand around the counter shaft and the set screw caught his glove and wrapped him part way through between the shaft and the frame. To look at it you wouldn't think it possible. They had to take the shaft off to get him out.

Ses was badly hurt, a big tear in his scalp and many lesser scrapes and cuts. Doc Tyerman was a long time stitching him up without any anaesthetic or freezing. Ses did a lot of yowling and with good

reason. Aunt June Moats was a nurse and helped out. Mrs Kemp, Ses' mother, came out for a couple of days.

Ses came back about once a week to Aunt June to get his wounds dressed for most of the winter. I saw him with his shirt off three or four months later. His whole torso had sores on all the high spots even at that stage. My father was not very sympathetic. I think he should have been. It could so easily have been fatal and Ses could have been crippled for life.

### **Easter Sunday of 1927**

by W. E. Moats

In the spring of 1927, the big flood came in from the east and there was water, at one time, all the way from west of the road running north of Riceton all the way to Lewvan. Some boys skated to Lewvan when it froze. Some of that water stayed until 1929.

On Easter Sunday we went to church, not around the water which was eleven miles but across it on what was left of the blade grader road. There were no high elevated grades then, at least not there.

We had our two-ton caterpillar tractor new the fall before, and our neighbour Ira Smith, who lived across the road had a very big stone boat that my father called the "Titanic". It was about twelve feet long, with ten-inch high runners, metal clad, and side-boards about twelve inches high as well. He had a partition left over from remodelling the house with a 2 x 4 frame and a layer of lumber on each side laid across the sides of the stone boat.

We sat on the partition and the "Cat" pulled it. When we got past Baker's south lane on the south side of Section 27-13-17-W2 we came to a series of washouts where the road was completely gone. As I remember these would vary from fifty feet or so wide up to two hundred feet. The "Cat" would plunge into that water about up to the top of the tractor tracks or not quite two feet deep and we on the "Titanic" had to put our feet up. As I remember it, in some of the deeper spots we had only two or three inches to spare. The flooded road would be intermittent for over a mile.

I don't remember the Easter Sunday service at all but I certainly remember the trip back and forth on the "Titanic".

### **Forty-Below Winters in Saskatchewan**

The wind would howl around the house and drift the snow up to five or six feet. They burned wheat and flax straw all winter to keep warm. Brought chunks of snow to melt in a barrel behind the stove and this was the only source of water in the winter. Melted snow in a metal trough for the cattle. Straw was burned under the trough.

The cattle were kept in the barn most of the winter but the horses were allowed to roam during the day. Had to round up the horses at evening and put them in the barn although they could survive the night outside if they stayed close to the haystack.

### Hauling Grain — 1912

The wheat was stored in a portable granary for marketing in winter when the price was favorable. One cold, storm-threatening day, Frank and his father began loading their ox-drawn sledge with wheat. The loading was done by hand with large scoop shovels and was very hard, slow work. When the sledge grainbox was full, they set out for the elevator on the railroad at Riceton. Two heavy oxen pulled the sledge through the snow, slowly plodding ahead.



LeMoyne Baker hauling grain to the official opening of the Sask. Wheat Pool on August 1, 1980 after renovations.

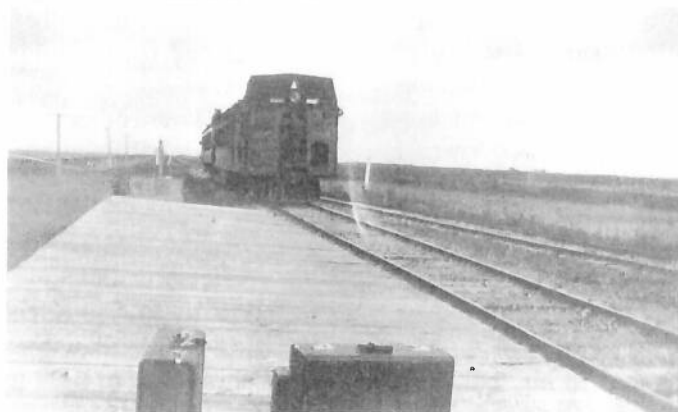
At the elevator, the grain was sold for a good price and unloaded. Some farm supplies and food staples were bought in town and then in the mid-afternoon father and son headed for home. The short winter day

was fast darkening and a fierce wind began driving snow into drifts. Just before dark, when the storm was becoming a blizzard, they came upon a straw stack left from a neighbor's fall wheat threshing. They were lost, with no way to judge direction, so Frank's father decided to pull the oxen up close to the straw stack on the lee side. He then burrowed deep into the stack, making a cave in the straw as a shelter against the cold and wind. They rolled up in the wollen lap blankets they brought for traveling in winter and stayed reasonably warm that freezing night.

In the morning they dug out to find a crystal blue day with a thick blanket of snow and drifts. The oxen survived in the lee of the stack and were soon hitched to the sledge and plodded the few remaining miles back to the homestead to soothe a worried mother and sisters.

### Winter Chores — 1912

The winters on the prairies could go down to forty or fifty degrees below zero with huge snow drifts as the wind blasted down from the north. The Cross family was often snowed in at their homestead, but they were prepared. James Cross had a huge barn built with ample room for draft horses and cattle. There was a cavernous hay loft under the hip roof and it was jammed full of hay during the summer. One of Frank's winter chores was feeding the livestock by pitching hay with a fork down from the loft into the feed mangers. This was no small task as anyone who has pitched hay can attest. During the hard freezing weather, the most important chore was to break the ice on the water trough with an ax so the livestock could drink. Often Frank and his father would shovel snow into a steel tub and build a straw fire under it to provide water for their livestock. And of course there was always the wood chopping chore to keep the house warm and the cook stove fired up.



"The Skunk" train coming into Bechard.



In the wheelchair Sarah Timmath, Lana, Leah and Renee Purves. In back are Ralph Purves, his mother Myrtle Purves and son Stanley Purves taken on Sarah Timmath's one hundredth birthday. 5 generations.

## Riceton *Tribute*

**Mr. Carl and Mrs. Eva Koch**

A Tribute to  
Perseverance and Hard Work  
**MR. CARL and MRS. EVA KOCH**  
They farmed sec 31-13-16-W2  
near Bechard from 1926-1981  
The Koch Family

# Roll of Honour

## Bechard-Riceton Honor Roll World War I — 1914-1918

George Ainsworth	George Cripps	John Messerschmidt
Jim Ballentine	Ernest Kinvig	Isaac John Purves
Chet Barton	Rev. W. Lloyd	Lorney Purves
George Brown	Pat Mahoney	Thomas Spry
Douglas Bruce		



Jim Ballantyne.



Douglas Bruce, Army.



Pat Maloney.



Lorney Purves, Army.



# Roll of Honour

World War II — 1939-1945, Korean War and  
Peace Time Services

Charles Aitken	Keith Malcolm	Paul Kawuza
Herbert Aitken	Wm. Maynard	Orris Keehr
Victor Aitken	Robert McEwen	John Keen
Conrad Bechard	Kenneth McKim	Charles Kinvig
Roland Bechard	Marvin McKim	Clifford Otten
Bert Becker	Wilber Moats	Edwin Otten
Albert Blish	Raymond Mohr	Otto Otten
Chester Blish	Edwin Moon	Edward Paré
George Blish	Lloyd Moon	*Gabriel Paré
Ova Blish	Wilfred Moyse	Joseph Paré
Clair Bobier	Gerald O'Brien	Lindsey Paton
Garth Boesch	Graydon Olson	Gordon Purves
Merle Boesch	Jack Orr	Jack Purves
Bill Cook (Kawuza)	Clarence Otten	Ralph Purves
Gerard Coupal	Fred Ferris	Stanley Purves
Laura (Gamble) Coupal	Frank Forsberg	Walter Reich
Arthur Downes	Walter Forsberg	Douglas Rogers
Douglas Kinvig	Grace Francis	Earl Schultz
Ernest Kinvig	J. B. Francis	Melvin Smith
Mike Kushnir	Grace Gieg	Phyllis Spry
Thelma Purves Kushnir	Grant Gieg	Walter Spry
Donald Layman	Philip Gieg (Gish)	*Marshall Stewart
Russell Layman	Alfred Hughes	Wm. Stewart
Donald Leach	David Hughes	Glen Stimson
Melvin Leach	Juanita Hughes	Melvin Stimson
Roland Lloyd	LaVerne Jasper	Cecil Voss
Trevor Lloyd	Ben Johnston	Kenneth Voss
Wilson Lloyd	Harry Johnston	Donald Wilke
	Lindsay Johnston	Milton Windrum



Herbert (Bud) and Charles Aitken, R.C.N.



Victor Gwain Aitken, Army  
1951.



Conrad Bechard.



Roland Bechard.



Albert Blish, Army.



Chester Blish, Army.



George Blish, Army.



Ova Blish, R.C.A.F.



Garth Boesch, R.C.A.F.



Merle Boesch, R.C.A.F.



Bill (Kawuza) Cook, Fire-  
fighter.



Gerard Coupal, Army.



Laura (Gamble) Coupal,  
R.C.A.F.



Art Downes, Canadian  
Army.



Frank Forsberg, R.C.A.F.



Walter Forsberg, R.C.A.F.



Alfred Hughes, Army.



David Hughes, R.C.A.F.



Benjamin J. Johnston,  
Army.



Harry R. Johnston,  
R.C.A.F.



Lindsay W. Johnston,  
R.C.N.



Paul Kawuza, R.C.N.



O. J. Keehr, Army



Charles Kinvig, R.C.N.



Douglas Kinvig, Canadian  
Army.



Ernest Kinvig, R.C.N.



Mike Kushnir, Army.



Donald Layman, Navy.



Russell Layman, R.C.A.F.



Rowland Lloyd, R.C.A.F.



Trevor Lloyd, Army.



Wilson (Billie) Lloyd, Army.



Keith Malcolm, R.C.A.F.



William Maynard, U.S. Navy.



Robert McEwen.



Kenneth McKim, Army.



Marvin McKim, R.C.A.F.



Wilber Moats, Army.



Raymond Mohr, Airforce.



Edwin Moon, R.C.A.F.



Lloyd Moon Canadian Army



Gerald O'Brien, R.C.A.F.



Graydon Olson R.C.C.S. Signalman.



Jack Orr, Army.



Edward Paré, R.C.A.F.



Gabriel Paré. Wpg. Grenadiers, killed at Hong Kong, 1940.



Joseph Paré, Army.



Lindsey Paton, R.C.A.F.



Jack Purves R.C.A.F.



Ralph Purves and Fred Ferris, R.C.A.F.



Stanley Purves, R.C.A.F.



Thelma Purves (Kushnir)  
C.W.A.C.



Walter Reich Army.



Earl Schultz, R.C.N.



Phyllis Spry, R.C.A.F.



Walter Spry, R.C.A.F.



Bill Stewart, RCAF. Marshall Stewart, R. Navy.



Glenn Stimson, Marine.



Melvin Stimson.



Jim Templeton, R.C.A.F.



Cecil Voss Army.



M. Windrum, Army.

# Memorials for Riceton-Bechard

## *In Memorial*

### **Lucien Bechard**

born February 25, 1926  
passed away May 20, 1981



Remembrance is a golden chain  
Death tries to break but all in vain;  
To have, to love, and then to part  
Is the greatest sorrow of one's heart.  
Time may wipe out many things

But this they wipe out never —  
The memory of those happy days  
When we were all together  
Remembered by those who loved you the most  
your family

### **Roland Bechard**

born October 8, 1920  
passed away January 19, 1959





## *In Memorial*

### **Clarence (Chink) James Crawford**

In loving memory of our husband, father, grandfather and brother-in-law, Mr. Clarence (Chink) James Crawford, born April 20, 1899 at Lakefield, Ontario and entered into rest at Regina, Saskatchewan April 3, 1961.

God took him home, it was His will,  
But in our hearts we love him still,  
His memory is as dear today  
As in the hour he passed away.

We often sit and think of him  
When we are all alone,  
For memory is the only friend  
That grief can call its own.

Always remembered and sadly missed by  
his wife Ella, Jim and Lois Crawford, Bill,  
Marilyn, John and Jennifer Crawford, Ken,  
Joan, Kendra and Michael Newman and Emma  
Oltmanns (family).



# *In Memorial*

**William August Forsberg**  
1882-1963

"To memory dear" we often hear  
of men so great and tall,  
And yet we know of others so  
whom we just may not well recall  
Someone who, to me and you has done their  
very best  
To make this world a cut above, a little better  
than the rest.  
A husband, dad, a friend in times who always  
seemed to know

What's best for us, which road to go, which  
mountain we should climb.

Though you've gone on and we're still here  
We all think of you now and then

And it comforts us to know what's clear  
Is that someday we'll get to know you once  
again.

Composed with love by son Bill  
on behalf of wife Kay and family



## *In Memorial*

**Katie Graff**

In loving memory of a dear Aunt Katie, Mrs.  
Graff, 1885-1978.



Catherine (James) Graff graduation picture 1910.

In loving memory of a special lady, Aunt  
Katie (Mrs. Graff) who gave so much of her  
time in caring and helping others.

Remembered by those who loved her,

Eldon and Lucielle Layman,  
Wilber and Emma Moats  
Ronald and Florence Moats  
Graydon and Ann Olson

Celia Purves  
Myrtle Purves  
Irene Kinvig  
Mike and Thelma Kushnir



## *In Memorial*

A loving father and grandfather  
**Amcie M. Purves**  
1899-1979

A brother and uncle  
**Ralph L. Purves**  
1921-1983

Your last parting wish  
We would like to have heard.  
And breathed in your ear  
Our last parting word.  
Only those who have lost  
are able to tell  
The pain in the heart  
At not saying farewell.  
God knew that they were suffering  
That the hills were hard to climb,  
So He closed their weary eyelids  
And whispered "Peace be thine."  
Away in the beautiful hills of God,  
By the valley of rest so fair,  
Some day, we know not when,  
We will meet our loved ones there.  
We do not need a special day  
To bring them to our mind  
For the days we do not think of them  
Are very hard to find.

Always remembered by  
Mike and Thelma Kushnir and family

## *In Memorial*

### **Miss Minnie Elizabeth Moats**

With joyous gratitude we remember that Aunt Minnie made home "homey" for one family (bereft of mother), then another family.

We cannot know her sacrifice on our behalf. Never did we hear her suggest there was any. She gave of herself (those meals we so eagerly anticipated, games, sing-songs, gardens, Church and Sunday School attendance) with everyone included in the activity according to age and ability. That must have been the secret.

The "together" part. There was no pretense with Aunt Minnie. She too found joy in her nieces and nephews.

Wilber E. Moats (1920-

Ronald D. Moats (1922-

Anna Beth (Moats) Matlock (1925-

Leroy K. Moats (1911-1981)

Bernice E. (Moats) Grant (1913-

Harvey H. Moats (1917-1983)

Helen E. (Moats) Richardson (1921-1964)





## *In Memorial*

With great love and respect  
we honor the memory of  
our parents

**Reverend and Mrs. William Lloyd**

(1884-1980)

(1890-1983)

who ministered to the people of this community,  
during the difficult years 1933-1940, with  
complete dedication

Gwynneth Haylock

Rowland Lloyd

Phyllis Wallace Trevor Lloyd

Bill Lloyd





## *In Memorial*

In memory of our parents, **Otto Oltmanns** born March 14, 1868; passed away November 1, 1941. **Antoni Oltmanns** born April 23, 1874; passed away October 2, 1942, and our sister **Clara** born July 4, 1901; passed away October 5, 1954.

Wonderful memories woven in gold  
These are the memories we tenderly hold  
Deep in our hearts their memory is kept  
To love, cherish and never forget.  
Remembered by daughters and sisters,  
Emma and Ella



In loving memory of  
our dear husband, father and grandfather

### **Herman Bohlken**

who passed away November 14, 1974.

Your memory is our keepsake,  
With which we'll never part.  
God has you in His keeping  
We have you in our hearts.

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed  
by Iola, Gail, David, Keith and their families



# Pictures of Interest — Bechard-Riceton



Snowbanks in 1947.



Snow covered the Spruce trees at O. Bohlkens, 1948.



Riceton's younger folk. Hartley McKim, Shirley Schultz, Grace and Keitha Deeks, Shirley Stimson, a Moyse girl, Iris Stone, Gordon Ketchin, Marina Myberg, Larry Stone, Donald and Dorothy Richardson.



A. C. Bechard moving the Mooney house onto Kushnir land for use as a granary.



Bechard ladies and G. Wight at Badger Hill School, 1942.



Ross Purves, Edwin Moon, Jack Purves, Lloyd Moon and Louis Moon 1919.



Riceton Community Club.



Riceton mud. LaVerne Olson and Dan Diekrager in picture, 1953.



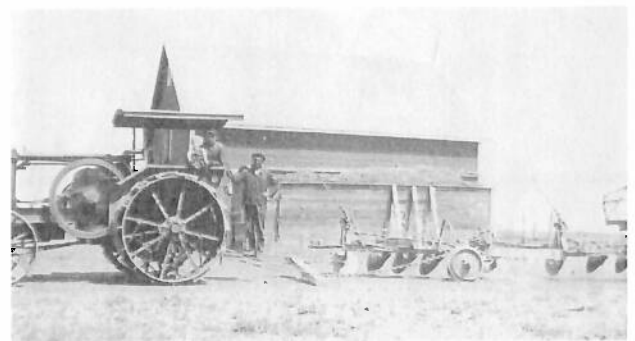
Riceton mud.



Conrad Bechard, John O'Byrne and Lucien Bechard.



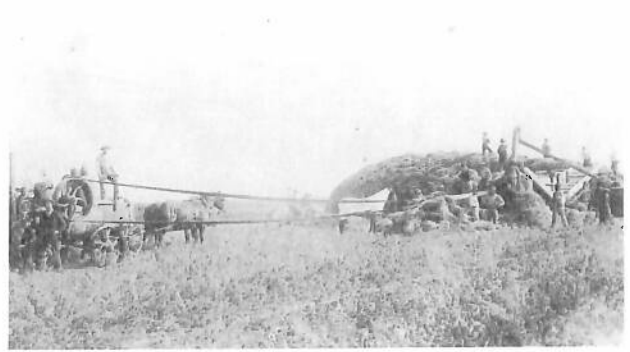
L. to R.: Marie Amy Leduc, Annette Bechard, Ron MacDonald in front of Annette, tallest person Conrad Bechard, Rita Desautels in front of Conrad, June Gilstrom, Peter Sakundiak, Dorothy MacDonald, Marian MacDonald, Lucien Bechard.



The outfit Mr. Lekivetz and Homer Lalonde used to break land in Lewvan area.



E. B. Moats 2-ton Cat pulling two sleighs of grain. The 500 bushel hopper was made in 1926. Four trips a day were made to Riceton — a round trip of about ten miles.



Steam engine and grain separator without a straw blower. There is a carrier to transport straw to the stack.



Bingaman's 10-20 pulling the Holt Combine.



Frank Hill's Hart Parr tractor and Holt Combine.



Bingaman's five binders with two tractors and three horse outfits, 1927.



Jones' harvest in the forties.



McEwen feeding rack, 1927.



Ed Graff's outfit.



Ancie Purves' outfit, a power binder, 1927.



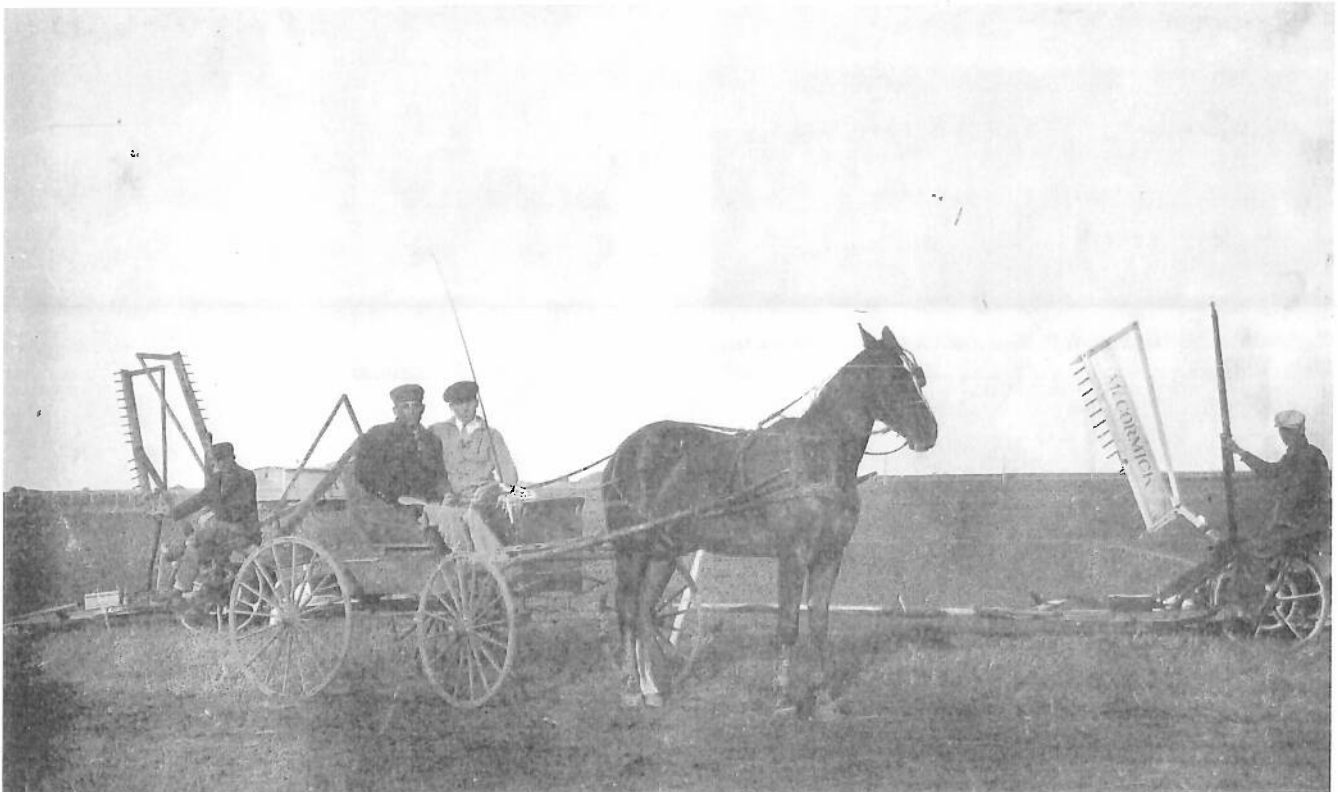
McEwen horses taken October 17, 1927.



Ed's Lunch with the top of a car showing behind the snowbank. In the background is the house Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schultz lived in with the Riceton Hall behind, 1956.



John Annegers Steam Thresher.

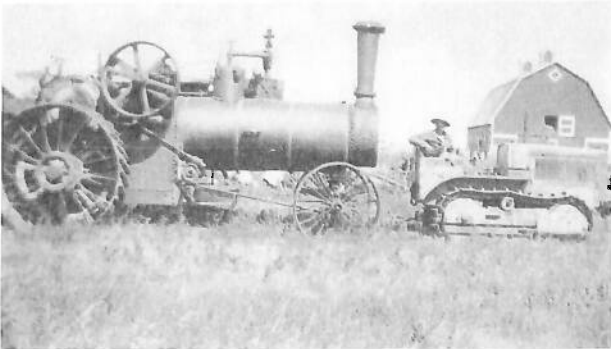


John Annegers and Ray Shull with first McCormick Reaper.





Karl Pederson seeding on Wm. Forsberg farm in twenties.



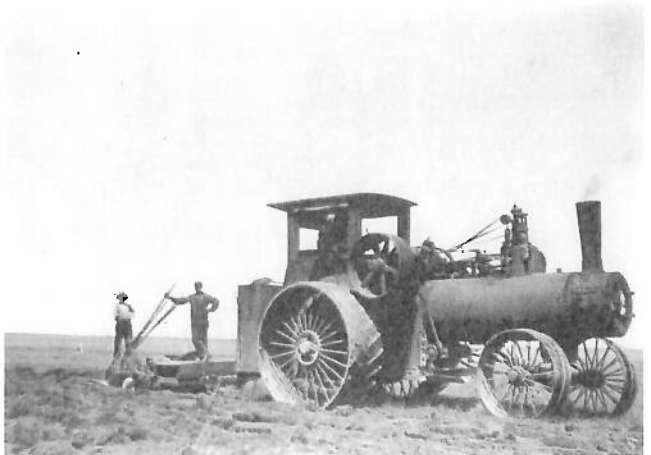
The Lekivetz Minnesota steamer and Cat #20, 1940.



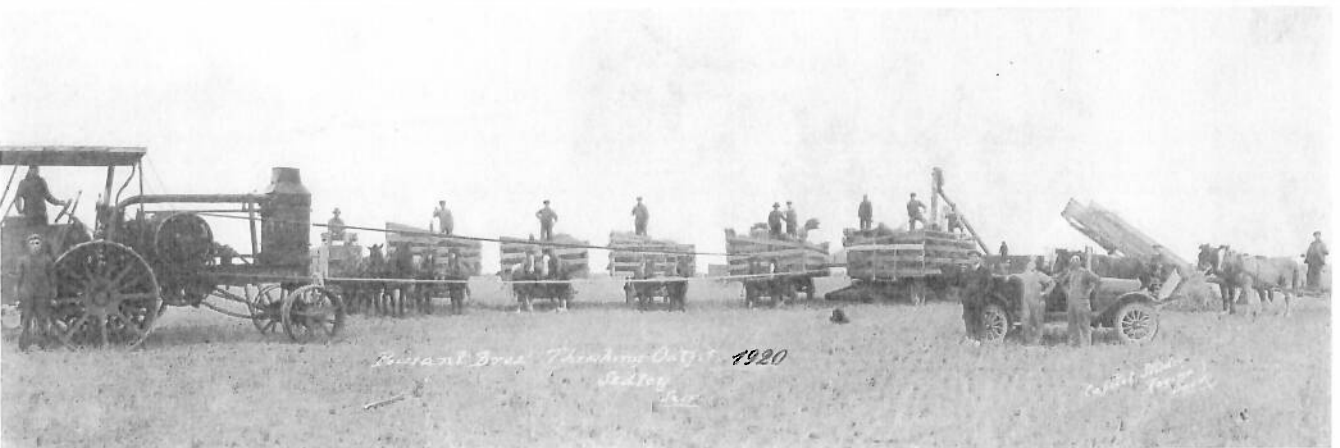
Allan Annegers on J. Annegers farm reaping flax.



J. MacDonald threshing crew in the early twenties. Grandma MacDonald with son John in front. Others made up the threshing crew. Cook car in the back.

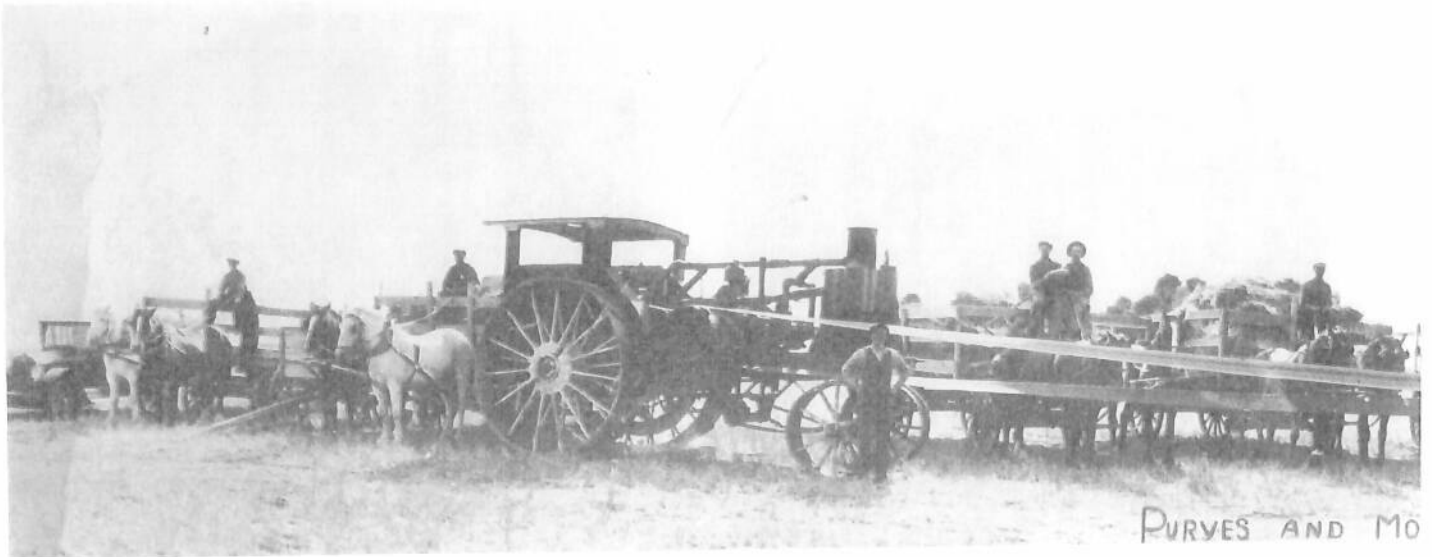


Lekivetz steam engine with Frank Lekivetz on the engine, Joe Lekivetz and Homer Lalonde on plow.



Poissant Brothers Threshing Outfit 1920. Standing at the engine are Ferdinand and Felix, standing on the separator is Bruno and standing in front of the car are Pacifique, Rock and Lord Poissant, six brothers.





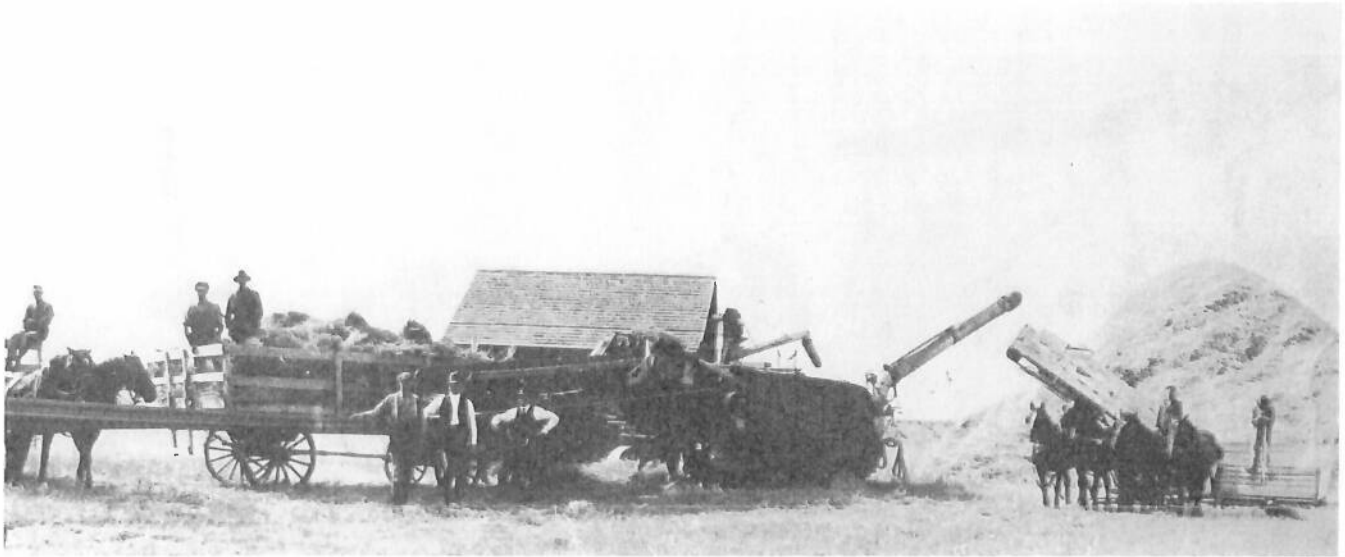
Purves — Moon Threshing outfit, in early nineteen twenties. Bill Purves by front wheel of the Avery Tractor, Tom Moon, with two



Joe Gilbert threshing outfit, 1922. Rene Bechard on the stook loader. Rose Bechard and her mother Mrs. A. D. Bechard in front of



Adelard Bechard threshing outfit, Bechard, Saskatchewan 1927. R. to L.: Armand Besset, Adrian Besset, Phillippe Walker, Rene car made by Chevrolet.



unknowns on his left by the feeder and Amcie Purves driving four horses on stook loader.



the cars. Joe Gilbert in the car. Others unknown.



Bechard, Evarise LaTulippe, John Walker, Adrien Ouellette on the tractor. Adelard Bechard and Jeanne Bechard in the Baby Grand



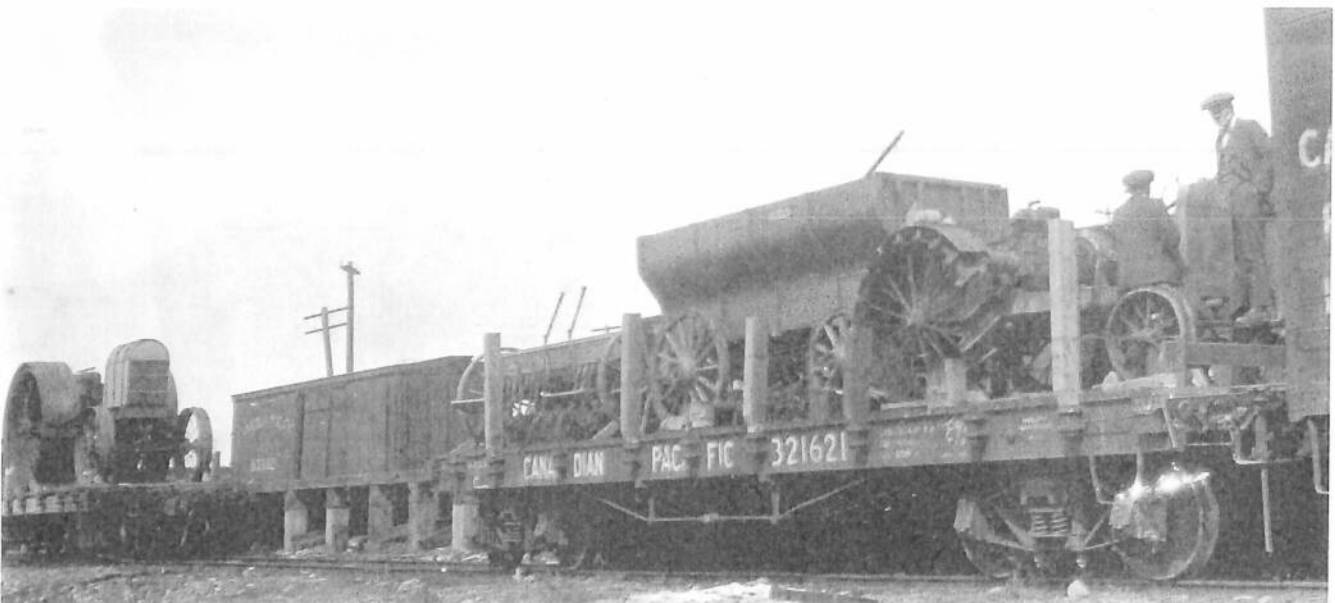
Frank Hill's threshing outfit with Frank on the left and Andrew Haraznay. Others unknown.



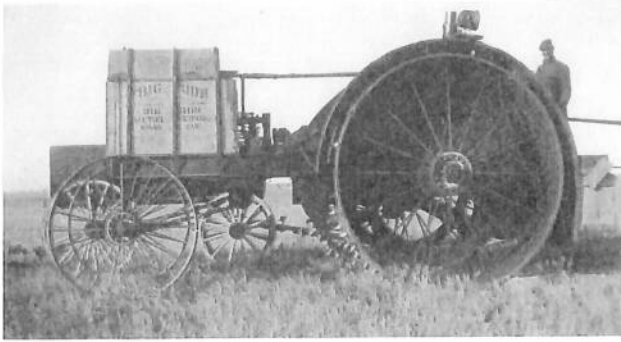
Adelard Bechard at harvest time. Rene in combine hopper, Jeanne at tractor, A. Bechard in wagon, Mrs. Bechard by the mules.



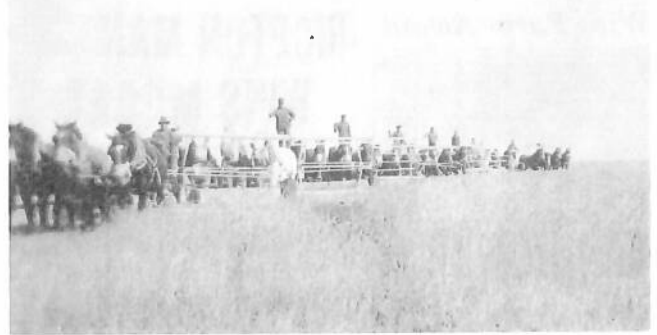
A. Bechard's tractor, Leon Desautels, engineer.



I. Cushing moving farm equipment by rail "Big Four", Hart Parr, and other equipment.



Charlie Olson on Cushing's "Big Four" Tractor.



Binders cutting grain on Cushing farm.

SCALE RECORD	
GROSS WEIGHT	10000 LBS.
WAGON WEIGHT	3520 LBS.
GRAIN UNLOADED	6500 LBS.
SHRINKAGE ALLOWANCE	30 LBS.
GROSS GRAIN WEIGHT	6470 LBS.

GROSS GRAIN WGT.	107 BUS. 50 LBS.
DOCKAGE	2 BUS. 10 LBS.
NET WGT.	105 BUS. 40 LBS.

CASH PURCHASE TICKET

RICETON "B" 8 Nov 23 1936

STATION

**SASKATCHEWAN POOL ELEVATORS LIMITED** L 264422

MEMORANDUM FOR GROWER'S RECORD

PURCHASED FROM Frank Hill B70. 190

BUSHELS	LBS.	GRADE	KIND OF GRAIN	PRICE	Total Purchase Price
105	40	1 Hard	WHEAT	94 1/2	94 57
LESS LAWFUL CHARGES DUE PRIOR TO PURCHASE (IF ANY)					
NET WEIGHT <u>Eighty eight 1/2</u>					
PRICE PER BUSHEL <u>NOT NEGOTIABLE</u>					
NET AMOUNT PAID <u>Twenty four 1/2</u>					94 57
NET AMOUNT PAID BY CASH TICKET <u>57</u>					DOLLARS
GROWER'S COPY—NOT NEGOTIABLE BY <u>A. M. Place</u>					OPERATOR

SCALE RECORD	
GROSS WEIGHT	5160 LBS.
WAGON WEIGHT	2940 LBS.
GRAIN UNLOADED	2180 LBS.
SHRINKAGE ALLOWANCE	10 LBS.
GROSS GRAIN WEIGHT	2170 LBS.

GROSS GRAIN WGT.	36 BUS. 10 LBS.
DOCKAGE	0 BUS. 0 LBS.
NET WGT.	36 BUS. 10 LBS.

CASH PURCHASE TICKET

RICETON "E" 6 Nov 27 1935

STATION

**SASKATCHEWAN POOL ELEVATORS LIMITED** L 185180

MEMORANDUM FOR GROWER'S RECORD

PURCHASED FROM T. Hill B70. 44

BUSHELS	LBS.	GRADE	KIND OF GRAIN	PRICE	Total Purchase Price
36	10	1 Hard	WHEAT	95 1/2	95 95
LESS LAWFUL CHARGES DUE PRIOR TO PURCHASE (IF ANY)					
NET WEIGHT <u>Thirty six 10</u>					
PRICE PER BUSHEL <u>NOT NEGOTIABLE</u>					
NET AMOUNT PAID <u>None</u>					95 95
NET AMOUNT PAID BY CASH TICKET <u>95</u>					DOLLARS
GROWER'S COPY—NOT NEGOTIABLE BY <u>A. M. Place</u>					OPERATOR

Grain cash ticket 1935-1936.

## Wins Farm Award



John P. Boesch, Riceton farmer, who has been awarded the master farmer gold medal and certificate awarded by "The Nor'West Farmer," rural magazine of Winnipeg.

## RICETON MAN WINS MEDAL FOR FARMING

1931

J. P. Boesch Honored by "The Nor'west Farmer" for His Agricultural Work

Eighth Saskatchewan farmer to be recognized in the past five years, John P. Boesch, prominent Riceton farmer, has been awarded the master farmer gold medal and certificate by "The Nor'West Farmer," rural magazine of Winnipeg.

The committee deciding the winner of the award was: F. H. Auld, deputy minister of agriculture, Dean A. M. Shaw and J. G. Rayner, University of Saskatchewan, and L. T. Chapman, editor of the "Nor'West Farmer."

Mr. Boesch operates an out and out wheat farm and seems to be able to grow wheat every year on his 600 acres of that good clay soil that has made the Regina plains area famous in years gone by. He says he has seen only one crop failure in the 30 years and that was in 1931, and even that year the wind and drifting soil killed out the Canada thistle which was worthwhile.

Mr. Boesch was born in North Dakota 42 years ago, and started to farm for himself in 1918.

### Wheat Graded No. 1

A large percentage of his wheat graded No. 1 hard this year, and the total 600 acres seeded averaged 13 1-2 bushels per acre with summerfallow running up to 24 bushels per acre. A part of his stubble crop was hailed, cutting the average yield on the seed acreage in this field down to 3 1-2 bushels per acre which in turn cut the farm average to 13 1-2.

Mr. Boesch has a modern home in every particular, electricity being supplied by a wind-electric outfit. Windbreaks, shrubs, roses and other flowers make up a highly pleasing farmstead.

Mr. and Mrs. Boesch have two daughters and one son. As to community work, he is president of the telephone board; treasurer of the co-operative association, treasurer of the church board, secretary of the pool committee and a director on the rink board.



Ernest Reich's first tractor — a Stinson 1918.



Harvest time with Walter Reich on the tractor, Helena on first binder, Ernie Reich on second binder, 1933.



Three outfits of mules.

John Boesch wins farming award.



F. Bohlken and Otto Otten in wheat field, 1912.



Mohr's 22-36 International Tractor with 1928 Case combine. Lorne on the tractor and his father Henry on combine.





Bingaman's Undermounted Avery, under repair 1912.



Everett Blish on the Rumely tractor with full steam ahead.



Clipping horses on Bingaman farm, 1922.



Jack MacDonald on the scrubber.



Seeding on the Mohr farm.



Tractor and binder on Lekivetz farm.



Jack MacDonald on the Titan 1918.



Dick Gynn plowing on the Tom Moon farm 1927.





Land Script — Walter Reich.

Form 184G—7500—4-32

### COCKSHUTT PLOW CO., LIMITED, REMITTANCE AND RECEIPT

Enclosed herewith find Cash and Notes, being proceeds of Implements sold, amounting to \$....., which, if found to be in accordance with contracts, are to be credited to account of Agent.....

Agent..... Agency..... Traveller.....

NAME OF PURCHASER	POST OFFICE	ARTICLE (STATE SIZE OF MACHINE)	CASH	PROCEEDS OF EACH SALE			
				NOTES DUE 19		NOTES DUE 19	
				DUE DATE	AMOUNT	DUE DATE	AMOUNT
W. A. Purvis		2 1/2 H.P. Miller's Seed and Calves	215.00				
		Agent's help 18.2	17.00				
			1.19				
		TOTALS	233.19				

The above Cash and Notes have been applied to your credit in the following manner:

CASH—Cash Items Account	NOTES—Consol. a/c for Com. Sales
Open Ledger Account.....	Charges for long terms.....
Consol. a/c for Com. Sales.....	
Your Note Due.....	
TOTAL \$ 233.19	TOTAL \$

Please retain this for future reference.

Cockshutt Plow Co., Limited

Per.....

Cockshutt Plow Co. Ltd. remittance and receipt.



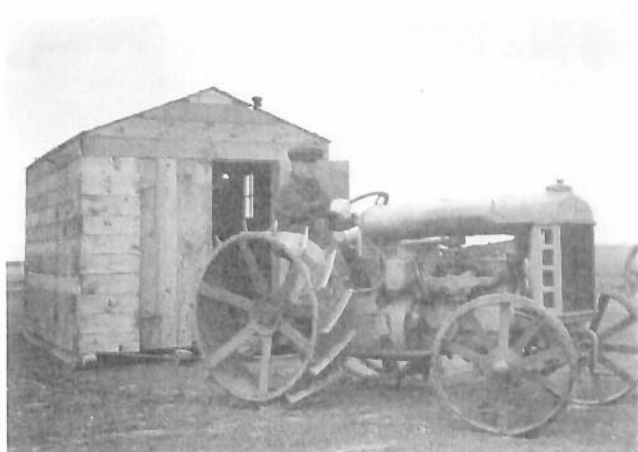
Dick Gynn swathing on the Cushing farm 1932.



George Lekivetz outfit.



Jack MacDonald on the stook loader.



Joseph Lekivetz and his Fordson 1920.



Cecil Harvey, Willie, Clarence and Wilford Schultz.



Mrs. O. Hernblad.



Grandma Simmons.



In front seat — Ernie and Evalina Nichols. In back seat — Louis and Mrs. Louis Hill.



Severin Bechard, Mrs. Joe Paré, Wilfred Bechard 1955.



Clarence Leach standing, Bill Simmons seated.



The Purves, Moon and Jones clan in mid twenties.



Billy Rude, George Duguid and Ernest Jones.



Jean Purves, Myrtle Purves, Sophie Moon, Ethel Jones, Annie Purves, Miss McIntyre, Minnie Purves and Mary Purves.



Old timers on their way to California.



Esther Aitken and Lulu McKim.



Ernie Kinvig giving Bill Layman a clip.





Berry picking time in the early twenties. Back: Jean Purves, Esther Aitken, May Purves, Annie Purves, Mrs. Fred Schultz, Libby Lafoy, Fred Schultz, Tom Moon, Mrs. Jones, Fred and Emma Williams, Mrs. Graff, Bill Layman, Mrs. Tom Moon, Ed Graff, Myrtle and Amcie Purves, Mrs. Bill Layman. Front: Ernie Kinvig, Bill Purves and Ernie Jones



Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Voss' wedding picture.



Sarah Purves and Ethel Cave.



Some of Riceton's earlier men. Back Row: Frank McKim, Henry Mohr, , Richard (Dick) Miller, Ellsworth (Babe) Mohr, ,  
Gottlieb Boesch, . Front Row: Walter Boesch, , , Frank Hill, , Wilford Schultz.



Bechard Brothers — Charles, Ubald, Adelard 1885.



L. to R.: Hugh Purves, Tom Moon, Stanley Purves, Ernie Jones, Bill Purves, Wilfred Wright, Amcie Purves and son Ralph.



Ernie Jones, Bill Purves and Ernie Reich relaxing.





Taken at Fred Bohlkens, 1918. Helen Reich, , Mrs. Oltmanns, Mr. and Mrs. F. Bohlken. Standing on car — Otto Otten and twins. Next to Mrs. Bohlken — Hannah, Herman and Molly Bohlken, Mrs. Otten, Dora and Ernest Reich.



An orchestra that played for house parties in the Homestead days. Also in the picture are Jesse and wife Clara Stepler, their two sons, then Mr. and Mrs. McCumber and Vernice.



Cross School teacher, Hilda Bennett, with Eldon and Russel Layman.



Rosie Mohr, Ronald and Wilber Moats, Don O'Brien, Harold and Margaret Larson, Lois O'Brien.

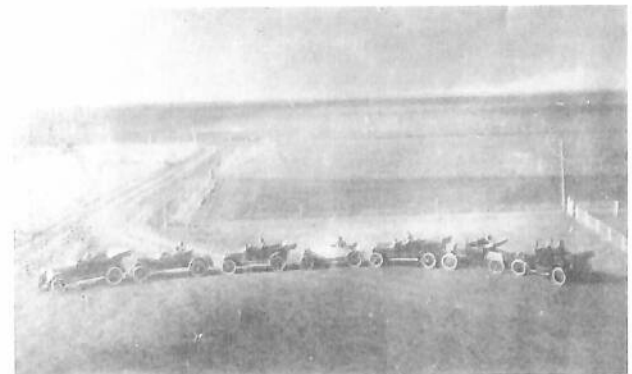
## Transportation



The Wood's family on their way to Lewvan from Gravelburg in 1919. Jim Wood on the back wagon.



Bringing in the vegetables in the Model T.



Car parade.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stepler waiting for help to get out of the gumbo.



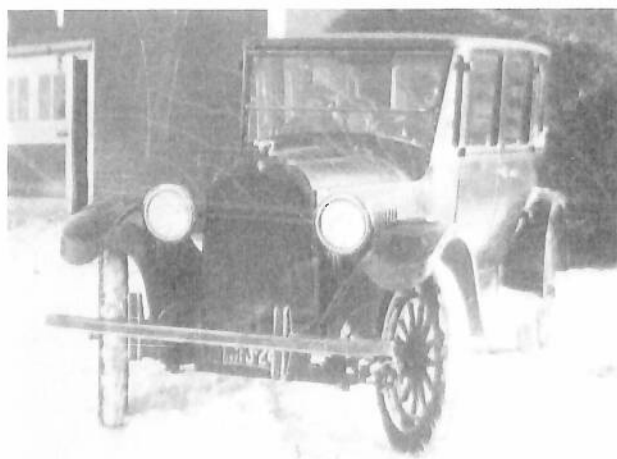
Joseph Lekivetz winter mode of travel 1915.



Hazel and Don McEwen on their way to school with "Foxy Grandpa" the old mule about 1919.



Ernest Reich's first car 4-90 Chevrolet 1919.



Willis Knight 1926. Bought second hand from Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. Wheels 32 x 5 — 4 cylinder.



Joe Parsons on the running board of Ernie Jones' first truck, 1927.



Winter Transportation — Moon's 1929.



Winter transportation to school.



LeMoyne Baker transportation.

## Hunting



Adrien Ouellette caught 126 rats at Northern Elevator Be-  
chard.



John Annegers and friends hunting, 1910.



R. (Dick) Miller and Frank Hill big game hunting in northern  
Saskatchewan in the thirties.



R. (Dick) Miller and Frank Hill with an Indian family in northern  
Saskatchewan in the thirties.



L. to R.: John Boesch, Babe Mohr, Dick Miller and Henry  
Boesch with antelope shot by Babe, John and Dick near  
Govenlock, Saskatchewan.



Gerard (Jay) Coupal with his game.



C.N. Station on fire — Riceton.

## Pictures of Disaster



C.N. Station on fire — Riceton.



Remains of Riceton Hall and Rink after fire, February, 1975.



C.N. Station on fire — Riceton.



Remains of Riceton Hall and Rink — February 1975.





Car accident Otto Otten had. He only had a few bruises. Car had to be lifted before he could get out.



Tornado took down G. Bingaman barn. Dan Bingaman and McKim boys. Doris Bingaman is standing where the cow was pinned under wreckage, 1943.



Remains of Riceton sink March 1947.



Spring flood around the Bob McKim farm home 1948. Food was taken out from Riceton by motor boat.



Flood waters at Paul Gibeau's, 1948.



Train wreck on Grand Trunk to Riceton.