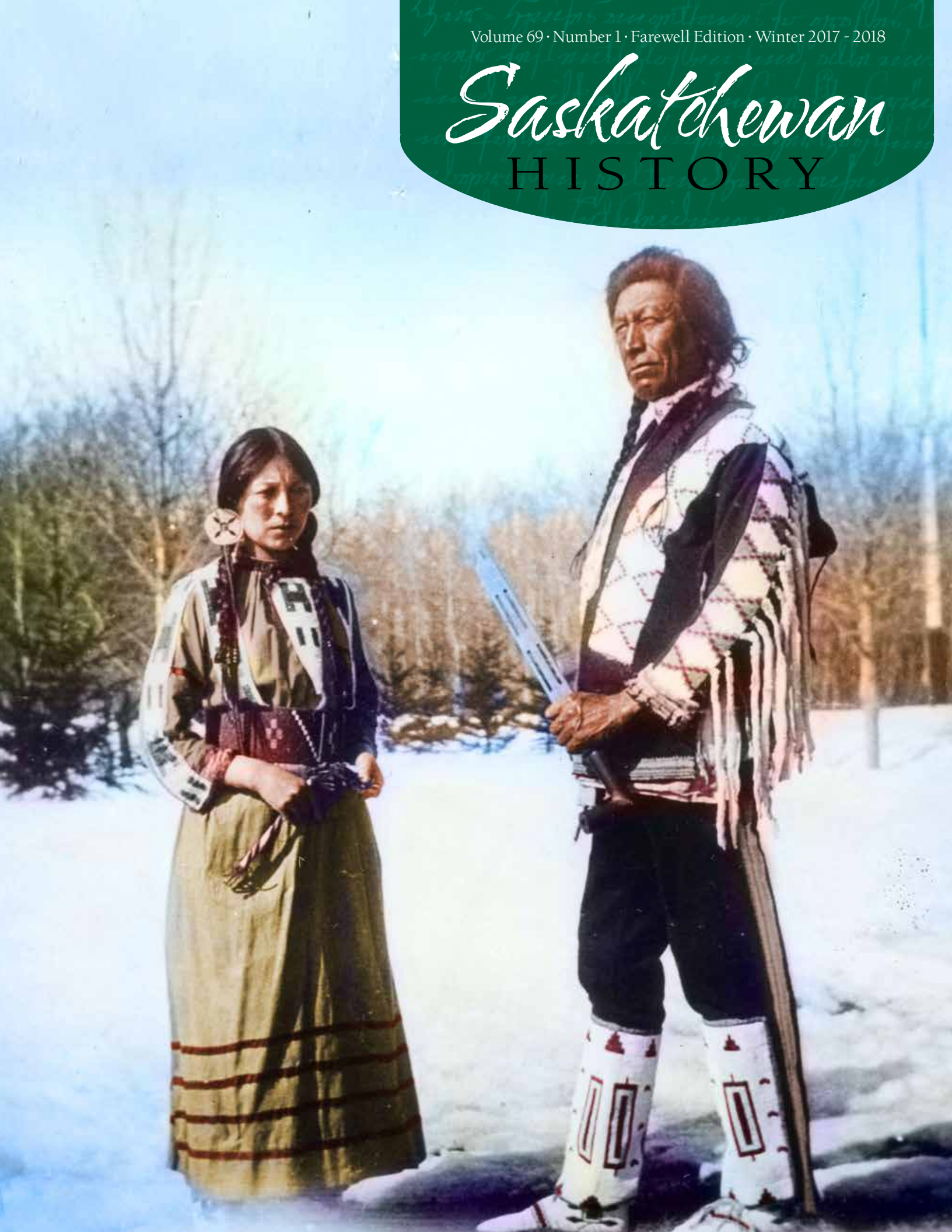


Volume 69 • Number 1 • Farewell Edition • Winter 2017 - 2018

# Saskatchewan HISTORY



# The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan

## The Last Issue

In this, the final issue of *Saskatchewan History* magazine, we look back at the history and purpose of the publication, its many contributors, and the stories told through the decades.

*Saskatchewan History* began in January 1948 as a three-times-per-year journal, with Dr. Hilda Neatby, Professor of History at the University of Saskatchewan, as its first editor. The publication was mandated to provide 'information and encouragement' in the area of history, including reviews and notices of publications on Saskatchewan's past. In Neatby's words:

*We hope also to offer new material of various kinds; from the pioneer who tells not what he has read, but what he has lived -- the primary historian; from writers who will gather up from little known books important, but rather inaccessible material; and from students who, in increasing numbers, are exploring our archives and fitting together from disjointed fragments, the real story of our rather legendary past.*

The publication was initially aimed at teachers and schools, with the hope that it would over time be a resource for the study of 'provincial and community history.'

Over its 69 years, the magazine has stayed true to this early vision, offering a diverse and wide-ranging collection of articles, reminiscences, photo essays, and reviews, as well as updates on Saskatchewan Archives' (later Provincial Archives

of Saskatchewan) activities of interest to students, teachers, academics, and the general public. Showcasing both the permanent collection of the Archives and the archival heritage discoverable within the province, *Saskatchewan History* captured new approaches to well-known topics and interpretations of more obscure stories. The common thread throughout was the documentary record -- written, photographed, filmed -- of the lives lived and places created, seen, and explored within the boundaries of our province.

Staff of the Provincial Archives has always been central to the success of the magazine, serving over the years as copy editors, general managers, production coordinators, administrative assistants, reviewers, and contributors for the many issues that have gone into distribution. Without the time and careful thought given to these issues, the range and long existence of the publication would not have been possible.

As we close with the pages of the magazine in this final issue, we also acknowledge the many editors, contributors, reviewers, and readers who have, in very many ways, made *Saskatchewan History* a publication for the people of the province. The journey has been long and rewarding. We hope that the interest in our history endures in whatever forms future stories are told, shared, and discovered.

Linda McIntyre  
Provincial Archivist

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## Farewell from the Archives Board Chair

As a student, archivist, and contributor, I have always looked forward to the latest issue of *Saskatchewan History* landing on my desk. Whether it was an article, memoir, excerpt from the permanent collection or a book review, there was always something new and varied to read about Saskatchewan's rich and colourful past. *Saskatchewan History* served as a useful forum in which academics, undergraduates, and local historians opened up new areas of research, offered new insight into historical thinking, or made use of newly-acquired papers and records to tell a new story. In turn, the journal made its way into libraries, classrooms, and homes, opening up a new world of historical discovery for teachers, students, and members of the general public. Through the pages of this award-winning journal, the staff of the Provincial

Archives of Saskatchewan, both past and present, has made a significant contribution to the understanding of our past: an achievement of which we can be justly proud.

While 69 years of *Saskatchewan History* has sadly come to an end, I would like to think that it does not dampen the quest to learn more about our past. As the keeper of the historical record, we, as archivists, must continue to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the historical record in all forms and reflecting all points of view to present and future generations of scholars so that they, in turn, can continue to tell the story of Saskatchewan's past using the ever-changing technology that is and will be available to us.

Trevor Powell  
Chair, Board of Directors

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# Saskatchewan HISTORY

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Pimotat (also known as Harry  
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Archives of Saskatchewan photos  
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## Farewell to *Saskatchewan History*

With regret, dear readers, I must advise you that this is the final edition of *Saskatchewan History*. After sharing stories of our province's history for nearly 70 years, the magazine has been cancelled by its publisher, the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

Since its inception, the magazine has published all kinds of historical stories of our province. For example, diverse settlement stories in these pages have chronicled the experiences of Romanians, Syrians, British, Doukhobors, Patagonian Welsh, Scandinavians, Ukrainians, and more -- even a little-known German ethnic group called Swabians. We have published stories of Hudson's Bay Company explorers, First Nations people, and of the Métis. Our pages have told war stories from the North-West Resistance to modern day: stories about the home front, the battles, of soldiers and nurses. And yet, even after nearly 70 years of publication, there remain so many more tales to tell.

Serving since 2010 as editor has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my career. It's been tremendous to work with art director Andrew Kaytor: we've worked together on numerous projects for a decade now. His talents completely refreshed *Saskatchewan History*: beyond professionalizing the look, his respectful work with the historical photos we featured enhanced the words that described them, ensuring that the stories we published had visual as well as textual impact.

I have also enjoyed an ongoing relationship with Archives' staff whose work regularly supported the magazine, and especially appreciated the calm, professional guidance of general manager, Lenora Toth, and the collegiality and roll-up-our-sleeves diligence of production coordinator, Nadine Charabin. Their management colleagues and staff regularly made vital contributions and provided professional support to the publication, most notably, archivists Tim Novak, Bonnie Dahl, and Christine Charmbury.

In addition to the hard-working Archives' staff, it's been exciting to work with the incredibly diverse authors who published here, helping them tell their stories, each unique and edifying in its own way. That's what editing *Saskatchewan History* was for me: helping storytellers from all walks of life shape their words for our readers, while ensuring the final products conveyed their own authentic voices. Over the years, there has never been a dearth of submissions: scholars, professional and non-professional writers, and sometimes talented students and hobbyists with an eye for history regularly submitted their work for possible publication. I hope they also enjoyed the experience of working with us and seeing their words published under the *Saskatchewan History* masthead.

Scholarly articles published here were peer-reviewed. But over the years, I grew to realize that the academic authors did not publish here only to boost their careers. Rather, they researched, wrote, and published Saskatchewan stories because they have a relationship with this province: they or their parents grew up here, or they studied or worked here at one time. Most often, they held a genuine fascination that compelled them to research and analyze an historical event or person and to write and share their Saskatchewan stories where other Saskatchewan people would discover them. Recently, Governor General's Award-winning Saskatchewan historian Bill Waiser publicly bemoaned the end of this magazine, noting that leafing through our past issues shows a "who's who" of Saskatchewan historians. In addition to Dr. Waiser himself, we have been proud to publish work by Nelson Wiseman,





Brock Silversides, Erica Dyck, Merle Massie, Michael Payne, and Gregory Klages: just a handful of the scholars who come to mind. At this time, it is also important to recognize and thank other scholars who took the time to provide thoughtful peer reviews for the work we publish: James Daschuk, James D. Miller, Joseph Garcea and many others over the years shared their time and expertise to help us publish rigorous articles that strengthened our historical record.

In addition to scholars, we have proudly published stories by award-winning Canadian authors, including Ken Mitchell, Marion Mutala and others whose stories have wide popular appeal. Upon occasion, we have published the particularly strong work of students: from an elementary student, Nathan Bartsch, winner of the 2015 Saskatchewan Heritage Fair Archives Award; to Louis Reed-Wood, just wrapping his undergraduate degree and heading off to do his Master of Arts degree in 2016; to Mark Stobbe who was a PhD candidate at the University of Saskatchewan when we published his work in 2016.

The farewell edition has been challenging to organize, knowing that we still have so much to say but have only so many pages in which to say it. While we stopped accepting submissions in 2016, we are nevertheless proud to serve up some new content for readers to bite into. Nadine Charabin tells the story of a former editor of this magazine whose generous bequest has helped to fund its publication for years. We also hear from Neil Richards, whose conscientious foresight led him to collect and ultimately donate what is the largest collection in a Canadian public archives that documents LGBTQ community activism and social history; Dr. Valerie Korinek also weighs in on why

that collection is so important. With Prime Minister Justin Trudeau making an historic apology to the LGBTQ community in the House of Commons just days ago (November 21, 2017), this could not be more timely.

We also proudly present two timely articles that forward Reconciliation efforts in Canada: Michel Hogue's article on the Pioneer Questionnaires offers an important twist on the exclusions inherent in these documents that have frequently been used by historians since they were created in the Fifties. Readers will also learn about a collaborative project underway between the Provincial Archives, First Nations University of Canada, and the Pasqua First Nation: maybe you will be inspired to participate. Interspersed between all the articles, we present excerpts and photos from some of our favourite articles in past editions.

Overall, news of the demise of *Saskatchewan History* has been a blow to our province's historical community. I hope that one day in the future another publication will arise -- somehow, somewhere -- from the ashes to replace it. Because without a place where people can find the myriad Saskatchewan stories that still need telling, who will write them any longer? Where will we find them?

Thank you, readers, for your letters and phone calls: whether beefs or bouquets, we were glad to hear from you: your dedication to our work over the years has always been appreciated. I leave you with a quotation from the brilliant Uruguayan writer, Eduardo Galeano:

History never really says goodbye. History says, 'See you later.'

Myrna Williams  
Editor, Saskatchewan History

---

*Settlers on an excursion with the Wm. Pearson Co. Ltd. Landseekers to Last Mountain Valley, June 4, 1912.*  
PAS Photo GM-PH-1438(1)





### *Message from Lenora Toth, general manager*

My involvement with *Saskatchewan History* magazine began in 2010. At that time the journal was in a state of flux: the long-time business manager had retired, the administrative coordinator, Nadine Charabin, was doing double duty as both administrative officer and business manager, and the publication had only a minimal presence at the Archives.

The magazine, which started as an in-house production of the Archives, had been revamped in the 1980s when severe budget cuts coincided with the retirement of Doug Bocking, editor of the journal for the previous 15 years. The continuation of the journal was very much in question then but it was saved through a change in structure: an external editor (usually a former archivist or a graduate student) was contracted to edit and, in later years, to lay out the magazine. These contracted editors, nine over a 23-year period, each brought their own style to the journal and a number of excellent issues were published. Nevertheless, the style of the magazine was uneven, and the publication became increasingly disconnected from the Archives, doing little to raise awareness of the Archives and its collection.

In 2010 when I took over as general manager, Nadine and I decided that if the publication was to be our responsibility, we would undertake a complete overhaul. Together, we created a new set of submission guidelines and, wishing to encourage more short popular articles, created peer guidelines for scholarly articles only. Then we made the auspicious decision to hire an independent communications consultant, Myrna Williams, as editor, who recommended Andrew Kaytor

of Kaleidoscope Productions as layout designer. We believed that to achieve continuity in the editor position and to bring the journal in line with current trends and innovations, we needed to hire professionals. A consultative process between manager, production coordinator, and editor was established and ensured that the journal reflected a more relaxed approach with heavier emphasis on the Archives' collection and services, while the layout design contributed a fresh and appealing 'look' to the journal. This team produced 14 issues, and every issue reinforced that the decision to hire extremely talented and creative professionals and have them work closely with Nadine -- our very knowledgeable and competent in-house production coordinator -- was indeed the right decision.

Sadly, and despite our successes, the magazine remained under-subscribed and unable to support itself. The necessary resources to properly market the publication were simply not available and as both budgetary and human resources within the Archives became more thinly stretched, the decision was made to end the magazine. Nevertheless, all those involved with the magazine over its long history have a product of which to be proud, and thanks to Myrna, Andrew, Nadine, and all the staff at the Archives who contributed to the publication as copy editors and contributors, the publication, as it ends, is a well-respected magazine with a loyal, if small, readership that has showcased an impressive number of diverse and talented authors.

*Lenora Toth,  
General Manager*



## Archives' painting exhibited in Ireland

A painting from the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan's collection is currently on display in Dublin, Ireland, part of an exhibition at the National Gallery of Ireland.

The beautiful portrait of Mary Palliser, by Victorian-era Irish watercolour artist and museum director Sir Frederic William Burton (1816-1900), is on view at the Beit Wing of the Gallery until January 14, 2018, in an exhibition titled: *Frederic William Burton: For the Love of Art*. The exhibition showcases over 70 works by Burton, as well as works by those influencing his art.

The Palliser painting was bequeathed to the Archives in 1994. Mary Palliser (1834-1879) was the youngest sister of explorer John Palliser, who led the British North American Exploring Expedition that investigated the geography, climate, and ecology of western Canada. Mary Palliser modelled for several of Burton's works and was betrothed to him prior to her death; this Pre-Raphaelite-style portrait was painted in 1871.

*Portrait of Mary Palliser by Sir Frederic William Burton.  
PAS Photo R-D2220*



# Glimpsing Our Past: An archival photo project

Nadine Charabin, Paula Daigle, and Andy Miller

Treaty chiefs and First Nations communities in the 19th century; young recruits on their way to fight in the First World War; women, children and men in traditional dress; residential schools and students from across the province: these are just some of the subjects of the 589 photographs re-discovered recently at First Nations University of Canada (FNU).



In September 2016, Andy Miller, associate professor of Indigenous Studies, and librarian Paula Daigle were looking for a Saulteaux-language book in the Special Collections storage area of the library. They found the book, then Andy noticed four binders filled with beautiful 8" x 10" black and white photos of First Nations people, taken between 1877 and 1974. Paula explained that these images had been added to the library's collection by librarians and academics over a period of years, and had been used for research and teaching. Yet, while some of the images were well-described, in most cases the brief notes on the photos were vague and inadequate, offering little or no identification of individuals, or the context in which they were taken. Stamps on the backs of the photos indicated they were copies acquired from the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan's (PAS) photo collection, so Andy and Paula contacted Nadine Charabin, manager of Reference Services at the Archives, to see if she could provide further descriptive information.

Thus a new project was initiated, called *Glimpsing Our Past: Archival Photo Project*. The Archives and FNU signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly promote the photo collection to Saskatchewan First Nations and the general public. Later that fall, Pasqua First Nation also joined the partnership and provided funding support.

In the spring of 2017, the project team participated in a pilot event for community engagement and made a joint presentation to elders from Pasqua First Nation at a luncheon. The elders gave guidance to the project team about establishing protocols to determine which images can be widely shared and which images should not be shared out of respect for First Nations spirituality, traditions, and beliefs. While looking over the photos together, elders shared their knowledge and memories, which were recorded and will be transcribed for review and approval at future meetings. Once the transcribed information is approved, these memories will form part of a digital archive that will serve as an Indigenous voice accessible to First Nations people, students, researchers, and the general public through a searchable online database. The financial assistance provided by Pasqua First Nation allowed the project to hire FNU students to scan the images and will help fund development of this online resource.

*Crushing berries at Piapot Reserve, ca. 1938. PAS Photo R-A14864.*



In September 2017, another project event was held. A selection of 30 images was exhibited at Treaty 4 Days celebrations in Fort Qu'Appelle and a presentation was made to the 35 Treaty 4 First Nation chiefs and others in attendance to raise awareness of the collection, to solicit input from chiefs and elders, and to let them know that the photo collection is available for viewing by communities across Treaty 4. With representatives from both the University and the Archives on hand to answer questions, the event was deemed a success: guests identified people in several of the displayed photos and talked about inviting the project group to other communities so that the photos could be shared more widely for identification.

In addition to gleaning new information from the participants, the images also evoked emotional reactions in many: joy, reflection, anger, humour, sadness, and nostalgia were all evident. Elder Wayne Goodwill of Standing Buffalo First Nation, for example, was delighted to see a photo that identified his great-grandmother, Martha Tawiyaka, and her husband, Louis, dated 1898. Mr. Goodwill shared what he knew of Martha, saying, "I had never seen her before, though I have her obituary. She was 106 when she died. She was six years old when Sitting Bull held his last Sun Dance in Canada." This is exactly the kind of information the project hopes to elicit: to build on the information that currently exists through the simple act of talking about family history together.

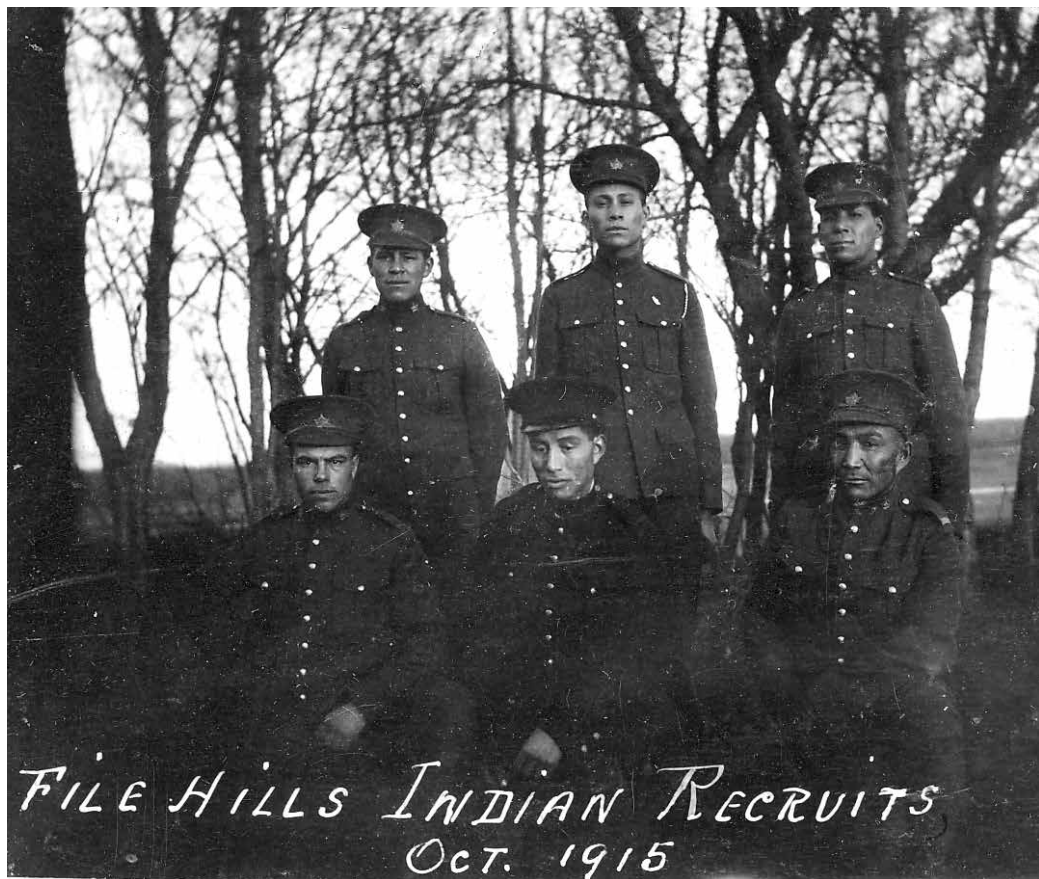
Going forward, *Glimpsing Our Past* hopes to visit First Nation communities to record more elders and community members, to verify their contributions, and to request permission to use and re-tell their stories. While the project aims to identify people and context for the images, it is important to proceed carefully: some of the images depict a dark history and may be emotional triggers. It is also important to understand that many of the faces in the images might never be named, that families and communities might not be identified. Enlisting the help of First Nations elders, the project will hold a special feast to honour the spirit of unidentified ancestors and to recognize connections to them. Another future event, Congress 2018, hosted by First Nations University and the University of Regina, will see the project team share its work in a presentation to include community speakers, members of the research team, and a display of selected images from the collection. In the meantime, the searchable online database is under development and will ensure widespread access to the images and stories that go with them.

Indigenous voices have been underrepresented in the interpretation of Canadian history. Thus, the project goal is to give First Nations people and their communities the opportunity to possess and define their own history, and to demonstrate their rightful place in the history of Canada and its regions.

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*Nadine Charabin is the manager of Reference Services at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. Paula Daigle is the librarian at First Nations University of Canada. Andy Miller is an associate professor of Indigenous Studies at First Nations University of Canada.*

*Left: Louis and Martha Tawiyaka at Crowsnest near Fort Qu'Appelle in 1898. The couple were married in 1897. PAS Photo R-B1783. Right: File Hills Recruits, October 1915: Back row: Ernest Goforth (left); Harry Stonechild (centre); unknown (right); Front row: David Bird (left); Leonard Creeley (centre); Josie McNab (right). PAS Photo R-A16.*





Edward Prettyshield (left) and his father, James or John Prettyshield (right) at a powwow at Carlyle, undated. PAS Photo R-A17289-2.



## “Cordial greetings from the past”: Frank Hanson’s correspondence

Catherine Holmes



*As I write this it is possible that you have not yet been born. The two sets of files herewith will be passed on to my heirs with instructions that they be forwarded to you at a suitable time... after my death. I am now 74 years of age but I have no intimation that my demise is imminent, so I have no way of judging at what date this may reach you. This material is not of earth-shaking importance but I think it may contribute some life and colour to the historical picture of Saskatchewan and some of its people. In any case I think it is more reasonable to have it sent to you than to have it immediately tossed out with yesterday's newspapers.... I didn't deliberately collect these letters with any purpose in mind. They just accumulated in my files and when, in retirement, I looked over them, I was quite surprised to realize what interesting friends I had been fortunate enough to have. It occurred to me that if my grandfather had had a similar group of correspondents, and had kept their letters dated 100 years earlier, I would have found them of considerable interest. Ergo this project which is at your desk (I hope). Since I am writing to someone in the future, it seems fitting at this time to close with the hope that, when this is read, humanity continues to exist in an acceptable condition. If it does, I congratulate you and send you cordial greetings from the past.*

*This image of Frank Hanson may have been a passport photo, according to his son, Terry. PAS Accession 2017-076, Frank G. Hanson fonds, Miscellaneous.*

In the spring of 2017, Terry Hanson from British Columbia contacted the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan to say that he had a box of his father's records that he was ready to donate: Frank Hanson himself had carefully organized the files, attaching to the box a directive stating that the records should be donated to the Provincial Archives about 10 years after his death. The letter above, offering “cordial greetings,” was included by Hanson to a future Provincial Archivist, undated but circa 1984.

Frank Hanson was a Saskatchewan journalist. His lifelong interest in journalism began when he attended the University of Saskatchewan, where, in addition to excelling in drama and sports, he worked for *The Sheaf* student newspaper from 1929 to 1933, including a year as editor, 1931-32. Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Arts in 1934, he headed to Ontario to find a journalism job, only to find hundreds of others looking for the same work. He took a position with the Frontier College and was posted to a relief camp at Ogahalla as a labourer-teacher in northern Ontario. By day, he served as bull-cook, cleaning coal oil lamps, scrubbing the floors, and sawing firewood into four-foot lengths. By night, he taught the others in the camp whatever they were willing to learn. He later wrote that seeing the lives of the other men wrecked by unemployment motivated him to become politically active as an attempt to improve the economic system.

Finally, in 1936, a long-awaited opportunity arose: returning to Saskatchewan, he partnered with university friends who were working on a rebel paper called *The Advocate* for an international movement known as the ‘United Front’; Frank would understand years later that it was a communist movement. According to Hanson’s undated, hand-typed “autobiography” included with his papers, *The Advocate* went “stone broke” shortly after, so the friends bought a printing

plant and newspaper in Swift Current. That paper was called *The Herald* and it was a far cry from the rebel paper: it was essentially “an ordinary rural weekly newspaper.” Hanson and his friends worked on the paper, living together in a room at their printing plant until 1939, when Hanson married. The others went their own ways, and Hanson continued in his publishing and printing business for four more years. He also became the president of the Swift Current Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) constituency organization.

In 1944, just prior to the historic CCF election victory in Saskatchewan, Hanson moved to Regina to become the party’s Publicity and Political Education Director, Saskatchewan Section. He wrote ad copy, pamphlets, and candidate biographies; he designed posters, scheduled radio broadcasts, and assisted in both the provincial and federal elections. In 1946, he authored a lauded series of articles, *March of Freedom: How Mankind’s Struggles with Economic Forces Have Produced the CCF*, published serially in the CCF publication, *The Commonwealth*. Reviewed by J. B. Gladstone in the *Leader Post*, it was described as “one of the most useful texts ever published by our movement for furthering intelligent discussion and creating a better understanding of what democratic socialism actually stands for....a handbook for CCF discussion groups.”



In 1951, Frank became the editor-in-chief of *The Commonwealth*, serving in this position until his retirement in 1973. Throughout his career, he saved the correspondence he received from friends and colleagues. The collection that he donated to the Archives includes many of these letters, dated from about 1930 to 1989. His correspondents included: former Saskatchewan premiers T.C. Douglas and Allan Blakeney; Canadian author Max Braithwaite; former *Maclean's* and *Chatelaine* editor John Clare; Canadian Pacific Railroad superintendent Alfred Fryers; United Nations representative Bill Harding; Canadian artist Craig Moone; and others. The letters include commentary on major world events, life and career transformations, and longstanding friendships. For example, in 1983, T.C. Douglas wrote to his former CCF colleague:

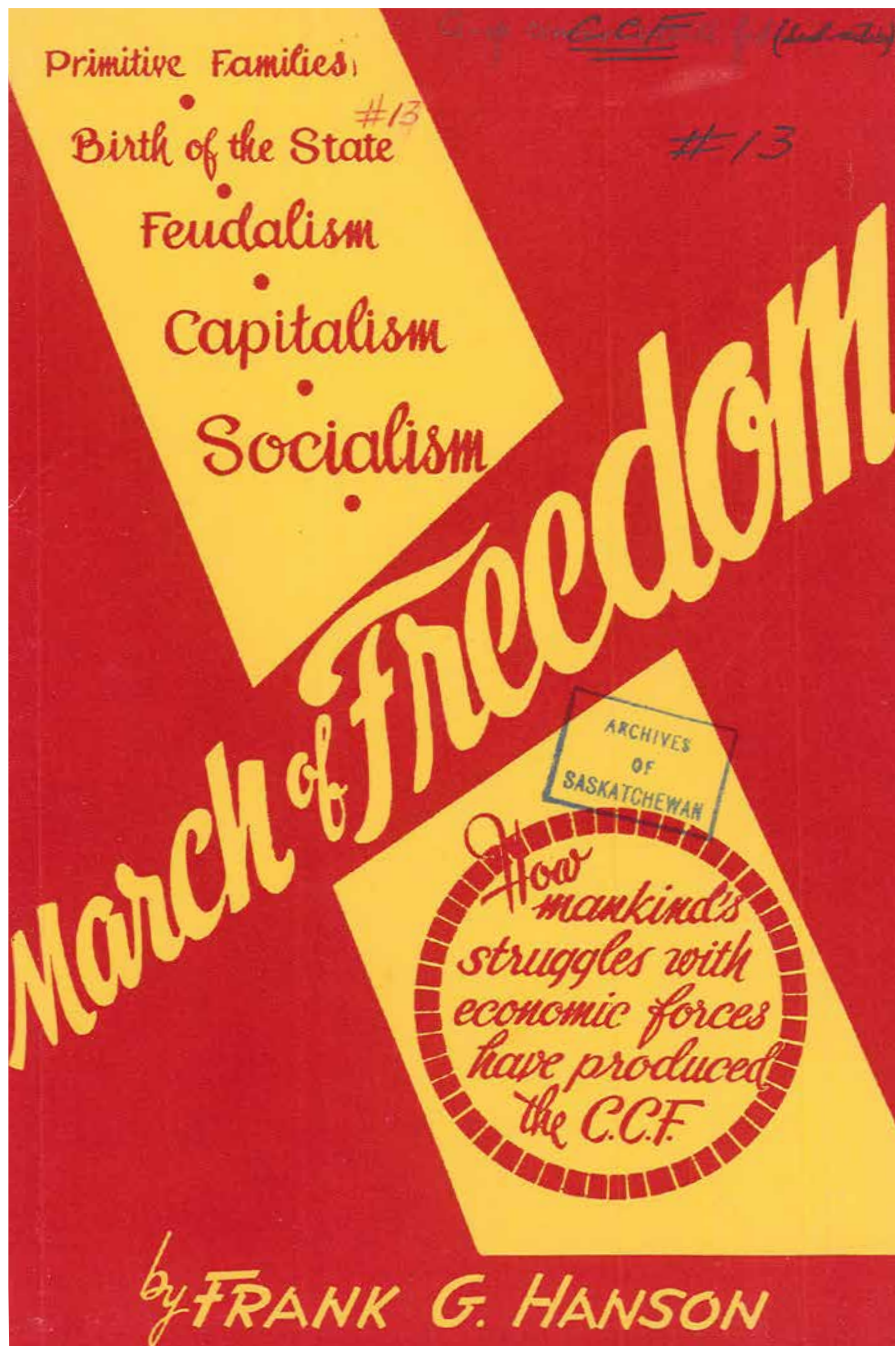
*Thanks very much for your kind comments regarding my contribution to the Canadian scene. Like yourself, I wasn't trained for the job and have been compelled to adapt myself to the various problems as they have arisen. In retrospect I'm not sure that's a bad idea. I sometimes find that people who are too highly specialized have lost sight of the problems and attitudes of people in other walks of life. You and I were tossed into a vortex of a social struggle for which we had no particular training. Nevertheless we were able to bring with us some concept of the hopes and aspirations of ordinary people rather than having the preconceived notions which too often limit the vision of social scientists.*

During his retirement, starting in 1984, Frank initiated a letter-writing campaign with old friends and colleagues who had started out in Saskatchewan and gone on to become significant players in Canada, inviting them to write to him and update him about their lives. For example, the historically minded Frank wrote to his old friend, John Clare, about his collection of letters:

*At some time in the future some eager young researchers, looking for source material about the generation of the dirty 'thirties, will come upon this treasure trove of "real stuff" right from the mouths of people like yourself who out-leaped the grasshoppers from the prairies of Saskatchewan to find places of significance hither and yon.*

Since many of Hanson's correspondents responded with detailed accounts of their lives, we hope Frank's prediction comes true and researchers will visit the Archives to see how his friends summed up their lives and careers for him back in 1984.

Author Catherine Holmes is an archivist with the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.



Cover of Hanson's pamphlet, *March of Freedom: How Mankind's Struggles with Economic Forces Have Produced the CCF*, published in 1946. PAS, Political Pamphlets - Co-operative Commonwealth Federation: Saskatchewan Section - no. 13.

*I've always loved stories told through the eyes of a first-person narrator: through diaries, letters and autobiographies, even oral histories. Here are excerpts from some of the most popular articles that shared first-person narratives. MW*

**Canoe trip through the north** *I was proud to publish the trip diary of Christina Henry and Nan McKay, who were young women in their twenties taking a vacation from their jobs at the University of Saskatchewan in 1919 when they travelled by wagon and canoe from Prince Albert to La Ronge, and then on to Le Pas. Not only did Henry describe in detail their trip and the people they met, but they also took over 100 photographs to document their travels. In "The amazing adventures of Christina and Nan," the entire trip diary was published along with selected photos from the trip in the Volume 63, Number 2, Fall 2011 edition, carefully annotated through a collegial group effort by Duff Spafford, Nadine Charabin, Bonnie Wagner, Christine Charmbury, and myself. MW*

August 15...

At 9:30 our canoe came -- Adolphus Ross and William Bird (both Indians). They never spoke a word of English to us. I had never been in a canoe before and it was very exciting. At noon they put up a sail as shelter. The sun was blistering. They shot three ducks. We met a family of Indians (1 canoe) who had a blanket up for a sail. Stopped and put up a



Left: The trip guides: Adolphus Ross (left) and William Bird. PAS Photo S-B 513 Right: Christina Henry (left) and Nan McKay during their northern canoe trip, 1919. PAS Photo S-B622

sail of our own like this [original diary has a drawing of triangular sail]. Camped for dinner, lunch and tea. The Indians always made a fire to make tea and they had their own food, and we had ours. The lake, just at dark, was beautiful, as smooth as glass and all opalescent colours. We saw an island covered, as we thought, with pelicans. We hated to go to our tent and leave the fading beauty of the lake.

**A lively voice from the past** *Artist Belinda Harrow shared the journal of her grandmother, Laura McDonald, who chronicled her family's move in the Dirty Thirties in "The Diary of our Trip Up North: Zelma to Mullinger via Saskatoon." Only 17 at the time of the trip, diarist Laura has a lively and distinctive voice throughout. An artist, Harrow provided a contextual introduction to the diary and also shared her own painting of her great-grandmother, posed as she was in photos taken during the move. The painting became the cover image for that edition (Volume 68, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2016). MW*

First of all we decided to go to Turtleford. "We" consists of my dad and mother, five brothers, two sisters, and myself, 21 cattle, 11 horses, five pigs, four turkeys, 24 hens and two dogs. There was the caboose which is 12' by 14' pulled by four horses, next came my team "Bud and Bob" with the wagon loaded with oats and mostly furniture. Then Dorothy came with "Harry and Joe" with the hayrack, quite heavily



The photo right shows the McDonald family as they started out on their trip; the cover image showcases the painting Belinda Harrow created of her great-grandmother, the mother of the diarist Laura McDonald. Images provided by Belinda Harrow.

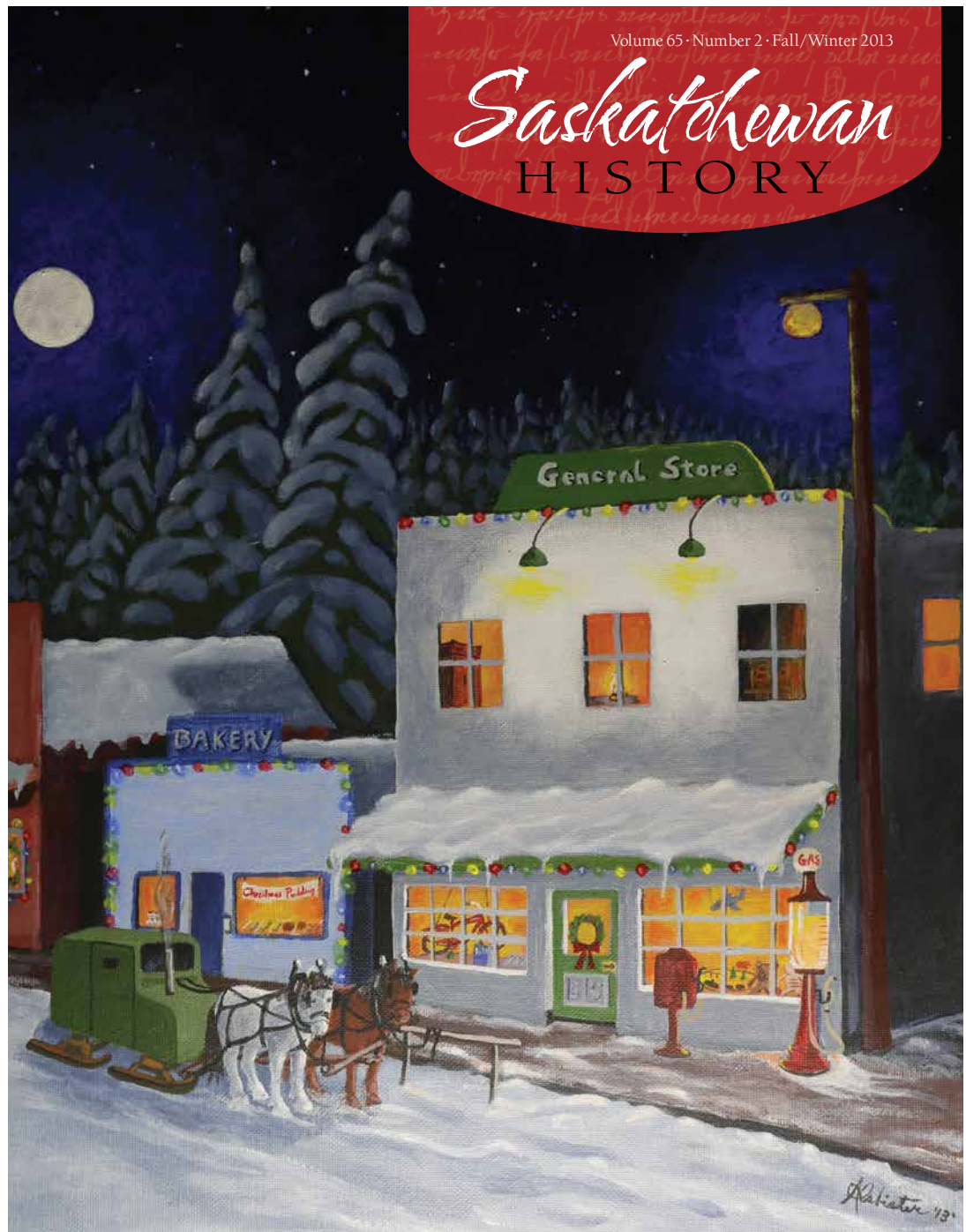
loaded with machinery. One of the kids drove the Bennett buggy which had the pigs in the bottom and chickens and turkeys in a crate in the upper apartment. There was a seat in the front. Last came Fred on "Pinto" chasing the cattle and usually one of the kids helped him.



**Through a child's eyes** *No story has stayed with me more than Arnold Isbister's first person reminiscence of Fred Sasakamoose, Arnold's uncle and the first Indigenous NHL player. A talented visual artist as well as a skilled writer, Isbister artfully managed to convey the excitement of a child while telling the story of a man faced with what would seem a tough decision. Mr. Isbister also painted his memories of driving into Debden at Christmas time all those years ago, providing original illustration for his story, "Fred Sasakamoose: Free to choose," which appeared in the Volume 65, Number 2, Fall/Winter 2013 edition. MW*

We pulled into Debden in our Caboose: a small cabin on a sleigh with tiny windows to look through and warmed by a miniature self-made wood stove. The reins to the horses were fitted through small holes below the two front windows or 'windshield' (a set of glass panes) that could be opened when you wanted or needed air-conditioning. Smoke from the miniature heater trailed into the night air as we entered Main Street. Overhead in the twilight were rows of red, blue, green and yellow lights that sparkled through moulded glass; the air bustled with the activity of horses, cars, people and the sounds of carols coming from some loudspeakers placed on top of business roof tops. There was a hardware store, its window decorated with sprayed snow, coloured stencils of holly -- and a Chinese-owned restaurant with rows of Chinese red lanterns. The grocery store had stacks of wooden crates of Japanese oranges; beside them were bins of Christmas nuts and ribbon candy that looked like wrapping paper. I was in heaven! I slid open the window on my side and stuck my head through to get the full picture unfolding before us.

Mom and Dad pulled over, tied the team while I stood there in awe, speechless, staring in wonderment at the lights. They did their shopping while I followed in a slow trance, often stopping, to my parents' annoyance. The holiday smell permeated the atmosphere and I drooled at the enticing arrangement of pastries, baking and bon-bons. Too soon, we were finished shopping and exited the fantasy, back to our world of cabooses and horses. The team stood waiting, sleeping as they stood with icicles, frost dangling from their nostrils, maybe dreaming they're reindeer, I thought in amusement.



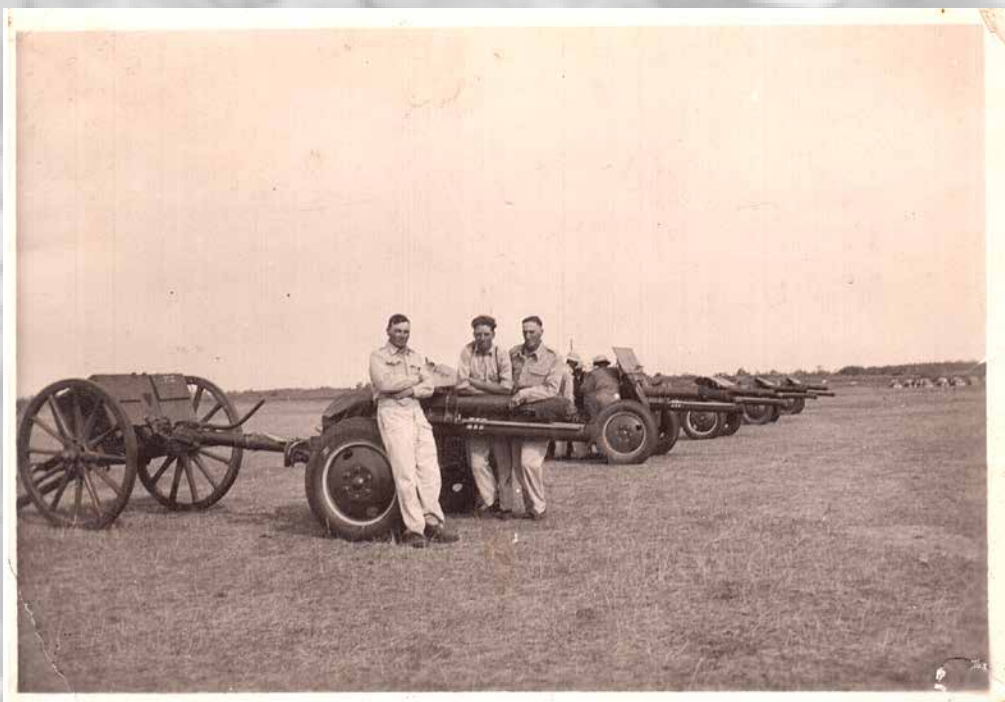
*Arnold Isbister painted this to go with his article; the Archives was delighted to licence it to showcase as the cover of our Fall/Winter 2013 edition.*



*Since becoming art director for Saskatchewan History in 2010, I've learned so much about our province's history and enjoyed the work of showcasing the unique historical photos and stories published here. As the final military story to be told in these historic pages, I'm proud to share my own grandfather's war story through part of his photo collection, and to know that copies of his collection of memorabilia are being donated to the Provincial Archives for future researchers to use. AK*

**George Roe, Gunner, 7th Anti-Tank Regiment of the RCA** In April of 1941 at the age of 19, my grandfather George Roe left the family farm outside Moosomin to serve overseas as a Gunner with the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment of the Royal Canadian Army (RCA). Now 96 years old and living in Regina, George proudly shares his collection of photos from his time in the service. He may very well be the last remaining survivor of his regiment -- if anyone reading knows of other survivors, please contact and tell us. All photos are courtesy of George Roe.

*Andrew Kaytor*







*This photo below of George Roe's entire regiment, consisting of four separate batteries, was taken in Bussum, Holland while the troops were waiting to go home in June 1945. After it was taken, the regiment dispersed and soldiers were sent home based on points earned while in service: George Roe was discharged and went home in November 1945. The black and white photos are from Mr. Roe's private collection -- that's art director Andrew Kaytor in the colour photo, posed with his grandfather George Roe, 2017.*



## A lasting commitment: Evelyn Eager's bequest (1919-1991)

Nadine Charabin

Evelyn Eager was a Saskatchewan girl, born and bred, whose passion for Saskatchewan history and politics was reflected in both her career choices and in the legacies she left behind. On a career path that took her from teaching, to archiving the province's historical documentation, to sharing Saskatchewan history in print, Eager's focus rarely strayed from the province of her birth. In fact, even after her death, her commitment to celebrating Saskatchewan history lived on through her bequest to support the historical journal that she had helped to build.



**Room "B"**  
 EVELYN EAGER  
 From Kenaston doth she come,  
 Bubbling over with joy and fun;  
 Evelyn Eager is her name,  
 Ever ready to play the game.  
 —o—



Left: Evelyn Eager entry from *The Light* yearbook, 1939. PAS, Department of Education, S-Ed.7, File 17, 33.  
 Right: Evelyn Eager at her desk, Saskatchewan Archives office, Field Husbandry Building, 1956. PAS Photo S-F106.

Evelyn was raised on the family farm east of Kenaston, where she attended Aikins School, took correspondence courses, and graduated from Kenaston High School. In 1939 she attended the Saskatoon Normal School, where classmates described her in the yearbook as "Industry Personified."<sup>1</sup> After receiving her teaching certificate, she taught close to home at Aikins School before venturing further to teach at country schools in Paddockwood and Duval, Saskatchewan, and Field, British Columbia.

In 1944, Evelyn began her studies at the University of Saskatchewan, majoring in history and political science and graduating with great distinction in 1947. She then pursued graduate work at the University of Toronto, where she completed her Master of Arts in 1949, followed by the class work for a doctoral degree in political science in 1950.

From 1950-1961, Eager was employed by the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (then known as the Saskatchewan Archives Board) as assistant provincial archivist, based in the Saskatoon office. During that time, she contributed to the development of the provincial archival program in Saskatoon in a number of ways. She managed the installation of a new Archives' office in the lower level of the newly constructed Murray Memorial Library in 1956, which is still the Saskatoon home of the Provincial Archives today. She oversaw the acquisition and indexing of the pre-1930 homestead files, a collection that significantly increased the number of users at the Archives' Saskatoon office. While achieving these major accomplishments at the office, she also wrote her dissertation and completed her PhD in 1958, and taught

political science classes at the University of Saskatchewan.<sup>2</sup> "Industry Personified," indeed!

In addition to other archival duties, Eager became *Saskatchewan History's* business manager just two years after the publication was launched, serving in that role from 1950-1958. In her words, "*Saskatchewan History* [was] a non-profit venture of the Saskatchewan Archives Board, designed to make available to the public some of the results of historical research within the province, as well as the recollections of old timers."<sup>3</sup>

After an initial surge in subscriptions at its outset, the journal's business success appeared to have plateaued by the mid-1950s, with the number of subscribers dropping from 847 in 1956 to 647 by 1958. Provincial Archivist John H. Archer appointed Eager to be the new editor of *Saskatchewan History* in 1958, and that appointment quickly paid dividends.

Eager's first editorial initiative was to improve the format and enhance the visual appeal of the magazine. Her primary suggestion was to include more illustrations, a point she had been arguing for some time. Under her guiding hand, more black and white photographs were included to illustrate articles, and in the Spring 1958 issue, the first colour illustration -- a print of James Henderson's painting *The End of Winter* -- was hand-inserted into every issue to accompany an article about the artist.<sup>4</sup> (Colour illustrations were not included in the journal again until the Saskatchewan Roughrider special issue in Fall/Winter 2010.) She also created a new feature called "Prairie People" to "present historical sketches of notable individuals or groups who have made a unique or outstanding contribution



Archivists Evelyn Eager and Douglas Bocking look at homestead records in the Archives' reading room, Saskatoon, c. 1960. Both Eager and Bocking served as editors for *Saskatchewan History*. PAS Photo S-B6511.



to their community or to the province.”<sup>5</sup> Eager also played a lead role in developing and distributing the Archives’ Pioneer Questionnaires, which were originally solicited, gathered, and used to prepare articles with popular appeal for *Saskatchewan History*, but became a valuable historical resource that continues to be consulted at the Archives.<sup>6</sup>

Eager’s next challenge was to address the journal’s dropping subscription rate. To this end, she focused on making connections with different provincial groups that seemed to be a natural audience for *Saskatchewan History*. The Saskatoon Teacher’s College was persuaded to require its students to subscribe to the journal: at one point as many as 488 subscribers were from the Teacher’s College.<sup>7</sup> Notices about the content of current issues were sent to special interest groups that might have a particular interest in the subject matter, and frequently resulted in new subscribers.<sup>8</sup> A special subscription rate was established for members of the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society and for members of other historical societies in the province, which further bolstered circulation. In addition, press releases were shared with newspapers including Saskatoon’s *Star-Phoenix* to raise awareness of the publication’s existence.

Eager’s aggressive marketing strategies paid off. By the spring of 1959, the number of subscriptions had grown to 1881; by the beginning of 1960, the numbers climbed to over 2000.<sup>9</sup> When she left the Archives and the magazine in 1961, *Saskatchewan History* was in great shape.

Eager left the Archives to take a position as assistant professor of political science at the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan for the 1962-1963 academic school year. She subsequently served as secretary of the Saskatchewan Royal Commission on Taxation (1963-1965), before becoming a professor of political science at Lakehead University from 1965 until her early retirement in the 1970s. In 1980, she published a history of government in Saskatchewan entitled *Saskatchewan Government: Politics and Pragmatism*. During this part of her career, her areas of interest included: government in Canada, particularly in Saskatchewan; political philosophy; and public administration. She was active in the Canadian Political Science Association, the Institute of Public Administration of Canada, and the Canadian Historical Association.<sup>10</sup>

Almost thirty years after she resigned from her position at the Archives, Evelyn Eager passed away in Regina in 1991 at the age of 71. Shortly afterward, the depth of her continuing interest in the Provincial Archives and *Saskatchewan History* became clear when Provincial Archivist Trevor Powell received notice that Eager had left a significant bequest to be invested by the Archives in a trust fund, with the income to be used annually to support and assist in the publication of the journal. The Eager Trust has helped to support the publication since 1992. Since the publication of *Saskatchewan History* is ending with this farewell issue, the terms of Eager’s bequest allow for the Eager Trust to be maintained and the income to be used to promote and facilitate access to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan’s extensive collection.

*Endnotes on page 41*

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Nadine Charabin is the publication coordinator for *Saskatchewan History* and the manager of Reference Services at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

Throughout its nearly 70 years of publication, Saskatchewan History has shared many stories of diverse individuals: the famous, the not-so-famous, and in some cases, the infamous. Here are excerpts from some of the favourites. MW

**Hollywood SK** In "A free ride through Saskatchewan," prolific author Brock Silversides, who has written some of the publication's most-beloved stories over the years, told the tale of how two pseudo Our Gang movies were made right here in Saskatchewan during the Dirty Thirties -- starring local kids (Volume 68, Number 2, Fall/Winter 2016). Seeking to have characters similar to the Hollywood "Gang" films, the producer, Sammy Fox, placed bluntly worded ads to find kids with the stereotypical physical characteristics that he wanted. MW

## WANTED!

WATCH  
FOR  
COMPLETE  
SCHEDULE

## Ten Million Freckles

Boy . . . we sure like freckles, not the little dainty ones, but the real splashy kind! . . . Let's see all the best freckles in town—bring them with you on the morning of August 29th.

There will be a real, live Movie Director who will select the characters for The STAR-PHOENIX-TIVOLI THEATRE LOCAL "GANG COMEDY."

### NOTE

Every child who is in front of The Star-Phoenix 10 a.m., Friday morning, August 29th, will appear on the screen during the showing of the Local Gang Comedy Film at the Tivoli Theatre soon.

The completed picture will be shown at the Tivoli Theatre for one week, commencing soon.

WATCH THE STAR-PHOENIX DAILY FOR PARTICULARS

## Schedule For Friday

The following are a few of the locations where The Star-Phoenix-Tivoli Gang Comedy will be made: The Davis Dairy, Ltd.; Heintzman & Co., Limited; Arthur Rose, Ltd.; C. H. Wentz Lumber Co., Ltd.; Saskatoon Cartage and Warehouse Co.; the Gillespie Big 22, Limited, and automobiles to be used in the big traffic scene will be furnished by Automobile Clearing House, Ltd.

The schedule for Friday is as follows: Star-Phoenix, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; all around, using Saskatoon Cartage & Warehouse Co., 11 a.m. till 12 noon; lunch from 12 to 1 p.m.; the Gillespie Big 22, Limited, 1 p.m. to 1:30; C. H. Wentz Lumber Co., Ltd., 1:35 to 2:05; Davis Dairy, 2:10 to 2:45; Arthur Rose, Limited, 2:55 till 3:30; Heintzman & Co. Limited, 3:40 until 4:10.

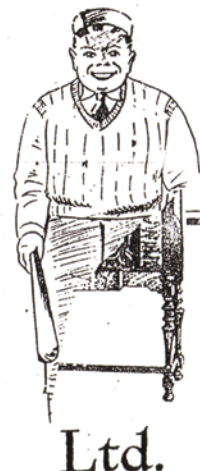
## Wanted! A Fat Boy!

(Age between Six and Eight)

EVERYONE LOVES A FAT BOY, AND WE SURE WOULD LOVE TO SEE JUST HOW FAT A REAL FAT BOY IS! HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE USE OF YOUR SURPLUS WEIGHT—ENTER THE GREAT

STAR-PHOENIX  
TIVOLI  
THEATRE  
LOCAL  
GANG  
COMEDY

A Real Fat Boy is Needed for One of the Leading Roles.



Ltd.

These ads inviting local kids to try out for a movie appeared in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, August 26, 1930.

**Her words soared** In "A prairie poet takes wing: Edna Jaques' rise," award-winning Saskatchewan author and playwright, Ken Mitchell, told the story of Edna Jaques, published in the special World War One edition (Volume 66, Number 2, Fall/Winter 2014). He quotes from her 1977 autobiography, Uphill all the Way, her own explanation of how she conceived her most famous poem. MW

When Colonel McCrae's immortal poem, "In Flanders Field," was printed, I memorized it; then one day in the sewing room of the hospital, the answer came to me like a flash of lightning. I screamed to the girl next to me, "Give me a pencil quick, and paper!" She dug a pencil out of her purse and said, "I haven't any paper." I looked frantically around for paper but there was none there. So I turned over a spool box... and on the back of it I wrote my answer to his poem as fast as my hands could write it, no thinking, no pausing, just the words coming in as if someone were saying them.

In addition to becoming widely known for "In Flanders Now," Edna Jaques was the first woman in the west to fly on an airplane, in 1919. She memorialized that experience in poetry as well. PAS Photo S-B13179





**A Ukrainian wedding on the prairie** *Marion Mutala is an award-winning author; readers love her fresh voice and stories about her Ukrainian heritage. A prolific and active writer, Marion also hosts a TV show on Shaw TV Saskatoon called You Rock!. When told the magazine was being cancelled, she wrote, "I feel blessed to have been part of a 70-year old historical magazine that strived to preserve those precious moments in time and document them for the entire world. We are the past, and as we live in the present, we will take our stories to the future. It has been a great pleasure to write for such an important, prestigious part of history that is called Saskatchewan History." Below readers will find a taste of the rich details Marion shared about her parents' 1940 Ukrainian wedding in "Sophie and August: A love story" (Volume 65, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2013). MW*

So after meeting only twice, the wedding was planned for November 2, 1940 in the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hafford. Ukrainian weddings were usually three-day affairs. Preparations included a lot of fun, frivolity and a mock wedding. In a small village, there were usually three phases to a Ukrainian wedding: the pre-wedding, the wedding phase and the post wedding phase. Most weddings took place immediately after harvest, not in November. However, since both Sophie and August did not want to spend another winter alone (remember: they were not getting any younger) they decided to get married soon. Perhaps this is where the expression, "Why wait for spring: do it now?" originated. As part of the preparation for the wedding, August purchased Sophie's wedding gown, shoes and veil to wear that day. Sophie, in return, bought him a white shirt and tie because August already owned a good black suit.



*The wedding photo of Sophie and August Mutala, 1940, courtesy of their daughter, author Marion Mutala.*

**Shaken, not stirred** *Brian Hubner, an archivist in Manitoba, wrote a fun, racy biographical sketch suggesting that the province may very well have been home, albeit briefly, to the original James Bond. "James Bond in Saskatchewan: A biographical sketch of Conrad O'Brien-ffrench" was published in Volume 65, Number 1, Spring/ Summer 2013. MW*

Rumour has it that James Bond may have got his start in Saskatchewan. British secret agent Conrad O'Brien-ffrench is considered one of the half-dozen or so models for Ian Fleming's popular character. His adventurous life started when he was only 17-years-old in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. From 1910 to 1912, O'Brien-ffrench served with the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP), writing about the experience in his 1979 autobiography. In what was an extraordinarily eventful life, policing in the Canadian west was O'Brien-ffrench's first real taste of action.

*Conrad O'Brien-ffrench while serving as a Mountie, circa 1910 – 12, from his 1979 autobiography, Delicate Mission: Autobiography of a Secret Agent.*



*This photo of Nettie Kryski, left, was provided courtesy of the Yorkton Film Festival.*

of attention at festival events. She was the one with the smile, the one with determination, the one whose meticulous attention to detail got the job done. In a recent interview, Elwyn Vermette, long-time YFF board member and former chair, called Nettie the glue that held the festival together.

## Pioneer of the Yorkton Film Festival

*Professional writer Kathy Morrell gave readers a detailed look at the beginnings of the Yorkton Film Festival -- and the extraordinary woman whose diligent work over many years got it going -- in her article, "The little engine that could: Nettie Kryski and the Yorkton Film Festival," found in Volume 63, Number 2, Fall 2011. MW*

In 1947, a group of volunteers -- those heroes of Saskatchewan culture -- established what would become the Yorkton International Film Festival (YFF) in a city many considered too small and too isolated for a major documentary competition. Within this group was one determined, soft-spoken little woman. Her name was Antoinette Kryski, but everyone called her Nettie. She was not the champion who heralded the pages of the national newspapers. She was not the centre

## Out of the closet and onto the shelves: The Neil Richards fonds

From Chinese settlement to canoeing in northern Saskatchewan; from Great War artwork to a celebration of winter, and more: over the past few years, almost every issue of Saskatchewan History has featured a thematic photo essay. Short on words and heavy on pictorial content, photo essays allow us to tell stories at a glance, showcasing archival photos and documentary art, primarily from the collection of the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. The format provided opportunities to share extraordinary but lesser-known visual records with our readers. When we began publishing in full colour, we were excited to dig more deeply into the Archives' photo holdings to bring some amazing colour photographs and art work to the printed page. Continuing in this tradition, we are pleased in this farewell edition to present a Words and Pictures feature that celebrates the Neil Richards fonds, a large collection related to gay and lesbian life in Saskatchewan. A special thank you to Joe Wickenhauser for sharing image selections and caption information for many of the illustrations featured in this essay.

Nadine Charabin

**Neil Richards' long and winding road** Neil Richards is a retired library assistant who worked in the Special Collections Department at the University of Saskatchewan library. While it has been, in his own words, "a long and winding road," Neil's decades of diligent collection and subsequent donation of materials, coupled with the professional foresight of archivists, has resulted in the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan holding the most extensive LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) collection in a public archives in Canada. We are proud to present Neil's experience in his own words. MW



A youthful Neil Richards in front of the Arts Building, 1975. Richards has collected material on gender and sexual diversity in Saskatchewan since the 1970s. PAS Photo S-B13399.

I became involved with the emerging gay liberation movement in Saskatoon in 1972, shortly after moving to the city for a job at the University Library. At that time, most of the active members were young men who had little knowledge or contact with men or women involved in same-sex relationships in previous decades. For the most part, there were only rumours of what homosexual life was like in the previous decades.

I was involved with most of the early gay and AIDS organizations, usually as a volunteer but occasionally as a public leader. Many of my efforts were directed to the education of the community: establishing a lending library that included both contemporary and historical literature; and highlighting current media coverage of gays through postings and reprinting. Long a collector (or even a hoarder!), I saved local paper ephemera



related to gay and lesbian life from the beginning.

A turning point for me was a workshop presented by volunteers from the Canadian Gay Archives (now the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives or CLGA) at a national conference of Canadian lesbians and gay men held in 1977 at the University of Saskatchewan. Most of the leading gay activists from across Canada came to Saskatoon; the workshop was packed and inspiring. There was much excitement about the recently published *Gay American History: Lesbians and Gay Men in the U.S.A.*, a ground-breaking documentary

anthology by community historian, Jonathan Katz. Its 690 pages of documents, painstakingly culled by the amateur historian from various archives, suggested that there was indeed a rich history to be uncovered: but one that had not interested public archives or beckoned to academic historians. Those attending the conference were told that the requisite first step toward regaining a knowledge of our community history was to establish and support independent, volunteer-run community archives, where gay men and lesbians would facilitate and control access to historical collections. We also needed to

support non-academic, gay-identified historians.

At the time, I remember that actual hostility was attributed to most professional archivists in their collection development activities. However, my own experience suggested that these claims were too simplistic. Before the 1970s, there was considerably less interest among Canadian historians and archivists for what we now call 'social history.' Politics, war, economics, and settlement were the primary interests; thus, it was predictable that collection development in most publicly funded archives reflected these priorities. Male



*Demonstration at the StarPhoenix. June 10, 1975: About 20 men and women demonstrated at the front of the Saskatoon StarPhoenix building to protest the paper's refusal to print an ad submitted by the Gay Community Centre. The Centre had sent questionnaires on gay matters to all candidates running in the June 11th provincial election. Nine of the 25 candidates in Saskatoon replied: eight were supportive of gay rights, one was negative. The ad that was refused listed the results of the poll. This was the first gay picket in Saskatoon. Holding the banner are Doug Wilson and Anne Lawrence. Others holding signs include Neil Richards and Erin Shoemaker. PAS Photo S-B13418.*

same-sex relations were not decriminalized in Canada until 1969: a strong stigma against gay men and lesbians persists to this day. Given these conditions, it was only natural that gay men, lesbians, and their families were reticent to donate papers that could endanger lives or hurt reputations to public archives.

Following the 1977 conference, I became a committed supporter of the Canadian Gay Archives, sending duplicate copies of whatever Saskatchewan material I uncovered. In 1982, I took a leave of absence from my job and went to work at the Toronto office of CGA, which, at that time, was far from the established and robust organization it is today. Small as it was, the Archives had already attracted many donations and was flush with duplicate material that detailed the early development of the gay movement across Canada, and, to a lesser degree, in the United States and United Kingdom. I had serious security concerns at

the Toronto office, and so arranged to ship many boxes of these duplicate newsletters and journals to my home in Saskatchewan as a temporary safekeeping measure: hence the presence of much non-Saskatchewan material in the initial Richards fonds.

The initial donation to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan occurred in 1986. The accumulated material had clogged my small apartment and was not organized for efficient research by anyone. And I was plagued by dust allergies! I understood that the accumulated material was essential to an understanding of the early development of the gay liberation movement in Saskatchewan and Western Canada and that the material I had gathered in Toronto provided context and opportunities for research in gay and lesbian subjects beyond the province. I had two alternatives: either send the collection as a gift to the CGA, or find a permanent institutional home in Saskatchewan.

*On March 12, 1977, the Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights sponsored what was called "the largest gay rights demonstration ever held on the Prairies" at the Saskatchewan Legislature. One hundred and twenty-five activists protested the government's lack of action on human rights amendments. PAS Photo S-B13509.*





In the end, I decided that the most likely future users of the collection would be local, believing the CGA's organizational weaknesses and distance from Saskatchewan made a public archive in Saskatoon a much better choice.

I had long worked in the Murray Branch of the University Library, and was familiar with the Provincial Archives' office, its staff, and its general operating procedures. With some trepidation, I approached one of the archivists about offering the collection to the Saskatoon branch office of the Archives. I described the collection's size and extent, highlighting the potential research interest of several of the components and suggesting solutions to the presence of some problematic material (i.e. an extensive gay male pornography collection), and the need for access restrictions on some of the personal material.

I was happy to learn that the Provincial Archives would welcome the entire collection. The size and extensive scope

of the collection, which I thought might dampen interest by the space-challenged office, were instead considered virtues by a public archives mandated to collect documentation about Saskatchewan. In 1986, the Archives became the first Canadian public archive to acquire a large collection related to gay and lesbian life. It may still be the largest acquisition of its kind, although the University Libraries of Manitoba and of Victoria recently acquired large and remarkable collections. Looking back, I remain a little surprised at the foresight and temerity of the archivists: such an acquisition was unprecedented in Canada and at the time, the government of Grant Devine, through its public statements and actions, had earned a reputation as unsympathetic to the struggle for gay rights.

Looking ahead, I hope for many more donations to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan and other public archives to better tell the stories of the province's LGBTQ populations, which are as diverse as the general population.





### *Using the Neil Richards fonds: Q&A with Valerie Korinek*

Dr. Valerie J. Korinek is professor of Modern Canadian History at the University of Saskatchewan. She researches and teaches gender, sexualities and cultural history; her recently completed project work led her to use the Neil Richards fonds. Editor Myrna Williams asked Dr. Korinek several questions about the Archives' extensive collection of LGBTQ materials. MW

**Editor:** *For what purposes have you used the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan's collection of LGBTQ materials?*

**Dr. Korinek:** I have used the collection for a large research project on the history of western Canadian gay and lesbian communities and people. The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan was the starting point for this project that ultimately included archival work throughout western Canada and oral histories collected in all the major prairie cities. I've just finalized the manuscript: the book is entitled *Prairie Fairies: A History of Queer Communities and People in Western Canada, 1930-1985*, and is forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press in Spring/Summer 2018.

**Editor:** *How do you see the Archives collection being used in the future?*

**Dr. Korinek:** There are myriad ways this collection can be used because it is so large. I would like to see further graduate and scholarly use of the collection (any number of topics would lend themselves to an MA or PhD thesis) and, additionally, community interest in exploring our histories.

**Editor:** *What do you consider most important about these holdings?*

**Dr. Korinek:** What is most important is the leadership role that the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, and benefactor Neil Richards, have played in preserving these histories. The primary reason that histories of gay and lesbian, or queer, people were not written was the lack of documentation necessary to do so. This collection conclusively demonstrates that queer people lived and loved in the prairies throughout the twentieth century; it proves that queer people carved out spaces and lived here: that is an important message. Secondly, such a vast repository of materials makes it possible to write history: without such sources, history cannot be written. So, this collection accomplishes two very important things. It will surprise people to learn that this is the largest holding of queer materials in western Canada, and second only to the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives in Toronto, in terms of Canadian holdings, so the collection at the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan makes a significant regional and national contribution.

Another strength of this collection is how well it preserves a sense of contemporary Saskatchewan life and history. The prairies have changed dramatically since the 1960s, and it is my hope that more people will be interested in writing this more recent history.

**Editor:** *What more would you like to see in the collection?*

**Dr. Korinek:** I would like to see oral interviews in the collection. As part of my own decade-long research program, I conducted interviews with over thirty residents of western Canada. The vast majority of those individuals agreed to have those interviews archived at the conclusion of the study, and, fittingly, they are destined for the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. But it would be wise to collect further oral interviews with those individuals who were involved in the community and activism, from 1985 to the present. My study terminates in 1985, and thus nothing subsequent to that end date (including work with AIDS Saskatoon) has been covered. Many individuals are still around, including Neil Richards, and it should be a priority to collect their histories. Oral interviews provide important documentation and resonate with archives users -- community members, students, and scholars -- in different ways than archival documents.

*Left: Peter Millard, perhaps the first openly gay English professor at the University of Saskatchewan, picketing fall convocation in 1975 in support of Doug Wilson. PAS Photo S-B13505. Opposite page top: Walter Davis speaking at a rally at Saskatoon City Hall during Metamorphosis 1979. October 6, 1979. PAS Photo S-B13483. Opposite page bottom left: Beth Foster (left) and her partner, Janice Richmond (right), c. 1970-1979. Foster was one of the first lesbian feminist activists in Saskatoon. PAS Photo S-B13396. Opposite page bottom right: Gens Hellquist painting Saskatoon's first gay community centre, the Zodiac Friendship Society, which he founded in 1973 and nurtured for 40 years. PAS Photo S-B13403.*







# INTERNATIONAL BLUE JEAN DAY



## APRIL 14

GAY WOMEN AND MEN  
ON CAMPUSES IN  
CANADA AND THE U.S.  
WILL WEAR BLUE JEANS  
ON APRIL 14 AS A SIGN  
OF SOLIDARITY IN  
THE STRUGGLE FOR  
GAY LIBERATION AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS.

### a day of gay solidarity

Above: International Blue Jean Day was often declared at the University of Saskatchewan with little advanced notice. The event forced heterosexuals to either show support for sexual diversity by wearing blue jeans or to scramble to find something else to wear! This event was held by the Gay Academic Union, an organization that existed from 1975 to 1982. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File III.38, Item 1.

"Oct 6-9, 1978: The first Metamorphosis cultural festival was held on the Thanksgiving weekend with featured performers Ferron from Vancouver, Blackberri from San Francisco and Michael Gordon from Regina. A highlight was a large march and rally at City Hall. This first Metamorphosis was so successful that it became an annual event promoting positive aspects of lesbian and gay life on the prairies. The Metamorphosis weekends usually included art and crafts displays, a parade or march, educational workshops, films, dances, coffeeshouses, concerts, and a Thanksgiving feast. The earlier Metamorphoses attracted both women and men. Although there were always events for male participants, the event in the later 1980s was organized and chiefly staffed by women who formed the majority of the participants. The event was presented annually until 1989 and was restaged in 2001 and 2002." Quoted from "Saskatchewan Resources for Sexual and Gender Diversity: U of S Library," <http://library2.usask.ca/srsd/chronology/?year=1978>, accessed June 14, 2017.

Opposite page left: Poster for the Metamorphosis Festival's Men's Dance at the Parktown Hotel, Saskatoon, October 9, 1987. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File VII.14j. Opposite page top: Poster for Metamorphosis 1979. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File VII.14.a. Opposite page middle: Metamorphosis Concert 1986. The Metamorphosis Festival in Saskatoon in 1986 included a concert featuring musicians Kris Purdy and David Ramsden, and Toronto comedian Sheila Gostick. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File VII.14h. Opposite page bottom: Poster for Metamorphosis 1980. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File VII.14.





M E T A M O R P H O S I S

# MEN'S DANCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00 pm — 1:30 am

PARKTOWN HOTEL

ADMISSION — \$6.00

FREE WITH METAMORPHOSIS PASS  
WEEKEND PASSES FOR SALE AT DOOR

come.







# AUGUST AND JULY

DIRECTED BY: MURRAY MARKOWITZ WITH: SHARON SMITH & ALEX DE WIEL


Showing at PLACE RIEL THEATRE, Monday, March 17, 8p.m.

Admission \$1.75

Sponsored by: GAY ACADEMIC UNION



# ICONS



## Drag Show

### Diva's Nite Club

Sunday, November 9, 2003  
Showtime 10:00pm  
No Cover

110 - 220 3rd Avenue South Saskatoon 665-0100

# DECADENCE

## DIVA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

110 - 220 3RD AVENUE S. SASKATOON 665-0100

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2003**  
**GUEST DJ MIXTRESS K-LA**  
Mixtress K-La came into her own as a DJ in 1993 here at Diva's nightclub. Currently, she can be found pumping out her trademark grooves at the Lick Club in Vancouver and as a girly Productions resident and at various other venues throughout Vancouver and Western Canada.  
**REV PROMOTIONS AND GIVEAWAYS**  
**REGULAR COVER CHARGE**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2003**  
**DJ BIG RED**  
SPINNING THE HOTTEST HITS OF THE LAST 10 YEARS!  
**PRIZES, GIVEAWAYS AND PIZZA @ 2:00 AM**  
**COVER:**  
MEMBERS \$3.00 GUESTS \$6.00

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2003**  
**DESIGNS OF THE DECADE DRAG SHOW**  
SHOWTIME 10:30 PM  
COVER:  
MEMBERS \$1.00 GUESTS \$3.00

# Drag 'N Dance



**JULY 27**  
**\$8.00**

Cosmo Senior's Hall  
614-11<sup>th</sup> St East  
Doors open @ 7:30pm  
Drag Show @ 9:00pm  
Music starts approx. 10:30pm  
Tickets Available @ GLHS

Our Esteemed M.C.



Crystal Clear

Meat Raffle to be drawn @ Midnight

A Fundraising Event for the Two Spirit Circle of Friends

# Le Cirque du so Gay:

Good-bye to the Circus!

## DIVA'S

FOND FAREWELL TO OUR RINGMASTERS OF DRAG

MR DIVA'S 2000 MISS DIVA'S 2000  
CLINT TAURUS KORRIE O'GRAPHY

**Saturday, February 24**  
**Show @ 10:00pm**  
with plenty of time for late night dancing!

Members \$5.00  
Non-Members \$7.00  
Eclectic Acrobatics \$4.75  
Mix & Match \$2.50

DIVA'S  
110 - 220 3rd Avenue South, Saskatoon

# CLOSETS are for CLOTHES

a drag extravaganza

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 5**  
Doors open @ 6pm  
Show starts @ 8pm

\$5 advance/\$7 door  
at the Information Centre,  
Lesbian Health Services and  
A Centre  
used/all ages

**Louie's**  
eat/drink/dance/live  
a student's union



Gay and Lesbian Health Services

Opposite page: Poster for the film August and July, directed by Murray Markowitz and featuring Sharon Smith and Alex DeWiel, which was screened at the 4th annual film series of the Gay Academic Union on Monday, March 17, 1987. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File 38, Item 2.

Top right: PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A1067, File 162. Top left: PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A1067, File 165. Bottom left: PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A1067, File 155. Bottom middle: PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A1067, File 157. Bottom right: PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A1067, File 173.

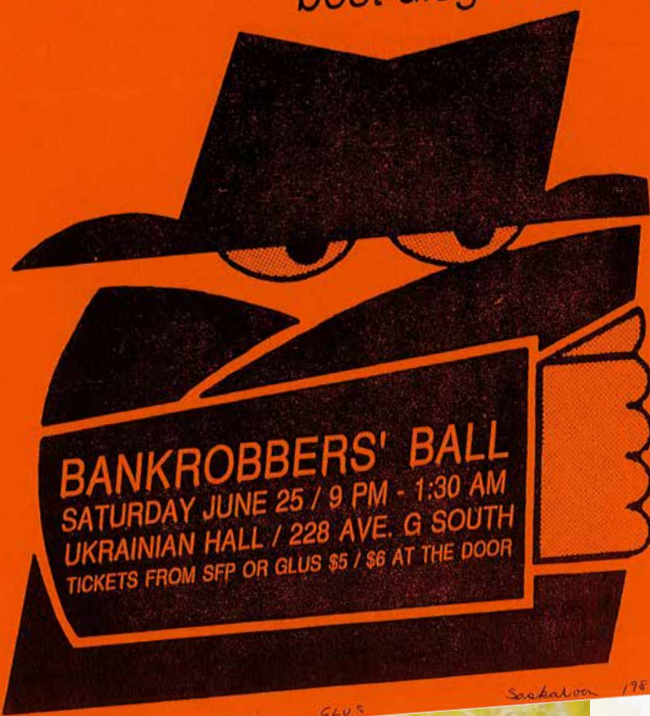




# I SAW DADDY KISSING SANTA CLAUS

C O M M U N I T Y D A N C E  
S A T U R D A Y D E C E M B E R 3  
U K R A I N I A N H A L L  
2 2 8 A V E . G S . 9 P . M .  
A D V A N C E T I C K E T S C A L L 2 4 4 - 4 7 8 2  
C S H R H O S T S G L U S

**NEWSFLASH:** Hot prizes for  
best disguises!



**BANKROBBERS' BALL**  
SATURDAY JUNE 25 / 9 PM - 1:30 AM  
UKRAINIAN HALL / 228 AVE. G SOUTH  
TICKETS FROM SFP OR GLUS \$5 / \$6 AT THE DOOR

Above PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File 1.80.

Left: The Bankrobbers' Ball, a masquerade dance, was held at the Ukrainian Hall as a response to Saskatchewan Premier Grant Devine's comparison of homosexuals to bank robbers. Pride Week was not held in Saskatchewan for almost a decade while Devine was in power. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File 1.80.

Opposite page top left: PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A1067, File 174. Opposite page top right: Svend Robinson, MP for Burnaby and NDP justice critic, gave a lecture at the University of Saskatchewan on sexual orientation and human rights on March 9, 1987. He sought support for his private member's bill to include sexual orientation in the federal Human Rights Code. Robinson didn't "come out" publicly until the following year (1988) when he became Canada's first openly gay MP. Robinson returned to the U of S in October 1989 as the guest speaker for the 11th Metamorphosis festival and again a decade later for the 2nd annual Breaking the Silence conference hosted by the College of Education. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File 1.80. Opposite page bottom left: PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A1067, File 126, Poster 2. Opposite page bottom right: "Must Gays Go Straight to Heaven?" was a forum presented in 1988 in collaboration with Gays and Lesbians at the University of Saskatchewan (GLUS) and the University of Saskatchewan Students Union. Forum speaker Reverend Colin Clay (Campus Chaplain 1977-2000) received the Doug Wilson Award in 1996 for his role in opposing the infamous anti-gay crusader, Anita Bryant, at her "Christian Liberation" rally in Moose Jaw in 1978. A specific fund was established to create a special appointment for forum speaker Charlotte Caron to integrate women's studies into the curriculum of St. Andrew's College. She joined their faculty in 1985, served as co-president from 1993 to 1998, was named to the Lydia Gruchy Chair in 1998, and was appointed Academic Dean in 2001. Forum speaker Erin Shoemaker was AIDS Saskatoon's first coordinator (1986-1990) and a founding member of the Coalition for Human Equality. PAS, Neil Richards fonds, S-A821, File 1.80.



**Passion Fruit**  
a Night of Music, Performance, and Drag, Featuring:

*Cocktail House*

The Oldrey Sisters  
Mr. & Miss Diva's 2000  
Clint Taurus &  
Korrie O'Grady  
Lady Gates  
Lourdes the Merry Virgin  
Brienna Altrogge  
Nadine Zettl

Silent Art Auction  
and much, much more...

**Saturday, Nov. 18, 2000**  
Upper MUB 8:00pm

Tickets at door: \$4 Students  
\$5 Non-students  
ID Required

U of S Students' Union  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Centre  
Centre 966-6615

**Svend Robinson**  
MP-NDP Justice Critic  
speaks on

**Sexual Orientation  
and  
Equality Rights**

**Monday, March 9**  
**12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**  
**Place Riel Theatre**  
**Arts Building**  
**University of Saskatchewan**

A Gays and Lesbians at the U of S/  
USSU Presentation

1987

**all frocked up**

**Glimpses of Cross-Dressing in Saskatchewan**  
curated by Neil Richards

In the Link Gallery (1st Floor)  
University of Saskatchewan Main Library

opening reception:  
Thursday September 23 7:30 - 9:30 pm

exhibition dates:  
September 23 - October 31 2003

Program @ 8 pm featuring the Skip Kutz Trio  
and a Royal Visit. Free admission. Cash bar.

University of Saskatchewan Archives and Library, U of S College of Arts and Sciences, U of S Departments of Art & Art History,  
Drama, History and Women's & Gender Studies, USSU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Centre, Diva's, Imperial Sovereigns Court  
of the Golden Wheat Sheaf Empire, Music Performance Trust Fund, and Perceptions News Magazine

visit our website: <http://kca.usask.ca/gallery/allfrokedup/>

# MUST GAYS GO STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN?

## A Forum on Christianity and Homosexuality

Colin Clay:  
University Chaplain: sponsored by United, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches

Charlotte Caron:  
Professor of Pastoral Theology: St. Andrew's College  
Co-ordinator: Friends of Affirm: an advocacy group for gays and lesbians in the  
United Church

Fr. Mike McDonald:  
Roman Catholic priest: Holy Cross Community  
Chaplain: Federal Prison System

Erin Shoemaker:  
National Spokesperson: Affirm: a support group for gays and lesbians in the  
United Church

**Noon Hour Monday March 28**  
**Speakers Corner Lower Place Riel**

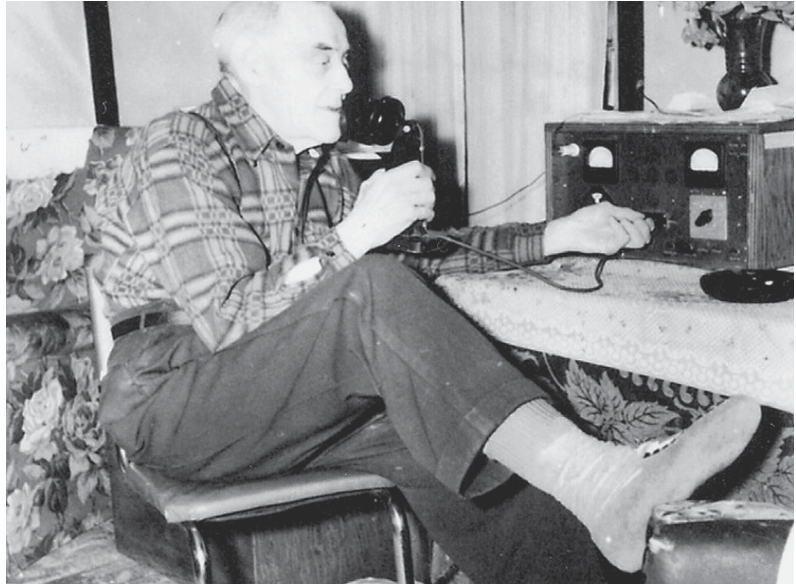
**A JOINT USSU/GLUS PRESENTATION**



*There are many, many untold stories of northern Saskatchewan that I hope will continue to be told in other forums: much of its history remains relatively unexplored. Les Ostryk is past president of Heritage Saskatchewan and a contributor of northern stories to this magazine. When told the magazine would no longer publish, Les wrote, "As I reflect on past articles that I have written or collaborated on, I realize there are countless stories that remain to be told -- or retold with new historical context. Stories of hardships and successes, of innovation used to connect remote northern communities through unique transportation and communication services. And who could deny the importance of sharing stories of Indigenous people and their lives and families, which are simply priceless, as we all move forward to better understand each other and work towards reconciliation?" MW*

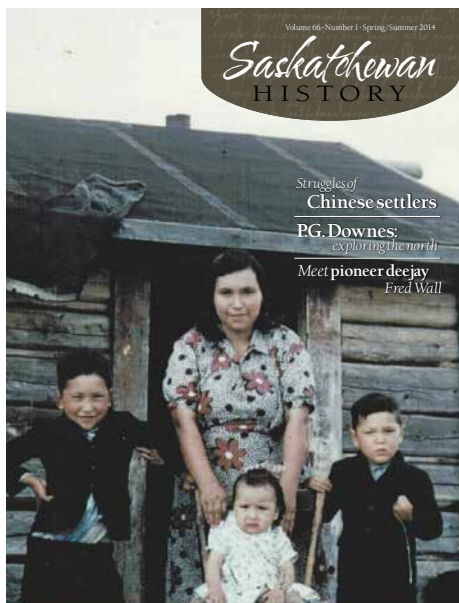
**Adventures of a northern game warden** *I first worked with Les Ostryk when he submitted a story draft on Jim Cumines, one of the first 'game guardians' or game wardens beginning in 1936. The resulting article, "The Adventures of Cumines of the North" (Volume 63, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2011), weaves a fascinating tale of his life and times patrolling in both northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, often by dogsled. MW*

Saskatchewan outlined the work that he would need to do to deal with the illegal activities on the Saskatchewan side of the border as well as cross border problems with bootlegging (laundering) of furs between Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the [Northwest Territories]. Regulations and seasons varied between all three jurisdictions. The fur traders knew this and some of the unscrupulous free traders encouraged the trappers to violate the law. Jim, who knew the fur trade very well, including the games played by the violators, called these people the "infraction men" -- and he knew how to catch them too. Violations included killing beaver out of season when they were fully protected, penning fox, illegal snaring, using poison, and not paying royalties on fur taken. Jim was also instrumental in trying to get people to stop killing caribou indiscriminately and not to feed caribou to their dogs.



*Jim Cumines using his two-way radio. PAS Photo R-A10710-1*

It didn't take Jim long to start taking his enforcement duties seriously. In March of 1936, Jim devised a secret code that the Saskatchewan Game Commissioner could use in order to relay messages to him via CKY radio broadcasts from Winnipeg about the opening or closing of certain seasons for fur bearers. He took the initiative to keep certain information confidential so that the unscrupulous fur traders did not find out ahead of time -- which had happened when the Manitoba Director relayed a similar message via the [Hudson's Bay Company] store radio system, VY2F. If the fur traders knew when seasons would change all of a sudden they could change their game.



## Trip journals and photos from Saskatchewan's north

*Les Ostryk also played a role in the donation of an important collection about the north to the Archives, thanks to a book review he wrote for the publication a few years ago. The book described several mid-century trips P.G. Downes took in the Saskatchewan north: throughout his travels, he had documented the people and places he saw in journals and photos. Les and I collaborated with the book's editor, its publisher, and an archivist to write the story of how this collection found its way back to Saskatchewan: "A paper chase: The Prentice G. Downes fonds" by Les Ostryk, Robert Cockburn, Hugh Stewart, Catherine Holmes, and Myrna Williams was published in Volume 66, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2014 edition. MW*

Prentice Gilbert Downes (1909-1959) traveled and explored Canada's far north during summers, 1933-1939. A gifted writer, cartographer, ethnologist, and naturalist, Downes set out not only to explore the land, but also to learn about and document the lives and traditions of the Cree and Dene people he encountered on his travels in the North.

*An interesting epilogue: I used this photo for the Spring/Summer 2014 cover image: Eugenie Michel, a Métis mum, and her three children posed for Downes in 1947. Les happens to know Martin Michel, now in his seventies: he's the little boy on the right. Les gave Martin a complimentary copy of the magazine, and I still wonder how it would feel to see an old family photo of yourself on the cover of a magazine.*





PG Downes left an amazing documentary legacy from his trips to Canada's north. Undated photo PAS Photo GM-PH2645-001.

The highlight of the Downes fonds is arguably the comprehensive collection of his original hand-written journals, dated 1933 to 1947. Alongside Downes's meticulous penmanship describing his adventures, researchers will delight in his sketches of people he met along the way and of some of their activities. Downes's trips were also documented through hundreds of photographs, also part of this rare collection.

The Downes records, both the photographic and textual, are remarkably well-preserved for their age -- surprising since many of the records were created outdoors in often-harsh conditions. And, since so many of the photos identify names, places and dates, they are a treasure trove waiting to be mined by researchers interested in the local history and traditions of the people and places Downes visited.

**Nurse's story at northern outpost hospital** *It was fun to look back at old editions of Saskatchewan History while selecting articles to excerpt: the magazine has published so much rich history. In 2004, historian Merle Massie authored "Ruth Dulmage Shewchuk: A Saskatchewan Red Cross Outpost Nurse" (Volume 56, Number 2, Fall 2004), about the last nurse to work at Paddockwood's outpost hospital. MW*

Deep in the cold early spring of 1948, in a remote outpost hospital in northern Saskatchewan, a young nurse helped a new mother birth a premature baby. There was no doctor, no power, and certainly no incubator. How to keep the helpless wee boy alive? With good, old-fashioned ingenuity: wrap him in cotton gauze, lay him in a bassinet cuddled under warm blankets, tuck in four two-quart sealers full of hot water, and build a roaring fire in the pot-bellied stove. Under the administration of Ruth Dulmage, charge nurse at the Red Cross Outpost Hospital in Paddockwood, Saskatchewan, a miracle survived and thrived.

*Ruth Dulmage (later Shewchuk) poses in uniform in front of the Red Cross Outpost Hospital during her stay in 1948. PAS Photo GM-PH1541*





# Remembering settlement, forgetting dispossession: Saskatchewan's Pioneer Questionnaires

Michel Hogue

What did western Canadian pioneers eat? In 1951, just over 200 people put pen to paper to answer an eight-page questionnaire distributed by the Saskatchewan Archives Board (now Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan) that asked them to record their memories of what they had eaten and how they had prepared food in the years following their arrival in the West. No detail was too minor: What was the price of butter? What was included in a typical day's menu? What kind of tea did they buy? Taken together, the responses were meant to create a composite look at pioneer diets and to chart the change over time in what people ate and how they procured and prepared their food. However mundane, the recording of the tasks associated with preparing and eating food helped to conjure what one observer described as "the very feeling of early days... the little things that make up the pattern of life."<sup>1</sup> That was exactly the point. These questionnaires were meant to transform ephemeral pioneer memories into concrete records.

This emphasis on the details of daily life likely did not correspond with what many of the respondents would have considered to be capital-H History, but the questions successfully drew detailed responses from the public.<sup>2</sup> In fact, public reaction was so favourable that provincial archivist Lewis H. Thomas decided to inaugurate a series of subsequent questionnaires that polled longtime Saskatchewan residents about various aspects of their personal and community histories.<sup>3</sup> Thomas sought to capture the information that the pioneers carried with them, asserting that these recollections held the key to understanding the broader history of Saskatchewan and "the grand panorama of the evolution of society in western Canada."<sup>4</sup> By seeking the first-hand experiences "of settlers who [had] come from all the various homelands -- the British Isles, continental Europe, Eastern Canada, and the United States, as well as other parts of the world," the project canvassed a cross-section of society.<sup>5</sup> These efforts were meant to ensure that the province's archival collections included records that, unlike most of the written or published sources then in the Archives, reflected the everyday experiences of Saskatchewan residents.<sup>6</sup> This expansive effort left a very particular archival imprint. Moreover, embedded within this rich repository of settler experiences is a rather more hidden history of the exclusions that made settlement possible and that continue to shape our view of the past.

*Detail from Edith Stilborne's pioneer questionnaire documents the pioneer diet and early settler life in Pheasant Forks, including the fact that her family purchased frozen fish in winter from Indigenous people. PAS, S-X2, file 18.*

1813

1883. Stilborne, Mrs. Edith (nee Franks).  
1189 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C.

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES QUESTIONNAIRES  
No. 1

PIONEER DIET: WHAT DID WESTERN CANADIAN PIONEERS EAT?

(Instructions: Please answer as many of these questions as you can and mail it to Saskatchewan Archives Office, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. where it will be preserved as part of the permanent record of our Province.)

Name *Edith Stilborne (nee Franks)*  
Address *1189 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C.*  
Birthplace *Scarsdale, Leicestershire, England*

1. INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

What year did you start housekeeping in Western Canada? *Mother & Dad in 1883*  
Where did you set up housekeeping? *Pheasant Forks, Assiniboia, N.W.T.*  
Where had you been living before that? *Near to Leicester, Leicestershire, Eng.*  
For how many people did you prepare meals? *Where were four children, came from England with Mother and Dad, Mr. and Mrs. James Franks.*  
How far was it to your nearest store? *About three miles.*  
How often could a visit be made to the store? *Whenever it seemed necessary.*  
What groceries did you usually buy in those earliest years?  
*Staple groceries were all we could get in those days, such as, Oatmeal, sugar, tea, rice, bacon, dried apples, and prunes. Dad bought a supply of flour and other staple groceries in Brandon before we went from Wolsley by covered wagon up to the new colony.*

2. FLOUR AND OTHER GRAIN PRODUCTS

What brand of white flour did you use in the early years? *I have no idea what brand of flour we used, but I think it was from the local mill at Indian Head. The first named flour I can remember was Lake of the Woods Milling Co.*  
In what quantities did you buy it? *In the autumn we got enough to last all winter.*  
What was the usual price per hundred pounds of white flour? *About \$3.00.*  
How much did you use graham flour? *No, we had shorts and bran and Mother mixed her own for brown bread.*  
Whole wheat flour? *Never heard of Whole Wheat flour in the early days.*  
Was flour milled locally? *Yes.* How far away? *About 40 miles.* That year? *1894*  
What was the price for a twenty pound bag of rolled oats? *It was oatmeal and came in a barrel, about 100 lbs. I would say.*  
What other grain products did you use? *Wheat, barley, linseed.*  
Cornmeal? *No.* Whole Wheat? *Unground wheat.* Farina? *No.*  
Other? .....  
Did you grind your own wheat for porridge? *No, we used wheat as it was and mother cooked it a long time, it was called thremerty. It was good. Sometimes we were able to get some pearled barley to make thremerty of instead of wheat for a change.*

RECEIVED  
MAY 25 1954  
SASKATCHEWAN  
ARCHIVES  
SASKATOON



In the spring of 1952, Archives' staff followed the diet questionnaire with a longer, semi-biographical questionnaire that focused on the process of migration to and settlement in Saskatchewan, as well as the key features of early 'pioneer life' in the province. Between 1952 and 1954, eight other questionnaires followed, each dealing with a more focused topic ranging from farming practices to housing to recreation and schools. The public continued to respond enthusiastically. By the time the program wound down, the Archives had received over 3,500 responses to its 10 questionnaires.<sup>7</sup>

This valuable new collection was meant to stimulate ongoing research into the province's past and to bring that research to a broader public. The outreach used to spread the word about the questionnaires -- through *Saskatchewan History*, through appeals to the media, and through the networks created by old-timers' associations, farm radio forum groups, homemakers' clubs, and the like -- opened a broader dialogue between the public and the Archives.<sup>8</sup> This dialogue also yielded additional historical source materials, over and above the thousands of completed questionnaires, since the general questionnaire asked respondents if they owned or knew the whereabouts of letters, pamphlets, or other records that they might be willing to loan (for copying) or to donate to the Provincial Archives.<sup>9</sup> Many did. They referred to family snapshots, diaries, and other personal records in their questionnaires and pointed staff to copies of community newspapers, municipal records, and other organizational records that later found their way into the Archives' collections.<sup>10</sup>

The conversations initiated by the questionnaires occurred at a moment when Saskatchewan's early settlement era remained within the living memory of some residents. Throughout the 1950s, those aging residents -- those pioneers -- were repeatedly lauded for the roles they had played in making the province. For instance, Premier T.C. Douglas launched the preparations for the province's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1955 by singling out "the pioneer residents of this province, the men and women who suffered untold hardship and who displayed great fortitude...in settling this province." Their role, Douglas asserted, would figure prominently in the jubilee celebrations.<sup>11</sup> Indeed, in the many pageants, exhibits,

publications, and other activities carried out as part of the jubilee celebrations, pioneers were cast in the central role of the province's origin story.<sup>12</sup>

Thus, the pioneer questionnaires, along with the broader commemorations of Saskatchewan pioneers in the 1950s of which they were a part, made it easy to ignore the histories of the peoples whose own claims to land pre-dated those of that pioneer generation and the social relations that enabled the province's settlement -- or, more accurately, its re-settlement. By definition, Indigenous peoples were not "pioneers" and therefore fell outside the program's scope. Indeed, the cataloguing of "firsts" that occurred within many of the questionnaires was itself an exercise in writing new histories from a blank slate, in documenting the implantation and development of a new society on the Prairie. The archive left by the questionnaires thus helped to normalize the tendency to narrate the histories of immigration and settlement as enterprises entirely unrelated to the taking and dividing of Indigenous lands.

Nevertheless, the quotidian vision of settler life that emerges from the pages of the questionnaires offers the occasional glimpse into stories and interactions that allows for different histories to be told. For instance, the food tales submitted to the Provincial Archives offer examples of fleeting interactions between settlers and Indigenous peoples that occurred, for example, when settlers purchased fish, game, or produce from their Indigenous neighbours.<sup>13</sup> The health questionnaire asked directly whether respondents had learned of any medical remedies from "Indians." In its pages, various respondents wrote of how they had relied on First Nations or Métis women as midwives or healers.<sup>14</sup> More than any other, the folklore questionnaire probed the connections between settler and Indigenous communities, especially during the early years of settlement. It asked whether respondents had used information supplied by Indigenous peoples to build their first houses, to hunt game, or to use wild plants. Dorothy Kamen-Kaye, the questionnaire's author, asserted that while those influences may have seemed more fleeting than foundational to the pioneers, the many incidents recorded as responses to the questionnaire showed that Indigenous lives had intersected with the pioneers' lives in critical ways.<sup>15</sup>

Indigenous people drying fish at a camp at Waterhen Lake, SK, July 1909. PAS Photo S-B9036.





*Man eating fish cooked by Indigenous guide on small campfire; some pioneers reported having advice and assistance from Indigenous people when they first settled on the prairie. PAS Photo R-A5372.*









# I INTRODUCTION

Name

*Chas. P. Bray* (age 78)

Address

*Wolseley, Sask.*

(Do you live in or outside of town? Did you always? Since what year?)

*Lived mostly in towns till 19 years old. After 1895-6 I lived in country*

Where did you live before coming to Saskatchewan? (From what year to what year?)

*Born in Mitchell Ont. & lived there till spring of 1883 & then moved to Saskatchewan with parents*

Where did your parents live before that? (From what year to what year?)

*Grandpa came to Ontario in the old sailing ship (3 mos. voyage) & I think dad was born after that in Ontario.*

What language did your father (or you) speak before coming to Canada?

*English -*

Age

*died @ 78*

Where born

*I was born at Mitchell Ont. - in 1876*

Occupation by which you earn a living

*Am retired now & living in town retained my secretaries until 2 yrs ago.*

Hobbies or talents (either for pleasure or to supplement your income) such as: playing a musical instrument; hunting, trapping; collecting curiosities; photography, etc.

*Gardening, reading light literature & at one time hunting*

Father's occupation before coming to Saskatchewan. *merchant -*

After. *Farmed three years & went into business again*

Father's hobbies or talents. *fishing, boosting home town, promoting church-work*

Mother's hobbies or talents, such as: fine sewing or other handwork; china or other painting; playing a musical instrument, etc.

*Mother came from Ireland when very young.*

*When educated taught school in Ont. until married. Mother was a great reader.*

## II SETTLEMENT

### The Land

- Where you lived or now are living, are there any natural features or landmarks (e.g. butte, coulee, valley, stream, lake)? Name? Why so called? What stories are connected with them?

*While ranching in Alberta we lived near the Bull-pound Creek & picked up arrowheads & etc. on the Cutbank butte, but here in Sask. there is little of like interest near us excepting the Quappelle River and valley, six miles north of us. The Red-River cart-trails have been all plowed up by the farmers.*





2. What jokes did people tell about (a) gumbo (b) fording streams or getting caught in unusual situations caused by weather, work at home, travel etc. (c) the loneliness of the open spaces?

A half-breed who was very shakey (sort of nerve trouble) when I questioned him as to how & when he got that trouble told me his name was "Kline" & years ago five or six of them followed a herd of buffalo for miles (early in June) shooting one here & there as they went along. In afternoon it turned extremely cold and snowed & as it was near getting dark so they turned back skinning the animals till it became a real blizzard so the last few hides were used to roll up in for the night - (their supper was some raw meat) and next morning they were all frozen in -

3. Outline briefly any tales or beliefs you have heard about (a) cold weather (b) snow and blizzard (c) hail (d) drought (e) high wind.  
Example: the way to tell if the wind is blowing is to nail a chain to the top of a post; if the links stand out straight horizontally, it's windy; if they begin to snap off, it's good and windy. (What variants of this one have you heard?)

Before ranching I rode with some of the best "cow-boys" and Indian trackers & got "prairie-wise". At night if I could see stars never get lost. Also in misquito-time watch how wind blew & know about where the cattle would be - used to wet a finger & hold it up to feel the wet side - if no wind at all then at that moment we knew the cattle were standing bunched up. Cattle or horses on the range always smell a storm coming up. You never get really lonesome on the open-spaces if you are "prairie-wise" because there is life all round you & you read signs of what happened there previously.

Detail from the pioneer questionnaire of Charles Bray, who completed it when he was 78, telling of life when he arrived to Wolseley in 1883. PAS, S-X2, file 2390.

While the pioneer questionnaires yielded a rich archive that detailed the everyday experiences of settlement, they also underscored the segregated nature of the prairie west's social landscape. By the 1950s, the social distance that divided settler and Indigenous populations no doubt made these exclusions seem natural. And the questions asked and answered in the questionnaires helped ensure that that exclusion became hardwired into this archive. That is, the questions prompted the respondents to document in great detail the events, practices, institutions, and more that marked the development

of a new society on the Prairies. Unremarked upon were the policies or practices that had enabled the "clearing of the plains"<sup>16</sup> and that had, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, created the segregated landscape that seemed so normal, so expected. In this sense, the questionnaires reflected a broader tendency in twentieth-century Canada to narrate Indigenous and immigrant/settler histories in isolation from one another. As a result, it has been harder to see the intricate connections between the two.

Endnotes on page 41

Michel Hogue is an associate professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. He is author of *Métis and the Medicine Line: Creating a Border and Dividing a People* (University of Regina Press, 2015).



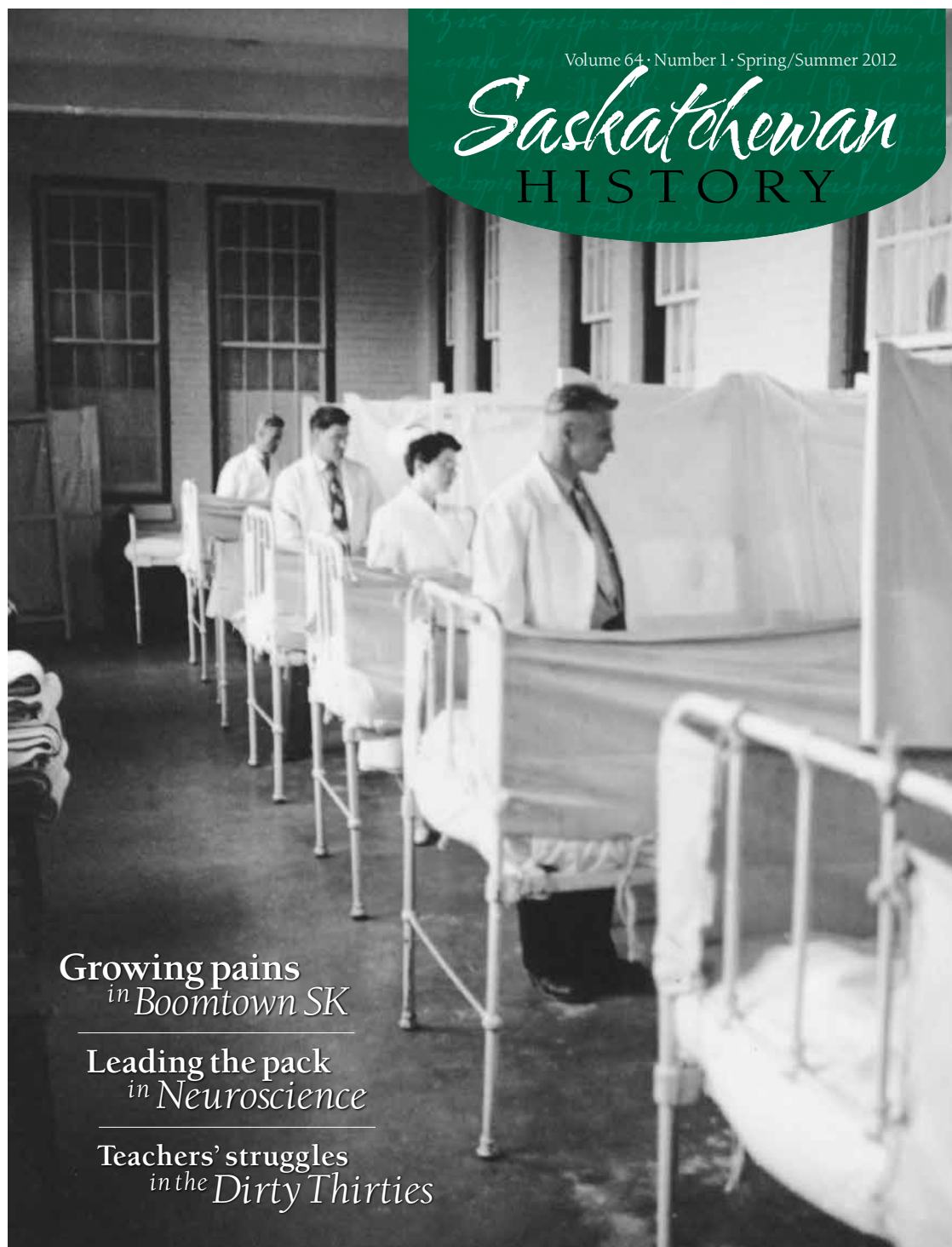
Mandated since its inception to encourage and publish informed writing about our province's history, the magazine has published some of the most rigorous and thoughtful articles written on this vast and diverse subject. From immigration and settlement, to politics and policy making, to analyses of wars and battles and their effects on provincial life and beyond: the scholarly work published over the last 70 years will always serve as bedrock for future historical writing about the province. MW

**Psychiatric pioneers** *"Leading the pack: Reflections on Saskatchewan innovations in neuroscience" was published in the Volume 64, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2012 edition, the result of scholarly collaboration between Dr. Glen Baker, Professor and Director of the Neurochemical Research Unit, Department of Psychiatry, University of Alberta; Dr. Erika Dyck, Associate Professor and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in History of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan; and Dr. Darrell Mousseau, Associate Professor with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Saskatchewan. MW*

In 1961, psychiatrist and superintendent of the Provincial Mental Hospital in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Humphry Osmond, wrote to the provincial Premier, Tommy Douglas: "I'm not sure what the social implications will be of a measurable, visible, biochemical

schizophrenia but it is, I think, (and one can always be a bit premature) very close round the corner." Osmond, who four years earlier had coined the term "psychedelic" to describe the sensations associated with an LSD-induced psychosis, had spent a decade in Saskatchewan working with an interdisciplinary group of researchers and clinicians in pursuit of a new theory of schizophrenia that combined biochemical and psychological components. Although their theories lacked sophistication by today's standards, the climate of research and experimentation ignited in Saskatchewan during the 1950s helped to build a provincial reputation for innovation that endured for several decades.

*This photo of patients and attendants in a crowded hospital ward in Weyburn, 1953, was used as our cover for the edition where this article appeared. Photo taken by Mike Kesterton; courtesy Mike Kesterton.*



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# Saskatchewan HISTORY

**Growing pains**  
*in Boomtown SK*

**Leading the pack**  
*in Neuroscience*

**Teachers' struggles**  
*in the Dirty Thirties*



**A study of schools for Métis children** *While more studies on residential schools for First Nations children are published each year, scholarship on schools attended by Métis children in the early years of settlement is rarer. Dr. Jonathan Anuik, then Assistant Professor of History & Interdisciplinary Studies at Lakehead University authored “From Protestant and Roman Catholic Missions to Public Schools: Educating Métis and Settler Children in the West to be Citizens of Modern Canada, 1866 – 1939” for Volume 62, Number 1, Spring 2010 edition, excerpted below. MW*

The first documented attempt at formal education for Métis children and youth was in 1866, which pre-dated the development of the Department of Education in the Northwest Territories. There was a ‘half-breed’ school at Prince Albert that operated from 1866 until 1885 and was administered and financed through the labours of Presbyterian missionaries. Lucy Baker, a Presbyterian teacher and lay missionary, arrived from Ontario in 1878 to teach in the primary school, staying until 1891, serving as a schoolmistress and after the Northwest Resistance in 1885, as a high school teacher in this north central Saskatchewan town.

*Starting in 1878, Lucy Baker taught at a Presbyterian-run school in Prince Albert that included many Métis students. PAS Photo S-B13522*



**Repatriating Dief’s papers** *To this day, John Diefenbaker remains the only Canadian prime minister to call Saskatchewan home. He served from June 21, 1957, to April 22, 1963, and then continued as Member of Parliament for Prince Albert until his death in 1979. Stories about Diefenbaker are always fascinating because of his longevity in politics and his personal character. In the Volume 67, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2015 edition, Craig Greenham authored “Centre of Conflict: Mistrust and Turmoil in Creating the Diefenbaker Canada Centre,” excerpted below. MW*

John Diefenbaker, Canada’s thirteenth prime minister, often boasted that he shared a special bond with the Canadian people. As such, his good standing in the national collective memory was of the utmost importance to him. Diefenbaker desperately wanted to be remembered -- preferably in the best light possible. When he was ousted as prime minister in 1963 after leading the country for nearly six years, Diefenbaker continued to serve as leader of the opposition. Even when he was defeated by Robert Stanfield in 1965 for the Progressive Conservative leadership, Diefenbaker remained the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Saskatchewan riding of Prince Albert. He served as a Saskatchewan MP for an incredible 39 years until his passing in 1979. Diefenbaker never shied away from the spotlight, nor did he want to disappear from the hearts and memories of Canadians.

Accordingly, instead of bequeathing his prime ministerial papers to the Public Archives of Canada (PAC), Diefenbaker opted to break from tradition and gift his papers to the University of Saskatchewan, his alma mater. This gesture paved the way for the creation of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker Centre, referred to hereafter as the Diefenbaker Canada Centre (DCC), as it is now commonly called. The DCC opened in 1980 and, as the only Canadian institution modelled on the presidential library system, remains unique. With the Centre, Diefenbaker established a distinctive legacy and a chance to be celebrated beyond his lifetime. The aging politician, no doubt, wished to be the subject of fond remembrance and the Centre seemed to provide a perfect venue for these commemorations.

*L – R: Attorney General Roy Romanow, Premier Allan Blakeney, Colonel Robert L. Houston (chair of fundraising campaign), Rt. Honourable J. G. Diefenbaker, and D. E. Tom Gauley of Board of Governors, at the official ceremony at the site of the future Rt. Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker Centre, October 1977. Courtesy University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections: A-8497.*





**Building Canada's first heavy oil upgrader** *While the scholarly papers published in Saskatchewan History have been rigorously researched and peer-reviewed, they have served readers best when clearly and skillfully written. Mark Stobbe's article, "Crude conflict: The creation of Canada's first heavy oil upgrader" met all expectations: a great story of a Saskatchewan first in Canada, told in an engaging and accessible manner. The story appeared in the Volume 68, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2016 edition and is excerpted below. MW*

People driving into Regina from the north pass near an impressive-looking petrochemical complex as they enter the city. In almost every town they have passed through, they will have passed gas stations in 500 communities owned by a local retail co-operative. Regina's massive refinery complex and the extensive chain of retail gas stations form the cornerstone of western Canada's extensive retail co-operative network. In the 1980s, it was also the emblem of hope for a new era of Saskatchewan prosperity. In the 1990s, it was the focus of one of the largest and most acrimonious public fights in the province's history. The leadership of the retail co-operative movement challenged the provincial government for the hearts and minds of hundreds of thousands of Saskatchewan citizens who were members of retail co-operatives. In a very real sense, the fight became a question of whether people saw themselves first and foremost as co-op members or citizens.

*The Co-op (NewGrade) upgrader glows in the evening light, March 1989. PAS Photo R-PS88-2460-05.*





**A lasting commitment: Evelyn Eager's bequest (1919-1991)**

1. Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS), Department of Education, S-Ed.7, File 17, *The Light* yearbook for 1939, 33.
2. R.H.D. (Bob) Phillips, "Evelyn Eager: The Genuine Prairie Article," *Saskatchewan History* 43, no. 3 (1991): 82.
3. PAS, Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan fonds, Saskatoon Office Files 1936-1966 (SOF), File M2, Business Correspondence 1958, letter from Evelyn Eager to the Editor, *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, 6 November 1958; PAS, SOF, *Saskatchewan History* Records series, file M1, Editorial Correspondence 1956-1959: letter from John H. Archer to Evelyn Eager, 20 December 1957; Joan Champ, "To Inform and Encourage: Fifty Years of *Saskatchewan History*," *Saskatchewan History* 50, no. 1 (1998): 13.
4. Champ, 13.
5. Evelyn Eager, "Notes and Correspondence," *Saskatchewan History* 12, no. 1 (1959): 39.
6. Champ, 6.
7. Champ, 14.
8. PAS, SOF, *Saskatchewan History* Records series, file M1, Editorial Correspondence 1960, memorandum from Evelyn Eager to John H. Archer, 8 January 1958.
9. PAS, SOF, *Saskatchewan History* Records series, file M1, Editorial Correspondence 1960, memorandum from Evelyn Eager to Mr. A.J. Friesen [*Saskatchewan History* Advisory Board Member], 11 January 1960.
10. Phillips, 83.

**Remembering settlement, forgetting dispossession:  
Saskatchewan's Pioneer Questionnaires**

The author would like to thank archivists Bonnie Dahl and Christine Charmbury for their kind assistance with the research for this article.

1. Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan (PAS), Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan fonds, Saskatoon Office Files 1936-66 (SOF), File M9, General Questionnaire: Requests, "Talk by Miss Jean Hinds," 2 February 1954.
2. The Provincial Archives continued to receive completed questionnaires after 1951. In all, approximately 367 people responded to the diet questionnaire.
3. PAS, SOF, File M9, General Questionnaire: Preparation, Publicity, Material Offered, Lewis H. Thomas to Mrs. W.L. Oddie, 31 January 1952.
4. Quoted in Joan Champ, "To Inform and Encourage: Fifty Years of *Saskatchewan History*," *Saskatchewan History* 50, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 5.
5. PAS, SOF, File M9, General Questionnaire: Preparation, Publicity, Material Offered, Lewis H. Thomas to Members of the Legislative Assembly, 4 April 1952.
6. Saskatchewan Archives Board, *Fifth Report of the Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1950-1952* (Regina: Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1952), 12.
7. "Pioneer Questionnaires," Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, accessed July 19, 2017, <http://saskarchives.com/using-archives/family-history-research/pioneer-questionnaires>. For an example of how scholars have used these records to "chart the course of prairie settlement at a formative period in the history of the West," see Marjory Harper, "Probing the Pioneer Questionnaires: British Settlement in Saskatchewan, 1887-1914," *Saskatchewan History* 52, no. 2 (Fall 2000): 28-46.
8. Champ, "Fifty Years of *Saskatchewan History*," 3-4.
9. PAS, Pioneer Questionnaires, S-X2, Questionnaire No. 2: Pioneer Experiences: A General Questionnaire. See Question 39.
10. PAS, SOF, File M9, General Questionnaire: Preparation, Publicity, Material Offered, "Material to be presented or loaned to the Saskatchewan Archives..." November 1952; "Notes and Correspondence," *Saskatchewan History* 5, no. 3 (1952): 120.
11. Quoted in Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Committee, *Report of the Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Committee* (Regina: [s.n.], 1956), 9. See, e.g., Michael Fedyk, "The Dream Still Lives: Promised Land Narratives during the Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee," in *The Prairie West as Promised Land*, ed. R. Douglas Francis and Chris Kitzan (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2007), 388-89.
12. John H. Archer, *Saskatchewan, A History* (Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1980), 292-94. Cf. Bill Waiser, *Saskatchewan: A New History* (Calgary: Fifth House, 2005), 375; James Opp, "Prairie Commemorations and the Nation: The Golden Jubilees of Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1955," in *Canadas of the Mind: The Making and Unmaking of Canadian Nationalisms in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Norman Hillmer and Adam Chapnick (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007), 214-16.
13. See, e.g., PAS, Pioneer Questionnaires, S-X2, file 18, Stilborne, Edith Mary.
14. PAS, Pioneer Questionnaires, S-X2, Questionnaire No. 8: Pioneer Health (Question 16). Kristen Burnett uses these questionnaires to discuss Indigenous women's roles midwives and healers. See Burnett, *Taking Medicine: Women's Healing Work and Colonial Contact in Southern Alberta, 1880-1930* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010), 50, 56-60.
15. PAS, Saskatchewan Archives Pioneer Questionnaires, S-X2, Questionnaire No. 7: Pioneer Folklore. See questions 1, 14, 17. The primary author of the questionnaire, Dorothy Kamen-Kaye, asserted that the questions that addressed how the respondents supported themselves after settlement (#14a-d) were intended to draw attention to the interactions between settlers and Indigenous peoples and were the most critical of all those included in the questionnaire. "The adaptation, the reorganization of the known to meet the unknown, the survival through such adaptation" -- which prompted a kind of "indianization," according to Kamen-Kaye -- was fundamental to the pioneer experience. See PAS, SOF, File M13, 1954 Folklore Questionnaire, Dorothy Kamen-Kaye to Lewis [Thomas], n.d.
16. The phrase is James Daschuk's. See his *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life* (Regina: University of Regina Press, 2013).





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