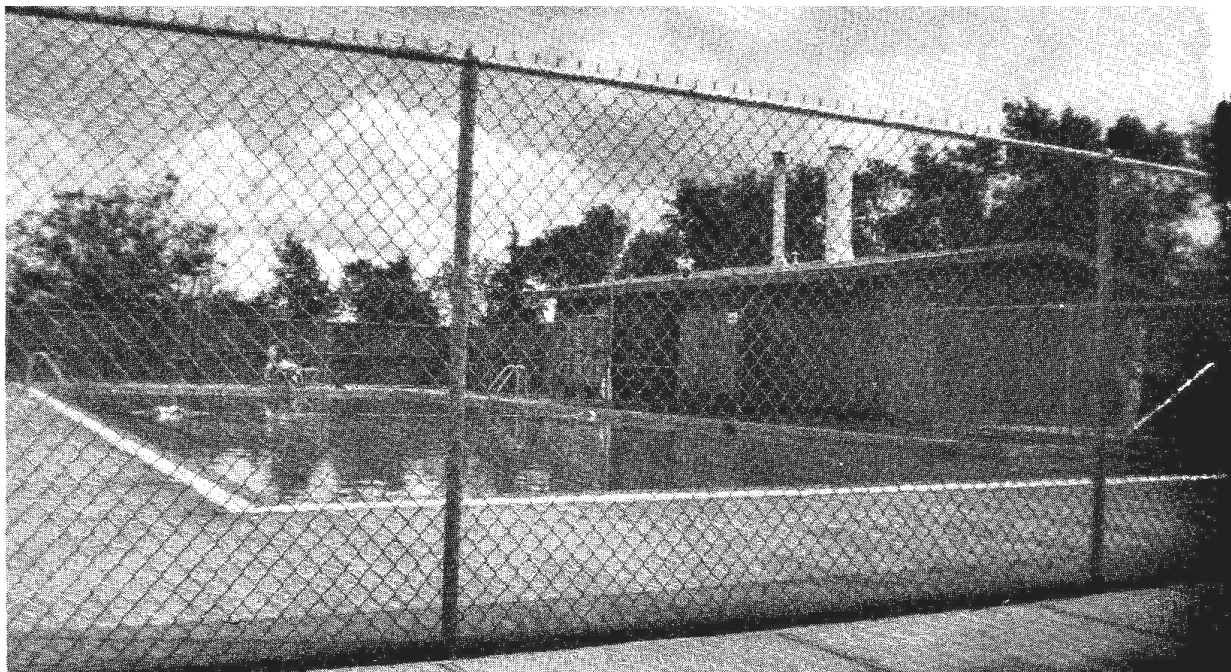


# *Through the Years*



Published by  
Luseland, Salvador and District Centennial Committee





The town of Luseland, the village of Salvador, two-thirds of the Rural Municipality of Progress and the southern portion of the Rural Municipality of Grass Lake have combined their efforts and constructed the Centennial Swimming Pool. Ideally situated in the Memorial Park in the town of Luseland, this pool was constructed by Osco Engineering Ltd. of Edmonton at a cost of \$47,500.00. Centennial grants received from Federal and Provincial governments for this project have amounted to \$5,675.00. The remainder of the contact price is being realized through the generosity of the many service organizations in this area and by individual donations. As this publication goes to press approximately \$7,500.00 of this amount remains to be raised.

The pool is fully equipped, modern in every aspect and an accomplishment that the citizens of this district can be justly proud of. Opened to the public on July 1, 1966 it proved to be the centre of all activity for young and old alike throughout the summer months. The official opening is slated for the week-end of July 1, 1967.



One hundred years in the life of a nation is a short time, but in the years since Confederation, Canada has made great strides agriculturally, technically and economically. So great, in fact, that we are somewhat surprised when we remember that at that time the prairies were the home of the Indian and the buffalo.

Just over sixty years ago, in 1906, this part of Canada saw its first white settlers arrive. The writer came to this district in 1908, and the local centennial committee of Luseland have asked me to relate some of the things that remain vivid from those days.

Here, then, are some of my recollections - events and impressions that may revive remembrances of hardships, frustrations even tragedies, as well as, the neighborliness and good times shared with many of you. Some, now, are widely scattered. many still live here. It is hoped these few pages may bring back nostalgic memories to the senior members of this community, and, to the younger ones, that they will convey something of what one corner of this great country was like in the not very distant past.

.....R. Bell, Author



Randy Bell, Author in 1913





Luse Land Company's special Immigrant Train enroute to Scott from the U.S.A in 1901. The nearest three cars were occupied by the settlers, who brought and cooked their own food, the rear cars contained their furniture, clothing, some machinery and livestock, etc. This photo was taken in Minnesota, and looks like a coffee break.



# *Luseland*

Previous to the year 1906, Luseland and district was bald prairie. All trees and shrubs had been burned off by successive prairie fires and the only inhabitants were the wild creatures and the birds. A few homesteaders settled in 1906, but the real settlement began in 1908 with a great influx of American settlers from Ohio, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana and even as far as New York state. The driving force behind this influx was John Luse, an American, who formed a land settlement company named the Luse Land and Development Company with headquarters in the United States. Canadian headquarters were in Scott, approximately forty miles north-east of present day Luseland. The Luse Land Company held options on the land given to the Canadian Pacific Railway by the Dominion Government. As the land was sold the Company automatically bought it and resold it to the settlers for approximately \$8.00 to \$16.00 per acre. When the hamlet was formed, appropriately it was named after the president of the Company, using the two words of the title "Luse Land" as one. John Luse's son, Sam, and his wife were popular farmers close to Luseland for some years. In addition to the immigrants already named, a great many people from Bulgaria, the British Isles, Russia, Poland, Germany, Austria- Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the Scandinavian countries, as well as Canadians from the eastern provinces, also arrived in this general area. With the exception of those from Britain and some Germans who had previously farmed in the mid-western United States, few of the new settlers could speak or understand the English language. This created difficulties in communication in commercial, political and social affairs. Most Europeans arrived equipped with long sheepskin or fur coats, fur caps, fur gauntlets, hand-knitted knee-high stockings worn outside the trousers, and high leather boots. Even Canadians and Americans wore long coonskin or sheepskin coats and a variety of warm foot and head- wear. The women were warmly clad in long black skirts down to the boot-tops and shawls: practical but sombre garb. A considerable proportion of the land-buyers were German immigrants who previously had farmed in the United States and so were somewhat acclimatized to western conditions. They were progressive farmers and good citizens. Most of the Company's prospective buyers were driven from Scott over the roadless prairie in vintage Company-owned cars equipped with acetylene tanks and pumps on the running boards which provided fuel for the lamps. To see the guides finding the section markers in so vast an expanse of unsettled land was a wonder to behold!

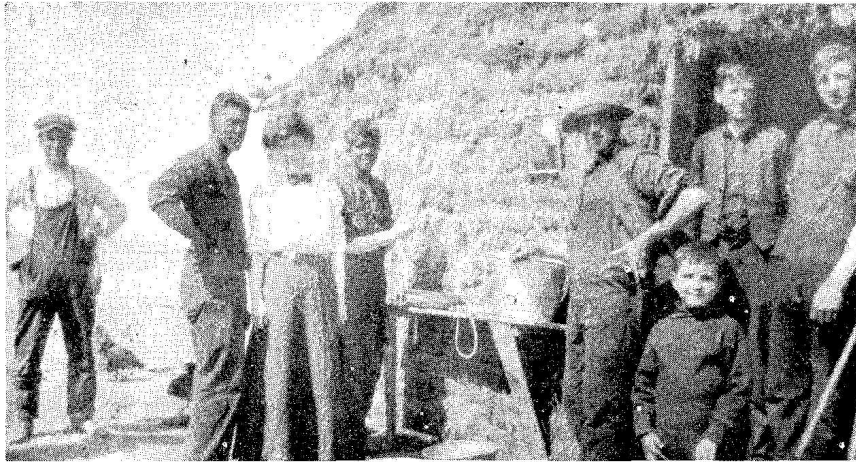


The seventy-five miles between South Battleford and present-day Luseland created a real hardship for the settlers. In certain localities there were livery men. driving a team of horses and a democrat and usually calling themselves 'landlocators", who, for a fee of \$5.00 a day for each prospect, drove over the prairie for days at a time until a likely list of suitable land holdings was selected. An additional \$10.00 was given the driver if a location was filed. They would then drive back to Battleford or Saskatoon to file the claim, but not infrequently there would be dozens of these applicants waiting for the land-office to open. With the rush so great, naturally there were many disappointments, the choice land in many instances already having been claimed.

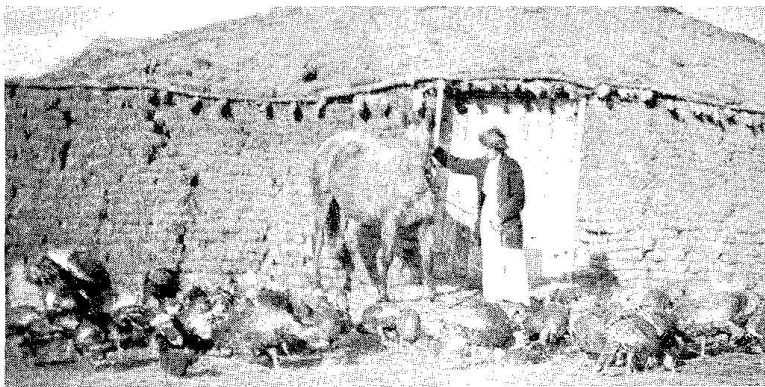
Most people settled under the then-existing homestead laws by which the Dominion Government granted 160 acres of land. Homesteads were allotted to a settler who was eighteen years of age or older on condition that he break at least ten acres of land each year for three years, and that he reside on this land for at least six months out of twelve. A payment of \$10.00 at the time of application was required. The majority of homesteaders in this district filed their claims in South Battleford, that being the nearest land office. Later a branch land-title office was opened at Kerrobert for claiming final title.

In the very early days all household goods, fuel, building materials, clothing, food and machinery were brought in from Battleford, Scott or Wilkie. Everything had to be transported either by wagon or sleigh, and mules, horses, oxen, and occasionally cows provided the power. With no roads or trails, bumping over rough prairie made for slow traveling: twelve or fifteen miles for oxen and about twenty-five for horses was a good day's travel. Thus, there was need for both food and shelter for man and beast. Travelers were made welcome at any sign of habitation, and soon there were recognized stopping places ten or fifteen miles apart. Any stopping place was a haven after a hot or cold day's journey. The usual price of lodging was \$1.00 a night this included bed (often a wooden bunk with straw to lie on), supper and breakfast, and the warmth of the kitchen stove. Food and water for the team was 25 extra. These stopping places were highlights on the grueling trips to town. One such place, a sod house and barn combined, accommodated eight weary travelers one cold night, the floor serving as bed. Boots were removed and placed behind the stove. The good housewife previously had mixed up a large pan of dough for bread and set it to rise on the warming closet of the stove. Next morning at daylight one of the 'stoppers' nudged his partner in time to see the lady of the house retrieve some of the risen dough from the guests' boots into which it had overflowed, replacing it in the pan. As the 'stoppers' were there only for breakfast it did not fall to their lot to sample the finished product.

No words, however, can express the appreciation due these hospitable and often overcrowded stopping place owners. The women, particularly, were called upon at all hours for meals while trying to carry on with their household duties, and their living room cluttered with visitors. Old timers will remember Clark's between, South Battleford and Wilkie: Chislett's, Barney McElroy's, Welch's - all between Scott and Luseland.



*Sod and Lumber shacks of early days.*



Most of the first houses and barns were built of sod, using poplar poles for ridge and rafters and covered with sod. A few were built of lumber in the most economical way possible - one-ply lumber covered with tar paper outside and with a slightly rounded roof. Bachelor shacks were ten feet by twelve and heated with tin heaters costing \$1.25 each, these burned poplar poles cut into one-foot lengths, or cow chips. Any available straw was twisted into knobs and used for fuel. Most cook stoves were made of tin with cast iron tops two feet by three in size and costing from \$25.00 to \$40.00. Of course, some settlers brought in elaborate cast-iron ranges and heaters with mica in the doors so the fire could be seen. These were looked on as real luxuries! All wood for fuel was hauled from Sounding Lake or Round Valley, trips of from thirty-five to fifty miles for most



settlers. It was all poplar and only about five inches in diameter, and usually green. If one entertained a few bachelor friends in a ten by twelve shack the temperature would quickly rise to well over a hundred degrees, necessitating the opening of the door every five minutes to clear the air of smoke and furnish a fresh supply of oxygen.

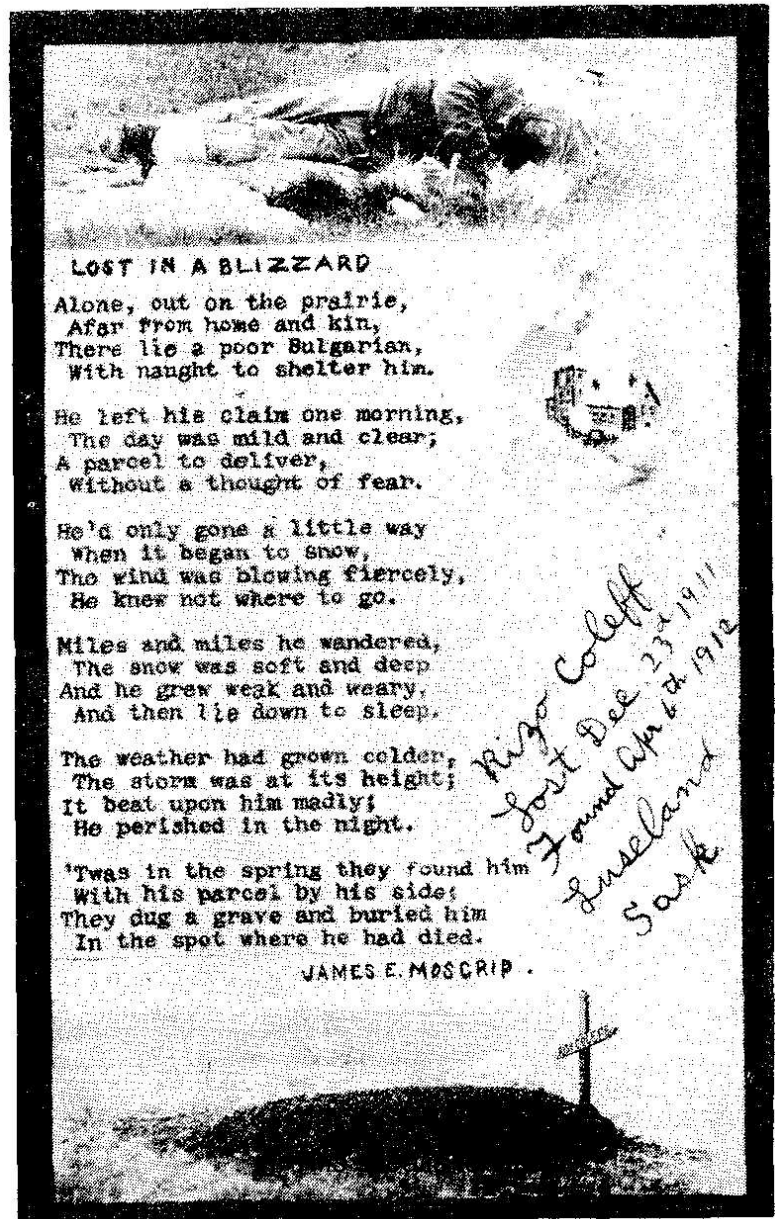


*Hauling poplar poles for firewood from Sounding Lake, fifty miles away.*





Winters' severity and unexpected blizzards were always something to contend with, and many incidents can be recalled of the hazards encountered. One man, returning from Sounding Lake with a load of wood, got lost in a blizzard, unhitched his horses, tied them to his wagon and started out on foot to find his way home. He came upon four sod walls of a barn about four feet high and, without food or warmth except for his heavy winter coat, spent two days and nights continually walking around and around to keep awake, knowing that he would freeze to death were he to fall asleep. Eventually the storm abated and he walked home, his horses having frozen to death on the trail. Over the years several lone settlers have been found huddled over their stoves, having frozen to death. A picture here tells the tale of another settler found in the spring on the open prairie.



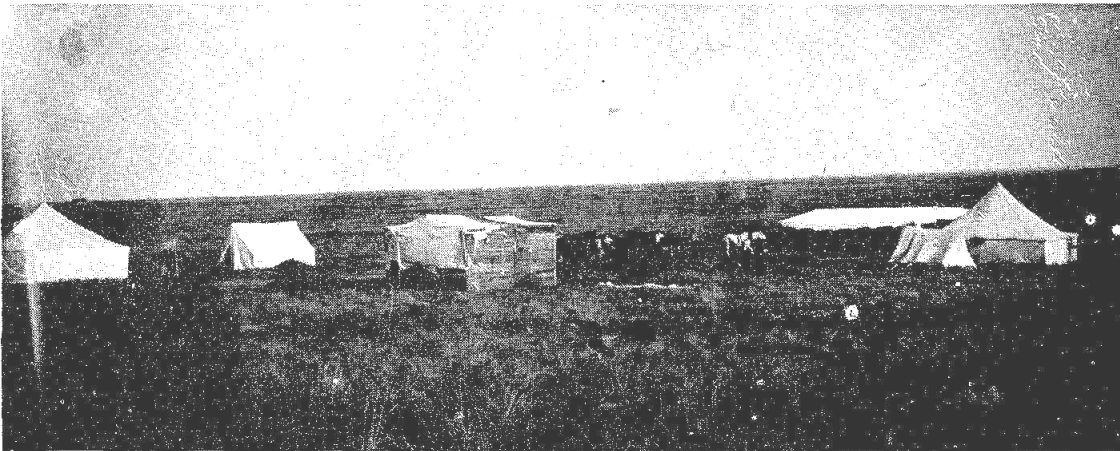
Homesteaders homes were open to all who chanced by, and they were made welcome for as long as they wished to stay. Some, being generous, left behind a legacy of bed-bugs or lice. One of my own experiences was waking up one night and saying to my chum 'wonder what is wrong with me my body is itching all over?' He laughed, having already had a year's stay in the country. "You're lousy", he replied. So, in the middle of that cold night we light two candles took off our ribbed woolen underwear and found black streaks of moving bodies up



and down every seam. We almost froze as we hand-picked lice or burned them out with the tip of the lighted candle. Night temperatures inside a shack often were down to zero or lower during the winters.

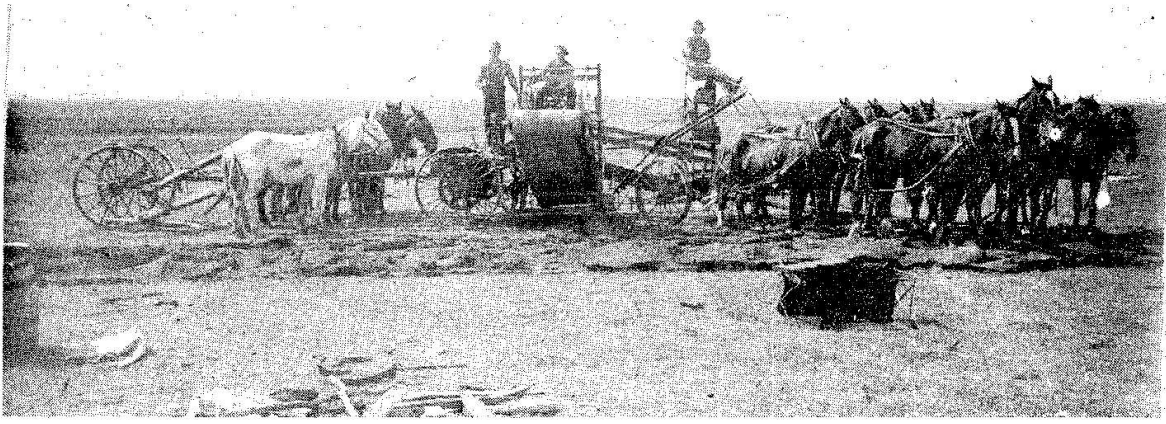
Prairie crocuses were, and still are, a beautiful sight, being the first flower to appear in the spring. Buffalo beans, wild roses, tiger lilies, cactus, violets, wild sunflowers, sage grass and other flowers blended to paint a colorful picture for the beauty-starved settlers. At first there were few native song birds, but snow birds, owls and hawks were plentiful. In the spring sparrows, and snipe appeared, also ducks, geese, wild turkeys and the occasional swan. Gradually crows came in small numbers but increased rapidly, and meadow larks, king birds, blackbirds, prairie chicken, hungarian partridge, robins, wrens, woodpeckers, magpies, and many other species appeared as the years went by and the growing trees provided shelter. Prairie fires were an annual hazard.

Previous to the entry of the railroad, enterprising merchants by the names of Warren, Watson and Howard had a store about two miles east of present Luseland. The store consisted of a tent and a shack. With the coming of the railroad in 1910 it moved to a new site in the hamlet. Shopping in the early days was a very different matter from today: main food items were bought in bulk and some families bought as much as a ton of flour at a time, in hundred-pound sacks. Corn syrup was purchased in ten and twenty-pound pails, jam in four or eight pound tins and cheese in forty-pound pieces. Pickles, dried prunes, dried apricots, dried apples, raisins, sowbelly, beans, pancakes, home-cured pork, chickens, ducks and eggs all were part of the diet.

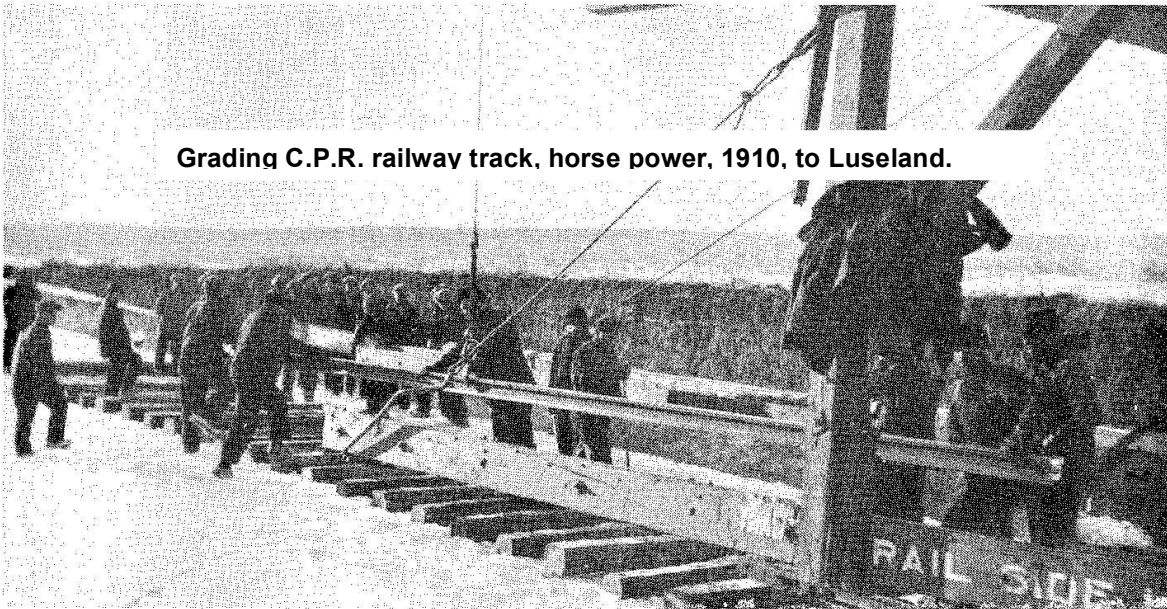


*Luseland's first tent dwellings and store located on Hermann Schmale farm, 1909-1910, Watson, Warren and Howard, first merchants.*

Rails of the Canadian Pacific Railroad reached the town in 1910, with Mr. Crawford the first station agent, followed shortly after by Mr. Frank Hughes who remained as agent for twenty-six years. Settlement, naturally, grew along the railroad and on December 10, 1910, a meeting was held by the merchants and the hamlet of Luseland was formed.



Grading C.P.R. railway track, horse power, 1910, to Luseland.



Grading C.P.R. railway track, horse power, 1910, to Luseland.

*Laying ties and rails on track,*

The first overseer was George Watson, later the first member of the provincial parliament for the district. Included on the council were Jack Reid, F. Walkinshaw and Jim Wilson, the latter secretary treasurer at an annual salary of \$150.00. The first civic business undertaken was a loan for \$50.00 for running expenses negotiated with the Royal Bank at 8% interest. 1911 saw the purchase of a fire engine for \$1,425.00 it was horse drawn. An entry in the village minutes at this time reads: 'Privies with pails, no pits, are to be emptied every two weeks, the scavenger to be paid in advance. Dr. Corrigan, the medical officer of health, to inspect premises.' Reading from the 1911 edition of the Luseland Despatch we learn that Luseland beat Provost 8 to 3 at baseball. Old time residents will recall the team names -John Hoff, T. McConica, C. Winkler, F. Walkinshaw, J. B. McConica,



Ray Gust, Lyons, Couzens, H. Cushman, John and Louis Wademan. (In the days to come the younger generation will remember these names as members of the 1957-58 Luseland Midget Hockey Team: P. Franks, L. Heintz, Bill Body, Tdrry Meier R. Chatwizt, J. Penny, A. Heintz, A. Hoff, V. Hoff, Ronny Meier, O. Walz, L. Harrison - and who can ever forget Ernie Barnby with his cow-bell as booster and mascot?)

Some of the advertisements from early Luseland Despatch issues read as follows:

*October 1931: Progress Municipality advertised 360 quarter - sections of land for sale for tax arrears, two for \$650. 00 each, thirty-one for \$100.00 each and about 325 from \$21.00 to \$100.00 each.*  
*Now land is worth from \$50.00 to \$150.00 per acre, and hard to buy.*  
*February 1913:" Don't wait till spring to take a bath. We have portable bath tubs which will fit in the smallest house and fold up when not in use. Fully guaranteed."*  
*Walkinshaw and Cushman, January 1911:*  
*Men's three—piece wool serge suits — \$10.00*  
*Cheviot or tweed suits from \$10.00 to \$13.00*

Early business establishments in Luseland included. M. Patterson, hardware; Winkler Brothers, hardware; Watson, Warren and Howard, general merchants; Kemp Jewelers; Reid, harness maker; Scotty's Barber Shop; as well as a pool room, a Chinese cafe, a Chinese laundry, a blacksmith shop, several lumber yards, Lake & Clark, implements; Jimmy Simm's Bakery; Payne Livery and Implements; King George Hotel . . . the original hotel was burned in 1913 and rebuilt, but \$2. 00 a night bought room, bed and board and included a jug of hot water for shaving and one of cold water for washing. Meals in the restaurant cost 25. The livery barn charged 25¢ for day shelter and hay but the owner was required to supply his team with oats.

Previous to prohibition in the first war the hotel had a bar, a popular place for the men to drink. There were no seats but the patrons stood at the counter with one foot resting on the brass rail. One elderly English gentleman, unaccustomed to this style of drinking, ordered a half-pint of beer which, after having taken a sip, he placed on the counter while joining in the general conversation. The bartender, thinking he did not want his drink, whisked it away and was mopping the counter when our friend turned to take another sip. "Hey, where's my bloody beer? A fine thing if a man can't turn his back for one minute!

Soon after the hamlet was formed McConica Brothers started a printing press and published a weekly paper, The Luseland Despatch?. In the newspaper building space was reserved for the Royal Bank of Canada which opened in

1911, with Mr. Gates as manager. Shortly thereafter a new bank building was opened under the management of Mr. Waite. The Luseland Cafe presently occupies this building site. The Union Bank of Canada opened in temporary premises but in 1915 built a new brick building managed by Tommy Honeywell. Later the Union Bank and the Royal Bank amalgamated and the Royal Bank of Canada now occupies this building.

In 1911 the first Agricultural Show was held and became a popular annual event. Competitions were held in household and domestic arts and cattle, horses and grain were exhibited. Good local baseball was an important part of these fairs, held, usually, during the first week of August.

Tennis was a popular game in the early days, and hockey was played outdoors on any handy slough as well as on the open air town rinks, Stampedes, patterned on Calgary's famous one, ran a good few years and were a great attraction. Mention should be made too of the many musically minded citizens who, over the years, organized choirs and bands under gifted leadership. These were much enjoyed and added considerably to celebrations and concerts.

Luseland was fortunate to have as an early citizen Arthur Dowling, a man born with a green thumb. In large measure it is due to his knowledge of landscaping that Luseland to day is the attractive town it is, Old timers will remember only too well when there was not a tree within fifty miles of the town. Due to the efforts of this man many streets now are lined with trees. He was a character, and known to take the occasional drink, A tale goes round that on special celebration days such as Easter and Christmas he would peddle flowers, grown in his nursery,



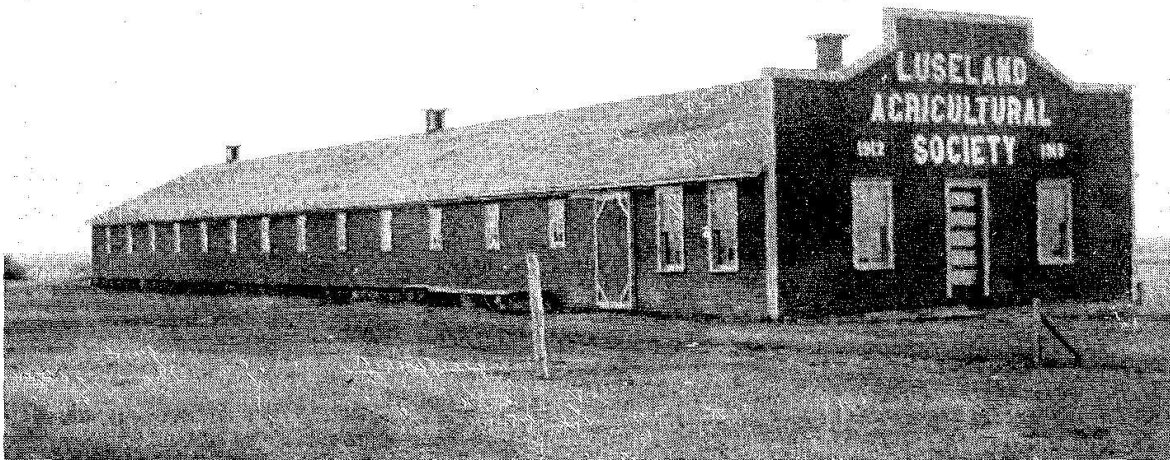
***Luseland Despatch printing office accommodated first bank, the Royal until a new building was erected for purpose. Ralph S. Gates was manger***

from house to house. First he would approach the merchant in his store and make a sale, then he would call at the merchant's home and make another sale to his wife before her husband got home. It is nice to know that a belated



testimonial and a cash donation were sent to him in England in appreciation of the legacy of beauty he left behind.

The Luseland district has always claimed its share of good hunting, particularly ducks and geese, and sportsmen from all across Canada and the United States make their headquarters here during open season. Coyotes are plentiful and have been hunted by horse-drawn sleighs, on snowmobiles and air-planes. A few lynx are shot periodically and in the thirties Martin Heuermann, a keen hunter, announced he had two in his truck uptown. Half a dozen men hurried off to see them, lifted the canvas on the truck back but all they could find were two links of logging chain.



1912 Luseland fair building now destroyed, also used as curling rink.



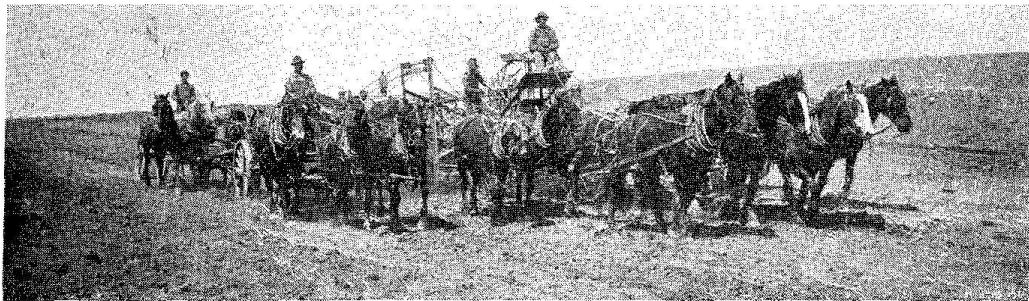


During the depression years, John German who is still with us, was alone hunter, using a team of horses and a dog sleigh, driving for miles over the prairie snow hunting for coyotes. In all, his dogs caught over eight hundred and fifty coyotes, the proceeds of their hides helping living expenses during this tough period. He would come to me and say, 'Can you borrow me \$5.00 for two days, I'll catch some coyotes' Without fail he would repay me in a day or two.

A swimming pool was built by the community in 1928 and was enjoyed for two or three summers, but poor construction was responsible for the break-Lip of the cement work and the well supplying the water caved.



*first meeting to form Hearts Hill Rural Municipality and first councillors.*



Early oxen and horsepower road grading operations on Prairies.



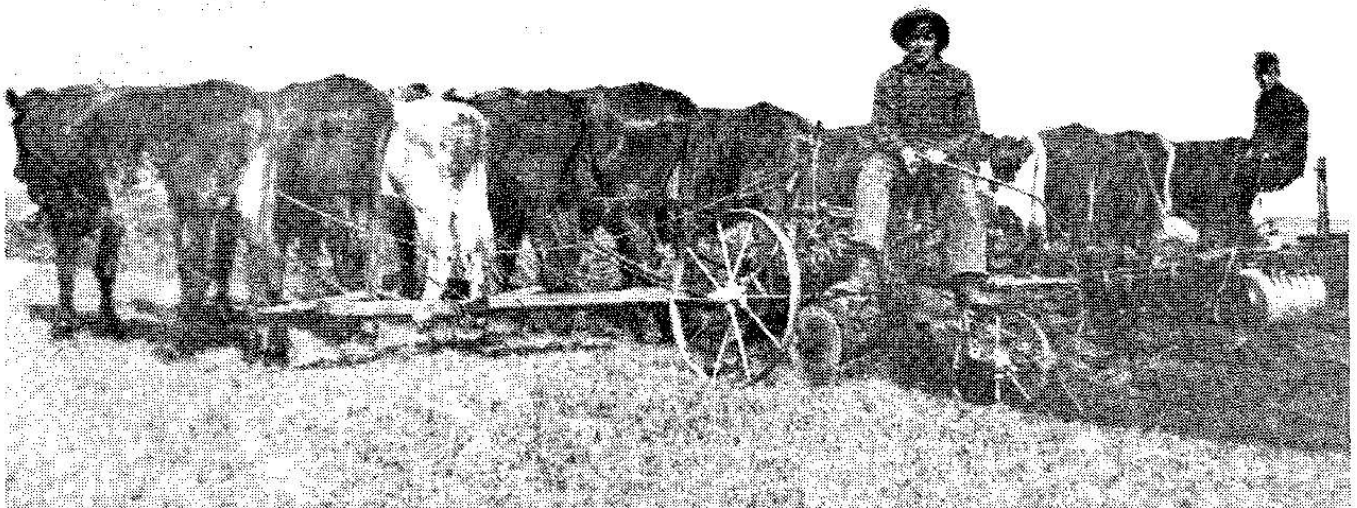
In 1911, the first meeting of the R.M. Progress 351 was formed with John Stevens as reeve and M. Allison, L.H. McDonald, G. L. Guidinger, James Patterson, Herman Schmale and A. Phillips as councillors. J. B. McConica was the secretary-treasurer. Road machinery consisted of horse-drawn blade graders, a breaking plow, twenty scrapers, and six 2-wheel scrapers, which were the major purchases the council thought necessary for road building. The present reeve is Burton Inkster who has held office for ten years.

In 1912, Hearts Hill R.M. 352 was formed with Messrs. Weybrecht, Rhodes, Harlow (reeve), Stetser, Currins, Mosentine, Saunders and Moscrip as councillors. The present reeve is Mr. S. Sieben. Mention is made of these municipalities as they were integral partners in the progress of the settlement. The building of a second railway line from Kerrobert to Major and west in 1912, and another branch from Unity to Cosine drew a lot of business from Luseland, but were of great benefit to outlying districts. Because of improved roads and modern trucking facilities there is a move by the railway companies to discontinue service on these branch lines. Upon the formation of the above named municipalities, rural schools were soon in demand and were built approximately four miles apart.

Early school dances are precious memories. They started early and always carried on until daylight. The few families clubbed together and usually managed to rustle up a violin, accordion, or occasionally an organ. Substantial lunches of sandwiches, pie, cake and coffee were served, the coffee having been on the boil most probably for some hours on a heater in a copper wash-boiler. It would make your hair stand on end! From time to time a box social would be held. At lunch time the ladies provided boxes, wrapped and often elaborately decorated, with their name inside. Boxes were sold to the highest bidder. At one such affair the writer of this booklet competed with the school-master for a certain lady's box. Bidding started at fifty cents, gradually increasing to nine dollars and fifty cents, this last bid by the writer, feeling sure that the teacher would bid an even ten dollars. To my discomfiture he quit, and, as I had only \$2.00 in my pocket I had to borrow the remainder from the loser to pay for it. Dances, as a rule were held in the winter and were arrived at often after a couple of hours' drive in weather sometimes as cold as thirty below zero. Of necessity, everyone wore heavy woolens and fur coats and as there was no place to change one's clothes, the atmosphere soon was pervaded with strong whiffs emanating from the energetic and perspiring dancers. Then followed the cold drive home by daylight, to cold houses and cold beds. The old dance tunes still linger in the memory.

With a 12" walking plow and two oxen, in those days one could break the prairie sod at the rate of about one acre a day. It meant getting up between three and four o'clock in the morning to round up the oxen to get ready for the day's work - plowing until about 9:30 a.m. and again from four o'clock in the afternoon till about 9 o'clock. At the end of the day and between plowings the oxen were unhooked and left to rustle their own fare of prairie grass or new slough grass. Often the farmer had to wade into the slough and drive them out before they could be hooked up again. Now and then they would wander for a couple of miles, and it was guess work as to where to start to look for them. Oxen would begin the day looking like huge, blown-up balloons, but after a morning's work would be quite shrunken. After the mid-day rest and feed, their appearance would again be that of a blown-up balloon.

About 1912, horses came into general use and horse-dealers enjoyed a flourishing business. Jack Bowlen, later Lt. -Governor of Alberta, at one time brought into Luseland two hundred head for sale. Horse breeding and the raising of colts were universal farming practices in pre-tractor years.

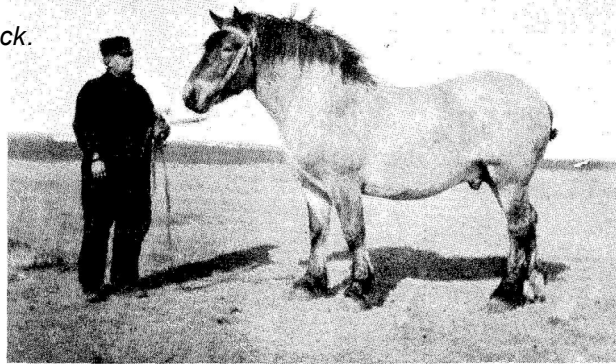


*Different methods of breaking*



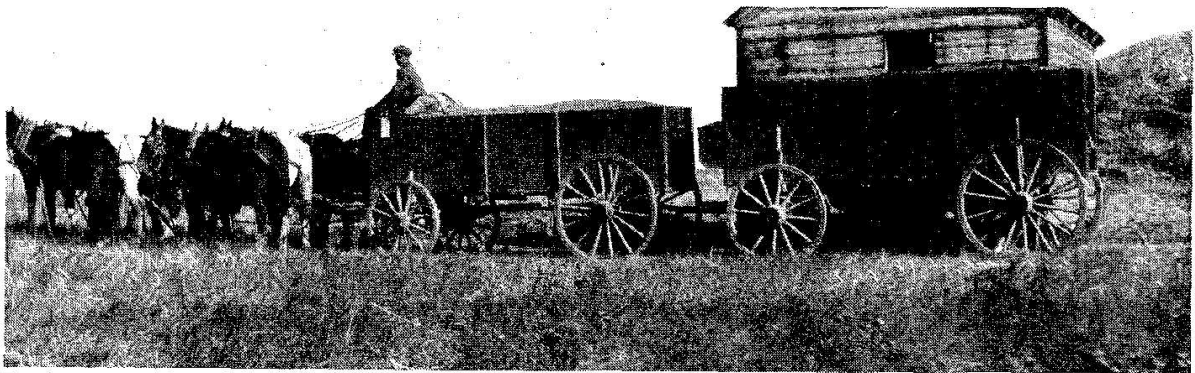
Sex problems are not new, as the following entry in the minutes book will show: 'Secretary to notify Buck Allen that he will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law if he insists in using his Belgian stud horse for breeding purposes in public places in the village'.

*Many old timers will remember Buck.*



*Buck Allan and Belgian Stud horse, referred to in minutes.*

Another entry in council minutes book ordered a local merchant who reportedly set fire to his store and damaged neighboring stores to leave the town under threat of penalty.



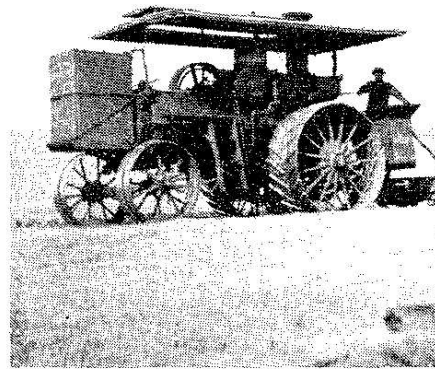
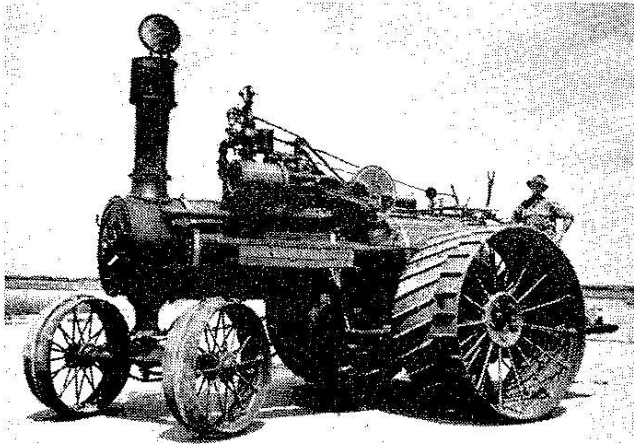
Early methods of grain hauling.



*Start of a new home, hauling out lumber for a home.*

All grain was hauled to town by ox, mule, or horse teams in the early years, the average load being sixty-five to eighty-five bushels of wheat. For an outlying farmer one load would mean a day's trip. Many farmers loaded directly into a railway car using a scoop or shovel. At that time railway cars had a maximum capacity of one thousand bushels. Trucks took over in the late twenties with loads from one hundred to four hundred bushels. At a later date they were loaded automatically by power elevators.

Some immigrants from the United States brought in massive steam-powered tractors pulling ten or twelve blow bottoms to break the prairie sod. Coal and wood were used for firing and later, straw. Rumbley oil-pull tractors were the first sold locally by Lake and Clark. Later McConica Brothers and Patterson took over from Lake and Clark, selling John Deere two—cylinder gas tractors. Finley Brothers later flooded the country with H.C. 15-20h.p. gas tractors. These well known initials - J. V. will recall to many, an energetic business man. He was no competitor, he led, others followed. His unheralded financial and advisory help to many discouraged farmers and others during the depression years, will be thankfully remembered. Bell's Garage introduced the first rubber-tired tractors, the Massey-Harris.



*Many types of steam tractors helped to break up the prairie sod, a few are listed here, Case, Beeves, Huber return Flue, Avery, pulling up to 12, 14-inch plows, hand operated, and 42" cylinder thresher.*



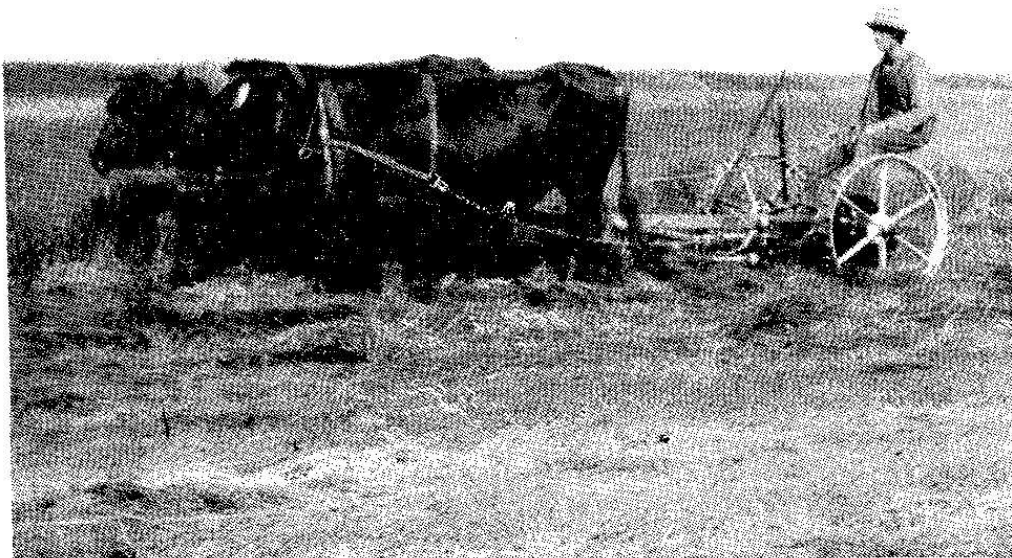


In 1938 combines were introduced, along with swathers - and before long threshing machines disappeared from the local scene. About 1936 four, six and eight—and-a-half-foot discers were introduced, swiftly replacing stubble plows; rod weeders displaced the harrows and large shovel cultivators replaced small horse-drawn machines. The use of these implements was helpful in controlling soil blowing as the stubble was then worked into the soil. The sale of fertilizer began in 1932 when Bell Agencies started handling Elephant Brand. Fertilizer is now universally



**1915 - Long talked of Bumper Crop.**

Modern farm tractors with suitable equipment can seed approximately 200 acres a day and can harvest over 100 acres a day. With the possible exception of wild oats, weeds are a rare nuisance today as weed spraying is used extensively. Threshing crews were an integral and colorful part of prairie life until well into the 1940's. They employed from six to twenty hungry men and six to ten teams of horses were needed for hauling sheaves. Binders were horse-drawn and cut swathes seven or eight feet wide. Extra harvest men were brought in each year from the east for stoking and threshing and wages in the early days ranged from \$2.50 to \$6.00 a day. A good crew could thresh up to 4, 000 bushels a day but when the weather was bad the farmer's wife had to put up with the crew sitting around her kitchen stove while she tried to prepare those three meals a day. The crew had to be fed, come rain or come shine. Prior to grain-cutting swathers and combines, the threshing machines used to leave huge piles of straw on the stubble, and it was a memorable sight to see these great piles go up in flames.



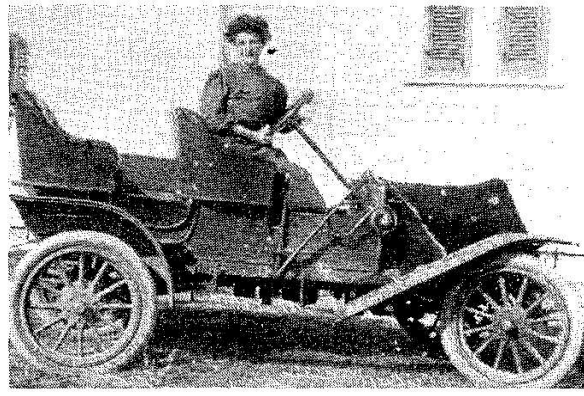
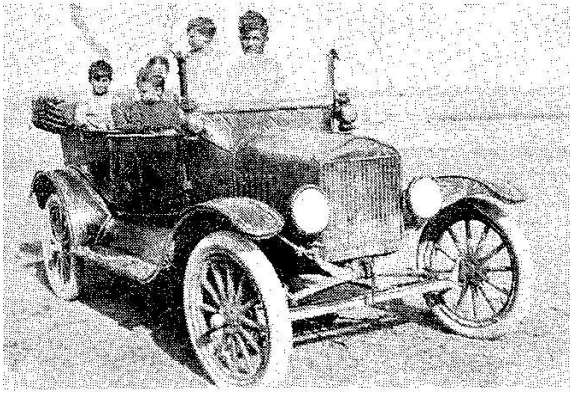
***Mowing ox power.***

All haying now is done by power mowers and hay-balers - great labor and time savers. Gone are the days of the 5' blade mowers and the 8' rakes, all horse-drawn. Many of the old farm homes are deserted, the vast majority of farmers choosing to live in town. In the home, coal and wood stoves have been replaced by oil, propane gas and electricity for both heating and cooking: gone too are the gas and oil lamps. In Luseland the majority of new homes are bungalow style, with finished basements and well landscaped with shrubs and trees. Heavy clothing, it would appear, has been discarded except for outdoor labor; traveling is done in comfortably heated cars and the roads kept free from snow by the municipalities. Car chains, once so universally used, are replaced by snow grip tires.

One of the first meeting places in Luseland was the old Fire Hall, which had an upstairs. Here the first high-school grades were taught, church services held, bridge parties enjoyed and wrestling matches conducted. The Orange Hall, now the Elks' Hall, appeared on the scene shortly afterwards and was available for meetings, political and otherwise, and for dances, and was used as a school when the public school became overcrowded. The first school was a two-storey brick building, later sold to the Roman Catholics. It was renovated by them and is still in use as a church. In 1922 the present brick school was built; this too, quickly became overcrowded so, from time to time, several country schools were brought in as the rural schools were closed. Today there is a modern composite high school, the "Arthur Geelan Composite High School", named in honor of a long-time and highly respected principal. In all there are twenty-four teachers and nine school buses employed by the school board.

The first churches to be built in Luseland were the Lutheran and the Presbyterian. A well-known character at that time was Dan McGrew who ran a livery barn. Dan was quite deaf and carried a curved cow's horn to help his hearing. As the preacher stood to deliver his sermon out came the horn. The new minister, unaware of Dan's disability, said in a threatening voice, 'one toot and you're oot.' The name of the preacher has been forgotten but the story still is told. Today, there are, in addition to those already named, the Alliance, the Roman Catholic, Jehovah's Witness and the Evangelical Free Church. What was formerly the Presbyterian is now the United Church of Canada.





### ***Two early car vintages***

It was about the year 1912, that the first privately owned cars appeared in Luseland and many makes now unknown tracked the country trails, a challenge and a hazard to man and beast. An average speed would be 15 to 20 miles per hour; forty was considered reckless speeding. The Ford Model T, Gray Dort, McLaughlin, Willy's Knight, Maxwell, Saxon and 490 Chevolet were a few of the early makes. A good tire would last two or three thousand miles and inner tubes were repaired by sticking on a patch costing 25¢ at the garage. A trip to Saskatoon was an event, taking up to six or eight hours. Today the same distance is covered in about two hours.

Telephones were installed in 1916, and dial phones in 1963; wooden sidewalks were gradually replaced by cement walks starting in 1928 and are now general. The plagues of grasshoppers and gophers, those early menaces to crops, have, by the use of chemicals become little more than a memory.

Previous to 1929 loans for farmers were easy to obtain from mortgage companies at from 8% to 10% interest, but after the stock market crash they closed down and no loans were available, not even bank loans for essential operations. Being an implement dealer at the time, it was customary for me to accompany a collector when he visited the farm of a debtor. We might arrive to find the threshers scraping up a three-bushel crop in snow and wet. I would try to keep in the background, knowing only too well what conditions were. Presently the collector would hiss in my ear "say something, damn you!" We did not collect that year.

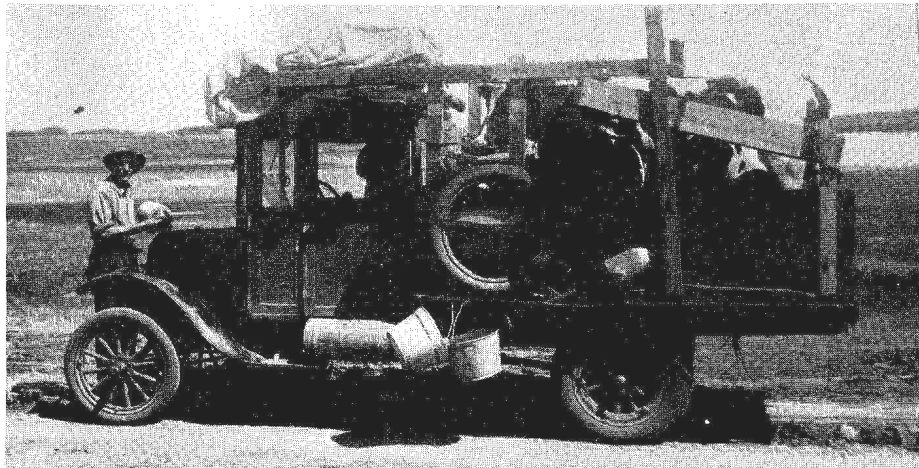
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Following the 1929 slump it was not unusual, on *entering* a store, for the buyer to have to wait while the proprietor and his friends finished their game of cards. Grocery merchants invariably handed you a cigar after you purchased a good supply of grub. Calendars were in great demand and were, sometimes, the only wall decoration in a home; now the housewife has become pretty choosy and there is little demand for them.

No town or municipality escaped the worries of the thirties. Mr. F. J. Clark, overseer of the village during, those years, kept down the abuse of grants and, no doubt, received in return considerable abuse from disgruntled applicants.

However, he kept the town finances in good shape throughout this trying time, Many carloads of apples, potatoes, fish and clothing were received for distribution from eastern Canada. We, in turn,

were able to help with wheat provided by our communities in certain years. The price of grain slumped, with wheat as low as 19¢ a bushel and oats 6. Taxes were unpaid and liens were put on grain deliveries. It is easy to believe the story of a farmer who drove a load of sixty-five bushels to five elevators in turn and was told a each one that the proceeds would have to be paid to the bank. Finally, in a rage, he pulled up to the bank, backed up to the large window smashing it, shoveled the wheat into the building in full view of the startled staff and announced, "I've delivered your wheat!?" Cattle were sold for as little as \$10.00 ahead and hogs \$2.00 per cwt; eggs were 5¢ a dozen, butter 10¢ a pound. Relief in the thirties was unavoidable, and in the late forties some thousands of dollars were written off the council books.



**During the dirty thirties, Erhart Danielson heading for Meadow Lake with all his worldly possessions, 1931.**

During the thirties the Board of Trade slumped badly. However, with the arrival of Sam Onerheim about 1935, new life became evident. It was not long before he was elected president and, with the assistance of Theo Meier as secretary-treasurer, meetings were held regularly. During Sam's term of office membership on the board rose to one hundred and curling and skating rinks were built. Money for these projects took many years of energetic endeavour by the board members and was raised by various methods, Chataqua entertainments, raffles, carnivals, bingos, baseball, hockey - each representing hard work and unstinted loyalty from the board members.

With the help of an energetic council, Sam was instrumental in developing a fine water supply for the town. In 1960 water and sewage systems became operative in Luseland. That same year saw the building of a clinic and doctors home, with a resident physician. In January 1954 Luseland was proclaimed a town; the mayor was S. C. Onerheim and the councillors Robert Finley, Y. W. Pelton, J. B. McMaster, W. H. Hohman Doug Bell and D. Dillingham. Mrs. Hazel Love was



secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Joe Black has been a faithful employee in the municipal office for many years. In 1962 the town approved the Legion plan to build a wading pool in Memorial Park and made a grant for the project. Luseland's first electric lights were introduced in 1922 but were in use during limited hours from dusk to 11 p.m. In 1952, fifty acres of land adjoining Luseland was donated to the town to be used as a golf course: Bell Acres Golf Club holds a lease on this property for one hundred years. During the tenure of the succeeding mayor, Max Wagner, the streets of the town were leveled and graveled, and a new residential section called Onerheim Crescent was developed which has since been built up with modern homes. A good trailer court has been established at the east end of town, with water and power supplied. The last financial statement shows the 1966 assessments \$1,102,000.00 and the population of the town at over 850. Vapor lights brighten the streets during the hours of darkness. R.M. Progress built a good brick office in Luseland in 1920 which is shared by the Town of Luseland. Here are conducted the respective business meetings. The Community Hall was built in the same year. So many residents, past and present, men and women, are worthy of Ls mention in these pages, but to the older generation it would be remiss indeed not to include in this brief history the following:

Pops and Mother McConica, as they were affectionately called. T. H. McConica arrived in Luseland in 1910 from Ohio where he had been a senator for two years. His political experience made him a natural choice for the South Battleford constituency as federal member of parliament. To him must go the credit in large measure for the retention of Crows' Nest Pass special freight rates on grain, to the benefit of the farmer.

F. E. Janicke, our local lawyer for many years. He was instrumental in procuring the property which now serves as our town park and on which the war memorial is erected. He was a devoted civic worker, blessed with foresight and great energy. He represented this constituency as C. C. F.

member in the federal parliament for some years. R. W. Wyler, a local farmer who won the world championship for wheat in 1923



Jimmy Sims who was town policeman in the early days and has a place in the hearts of all old timers. The Rev. Hugh A. McLeod, now retired and living in British Columbia, served his first charge as minister, in the then Presbyterian Church in Luseland. He later became Moderator of the United Church.

Dr. and Mrs. Graham who served this community faithfully and well from 1913 until the doctor's retirement in 1959. Many people now residing in Luseland and the surrounding district were brought into the world by Dr. Graham. All old timers remember Herman Schmale and Conrad

**Never to be forgotten by  
middle aged and old  
residents, Jimmy Sims,**

Scheidt who were leaders in the Luse Land Development Company's settlement scheme and were particularly helpful to their man, countrymen of German origin. Luseland has always been fortunate, from its inception, in having particularly fine Chinese citizens, well liked and respected. One of these, affectionately known as "Charlie", with his family are long-time residents and are still among us. Luseland's history would not be complete without mention of the various organizations which have played so prominent a part in the social development of the town, catering to young and old in entertainment, sports, celebrations, and, in days gone by, to the agricultural fairs. Possibly the Elks have been most prominent, providing sports days, parades and Santa Claus treats for children over the years. The I. O. D. E. is a small but active organization and contributes an annual scholarship for highest passing marks in grade VIII. The Boy Scouts and Cubs, the Girl Guides and Brownies are of great benefit to the younger generation, all with dedicated leaders. The 4H Club, the Hi-C, the Masons, the Kinsmen, Eastern Star, Guild, Royal Purple, the Legion, the Knights of Columbus and all the church organizations have been the backbone of social services in the community, and their efforts are appreciated. Our volunteer fire brigade with its up-to-date equipment also deserves our thanks.

Luseland has a contributing share in the Senior Citizens' Home newly opened in Kerrobert. It is a fine building filling a great need.

Hearts Hill R.M. built an attractive office in Luseland in 1966. As well as making for more convenient business transactions, this makes a nice addition to the town.

Some years ago the C. P.R. discontinued mail and passenger service to Luseland, and now hauls only freight and grain twice weekly. Earlier residents will recall with nostalgia the social highlight of the day as the evening train pulled into the station with most of the towns people on the platform to meet it! Buses now run daily between Macklin and Saskatoon and mail trucks come through twice a day. Large motor trucks deliver express and freight. As an item of general interest it is noted that over one and a half million bushels of wheat are shipped annually from Luseland elevators.

A few years ago, #31 highway serving Luseland was re-routed and now follows the railroad from Kerrobert to Macklin. The early onset of winter in the fall of '66 prevented the completion of the job, but with the exception of a twelve-mile stretch, the road from Saskatoon to Edmonton is oiled and blacktopped. It is expected this stretch will be finished in early spring and will include both the east and west entrances to town, as well as, Luseland's main street.

To commemorate Canada's centennial, a committee was formed to decide on a combined Luseland and Salvador project. Due to the energetic efforts of this committee headed by Clark Mathias and Howard Hohman, a beautiful swimming pool materialized in Memorial Park's south triangle.

In 1963, a second attempt was made to create a Credit Union bank in Luseland. After a slow but cautious start, it is now exceeding the fondest hopes of the founders.





Prairie slough no bush, the same slough a few years later when bush began to grow.



An old timer, Mrs. Mosentine of Hearts Hill, showing some oversize cabbage at entrance to cyclone cellar and also used as storage for fresh meats, milk and vegetables.

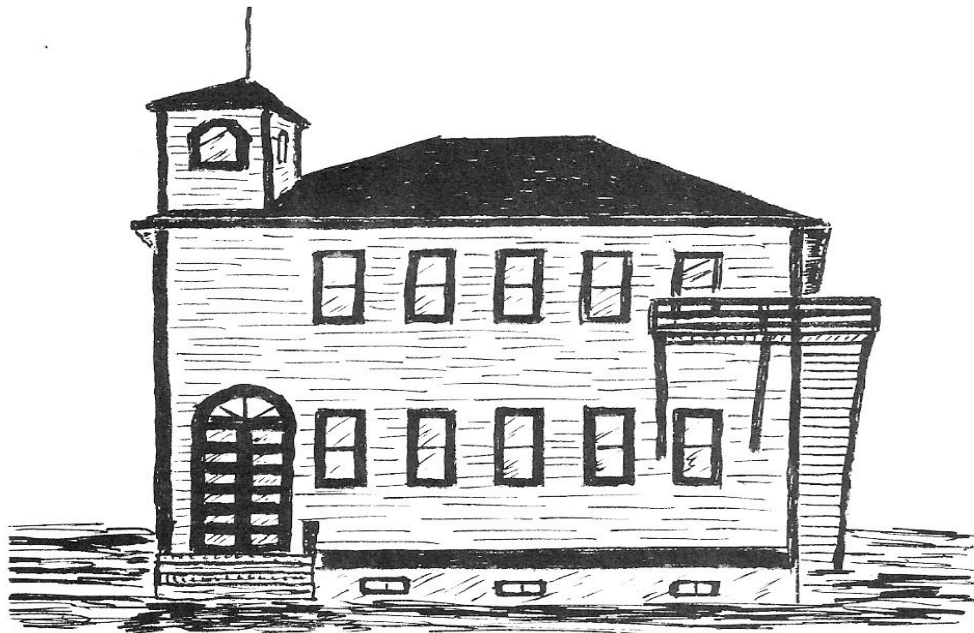
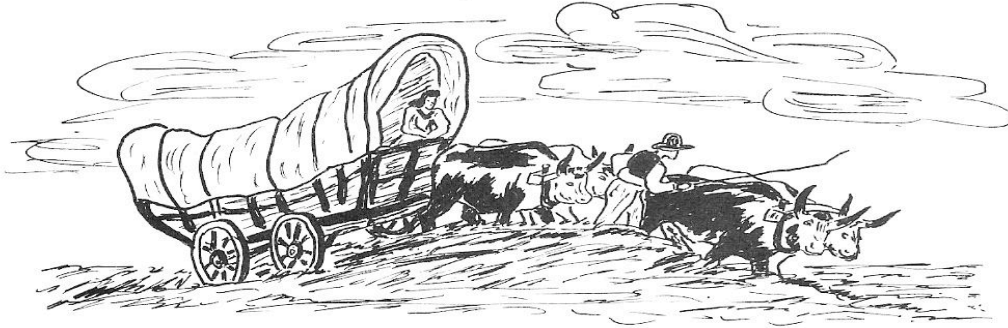




Aerial view of Luseland



# Salvador



Salvador's first Public School

This material has been gathered from early records and from the retentive memories of some early pioneers still residing in the district. It has been compiled into this form with the help of Mrs. H.P. Slade of the Unimac Lodge in Unity, Mr. W.W. Warnock of Unity and Mr. Alastair Fowler of Salvador.

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## *Salvador 1909 to 1967*

The Village of Salvador is situated on the South-West corner of Grass Lake Municipality, Number 381, and had its beginning on September 15, 1910. It is midway between Kerrobert on the South-East and Macklin to the North-West on the C.P.R., running from Moose Jaw to Macklin. In August 1911, the first train pulled into Salvador. Mr. Bob Winters was the first station agent. The name, Salvador, was submitted by Canadian Pacific officials in honour of the Spaniard who is said to have discovered this continent. The name has remained.

In 1912, the Municipal Office was moved from Unity to Salvador. J. T. Roper was the first secretary-treasurer in the new location. Petition for organization of Rural Municipality Number 381 was forwarded by S. Humphrey of Unity on June 10, 1909. The signatures on the municipal committee signing the petition were: W. J. Graham, W. F. McAllister,

E. Bishop, S. Humphrey, and J. A. Sirrs. Mr. A. J. Ross was the Commissioner for Oaths. Several names were submitted, but Grass Lake was chosen and on August 17, 1909 an order was issued organizing the Rural Municipality of Grass Lake, Number 381, to be effective December 13, 1909.

In 1913 three elevators were in operation in Salvador; the McLaughlin; with Pete Heivner as agent, the Co-operative Elevator, operated by George McKay, and the Federal Elevator operated by H. P. Slade. Later the Alberta Pacific Elevator was built and Harry Hudson was in charge. Situated in one of the best grain growing districts in Saskatchewan, it was not long before these elevators were handling one million bushels of grain per year. Salvador is still a heavy grain producing area.

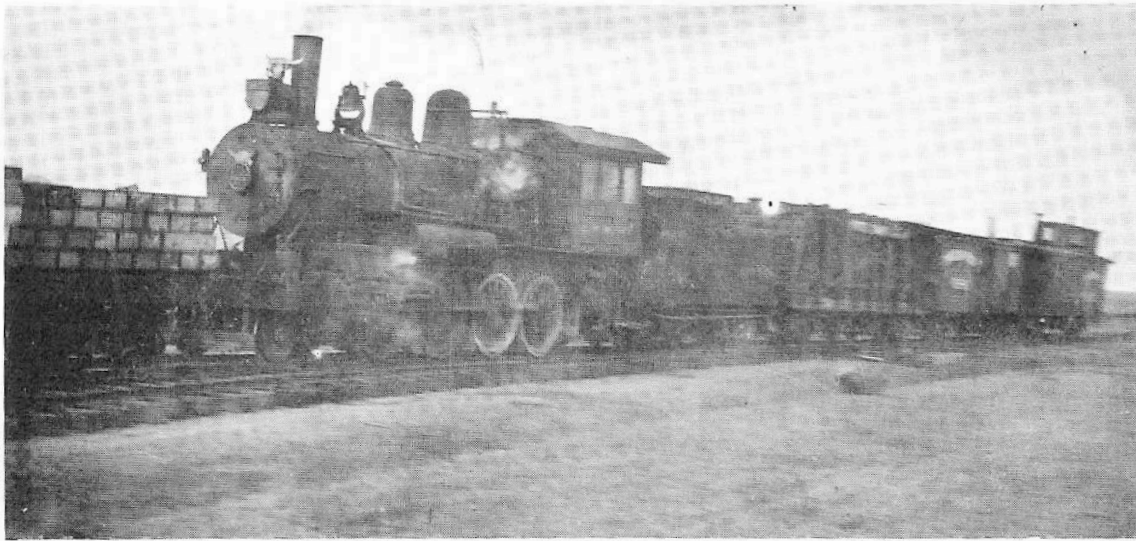
Salvador wasted no time in organizing a Board of Trade and elected a Council. Mr. A. J. Kippen was the first president, J. T. Roper was vice-president, J. Manning was secretary, and Mr. J. M. Michon was treasurer. The first Committee had as its members; J. DeBoice, A. W. Sturdy, M. Clarke, H. Thaler, and N.E. Fletcher.

Business places sprang up rapidly and in 1910 Fletcher and Clarke built the first general store. Previous to this mail had to be brought from Unity, thirty—six miles to the North-East. Mr. J. Michon became the first Postmaster and also opened the first restaurant. Ross and Kippen moved to Salvador from Unity in 1911 and operated a lumber yard and hardware business. Later a second lumber yard was opened by Mr. H. Thaler as Manager for the Galvin-Waten Co.

A 40-room hotel was built and it was operated by Norm Fletcher. A pool room and barber shop soon followed operated by Mr. S. Taylor, then by J. Lalonde and later by Terry Davidson. Mr. U. A. DeBoice built and operated the first big livery barn where many head of stock were bought and sold. Mr. E. J. Smallacombe operated the Cockshutt Implement business, while the partnership of Bride and Heivner handled the International Implement business. The business was later



taken over by Holten and Sirett, who also bought the Ross and Kippen operation. Mr. J. C. Keifer was the Massey Harris agent. Later he assisted Mr. J. Holman in the blacksmith shop where many a horse was shod in those early days. A general store was opened by the Sector Brothers. Mr. Joe Whittaker had the first butcher shop, later operated by Mr. George Doughty. The Reiss family operated a general store and the Post Office. Here a thriving business was carried on and here many a child warmed hands and feet before and after school, The partnership of Duncan and Taylor handled the first garage work in the town. Medical services came from Macklin through Dr. Elliott, and from Unity through Dr. Routledge and Dr. Grier. In the year 1917, Dr. Coffyn started his practice in Salvador and served the community for many years. The first school was opened in 1911 with Miss A. M. MacDonald as the teacher. She was followed by Miss Reta Galbraith, who later became the wife of Mr. Lloyd Sirett. In 1912 a new two-room building was erected by a local contractor, Mr. A. Sturdy. This contractor erected most of the buildings in the Salvador area in the early days. Some of the early school board members were E.J. Smallacombe, J. T. Roper, W. I. Hunter, L. D. Sirett, and R. A. Holton. Mr. J. Whittaker was the secretary-treasurer for many years. Another faithful servant was Mr. Fred Wilson who did the school janitor work for many years and walked in from his farm home a mile out to do it. In 1926 the present four -room brick building was constructed and still functions. The Royal Bank served the Community for many years. For a short time there were two banks in town, but an amalgamation with the Union Bank and under further new regulations the town of Salvador was left without a bank. The spiritual needs of the Salvador Community were taken care of by preachers from outside points. Mr. Turner from Unity held services, on an intermittent basis, in the offices of the Ross and Kippen lumber company. Mr. Turner married quite a number of young couples and carried on the usual duties of the local minister. Mr. Arthur Downing, a local homesteader from North of Grass Lake was another who did considerable preaching in Salvador at the Todd farm and later at the Donegal School. Later the United Church was built, followed by the Anglican and Catholic churches.



C.P.R. Train, Salvador, September 1910

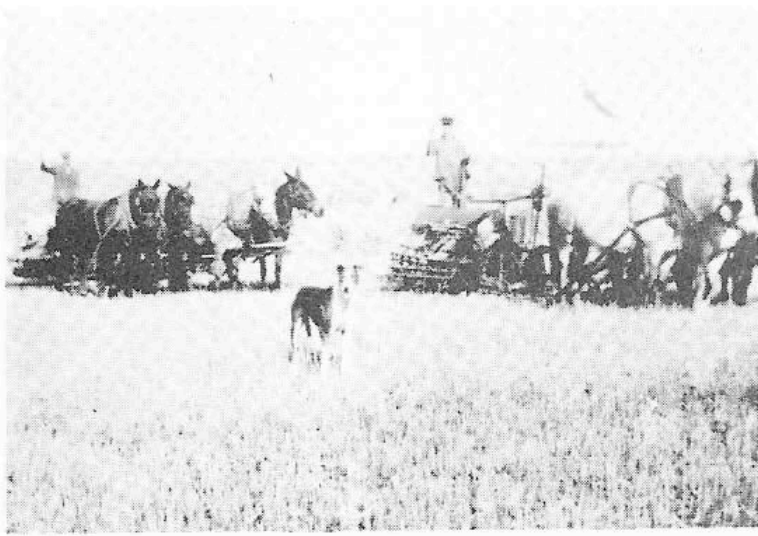


Golden Fields of Stooked Grain, Salvador 1915



Horse Power. 1917





Cutting Grain by Binder, Salvador 1925



Advent of Tractor Power in Salvador District



Elevator Burning in year 1925



The Community Hall served the district well down through the years with social functions, debates and other literary and political treats. One outstanding event was the debate between Aaron Sapire and Robert McGill of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange on the Grain Exchange versus the Wheat Board. This was carried by radio, but reception was not good. Several residents tried earphones, but it turned out to be a poor advertment for the King radios.

In 1915 a curling rink was built, sponsored by J. T. Roper, H. P. Slade, E. J. Smallacombe and J. Holman. This has been the scene of much entertainment for old and young, featuring many exciting hockey matches and ice frolics. In our Centennial year, 1967, this place is still the centre of much of the fun of the town. Salvador boasted a quite lively baseball team in those early days - some of the players were Roper, Holman, Smallacombe, Harrison, Archibald, Clarke.

The Salvador Telephone system was built in 1916 and functions today. Names of the Central operators include Nick Enright, Jerry Lockhart, and Mrs. C. J. Clarke. The latter served faithfully for many years, and her memory is cherished by many a resident of the district.

The town of Salvador served the surrounding area for 20 miles radius for many years and held its place with the best anywhere. The district had much potential with its sturdy settlers, finest soil, good roads, and alert business persons anxious to serve the community. In 1930, the Canadian National Railway built a branch line from Unity Southwest to Bodo. This line passed Salvador on the West and cut down on grain delivery to Salvador.

Most of the early pioneers have passed to their reward, but the few that still remain and the children of those who are gone, are well able to indicate what it took to settle the prairie. Salvador recalls many fond memories of those gone before and their efforts in opening up a new land. The descendants of the Pioneers and the newcomers know that Salvador is one of the finest places in which to reside.

A proposed sewer and water system is at present being negotiated and will be installed in 1967.

We are now into our Centennial year in Canada - this special year 1967 - the beginning of our second century. We look back upon the almost unbelievable strides in both rural and urban life on the prairies. The Salvador community boasts the most modern of homes, paved highways, and the most up-to-date farming methods used anywhere in the world. We have come a long way from candles to electric power, from the scythe to the combine, from horse and buggy to super-speeded automobiles, from sod shacks to modern homes. We may well contemplate what will be the accomplishments of the second century of life in our Dominion.



## *Publicity given to Salvador in the early days*

"Immense coal fields will be opened in 1913, There are also large clay deposits, covering some four to five thousand acres - suitable for brick manufacture.

"A region of ample rainfall where hail and frost is unknown."

## *Anecdotes*

Jim MacIntosh and Alex Fowler going from Salvador to North Battleford by ox team for mail and provisions found on their return that they had "four candles", instead of the much needed, "fork handle".

The story goes of one homesteader who was noted for his untidy person and slovenly housekeeping that when he entered his sod shack the skunks would vacate.

## *Poem of Salvador Town*

Written by Reverend F. C. Cheever and delivered at the production of 'The Minister's Bride' in Salvador in 1921.

If you listen kind friends, I'll read you a tale  
Of a bonny wee Town on the Sounding Lake trail;  
'Tis a fine little spot and you will all agree  
For the people are nice and the heart is free.  
And whether you smile or whether you frown  
There is always a welcome in Salvador Town.

Now Salvador Town, as perhaps you all know,  
Had only a shack some twelve years ago.  
But its rich fertile soil and pure country air  
Brought people to settle from 'most everywhere.  
They came from Ontario, and Unity too, -  
Even from Arkansas there came quite a few.

And they built up a town in a very short time,  
'Tis a real live town on the CPR line;  
There are elevators four and a lumber yard,  
Four general stores where they all sell lard.  
A barbar shop and a pool room too,  
A Chinese restaurant where they all eat stew.

There's a large hotel and a Union bank,  
Two auto repair shops with gasoline tanks.  
Two implement offices of fairly good size,  
There's a drug store too and a blacksmith shop  
A telephone office with wires on top.  
There's a livery barn and a depot too,  
Now towns of this size are very few.

Perhaps, kind friends you would like to know  
Some of the Salvador folks before I go,  
But I mustn't take long as the time is short  
My knees are weak and my head is hot,  
Now perhaps you've heard of one fellow there  
His name is Jack Roper - a man large and fair.



He's Mayor of the place so some folks say,  
It may be true "every man has his day".  
Sirett and Latty have won renown  
By being councilmen in that town.  
Johnson's the banker - he's tall and slim  
Has Treharne and Shingler working for him.

Misses Butcher and Pauls also help in the bank:  
Can you wonder the Manager has become such a crank?  
Jerry has charge of the Central, I hear,  
And Bill is the constable who makes them all fear.  
The restaurant there is run by Lem Wing,  
And George, the druggist, he likes a good sing.

Murphy's the barber - Duluth is his home.  
And Thomas sells meat along with the bone.  
Smallacombe keeps an implement place  
While Sector sells to the whole human race.  
Holman is the name of the blacksmith there,  
Keifer, next door, keeps cars in repair.

Holton and Dusty, as you all may surmise,  
Are dealers in hardware - and nuts - any size.  
Reiss has the post office, and store if you please  
Raymond sells everything from a button to cheese.  
I forgot to mention the station man's name, -  
"Hutch", I believe they all call him the same.

Now there's Taylor & Duncan, who repair Henry's fords  
And Billy Langford who sells coal and boards.  
The elevator men all work day and night,  
Harrison and Scott prefer the lamp light.  
While Slade and Shingler, so I've been told  
Have been buying wheat since nine years old.

Salvador School has made quite a good name  
And through its teachers has won considerable fame;  
For Mr. Martin and Miss Wall too  
Have done their best to impart what they knew.  
The Doctor's name in that Western town  
Is Dr. Coffyn - his pills are brown.  
And the preacher's name you will want to know  
Is Parson Cheever - he was born years ago.

Now friends, I am done with my tale you see  
And as it is late we must "bide a wee",  
I hope you have learned by "Our Minister's Bride",  
To be kind and true and your feelings hide.  
Remember as onward through life you go,  
That the world will be bright, if you make it so.

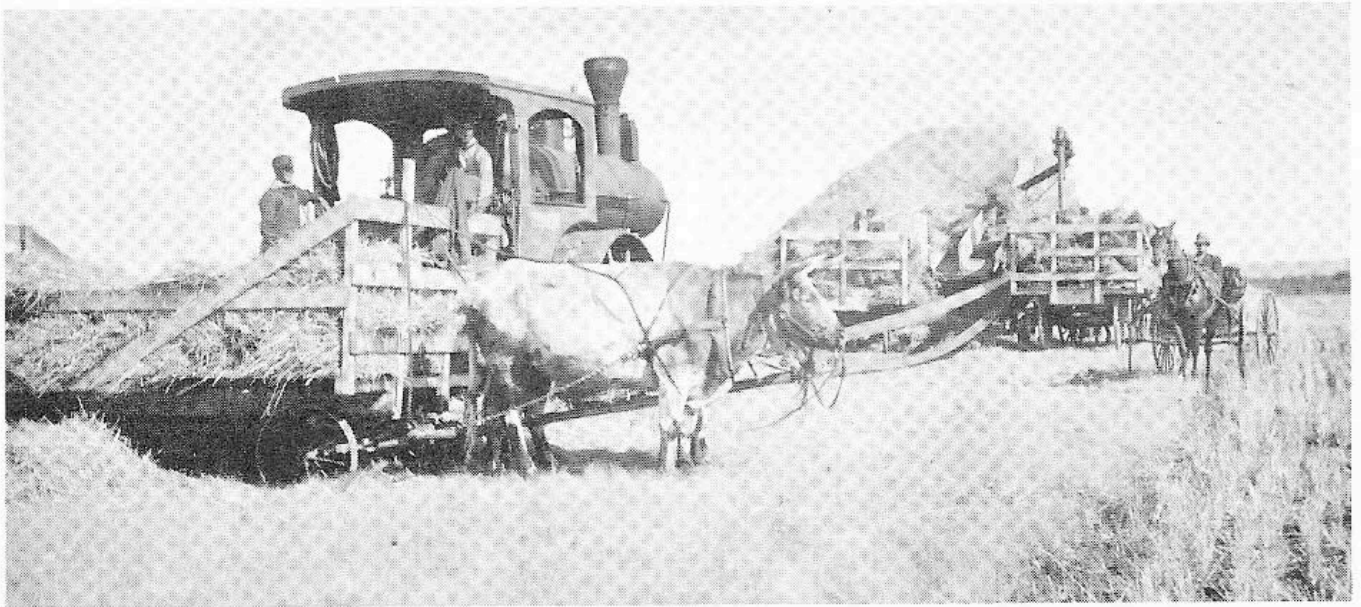
## *Pioneer Settlement*

How did this Community look 50 years ago? The finding of crude tools and relics indicate that the Indians dwelt in this region. The bones found in the countryside tell us that wild animals were roaming over millions of acres of uncultivated land. In this Centennial Year, it is fitting that we pay tribute to the Pioneers who paved the way, and commenced the building of our present Community.

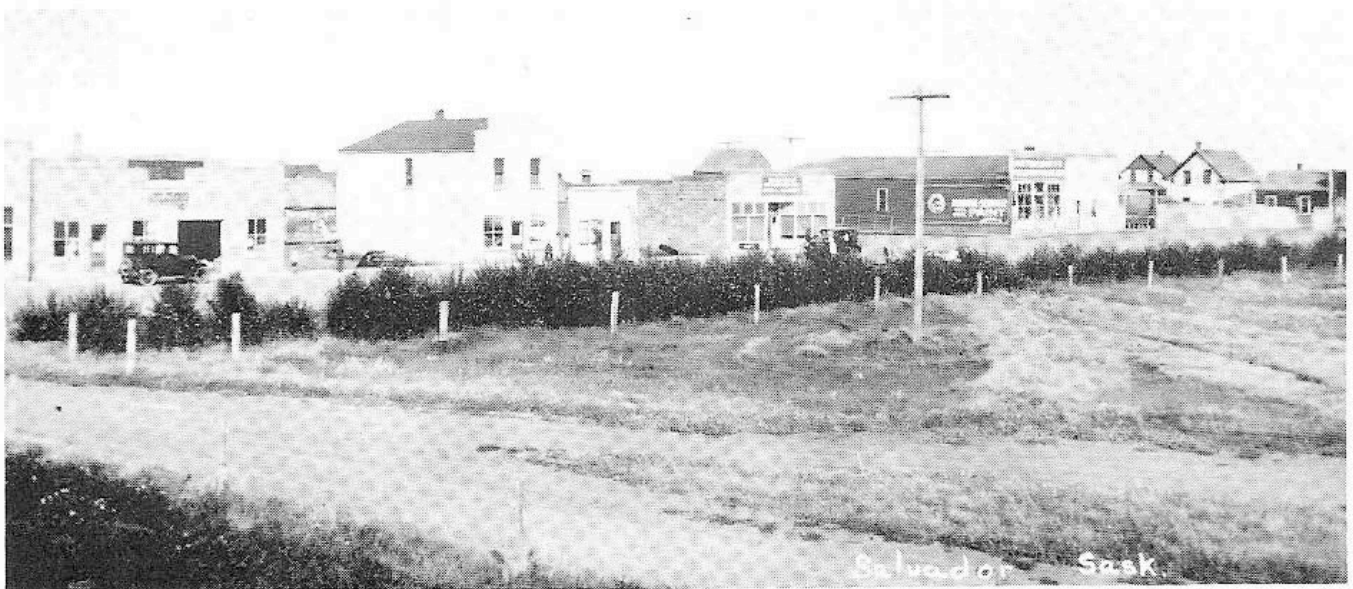
Words cannot adequately describe how the pioneers - the parents of many of today's residents - must have worked in order to survive. They came to this District- Salvador, Saskatchewan - with little more than enough to start – a yoke of oxen, a plough, some tools, a good portion of optimism, hardy hearts, and much enthusiasm. Their first homes were built of sod or logs - the going was indeed tough. Yes, it took toil, sweat and tears, along with an undaunted spirit for the pioneers to survive. But survive they did. The success they achieved was mainly due to the ability of these people to work together toward the common good. When problems faced them, they took united action to overcome these obstacles. Later, machinery began to take on a more modern look. This facilitated their work, and helped to bring more settlers to the Salvador District. The Pioneers learned to co-operate with one another. They worked together to build their homes and to design the various community projects. They stood together to fight off the prairie fires, they shared their machinery, and worked for and with each other. Together they built schools, churches, and community buildings much needed to make life tolerable in this rugged new land.

In 1967, our Centennial Year in Canada, we are proud to honour the memory of the Pioneers of the Salvador District.





Danielson Brothers Threshing Outfit, 1910



Salvador Sask.

Salvador 1927, Centre Buildings Burned That Year

# The Pioneer



He hung his shirt on the fencepost,  
and he took the lines in his hand, With  
his eyes on the far horizon, he started  
to plow the land.

And the sun beat down on his  
shoulders, and the oxen lazed in the  
heat,

But he joyed in the job he was doing,  
and the furrow under his feet.

He whistled a tune at sunrise, as he  
strode from his shanty door -

And he whispered a prayer in the  
evening, as he threw his boots on the  
floor.

Then he slept and he dreamed of the  
future, as the moon rose full and clear,  
And the Lord sent down His blessing,  
on the home of the pioneer.

Where is this man that I write of? For  
the fields are ripe today  
With the wheat of a million acres, that  
stretch to the West away,  
Swaying under the moonbreeze,  
sheening under the sun  
Standing, a golden tribute to the toil of  
that stalwart one.

And into the endless distance where  
the castles of grain arise,  
The haze of the prairie harvest hangs  
on the autumn skies,  
And the roar of a thousand combines,  
reaping from year to year,  
Brings a comforting note of triumph, to

the dream of the pioneer.

For he lived through a great adventure, that we'll few of us know again,  
And his life has been carved by that pioughshare on the face of the Western  
plain,

And although the name may be missing, to those who can read this line

It's a story of strength and of striving; it's a tale that is true and fine.

For it tells of the wide horizons, of distances vast and blue -

It tells of the old homesteader, and the job he had to do.

It tells of his triumphs and trials - and now as the end appears

Yonder he stands in the sunset - the last of the PIONEERS



## *Luseland, Salvador, and District Centennial Pledge*

The farmers, tradesmen, merchants, professionals, business men, fathers, mothers, boys and girls who occupy this small area of our vast Dominion look backwards with pride on the contributions made by the pioneers who opened up this vast land and made our tasks in 1967 the less difficult. Nor would we forget the wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1946 - we pay tribute to the life and manhood from our Community given in defence of our Canada. Moreover, Providence has favoured us with this broadland of opportunity, untold wealth and beauty. The residents of Luseland, Salvador and District look forward to 1967 - the Canadian Centennial Year - with zeal and with optimism, and with eagerness to add our contribution to the life and progress of our beloved Nation. Our pledge is that we conduct ourselves with honour and integrity befitting our Nation of Canada, our Province of Saskatchewan, and our District, so that we can truly sing with all Canadians:

O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise  
The True North strong and free;  
And stand on guard O Canada,

We stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada! Glorious and free!  
We stand on guard, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.

