

# Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association



## Newsletter



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January, 1968 Report to the Advisory Council  
to the College of Agriculture

by Walter Brice '40

Agricultural graduates will be pleased to know that Camp Rayner, 4-H Camp, is nearing completion and was used last summer. Buildings are being winterized and will eventually be available for meetings to interested and related groups. In order that there would be a continuing group responsible for the project, the University, through the Extension Department, will be responsible for the Camp but it will be run on a self-sustaining basis with no cost to the University. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool has made a substantial gift as an operating grant.

We were, I believe, all very pleased at the great response to the introduction of soil testing. Last year it was anticipated that 4000 samples would be analyzed and actually it was about 26,000. This year it is anticipated 40,000. With the great response to soil testing, there is more pressure to get the Feed Testing Lab under way. I spoke of this last year and indicated we had hoped it would be started soon; however, there is some change in building plans and now the planned addition to the Animal Science Building where the testing will be done will not likely be completed until 1972 or 1973. Pressure for space for the Soil Testing Lab is also important and this Lab is to be located in the addition to the John Mitchell Building. This, likewise, will not likely be completed until 1972 or 1973. The present facilities may not be adequate for long. The council has expressed concern at this delay and has recommended pressure be exerted to provide facilities on campus for these desirable projects.

While the Western College of Veterinary Medicine is a College of its own, we Agros have a keen interest in the College, and I am pleased to report that the program inaugurated a year ago whereby the College of Agriculture would provide joint lectures in Animal and Poultry Science is going over very well. The College provides three  $\frac{1}{2}$  classes and two full classes. The new building facilities will soon be ready. There is an enrolment of 95 at present.

Enrolment in the degree course is the highest since the war with 343 students -- all Agros are now on the Saskatchewan campus. First-year registration (1967) was 147, in second-year 78. This high registration in second year is due to the transfer of a number of good students from other Colleges. The high failure rate in first year continues at about 50%, which is away too high when other Colleges are 25 - 30%. University, S.I.A., etc. are trying to find ways to overcome this.



There is a slight change in curriculum this year. Up until recently first-year students took all Arts & Science classes and no Agriculture. It was felt that in order to motivate students, they should be exposed to one Agriculture class in their first year, hence a  $\frac{1}{2}$  class in Crop Science and a  $\frac{1}{2}$  class in Soil Science was introduced and students now take English in their second year.

Enrolment in the School is 216. There are 125 first year which is all that can be accommodated -- more have applied. Concern was expressed that this 125 is not enough and ways and means of expanding this either on the campus or at some other place is under review.

One serious problem is money for research. All money for research whether for material, salaries, etc., usually comes from outside sources and the amount of research and the demand is increasing yearly. In order to get it on a satisfactory and not a hit-and-miss basis, it was recommended that more money, and on a continuing basis, be obtained from Provincial sources. It was hoped that this would be obtained, but it looks as if it will have to be delayed because of the austerity or general budget cutbacks. The Advisory Committee has pressed for this.

#### Ag Grad Rings

There is now a Canadian Agriculture Graduate ring. Degree graduates in Agriculture in Canada are entitled to wear this new symbol of training in professional Agriculture. The ring is gold, 6 mm wide and has a smooth domed surface. The design is an "A" surrounded by two wheat heads.

Rings may be ordered by sending name, address and ring size to:  
Henry Birks and Sons Ltd.  
Smith and Portage  
WINNIPEG 1, Manitoba.

Money should not accompany the order.

#### Dr. Kirk's Farm and Home Week Speech

When Dr. L.E. Kirk '16 spoke at Farm and Home Week last January, he offered some suggestions for publicizing the developments that have aided Western Canadian Agriculture. He said, "I remember very well when the Agricultural Graduates' Association decided to institute what we called the Graduate-Lectures. The thought behind this decision was to provide an opportunity for the Agricultural Alumni and others to keep up-to-date on what was new in agricultural research and farm practice. The idea was apparently a good one. These lectures have now been given regularly for twenty-nine years and each series has been published in booklet form.

Over the years these published lectures provide a running commentary on the development of farming in Saskatchewan. I have sometimes thought they would provide excellent material for a CBC documentary film featuring those achievements in research and farming technique that have resulted in a series of big leaps forward.

You all know what they are -- these big leaps forward. Let's start back with Marquis wheat early in this century. Then in almost chronological order came the successful battle with black stem rust of wheat; control of soil drifting which threatened in the 1930's to turn the country into a desert; thousands of dugouts and small dams for water storage; abandonment of plowing for surface tillage; development



of new tillage implements; the combine and swathers; use of fertilizer; chemical control of weeds; disease resistant varieties of wheat, oats, barley and flax; forage crops and community pastures; feeding of livestock for better nutrition.

All of these important developments can be found in the published proceedings of the Farm and Home lectures and fairly accurate dates can be assigned to the time when they first came into prominence. It is interesting to note, however, that few of these innovations took less than ten to twenty years before they were generally adopted on a province-wide basis."

#### Ag. Grad Reunions

An informal Ag Grad reunion took place June 16 at Ozzie Dodge's '39 farm near Shellbrook. About 25 grads and their families attended. Other reunions will be held at Melfort in September and Swift Current in November.

#### School of Agriculture Graduation

Seventy-four students received diplomas in Agriculture on March 29. William Weighill of Pas Trail received the Scott prize which takes extra-curricular activities as well as academic standing into account. He also won the U. of S. silver medal for highest marks in the graduating class and the Smith-Roles prize for high marks in the rural electrification course. Gordon Moore '68 of Speers is the son of John '43 and Roberta '44. Alex Simpson '68 from Unity is following in the steps of his father, Cliff Simpson '43, and Mervin '42 and Chester Walker '68 of Glamis are father and son.

#### AIC Convention

Two grads were awarded Fellowships in the Agricultural Institute of Canada at the 1968 convention in Hamilton. Dave Heinrichs '38, head of the forage crop section of the Swift Current Experimental Farm, has developed several varieties of alfalfa, served on the U. of S. Senate and is past chairman of the Genetics Society of Canada. The other recipient, Hadley Van Vliet '34, as head of the Ag. Economics Department, has had a number of outstanding students. Tom Powrie '54, Terry Veeman '62 and Doug McArthur '65 have received both Governor-General's medals and Rhodes scholarships. Doug will be completing his studies at Oxford this summer and will be working with Hedlin-Menzies and Associates in Toronto. Art Wood '51 received a Governor-General's medal.

#### Agros Here and There

This is the year to buy your wife, or someone, a mink coat according to Archie Campbell '35. Archie has been in the mink business for 32 years and although recent years may have been lean, a tour around his ranch leaves the impression that his southern winter holidays are not too great a financial strain. Archie visited Paul Knowles '38 while in California last winter. Paul is on staff at the Davis campus. During his sabbatical leave in 1965 he drove across Europe to India visiting North Africa, Spain, Portugal, France, Great Britain, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Iraq and a number of other countries. One of the purposes of his trip was to collect both wild and cultivated varieties of safflowers. Paul has recently published a book on breeding and cultivation of safflower.



Don Rennie '49, head, Department of Soil Science, has been granted two years leave of absence from the University to become head of the Soils, Irrigation and Crop Production Section, Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture. The Division is operated jointly by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency. He is the first Canadian to be appointed to the position, which was open to scientists in all countries that support the International Atomic Energy Agency. He left for Vienna with his family on July 23. Don has also received a Centennial Medal.

John Miller '19 retired from farming 5 years ago and moved to Elbow. Two years ago the Millers visited their son, John, in Somali where he is a missionary and managed to see parts of Europe and England in the process. John says his main interests these days are visiting grandchildren in Saskatchewan and Alberta and keeping the fish population in Lake Diefenbaker under control.

Howard Giles '68 stopped by recently and told us about his work in the Department of Horticulture at Guelph on fertility and disease control in root crops. Howard reported seeing Rod Weber '65 who is with Libbys in Chatham. Ron Dalgliesh '65 has completed his M.Sc. in business administration at Queens and is at home farming at Halbrite. Blair Atkinson '66 is school principal at Major, Saskatchewan.

Art Stilborn '41 passed on a letter from Mike Preece '51. Mike is manager of the Bow Savings and Credit Union in Calgary after a 14-year stay in Edmonton. Art also heard from Jim Kidd '66 who is enjoying his work with U.U.S.O. in Jamaica. Jim is supervisor of the dairy and beef herds at Cobbla camp in the Manchester hills and is also in charge of 65 boys. Skin diving and lobster feeds add to the enjoyment of the beaches.

Harold Fast '67 is in Mwanza, Tanzania on a 2-year CUSO tour. Also in Mwanza are Ted Hurd '50, W.B. Redekop '63, Bill Hurd '59. Dave Clark '48 and family have returned to Lethbridge after spending a year in Liberia with the External Aid Department.

A few Ag Grads attended a regional short course in soils and fertilizers at Nipawin the first week of April. They were Charles Peifer '53 and George Staffen '46 of Nipawin, and Irvin Perkins '49 of Codette. Barry Baxter of Codette who was at the School in 1948-49 was in also, picking up his second-year soils course. In addition, D.N. Jamison of Aylsham was present. Mr. Jamison holds a Master Farmer award. George Staffen was asking about both Cal Fenson '46 and Jim Clarke '46 of Rosetown. In particular, he remembered Clarke cutting quite a swath with a 1929 Buick which seemed to start no matter how cold it was. Rumor has it that Jim Clarke has traced down the Buick and repurchased it for restoration. Maybe it will be good for a trip to Nipawin. Instructors at the course were Jim Ellis '57, Roly St. Arnaud '48, Ken Bowren '47, Ed Halstead '61 and Bob McKercher '54. Bill Cooper '51 of West Bend maintained law and order as chairman.

Among those responding to our membership drive last spring were Wayne Isaak '67 who is a sales engineer with Baroid in Slave Lake, Alberta, Doug Collins '63 transferred from Brandon to supervise the PFRA water development office in Rosetown, Syl Solar '62 Voc. Ag. instructor at Birch Hills, Blake Holtman '64 taking Agriculture at Oregon State University, Grant Devine '67 whose new daughter looks like her dad, Ken Weaver '66 who farms at Lloydminster in the summer and works for Health of Animals in the winter, Jerome Martin '64 who is an extension specialist in the University of Alberta feed testing lab, and Jerry Gramiak '65 in the Soil and Crop Branch, Brandon.



Reg Hartness '63 is in charge of the Fort MacLeod, Alta. water development district. Ed Taylor '49, who is supervisor of land dispositions in the lands branch in Regina, heard from Ole Viekle '49 and family who toured Norway, Denmark and England last winter. Doug Pettit '63 spent last Christmas at Athens, Greece, adequate compensation, he says, for missing the Ag Grad bonspiel and smoker. Ben Reinhardt '48 figures he has pretty well forsaken agriculture, having been steam engineer at St. Josephs hospital in Estevan for 20 years, but Ben has a couple of acres used for growing potatoes and beekeeping.

Henry Hoad '56 paid Dean White a brief visit recently. Henry has a Ph.D. in genetics from the University of Alberta, did post-doctoral work in England and is on staff now at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario.

George Parker '49 is supervisor of Vocational Education in the Saskatchewan Department of Education and will be under the direction of Harold Tangjerd '49.

Lloyd Proctor '41 was a delegate at the Canadian Order of Foresters Convention in Hamilton, Ontario last year. Lloyd reports that Edgar Mapletoft '41 is ranching north of Frenchman's Butte and is vice-president of the North Saskatchewan-Alberta hockey league.

Don Blackburn '53 is on staff at the University of Guelph. As president of the Canadian Society of Rural Extension, Don may not have enough time to get that left-handed slice controlled to the point where golf ball manufacturers need to seek government support. Curlers beware, Don is reportedly started practicing for the 1973 Ag Grad bonspiel. Gordon Bowman '52, on staff in the Animal Science Department at Guelph, spent most of last summer touring Great Britain, Europe, and the mid-western U.S.A. and Canada.

Ben Blacklock '46 tried hard in the federal election but lost to another farmer.

Several organizational changes in Cominco have involved Ag Grads. Ed Kowalenko '52 remains in Calgary but his title is now supervisor of marketing services. Jack Lang '54 has been transferred from Lethbridge to the new position of supervisor of dealer development in Calgary.

Albert Kowalenko '66 is working on his M.Sc. in Animal Science in Saskatoon, while brother, Bill '68, is assistant district agriculturalist at Medicine Hat, Alta.

Clarence Elliot '35 has been named treasurer of the Great-West Life Assurance Co. The company's assets total about 1.3 billion with annual investments of 135 million. Del Blewett '56 extends a special invitation, Clarence, to come to the smoker next January. You do play poker, don't you?

Olaf Turnbull '43, program director of the Western Co-op College in Saskatoon, a former Saskatchewan Minister of Cooperatives, was on a fact-finding mission to evaluate the College's program as it affects developing countries. Olaf's trip, sponsored by the External Aid, included a 10-day conference in New Delhi.

Clayton Peterson '49 has been appointed to the position of chief of the Land Section of PFRA. Philip Rothery '51 is now in charge of all training, employees and elected officials, in the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. Gilbert Wesson '49 is now Saskatchewan manager of Cooperative Trust.



Gordon Parkinson '68 is a truck driver for the North Battleford Co-operative Farm Service Center. Allan Potapinski '68 is employed at the Scott Experimental Farm. Ted Nicholson '54 is now employed by National Grain Co. at Peace River, Alta. Leonard Russell '65 is a Lab Technician for U.S. Borax at Allan, Saskatchewan. Martin Hopkins '52 was previously supervisor of Farm Service Centres, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and has now been appointed Operations Manager of the Farm Service Division. Sieg Orthner '49 has been transferred from Kindersley to the Regina Branch Office of the Farm Credit Corporation. Garry Akins '67 is employed by the Co-op Relations Department of Federated Co-op. Dwight Entner '67 is now Credit Advisor for the Farm Credit Corporation at Yorkton. Harold Fast '67 is working in Tanzania. Brian Harris '67 is now a Weed Ecology Technician at the Regina Research Station. Allan Simpson '67 is a Forest Research Technician. John Gronsdahl '57 was recently appointed Director of the Economics and Statistics Branch for the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture's Farm Management Division.

James Horn '67 and Robert Ballantyne '68 will be on Saskatchewan's delegation to the National 4-H Club Conference in Ottawa and Toronto, November 14 - 20, 1968. James and Robert received the award at the recent Provincial Selection week in Saskatoon.

Hooper Coles '30, who retired from the federal livestock marketing and production branch last fall, received an honor scroll from the Saskatchewan Livestock Board. Dr. V.E. Graham '27 was named Emeritus Dean of Agriculture at the spring convocation. Among Dean Graham's many contributions was his 1926 cooperative study with E.L. Harrington of the Physics Dept. and Dr. Dynes in Mathematics on why a curling stone curls.

Farm and Home Week, 1969 will be from January 13 to 17. Ag Grad reunion will be from January 11 to 14, starting with curling on the 11th, tea on the 12th and the lecture series, annual meeting, banquet and dance on January 13th and 14th. Make plans now to attend.

"A stunningly stacked blonde walked into a dress shop, and asked the manager, 'I wonder if I might try on that blue dress in the window?'"

'Go right ahead,' he said, 'It might help business.'"

"When a doctor called to a house to attend a confinement had been upstairs a few minutes, he came down and asked for a corkscrew. The anxious father-to-be gave him one, and he went upstairs. A few minutes later he came down again and asked for a screwdriver. He went back with it and left the head of the house chewing his nails.

On his third trip, he asked for a chisel and mallet.

'Good heavens, Doctor,' the worried husband said, 'is everything all right? Is it a boy or a girl?'

'Don't know yet,' replied the doctor, 'Can't get my medicine case open.'"

#### MARRIED:

Norm Ballagh '64 to Marlene Sylte on January 20, 1967.

George Pearson ' on December 31, 1967.

Bill Hurd '59 to Mary Elizabeth McDonald on October 29, 1966.

BORN TO:

Noel Skelton '63 and Carol, a son, on January 27, 1968.  
Doug Collins '63 and wife, a daughter, Kimberley Dawn, on January 30, 1968.  
Grant Devine '63 and Chontal, a daughter, Michelle Chontal, on July 22, 1967.  
Gordon Bowman '52 and Jean, a son, Scott, fall 1967.  
Glen Farrell '59 and Leone, a son, Bradford James, July 3, 1968.

DIED:

Stan Hannan '53 at Calgary, Alberta, April 1968.  
Ken McCuaig '64 at Vidora, June 25, 1968.  
Bill Van Vliet '39 at Ottawa, April 1968.  
Ralph Peterson '53 at Elstow, August 20, 1967.  
Richard Bourassa '67 at Coleville, July 1968.

There are just over 3,000 people eligible for membership in the SAGA. We have 1310 members, or members whose dues are not more than one year in arrears. We don't have the correct address for about 40 members including those listed below.

George Coates '21	Tom Moar	Neal Moyse '66	Logan Wilson '24
Wilf Cody '54	Ralph Skaien '50	Howard Duncan '65	Keith Johnstone '66
Harold Elliott '41	Edward M. Smith '50	Cyril Edwards '65	Art Strautman '48
Richard Forer '63	Alan Stinton '47	Gerald Douglas '64	Bruno Friesen '60
Osborne Lakness '49			