

# Blue Jay Chatter

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## NOVEMBER IN THE QU'APPELLE

The hush of November  
Lies over the valley.  
Poplars, nude and erect  
Silhouette the trail:  
And beneath,  
The paper crisp glory  
That was October.  
The ecru grass bends wearily  
With the wind;

Rust red willows —  
Thickets of thin switches,  
Shiny in the pale sun  
Delineate the bank of the river.  
The hills curve gently  
As always  
A study in sepia,  
Hollows of velvet brown;  
And all the world lies waiting  
For the winter's eiderdown.

These beautiful lines, appearing in Saskatchewan's Poetry Book, 1955, were written by Vesta Pickel of Regina. How well they depict the splendor, still remaining in the Valley familiar to so many of us. Doubtless as you read this, the "eiderdown" will be spread, and the "glory that was October" will be buried in a blanket of sparkling snow. Nature will be at rest.

The months fly past very quickly. It seems but a short time ago that we were writing about our 1953 Annual Meeting, boastful of our past attainments and optimistic about the future of the Society. And once more the spirit of yuletide is about us, so we again take this opportunity of wishing all our members **A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**.

The coming year will be one of great significance, for during it Saskatchewan will be celebrating her Jubilee. We believe that **THE BLUE JAY** should do its part in bringing before the members of the Society and the general public the rich heritage of natural beauty which we on the prairie possess and the desirability of protecting and conserving all those forms of wild life whose presence adds so much to the joy of living.

With these objectives in view we intend that the next four issues of **THE BLUE JAY** will be Jubilee numbers dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife resources and to the publication of interesting facts about our plants and animals and prairie life in general. During the summer thousands of tourists will be visiting in this province and we hope that through the efforts of Society members they will be able to take home with them a lasting impression of the characteristic splendor of Saskatchewan's great open spaces.

We hope that all four issues next year will show a marked improvement over those of the past and that contributors will keep the general theme in mind, but the issue of April, May and June will be our **SPECIAL JUBILEE NUMBER**, larger in size, better in quality and more interesting in content. I would like stories depicting the changes which have occurred as far as wildlife is concerned during the past fifty years; stories of mistakes we have made in respect to conservation and suggestions for improvement; general stories about our birds, mammals, other animals, trees, shrubs and flowering plants.

Will all who may wish to contribute special articles for this special number please let me know of the subject in advance so arrangements can be made to provide for sufficient space. And please remember, the more illustrations that can be provided, the better.

Let us all put our shoulders behind the wheel in making the **BLUE JAYS** of 1955, publications worthy of Saskatchewan's Jubilee Year.