



# Blue Jay Chatter



By L. T. CARMICHAEL, Editor

Naturalists throughout Saskatchewan, have many things to be happy and proud about this Golden Jubilee Year; the long periods of ideal spring and summer weather which have made bird and flower study a pleasure; the extensive study of and the provisions made for a more effective forest control and conservation program; the purchase of a 120-acre wild life sanctuary in the Qu'Appelle Valley by the Regina Natural History Society; the successful first annual field meet of the Society at Valley Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle but most important of all was the opening of the million dollar provincial museum of natural history, on May 16, at Regina.

This issue of the Blue Jay is dedicated to those whose untiring efforts have at last made a splendid dream come true. For many years members of this Society and the Fish and Game League have seen the need, studied the possibilities, and by resolutions and representations to the government have pressed for action. They were unconsciously spurred on to do this by the insistence, keen interest, years of planning and optimistic enthusiasm of the director, Mr. Fred Bard. With the assistance of an exceptionally competent staff, including especially the senior members, Fred Lahrman and Albert Swanston, he had built up the museum, even though housed in unsuitable quarters, until it was attracting thousands, and was literally bursting at the seams. Such action made the erection of a new structure inevitable.

The time was ripe, for 1955 was Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee Year. The Government, wishing to commemorate in some permanent way the lives of those who pioneered and developed this country, made their final decision. What better memorial could be possible erected as a lasting monument to these men and women than a Museum of Natural History. To Mr. Fred Bard, and naturalists throughout this land, a vision has become a reality.

The following article on the Museum, was written by Mr. R. G. Young, Director, Conservation Branch, Department of Natural Resources. It was originally written for "The Dome," but Mr. Young has kindly given his permission for us to publish it. The pictures used in connection with the museum are Saskatchewan Government photographs and were taken by Mike Kesterton.