

## 30 Years Ago

On April 1 of this year, the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History passed under the management of a new department of the Government of the Province — the newly-created Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources. This change leads us to speculate on whether there will be a consequent modification in the role of the Provincial museum. Understandably, SNHS members would be concerned if the interest in natural history were lessened to accommodate a growing interest in human history, for we believe that these two branches of museum activity should not compete for money and staff.

In 1974 we are almost 20 years away from the marking of the Province's Golden Jubilee by the erection of the present fine Museum building. So at this time, it is interesting to go back another 10 years to Mrs. Priestly's editorial comment in the *Blue Jay* on the need for a suitable Museum building:

Two briefs were submitted in February to the Saskatchewan Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Council, by the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society and the Regina Natural History Society on the need for the erection of a suitable building to house the Provincial Museum.

According to the brief presented by the Archaeological Society, the collections in the Provincial Museum comprise some 20,000 objects. These however have never had a permanent, or sufficient home. The brief states that 'since the first collections were put on display more than 30 years ago, the Museum has been moved from place to place, each move reducing its influence and value to the public. After various periods when it was located in the Parliament Building; a Regina downtown trading company building; the Normal School; an automobile parts building in the wholesale section, it has now been in storage for the past two years.'

In 1919 the Provincial Legislature sanctioned the erection of a War Memorial and Museum Building to cost in the vicinity of \$400,000.00.

The sum of some twenty-eight thousand dollars was actually spent on plans and research in connection with the proposed building, including prize money for a competition among the architects of Canada for a suitable plan. In 1924 the appropriation (\$200,000.00) was dropped from the estimates and since then no further steps have been taken in the matter.

Of the need for a worthy Provincial Museum and the place it should take in the life of our province there is no need to elaborate in the *Blue Jay*.

### MAN AND RESOURCES SUMMER, 1974

This summer Environment Saskatchewan and the Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources will be conducting community meetings to discuss the national Man and Resources guidelines. These meetings will give interested persons an opportunity to relate local environmental concerns to the national guidelines. In the two-year Man and Resources program, over 2,000 people in 17 Saskatchewan communities participated.

Review meetings will be scheduled for the following localities: Estevan, Swift Current, Kindersley, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Uranium City, Cumberland House, Hudson Bay, Nipawin, Yorkton, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Regina.

Dates of meetings will be announced in newspapers and on posters.

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