

## 30 Years Ago

The following excerpt is from the April-June, 1946, *Blue Jay*. Mrs. Priestly, first editor of the *Blue Jay*, died while her 15th issue was at the printers:

"The death of Isabel M. Priestly on April 23, 1946, will come as a shock to many of the 'Blue Jay' subscribers. As editor of the magazine, Mrs. Priestly acquired a wide circle of naturalist friends in both Canada and the United States.

"Her death came as a great shock to all of us for, as far as we knew, she had always enjoyed good health. As yet we can scarcely realize that she has left us.

"The first issue of the 'Blue Jay' was published in the fall of 1942, when Mrs. Priestly took the lead in organizing the Yorkton Natural History Society, of which she was president until the time of her death. Although the Yorkton Society has received credit for the fine response to the 'Blue Jay', it was Mrs. Priestly who compiled the material and did the large percentage of the work. In addition to the correspondence handled by the secretary, Mrs. Priestly answered as many as a hundred letters each month. She was the naturalist friend and consultant of scores of small boys and girls. No inquiry was too small to receive her prompt attention and wise counsel.

"The service she rendered to the cause of natural history in the province will be remembered for many a day by her fellow naturalists. As time passes we will remember her keen enthusiasm which stimulated a wide interest in the study of natural history, and all those who had the pleasure of knowing her will feel her passing as a decided personal loss.

"Mrs. Priestly was born in Newbury, Berks., England, on July 23, 1893. Previous to her marriage in 1918, she had been studying for a botanical research degree, and had studied botany in England, Germany and Swit-

zerland. Following residence in Winnipeg and Calgary, the family moved to Yorkton in 1935.

"Besides her husband, Mrs. Priestly is survived by her daughter, Diana, and two sons, Frank and Michael."



### **GREAT GRAY OWL INFORMATION**

A study is currently in progress to determine the historical and present status of the Great Gray Owl in North America. Any information regarding sight records or possible breeding occurrences of the Great Gray Owl is urgently required. Your co-operation will be gratefully acknowledged. Please write to: M. Collins, Department of Zoology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. R3T 2N2

### **SNHS — Summer Meeting**

Cypress Hills Provincial Park.

June 11-13, 1976.

See newsletter for details.

### **GRASSLAND PARK PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Now that the Information Meetings are over, members are urged to watch for the dates of Public Hearings on the proposed Grassland National Park in Southern Saskatchewan. Those in favour of the park appeared to be in the minority at many of the Information Meetings. You may make your views known verbally or in writing at the Public Hearings.