

found it to contain deep rings on its top and bottom surfaces.

For years the stone remained a puzzle to all who saw it, until May 1970, when Mr. J. V. Hodges of Regina looked at it and immediately announced — “That’s an excellent specimen of a concretion”.

Mr. G. C. Watson of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History at Regina, after examining the rock in October, 1971, wrote: “The specimen is an ironstone concretion. The centre is a large clay ball and the bonding effect is produced by iron bearing material being attracted to the nucleus.”



Photographs and detailed sketches of the rock were submitted to Mr. B. A. McCorquodale, Head Curator of Human History at the Provincial Museum at Edmonton, Alberta. He stated: “I am quite certain that the item is a concretion. Varying degrees of hardness of the material has accounted for the concentric grooves. Erosion has sectioned the concretion twice, accounting for the appearance of the pattern on both sides.”

The finding of the specimen in the Tisdale area, while uncommon, was to be expected since its deposit on Mr. Whenham’s farm was through the courtesy of a retreating glacier over 60 million years ago.

Mr. McCorquodale has authored a well written and profusely illustrated booklet entitled *Concretions and some other sedimentary structures* which is available through the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History in Regina.

## 30 Years Ago

Thirty years ago, with the July-August-September issue, the first volume of the *Blue Jay* was complete and the Editor, Mrs. Priestly, took stock of the situation: “When we brought out the first number last October, it was on a veritable ‘shoestring’, both as regards funds and news. In fact there were moments when, having taken ‘quarters’ from people, we wondered if we would be able to make good our promise of forthcoming issues! However all that is past history. The response we have had to our bulletin is more than encouraging and all work connected with its production has been more than repaid by the number of delightful and interesting contacts we have made with people in all corners of the province. And we sincerely hope that the *Blue Jay* will continue to convey news of happenings in the outdoor world to an ever-widening circle.”

Though the membership fee of 25 cents barely covered the cost of paper and stencils, it was decided not to increase it since the *Blue Jay* was the Yorkton club’s main method of encouraging interest in native wild life.

After only a year of publication the *Blue Jay* was becoming known and appreciated outside Yorkton and even outside Saskatchewan. When J. Dew Soper, then Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Prairie Provinces, stopped in Yorkton on June 2, 1941, Mrs. Priestly reported that “he had some extremely nice things to say about the *Blue Jay* and the work it was doing to arouse greater interest in our wild life.” Dr. A. L. Rand of the National Museum of Canada also saw the *Blue Jay’s* potential as a means of acquiring information about the little known smaller animals of the prairie and sent the Museum’s list of birds recorded for Saskatchewan for publication in the hope of obtaining further specimens.

Among the contributors to this number of the *Blue Jay* was Judge L.



McKim of Melville who sent in an interesting page of bird notes from the local area. He was also cited for his tribute to Judge J. M. Patrick of Moosomin (formerly of Yorkton) who died suddenly on June 9. "He was a true conservationist", wrote Judge McKim in the *Yorkton Enterprise*, even before many of us realized the necessity of protecting our game birds and animals and contributed in no small way to bringing into effect many measures for their preservation." For over 25 years Judge Patrick had maintained a deer park and bird sanctuary on the outskirts of Yorkton, until he moved to Moosomin in 1935.

In this issue the *Blue Jay* also paid tribute to other publications featuring nature columns. Marion Nixon's

"Nature" in the *Saskatchewan Farmer* had been mentioned in the previous issue, and now members were also urged to read Mrs. Elizabeth Flock's delightful nature articles that appeared from time to time in the *Regina Leader-Post*. Another nature column was being conducted in the young people's section of the *Western Producer* under the heading "Do You Watch the Birds?" In this column letters were printed from "young co-operators" describing the birds they had seen and fed. "Do You Watch the Birds?" had been running for some years and Mrs. Priestly commended the column on doing good work in encouraging the younger generation to take an interest in the bird life of the province.

## ANNUAL MEETING

### SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The 25th Annual Meeting will be held in Saskatoon at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences, Idylwyld Drive and 33rd Street, commencing Friday evening October 12th and continuing all day Saturday. In addition to the business sessions, there will be natural history programs and the annual supper — an opportunity to participate in Society affairs and help chart its future, and to pursue natural history interests among friends.

The Honourable Jean Chretien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, whose ministry includes national parks, has been invited to be our guest speaker.

Following are names and addresses of the chairmen of the key committees. If you have any suggestions please get in touch with them.

— *Resolutions*, Tom Gentles, 41 Langley St., Regina.

If possible, send proposed resolutions to Tom by October 10th.

— *Nominations*, Frank Roy, 1702 Sommerfeld Ave., Saskatoon.

— *Awards*, Dr. Stuart Houston, 863 University Dr., Saskatoon.

— *Annual Meeting Arrangements*, Mrs. J. W. Gerrard, 809 Colony St., Saskatoon.

All members are urged to attend. On this, the occasion of the 25th Annual Meeting, a special invitation is extended to members who joined the Society in its initial year.

Further details will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.