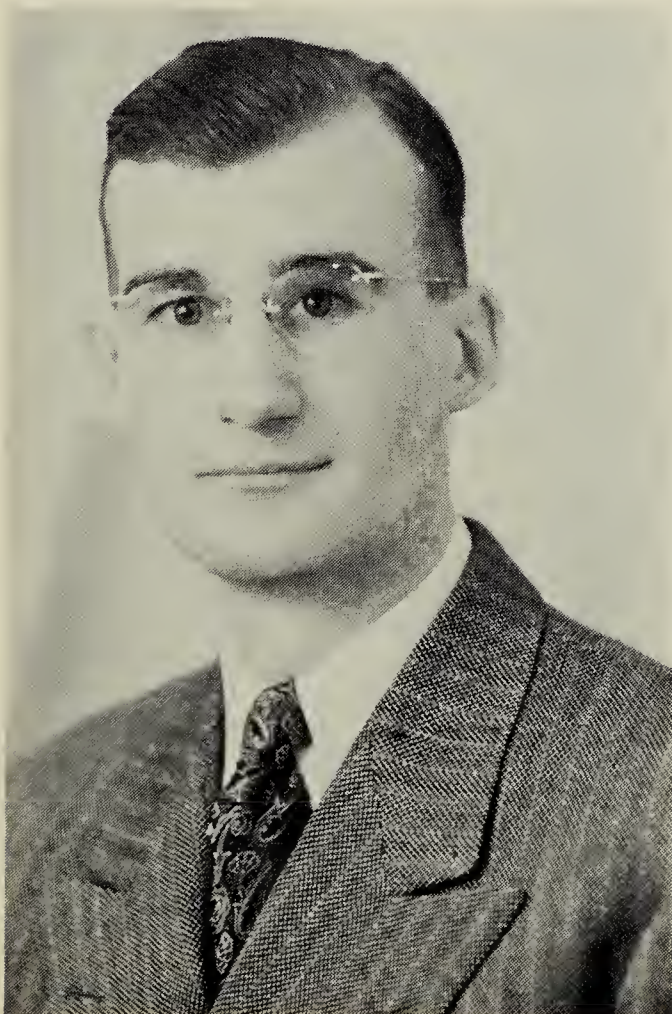


The basement of the Hodges' home was always a hive of activity with friends grinding mirrors for telescopes, transcribing the journal for the Hudson's Bay post at Last Mountain House, or reconstructing pottery shards into recognizable pots (Jean's speciality). Whether friends were developing films or recording facts which added to our knowledge of our province, there was always laughter and a feeling of achievement. In later years, award-winning photographs and Jean's water colors began to appear in the living room where so many meetings of societies had been held.

John and Jean's friends and acquaintances will remember them for their many interests and expertise in so many fields of knowledge. They will also remember John's ability to teach techniques of investigation and research and Jean's help and hospitality. I shall always remember their patience as they taught me to feed chickadees from the hand and the reward when a bird pauses on my fingers, seed in beak, and looks at me as if to say: thank you! A friend, *Elizabeth Parkin*, Regina.

## EDWIN WILLIAM BROOMAN, 1914-1983



Edwin William Brooman was born at Prince Albert on 11 September 1914. He once told me that his interest in nature was "sparked" by Frank Lund, a Prince Albert taxidermist, and "fanned" by O. C. Furniss, one of his teachers. He began a collection of birds' eggs at age 10, as boys with outdoor interests often did in those years. Often on his boyhood rambles he was accompanied by Elmer L. Fox. He began keeping records in 1934.

Ed graduated from the Saskatoon Normal School in 1938, obtained his B.A. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1947, and his M.Ed. from the University of Arizona during a one-year sabbatical in 1959. He was vice-principal at Queen Mary school, then principal of Prince Edward School in 1946 and of Prince Charles school from 1955 until his retirement in 1972. Although he took University courses in



mammalogy, ornithology, entomology, plant taxonomy and mycology, he told me that most of his practical knowledge in these fields came from what he taught himself. Ed was an accurate, diligent observer. He paid special attention to mushrooms and flowering plants: in 1953, for example, he collected 700 sheets of plants, and in 1954 made microscope slides and colored plates of 30 species of mushrooms. A short paper on the mushrooms of Prince Albert appeared in the *Blue Jay* in 1957 (15:75-76), and a report of a school project of counting remaining birds' nests in winter in 40 city blocks appeared in 1954 (12:21). He contributed valuable bird observations to *Birds of the Saskatchewan River, Carlton to Cumberland*, published in 1959.

Ed took care to live where he could watch nature. He bought a home on River Street in 1942, and then in 1972 he moved to an acreage northwest of Prince Albert where he had a solarium and did projects on plant propagation and hybridization.

Ed, who was an active member of an earlier nature club in Prince Albert founded and was the first president of the Prince Albert Natural History Society (PANHS) established in 1954. He called the organizational meeting on 22 January, the first executive meeting on 22 February, and I was privileged to be the speaker at the first public meeting of the enthusiastic group on 12 March. Grace Crooks, Ian Collins, Bob Arnold, Ross Homer and M.A. Welsh were among the initial strong supporters, joined by Tony Capusten and others in later years. The society took on the ambitious but financially precarious project of bringing Audubon Screen Tours to Prince Albert in 1954-55 and for several winters thereafter, and this became the main focus of the society's activity. Ed

served on the executive of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society from its founding for 13 consecutive years until the end of 1961, for 10 years as a provincial director and for the last 3 years as president of the PANHS.

He married Florence Burbidge in 1942. Their son, Glen, is studying business administration at Michigan State University at East Lansing. Ed's activities were sometimes hampered by ill-health and, for his last 2 years, by cancer. He died in hospital on 3 July 1983. His mushroom spore prints and his collection of birds' eggs are soon to be catalogued by Elmer L. Fox and transported to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.

Most of the information above was gleaned from letters written by Ed in the 1950s, supplemented by information from Florence Brooman and Tony Capusten. — *C. Stuart Houston*, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0J8.



*J. B. Gollop*