

THE BLUE JAY

The official organ of the Yorkton Natural History Society
Continued in loving memory of the founder, our first President and Editor,
the late Isabel M. Priestly.

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Staff Sgt. A.E. Smith, Jack Brownlee.

OBJECTS

To foster an active interest in every branch of nature study, and to promote the conservation of all wild life; also to act as a connecting link between nature lovers in Saskatchewan.

Y.N.H.S. NOTES

The annual meeting of the Yorkton Natural History Society was held in the council chambers, Wednesday evening Oct 16. Mrs. H. Beck brought in the report of the nominating committee; which was adopted. Elected to office were: Cliff Shaw, president, J.R. Foreman, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, Miss Pauline Summers, executive, Sgt. A.E. Smith, F. Langstaff, W.J. McDonald and Jack Brownlee.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the retiring secretary, Miss Ruth Beck, for an excellent report she had submitted outlining the activities of the Society during the year. The secretary reported that the "Blue Jay" was being mailed to 335 subscribers.

Mr. W.J. McDonald was the guest speaker at the November meeting of the society, held Nov 18th in the council chambers. Mr. McDonald told of a trip he had taken this fall to the Mandan Indian camp sites near Bismark, N.D. To illustrate his talk, Mr. McDonald had on exhibit a number of stone implements and pieces of pottery which he had found. He described the various camp sites, the re-constructed earth lodges and the different types of pottery. Mr. McDonald also described how archaeologists, by comparing cross sections of preserved logs from the ancient dwellings, with a master chart of tree rings, were able to estimate the approximate date as to when the dwellings were built. The oldest fragments of logs available from the Mandan Indian camp sites at Bismark, dated back to the year 1406, and he said that from the master chart there is now available a continuous record of precipitation over a period of 536 years.

We were pleased to have a number of young boys present at this meeting and we hope they will continue to attend and also bring their friends with them.

Due to the many Christmas activities in the city our December meeting was postponed until the 23rd when Mr. Dave Sharples of the National Film Board showed two excellent natural history films. The first film entitled "High over the Borders" dealt with the migration of birds, showing the various migration routes, the life histories of many species, and both their summer and winter quarters. The second film was equally interesting and was entitled "Hunting Dinosaurs in the Badlands of Alberta.

Many former members who were home for the Christmas season attended the meeting.