

GRENFELL -- Mrs. John Hubbard, Jr.

"I saw an exhibition of flying by some medium-sized butterflies this spring. I was unable to examine one closely but they appeared to be orange with black bars and white edging on the wings. It was about May 1st and the sight was really startling. The first butterfly seen flew swiftly up and down and around the front of the house for ten or fifteen minutes. When a second one appeared it was chased away violently; the clash of their bodies could be heard twenty or thirty feet away. Eventually four or five butterflies joined in the gyrations. Just when and how the party broke up I do not know because I had to leave and it was getting dark.

Would these be Monarch Butterflies?"

We do not know. Perhaps Mr. Shaw will be able to answer that question.

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Ideal Animal Life

Biologists at the University of Saskatchewan have come up with the ideal animal life on one square mile of bushy prairie:

That calls for 1 coyote, 2 horned owls, 2 red-tailed hawks, 5 skunks, 10 jack rabbits, 15 crows, 50 hungarian partridge, 500 smaller birds, 3000 gophers, 10,000 mice and 5,000,000,000 insects.

No mention is made of Homo sapiens.

--Contributed.

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ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

BUFFALO POUNDS

YORKTON -- Cliff Shaw

"In response to the query regarding the sites of buffalo pounds, H.N. McNaughton of Yorkton, has referred us to a ravine South-East of Ardath which may be worthy of investigation.

Mr. McNaughton's homestead was on the NW 1/4 20-30-8-W3. His interest in stone artifacts was first aroused when on the first ploughing of the land at the highest point of elevation in this area the plough uncovered charcoal and many flint chips and some finished tools.

During that summer and throughout the following years Mr. McNaughton gathered quite a collection from the site, which covered an area of approximately two square rods.

The site was about 24 rods from the south line of the quarter and 60 rods from the East line and is perhaps the highest point of land within the township.

Part of Mr. McNaughton's collection was given in care of Dr. Wilson, for the Regina museum. Dr. Wilson was a former Principal of the Normal School and later Professor of English at the Saskatchewan University.

On one occasion when Mr. A.H. Ball, a former Deputy-Minister of Education, was at Outlook he was taken to this site. Standing on this site where the artifacts were found, the two men could look north-east to a ravine four and a half miles away, and noted from the contour of the land that it was an ideal spot for the location of a buffalo pound. As the large herds of the

buffalo passed towards the Saskatchewan river for water, it would, they thought, be quite feasible for the Indians to have driven the animals north along the river in the direction of the Dundurn Forest Reserve, to where the river bends to the East. Here, it was conjectured, the Indians hidden in the wooded hills would surprise the buffalo and drive them into a ravine running to the West and North-west. This particular ravine is directly below the farm home of Frank Schraeder, and was formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Cleven. The Cleven family had collected many arrowheads in the neighboring area.

Mr. McNaughton said that buffalo skulls littered the woods close to the river banks in the early days but other bones were quite rare."

SKULL CREEK -- S.A. Mann

"I believe I know where there is a Buffalo Pound, about 40 miles from Skull Creek. I have visited it and picked up several hundred artifacts, mostly arrow points and scrapes. The first ones to find this location were supposed to have picked up around 700 pieces in a very short space of time. No one, to my knowledge, has done any digging in this place but just picked up what had been uncovered by the wind. The last time I was there (1938) there was about 4 acres uncovered, and was covered in practically its entirety with splinters of bones, from small slivers to parts of shin bones. I could not say how deep or far this pile of bones goes into the ground as I don't believe anyone ever dug into it to find out, nor have I heard of anyone looking around in the surrounding hills for traces of camp sites, etc."

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Indian Relic

Madeline B. Runyan, of Punnichy, writes of a stone having recently been plowed out on their farm which has apparently been drilled by primitive Indians. There are two perfectly round holes drilled to the depth of about half an inch and a third hole which has just been started. It weighs about a pound. "I was unable," she said, "to find anything like it at the provincial museum."

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BAY POST

Harvey Beck, writing from Cumberland House says:

"As yet I haven't been able to locate the site of the old Bay Post. No one I've come across knows for sure where it is. I have been told of three places and will investigate them as soon as the mud dries up. One of the places sounds hopeful. It is about half a mile from the present site (which agrees with Morton) and there are apparently ruins there. I will take my camera along and try to get pictures of it. I understand the spot is pretty well overgrown now.

I took pictures of the Cairn, but it didn't turn out well. The Boy Scouts are going to clean the bronze plate on the cairn and I will try to get a close-up photo of the inscription. At present it is practically impossible to read what is inscribed on it."

We hope that Mr. Beck will be able to give us some more interesting facts later.

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