

# NEWSLETTER

LOCATED IN BRESAYLOR - SASK. CANADA -  
MAILING Box 33, PAYNTON, SK S0M-2J0

1996

MUSEUM HOURS 1-5 P.M. SUNDAY & WED - FRI &  
BY REQUEST WHEN POSSIBLE MAY TO OCT (306)895-4813

## Dear Supporters of Bresaylor Heritage,

*This Newsletter is like spring this year - running along behind schedule!!!!!!!!!!!!*

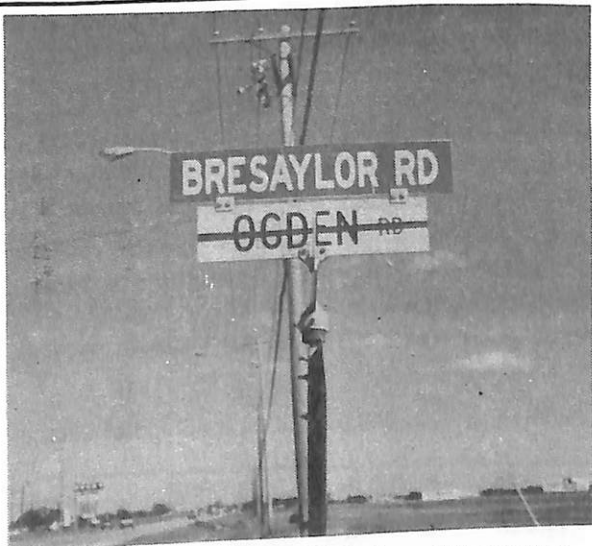
*As you can see, we are trying a larger format, and hope you will find it an improvement. One of Donald Dobie's recollections is included. And we welcome contributions by others for future issues.*

*The Museum Season is fast approaching and we are attempting to be ready. It looks like it will be a busy summer - two reunions that we know of close by. Hopefully, many old friends will get together in the area, and will include a visit to the Bresaylor Museum in their plans.*

*A special **thank-you** to you for your support of another season's activities. Have a wonderful summer.*

*Sincerely, Velma Foster*

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BRESAYLOR MUSEUM:  
Maggie Webb (ch.); Margaret Currie (past-ch.); June Taylor (vice-ch.); Helena Caplette (Sec.); Velma Foster (cur/treas); Ross Currie; Yvonne Carpentier; Don Ferguson.



**BRESAYLOR RD. in HEADINGLY.** Many of the original Bresaylor Settlers came from Headingly, Manitoba, and apparently earlier generations of these same families were also among the first to settle in the Headingly area. A few years ago the Cemetery Committee of the Headingly Holy Trinity Anglican Church decided to acknowledge these families by seeking to have the road to the Cemetery changed to Bresaylor Rd. In 1994 that was accomplished. Thanks to Louise Schermerhorn for this photo

## SOME 1995 HAPPENINGS

Our Heritage Day and pot luck supper took place on July 30.

We catered a Thanksgiving Sunday Harvest Lunch. On display were new accessions, including three Minute Books from Bresaylor 111 S.D. (est. 1888) donated by Vince Sayers.

The Christmas Gift Shop Sale took place on the last weekend in November and the first weekend in December.

Plans got underway for markers on 4 schoolyards: Bresaylor 111, Battlebank, Arbor Hill and Federal S.D.s. These should be in place in the near future.

**BELATED CONGRATULATIONS** to Mabel Waterhouse who, along with the province, celebrated her 90th birthday last year. We neglected to notice in time for last year's newsletter, but, her family and friends put on a grand celebration in her honor.

## 1995 RAFFLE WINNERS

The lucky winner of the QUILT made and donated by June Taylor was KAY (Leslie) MITCHELL of Langley, B.C. Vance Webb won \$25. Gift certificates went to Colleen Rayner, Edith Falcon and Vivien Whitney. Books went to Cecil McTaggart and Joy Taylor; Wild Rice to Alice Douville; cards to Doreen Bowes; 15 complimentary tickets will be entered in this summer's draw for Linda Dawe, Yvonne D'Amour, Jean Petty, Mary Brown, Margaret Currie (3), Billy Braun, Muriel Sack, Bert Sayers, Julia Currie, Bob Waterhouse, Joan Currie, Leonard Sayers and Ruth Sayers.

We are very grateful to those who participated in this raffle, which netted the Museum over \$500.

Our Thanks to The Delmas Community Club (Bingo Account) for their donation of \$400. to the Bresaylor Museum in return for our supplying helpers for a bingo. Thanks to the helpers who were Lloyd and Karen Bullock, June Taylor, Kay Ness, Mona Bullock, Helena Caplette, Wince Silvester and Velma Foster.

THIS SUMMER'S RAFFLE WILL INCLUDE CASH PRIZES AS WELL AS OTHER ITEMS. First prize will be \$50. Next, two \$25. prizes; also, a "Genuine Saskatchewan Museum T-Shirt; 3 - \$10. Gift Certificates to the Gift Shop. And more. A book of tickets is enclosed for those who wish to participate.



**HISTORY BOOK REPRINTS?** We have received twenty-some written requests for a reprint of the history book, "BRESAYLOR BETWEEN the Battle and the North Saskatchewan Rivers". The cost of having another 100 copies printed will be \$85. each (plus mailing). This figure does not include corrections or additions. We would have to go with it as is, faults and all. Changes would make it too expensive.

Are you interested in a book? Or do you know of anyone who would like a book?

We must have definite commitments to purchase by the end of August 1996. Then we will decide whether or not to go ahead. [All money would have to be paid prior to printing.]

**"PAYNTON MEMORABILIA"**. Earlier this year we organized a display of items about Paynton using the Bresaylor Museum collection and items borrowed from local people. It was exhibited in the Paynton school hallway for Education Week and for the Supper Theatre production.

Parts of it will be on display in the Bresaylor Museum Office building this summer. Meanwhile, Mrs. Marjorie McKee, long-time supporter of the Museum, donated a clock which belonged to Peter Paynter. That, too, will be on display with the Paynton Memorabilia.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

of some who have passed away  
this past year

Ronald Head  
Leona Desmarais  
Ray McIntyre  
Earl Shimek  
John Creegan  
Jean (Bugg) Edwards  
Grace (Mrs. John) Leslie  
Florence (Goth) Holmes  
Florida Tierney

and these whose names  
were missed before

Phyllis (Stevens) English (1994)  
Michael Fitzpatrick (1993)  
Mary (Mrs. Michael) Bidyk (1992)  
Michael Bidyk (1994)

• DONATIONS TO THE BRESAYLOR HERITAGE MUSEUM ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.  
• A DONATION OF \$5. OR MORE ENTITLES YOU TO BECOME A CARD-CARRYING SUPPORTER OF BRESAYLOR HERITAGE & TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER.

**REUNION OF TAYLORS AND RELATED FAMILIES:**  
BIRD/THOMAS/GUNN/BREMNER/CAMPBELL/BROWN/  
BANNERMAN/SLATER/McDONALD/SPENCE/CHISHOLM.  
JULY 5-6-7, 1996.

MEL SUNDIN returns! Remember Mel? He was that enthusiastic American (with video camera) who came to the History Book Launching/Reunion along with his mother Carrie and various other members of the Herbert Chapman Taylor clan. [Herbert Chapman Taylor came to Bresaylor with the other Taylors in 1883, but left for Montana before the turn of the century.]

Mel, along with Marilyn Morrill (daughter of the late Jean (Dobie) Gee, is organizing the gathering this summer.

The following is the itinerary as put forth in Mel's Mar. 14 letter:

• "Friday, July 5 - Arrival, open visiting...Bresaylor Heritage Museum, Fort Battleford, and other local historical sites...early evening 'Icebreaker'... Tropical Inn Motel, ph. (306) 446-4700 (where I recommend you stay, unless camping or RV-ing it). Dinner...on your own.

• "Saturday, July 6 -- A.M. Meeting...motel to discuss genealogical issues..."

"P.M. Picnic at Bresaylor.  
P.M. No-host dinner at Motel"

• "Sunday, July 7 - Breakfast/brunch at motel, departure."

We look forward to these reunion folks visiting Bresaylor. We'll be serving coffee and goodies on the Saturday (July 6) afternoon at the Museum - a good chance for local friends to visit.

For more information about the reunion contact Mel at 6A Mordecai Dr., Watervliet, NY 12189, U.S.A. /Ph. (518) 272- 0516/ E-mail at sundim@rpi.edu or on Compuserve at 103015,1753.

A **REGNIER FAMILY REUNION** is planned for the August 3-4-5, 1996, Long week-end at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Lloydminster.

For more details contact Norman Watts at Box 126, Blackfoot, Ab., T0B-0L0.

Some of the Regnier families lived in Bresaylor and area - in the '20's - Laurence (father of Bud) and Harvey (they lived in what is now the main Museum building) and (big) Ivan. We would welcome a visit to the Museum by any of the people at the Regnier reunion.

## HERITAGE DAY AT BRESAYLOR

• Sunday, July 28 • Pot luck supper & Raffle •

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY LUNCH at the MUSEUM

## A SUNDAY PICNIC ON THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

When we were young, we enjoyed many Sunday picnics down by the river, at times friends and relatives would join us for the outing. I recall one of them very vividly. It was a beautiful July day, warm, bright sunshine, and the very nice sandy beach on the river's shore added to our enjoyment of the day. But this one turned into much more than one of the usual Sunday picnics, it was one they would not forget.

For my friend George and I had a plan, we were going to swim across the river, and of course, would have to swim back as well. The river was about a quarter of a mile or more in width, with a fairly strong current. We were about fifteen or sixteen years old, had spent many hours swimming in both the river and the local lakes, and decided that this was the day we would swim across the river. Giving no thought to the fact that we did not have a boat to accompany us as a safety precaution, I guess we thought as none was available, none was needed. I have no idea what everyone else thought about the adventure when we announced our intentions, maybe they were too polite to say.

So we waded out, plunged into the current and started across. I led the way, George slightly behind, it was relaxing, swimming slightly upstream and across. Heading slightly upstream was necessary in order that the current would not carry us down so far. We were almost half way across when I had a strange feeling that something was wrong. I looked back at George, he was fine, then looked around, and to my dismay I saw a head and a raised arm disappear under the surface, about forty yards downstream.

I do not recall any feeling of panic we swam as fast as we could in the direction of my sighting. Now, from the surface of the water one does not have any way to pinpoint a spot, just head in the general direction. I don't even recall thinking of our remote chance of finding anyone in trouble, unless they rose above the surface. Which did not

happen. But as fate would have it, after we swam sixty or more yards, I swam right on top of him, his dark hair was floating just under the surface. So I was able to get my arm around him, turn him over and get his head out of the water. He was unconscious and offered no resistance. As we started back to the shore it did seem such a long ways. But we had not gone far when help arrived. It was a rowboat, we didn't even know of a boat in the area, yet here was one, and what a relief.

But to go back. The swimmer was my second cousin, Donald, who was not, to our knowledge, a strong swimmer. He had decided, unbeknown to anybody, to swim along with us. That was why we did not know he was following. Those on the shore watched us as we swam, when to their consternation, Donald panicked, went under, came up, screamed for help, and then under again. They said that this happened at least four times. During these few brief moments, they called and hollered to both George and me, and to a man across the river who was rowing around in his small boat. We were about half way back to the shore when he reached us. Donald was still unconscious, but we were able to hook his arms over the transom, and hold him securely as we were towed to shore.

During all this time we had no idea how long he had been under water. And I must confess not remembering anything about how they brought him around. But in a little while he was up and walking about, which was certainly cause for rejoicing. The rest of the afternoon is now a blur, I recall having our usual picnic lunch, and eventually we all went our various ways. And I don't believe that the day's events did much to popularize swimming in the river.

Epilogue: Donald Leslie was the one rescued, Charles Rumpkey was the boatman, and my pal was George Land.

D.M.Dobie

Since 1991 Don Dobie has been the publisher of the illustrious "River Rat Review" dedicated "to River Rats and other weird events", wherein Ol' Dull teeters (no comment on his state of sobriety while composing) between lovely flights of fantasy and down-to-earth (no comment on where he may have finished off an evening of "editing") recollections of a very interesting life. A life which spanned the pioneering-come-depression years of the prairies, life in the northern "bush", the

war-time industrial east of Canada, the post-war boom years of the petroleum industry in Calgary, retirement to the west coast, and of late, floating down the mighty Saskatchewan Rivers on a zodiac. A life suspiciously similar to that of Mr. Doble, himself a perpetually youthful person who believes his 84? years. We hope there will be many more episodes. Surely you're not ready to hang up the pen yet, Ol' Dull!

## MUSEUM PROMOTIONS

• the Museum Association of Saskatchewan is featuring this logo on a variety of items to help promote Saskatchewan museums.



We have a few T-shirts in our Gift Shop - our museum is listed with others on the back of the shirt.

• *The Great Saskatchewan Gold Rush* is a promotion by Sask. Tourism to encourage people to visit various attractions in different parts of the province. There's \$15,000. hidden somewhere in the province. In addition to trying to locate the gold, participants try to have their own special map stamped by as many attractions as possible. We have joined in this promotion and have a special stamp. Unfortunately, once again our location has been given as Paynton (our mailing address), so this may cause some confusion. Nevertheless, we hope that we will have some visitors looking to have our stamp on their maps.

**The Battlefords North West Historical Society.** We reported last year that the BNWHS was attempting to recover artifacts that disappeared from Fort Battleford after the Federal Government took over the site. Some of you did get in touch with Ross Innes about your own family artifacts given to the Fort in years past, and your information and support of the endeavor is appreciated. There has been a bit of progress, with the promise of the return of some few, very few items. [Len Taylor, M.P. for the area, has added his weight to the cause at the Ottawa end.]

The BNWHS is active on many fronts. They are looking into surveying sites of the original townsite of Battleford south of the Battle River, they want to see Government House preserved, they support all aspects of preserving the history of the whole area, and that, of course, includes Bresaylor. An important project is the **HISTORY LEAFLET SERIES**...the printing of a series of leaflets of various historic subjects in the area. The looseleaf format should encourage people to collect the series into a book. It is hoped that they will be distributed throughout the school systems as well as being available in all suitable outlets. The first issue is on "Government House - Battleford" and will be available soon. Cost is .50 per.

Membership in the BNWHS is \$10. Life Membership is \$100. Box 2065, Battleford, Sk., S0M-0E0.

**BATTLEFORD LEGION TO HONOR WW1 & WW2 WAR DEAD from the area.** A plaque bearing the names of one hundred and fifty-five names of the casualties of the two World Wars are to be unveiled in a special ceremony at the Battleford Cenotaph, May 26, at 2 p.m. The Battleford's Pipe and Drum Band will lead a parade of Veterans to the Cenotaph. Lunch will be served in the Legion Hall afterwards with the Valleyview Fiddlers entertaining.

• The **NORTH WEST MUSEUM NETWORK** has put out a brochure [with map] featuring 18 museums in our area of the province. We can mail one to you on request. This group of museums meets twice a year to compare activities and exchange information. The Bresaylor Museum will host the fall meeting of the Network.

## SUPPORTERS COMMENTARY

*"I don't get down that way very often anymore but I do enjoy getting the newsletters. It's like keeping in touch with home base." Marguerite (Currie) Kennedy, Vermilion.*

*"Ross was here Thursday evening and was ever so interested in Bud Regnier's map, and spent some time comparing it to the Bresaylor he remembered. He was 7 years old when we left Bresaylor and moved to Paynton in October of 1947." Jean Petty.*

*"Some of the folks in your area may remember my efforts to gather family information. And you will see that I am an old man now. Though I keep busy, I am very slow, and I don't accomplish much. No more family research!"*

[The mountain of DENNEY PAPERS were donated to the Glenbow Archives in Calgary, and Mr. Denney reports that last year 36.5% of all enquiries at the archives were in those papers.]

Charles D. Denney lives in Edmonton. [He's now a young 95 years.]

*"Thanks for your hard work and dedication to keeping our heritage alive." Barb (Petty) Hausen, Unity, Sk.*

*"Although my family and I make infrequent trips back home, we often reflect on the life that we enjoyed in the Bresaylor, Paynton and Maidstone areas. Living in Metro Vancouver now, the single thing we miss the most, is the safety that we enjoyed and took for granted growing up in small town Saskatchewan. Hopefully that value will always be treasured and never be lost." the Jim Shimeks.*

*"I would be interested in learning any news regarding the Noonans - Joe, Moy and sons. Thank-you." Mrs. Marion Taylor [226 -27 Ave. N.W., Calgary, Ab. T2M-2H4]*

## THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

We have books on historic subjects, crafts, cards, prints, T-Shirts, local produce. Ask for our price list of items.

