



INTERLAKE FLYER

F.R.E.D. ADMINISTRATION, NORQUAY BUILDING, WINNIPEG

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Sorting Out The Seasons-Hunting

Have you ever wondered who, in the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, sets the hunting seasons and makes the regulations? Did you ever stop to consider what factors they take into account and how they reach those decisions?

Contrary to some hunters' opinions, the decisions aren't made by a small group of biologists who spend all their time in a library. The people involved in the decision-making process include conservation officers, field biologists, guides, area residents and yes, even hunters. The process is a continuous one and a great deal of the information that will be used to determine next year's regulations is gathered during the previous season. Some of the information was already being gathered several years ago.

Three branches of M.R.E.M. participate in setting the regulations for Manitoba's big game, upland birds and waterfowl seasons--the regions, the research branch and the programs and extension branch.

The regions of the Resource Management Division are primarily responsible for the enforcement of existing hunting and fishing regulations and monitoring the effect of those regulations. Conservation officers in the field keep a constant eye on the day to day wildlife situation while enforcing regulations. The wildlife biologists in the region are able to coordinate this information with the data they collect from aerial surveys and other such sources.

Aerial surveys provide the most accurate data on deer, moose, elk and caribou populations. These flying wildlife population counts begin each fall as soon as the snow is on the ground and they continue until spring. In the Interlake, a total of two man-months are spent in the air each year taking inventory of the deer, moose and elk herds. The pilot flies the same route and the same pattern each year and all preferred habitat areas receive a good going over. In some areas, such as



Interlake moose make slow progress through 36-inch snow covering.

Hecla Island and the Mantagao Wildlife Management Area, the wildlife biologists can be 85 to 90 percent accurate in their elk and moose population counts! Deer populations are more difficult to accurately count.

Pellet group count (feces) surveys are also useful in determining the number of animals that can inhabit a specific area. In this type of survey, a 360-acre area is roped off and "gone over with a fine tooth comb." All deer, elk, moose, bear and other droppings are counted and the biologists take note of how much foliage is available and what percentage of it has been browsed or eaten. From this data, they can determine what the carrying capacity of the area is and to what degree it is being utilized by wildlife.

Hunter check stations are another source of information of great value. The stations provide information forms to hunters and collect jaw bones from taken animals. This data can be invaluable in plotting on the maps the areas of big game kills, determining the ratio of males to females, charting reproduction success and ascertaining how all those factors are affected by natural and human inputs. The data can be used to determine the best hunting season for deer, moose and caribou. For instance, if there are too many bulls or yearling calves being shot at the end of the season in any one area, the regulations can be changed to keep that particular moose herd healthy and productive over a longer period of time. Unfortunately, some hunters don't bother to complete the forms or submit the necessary jaw bones and some of the hunters who do fill in the form are not accurate in answering all questions. The better the hunter cooperation, the more accurately the biologists can design the hunting seasons.

Snow monitoring stations are used to chart winter conditions. Six of these devices, each with ten individual meters, were used in the Inter-lake this winter to monitor average snow depth, crust conditions, temperature, rate of snow increase and rate of thaw. Each station merely consists of ten calibrated poles placed in the ground at 66-foot intervals. A conservation officer makes a weekly check on each station, takes precise readings of the conditions at the time and reports the information to a central office in Winnipeg. The reports can be of significant importance in determining how herds in the various areas are coping with the winter and that information is vital in determining future hunting seasons and regulations.

An example of how information from the different sources can be coordinated is provided by the Grindstone Point moose herd. Aerial surveys in the fall of 1972 revealed only 17 calves per 100 adult moose--the result of the severe winter conditions in 1971-72. Aerial surveys in the fall of 1973, however, revealed over 40 calves per 100 adult moose--the result of the relatively mild winter conditions in 1972-73. By keeping accurate records of such things as winter conditions, annual hunter kill, reproduction rate, herd migration and vegetation quality, wildlife biologists can project population dynamics within the herds and consequently help design hunting regulations that will provide the maximum sporting pleasure for hunters while still maintaining a healthy wildlife population.

The Research Branch is more concerned with long-term environmental balances than with day to day fluctuations. They also deal with immediate emergency situations that might involve basic food supplies, reproduction and mortality rates or other such phenomenon. Long-term projects presently being carried out by the research biologists include studies on the significance of parasites in big game animals, the future of woodland caribou, habitat requirements and deer movement trends and the study of urban deer populations.

The Charleswood-Tuxedo deer herd, presently being studied by the research biologists, is one of the most unique deer herds in North America. While deer populations in the rest of Manitoba are dwindling, this suburban Winnipeg herd is thriving and now numbers approximately 150 head. Radio transmitters planted on the deer are used for daily monitoring and the migrations and reproduction patterns are being carefully watched. Although several theories have been advanced to explain this unique situation, the only proven factor to date is that 15 percent of the herd is lost each year through traffic fatalities.

The Chatfield grouse study is another example of the type of on-going research carried out by this branch. This ten-year project started in 1971 and is intended to determine exactly what the factors are that influence the population cycles of the sharptail and ruffed grouse.



M.R.E.M. biologists dissect a deer carcass to determine cause of death.

Although short-term grouse studies have been carried out at times in other areas the four-square mile study area near Chatfield will provide biologists with the information they need to accurately predict and perhaps even offset the grouse dancing grounds, trap and mark birds, count the number of drumming males in the area and conduct a thorough transex survey of the study area four times a year.

In addition to tagging specimens, making field observations, conducting autopsies on dead animals and planting radio transmitters on live animals, the research biologists can obtain information from the people in the region who are constantly in the field and they also make use of previously documented studies. Some of these studies are based on aerial photographs and biologist reports that go back as far as

1926, as is the case with the Delta Marsh at the south end of Lake Manitoba. Autopsies performed by the Research Branch can determine whether the cause of death was illness, poison, starvation, attack by dogs or wolves, bullets, or just old age. Long-term documented studies of habitat-herd relationships based on the above types of information can provide wildlife specialists of the future with the knowledge necessary to maintain the environmental balances we know today.

When it comes right down to determining the seasons and regulations, the Wildlife Program Section of the Development and Extension Service of M.R.E.M. is actually responsible for coordinating the inputs of the regions, the Research Branch and even the wildlife federations. The Programs Section is also responsible for compiling all necessary documentation, writing the final regulations and submitting the proposals to the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management.

The proposed changes fall into three distinct categories--zone changes, seasonal changes and regulatory changes. Zone changes take into account such factors as increased hunting pressure, seasonal duration and special regulations such as vehicle use. Seasonal changes pertain to the opening and closing dates of the season and to such annual variables as bag limits and times allowed for shooting. Regulatory changes pertain to the more basic rules such as vehicles and gauge of gun allowed, proper attire, etc.

The process of gathering information for any particular season actually begins during the previous season. In October regional wildlife biologists, conservation officers, research personnel and other people who may have an input begin making observations and preparing to report on the status of wildlife in their area.

In November or December, the regional and the program people meet to discuss general recommendations for license types, certificates, fees, vendor procedures and to set the tentative regulations for the spring black bear season. The biologists and conservation officers then start documenting the need for any necessary change in the upcoming seasons. The proposals are submitted to the Program Branch in January.

The Program Branch calls a meeting in February of all the research people and regional personnel from around the province. The proposed changes are discussed and the different points of view on each subject are debated. This overall provincial meeting usually reaches a quick agreement on most of the proposed changes to the seasons and regulations. In those instances where the three provincial branches cannot reach a firm decision, a committee may be formed to study the issue and gather further information. The main theme running throughout the annual meeting is to keep the seasons and regulations basically the same unless there is a definite reason for change. Those issues requiring special investigation might not be decided upon until later and some of the decisions might have to be postponed until early summer. It could be premature, for instance, to make a final decision on the 1974 fall moose season when we don't know in February of 1974 how many moose will survive the winter. The wildlife biologists report back in late spring with definite recommendations.

In April, the Program Branch brings the proposed changes to the Manitoba Wildlife Federation for approval and also obtains Parks Branch approval for those segments of the program that will take place on Parks Branch property. By early summer most of the proposals are official and by August the information is being printed into the annual brochure and readied for distribution.

Although waterfowl is under federal jurisdiction, the procedure is quite similar to the above big game system. Regional conservation officers and wildlife biologists, Research Branch biologists, and Ducks Unlimited personnel are continually observing Manitoba's waterfowl populations and keeping track of any significant trends that might warrant a change in the season or the regulations. Waterfowl regulation changes are suggested to the federal government by the province in May. The proposed changes are usually approved by July and they become law by mid-summer.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Rural Manitobans now have a better chance to deal with hearing problems than ever before. The cooperation of several private and government agencies has made the Mobile Audiologic Services Program a reality for residents of rural Manitoba.

Studies carried out on hearing problems indicate that between four and five percent of all Manitobans, as many as 40,000 persons, may have some degree of hearing impairment. This percentage may even run higher in rural and isolated areas where people don't have easy access to specialists. Many children and adults who were previously thought to have a short attention span, speech impediment or even a mental problem are actually handicapped only by an inability to hear normally.

The recently started Mobile Audiologic Service Program (MASP) is designed to help meet the hearing health needs of rural Manitobans. MASP's primary concern is the prevention of hearing losses among young children. Early detection of an audiologic problem in a child can mean the difference between leading a normal life and leading a life of constant confusion.

A hearing problem can prevent a young child from learning to speak properly, can prevent an intelligent student from keeping up with his classmates in school or can cause a person to develop a totally disinterested attitude toward life. People who were born with a hearing problem and those who have gradually lost their hearing may not even be aware that their hearing isn't normal. Manitobans in these situations may be getting less out of life without even knowing why.

Until 1973 there had never been a hearing survey conducted in Manitoba. Last spring the Department of Education conducted a hearing survey in the kindergarten through grade three and special education classes in 11

rural Manitoba school divisions. The results confirmed previous suspicions that hearing disorders in Manitoba are as common as they are elsewhere in Canada. The survey also added support to the Mobile Audiologic Service Program that was already being jointly planned by the Elks of Manitoba and agencies of the Manitoba government.

The program was initiated because it was felt that rural Manitobans did not have the opportunity for adequate hearing services. There are 17 Otologists and seven Audiologists in Winnipeg, one Otologist in Brandon and no such specialists in the rural areas. For people outside of these two areas to effectively analyze and deal with hearing problems is costly and sometimes impossible. Although the MASP van is not equipped to actually cure hearing problems, the travelling Audiologist does have the equipment and the training necessary to give an accurate diagnosis of almost any hearing problem.

The program is divided into three areas with the preliminary screening test being the first step. This pure-tone audiometric screen test simply



Volunteers in Lundar performed all preliminary screening.

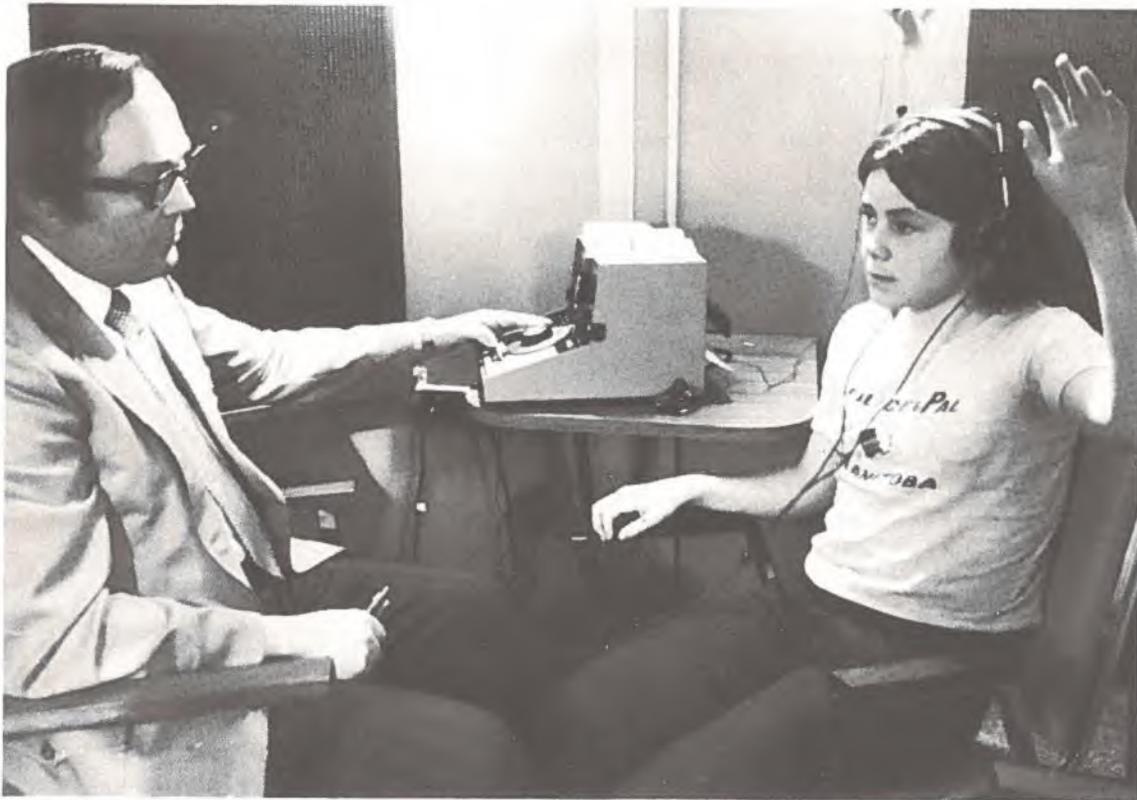
determines whether or not an individual does have a hearing problem. When the van first went into operation in December, the screening tests were actually carried out by the Audiologist in the hearing van. After the first month of operation it was decided that, because both the equipment and the Audiologist were intended to do more advanced testing, the preliminary screening should be done in the school. The van would then be free to do specific diagnosis.

Personnel from the Child Development Services of the Department of Education took the initiative to coordinate the preliminary testing of school children. In the Interlake, these screenings were carried out by trained volunteers throughout the month of March with the help of the local Health and Social Development offices. All lower grade children and students in special education classes were tested in school during the day and in some communities, the volunteers even made themselves available so other residents could be tested evenings. In all, 4,352 children and 434 adults were tested. Anyone found to have a hearing problem was checked once again on a different testing unit to verify the problem before they were referred to the van.

The second stage in the MASP system includes what is probably the most significant and innovative aspect of the overall program--the mobile testing van. This unit was made possible by a \$25,000 donation from the Elks of Manitoba. The van will be covering all regions of Manitoba this year and is spending the month of April in the Interlake Region. Because only seven hearing assessments can be done each day and the time is thus limited, the preliminary screeners will refer to the van only those cases involving students that fail the two preliminary screening tests. Adults with serious hearing problems which have a significantly detrimental effect on the person's ability to function can also be referred to the van.

The stated purpose of the program is to help individuals in outlying areas. Consequently the van will not spend as much time at close-in communities but will concentrate its activities in the northern and western areas of the Interlake. All other aspects of the program, however, will still be fully operational in the close-in communities.

The third stage of the program, early rehabilitative recommendation, involves the Audiologist evaluating the results of the assessment and explaining to the individual, and parents or family involved, just what it all means. The Audiologist can recommend the proper referral to a family doctor or ear specialist and, in the case of school children, he can recommend appropriate educational placement or auditory training program. When school-age children are found to have an audiological problem, the Child Development Services Audiologist from the Department of Education and the area Health and Social Development unit become involved to ensure that the proper means of dealing with the problem are utilized. If a hearing aid or special class attention is required, the Child Development Services Audiologist will make the necessary arrangements and will also see to it that a followup test is given in six months.



Audiologist Gary Anderson gives hearing assessment to a fifth grade Stonewall student.

In cases involving adults, the responsibility is then on the shoulders of the individual or family to make sure that the recommendations are followed. Most cases are referred to the family doctor. At the family doctor's discretion the case can then be referred to an Otologist or other specialist. MASP Audiologist Gary Anderson explains, "Hearing problems either occur in the outer and middle ear--conductive losses, or within the inner ear--sensory-neural losses. Most of the problems are conductive, especially with children, and there is a good chance of correction. There is little chance, however, to correct the problems of the inner ear. A lot of the problems with adults are caused from such obvious factors as constant loud noise. In cases like that where damage has already been done and it's not possible to correct it, the best referral might just be to send the fellow to an implement dealer for a set of ear covers to keep the tractor noise out of his ears and prevent further damage."

Whatever the case, the recommendations should be followed and under no conditions should an individual try to diagnose his own hearing problem. Many people who feel that they have a hearing problem go directly to a hearing aid centre and often spend hundreds of dollars for a hearing aid that they may not need and which can actually do more damage than good. Statistics from the States indicate that approximately 70 percent of the people who think they have a hearing problem go directly to a hearing aid dealer without even consulting their family doctor or taking a hearing test.

The overall success of the Mobile Audiologic Service Program depends on the availability of the mobile hearing test unit. Manitoba's first mobile audiologic unit was made possible through the cooperation of the Deaf Detection and Development Program of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Manitoba and the Department of Health and Social Development. Operating costs will be assumed by the Manitoba Health Service Commission and the Department of Communication Disorder of the Health Science Centre will administer the program. Interlake Elks Clubs that helped make the mobile unit possible include: Arborg Lodge #523; Ashern #525; Inwood #537; Lundar #528; Riverton #530; and Woodlands #539.

The Child Development Service has made available the following list of hearing impairment symptoms for children and adults.

PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS: (1) frequent earaches; (2) runny ears; (3) poor balance; (4) slight loss of hearing after mumps, measles or chicken pox; (5) ringing, buzzing or hissing sound in the ears.

SPEECH AND VOICE SYMPTOMS: (1) omission of certain sounds in speech; (2) mispronouncing common words; (3) speech defects; (4) monotone voice; (5) confusing words that sound alike; (6) speaking too loudly or softly.

BEHAVIORAL REACTIONS: (1) asking to have words or sentences repeated; (2) turning one side of the head toward the speaker; (3) watching a speaker's lips move; (4) more than normal use of hand expressions; (5) appears to ignore people when addressed; (6) inappropriate or irrelevant answers to questions; (7) irritability; (8) withdrawal or disinterest.

The purpose of MASP is to determine, diagnose and make recommendations on hearing problems of rural Manitoba residents. Although MASP can make specific suggestions concerning what to do and who to see to solve the hearing problems--the initiative and final responsibility for action remains with the individuals and families involved. For further information contact the Health and Social Development office for your area....Ashern 786-2585; Stonewall 467-8441; Gimli 642-7906; and Selkirk 482-4511.

Home Ec's Services Expand

Contrary to what some people may believe, the Interlake Region is now receiving a higher staff input into the areas of home ec. and 4-H than ever before.

Pat Lamaga, home ec. at Ashern, will continue to cover the Lundar and Ashern districts and will expand her area of responsibility to include the Fisher Branch district. Elaine Marko will move her home ec. office from Arborg down to Teulon and will supervise the home ec. programs in the Selkirk, Stonewall, Teulon and Arborg districts. The Selkirk-

Stonewall home ec. position has been withdrawn from the Department of Agriculture and will be transferred to the Department of Northern Affairs or Health and Social Development where it may be used to serve more northerly areas.

Health and Social Development has also added a home economist to their Gimli office in the past year. Janet Gordon has been holding home ec. courses and doing individual counselling in the areas of nutrition, food purchasing and family budgeting in the communities of Riverton and Gimli.

Additionally, the Department of Agriculture has gained the equivalent of one staff-man-year for work in the 4-H and home ec. programs. These part-time assistants will work closely with the home ecs. and the 4-H specialist in carrying out the regular programs of the department. The region will also have the equivalent of 40 weeks of summer assistants. Regional Director Al Watkins feels, "There's no question about it. . . . the programs are better-staffed this year than they ever have been before. We can reach more people now and we'll be able to do a better job."

The transfer of the Selkirk position out of Agriculture represents a move by the government to expand the overall home ec. program for the entire province. A joint statement by Agriculture Minister Sam Uskiw, Northern Affairs Minister Ron McBryde and Health and Social Development Minister Saul Miller explains, "The redistribution of home economists represents the beginning of an extension of home economics education to the citizens of Manitoba. An education service to homemakers is essential if low-income families are to enjoy the full benefits of other programs which affect their social or economic development. Whether these families live in the North, rural Manitoba or in the city makes little difference, the need is there." The ministers also cited recent surveys by Nutrition Canada that showed the need for increased nutrition education by home economists.

Each of Manitoba's five Department of Agriculture regions will have one of their home ec. positions transferred and six of the specialist positions in the central office will be transferred to Health and Social Development where they can better serve both departments.

Leasing Land For Life

Maintaining the family farm as an economically viable unit is the main purpose of the Land Lease Program of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation. This program makes it easier for a retiring farmer to pass his farm on to the next generation and it also relieves the heavy financial burden that a young farmer generally has to assume. The basic idea is that the government may purchase farmland and then lease it back to the farmer or his family. Neighboring farmers and new farmers may also be eligible to lease land if the vendor doesn't designate a successor.

Although most people are aware of the general conditions of the program, the recently released details of the farmsite transfer policy will be of interest to those people considering land lease. People may sell farmland and building sites to M.A.C.C. but it's preferred that the vendor deal with the farmsite himself. In those cases where the corporation does purchase the building site along with the farmland, the new lessee will have first chance to buy the farmsite and M.A.C.C. will even provide credit for the purchase. Maximum allowable size for this type of farmsite transfer is 40 acres. If the new lessee has no desire to purchase the farmsite, it will be made available for sale to the general public.

The value of the building site is established during the standard appraisal which precedes every land lease transaction. The farmsite--house, barn, garage, granaries, etc.--is appraised according to the value that they add to the land which is being farmed from that location.

During that same appraisal, an intrinsic value for the farmsite is also arrived at. This figure does not consider the farmsteads value in relation to the attached farmland, but is an estimate of what those buildings might be worth if offered for sale to anyone on the open market. This value takes into account the farmsite's accessibility, nearness to towns and other such factors that aren't directly related to the site's agricultural usefulness. The intrinsic value will be equal to or greater than the first appraised value.

M.A.C.C. offers the lessee the building site at the value the site adds to the land. The corporation retains the title for the farmsite for the duration of the sale agreement. The payments are amortized over a ten-year period and the farmer obtains the title when the final payment is made.

In the event that the lessee exercises his option to purchase the farmland at the end of five years, he may also obtain title to the building site at that time. The price he will pay then, however, will be the intrinsic value of the farmsite on the open market which is likely to be higher than the formerly agreed upon price. Presumably M.A.C.C. would expect a cash settlement and the purchaser would receive some credit for the money he had paid toward the property to date.

The general guidelines of the Land Lease Program state that any farmer may sell his land to M.A.C.C. for the existing fair market price. The transfer of a family farm from one generation to the next is the most common situation and will receive first priority. Farmers who wish to continue farming but need to reduce their debt or free up capital to diversify can also sell their farm to M.A.C.C., lease it back again and continue farming.

The market value of the land will be determined by experienced appraisers who will compare the land with prices of similar land that has recently been sold in the same area.

The annual rent for the first three years of the lease will be equal to five percent of what M.A.C.C. originally paid for the land. After that, the land values upon which the rent is based will only be adjusted when the change is greater than ten percent. After the third year of the lease, the rental percentage rate will be set annually by M.A.C.C. at a rate which will be lower than that at which the government can borrow on the security of its long term debentures.

The holder of a long term lease may, anytime after the first five years of the lease, apply to M.A.C.C. to purchase the land. The price may be based upon the market value of the land as appraised by the corporation at the time the offer is made or the price may be based on the original purchase price to M.A.C.C. plus rental subsidies paid while the lease was in force. The purchaser will pay the higher of these two sums and once the agreement is reached, the purchaser will have six months to finalize the contract and make full payment.

To qualify for an M.A.C.C. Land Lease, an applicant must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and he must maintain residence in Manitoba for the duration of the lease.
- The applicant's average net income for the past three years should not exceed \$6,000 and his assets must not exceed \$60,000.
- The applicant must declare his intention of making farming his principal occupation. Where a prospective lessee is not engaged in full-time farming at the time of application, that criteria can be waived upon his agreement to actively farm the land for the duration of the lease.
- Applications will be considered on the basis of a points system which takes into account the applicant's age, farming skills, location of present farm and need for land, income requirements and non-farm earning potential.

If a lessee sells any part of his privately owned farm unit, the lease is automatically terminated but under certain circumstances a new lease will be drawn up. Leases will generally run until the lessee reaches age 65 but special short-term leases can be granted to farmers who wish to continue farming after reaching retirement age.

The Land Lease Program forms an integral part of the government's rural stay option and helps to keep rural communities alive by making it easier for young people to stay on farms of their own and allowing elderly farmers to sell their property outright for cash and then remain in their home region.

M.A.C.C. now has two credit agents operating in the Interlake region. Alex Masse has his regional office hours on the first Friday of every month at the Ashern extension office. Joe DePape has office hours in Stonewall on the third Friday of every month. The Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation has its central offices in Winnipeg at 1500 Notre Dame Avenue, phone 786-3401. Your local agricultural representative or Regional Director Al Watkins can also give you details on the Land Lease Program.

Programs With A Purpose

As part of our responsibility to keep Interlake citizens informed about government activities, the FLYER reports regularly on various provincial and federal programs that are of importance to the region. As FLYER readers may know, many of the programs of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture have been consciously designed to support the rural stay option. Of these, the Farm Diversification Program probably has the most direct affect in terms of giving people the opportunity to live in rural Manitoba. In order to provide an overview of how farm diversification and some of the other programs really work, we asked Interlake farmers what they thought about the government programs they were familiar with. We would like to specifically thank the following three farmers who took the time to cooperate on this report.

JAKE REIMER and his family of seven come from a small town south of Winnipeg. In the fall of 1968 they moved to a quarter-section farm some 20 miles north of Arborg. Jake explains that his 80 percent loss of eyesight and the consequent loss of driver's license made it difficult to get around in the city. The sight problem also made it difficult for Jake to continue his work as a mechanic and finding another job in the city that would adequately support his family seemed to be impossible. Returning to farming seemed to be the best alternative for Jake and his family, so they moved.



Although the house that came with their new farm was modern and in relatively good condition, they badly needed other farm buildings and machinery. A Farm Improvement Loan was utilized to put up a hog barn and buy 30 farrowing sows but it soon became obvious that regular expenses plus the cost of expanding into a viable hog operation was costing more money than they were making. In 1970 an application for an M.A.C.C. loan to consolidate the debts and expand the operation was refused because of lack of security. At about the same time the swine herd developed rhinitis, weanling sales came to a halt and most of the stock had to be sold.

At this point Jake made his initial contact with the Department of Agriculture for advice. The immediate family and farm needs were dealt with first and a farm management specialist started working to see that the farm would become a productive, viable operation. The rhinitis problem was tackled, all remaining infected sows were sold and the barn was emptied for a period and thoroughly disinfected.

The situation still looked bleak by 1971 and the Reimer family wondered if they'd made the right decision in moving to the farm. The farm management specialist encouraged them to stick it out and informed them of a proposed program, Farm Diversification, that would likely be of some help to them.

With management advice and technical assistance from the department, production continued and some progress was made. Enough leased land soon became available so that the farm could operate on a viable scale and a deal was arranged for the purchase of some used machinery.

In 1972 the Farm Diversification Program was officially announced and Jake Reimer was one of the first clients to be accepted. The \$10,000 Farm Diversification loan and the \$2,000 grant were used almost immediately to build a modern finishing barn. Under the terms of the program, a farm advisor was now officially assigned to work with the operation. Production started increasing and the farm advisor was able to arrange for a debt consolidation and mortgage loan at the credit union. A comprehensive farm plan was drawn up and the advisor was regularly available for consultation on financial decisions and to point out possible improvements in the production operation.

Jake tells us, "Sometimes a farmer has to make some pretty important decisions quickly and it helps to have someone to talk it over with. It's maybe too bad they don't have more people around there so we could get more of this kind of help. The biggest help has been the advice, but the money was important too. If it hadn't been for that extra credit we couldn't have gotten nearly this far with the farm plan. When I look back two years, we were having a tough time just getting by. Now the only assistance we get is my blind disability cheque."

A significant aspect of the Farm Diversification Program is that it provides farmers with a better coordination of all the other programs and services that are available. Farm management courses, offered by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in conjunction with Canada

Manpower, are invaluable to people starting farming and to other farmers who want to catch up on modern techniques. Jake took a one-month hog course this winter and says of the course, "We spent a lot of time in this class on nutrition, breeding, sanitation, buildings, and other useful things that help you shape up your operation."

"After taking that hog course this winter, I decided for sure to use that R.O.P. Program. I'll select the sows that I think are best and they come out and weigh them and back-fat probe them and the very best ones I'll keep for breeding and the rest get sold. It's bound to give us better hogs in the long run.

"We used our PEP labor grant this winter to rebuild an old barn that was falling apart. It was in rough shape and some of the crew didn't think it was even safe to work on but it looks pretty good now. They put in a new concrete floor and straightened the thing up and it'll be used for a sow barn now. I wouldn't have gotten the time to do it myself this year....it's been a big help.

"We just started Can-Farm this winter. Having a bookkeeping system like that helps a lot, too. You know, when you come in from a hard day's work it's sometimes hard to get up the energy to sit down and do all that bookkeeping and do it right. This Can-Farm system gives you a better look at your cash flow than most people could work out for themselves. The more a person stays on top of the records the better idea you have of which way your farm is going. We just send the information in and they send us back some statements that sometimes are quite revealing.

"We've got enough land leased right now but the lease will be up in a couple of years and we might need some more land. We're thinking about maybe buying another quarter this year through that Small Farm Development Program. If that works out, it'll be just one more thing that we might not have done if it weren't for the advice we get from the farm diversification advisor."

Jake's plan calls for a 60-sow operation. He's about half way there right now but the farm is a lot more stable than it was the last time he had 30 sows. With an average of 450 head of hogs on the farm, it looks like the Reimer operation is well on its way to becoming a success.

BILL HUDSON, a recently-accepted farm diversification client, started operating four years ago on a quarter-section farm up on the ridge 15 miles northwest of Fraserwood. Winnipeg was creeping in on his place in Springfield and in 1969 he decided it was time to take his family and move to a larger farm farther out.

Bill tells us, "We tried a few different things those first couple of years out here but nothing much worked out right. It's maybe still not an ideal sort of farm yet but it's improving at a faster rate than before...the help we got from the government has made a lot of difference.

Shortly after moving onto the farm, the Hudson's pump house caught fire and they lost their watering equipment. They were able to obtain a new ½ horsepower submergible pump for the existing well through Rural Water Services and have been operating with a temporary pressure system since then. Bill expects to utilize his Rural Water Services grant this summer to drill a new well and put in a complete system in both the house and the dairy barn. The time-consuming system of running garden hoses around the farm yard will then be a thing of the past.

Bill took a farm management course at Teulon in 1972 and feels that he, "...learned an awful lot from those classes. We've changed a lot of things since then...the breeding system and the kind of hay we use. It's mostly simple things like that that any farmer should probably know but just doesn't stop to consider. Some kind of follow-up course would be good, but I guess they don't have time for that."

"I took an Artificial Insemination course just this winter in Winnipeg. We'll be doing all our own A. I. from now on for the beef cattle and probably the dairy cattle too. It'll maybe cost a few hundred dollars to get set up in the first place but in the long-run we'll be ahead. It looks like over a period of time our costs will be lower and our return is going to be higher so what more can you ask for."

With only a quarter-section of deeded property, land has been a significant factor in the development of the Hudson farm. Bill had short-term leases and hay permits on five quarters of Crown Land until this year. In 1969, when he bought the farm, he also obtained a five-year renewable lease for the half section of Crown Land adjacent to his property and Bill will now qualify for the new Crown Land Lease Policy. Bill expects to get at least 70 of those 320 acres cleared and developed this year. Under the terms of the new policy, Bill will be reimbursed by the government for the work that he does on his leased half-section. Because the farm could use the added income, Bill expects to do the bushing, piling and breaking himself with his own equipment. A lifetime Crown Lands Lease on the five quarters that he's been previously haying on permit will form an integral part of Bill's farm plan and will allow him to expand using his capital for livestock and machinery.

Bill has two steers on the Interlake Grassland Society project. The results that he has seen so far have convinced him to adopt the grassland system for his own operation. Bill plans to put in 80 acres of orchard grass this spring and he hopes to rotationally graze his 24-head dairy herd on the managed pasture this summer. The Hudson's are going into production of manufacturing milk and eventually expect to milk 40 cows.

Speaking about the grassland system, Bill told us, "This idea of producing more on less acreage really applies...especially on farms like this where it's impossible to find large tracts of really good land. It looks like we'll probably also use this new MACC Stocker Program for next winter. Farmers that don't have the capital to winter their own calves can sure use a boost like this. Of course it still depends on the markets but we're hoping that next year's going to be different."

"We were going to put up a cattle shelter last year with some STEP or PEP labor but when the rain started last summer we just didn't have time to think about anything else. We'll use or grant next summer for a milk house or maybe some other livestock facility.

"Last year when that water came, we were feeding the cattle hay bales when we should've been out making hay! It sure messed up our feeding program and we've had to buy a lot of hay this winter. That first announcement about forage transportation didn't help us much because we were buying mostly local hay...but we were buying it on borrowed money from the bank. So when that second announcement came out about the emergency feed loans, we really took note. I know it's been a big help for a lot of the farmers I talk to, but I wonder if it wasn't just too late for a few of them."

Bill Hudson sees some value in the new programs of the Department of Agriculture...."I think people go farming because they want some independence and they want to have a definite say in their own future. A lot of people think that maybe the government's taking away too much of a farmer's rights, but I don't know. I think that most of these new things give a farmer a better chance to stay on the farm and still better himself. My two sons are working over in Gimli right now, but they want to go farming too. Some of these new programs make it easier for young guys like that to start up farming and make a good go of it."

LYLE WILLIS is one young farmer who couldn't wait to get started. At 20 years , he is probably one of the youngest farmers in the province and is certainly one of the youngest farmers to lease land from the government under the new MACC Land Lease Program.

The Willis family farms just east of Teulon and when Lyle finished high school two years ago he decided that's where his future would be. Lyle tells us, "I spent five years in 4-H. We learned some good stuff about farming there. I'd always had some sort of livestock for a 4-H project and we've always lived on the farm so I guess it was natural to decide to farm. I've got five cows and about 130 pigs right now."

Last year Lyle heard about a half-section farm for sale five miles from his home place. Obtaining financing to buy the place right away was going to be difficult because of his age and lack of assets so when he heard about the Land Lease Program, Lyle proceeded to make arrangements for the transaction. The owners, Mike and Steve Hawryluk were retiring from farming and planned to move to Winnipeg Beach. The outright cash sale of their farm to MACC made it possible for them to leave the farm without retaining any cumbersome mortgages, rental problems or other commitments to the place. The program also allowed for Lyle to make a previous agreement with MACC to lease the half-section, for life if he desires. Lyle also has the option to buy the farm from MACC at any time after the first year of the lease is up.



Lyle was also recently accepted on the Farm Diversification Program and will be working with a farm advisor to establish a long-range farm plan. He will likely be continuing with his hogs, expanding his five head of cattle into a cow-calf operation and eventually, he expects to set up his own farmstead.

Activities like the Land Lease Program, Farm Diversification and farm management courses and others give young men like Lyle Willis the opportunity to stay in rural Manitoba and become productive farmers. In the past, young men who wanted to farm often had to stay on the home farm until they were past middle age. Others became discouraged, gave up and moved to the city. The new programs can also help those who, like Jake Reimer and Bill Hudson, have decided to return to rural Manitoba.

Providing For Parks

Over a half million dollars of provincial funds will be spent in the Interlake this summer on the development of parks, recreation and camping areas. In outlining the major areas of activity, the Parks Branch of the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs pointed out that most of the work will be a continuation of existing or recently-started recreational developments.

Residents along PTH #6 are happy to see that preliminary work has already begun at both Lundar Beach and Watchorn Beach for this summer's major improvements. The \$40,000 Lundar Beach Provincial Recreation Area project includes a new park office, lighted entrance and landscaping in the picnic and camping areas. Recommendations from the Lundar Area Development Board and the Interlake Development Corporation have also stressed the need for an improved public boat launching facility, electrification and lighting of the camping area, and beach improvements.

Watchorn Beach Provincial Recreation Area will receive the same type of improvements, but at an overall cost of \$58,000. The improved park

control and lighted entrance facility will be necessary to accommodate the expected increased usage of these two recreation areas. As improvements to PTH #6 continue and tourism traffic increases, these areas will be used as overnight stops by more travellers. Inter-lakers are also beginning to take greater advantage of these improved facilities.

In the Clandeboye area, \$68,000 will be spent developing the former Pollocks Pit into a recreational day-use area. Work is already underway on the landscaping and the washrooms, picnic tables and other facilities should

be ready for public use by late summer. Located only two miles northwest of Clandeboye, this site should become a popular day-use area. Winnipeg Beach and Hecla Island will each have two new tennis courts by June. Work was started on the four courts last year and will resume as soon as weather allows.



Watchorn Bay is just one of several picnic-campsites available to PTH #6 residents and travellers.

The Gull Harbour Marina is expected to reach the 50 percent completion stage next summer. Approximately \$300,000 will be spent this year on the new dock and launch facilities, 700-foot breakwater and the access



Beaches along Lake Manitoba's east shore will have high tourist potential once they're fully developed.

road and the other on-shore facilities. Once fully completed, the harbour will be able to accommodate regular stops by the Lord Selkirk and as many as 200 sailing boats and other types of pleasure craft. Completion of the Gull Harbour complex and the Gimli recreation projects will establish this area as the only major marine recreational centre on the North American Plains.

It's hoped that 30 to 40 lots will be available for lease this summer at

at Black's Point in the Grindstone Provincial Recreation Area. This first phase of the Grindstone cottage development will cost \$50,000. Although the lots have been surveyed and work was started last year, the opening of this area will hinge on the completion of the new road.

Manitours For The Interlake

If a serious and imaginative young man asked you, in all sincerity, to sit down and draw up a list of the things in the Interlake that you think visitors should see, what would you write? To what towns would you take them? Down what roads would you direct them?

Gerry Ward, the recently appointed manager of Manitours is asking Inter-lakers to do just that--prepare lists and send them to him. His address is: Manager, Manitours
Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
Room 801, Mall Centre
491 Portage Avenue
WINNIPEG, Manitoba R3B 2E4

Manitours are package holidays for tourists visiting Manitoba, or for that matter, for Manitobans wanting to partake in organized vacationing and sight-seeing in their own province. While such package vacations (a packaged vacation includes guaranteed accommodation, scheduled activities and assured transportation) were offered last summer to American and Canadian visitors, Manitours is a more highly organized, improved version of the same thing. This year the new division within the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs assumes all the responsibilities of a vacation wholesaler. It designs the package, assumes full charge of arrangements, and retails the packages to interested travel agents anywhere in the world. The travel agents get a commission on each "sale". While the bulk of the business is directed to travel agents in the northern United States, agents in Europe have shown interest and have sought permission to handle the packages.

The idea is to encourage visitors to fly to Manitoba on scheduled or chartered flights much as they would if they were travelling to the Caribbean. Once here, they can take part in trips or attend events. In this summer, when gasoline is expensive and in short supply in many parts of the world, package vacations have become highly saleable items.

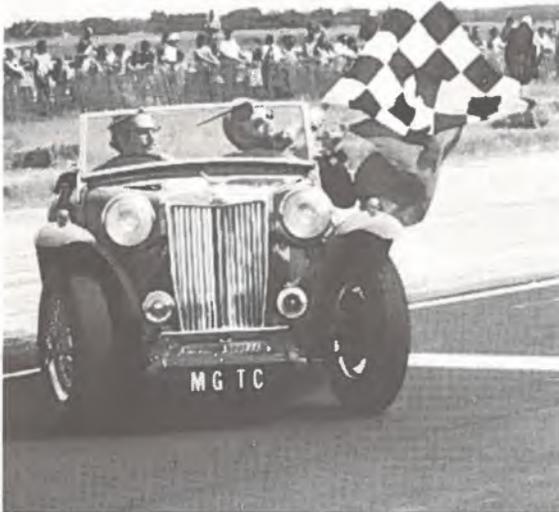
Where does the Interlake fit into all this? Gerry Ward tells us that the Manitours Division is now designing special tour packages for each of the recreation regions in the province. At present, only one tour touching the Interlake is being promoted. That one involves a five-day trip on the M. S. Lord Selkirk with Gimli, Gull Harbour and Selkirk as ports of call.

A number of bus circle tours or special recreation visits will be arranged exclusively for the Interlake or including parts of the Inter-

lake. These will be advertised within a few weeks once all arrangements for accommodations are made. That's where your lists and special guidance comes in. To make these Interlake vacations a memorable experience for out-of-country and out-of-province visitors, as much variety and interest as possible must be packaged into them. Mr. Ward thinks local people are the best advisors about where to go and what to see in their areas. It's a chance to sell the Interlake not only to North Americans, but Europeans as well.

Performance At The Park

Speed will be the name of the game this summer as Gimli Motorsport Park opens for its first full year of racing. Over a dozen different events are scheduled this year for all types of racing machines including cars, motorcycles and even go-karts. Winnipeg Sportscar Club president Roger Woloshyn estimates that the combined spectator draw for all 12 events will bring close to 80,000 people into the Gimli area.



Honourable Russell J. Doern, Minister of Public Works, took a fast lap in an antique race car to officially open the track for last year's "Players Manitoba."

The third annual "Players Manitoba" race will be moved up to June this year and arrangements have already been made for televising the race on national TV the week after the event. The Players series is becoming internationally recognized and five European drivers, in addition to over a dozen top American drivers, have already entered the Gimli race.

The Icelandic Weekend this summer will see the introduction of a second major professional race to the annual calendar. "The Manitoba Enduro" with prize money from a Manitoba brewery will attract professional sportscar and sedan racers from across Canada and the central States. Prize money for Monday's motorcycle race has already attracted top dirt-bike riders from Alberta, Ontario and Minnesota. Organizers say that as

many as 300 competitors may be on hand making the "Manitoba Motocross" the largest motorcycle event ever to be staged on the prairie provinces.

The Canadian National Championship runoffs will be held at Gimli on October 6 next fall. This race has been held at Toronto and Vancouver

and last year at Edmonton. This annual event brings together 200 of Canada's best amateur sportscar and formula car drivers in a contest that will determine the national champion in each of the Canadian-sanctioned classes.

The facility will also be busy other weekends as the Winnipeg Sportscar Club, the Agassiz Racing Association and the Manitoba Kart Association will all be holding amateur races throughout the summer.

The track won't be sitting idle between race dates, either. The recently established Bob Armstrong School of Driving will be holding training classes five days a week all summer long. Patterned after the well-known Jim Russell School in England, Mr. Armstrong's three-day course will teach a student the basic techniques of proper braking, skid control and accident avoidance. Under the careful supervision of professional instructors, the students will gradually work the formula Ford race cars up to actual racing speeds on the track. The school is open to the public and students who pass the school will be eligible for a competition license allowing them to actually compete in the sanctioned races.

Gimli Motorsport Park is owned by the Manitoba Department of Public Works and is leased to the Winnipeg Sportscar Club who are responsible for the operation of the facility. It's the only sportscar track between Toronto and Edmonton and the 1974 calendar makes it one of the most active race facilities in North America. Track managers say they hope to expand the operation soon to include drag racing, stock car racing, bicycle racing and perhaps even airplane racing!

Race dates this summer are:

MAY 5 -- Motocross
MAY 19 -- SPORTSCARS, MOTORCYCLES AND GO-KARTS
June 2 -- Motocross
JUNE 15, 16 -- "PLAYERS MANITOBA", SPORTSCARS AND GO-KARTS
July 14 -- Go-Karts
AUGUST 4, 5 -- "MANITOBA ENDURO", SPORTSCARS, MOTORCYCLES, GO-KARTS
AND "MANITOBA MOTOCROSS"
August 25 -- Go-Karts
SEPTEMBER 8 -- SPORTSCARS, MOTORCYCLES AND GO-KARTS
September 29 -- Go-Karts
OCTOBER 6 -- CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RUNOFFS

Dree Decentralizes

The Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE), the province's federal partner in the Interlake FRED Agreement, is now undergoing a dramatic reorganization which should be of some interest to many Interlake residents. Indeed, some of the new organizational moves are of history-making significance in terms of the manner of governing the country.

DREE has recognized that a department involved in making decisions that touch on economic and social development of a region should have the decision-makers in the region concerned. It has recognized that decisions made in Ottawa do not always reflect the particular needs of a particular region.

It must be first recognized, of course, that the word "region" is different in a national sense than it is in a provincial sense. A region, in terms of DREE reorganization, would include the whole west (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia). Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces are each separate regions.

Each of these four regions has been assigned an assistant deputy minister--the first example ever of such a senior civil servant being placed outside Ottawa. For the Western Region, this man is John MacNaught. He will be located in the western regional office in Saskatoon.

In Manitoba, as in all provinces, other senior persons or directors-general will be appointed to look after affairs strictly within the province. In Manitoba a director-general has yet to be appointed. When he is, he and his staff will have headquarters in Winnipeg. Between the Saskatoon and the Winnipeg offices alone the number of DREE staff members will increase by 123 persons. Many of the positions are simply a transfer of functions now in Ottawa.

According to John Goodes, industrial incentives officer with the DREE office in Winnipeg, the reorganization along with new industrial incentives regulation changes and current negotiations on broad new development programs, will be important to Interlakers.

Mr. Goodes pointed out that there will be more staff officers available to handle requests for industrial grants and that decisions on grants will come much quicker. He pointed out that DREE can now make grants to businesses as small as \$25,000 eligible fixed capital assets where before the minimum was \$60,000 for new facilities. That move alone will make many smaller industries that are more common on the prairies eligible for grants. Changes in grant formulas have been announced so that new industries may qualify for grants of a fixed 25 percent on eligible capital costs plus 15 percent of the wage and salary bill averaged over the second and third years.

Changes have also been announced on the types of activities of businesses that can qualify for grants. Added to the list are such resource processing activities as....

- feed mills, pelleting and fertilizer blending;
- hide processing;
- stone cutting and polishing;
- cleaning and drying of Irish and peat moss;
- mobile operations (mobile feed mills, saw mills) that will be in operation 5 years in designated area;
- concrete and asphalt mixing for purposes other than road building;
- associated service-related elements of a manufacturing operation e.g. transportation vehicles;
- research facilities for loan guarantee projects only. (Loan guarantee facilities include shopping centres, hotels.)

Mr. Goodes also mentioned that, as announced before, negotiations are underway between the federal and provincial governments on a series of very broad agreements for cost-sharing economic and social development. The agreements will not be confined to regions within a province, but rather will cover programs and projects of certain broad sectors such as agriculture, rural development, recreation, and industrial and commercial development. He pointed out that Interlakers might take advantage of the broader agreements especially now that the FRED Agreement is nearing an end.

"General Development Agreements" have been signed to date in the west by Saskatchewan and Alberta. It is partly to handle these agreements that DREE is decentralizing its staff and is assigning on-the-spot decision-makers in the west.

Cost Of Wet Bales

Some Manitoba livestockmen have been losing more than \$25 on every ton of hay they've been feeding this year. The feed problem that's currently facing farmers in many areas of the province is, to a large degree, due to the poor quality of hay that is being used.

A wet fall, combined with poor storage and handling procedures, has resulted in high fibre and low nutrient rating for most of the hay tested to date. The fibre content average for all Manitoba roughage over the past four years has been 28 percent. The average for this winter exceeds 40 percent! When we consider the fact that straw ratings start at 38 percent, it can almost be concluded that many livestockmen are paying in excess of a dollar and a half for a bale of straw!

The most significant cause of this problem is wet hay. Hay that is put up with a moisture content higher than 25 percent will lose almost all Carotene (Pro-Vitamin A) and moulding and fermentation will likely occur. The hay will also lose its palatability and the cattle may refuse to even eat it. Fermentation causes the sugars and starches in the hay to oxidize and breakdown to become carbon dioxide and water--items that you don't have to provide through the feed because they're readily available in the air and in the water trough!

Hay that gets put up under ideal conditions loses five to seven percent of its nutrient value. Hay that gets put up while it's wet and hay that's left out in the field for half the winter will lose more than 40 percent of its nutrient value. The ideal moisture level for putting up hay is 22 percent and the time allowed to put it up while it's at this level may be limited. To insure that your hay gets put up under optimal conditions might mean that you not only may hay while the sun shines, but also while the moon and the lights on your tractor shine.

A comparative performance test points out that the differences between even medium grade and poor grade hay were significant. Medium quality hay produced 28 percent more weight gain and at the same time required 12 percent less total feed than hay that had been left to the weather.

Farmers who stop to consider what the above figures might mean in terms of dollars and cents will probably take a close and careful look at their haying operation.

Branch Line Abandonment Reports

Railway branchline abandonment is a subject of great interest to grain growers and to other people who are concerned with the development of the economy of rural Manitoba. On April 8, the Interlake Branchline Committee met in Arborg to discuss the status of the four Interlake branchlines and to make recommendations for future utilization of the lines. The committee was formed last April and the representatives from each of the four lines have spent the last year gathering information and preparing a brief on the present status and the economic significance of their respective line.

All four subcommittees agreed that the lines were not being properly maintained and that freight, fuel, fertilizer, machinery, etc. was being discouraged by the rail lines. It was noted that although this situation was not as bad on the CNR Gypsumville line, the other three lines were in such poor condition that 25-mile per hour speed limits had to be observed.

The information that has been gathered will be submitted to the Branchline Association of Manitoba at their annual meeting in Brandon on

April 22. Minister of Industry and Commerce Leonard S. Evans will address the meeting on the subject of the rail rationalization program and will bring the delegates up to date on what the province is doing about the situation right now. Ed Helwer of Teulon has been appointed to serve as a director for the association representing the Interlake.

The Interlake Development Corporation will submit a report to the association during the meeting recommending that a spur line be built to connect the Arborg line with the Hodgson line and that three branchlines should be maintained in the region indefinitely. I.D.C. manager, Eric Stefanson pointed out, "We're growing more grain in the region now than ever before. Increased grain production and the consequent strengthening of the rural economy depends on rail transport. If grain can't be handled by rail, large trucks will have to be used to haul the grain to Winnipeg. This will mean that heavier duty roads will have to be built and that will certainly cost the taxpayer money. It'll also cost the farmer more money to move his grain. The Canada Grain Council figured out last year that if all four branchlines are abandoned, it would mean an annual average cost of \$1,200 for every grain farmer in the region. That figure could even be higher by now."

According to the information they gathered, the committees feel that continued operation of at least three branchlines is justifiable. The CPR line to Riverton received a total of 1,651,341 bushels of grain in the last crop year and carried 800,000 bushels of corn back up to Gimli. The train runs only periodically to Riverton and the elevator there has been full all winter long with grain waiting for shipment. Operation of the line is guaranteed until the end of 1974, but the railway wants to discontinue service to Riverton in 1975.

Although the line to Arborg is protected until 1975, the committee reports indicate that the CPR also wants to close down that line. Arborg was the largest rural grain centre in Manitoba last year with almost two million bushels shipped from just the town and the Arborg line carried a total of 3,584,181 bushels of grain.

The CNR line to Hodgson is not protected and although 1,077,154 bushels were shipped in the last crop year it appears that the line may be closed down sometime in the future.

The CNR line to Gypsumville shipped 1,446,728 bushels of grain in the last year and is probably the most secure of the four branchlines. The newer style heavy steel rails can cope with the modern grain hopper cars and the line is also used for rock cars and cement. This is the only Interlake line that is in good enough shape so that the 25-mile per hour speed limit doesn't have to be observed.

A.D.B. New Terms Of Reference

The area development boards will be operating with a new set of guidelines for 1974. Although the revised terms of reference follow the same basic principles set down for the original ARDA boards ten years ago, the boards now have full responsibility for administering their own annual grant. Under the new terms of reference, the Minister of Agriculture may make a maximum annual grant of \$2,500 to each active area development board. The boards, in turn, are responsible for submitting a summary of their last year's activities, an audited statement of financial status and an outline of plans for the current year.

The basic purpose of the area development boards is still to encourage, facilitate and strengthen continuous development of local areas within the Interlake Region. To meet that challenge, the boards should continually redefine their area situation with respect to basic physical and human resources. They should then identify the needs according to local priorities, establish attainable goals and develop a plan for action to meet those goals.

The boards should undertake to develop a system for communicating too, and receiving feedback from, the area residents. To the greatest extent possible, the community should be involved in the activities of the area development boards.

The boards should also be fully informed on the policies and programs of the government and other agencies that have an effect on their area and they should work in close conjunction with the Interlake Regional Development Corporation. Increased cooperation can only be of mutual benefit to all parties involved.

The area development boards will perform a useful function for the government by taking the time to analyze and ascertain the usefulness of existing policies and programs, as they see them, and reporting back to the appropriate agency. The boards are in a position to define the strong points and the limitations of the various programs and policies and make suggestions for change where appropriate and advisable.

The fiscal operating year for the boards now runs from April 1 to March 31 in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture fiscal year. The individual boards can now administer their own projects as they see fit, within the established terms of reference. The annual grant now comes as a lump sum and can be spent for adult education or any other worthwhile project and any balance left over at the end of the year can be carried forward thus allowing boards to save up for major projects. Any funds from area development board operation grants provided by the province which are not spent or committed for spending upon the termination of the Interlake FRED Agreement, March 31, 1977, shall be refundable to the province.

SHORT HONKS

Milk Marketing Board

Ray Duncan of Eriksdale has been named as one member of a six-man provisional Manitoba Milk Marketing Board.

Mr. Duncan's main task, along with his five colleagues, will be to draft a marketing plan for all milk in Manitoba. Once that plan is finalized, the board will be given the authority to regulate marketing of all milk used for production of such dairy products as ice cream, butter, powdered milk and cheese. The Milk Control Board will continue to regulate the supply and pricing of bottled milk.

Producers of both fluid and manufacturing milk across the province will elect their board once a marketing plan has been accepted.

Peguis Recreation Centre

The Peguis Recreation Centre was officially opened on Tuesday, March 19. The 240 feet by 100 feet arena was constructed over the last two years with the cooperation of several different agencies including the Peguis Indian Band which contributed \$100,000. Labor costs were paid by the Interlake Manpower Corps, a lotteries grant from Tourism and Recreation added \$20,000 for materials and another \$35,000 was provided by Indian Affairs. The quarter-million dollar project was initiated by the late Chief Thompson and counsellors of the band.

Attending the ceremony were Northern Affairs Minister Ron McBryde, Manpower Corps Rural Counsellor Supervisor Ernie Ens, Chief Jack Sinclair, and Regional Director of Indian Affairs Bill Thomas, who is himself a member of the Peguis Band.

M.H.R.C. Update

The sound of hammers could well be heard across the Interlake this summer, if all the planned and hoped for housing projects under the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation become realities.

Eugene Weiss, public relations director for MHRC gave us a run-down on current and future public housing activities. This is what the situation looks like.

ASHERN: The 20-unit elderly citizens' housing complex has been completed along with ten single family dwellings. Construction of seven more units is being discussed and work may begin this summer.

ARBORG: A 20-unit senior citizens' complex and ten single family dwellings were opened last month.

ERIKSDALE: This spring it will all come together, we're informed. Construction will begin on the seven long-planned for family units. A contract is in the hands of Misawa Homes of Gimli.

FAIRFORD: An evaluation is underway to assess the immediate needs for family public housing.

FISHER BRANCH: A 12-unit senior citizens' complex has been proposed and is being evaluated locally and by MHRC.

GIMLI: Prospects for a 20-30 unit senior citizens' complex are good once land negotiations are successfully completed.

LUNDAR: The results of a survey of Lundar citizens on their housing needs is being awaited by the Corporation. After this a proposal can be negotiated. With a sewer project about to get underway this summer, federal assistance on public housing will be feasible, to complement provincial funding.

RIVERTON: A 24-unit senior citizens' apartment will be started this spring. Negotiations are underway on building 15 family units. This is another community where a water and sewer project has opened the way to government-supported housing.

ST. LAURENT: Work on the 20-unit senior citizens' complex is well advanced.

SELKIRK: Preliminary negotiations are underway on provision of a senior citizens' complex.

STONEWALL: Prospects for family units are being explored.

TEULON: Provision of a senior citizens' apartment is being discussed.

WINNIPEG BEACH: Once land is available an 18-unit senior citizens' complex can begin.

Evergreen Apartments Open

The Evergreen Apartments in Gimli, empty since the armed services base was phased out of existence in 1970 will be partially reopened on May 1.

Reopening of the apartment complex, kept closed because of peculiarities in the contract between the owners and the Department of National

Defense, was an issue taken up by the Town of Gimli and the Interlake Development Corporation.

According to Sidney Sheps of Sidney Sheps and Associates Limited, the rental agent, there are 50 units available for occupancy, including "seven or eight townhouses plus one, two, and three-bedroom suites." The total capacity of 150 units is not being offered for immediate rent because renovations have to be carried out and demand is not known. Phasing of the remaining units will depend on the demand for accommodation, Mr. Sheps said. "Right now we're testing the winds."

Harry Kutcher, formerly of Winnipeg Beach, is serving as resident supervisor for the complex and is the man to contact for information and viewing. He is living in suite 2A East. Monthly rental rates are as follows:

One bedroom suite--\$115;
Two bedroom suite--\$125;
Three bedroom suite--\$135;
Town houses--\$175.

Rural Water Services

Townspeople in the Interlake are not the only ones to benefit from installation of water and sewer works. Last year 416 farmers applied for technical help to install outdoor plumbing for their livestock under the Rural Water Services Program. Of these, 282 persons completed the projects on their farms and were provided grants totalling \$33,047.

The Rural Water Service Program is a FRED project cost-shared 60/40 by the federal and provincial governments. The project provides technical assistance to farmers in developing a water source, designing a complete outdoor water and sewage system and analyzing water quality. Farmers who use the program save money through good design and selection of proper materials, obtaining materials at bulk prices through a provincial warehouse and by obtaining grants of 15 percent of the total eligible costs up to \$300.

Jim May, regional water services technician, located at Teulon said that demand for service is uniform across the region except in the Gimli, Selkirk and Libau areas where few applications have come forward. He noted too, that farmers' wives are benefitting from the program, since most applicants have installed indoor systems at the same time as they have developed the outdoor system.

Jim anticipates that the coming year will be as busy as last year, even though his current backlog is only about 20 applicants. Farmers interested in the program are asked to contact Jim in the extension office at Teulon or pick up an information brochure from any extension office in the region.

He also points out that farmers ordering supplies through the Winnipeg warehouse must have an order signed by the water services technician. Otherwise, no materials will be supplied. Design services for a system is not provided at the warehouse.

Crown Land Improvement Payments

Payment schedules for Crown Land leaseholders who wish to improve the carrying capacity of their leased land have now been set. Under the new land improvement program of the Crown Lands Section of the Department of Agriculture these payments have been approved:

- Up to \$25 per acre for knockdown and piling of bush
- Up to \$15 per acre for breaking cleared land or meadows
- Up to \$10 per acre for seeding to tame forage.

All improvements must be authorized by the Crown Lands Section before any leaseholder is eligible for payments. The work must be inspected and approved before payments are allowed. Leaseholders may do their own work or hire a contractor to do it for them.

For at least two years after the work is completed the improved land will not be reclassified upward. Rentals on higher class land after the two years will reflect the increased carrying capacity.

I.D.C. Meets

Meeting of January 24 at Gimli. Fourteen of the 19 directors were present.

Initial discussions focused on efforts to reopen the Evergreen Apartments in Gimli. Requests to Ottawa for more precise information were not being answered at that time. In spite of earlier assurances that the complex would be reopened, unconfirmed reports from officials and elected members indicated that there would be considerable delay before reoccupancy would become a fact. (*Editor's note: See "SHORT HONKS" item about rental of Evergreen Apartments.*)

Treasurer Vernon Sund reported that receipts for the year totalled \$45,502.73 while expenditures totalled \$48,724.43. An accumulated surplus over the past three years totalled \$19,087.61.

Corporation president Ken Reid said there was no plan to increase levies to member councils.



Highways were discussed by the directors with Evered Lawrence reporting that the City of Winnipeg may spend \$3 million on improving Route 90 if cost-sharing can be obtained. Gimli M.L.A. John Gottfried said that land acquisition and relocation of railways are problems delaying work on PTH #7.

Joe Sigurdson moved that the Corporation "encourage the provincial department of highways to carry out a feasibility study on P.R. #419 with hopes of making it a straight east-west road." Walter Newman suggested having the Yellowhead Route travel over the Narrows.

The following executive decisions were approved:

- Indemnities of \$20 for each director, \$30 for each executive member, \$50 for the vice-president and \$100 for the president.
- Mileage allowances increased to 15 cents per mile.
- Staff salaries set a \$14,000 for the manager, \$10,500 for the assistant manager and \$5,400 for the general secretary.

Ken Reid said that there had been some misunderstanding about the Corporation's seminar on local government. He said that the purpose of the meeting was to study ways of strengthening existing local government. He noted that some people have made incorrect assumptions about the seminar and the concept of regional government.

Corporation members supported Ian Taylor's view that the recently released regional development corporation task force report had failed to come up with positive recommendations. A suggestion in the report

on setting up separate planning bodies in conjunction with the corporations was considered unnecessary duplication and a threat to the roles of the corporations.

Ken Reid requested directors' reactions towards establishment of a radio station to serve the Interlake. Generally directors agreed that such a service would be beneficial.

John Gottfried reported that the government was "re-evaluating their position" concerning Misawa Homes in Gimli. The firm is not now in operation.

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Annual meeting February 21 at Teulon.

Amendments to the constitution were approved to:

- Allow each member municipality to appoint a director to the Corporation at the initial council meeting of each year and to re-name a director at any time in the event of resignation or death.
- Allow ex-officio members to appoint a proxy to attend those meetings the ex-officio member cannot attend.
- Lower the legal age to 18 years for eligibility as a director.

Directors will no longer be elected at the annual meeting.

The meeting approved the following list of major efforts for 1974:

- To work towards improving our economy in agriculture through diversification.
- To continue to help in expansion of industries, especially secondary industries, and to seek out new industries.
- To increase the tourist industry by encouraging the development of better facilities and increased promotion.
- To work to develop better communities with good health and education services, better housing and water facilities.
- We will be establishing task force committees to examine various problems and concerns.
- We will continue close cooperation and improved communication with the various levels of government departments, and also with a variety of other organizations throughout our region.
- The dedication of the directors is outstanding, and this kind of dedication has created a great spirit of cooperation. We appreciate the support of our associate members and all those who have assisted in any way. Through cooperation and team work we look to 1974 to be a year of success and achievements for the Interlake Development Corporation.

The following budget was approved.

REVENUES

Provincial Grant	\$30,000.00
Municipal Grants	10,987.20
Interest earned	1,200.00
Associate members	850.00
Community Business Management	350.00
Miscellaneous	<u>100.00</u>
	\$43,487.20

EXPENDITURES

Salaries--staff	\$29,000.00	
Directors' indemnities	5,000.00	
Employee benefits	<u>1,300.00</u>	
Total salaries and indemnities		\$35,300.00
Legal services	\$ 100.00	
Auditor fees	250.00	
Rent	1,200.00	
Telephone, telegraph	1,000.00	
Depreciation	300.00	
Office supplies, postage	2,000.00	
Subscriptions, publications	<u>100.00</u>	
Total office expenses		\$ 4,950.00
Travelling expenses--		
Directors	\$ 2,000.00	
Staff	2,000.00	
Depreciation--automobile	<u>1,000.00</u>	
Total travelling expenses		\$ 5,000.00
Miscellaneous--		
Public relations	\$ 1,000.00	
Meetings, conferences, seminars	1,500.00	
Task force committees	500.00	
Bank charges and other	<u>100.00</u>	
Total miscellaneous		\$ <u>3,100.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$48,350.00
NET REDUCTION IN SURPLUS		4,862.80

Ex-officio officers for 1974 were elected. They are:

Herb Schultz--Department of Regional Economic Expansion;
Dr. Baldur Kristjanson--Associate Deputy Minister, Manitoba Department
of Agriculture;

Ed Somers--FRED Administration, Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

The meeting agreed to support a request from Steve Charison of Gunton to urge Manitoba Hydro to maintain or lower the cost of hydro to primary agriculture producers.

* * * * *

Meeting of March 28 at Selkirk. Eight directors present.

Percy Pearse of Selkirk, president of the Interlake Tourist Association, outlined the 1974 program to promote the region. He requested that the association be allowed to turn over its \$1,500 basic administrative grant to the Corporation and in return asked for an equivalent grant from the Corporation. Permission for advances on this grant was requested.

The special committee on rail line abandonment set up a year ago by the Corporation will meet on April 8 in Arborg to consolidate the reports from the sub-committees representing each line in the region.
(See story.)

Members then discussed in some length the role the Interlake Development Corporation should take in regards to the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota. Members were informed that "The effects of the Garrison Diversion are as yet unknown, but the possibilities for disastrous ecological damage are very strong. It was pointed out that up to 3,000 species of new viruses and bacteria would be introduced into Canadian waters. Many new species of rough fish would multiply in a new habitat and possibly ruin commercial fishing in Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba."

Frank Malis moved "That the Interlake Development Corporation research this matter to collect relevant material and use this information to present our concern over the effects of the Garrison Diversion Project."

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Interlake Tourist Association program for summer of '74.

- BILLBOARDS--Twelve billboards will be rented to promote the Interlake-- ten billboards in Winnipeg, one in Brandon and one in Portage la Prairie. Major events in the region will be advertised on a portion of the billboards. Total cost is \$1,300.

- MAGAZINE ADVERTISING--June issue of Events Magazine will feature the Interlake.
- PLACE MATS--The association will print 50,000 place mats for use in Winnipeg restaurants and hotels and in facilities of association members.
- BROCHURE--A special brochure will be printed and distributed through special information centres and regular tourist information offices.

• Around The Boards

BIFROST

Dinner meeting of January 9, 1974. Approximately 100 people present-- including board members.

"Communications" was the topic of the evening and Community Affairs Chief, Joe Laxdal pointed out the need for individuals to communicate with each other personally and in a group context. He gave examples of the kinds of problems that arise through a lack of communications and concluded by asking what are area development boards doing about it.

The annual meeting with the Minister of Agriculture was discussed and several points were brought up. (1) Fears were expressed that Riverton was being neglected by the government in favor of Hecla Island and it was pointed out that the old road north of Riverton is badly in need of repair and it is extremely difficult for a Riverton businessman to obtain a motel permit or a commercial air charter. (2) The community pasture at Sylvan should be enlarged. (3) Railways were no longer promising service to Arborg.

Mr. Herb Schultz of DREE Manitoba reported that nine million dollars of FRED money is still unspent and area development boards might be wise to consider what further projects are worthwhile.

Mr. Ken Reid, president of the Interlake Development Corporation, summarized the corporations goals and invited the area development boards to become more involved and attend the annual meeting in February.

FISHER

Meeting of February 25. Eleven members present.

Motioned by Joe Mazur, seconded by Ed Schreyer that the student council of Fisher Branch Collegiate be approached to sell the remainder of the books on the Interlake on a 50-50 basis. (Carried.)

Motioned by J. Jaremy, seconded by Ed Schreyer that veterinary services committee be reactivated and that Mr. Carl Josephchuk, Dr. McPhedran, and Hon. Sam Uskiw be approached re the feasibility of establishing a veterinary services district in the Fisher area. (Carried--one vote against.)

Request by Ray Pearson that the Chief of Fisher River Indian Reserve be asked to appoint a member to the Fisher Area Development Board to replace the late G. Cochrane.

GIMLI

Meeting of January 10, 1974. Eleven people present.

It was pointed out that the Rural Water Services Board will carry some of the expenses of the January 23 plumbing course so the three dollar fee will not have to be charged.

The board agreed to write the Minister of Agriculture requesting that grass seed be supplied to farmers as was done in the past.

Points to be brought before the Minister on January 21 include--(1) The need for more small local drains. (2) The need for the government to supply grass seed to farmers. (3) That the government of Manitoba assist in assuring that the present Fraserwood School and grounds be turned over to the community as a community centre if and when the school is closed. (4) That stiffer penalties for rustlers be handed out. (5) That lists of names of suppliers and kinds of feed be made available to farmers who are short on feed. (6) That P.R. #222 be raised and paved. (7) That P.R. #229 East from Komarno be paved. (8) That the Evergreen Housing Development be opened as soon as possible.

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Meeting of February 19. Six members present.

Otto Penner, agricultural representative for the Gimli area encouraged the board to obtain support for a proposed grass seed project by contacting Peter Jones, forage specialist for the region. Mr. Penner also encouraged members to discuss the Provincial Land Lease Program and the federal government's Small Farm Development Program. Speakers can be contacted.

Mike Huewan reported on the Minister's Advisory Board meeting at Gimli in respect to Gimli area concerns. His report as contained in the minutes is as follows.

1. "As far as Highway #222 was concerned, the Minister would consult the Minister of Highways to see what could be done.
2. Grass seed supplies to farmers will be studied and reported on.
3. Excessive moisture and loss of crops due to heavy rains--this is covered by insurance and at present it appears that no more will be done about it.
4. Drains. This project concerned all boards. In some cases P.E.P. funds are being used, but only where manpower is used instead of machines as in brushing. There was no firm commitment here.
5. School grounds at Fraserwood. The Minister advised that this matter would best be dealt with the Evergreen Division Board as it is their property. (Mr. Franz, the Education chairman was present and he stated that the board would certainly look favorably toward the transfer of the school and grounds for a community recreation centre provided that there was a committee who would undertake to maintain and run the centre.)
6. As far as rustling is concerned, this is a federal jurisdiction, and as such there is not much that a province could do.
7. Bush clearing. It appeared that most of the boards were in favour of a continuation of this project as was done several years ago. With the increasing cattle population it was felt that more bush clearing for pasture and such was certainly a good thing."

Mr. Huewan asked that a full set of minutes from the Minister's Advisory Board meeting be forwarded to all boards so members could study Mr. Uskiw's responses to their concerns.

A request from Llew Breese of Gordon Publishers to have the board purchase a page in a proposed booklet entitled "Gimli Today" was deferred to a future meeting. Cost of the page would be \$424 and approval for an expenditure of this magnitude required a quorum of members.

LUNDAR

Meeting of January 9, 1974. Eleven people present.

Joe Sigurdson reported that Coldwell had passed a resolution requesting MHRC to initiate a publicly-subsidized low-rental housing project in Lundar.

The board agreed to assist the Coldwell council with the survey of prospective applicants for the low-rental homes.

Board members serving the second year of a two-year term include: P. O. Sigurdson, Ed Croy, Fred Kell, H. B. Backman, Faye Goranson, John Nikkel, Paul Palsson, and Joe Sigurdson. Newly elected or re-elected members will be: Lawrence King, Alvin Goranson, Jim McCaffrey and Ken Desjarlais.

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LUNDAR: Meeting of February 13. Seven members present.

P. O. (Chummy) Sigurdson was re-elected as chairman of the board and Harold Backman again accepted the position of secretary-treasurer.

Chummy Sigurdson reported on results of the Minister's Advisory Board meeting in Gimli in January. He noted that the Lundar Area Development Board's request for status as a board eligible to receive full operating grants was again turned down. Long requested improvements to Lundar Beach will be undertaken this year (a \$40,000 provincial project has been approved). A request both by the Lundar Board and the Interlake Development Corporation for re-routing P.R.419 through Narcisse will be studied.

A request to have the board purchase a parcel of land on Second Avenue South to be converted into a playground was declined. The property will soon be serviced with a sewer line and may be most attractive as a home site.

The local of the Manitoba Metis Federation was thanked for initiating a carpenter's course in Lundar.

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Meeting of March 13. Nine members present.

Paul Palsson reported that the carpentry course was underway along with a related course on blueprint reading.

Paul Palsson will try to arrange a meeting between the board and officials of the Parks Branch on proposed improvements to Lundar Beach.

Local interest in low-rental housing is sufficient to warrant some action in the community.

A provincial audit on the books for the years 1971-72 and 1972-73 has been completed.

ST. LAURENT

Meeting of February 11. Ten members present.

Members heard the brief presented by the St. Laurent board at the Minister's Advisory Board meeting in Gimli.

Willie Dumont reported on progress to date on the community arena project, noting that funds were still being sought. A survey on community interest in defensive driving course will be undertaken through the school and local churches.

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Meeting of March 11. Six members present.

Mrs. Eric Johnson reported on the defensive driving course that began this month at the collegiate.

Wilf Chartrand and John Gratton moved that:

"We feel and believe that STEP is a good program and worthy of our wholehearted support. However, we also feel that it is lacking in proper supervision for the students. A mature person, perhaps a graduate from the university could be in charge of a group of students thus employed."

SELKIRK

Meeting of January 29. Nine members present.

The board decided to send three high school students to the February Rural Leadership Laboratory with the agreement that they report back to the board at a later meeting.

Percy Pearse reported that more tourist facilities would be required for 1974 and suggested that an expanded Farm Vacation Program would create a closer liaison between food producers and consumers.

It was suggested that a seminar on tourism be held involving Farm Unions, Chambers of Commerce, motel-hospitality services and the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

Goals for adult education were discussed and it was pointed out that by advertising on a wide scale enrollment in the adult evening classes have increased to the point where the classes are self-supporting.

The library program is functioning well and is beginning to provide a better service to the community.

The possibility of using the Netley airbase for a Canada Manpower course on truck driving will be explored.

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Meeting of February 26. Six members present.

Bert Sandercock of the Planning Commission for St. Andrews R.M. was present to explain the role of the commission and the current concern regarding residential and farm use of land fringing Selkirk. Land use can be an issue of conflict and should be approached with long-term plans in mind. Local livestock producers will be invited to a meeting to discuss environmental issues.

Merv Jenkins suggested that land purchased by the province in the Libau-Netley area should be used as pasture. Chuck Dixon, regional wildlife biologist with the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management described utilization of land in this area and in the Oak Hammock Wildlife Refuge.

SOUTH INTERLAKE

Annual meeting. Six members present.

Leo Hewson, director of field operations for the provincial Land Lease Program was guest speaker. He explained the features of the program.

Allan Beachell listed 1973 activities of the board as follows.

1. Carpentry course sponsored by the board at Grosse Isle.
2. Meeting on Income and Estate Taxes at Warren.
3. The matter of low water in the area was examined, and found to be a natural phenomenon.
4. Letter to Mr. Burtiak regarding traffic on Highway 7, and gravel from trucks, but no action on these.
5. Letters were sent to Mr. Uskiw, Minister of Agriculture regarding PEP, STEP, etc.; the Pipe Band in the Rose Bowl Parade; with the resolutions to be presented at the Minister's meeting with all Area Development Boards, and one regarding the A. I. Headquarters being returned to Stonewall.
6. Sent delegates to the spring meeting (advisory) in Gimli.
7. Sent delegates to the fall meeting with the Minister of Agriculture at Gimli, where gave a presentation on the South Interlake Board.
8. Sent delegates to the A. I. Conference in Portage la Prairie.
9. Sent letter to Mayor Juba re the Rose Bowl Parade.
10. Films and discussions were held on the community school concept.

Members elected to serve for two years were R. Tully, G. Palmer, B. Marcus, John Whitehead and W. Yule.

Nominations for executive were to be left to the next meeting.

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Meeting of January 8. Ten members present.

Members approved sponsoring a meeting on the Farm Machinery Act to be held at Warren.

Upon the election of executive officers Allen Beachell will serve as chairman for another term, while G. Palmer will serve as vice-chairman. Mrs. J. Lillebo will serve in an acting capacity as secretary-treasurer until she becomes a member of the area development board.

The resolutions of the December 4, 1973 meeting were to be presented to the Minister of Agriculture by R. Tully at the FRED Advisory Board Meeting on January 21, 1974.

Ralph McGiffin reported to the board that: (1) Mr. E. Hudek of the Farm Machinery Board is willing to come to a meeting and give information on the Farm Machinery Act. (2) Director of Community and Family Program Branch, M. Deveson, has requested that Ag. Reps. select potential farm employers for interviews by telephone in hopes of gaining information to improve the Farm Labour Program. (3) Brochures explaining the Land Lease Option were distributed and it was announced that Leo Hewson will be present to explain the program at the annual meeting.

The following people will be serving the second year of their two-year term on the board: A. Beachell, J. Riddel, J. Litton, L. Grandmont, and J. Greig.

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Meeting of March 5. Seven members present.

John Senkiw moved that whenever new terms of reference are provided the boards that time be spent by all members studying these carefully.

Members approved payment to each board member of five dollars for each regular meeting attended and \$10 plus mileage for delegates to special meetings.

R. Tully presented the following motion:

"That a letter be sent to the Stonewall Argus rebutting a letter in the Argus regarding veterinary clinics. The board had contacted the people in the various communities involved and had found a negative response, as a majority felt there was no need for a clinic at the present time."

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