

## President's Pen



Hello Fellow Grads

Well as usual, it's been an interesting summer in Saskatchewan. Some areas had too much rain, and the other areas, not enough. Hail, wind, floods—as usual, we get it all. I hope that wherever you are things are going well. Here in Blucher things aren't going too bad. Good clover crop, bad alfalfa, but good crops otherwise.

It's been a little slow on the SAGA

business side, but I've managed to attend a few meetings. The Barn Raiser committee has been busy and you'll read about that in a report in the December issue of *The SAGA*. Needless to say, it's a very exciting time in regards to the Old Barn.

I attended a Crop Production Week meeting on June 13. The College of Agriculture is going to be more visible at CPW by continuing to organize the Wednesday night general session, as well as having Dean Barber speak on what's new and exciting at the college.

Hursh Communications has been awarded the contract to help run CPW. Kevin '80C and Marlene are going to be kept busy running communications, sponsorship, advertising, and the pressroom. Good luck to them, and glad to have them aboard! It will be a great week.

I hope the rest of the summer goes well, and I look forward to writing to you again in December.

**Blair Cummins 77S**

## Top BSA grad



**Vanessa Louise Nyeste** (above) was the top graduate in agriculture at the May 2000 graduation. She graduated with great distinction in the environmental science major with a minor in soil science.

During her undergraduate years Vanessa received six grants and scholarships, was on the Dean of Agriculture Honour Roll and received the Sk Institute of Agrologists Gold Medal as top ag grad. She participated in four co-operative education work terms, three in Saskatchewan and the fourth in Brazil, where she designed and carried out an independent study on the current usage of agro-forestry systems in the NE part of that country.

Other graduation prize winners were **Maria Frances Graf** of Watson, SK, who received the William Allen Memorial prize in agricultural economics and **Lyle Edward Forden** of Punnichy who was awarded the Frank Sosulski Graduation Prize in Plant Sciences.

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## Thundering Herd



**Glen**'79C and **Judy Donald** are now living in Madison, Wisconsin, having moved there in September, 1999. Glen is CEO with Third Wave Agbio. They report that the Madison campus now has 40,000 students and athletic teams had a great 1999. The Badgers won the Rose Bowl, the basketball team made the final four and the hockey team, ranked #1, was edged out in the playoffs by Boston College. The Donalds can be reached at glen.donald@tds.net or by telephone at 608 271 3851.

**Adrian Johnston**'81C planted his last plots at the Melfort research station in 1999 and moved to Saskatoon as director of the Potash and Phosphate Institute. The institute is supported by the North American P and K mining companies to conduct research and educational programs on effective fertilizer use. Adrian says he enjoyed curling and visiting with classmates **Gordon Bacon**, **Lee Moats**, **Kris Boesch** and **Gordon Wallace** at the 2000 Ag Grad Reunion in January. Adrian says that, "extensive late night planning was carried out for our 20th years reunion in 2001, but we are still looking for the person who took notes!"

**Ron Hall**'77C says he is happy to be back in Saskatchewan, having become facility manager at the new UGG farm services operation at Carrot River. He had previously worked in

BC with Kootenay Livestock Association and in Alberta with Cargill. Ron says that hunting is still his passion. He and Brenda became proud grandparents in 1998 and Tyson, their youngest, graduated this year.

**Gordon Parker**'64C is the cereal and oilseed specialist with Alberta Food and Rural Development at Vulcan, AB. But he is rumored to be considering retirement and perhaps relocating. Stay tuned.

**Elton Ash**'77S, Kelowna realtor, has been promoted to director of Re/Max Commercial - Canada. He now looks after company expansion and support services for commercial operations in Canada, reporting directly to the chairman of RE/Max board at Denver, CO. Elton says they enjoy the golfing and skiing at Kelowna but he has a better acquaintanceship with airports. He and wife Jayne (a sister of Gerry Surine) have four daughters ranging in age from second year college to grade eight. Brother-in-law **Gerry Surine** '77S continues to stay broke farming and chasing cows at Unity. Gerry and Sandi have three children; Justin, grade 11, Kurt, Grade 10 and Charisa in grade seven.

**Nancy Evenson**'99C started a term position at the agricultural research station at Melfort in May. She is living at her Tisdale home for a start.

**Simon Weseen**'99C is doing graduate work in the Agricultural Economics Department, while brother **Robin Weseen**'99C works on their new enterprise, the River Bend Golf Course at Langham. They are selling memberships for the 2001 season. Want more information? - call Robin at 244-4253 or their web site

www.riverbendgolf.com

**Arlan Frick**'93C is employed with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance at Melville since May. He and Cherie moved to Fenwood to be closer to their family farming operation. **Michael Solohub**'92C of the Soil Science Department will continue to do his work and that of Arlan (At double pay?).

**Patrick Ackerman**'90C is still farming at Chamberlain with wife Donna (nee Hammermeister) and one little farmer Carson, age 3, who is starting to be a big help around the farm. Patrick is advising other farmers on fertilizer use and crop nutrition using the services of Western Ag Labs and Plant Root Simulator (PRS) technology developed at the U of S by award winning soil scientist **Jeff Shoneau**'84C. As field services manager for Western Ag Labs Patrick sees a lot of country and bumps into other farmer-agros such as **Edgar Hammermeister**'89C, Alameda and **Kevin Elmy**'92C at Saltcoats.

**Gary Carlson**'61C has been elected to his fifth three-year term on the U of S senate, representing the Regina district, and to his first three year term on the board of governors. He is also co-chair of the Class of '61 40 year reunion to be held in January 2001.

**Gary Kachanoski**'80MSc will continue as Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the U of S. He was named Fellow of the Canadian Soil Science Society in 1999 and is currently president-elect of the CSSS.

**Paul Bullock**'80C reports another turn in his career path - this one from his new position as assistant professor,

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## Wes McNaught'49C remembered

While working as a summer student at the agricultural research station in Swift Current in 1949 Wes had a close encounter with the grim reaper. Test plots were cut with a binder then threshed in a small combine. Wes was pitching bundles into a combine when the operator moved the machine closer to the bundle pile and found he could not stop it. Wes used his pitchfork to try to jam the combine and push himself out of the way. Only six inches remained of the pitchfork handle when the operator finally stopped the combine. With a jackknife, a sense of humour and profound gratitude, Wes carved the figurine pictured above. Wes passed away at Grande Prairie, AB, November 9, 1999.



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Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba. He adds: "Not all of us are fortunate enough to work in God's country! You know .... Saskatchewan!?" Paul will be focusing on the field of agrometeorology, estimating crop disease, pest risk and yield - using weather models, impact of climate change on agriculture, etc. (The list suggests several lifetimes of investigation). For better or worse Paul is located in an office next to that of **Don Flaten'78C** and that is likely to lead to trouble sooner or later. They have already created waves by being the first faculty in Ellis Hall to have their first names on their name plates, rather than just their initials. Something like that could end up in the Supreme Court!

**Jerome Martin'64C** writes from Edmonton that he and wife Merle operate Spotted Cow Press, a publishing company focusing on books, both hard copy and e-books, from and about the Great Plains of North America. They also publish WebCentres for other companies and organizations. You can visit Jerome's operation at [www.spottedcowpress.ab.ca](http://www.spottedcowpress.ab.ca) and their other sites at [www.sakatchewan2005.com](http://www.sakatchewan2005.com) and [www.alberta2005.com](http://www.alberta2005.com) You may even wish to send stories and photos to help with the centennial celebrations of both provinces. Jerome suggests you visit Northwest Passages at <http://www.nwpassages.com> which he describes as a virtual bookstore and information resource for readers,

## Synchrotron building

The steel skeleton of the building that will house the synchrotron on the U of S campus is growing quickly and will be completed by year end. Construction of the synchrotron will take another three years.

It is a huge \$173.5 million project that will use some 1300 tonnes of steel and concrete sufficient to cover 7.5 Canadian football fields with a 12 inch concrete slab. The building will be attached to and dwarf the Saskatchewan Accelerator Laboratory, located north of the Peterson building that once housed PFRA.

The facility, known as The Canadian Light Source, will be the only one in Canada, so it has importance not only at the construction stage but in attracting research scientists and those companies and institutions that can use it to examine or create new products.

This third generation synchrotron will be able to deliver an electron stream of very high voltage - enough energy to produce synchrotron light in the infrared to hard x-ray range. This stream of light is fed into a doughnut shaped storage tube of about the same area as a football field. At work stations or beamlines along the perimeter of the storage tube machines will be able to filter, intensify or otherwise manipulate the light to get the right characteristics for experiments. Keeping the electron beam absolutely true is vital, hence the need for a really stable concrete pad beneath the entire structure.

scholars and students of Canadian literature.

**Orrin'64C** and **Pam Clayton** are thrilled to have received the Mayor's Award for Community Service from the City of Ottawa on March 20, 2000. Orrin and Pam were founding members of the revitalized Riverview Park Community Association in 1994 and played a leading role in opposing conversion of Balena Park to housing. Pam has also been active in Neighborhood Watch as block captain, area coordinator, board member and president. Orrin has continued to play a strong role in the community association, in particular the parks and environment committees. Congratulations!

# Shows / Homecomings/ Anniversaries

## Abernethy fair

The Abernethy (SK) Agricultural Society held its 95th annual fair on Friday July 28 under traditional sunny skies and with great participation.

**Bert Garratt '51C**, who with his wife Norma and many other community members, spend many hours keeping the event alive and well, claim that it has never rained on fair day. They should know having been there for many of the years and with family remembrances from the fair's early days. Other grads noted adding support to the event included **Hugh Stueck '43S**, **Larry Middleton '57S**, **Stan Smith '55C** and **Kevin Bartley '83S**.



**Kevin Bartley '83S** (left) and **Tim McCashin** barbecued a whole pig to feed the fairgoers. Twelve hours of careful stoking yielded yummy results.



**Joy and Wally Doyle at their anniversary event.**

## Doyle 50th anniversary

**Wally '51C** and **Joy Doyle** were united in marriage at Herschel on June 24, 1950 and celebrated the anniversary of that event with a roomful of friends and relations in Saskatoon 50 years later. A first class event capped by an outstanding program. The company included son **Reg Doyle '78C**, daughter **Miriam (Bruce) Pyett**, grandchildren **Meredith** and **Graham**, Joy's sister **Holly** and her husband **Jim Rooke '51C**. Other grads attending included **Jim Blyth '73C**, **Jack Peck '51C**, **Lorne Hextall '51C**, **Art Strautman '48C** and **Jack Braidek '51C**.



One of the horse classes at the fair.

## Speers homecoming

The Speers Millennium Homecoming, a huge success on July 15 and 16, saw over 600 people attending. Not bad for a small, shrinking community. **Ted Nicholson '54S**, who is completing his 22nd year as mayor and his wife **Sally** were joined by many helpers to make the event run smoothly. This in spite of the weatherman who promised sun and delivered rain. Other grads with Speers connections attending and helping the event to success included, **Forest Wolberg '51S**, **John Moore '43S**, **Gordon Moore '68S**, **Bill Miner '52C**, **Jack Braidek '51C**, **Bob Jones '86C**, **John Kindrachuk '79S** and **Bill Norrish '67S**



One of the floats in the Abernethy Fair parade.



**Bert Garratt** (right) checks out the school displays with grandson **John Garratt**. Displays filled three halls and the horse judging ring.

# Pooped Deck



**John Frizzell '42C** Professor Emeritus, University of Oregon State University, has moved his wife and other valued possessions back to his beloved Saskatchewan. Yes, John and Jean are living in Davidson, renewing acquaintances and hoping some of their friends come calling. Give them a call at 306-567-2170 for a phone visit or to warn them you plan to drop by.

**Walter '36C** and **Ruth Burns** are also on the move but only the short distance from Hesslea Crescent to a condominium on McCallum Road, both in Abbotsford, BC. Walt says even the five acres was too much, but it was fun while it lasted. They decided to make the move while still able to make the decision. Rotary and F.S.N.A. executive still occupies his time when not playing bridge or traveling. There are a number of ag grads about but they are a fairly private group.

**Ted Turner '48S** reports that every weekend is like a mini Ag Grad reunion. When he goes to Wesley United Church in Regina he is likely to see **Stan Barber '63C**, **Dave Blau '56S**, **Norm Bray '56C**, **Darrol**

**Driver '55C**, **Ross Evans '50C**, **Martin Hopkins '52S**, **Ross Kingdon '55C**, **Frank McLeod '48S**, **Fred Switzer '48S**, **Gib Wesson '49C** and **Elwood Wilson '50C**. Also **Earl Johnson**, who graduated from Guelph, ON, then took his masters at the U of S and spent his working days in Saskatchewan.

On any Monday at the Rotary Club of Regina you are likely to encounter **Harold Horner '33C**, **Del Robertson '69S**, **Bernie Sonntag '62C**, **Lorne Sparling '58C** and **Jim Webster '49C**.

**Ann (Caton) Saville '47C** writes that she and husband **Bill** are now retired and have moved from the old home place on Farwell Creek west of Ravenscrag they came to 50 years ago. They decided to make their new home in Eastend, with Maple Creek an attractive alternative. Ann says they are happy with their choice - the Whitemud Valley is beautiful and the people are like all Saskatchewanians - just great! Bill goes out the 20 miles to help their son David quite often. He also has a harness shop in the basement where he is busy restoring saddles, making harness and all kinds of tack. Ann keeps busy at bridge, canasta and puttering around the yard. They are at 540 Front St. and would like to hear from you or have you visit. Call or fax them at 295-4121 or e-mail them at [annsaville@hotmail.com](mailto:annsaville@hotmail.com)

Ann noted that Eastend is a good spot for tourists, especially now that the new museum, the one housing "Scotty", the Tyrannosaurus Rex, has been opened. It is a most interesting structure being built into the side of a hill with only the front, which is all glass, is visible. Situated just above the river overlooking the town it is a fine home for the famous Scotty, discovered in the valley several years ago.

Our thanks to **Tom Rackham '37C** of Nanaimo, BC, for filling a page with news (and adding comments in a telephone call) on significant happenings in his life during the last 63 years. Tom was a Lloyminster lad and he returned to farm there for a few years after graduation. But the farm couldn't hold him - he took graduate studies in economics at Montana and Iowa, then applied his expertise in a varied career in several countries. The jobs included teaching farm management at Guelph and Iowa State, with the Economics Division of Agriculture Canada at Edmonton and Ottawa, stints in Nigeria, Brazil, Turkey and Egypt with FAO; in Ecuador with the World Bank and in agricultural marketing with Alberta Agriculture. He added, "I am now 85 and have just divested (with wife Amber) ourselves of the last economic activity of our lives, the small hotel at Kelsey Bay, BC. This capped our retirement the last 23 years. I continue to write down the experiences of a varied and diverse professional lifetime when time is available and the spirit or memory moves me. Greetings to all, Tom"

**Ed '38C** and **Sylvia Thompson** continue to enjoy their retirement home in Kelowna, BC.

**Bill Hunt '64C** retired officially from Sask. Wheat Pool on June 1, 34 years to the day when he first started with the Pool, the last seven months as interim CEO, which he describes as a great experience. Bill and Carol plan to stay in Regina and he may do some consulting work later this year. But now he has some catching up on odd jobs, enjoying their two grandsons and playing lots of golf. They spent six weeks at Palm Springs last winter

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and played a round of golf with **Roy McKenzie**'44MSc. He also had a round with **Keith Blackburn**'60C and **Martin Hopkins**'52S was a regular on the Hunt foursome.

In a recent trip in the southern area of the province **Jack**'51C and **Joan Braidek** enjoyed the hospitality of several grads. They included a nice two-day stay with **Allan**'49C and **JeanMarie McLeod** at their spanking new cottage at Lasal Bay beach on Long Lake. The next stop was at Abernethy, where **Bert**'51C and **Norma Garratt** live and cause good things to happen. Bert is now chief 'go fer' and underpaid advisor on the farm and community historian. Wife Norma was one of the key 'doers' at the 96th annual Abernethy Agricultural Fair held on July 28. On the way through Fort QuAppelle, **Bob**'49C and **Norma Ferguson** sprang for lunch and a delightful visit. Bob is busy (as usual) on a most unusual project. He is recording the names and biographic information on the men and women of the Qu'Appelle Valley area who served in the armed forces and those who spent some time recuperating from tuberculosis at the Fort sanatorium. The count now exceeds 400 and is still growing. Bob is also president of the Sask. Lung Association. Bob relaxes by serving as chief 'go fer' for farming sons **Martin**'70C and George and picking rocks.

**Jack Peck**'51C was born in 1928 but he just observed his 18th birthday this year. Yes, he was born on February 29th, 72 years ago. In addition to his youth in birthday years Jack has other interesting features, including good looks, a friendly nature, red hair (once upon a time) and he is also left handed.

## College retirees swell ranks on the Pooped Deck

Eight College of Agriculture faculty members were honoured at a University retirement party on May 12, 2000. They are:

**Allan Klassen**'65C, Plant Sciences  
**George Lee**'53S,'60C, Agricultural Economics  
**Roy Little**, Animal & Poultry Sciences  
**Edward Maginnes**, Plant Sciences  
**Grant Milne**'57C, Agricultural & Bioresource Engineering  
**Robert Redman**, Plant Sciences  
**Earle Ripley**, Plant Sciences  
**Gary Storey**'63C, Agricultural Economics

Congratulations on a job well done, fellows. May you enjoy good health and happiness in the years ahead.

## Food Centre opens

The Peterson Building (former home of PFRA) on campus is now the home of the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre.

The Centre is available to all Sask.-based food processors, new, small ones who want to test the feasibility of a recipe or large firms who do not want to upset daily operations to test out changes in processing or packaging. A commercial kitchen and product development laboratory in the centre are equipped to enable size reduction, mixing, cooking and packaging for a wide range of products.

The project is a partnership between the province, food processors and the university with the Applied Microbiology Department of the College of Agriculture playing a lead role in encouraging it's development. **Bob Tyler**'76C is currently head of

## The Class of '49 Golden Anniversary Project

In traditional style the class has again set a record. By April 2000 contributions to this project totaled \$8030. The goal of the project was to provide core funding for students interested in furthering their understanding of "International Agriculture." Three BSA students, each of whom received \$1000, are now pursuing credit courses in the Swedish University of Agricultural Science at Uppsalla, Sweden

The Dean of Agriculture, Dr. Ernie Barber, reports that demand for 'help' in this area is growing and has asked that the fund remain open. Anyone wishing to contribute further to this fund should send their contribution to:

'49ers Golden Anniversary Fund  
 Alumni and Development Office  
 117 Science Place  
 University of Saskatchewan  
 Saskatoon, SK S7N 5C8

*Note: The above notice was prepared by **Don Rennie**'49C, who asked to have it carried in THE SAGA. We are happy to oblige and hope it triggers a flood of contributions. The Editor.*

## 2001 Roundup Crew

The Sask. Ag Graduates Association(SAGA) encourages and assists graduated classes to hold reunions every ten years. (Of course there is no objection to more frequent reunions) In 2001 those classes whose grad year ends with a 1(one) will be targeted for a celebration.

**Larry Hayes '80C**, vice president of SAGA contacted those classes and they have chosen a person or persons to get the class reunion organized. They are as follows: Give them a shout if you want information on your class plans.

1941 degree and diploma

Larry Hayes, Saskatoon 373-2235

1951 degree

Jack Braidek 933-1257

1951 diploma

Bill Cooper, Saskatoon 477-2060

1961 degree

Gary Carlson, Regina 586-0211

Bob Baker, Saskatoon 966-4969

1961 diploma

Marcel Dubois, Rosetown 882-2061

1971 degree

Wayne Gamble, Regina 789-2685

1971 diploma

Leslie Haugen, Saskatoon 242-1581

1981 degree

Adrian Johnston, Saskatoon 652-3535

1981 diploma

Ray Flaten, Weyburn 842-5773

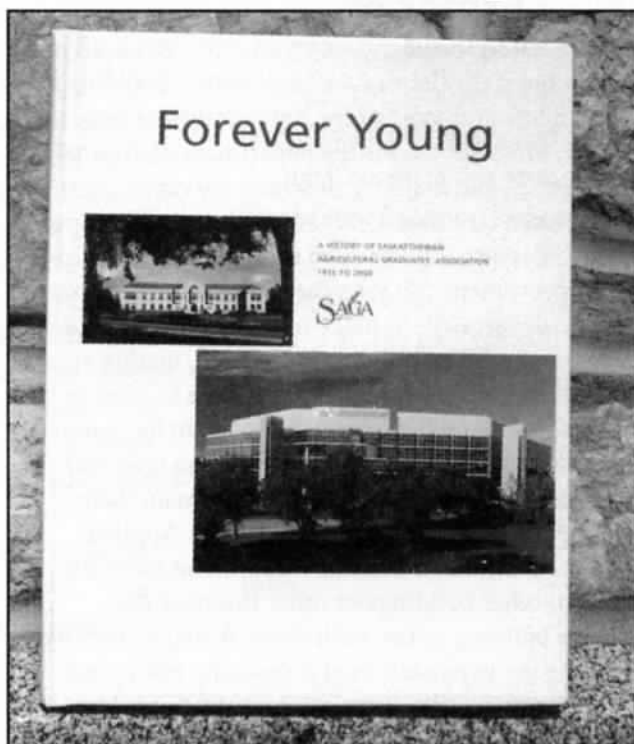
1991 degree

Tim Hammond, Biggar 948-5051

1996 diploma

Jody Rysavy, Saskatoon 249-4332

## Forever Young:



Hello grads:

SAGA would like to see increased sales of its book *Forever Young*. It is expected that strategically located and motivated sales persons could increase sales.

There is strong evidence to support that view. Ted Turner '48S undertook to sell the book in Regina and sold a total of 33 books in a few weeks. Similar results could be obtained in other locations if members stepped forward to take on the task.

While sales of 33 may be a lofty target at smaller centres, sales of five to 15 should be attainable at many points, inside and outside of Saskatchewan. Any place where there are some ag grads about. Having copies on hand at events such as SIA meetings, class reunions and selected agricultural events can generate sales. Use the telephone to bring buyers to your book supply.

We want you to try selling books as a volunteer, providing that service for your fellow grads and your association. Contact me by e-mail, fax, letter or telephone if you are interested. My address and the other numbers are on page 16 of this issue. We can put you in business within 48 hours of your call.

Fraternally,

*Jack Braidek, Editor*

# College Happenings

## 6th Floor Expansion Nearly Complete

Work on the sixth floor of the Agriculture Building is nearly complete and most of the new occupants have taken possession. Most affected is the department of Animal and Poultry Science, the majority of which relocated from the Animal Science building. Dr. Dave Christensen, acting Head of the department, says the new space marks a substantial improvement. He says that the additional room has allowed the department to make much-needed upgrades to lab facilities as well as providing adequate, quality space for graduate students, who previously were located in various trailers on campus. The vacated space in the Animal Science building will also enable ventilation upgrades for the drying and grinding labs which will remain there.

A number of offices and facilities for the Applied Microbiology and Food Science Department have also moved from other buildings or other floors of the Agriculture building to the sixth floor. A major improvement will be the expanded food processing pilot plant facility. The pre-existing pilot plant on the third floor of the Agriculture building has been used for meat research and as a teaching lab; now, it will be used exclusively for meat research and the sixth floor pilot plant will be used for teaching and processing other types of commodities.

Associate Dean Graham Jones says that transferring the facilities of these departments to the sixth floor of the Agriculture building will help them to consolidate their research and integrate the College as a whole.

The official opening of the sixth floor will likely take place in October 2000.

## Canola Study

U of S biology professor Viben Sawheny will receive more than \$150,000 from the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission to fund research over the next three years. The study focus is the chemical regulation of male sterility in canola for use in hybrid seed production.

The development of hybrid seed technology has been a major breakthrough in agriculture and the expectation is that it can be applied in canola production.

In the production of hybrids a pollination control system is needed. Advances in molecular technology have enabled the development of male sterility in canola but current systems have limitations. Work done last summer by Dr. Sawheny on canola has been promising, encouraging support for the longer-term project.

University of Saskatchewan Technologies Inc. will be responsible for commercializing and intellectual property arising from the work conducted under this agreement.

## Diploma in Agriculture grad numbers rise

The U of S conferred its Diploma in Agriculture on 57 graduates on April 28 - the highest number since 1988.

It is (currently) a three-year program that prepares individuals to become good managers of agricultural operations or for careers in agri-business and the value-added sectors.

Traditionally, diploma graduates returned to the family farm, but this year just 19 percent of the year 2000 grads plan to operate the family farm full time. An additional 37 percent plan to farm in the summer and work off-farm during winter months, while 44 percent plan to pursue careers in the agri-business sector. Career prospects for diploma graduates in the agri-business sector has encouraged an increase in enrollment over the last four years.

Since 1915 a total of 3719 men and women have graduated from the diploma program.

## Transgenic canola studied

Jim Germida, Soil Science Department head at the U of S and his research team, are in the final year of a three-year study to determine the impact of genetically modified canola crops on the soil in which they are grown.

Since transgenic canola crops can resist herbicides, diseases, insects or even produce their own pesticides, Germida's team wants to know how a genetically modified, or transgenic canola affects the environment. Germida hypothesizes that it is a plant's root system that encourages a unique microbial community to develop and thrive in the soil. Early study results seem to support that view.

Studies in 1997 indicated there are significant differences between the microbial communities in the rhizosphere of transgenic and related non-transgenic canola cultivars. More recent results from Germida's 1998 study confirms that, but that the field site and soil type can also influence those differences. As well there are differences among non-transgenic cultivars, suggesting microbial communities can vary plant to plant and site to site.

*(Above articles are shortened versions of articles in ON CAMPUS NEWS.)*



## Information, please



Chris Maloney has filled the recently-created position of Manager of Information Services at the College. In her new capacity, Chris

will undertake a variety of internal and external communications activities on behalf of the College. Of the position, which is a part of the Dean's Office, Dean Barber says, "We feel it is extremely important that the College undertake an initiative to improve the flow of information between the College and its various audiences. If this institution is to continue to thrive in what is an increasingly competitive environment, we must make every effort to interact with our stakeholders, be they industry or public."

Chris started her position at the beginning of July. She says, "I've really been made to feel welcome

here. I have had a very positive response so far from within the College. This is a new position, and it represents a new, proactive direction for the College in this area. Being a part of the College's communications strategy is a challenge I anticipate with enthusiasm."

Initially, the College will be undertaking measures to streamline its internal communications structure. Once that foundation is in place, the College will examine new directions in terms of its external communications.

## Home Grown



**David Beckie'87C** reports that their family grew in 1999, with the birth of Corbin on November 25, a brother to Landon (7) and Marina (5). Everyone appreciated the early Christmas present. Someone suggested that Dave needed to buy more land now they have another son, but he's letting Corbin make that decision when he's a bit older. Dave, who manages the CIBC operation at Hanna, AB, may venture a small loan toward a land purchase. *(Apologies for not having this note in the April issue. The editor)*

**Lee Melvill'74C** of Brooks, AB, has another woman telling him how to live his life. Kenzie Ciera Melvill was born on March 16, 2000, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces. New mom **Sandra Haberman-Melvill (BMgt, U of A)** is doing just fine. Kenzie is a sister for big brother Aiden, who turned two on January 4 and bigger brother Wade, who became 25 in January.

**Tracey (nee Mick) Logan'89C, '93DVM**, reports that she, husband Cal and older son Justin are pleased to announce the arrival of Brendan Cal on June 21 at the Medicine Hat Hospital. He's a big boy, weighing 8 lb, 8.5 ounces at birth and 21 inches long. Tracey is really enjoying her time off with her boys but looks forward to returning to work at Oyen Vet Services come December.

**John Cote'86C and Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote'87C** announce that Lyndon Stuart Cote arrived on October 13/99 and is now a full staff member at Lumac Farms Ltd. near Leask, SK. He weighed 8 lb, 5 oz on arrival. Older brother Josh, now seven is busy challenging the school staff and daughter Erwin will tackle kindergarten this term. Morgan, aged two will be company at home before she goes to school. While John fusses over crop selection and other knotty decisions, Barb has been out and about the province making some presentations on nutrition. Busy people.

## Empty Saddles



### William George Barclay'41S

passed away at his Kamloops, BC home on May 28, 2000 at the age of 78 years. Bill grew up on his parents farm at Driver, SK. and following graduation from the School of Agriculture served in the RCAF during World War 11. He worked on other farms before getting his own farm in the Smiley district. He married Inez (Bourne) Platt in 1967 and they lived on the farm in summer and at Anglemont, BC during the winter and they also traveled widely. His generous spirit and gentle humour touched the lives of many. Bill was predeceased by Inez in 1986, and by his brothers Harold Jack and Gordon Elder. He is survived by his sister Jean Barclay, sister-in-law Mabel Barclay and by nieces and nephews.

### Roberta (nee Glendinning)

**Clausen**, 75, lost a courageous battle with cancer at St. Paul's Hospital, Saskatoon, on July 3, 2000. She was predeceased by her husband **Joe Clausen'48C** in 1991 and their first child, Sheila in 1971. She is survived by four daughters, Carol, Janice, Brenda, Patricia and six grandchildren. Roberta devoted her life to her family, teaching and music. An accomplished pianist and student of music, she was a tireless organizer of musical endeavors in her community and church.

### Herbert Lawrence Craig'48S

passed away at their Buffalo Pound, SK home on April 30, 2000 at the age

of 75 years. Herb was born at Lanark Farm just north of Moose Jaw, joined the RCAF after high school graduation and farmed with his father, later taking over the farm until his retirement in 1984. He was active in the community serving 16 years on the rural municipal council. He is survived by Irene (Hale) his wife of 53 years, son Larry (Marieta), daughter Wendy (Richard) Allen; brother W.Robert (Mary), one sister, Irene Hale, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**John Alexander Dexter'41S** of Victoria, BC, born August 16, 1918, died of a heart attack on June 6, 2000 in Rudeshelm, Germany. He is survived by his son Ralph (Janet) and their four children; daughter Beryl (Ron) Nikiforuk and their two daughters; his sisters Anne Lowe and Greta (Harry) Prior and their children. He was predeceased by Gladys (nee Chapman), his wife of 54 years. John was an able and progressive farmer near Melfort, SK, retiring to Victoria in 1972. He will long be remembered for his positive attitude toward life and his friends, as well as his support of youth, community and church.

**Isabel Fulton** of Mankota, SK, previously of Kincaid, SK, passed away on August 1, 1999 at the age of 99 years. Predeceased by her husband Isaac in 1979, she is survived by her children, **Fred'50C (Norma) Fulton** of Kincaid/Saskatoon, Ruth (Gordon) Taylor of McCord and Verna (Darryl) Ward of Oxbow; ten grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

**Bernard Peter Goplen'52C**, Saskatoon, was born on Mar.6, 1930 and died on April 16, 2000. Bernie was predeceased by his parents; his sister Martha and daughter Barbara. He is survived by his wife Henrietta;

sons Gary (Nancy), Craig (Judie), Gordon (Sondra); six grandchildren; five sisters, Elsie, Ada (Jack) Urton, Betty, Jennie (Harvey) Gjesdal, Minnie (Ibbs) Avery and his brother Axel. Bernie was a scientist with Agriculture Canada for 36 years, during which he developed the world's first low-bloat alfalfa, and seven new forage legume varieties. He encouraged his family to participate in sports, particularly in speed skating and served as president of Sasksport and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

**Donald Smith Mackay'47S** of Saskatoon, was born in Aberdeen, SK in 1920 and passed away on August 3, 2000. Don was a forward thinking, successful farmer who contributed much to the province and his community. In his early days he showed Clydesdales with his father, raised purebred Yorkshires, shifting to Lacombe when they became a breed. In 1993 he returned to the college to learn how to use a computer. Along the way he headed up the SK and Canadian swine breeders associations and was chair of the SK Hog Marketing Commission. His community involvement included being president of the Home and School, Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge, on the Pool committee and as a referee and umpire in sports. Don leaves behind his three children, Eldon (Alice), Islay (**Dwight'69S**) Oatway and Calum (Karen); five grandsons; his sisters Jean Hassen and Betty Neufeld.

**Howard McDonald'35C** was born at Glenside on February 23, 1911 and died at North Vancouver on July 8, 2000. He devoted his work career to the control of insects that threatened prairie crops. Howard was head of the

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Entomology Laboratory, Canada Agriculture Research Station, Saskatoon, from 1956 until his retirement in 1972. He was active with his sons in scouting and served as Commissioner for Scouts for the Saskatoon Regional Council. He was chosen as an officer on the council of the Sask. Agricultural Graduates' Association inaugural meeting held in May 1935. Howard married Audrey Black in 1937 and they had six children. She predeceased him but he is survived by daughters Gwen (Curt Firestone) of Seattle, and Peggy of Victoria; sons Duncan (Bonnie) and Murray (Moira McCaffrey) of North Vancouver; Hugh of Lund, BC and Dan of Vancouver, and by six grandchildren.

**Wilbert McNichol** of Nokomis SK, father of **Lyle McNichol '63C**, passed away on April 25, 2000.

**Lillian May Moar**, aged 88 years, of North Battleford and previously Semans, SK, died on June 7, 2000, at Villa Pascal, North Battleford. She is survived by her only son **Ranald 'Bud' Moar '56S**, his wife Murial, their children and grandchildren and her brother Robert (Johanna) Haslam. Lillian was predeceased by her husband Allan K. Moar, her daughter Faye Lynn Poelzer and sister Evelyn Gettis.

**Merle Rasmusson** (nee **Duncan**), born at Naicam, passed away at Edmonton on October 18, 1999. She was 83 years old. Merle and her husband **Lloyd Rasmusson '36C** had celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in June, 1999. She is survived by Lloyd and their children, Carol Eben, Wendy Davidson, Murray, Ronold and Howard Rasmusson; 17 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

**George Clough Richardson, MBE '48C**, born on the family farm on Dec. 5, 1916, died at Saskatoon on June 26, 2000. George served in the 1st Canadian Division in Europe from 1940 to 1945, attaining the rank of Captain. He farmed at Semans until 1979, when he was elected as MP for Humboldt-Lake Centre. George was much involved in his community and beyond including Cub and Scoutmaster, the Legion, Masonic Lodge, the United Church board, and Community Seed Plant. He served as president of the Saskatchewan Shorthorn Association and of the Saskatchewan Swine Breeders Association, member of the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Farm Land Security and Farm Debt Review Boards. George is survived by his wife Jean; sons Malcolm (Sharon) and Gavin (Elaine); daughter Jane and five grandchildren. He was predeceased



by his brothers Robert and Charles.

**Charles Arthur Rowles '36C** (above) born at Crandall, MB in May 1915, died at Vancouver on February 20, 2000. He is survived by his wife Janet, sons Gary and Don, and two grandchildren. Following graduation with distinction Charles continued his soil science studies at Saskatoon, completing his MSc while also serv-

ing as president of the SRC. He was a popular student and stellar member of the Huskie football team. A PhD at the University of Minnesota followed, where he was a major investigator on a project concerning sulfur in the atmosphere, precipitation and soils. This was before 'acid rain' became fashionable. He returned briefly to the Soils Department at the U of S then served as chief chemist and inspection officer, Chemicals and Explosives Division, National Defence, during World War II. Charles joined the Soil Science Department, UBC, Vancouver in 1946 and served as head of the department from 1956 to his retirement in 1980. His outstanding contributions to soil science and teaching were recognized through being named a Fellow of the Canadian Soil Science Society and the establishment of two student awards at UBC through the generosity of Soil Science Alumni. Charles attended the founding meeting of the S.A.G.A. and was a lifelong member.

**Jason Dean Russell '81S** passed away on January 13, 2000 at age 41 years, after an eight year battle with a rare and lethal form of thyroid cancer. Dean took up farming as the fourth generation on the family farm after studying motors at Weyburn, the School of Agriculture and some off-farm jobs. A natural mechanic, Dean loved snowmobiling and operated the Flying Creek Performance shop in Craven for some years. He helped to organize, then chaired the Can-Am Snowmobile Racing Circuit for eight years. He was an active member of the Sask. Wheat Pool committee and drama club. Dean is survived by Lisa, his wife of 20 years; their three daughters, Kimberly, Kelsey and Dakota; parents **Wilson '54S** and **June**

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## Grad Year Action

### College grads of '55 Celebrate their 45th

Twenty seven boisterous young men received their BSA degree in 1955: more than half their number, now mainly silver haired and a bit more subdued, celebrated a reunion June 16,17,18. It was a busy weekend beginning with wine and cheese at the Don Grant home, a tour of the Agriculture Building with Dean Barber as guide, the traditional barbecue at Roy Crawford's country estate and concluding with a Sunday brunch. Clint Houston, who has learned the lesson of adding value(and enjoyment) to farm production better than most ag grads, presented each of his classmates with a bottle of his fine wine.

The grads who attended and the names of their significant others are: **Don (Ginny) Allewell, Omar (Lorna) Bilokury, Roy Crawford, Art (Mary) Domes, Darrol (Jeannine) Driver, Don (Melba) Grant, Cliff (Dorcas) Hayes, Clint Houston, Lorne Jackson, Dick (Ann) Kosick, Stuart (Hazel) Palmer, Fred (Marion) Silzer, Stan (Audrey) Smith, Robert (Ann) Widdup and Keith'56C (Darlene) Vick.**

### 1951 Voc Ags Plan 50th Reunion

**Bob Blakely, Bill Cooper and Joe Linnell' 51S** grads all, have named themselves a committee to plan the 50th anniversary activities for the Voc Ag grads of 1951. We understand the committee was unanimous in its choice of members.

They have sent a note to their classmates asking them to indicate when and where to party, the options being: at the Ag Grad reunion Jan.12/13, 2001; during the U of S Alumni Reunion June 22,23, 24,2001 or sometime in the summer at the Spa in Moose Jaw. A fourth option may be all of the above!

If you are a Voc Ag of '51 and have not responded to date you are now in bad standing with THE COMMITTEE. Your status can be upgraded to good if you respond immediately(and probably to excellent if you promise to buy the next round or send money). Phone or fax Bill Cooper at (306)477-2050.

## Agro Class of '60 Reunion

The Class of '60 celebrated the coming of the new millennium with three major activities. The first was the Millennium Magic reunion at the SAGA reunion weekend in January when a large number of 1960 grads and partners returned to exchange life experiences and to reminisce about the past. As was the case 40 years ago everything that was said was without question the truth!

During the first two weeks in February a group traveled to Costa Rica . While it was during the middle of the winter in Canada this had no bearing on the real reason to venture to a tropical country. The sole purpose was to explore opportunities to diversify Canadian agriculture. Unfortunately the Government of Canada didn't provide any funding.

The third event was an "all guy" fishing trip(there shouldn't be any other kind).Again, a large number of grads took part in the trip to Potter Rapids in June. The size and number of fish caught were only exceeded by the yarns told and retold.

Plans are underway for class activities 2001.

*(Photo and comments by Glen Hass'60C)*



**The Class of '60 in the Costa Rica rain forest, soberly contemplating agricultural diversification in Canada.**

# Honours and Awards

## Honourary Doctor of Laws

**Glen Michael Farrell'59C** was recognized for his outstanding contribution to education by being granted an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree at the U of S spring 2000 convocation.

Raised at Tonkin, SK and educated at the U of S and Madison, Wisconsin, Glen worked at the Extension Division of the U of S from 1959 to 1975, then moved to the University of Victoria as Associate Director of Extension, becoming the director three years later, in 1978. In 1985 Glen became president of Knowledge Network then he was appointed founding president of the Open Learning Agency(OLA) serving there until 1998. Under his leadership OLA grew into a multi-faceted educational organization serving British Columbians( plus other Canadians and a growing foreign clientele) with lifelong learning programs in all academic areas, at all levels and for all ages. Over 400 students receive degrees from its open College and Open University each year.

## AIC honours scientists

Three Saskatchewan-based scientists were named Fellows of the Agricultural Institute of Canada at it's annual conference July 9 to 13,2000 at Winnipeg. The award is granted for professional distinction worthy of national recognition. The Fellowship is the highest honour bestowed by the Institute. The Saskatchewan recipients are:

**Frederick (Rick) Holm**, currently director of the Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan, is well known and highly regarded for his research, teaching and extension work on weeds. Born in PEI and educated at the University of Manitoba in plant and weed science, Rick has been on the College of Agriculture staff since January 1984.

**Frank Sosulski'54C**, now Professor Emeritus in the Plant Sciences Department was a leading cereal chemist with that department.

**Robert Zentner'72C**, is an economist and research scientist at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Dryland Research Station at Swift Current.

## SK Agricultural Hall of Fame

On August 6,2000 five agriculturists were inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame(SAHF). Their names and comments on their contributions are noted below.

**Bill Cooper'51S** is widely known as an advocate for

change in Canada's grain marketing system. Bill combined farming at Westbend, SK and instructing at agricultural short courses for the first 20 years following graduation. He has devoted much effort to the development of policy on grain marketing through various associations and on industry study groups.

**Dave Heinrichs'38C** was Canada's premier alfalfa breeder during the period 1938 to 1976, when he was employed at the Swift Current Research Station. He developed creeping-rooted varieties that were suited to the drier regions of Western Canada. He also developed production information on alfalfa and introduced other forage species. He died at Edmonton in 1998.

**Al Slinkard** has been a key builder of Canada's pulse crop industry since 1972, when he was lured to the University of Saskatchewan from the University of Idaho.

Al was raised in Washington state, taking agricultural training there and at Idaho. As a new crop breeder at the Crop Development Centre he developed Laird variety lentil which has become the most widely grown variety in the world. By 1990 Canada had overtaken Turkey and the USA as major suppliers of green lentils to Latin America and the Mediterranean countries. And processing the crop has created much employment in rural areas.

**Alf Gleave**, Biggar farmer, Farm Union leader and member of parliament who worked hard for agriculture, was also inducted. Alf died in 1998.

**Lorne Johnston**, premier seed grower located at Eston, was inducted into the SAHF for his contribution to seed growing and service in his community.

## Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal

**Ron Gallaway'48S** of Estevan, received the medal at a ceremony on May17, 2000 at Regina. Attending in support of Ron were his classmates Bill Small and Clark Lewis. Clark had received the same honour in 1999. Also in attendance was classmate Ted Turner, who happens to be chair of the Sask. Honours Advisory Council, who swears that the selections were honestly done .

Ron's wife, **Marguerite Gallaway** (nee Cameron) **BEd'73** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Tourism Saskatchewan on March 17, 2000. Double congratulations to the community-minded Gallaways!!

## News from Norway

by \*Russell Jacobs'64C

Norway is not visited as often as, say, England or France, so I may bring it nearer to you by this fashion. But there are some who say that Romania, Switzerland and Norway rank as the most beautiful of European lands and this can explain why so many tourists come here, especially in the summer months. It also has won its way to near the top of the list where living standards and income are recorded - which explains why tourists are impressed with what a cup of coffee or open-faced sandwich costs in a restaurant!

During the great migration to North America from 1850 forward Norwegians were well represented with only Ireland having a greater migration as a percentage of population. Thus ties between North America and Norway are strong and lots of Norsk-Americans come over each year to look up their roots, then taking a good look at the fjords and mountains at the same time. Maybe nearly as many Norwegians pay a visit to America to visit their relatives and practice their English. In general they handle English well because of an early start with the language in schools and a lively interest in being able to communicate properly. It can be noted that when a Norwegian speaks of America he is usual thinking of the USA - Canada is something for itself.

Norway, being an attractive land to settle in, saw itself forced to introduce an immigration stop in 1975, with exceptions being made for refugees or for those who had family in the country beforehand.

A prairie boy or girl would look long in Norway to find the flat land we have always considered a necessity. There is, though, some to be found. There are some highly productive acres near Stavanger (& Jaeren), Trondheim and the Oslo fjord. Because of usually abundant rainfall much of the land is drained. About three or four percent of the surface is arable, though on the west coast and in the north cooler and wetter summers limits grain production. Even in the warmest part land conditions do not favour wheat suited to bread-making, so the country imports bread wheat from Canada and the USA to blend with locally-produced wheat. In a February 22, 2000 newspaper article it was noted that there were 155,000 farmers in 1969 and 72,000 in 1999. So it is not only Canada that has seen a diminishing rural population and probably for the same reasons.

A comment about the Jaeren district. It lies along the SW coast and enjoys the full benefit of the Gulf Stream. Some snow may fall here but it does not last long, thus giving farmers a long season to do outside work - and much work has been done. The land was incredibly stony and over the centuries farmers have dug out the

stones and placed them as fences between fields. It has been said that if one were looking at the earth in perspective these stone walls should be regarded in the same class as the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall in England. The soil may not have been particularly rich to start with, but through good care and plenty of organic fertilizer it has become surprisingly fruitful.

Oil, winter sports and Norway's place in the European Union account for much of the media coverage here. It is a quite all right land to live in though not without a few social problems often associated with prosperity. A Canadian does not face any big adjustments if they choose to stay here, apart from that of learning a new language. The variation in day length makes life interesting especially in the north. An appreciable fraction of Norwegians take winter holidays in the Canary Islands and some who have the means and time set up house in southern Spain for the winter. More could be said about the land of the Vikings, but these are a few of the things that have appealed to me.

\* Russell Jacobs is a minister and evangelist at Halden, Norway. He appreciates news from Canada and can be reached by e-mail at: [rus-jak@online.no](mailto:rus-jak@online.no)

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**Russell**; brother **Marty'77AgEng** (Darla); sister Gail (Charlie Campbell); four nieces and nephews.

**Frank Zeman DVM**, born on December 3, 1916, at Kenaston, died on August 3, 2000 after a short illness. He provided veterinary services in the Davidson area and was

a valued community worker. He was predeceased by his wife Peggy in 1992 and is survived by their three children Bryan (Sandra), Don, Heather (Roger); five grandchildren; one great grandchild; brother **Joe'44C (Jessie) Zeman** and sister Alice.

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## To hell and back



The above stair was once described by a distraught U of S student as "the stairway to hell and back." The steps are worn but sturdy and functional as ever..

Do you know where this stair is?

If you know and tell us you can win a valuable prize - a copy of *Forever Young, A History of Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates' Association*.

Here are the contest rules:

- \* You must identify where the stairs are.
- \* You must also send along some news - about yourself, your work, your family, or even a story that may involve the stair or some interesting aspect of your university days. It need not be long, nor exactly the way it happened - a saga perhaps. The comments you send in will be used as the editor sees fit, in succeeding issues of THE SAGA.
- \* Send it to ye editor by November 1,2000. His address via e-mail, fax and post are on the back page of this newsletter.

\* The names of the hundreds who respond will be placed in a drum and the winning name drawn by SAGA president Blair Cummins.(That eliminates him as a possible winner.)

Good luck!!

## Seed Association Honours

**Orrin Clayton'58C** was awarded Honorary Life Membership in the international Association of Seed Certification Agencies meeting at Omaha, Nebraska in June. The Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) was one of the founding members of the International Crop Improvement Association in 1919, with Manly Champlin, a professor of field husbandry at the U of S representing Canada. Orrin is deservedly proud to be only the third staff member of CSGA to have received the award. Well done, laddie.

## Pharmacist receives award

Betty Riddell received the Canadian Pharmacist Association Honorary Life Member award at the 88th annual meeting of the association in Saskatoon. Betty, the widow of **Murray Riddell'49C** was a pharmacist for nearly 40 years, mainly at the Royal University Hospital where she was director of pharmacy services. In 1996 she received an award for meritorious service and in 1980 an award for outstanding contribution to hospital pharmacy

### Travelling west?



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