

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES QUESTIONNAIRES.

No. 10



(Drawing by McGregor Hone)

Please print name and address in capital letters.

Your full name Alfred Norbury

Present address Spiritwood, Sask.

Pioneer address Norbury, Sask.

Year you came to Saskatchewan 1914.

Note to Persons Answering the Local Government Questionnaire.

This questionnaire is divided into four parts:

- PART I: Statute Labour Districts and Local Improvement Districts before 1908.
- PART II: Nine-Township Local Improvement Districts and Rural Municipalities after 1908.
- PART III: Villages.
- PART IV: Towns and Cities.

You may answer the parts dealing with the types of local government under which you have lived, and disregard the other sections. For example, if you came to Saskatchewan after 1908 and have always lived in a rural municipality you will answer only Part 2; if you came to a rural area before 1908 and in later years moved to a town, you probably will be able to answer Parts 1, 2 and 4.

Some of the questions are repeated in more than one part. In each case, the question is to be answered in relation to the particular section in which it is included, and you may therefore need to answer the same question more than once, as it applies to different forms of local government under which you have lived.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Saskatchewan Archives Office,  
University of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



PART II: NINE-TOWNSHIP LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES -  
(after 1908)

1. During what years did you live in a nine township L.I.D.? (Give numbers or names)

a nine township R.M.? R.M. of Spiritwood No. 496 incorporated 1929  
(Increased to 29 townships January 1954)

2. Did the people in your community like this form of organization better than the smaller units in existence before 1908?

Yes

For what reasons?

Able to select and build their own roads, and manage their own affairs.

3. Describe ratepayers meetings, telling how many attended, what took place at meetings, which subjects caused the most discussion, and any differences noticed from meetings of earlier years.

Moderate attendance, discussions Road Work and General Topics, Schools, Agriculture and Interim Financial Statement.

4. Was there much competition for election to positions of reeve and councillor?

Occasionally.

Were they regarded as positions of some honor, or just a "chore" that someone had to do? Honor

5. Were people generally satisfied with the way local affairs were managed by the reeve and council? Yes

If not, for what reasons?

Did people think that relatives and friends of council members received special favors? No If so, of what kind?



6. Describe differences in activities and duties of the 9 township L.I.D.'s or R.M.'s as compared with the 4 township units before 1908?

This district was not organized as L.I.D. prior to 1929 and road work if any was not satisfactory as it was not planned to meet requirements of Settlers.

Did people think the L.I.D. (or R.M.) should do more? Yes

7. What equipment did the L.I.D. (or R.M.) own?

Three plows, three Fresnos, three slip scrapers and one maintainer first year of operation. Machinery purchased later when funds were available.

Was it loaned to individuals or kept only for municipal (or district) work?

Kept only for Municipal Work

8. Was there much complaint about the taxes levied for municipal purposes?

No

If so, on what grounds? (that is, because they were too heavy, or not fairly distributed, etc.)

Not applicable

What suggestions did people have for ways of raising revenue other than taxes on land?

None

9. (To be answered by those who lived in L.I.D.'s).  
Were people in the L.I.D. anxious to have it formed into a R.M.?

Why or why not?

In order to plan their own roads.

10. Was it customary to permit a person to work off his taxes by cutting bush on the road allowances or by roadwork with team and scraper?

Yes

Can you remember during what years this was allowed?

1930 to 1939

PART III: VILLAGES.

1. In what villages (and during what years) have you lived?  
Village of Spiritwood - 1934 - 1955

2. Do you recall the formation of the village? Yes

If so, was there much excitement among the people over its formation or any particular notice given to this event?

No

3. If you lived in a R.M. or L.I.D. before moving to the village, what differences did you notice in the management of village affairs?

None

4. Was there much competition for the position of councillor?

No

Was there usually a good turnout of voters for election of councillors? No

Was it generally considered that the council did a good job?

Yes

5. Was there any custom followed in the selection of overseer by council members (i.e. by rotation etc.)?

Rotation

In the conduct of village affairs, how did the importance of the overseer compare with that of the other councillors?

Overseer called upon to supervise any construction work being done.

6. What were the most important activities of the village council? (List in order of importance).

Re-organized Fire-Brigade, built fire hall and purchased new fire fighting equipment.

Replaced wooden sidewalks with cement sidewalks, gravelled main streets.

Were these duties well performed? Yes

7. Did property owners in the village think they were taxed unfairly compared with people living in the surrounding district and making use of village facilities? No

Describe any efforts made in the village for the adoption of the single tax.

None

How successful were these efforts? Not applicable

8. Has there ever been much agitation or desire to have the village established as a town?

No

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPIRITWOOD, K.A.

*Alfred Norbury*