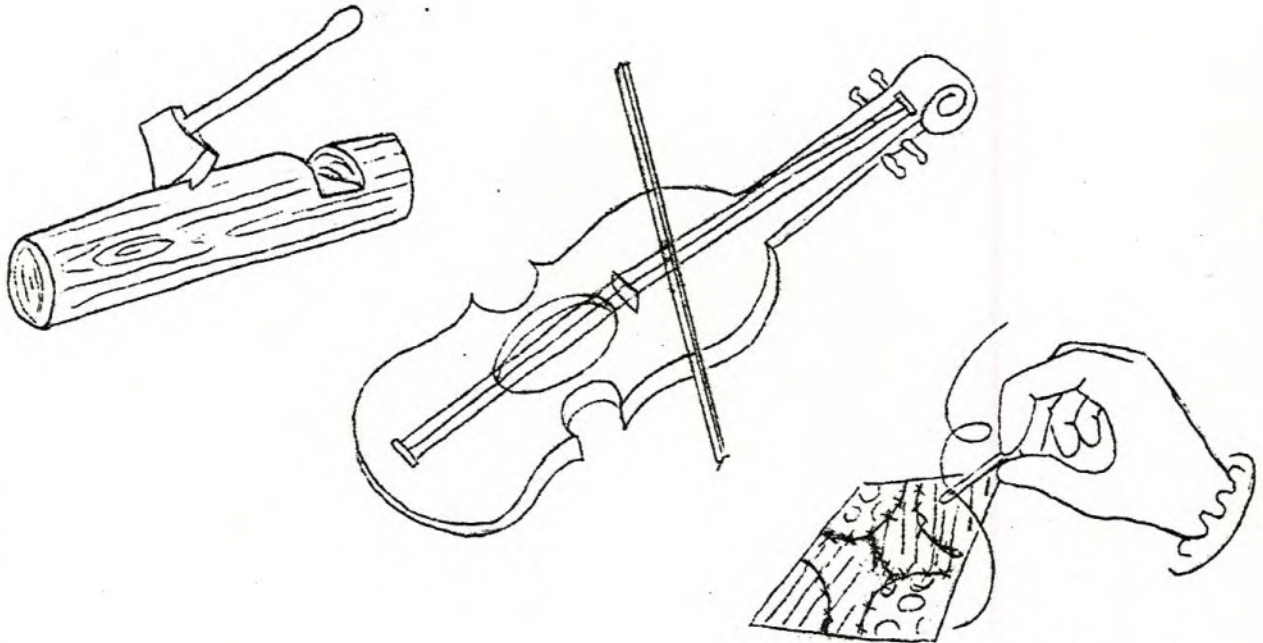


SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES QUESTIONNAIRES.

No. 5

Pioneer Recreation and Social Life.



(Drawing by Richard Graburn)

Please print name and address in capital letters.

Your full name MRS D.A. MOORHOUSE

Present Address ANEROID. SASK.

Pioneer Address WALLARD. SASK.

Year you came to Saskatchewan 1911

(Throughout the questionnaire, "Saskatchewan" means the area which is now Saskatchewan)

PLEASE NOTE

This questionnaire is intended for persons who came to Saskatchewan before 1914, and most of the questions are about that early period, although in a few questions information for later years is asked for.

If you cannot answer a question, leave the space blank. We realize that any one person will not be able to answer all questions, so answer those that apply to your experience and that you can remember, and leave the others.

Use extra sheets of paper if there is not enough space on the questionnaire.

Your co-operation in answering this questionnaire will be very much appreciated, and all questionnaires are preserved in the Saskatchewan Archives as part of the permanent record of our province.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

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



## Pioneer Recreation and Social Life.

## NEIGHBORLY VISITING, PARTIES, ETC.

1. In the first few years, how many homes were near enough to you for visiting back and forth? *4 with families*  
How many of these were bachelor's homes? *+ 6 bachelors*
2. How often did you usually visit neighbors? *only a couple times a month except for Condie's 1/2 a mile away.*
3. Did you usually visit on a Sunday, or other days? *Sundays.*
4. Were you often invited to other homes, or was most visiting done without an invitation? *seldom invitations.*

What time of the day did you go, - in the morning and spend the day, or in the afternoon, etc.? *always before dinner + for supper.*

What about meals? Did you stay when not invited beforehand? *yes, we always were urged to stay for meals.*

How was the invitation to a meal worded when people had come unexpectedly? (that is, was the term to "take potluck" used, or was some other expression common?) *"Stay for dinner, if we can stand it all the time, surely you can stand it once".*

If no meal, what other refreshment might be offered to visitors who had "dropped in"? *If at night, a 12 o'clock lunch of sandwiches, tea or coffee, + cake.*

5. Did the whole family go, or did someone stay home to "look after the place"? *we all went + they all came, plus visitors.*

6. Did you ever have "bees" when groups of neighbors came together to put up a building, make quilts, or other such activity? *yes, the men made a "bee" to build Dad's shack to get mother out of a sad shack with typhoid.*  
Tell what you remember about such gatherings, giving dates if possible, telling what the "bees" were for, and how often they occurred.

*They made "Bees" to thresh late crops in November or when they threshed on Sunday (even then) they felt ~~it~~ very cheap about it. No other time would they thresh on Sunday.*

7. In the earliest years that you were here, were there many parties, whist drives or dances in homes? Describe. *yes, for everyone but us, mother was a strict methodist. But we had the first organ around, + had lots of fun + singsongs, the kids would gather for miles around, as we were the only ones who could play, + we had a Violin + finally guitar.*

Were these more frequent in later years? Give dates.

*School house dances + school whist drives when the schools were built.*

Did you follow any kind of informal schedule, such as going by turn from one home to another at definite times, - every two weeks, once a week, once a month, etc.?

*yes, surprise parties that lasted until daybreak. one a week*



8. Tell what use was made of the school house for community dances, box socials and other activities. (Include also the school Christmas tree, picnics, etc. if you have not described these on the School Questionnaire). Give dates.

dances, box socials. (how I remember them & the first old relic I drew as a partner, when I was 14.) fowl suppers, plays (some talent) public debates (how hot they would wax) picnics. Christmas trees (with a home-made tree)

How much of your social life was centred around the school, and within the school district? Describe. The school was also used for church & Sunday school, and funerals. and all public meetings.

9. When was your first community hall built? In 1929 at Glenvern a central between two municipalities, named after both.

What material was it made of? How large was it?

a well made modern place.

Who built it - the community through special funds, the municipality, some organization, etc.?

Two communities with help from both everyone donating work and money. The balance by dances, picnics.

Was it built in the village or town, or was it a country hall?

a country hall. Complete with lights & basement kitchen.

To what extent did it take the place of homes or the school house as a place for social gatherings and parties? (for example, if you lived in the country, did you continue to use the local school house for district gatherings, and come to the hall in town for other functions, or were you close enough to make use of the hall for all gatherings, etc.?)

The hall only partially filled the bill, as it was 10 to 15 miles from a lot of people. The Buffalo Horn school didn't suffer any by the hall, besides rules were stricter regarding children & price of tickets at the hall.

10. When parties, dances, etc. were held in homes, school houses or halls (as referred to in question 8, 9, and 10) did the entire family attend? yes & the

kids slept on a pile of coats in the corner.

How were babies and small children provided for? They just sat on one knee or another until they fell asleep & then slept like lambs.

How were horses sheltered and fed in the winter time at these parties? There were school barns & they were simply peeked inside, every which way.

11. What card games were popular in the early days?

whist, and Rummy. & five hundred.

Was there card playing for a prize? yes.

What dances were popular? waltz, fox trot, two step, one step,

buffalo glide, three step, square dance. ~~waltz~~ ~~two step~~ ~~one step~~  
Home County waltz. & seven step.

Was there ever any disagreement between dancing and non-dancing residents in the planning of parties and social gatherings? Explain.

no. The ones who didn't dance went home after picnics, though mother was put out if they didn't have the school ready for church Sunday.

Was card playing accepted by all residents in the community, or were there some who frowned upon it, either as an entertainment in the home, or for community gatherings? Explain.

mother didn't much like it, I guess she knew we kids would refuse to be left out of community affairs. She cried when I said I was going to dance when I grew up. I was entranced by the music & friendly attitude, seemed like we went home just as the fun began.

12. What attempts at formality, or "swank", do you remember in small towns, such as gloves and hats when calling, calling cards, visitors treated ceremonially in parlor, etc.?

*no formality, but occasionally a neighbor would move in who liked to look over the rest of us. They were usually (if possible) poorer than the ones they looked over.*

13. Was the chivaree known in your community? *yes, occasionally*

Describe what you remember about chivarees, telling how common they were, any incidents connected with them, etc.

*I have been at a couple of them. There was never enough eats taken & we left the poor newlyweds eaten out of house and home. They tried to chivaree me & my hubby twice, but we always smelt a rat & were away, & once we just happened to be away.*

14. Describe any other details of visiting, parties, etc. that you remember, telling of any games or amusements not already mentioned that were popular at parties and give approximate dates whenever you can when some changes in visiting or social life became noticeable.

*When my mother's relatives moved out, they'd gang up, about a dozen of them & happen along & act like kids playing games, etc. we got a real hang out of it. one time mother's cousin grabbed the violin (he can't play, but acted as if he could) my uncle Charlie started to dance a (hoo-doo dance I think) he had everyone else on chairs & kicked his little finger out of joint.*

#### ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS.

15. What was the name of the first organization of any kind that you can remember becoming established in your community?

*The Grain Growers and we held meetings at Mrs. & Miss John McDonald's a fine old couple.*

Give the date and reason for it being organized.

*about 1914 I think it was to simply meet & have a friendly get together. I thought there were speakers & of course lunch.*

16. Was there a Saskatchewan Grain Growers local in your community? *yes*

Tell when it was organized, and what steps led to its organization.

*about 1914 I can't remember much about what led to its organization*

Approximately what proportion of the farmers in the community belonged to it?

*all of them, about 12.*

How many women belonged?

*all their wives about 6.*

How often did it meet?

*once a month.*

What were some of the activities carried on by this organization?

*we had picnics, & all subscribed to the Grain Growers Guide.*

17. Was there a Homemakers' Club in your district? *no. only a Ladies Aid.*

When was it organized?

*about 1914.*

Approximately how many women belonged to it?

*about 6.*

Describe what you remember of its activities and services.

*To raise money for the ~~church~~ preacher's salary & start a Sunday school. mother was a great church worker. They put on the fowl suppers.*

18. Name any other organizations that were in existence in your community before 1914, giving the name of each, date when it was first organized, its activities and purposes, who belonged (men, women, young people?), whether it included people only in one relatively small area (for example, within a school district), or was centred in the town or village and included the surrounding community. (There is space in the church questionnaire for organizations connected with the church, so they need not be included here).

we formed a teen ager's Club "young folks Auxillary"  
I was only eleven though, It was to raise war funds. we put on a play & charged the enormous price of \$75¢, and we all grew gardens (we kids) for the war. We had a school fair in 1917 nine schools (country schools) even had floats. what a sorry looking thing ours was. The teacher had never seen a float.

What means were commonly used by organizations for raising money?

Picnics or dances. box socials, pie socials

19. Where did various organizations hold their meetings?

always in the school house.

20. Were you accustomed to having general information lectures, talks on foreign lands, etc.? *yes,*

Describe, telling who gave them (local ministers or teachers, special lecturers, etc.), where they were held, how well they were attended, and any other details you remember about them.

a couple of local guys liked to make speeches, Jack McDonald, and Mr Vandergrift. how we hated their long two hour speeches after a concert. (we kids) young people would much rather dance. it was always about some important project, but we never appreciated it.

Did you often have magic lantern shows? *yes* Give dates if possible. *about 1917*

Who provided the lantern and the slides?

*not many, but some.*  
I think the strain growers. also some on missionary work.

What were the slides about?

scenes of foreign lands.

#### CHILDREN'S GAMES


21. What games did boys play in summer (-mumbletypeg, ball, marbles, fly kites, etc.)?

snakes & ladders, checkers in winter hall.

What games did girls play in summer (-skipping rope, play house, etc.)?

skipping rope, play house, ball. boys & girls all played together, even playing house. and we all had lots of work to do too. I broke in a calf to ride & to drive, myself, but the next winter it fell down an old well & died. one a bachelor had dug & abandoned.

One time we had a teacher (a lady) who was absent a lot, missed a lot of days, and after a week of absence, the Sec-Treas. of the school board went to haul her out a little. She said she didn't care much whether she taught school or not, as she wanted to be a missionary in Japan. Mr Isaac (the Sec-Treas) said, "well Japan isn't where the trustees told me to tell you to go, but I guess if you go to Japan it will be all right."



22. What winter games were played outside - fox and hounds, skating, etc.?

we dug canes in the snow banks for playhouses and rolled down strawstacks by the hour.

What games were played indoors in winter - card games such as "Happy Families", "Authors" or others, checkers or other games?

Checkers, dominoes, etc. Dad was a wonderful storyteller also he taught us the times tables right up to  $20 \times 12$  and it has been a wonderful help in figuring out sums.

Did the whole family join in such games, or only the children? Explain.

yes, and mother taught us to sing songs & hymns.

23. Was there much time for games, or was everyone usually busy with some kind of work? Explain.

lots of time in the winter, as we only had school from April to Nov. we all worked in summer.

24. Did children invent games connected with such things as buffalo bones, arrowheads, gophers or other objects or animals, or games in the snow? Describe.

our first play houses were those 4 holes at the corner of every quarter-section. we played by the hour in them. Then the 3 Cordie kids & 3 of us, met at a slough, half way between their places & ours. many an hour we put in there.

#### PICNICS AND SPORTS.

25. What was the date of the first picnic that you attended in Saskatchewan? Give year and month if possible.

In July at Tweed school 1912.

26. Who organized it?

8 miles away. Wallard, district.  
The Grain Growers.

27. Was it for the entire community, or for a smaller group, such as a school district, Sunday school, some organization, etc.?

For all who wished to come & they came for miles.

28. Was it the first picnic held in the community? yes.

If not, do you know the date of the first one that had been held? 1911 ~~at Buffalo Horn~~ at Buffalo Horn.

29. What were the amusements at the picnic you attended (ball games, races, band, etc.)?

There was an American Brass Band formed about 1917 a real good one. played at Picnics. also races, potato races, sack races, horse races, ball games, tug o'war, wrestling match, rodeos.

30. What arrangements were made for eating - was there a general lunch, or did families and friends form smaller groups?

a long table & benches with everything good to eat & lots of dishes to wash afterwards. the table was set over & over until everyone was filled.

31. What did you have to eat and drink? Coffee to drink, & to eat: salads,

sandwiches, pie cakes, cookies, jellies & pickles.

Two meals at every picnic.

32. What time of the day did it start, and how long did it last?

in the morning, about 10 o'clock & until after dark. then dancing until about 4 a.m.

33. Describe any features of this picnic which you remember as outstanding.

One time they turned a red rooster loose & I nearly caught it. I would have, except I was protecting my new dress. It was for the kids. Then a greasy pig for the men to chase. One time there was a race for boys to run, take off their shoes & run to the other end & come back & pick their shoes out of a pile, put them off & run back. Two brothers had a fight over their shoes. I never lost a race, always come first even in 1942.

34. Describe any different kinds of picnics which you knew of in the early days, such as the large community picnic, school or Sunday School picnics, family picnics, etc. Tell about any differences in numbers attending, activities, food and drink, when held, etc.

Sunday school picnics were never very big, as there weren't dances after them. We've had 2 day rodeos at Coriander school, with the odd casualty. But lots of money was taken in, and one day rodeos almost every summer. Beginning about 1913. I have a picture of the first plane that took up passengers at Wallard about 1920 I think at \$10 for 10 minutes at a Rodeo.

35. What changes have you noticed in picnics since the first years? If possible, give dates when changes became noticeable.

In the thirties picnics & dances stopped serving lunches. Everyone took their own & only coffee was served. Too many poor people didn't take any lunch, so to keep others from putting it all up they made this change.

36. Describe the sports which were popular in your community in the early years, telling who took part in the various games and sports (men, women, mostly young people).

baseball. The young lads had a team at each district & what a tournament at picnics. The girls played basketball in middies, black seteen bloomers & red ties.

37. For what game was the first team organized in your community to play against neighboring teams?

Buffalo Horn, Wallard, Boale Creek, Glenview.

What year? about 1917 How long did it continue? Through the 30's.

38. Name any other sports teams that were organized before 1914, giving date of organization if possible, and tell something of their activities - played against teams from neighboring towns, played at local sports days, entered in competitions in larger centres, etc.

39. Tell when the first outdoor rink was built in your community, and what it was used for (hockey, curling, etc.).

no rink as yet, but in 1924 they all started skating. a young hockey player came to the district as a hard man. He was so wonderful on ice, everyone started skating on sloughs & started playing hockey on them each district had a hockey team. I married the guy (Cliff Braden) he died in 1939. That ended hockey.

When was the first indoor rink built, and what was it used for? none.



40. When did an annual "sports day" become established in your community? 1913.

Did it grow out of or replace the earlier community picnic? yes. just a continuation of them.

Who was responsible for starting the first sports day?

The school board, my dad, Mr. Condie, & Mr. P. Isaacs.

When was the sports day usually held? (what month, or any special day, such as May 24th or July 1st).

usually early in June.

41. Are there any from your community who have become members of well-known hockey, ball or other teams? Give names, and dates.

Only my former husband, (Cliff Braden) played Hockey from Skanawon to Assinaboia & around Saltcoats & Stressburg & U.S.A. until READING 1929. He was called "the slipperiest thing on ice."

42. What books did you bring with you when you came west? (Give a list of the names and authors if possible. If not, tell as nearly as you can how many books you brought, and what kind.) (Use extra sheets if necessary)

we only brought: The Bible, a hymn book, a Cook book, a doctor book.

43. How many of your neighbors brought books with them? only one I know of.

Mr. E. Cooper.

What kind of books and how many?

"The Elsie Books" Uncle Tom's Cabin, story books of all kinds.

44. To what extent did you exchange books with neighbors? we simply borrowed them & returned. Then about 1917 we got a school library of which we could borrow books.

45. Did you buy many books after you came west? Give details. no, my mother didn't have time for reading. I believe a travelling salesman did sell her a couple books one time.

46. What books were sent to you as gifts in early years?

Sowing seeds in Danny, and one or two more.

47. Have you ever had any "travelling library" books in your community or school? Give details and dates.

no, only the school library of which a few extra were added each year for a while.

48. Was there a school library? yes. When was it begun? 1917.

To what extent were books borrowed from the school library for adults to read at home?

To a large extent for the first couple years.

49. Did parents ever use their children's school text books as additional reading material?

yes, my dad was especially interested in our history books.

50. Has there ever been a community library in your district or town? *no*

When was it started?

Who started it?

Is it still in existence? *no, the books are there but no one reads them.*

If not, when was it discontinued, and why? *when the school was closed for lack of children several years ago. In fact, all those schools are closed. some sold & moved away. no children left in the district or not enough to hire a teacher.*

Give any other details which you can about the library - how many books it contained, how many people used it, where it was kept, who acted as librarian, and what arrangements were made for borrowing books.

*The teacher acted as librarian as it was in the school. we could borrow them for two weeks free. after that a fee of 5¢ a day was charged. I remember I borrowed a book once (I was quite a bookworm) I had it outside, in the playhouse reading it & when mother hollered "Supper." I ran & didn't go back. The next morning the pup had my book all chewed up. Dad had to pay for it & I never borrowed another library book, though no one said I couldn't. I just was too afraid to.*

51. What newspapers or magazines did you subscribe to when you first came to the west?

*Our Home paper "The Bancroft Times". The Free Press Prairie Farmer. The Grain Growers Guide. (I think) the Country Gentleman" a U.S. paper. & mother did a puzzle in it & they said it was right & sent several more which were all correct. Then she was to win a Car, but she had to give an important date. she gave her birthday in July. but if she had given Dad's Feb 12. she would have won.*

52. Describe later changes in your subscriptions, telling why you stopped certain subscriptions and added others.

*We stopped the "Bancroft Times" had an argument with the editor. we took The Nor'West Farmer and they went out of business.*

53. Did you ever obtain the free monthly Lady Aberdeen packages of reading material?

*no, never heard of them*

Give dates and tell how and where you got them.

54. What books or papers that you brought to the west with you do you still have?

*none, our house burnt down & everything with it.*

55. Did you find a lack of reading material or sources of information, in your early days in the west a hardship? Explain.

*I was too young, and my parents weren't much for reading.*

## MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.

56. What musical instruments did you bring west with you? *none*

57. What instruments did any of your neighbors have? *mes McDonald had a piano and a Cripple's daughter who was an accomplished pianist.*

58. What musical instruments have you bought since you came to the west? Give dates, prices if possible, and tell where you bought them. *a Chapel organ mother bought from Eaton's in Winnipeg (catalogue) in 1915. (\$75) a neighbor had a Violin & brought it to our place & I picked up a tune on it so dad bought me one for \$10.*

59. How large a part did singing and other forms of music play in your home-entertainment in early years in the West? Describe.

*my sister & I took a few music lessons & our home was a meeting place for young people. we sang hymns & knew every one in the book. also songs we learnt at school.*

in the community? (were there musical concerts, was there group singing at parties, etc.) Describe.

*yes. strange to relate, all who gathered at our place learnt to sing & play instruments & it was the most musical neighborhood around.*

60. What were some of the favorite songs in the home? *mostly hymns.*

*then war songs. K-K-K-Katty, Keep the Home fires burning, The yellow Ribbon. Snow dear.*

in the community?

*Red River Valley.*

*all the war songs of '14 - '18*

61. Was "folk music", or music of the country you came from, popular in your home or community? Explain.

*just the old songs mother remembered, or any of the old neighbors remembered.*

62. Did you ever make up any of your own songs, or make up words to fit an old tune as a joke on somebody, or because of some special happening in the community? Explain.

*no.*

63. Was there a band in your community? *only at an oval.* When was it started? *1916 I think.*

Who started it? *The Corbins.*

How long did it continue? *about 10 yrs.*

How many were in it? *6 I believe.*

Who was bandmaster? *Mr. Corbin*

What instruments were included?

*all brass instruments & drum.*

Tell what you remember of its activities, how often practice was held, where, if members had uniforms, what events the band played for.

*They played at sports days. It was a very good band, but I was a child so don't remember much. and the musicians were very active in it.*

64. Has anyone from your community become well known or famous in the musical world? Give names and dates and places of public appearances.

*was only 5 when his mother taught our school, he's a movie star now, called, Ed McDonald. after his granddaddy.*

65. Is music as important or less important in your community now as compared with the early days? What is the reason for this change?

*There aren't many young people down there now. my brother Hubert sings & plays "I'm all that's left of the old quartet," and he's about right. only he & my Cousin & a neighbor boy can play music.*

HOBBIES AND SPECIAL INTERESTS.

66. Do you have any "collections", such as stamps, stones, paintings, signatures, arrowheads, etc.? *I have a neighbor who collects arrowheads.*

Give details of this collection, telling when you started it, how you became interested in it, any outstanding events connected with it, and a description of the collection.

*I only collect old license plates, and old news items of people I know.*

*I found a few old license plates which made me interested as they're different every year. and the news items are nice to look back to.*

67. Did you make notes of the weather, time of arrival of birds, blooming time of trees, etc.? Explain.

*mother did for a while, but it all got burnt up with the house.*

68. Describe other hobbies or special interests of yours not already mentioned.

*Horseback riding. my sister Cline & I loved it, and rode for miles. There was a ranch 5 miles south of us & the two boys who worked on it, broke out saddle horses just so they were safe, & brought them up for us to ride. One time one of them ran away with me. I could*

69. Is there anyone in your community who is well-known for any of these hobbies, or for others such as photography, bird-watching, etc.?

*no. I steer it but not stop him, & part of the trip was through a flax field. I thought he'd trip, but no, it only slowed him up. I didn't get stopped until I ran him into our barn door.  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles in 10 minutes up & down hills etc.*

GENERAL

70. Describe any outstanding features or incidents of social life, games, entertainment, sports, reading, music of pioneer days, not already mentioned. (Use back of page, or extra sheets if necessary).

*my brother-in-law Glen Ferguson had a snappy team of pinto ponies. very safe but lively for riding & driving. One night he hitched them to a wagon running-gear with only two boards on top of each other for strength & strung us along it I, & my two sisters, he & two other boys. Then he let a yell out of him & we were off to a concert at Buffalo Horn School. Across hills & ~~cuttle~~ Coulees & stones & bumps and holes in the road.  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles we made it in 7 minutes and back in the wee small hours in 5 minutes.*