

HEARTH & HOME POST

PRAIRIE WEEKLY

Stories and smiles from the wide open land

SAMPLE EDITION

The Great Wheat Harvest of 1966



Saskatchewan Pool elevator during the 1966 harvest

REGINA, Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan farmers delivered a record wheat crop in October 1966, with provincial officials reporting more than 630 million bushels moved to elevators from Estevan to Lloydminster. The Regina Leader-Post said a cool, wet spring had delayed seeding into June, pushing harvest work into long October days across the southwest. Combines ran after dark in fields near Kindersley,

Rosetown, and Weyburn, while grain trucks lined Main Street at country elevators waiting to unload. Wheat Pool agents worked past midnight grading samples, and rail yards reported steady unit trains of grain cars heading east toward Thunder Bay. Agriculture officials told reporters the crop would rank among the largest in provincial history. Farmers in the southwest said late-season weather held off early frost long enough to finish combining. Elevator companies added extra shifts to handle the volume before winter closed some rural roads. Pool directors praised crews who kept terminals running through rain and mud. Grain buyers said protein tests held steady through the long harvest run. Local cafes stayed open for truckers who needed coffee before the midnight shift change.

Adapted from Regina Leader-Post, October 22, 1966

This Week in Western History

1955

TRANS-CANADA PIPELINE APPROVED

Federal approval cleared the way for a natural gas pipeline from Alberta to Central Canada. Construction crews crossed three provinces, and prairie towns gained jobs at compressor stations along the route.

1962

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY COMPLETED

The final prairie link of the Trans-Canada Highway opened in 1962, connecting Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba by paved road. Motorists could drive coast to coast without mud detours through Regina and Brandon.

1969

CANADIANS WATCH MOON LANDING LIVE

On July 20, families gathered around television sets in prairie living rooms to watch the Apollo 11 moon landing live. Radio stations paused farm reports so listeners could hear mission control, and church bells rang in several Saskatchewan towns.

Memories

1963

SATURDAY NIGHT

The Saturday bonspiel filled the community rink with voices and wet wool. Thermoses of coffee lined the boards until the last rock was thrown, while neighbours watched from the warm lobby and compared shots between ends.

1958

TOWN LIFE

Coffee row at the cafe ran from seven until ten on market mornings. The men argued about hockey and curling results while the radio played in the corner and the owner refilled cups without being asked.

1961

CHURCH SOCIAL

The United Church hall filled on Friday for the fall social. Ladies carried casseroles through the door while the men's choir rehearsed old hymns in the basement before supper was served.

From the Archives

Stampede Week Sets Attendance Record in Calgary



Calgary Stampede parade, July 1964

CALGARY, Alberta. The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede reported its largest attendance in more than a decade when the 1964 show closed on Saturday night. Organizers counted more than 625,000 visitors over the ten-day run, with sold-out grandstand seats for the rodeo finals and long lines at the midway from opening morning. The Herald noted strong

turnout from rural communities across Alberta and Saskatchewan, with many families treating the trip as an annual reunion. New livestock displays and expanded youth competitions drew praise from 4-H leaders. Chuckwagon races drew standing crowds each evening, and the parade on opening day stretched along Centre Street for more than an hour. City hotels reported full rooms, and restaurants along Stephen Avenue stayed busy past midnight on the final weekend. Transit crews added extra streetcar service from the exhibition grounds to downtown, and police reported only minor traffic delays near the grandstand. Vendors said ice cream and lemonade stands sold out early on the hottest afternoons, and church groups set up rest tents for visitors walking the grounds. Hometown bands played between chuckwagon heats while children traded rodeo pins on the midway. Evening concerts on the infield drew families who spread blankets near the midway lights.

Adapted from Calgary Herald, July 11, 1964

Questions of the Week

I. *Did you ever attend the Calgary Stampede or your local fair?*

II. *What did Saturday nights look like in your town growing up?*

TALK ABOUT IT

- ◆ What was the first car your family owned?
- ◆ Which radio or TV program did everyone in your house stop to watch?
- ◆ Did you curl, skate, or play hockey at the community rink?

From the General Store



Main Street Motors

Circa 1960

Lost again? Dodge is home before supper. Main Street Motors is your Moose Jaw dealer for Dodge and Plymouth sedans and farm trucks. Winter battery tests, tire chains, and oil changes while you wait. Family cars welcome for a test drive.

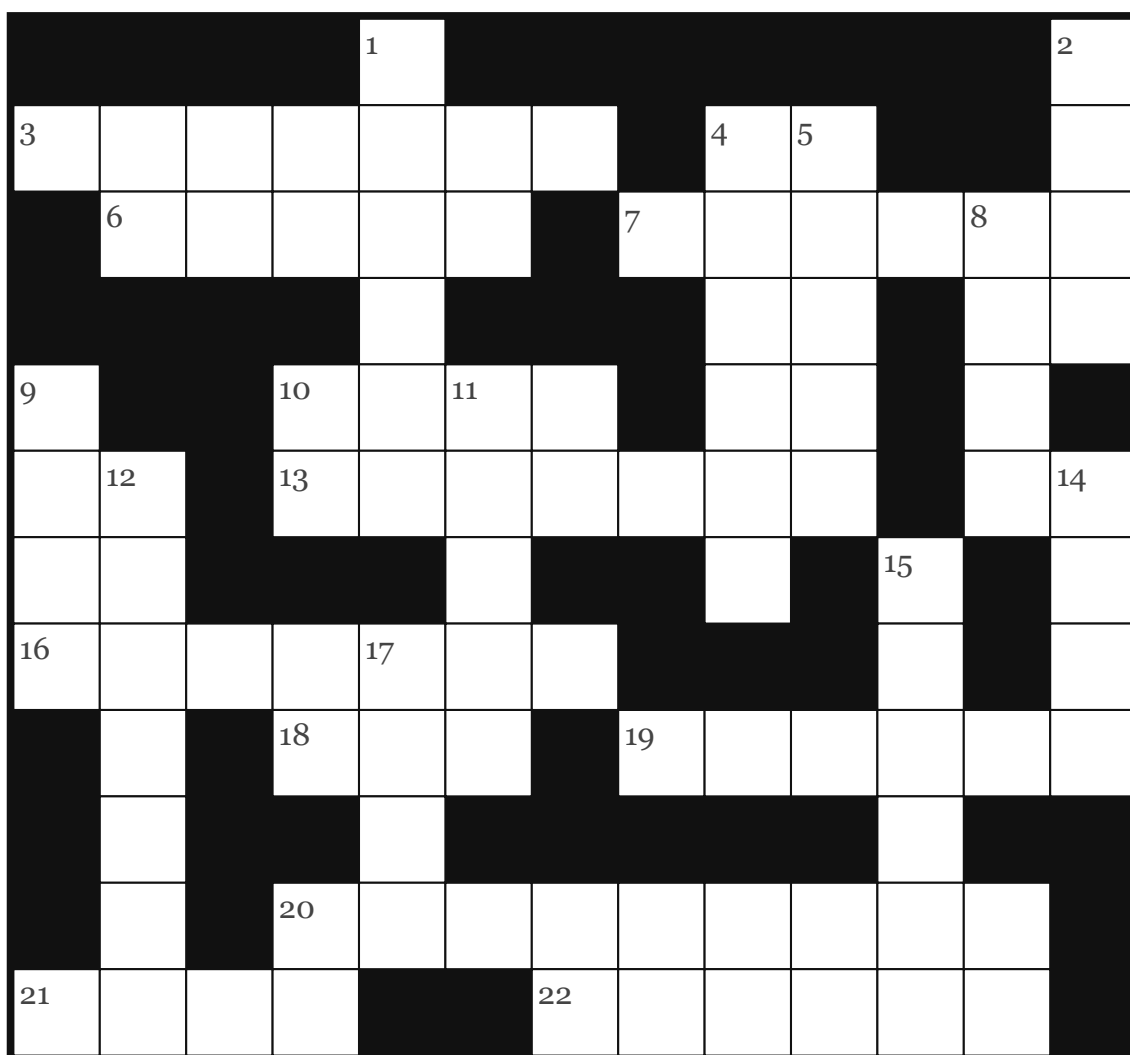


Red River Appliances

Circa 1948

Nine Frigidaire models for every farm kitchen and town home. See the new all-electric refrigerator with room for a week's groceries. Red River Appliances is your authorized Frigidaire dealer. Free delivery in Dauphin. Open six days.

Weekly Crossword



Across

- 3.** Metal water bottle on a hike
- 6.** Card backing for a displayed photo
- 7.** Plaits tied with ribbons
- 10.** Small pastry filled with jam
- 13.** Wool layer on a cold night
- 16.** Chest holding folded clothes
- 18.** Fuel pumped at the service station
- 19.** Shelter for horses or cows
- 20.** Ocean liner at the dock
- 21.** Single sheet in a window frame
- 22.** Pin fastened to a coat lapel

Down

- 1.** Friend met through exchanged letters
- 2.** Quiz taken at the end of a unit
- 4.** Grace spoken before a meal
- 5.** Oil coat on the porch railing
- 8.** Bird on the pond at the park
- 9.** Quiet hour in the armchair
- 11.** Garden tool for autumn leaves
- 12.** Covered walk where neighbours stopped to talk
- 14.** Devotion shown at an anniversary
- 15.** Yard goods cut for a new dress
- 17.** Shaker on the kitchen table

Then & Now

THEN

In the 1950s, Saturday nights meant the community rink: bonspiels, public skating, and neighbours visiting between periods. Kids warmed mittens on the lobby heater while parents talked curling skips and local news over coffee refills.

NOW

Today, many towns use indoor arenas with artificial ice, but winter still brings out the same thermoses, scarves, and familiar faces along the boards when the local league takes the ice.

THEN

Farm families waited for the rural mail carrier each week. Letters from sons in the city, seed catalogues, and the weekly paper arrived in a canvas bag tied to the mailbox post at the end of the lane.

NOW

Most post arrives by truck now, but small-town post offices still anchor main street, and neighbours still swap news when they pick up parcels at the counter.

A Little Laughter

- ◆ Why did the scarecrow win an award?
He was outstanding in his field.
- ◆ A farmer told his neighbour he could count his cattle in his sleep. The neighbour asked how. The farmer said, I just listen for the snoring in the pasture.
- ◆ What do you call a cow with no legs?
Ground beef.
- ◆ Why did the bicycle fall over? It was two tired.
- ◆ What did the Alberta farmer say after the hailstorm? At least the golf course is free now.

Did You Know?

- ◆ **Chinooks:** Warm winds sweeping down from the Rockies can raise prairie temperatures by twenty degrees in an hour, melting snow from porch steps before breakfast.
- ◆ **Stampede:** The Calgary Stampede began in 1912 and now draws more than a million visitors each July, making it one of Canada's largest annual festivals.
- ◆ **Oil:** Leduc No. 1 struck oil near Edmonton in 1947 and launched Alberta's modern petroleum industry, changing farm towns across the province.
- ◆ **Rail:** The CPR reached Regina in 1882, linking prairie farms to eastern markets and bringing mail, lumber, and settlers west each week.
- ◆ **Riders:** The Saskatchewan Roughriders joined the CFL as an official club in 1950 and became a touchstone of prairie autumn weekends.
- ◆ **Sloughs:** Prairie pothole wetlands provide nesting habitat for roughly half of North America's ducks, making the region vital for waterfowl.

Poetry Corner

Winter Road

The section road runs white and still,
Past fence posts wrapped in snow.
The town lights glow beyond the hill,
Where neighbours head when cold winds blow.

Stampede Lights

The midway glows on summer night,
While rodeo horns fade down the lane.
A band plays on beneath the lights,
And prairie towns arrive by train.

