

A Tribute to Frank Meakes



Frank Meakes in 1971

by J.G. Devers

The Lestock and Westmoor areas were saddened by the sudden passing of Frank Meakes. He was the son of early pioneers Jas. and Mrs. Meakes. Being very community minded, he plunged into civic affairs immediately upon finishing high school. He was chairman of the Lestock Co-Op Board for many years. He also served on the Credit Union Board, the Wheat Pool Committee and the Hospital Board, to mention a few. With all his public commitments he still found time to operate a good farm, raising Shorthorn cattle and grain.

In the fifties, CCF members decided that we should send a local man to the Saskatchewan Legislature to represent the Touchwood Constituency. The logical prospect was Frank

Meakes. He was approached and won the nomination. He won in "Touchwood" by a wide margin in the following election and served his constituents very well.

Premier Woodrow Lloyd appointed him to the Cabinet post of Minister of Co-Operatives and Co-Operative Development.

The medicare battle of 1962 was about the toughest battle of them all in the Saskatchewan Legislature, according to Frank. The battle was won, however, and medicare proved to be so popular that the rest of Canada had to adopt the plan from sea to sea.

Following Frank's retirement, area citizens formed a historical committee and decided to produce a Lestock and District book. Once again, Frank was punching hard to get something into a book form for posterity. It

was a pleasure to work with him on one more project.

As we followed his remains to the resting place at the Stone Church, I could not help but reflect on the life of this humanitarian. I looked at those of us who were Honorary Pallbearers. It would have been so easy for Frank to play the "BIGSHOT" and select men from higher echelons for this post. Humble to the end, Frank selected those who grew up with him, who went through depression and war, those who knew the travails and tribulations of rural and small town life exactly as he experienced it. He was a true warrior for justice and fair play. He did not seek glory - rather, he offered himself to serve.

He passed away peacefully at the new hospital for which he worked tirelessly to have erected at Lestock.



On the campaign trail