

THE SASKATCHEWAN CRAFT COUNCIL IS.

IN THIS ISSUE



(This issue will no doubt become a collector's item for trivia devotees of the future, so treasure it!)

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ON THE BACK COVER: "TRIM YOUR CHRISTMAS TEETH"

THE RAISON D'ETRE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Is primarily of course, to strengthen the cause of the Saskatchewan Craft Council. In a nutshell, that cause is the promotion of quality Saskatchewan crafts. And one of the basic ways to promote something is to be informative about it. We hope the newsletter will provide useful information for craftspeople; we also hope that craftspeople will start to contribute their ideas and information to the newsletter, so that a vital exchange begins. Then perhaps we can dispel the silly notion that nothing much happens in Saskatchewan. We know things are happening - certainly in the field of crafts - we only have to start spreading the word.

The S.C.C. has applied to the Department of Culture and Youth for a grant to support this newsletter for the first year. If and when the money comes through, it will be possible to produce four regular newsletters (about twelve pages each) and eight monthly bulletins interspersed between them. At least initially, this flood of information will go out not only to members but to a rather extensive mailing list in the hopes of spreading the word and expanding the Council's membership. At some point in the future, the newsletter will be primarily for members only.

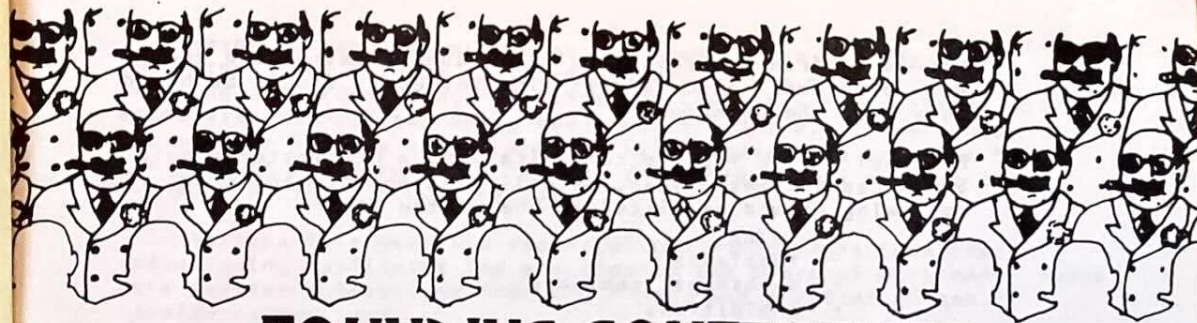
As you can see, for the first few issues this newsletter will be a vehicle for pulling together the province's craftspeople as well as transmitting timely information about all the craft and craft-related activity going on. The task will be a difficult one, and we hope everyone will bear with the producers of this worthy epistle if at times it does not seem very slick. Two foolhardy boardmembers and two hard-working S.C.C. members are doing all the work; on dining room tables, and living-room floors, doing writing, typing and graphics, plus addressing envelopes and licking stamps. (Praise be the postal strike has ended, or we'd have to figure out a way to deliver them too.)

We're hoping to have a little fun with it too, and hope you will respond to its contents in the coming months.

If you're already fixed up and enthused, here are two fun things for you to do.

1. Design a LOGO for the Saskatchewan Craft Council, a handsome, simple symbol that we can use to identify our organization on letterheads, etc. For this, the board of directors is dreaming up a nifty prize!
2. Think up a name for the newsletter, something snappy (like the FORT MUDGE MOAN, for example) Certain combinations of sounds will be gently ignored (such as "THE SASKCRAFTCHEWANIAN") (Someone's bound to think up something innovative in those few intellectually creative moments before sleep.) There may not be a prize offered for this one; all that's in it for the creator is the fame and glory.

Send your ideas to 2826 College Ave., Regina S4T 1V2



FOUNDING CONFERENCE

For those of you who weren't at the momentous founding conference in Saskatoon, we present a much abbreviated version of one and a half days of meetings.

Saturday morning began with Jim Thornsbury reporting on programmes current and upcoming with the Canadian Crafts Council, namely:

1. Complete Craft Index - list of all crafts people in Canada.
2. Specialised library - approximately 180 books are available now with a goal set for 3,000 books. These books will be available to members on free loan.
3. A world wide bibliography of craft-related books.
4. Legal and financial information assistance programme.
5. Newsletter - to be upgraded in the future.
6. National Crafts Magazine - the Publications Committee is working on the problems of funding for a high quality national magazine.
7. Contemporary Canadian Permanent Crafts Collection - the Massey Foundation has given \$10,000 to the C.C.C. to begin this collection.
8. Cultural Exchange Programme - to bring international crafts and crafts people to Canada.
9. Education Committee - data is presently being collected on post-secondary schools that offer crafts-based programmes. A list of these schools and short resume about their programmes will be compiled.
10. Exhibition of Canadian Crafts - included both Canadian and foreign craft festivals and shows, for example, C.C.C. helped organise Festival Canada in Ottawa/75, and 75 crafts people from Canada will be part of the Olympic Festival in 76.
11. Craft Book Discount Service - will make craft books available to members at discount prices. Approximately 100 books are available now.

Next the Programmes and Information Committee Report was presented by Norma Morgan. Four major proposals were made:

Proposal 1 - the executive body should set policy and give direction to programmes. To facilitate this, a full-time Director should be hired. This person would be paid and

should be free to travel, maintain communication and deal with problems. Also, a part-time secretary should be hired to assist the Director.

Proposal 2 - To improve communications a newsletter should be issued 4 times a year, as well as a monthly bulletin. The following should be listed in one or the other:

- sales
- festivals
- workshops, seminars
- exhibitions
- information exchange service, i.e. members could write with regard to questions, problems, etc.

Proposal 3 - An index of Saskatchewan crafts people should be put together and made available to the public. This index should include information on shops carrying crafts, studios, fairs, festivals and art galleries which exhibit and/or sell crafts.

Proposal 4 - the Executive Director should be responsible for organising workshops at the suggestion of members. Planning and organising done by the director should be communicated through the newsletter. Ideas for workshops and seminars:

- business problems
- tax problems
- supply co-op formation
- follow up of C.C.C. work
- individual craft workshops

Different seminars in different areas could be arranged as the need arises.

Presentation of the proposals was followed by a discussion period. There was strong support for the proposal that a full-time Director be hired. Members also agreed with the other proposals made.

One member expressed concern that the Saskatchewan Craft Council might be duplicating the services provided by an existing organisation. The following points were made in support of the formation of a Saskatchewan Craft Council:

1. A Craft council is needed to deal with such common problems as material supplies and the need for sales outlets. Group action would be more effective in finding solutions to these problems.
2. An organised body of crafts people can work more effectively with government than can individuals. For example, a S.C.C. could advise the Department of Industry and Commerce on the setting of craft standards.
3. A craft council provides the most appropriate vehicle for the recognition of crafts people as a professional group.
4. Various craft support agencies at an October 3 meeting expressed the need for a S.C.C. These agencies can provide assistance more effectively to an organised group.
5. The S.C.C. can increase public awareness of the availability of a professional level of crafts in Saskatchewan.

Wayne Morgan then presented his report from the FBy-Laws Committee. The balance of the day was spent in discussing and amending the proposed by-laws that the Committee had drafted, and ended with the by-laws being unanimously adopted. (Note: once the mail is flowing again, and our bylaws have been approved by the Provincial Secretary's Office, all members will receive their own copy of the S.C.C.'s bylaws.)

Marlene Zora gave the report of the Nominations Committee recommending candidates for election to the Board of Director. There were further nominations from the floor, and a roster of ten candidates resulted.

Voting was carried out by secret ballot on which voters listed their seven choices. The elected directors chose their own executive, and a term of office of one or two years. (The bylaws specified that four directors serve a two year term and three, a one year term, so that every annual meeting, there will be an election to replace directors.)

This is S.C.C.'s first group of directors:

Bob Dalby, chairman
Joe Oliver, treasurer
Maria Stewart
Norma Morgan, secretary
Charley Farrero, 1st Vice-chairman
Robert Roycroft
Bobbie Tyrrell, 2nd vice-chairman

The first three directors listed, agreed to serve for one-year on the board; of course, they can stand for re-election at the conclusion of this year.

(For details on the people who'll be working for you, read the section containing news from the directors.)

Discussion Sunday opened with a request from the members present to offer suggestions to the new executive regarding initial and long-range direction of the Council. It was generally agreed that priority should be given to drafting an operating budget as a guideline for applying for grants. (It was stressed that the annual operating budget would not influence or interfere with Saskatchewan Arts Board's grants to individual craftspeople.)

The benefits of an affiliate membership with C.C.C. was discussed next. Some concern was expressed that people might turn away from the S.C.C. thinking we are just an arm of the C.C.C. However, it was pointed out that provincial organisations will be completely autonomous. The C.C.C. is a national organisation with chiefly national concerns, i.e. Federal Government dealing, National events and shows, etc.

In order that we have a voice at the national level members voted that S.C.C. become an affiliate member of C.C.C.

Discussion followed on ways to promote the exhibition and sale of Saskatchewan crafts.

Before adjournment, a unanimous vote of thanks was given to the organisers of the conference.

.....and a few encouraging words from friends outside the province.....

Shortly before the Great National Postal Strike struck, S.C.C.'s Chairman, Bob Dalby received letters of congratulation for our new organisation from Orland Larsen, president of the Nova Scotia Designer Craftsmen, and from Peter Weinrich, Executive Director of the Canadian Crafts Council.

To quote from Orland's letter: "I am just concluding my second term as president of the N.S. Designer Craftsmen and it has been very time-consuming, however valuable. If there is any way I can be of help by sending you information I found useful, or that we developed here, please feel free to request it. Beginning organisations need all the help they can get. Again congratulations to all of you."

Peter Weinrich sent a copy of a constitution the C.C.C. has drafted, applicable especially to craft organisations, and mentions a "Crafts as Business" booklet that C.C.C. is preparing. "Please accept my personal congratulations which I am sure will be echoed by the Board Which leads me to say that if there is anything at all the C.C.C. can do to help--short of presenting you with a \$100,000 cheque! - I hope you will not hesitate to ask."

FREE.....

There are numerous copies of the June and August, 1975, issues of the Canadian Crafts Council newsletter, free for the asking. Contact N. Morgan, 2826 College Avenue, Regina S4T 1V2, who will mail them out as long as they last.

.....about the CRAFT QUIZ.....(which follows overleaf)

We beg your generosity with your time.....By answering as many of the following questions as apply to you, you will be paving the way to increased knowledge about Saskatchewan craft producers. We want to stress that this information is for S.C.C. eyes only, ans will help the Council draw up a more complete questionnaire when it comes time to compile a Saskatchewan Craft Index.

CRAFT QUIZ

1 NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE:

2 CRAFT: (give as many details as you think helpful.)

7 DO YOU HAVE SIDES OF YOUR WORK?

3 GENERAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

8 DO YOU (HAVE) a) employees
b) apprentices
c) work in a coop
(give details)

4 HAVE YOU STUDIED OR APPRENTICED WITH OTHER CRAFT PROFESSIONALS (give details)

9 DO YOU DEPEND ON YOUR CRAFT FOR YOUR LIVING? IF NOT - APPROXIMATELY WHAT % DOES YOUR CRAFT CONTRIBUTE? WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO WORK AT IT FULL TIME IF IT PROVIDED AN ADEQUATE INCOME?

5 WHAT KIND OF TRAINING WOULD BE BENEFICIAL?

6 HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING AT YOUR CRAFTS?

10 PLEASE LIST EXHIBITIONS AND ANY MAJOR PROJECTS.

4. CAN YOU GET DISCOUNTS ON ANY SUPPLIES? (WHERE?)

11 WHAT DO YOU SEE AS YOUR DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

13 OUTLETS: WHERE DO YOU SELL YOUR WORK:

- a) PRIVATELY
- b) FAIRS
- c) EXHIBITIONS
- d) RETAIL (STORES)
- e) OTHER:

12 MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

1. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR PRICE IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY YOUR MATERIALS?

2. WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU USE AND WHERE DO YOU GET THEM? (ADDRESSES?)

14 PLEASE LIST NAMES, AND ADDRESSES, AND COMMISSIONS TAKEN, OF ANY GOOD OUTLET THAT YOU KNOW.

3. WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS IN OBTAINING MATERIALS?

15 GIVE US ANY COMMENTS, ADVICE, OR INFORMATION THAT YOU THINK WOULD HELP.

OUTLETS AND SUPPLIES

In the interest of getting acquainted with some of the things happening roundabout, we will make brief mention in this newsletter of some of the retail outlets and craft studios in the province. In the long run, this kind of information will also be part of the above-mentioned craft index that S.C.C. aims to pull together over the coming years.

One of the objectives of the S.C.C. is to promote marketing of Saskatchewan crafts, therefore it is worthwhile to begin to take a look at what is presently available for the craft producer who is looking for markets. This is not, at this stage, an in-depth analysis, nor are we attempting, in the first newsletter, to cover all outlets.

Tumbleweed Potters and Weavers,
Transcanada Bypass,
Moose Jaw.

This is a new venture, located in a church and combining a pottery in the basement with a shop upstairs. Alive Silversides and Linda Dirkson, (potters) and Gladys Ecklund (weaver) own and run Tumbleweed. Brian Ring, formerly with Folmer Hanson in Ft. Qu'Appelle, teaches pottery. Besides selling finished local craft items, the shop carries some supplies, such as LeClerc looms and other weaving materials. Tumbleweed is looking for weavings and hangings to sell in their shop; they take a 30% commission.

Handmade House
334 2nd Ave. South,
Saskatoon. (above "Fresh Air Discovery")

Handmade House is run as a cooperative, and is going into its third year of operation. In previous years, the shop was only open from October to Christmas. This year its members hope to keep it open year-round.

Its members are: Jaon Ashenhurst (pottery and weaving); Marg Foley, (pottery); Jesse Jordan (knitting); Olive Kalapaca (pottery); Arliss MacNeill (macrame); Muriel Prior (weaving); Carol Sanderson (pottery); Gail Steck (pottery); Judy Wood (batik). They also accept "some" items on consignment; however, we do not yet know what commission is taken.

Operation Mustard Seed

1414 Rose Street,
Regina.

Operation Mustard Seed is a sheltered workshop funded by the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration, and has been in existence for three and a half years. Those working in the shop undertake such projects as furniture upholstery and carpentry.

Of more immediate interest to craftspeople is the sales outlet attached to OMS. Presently the outlet sells a wide variety of handmade items from all over the province. Betty Cole, supervisor of OMS, commented that the shop would be glad to act as a sales outlet for S.C.C. members. The only two stipulations on items offered for sale are: (1) that they be handcrafted articles, and (2) that they be made in Saskatchewan.

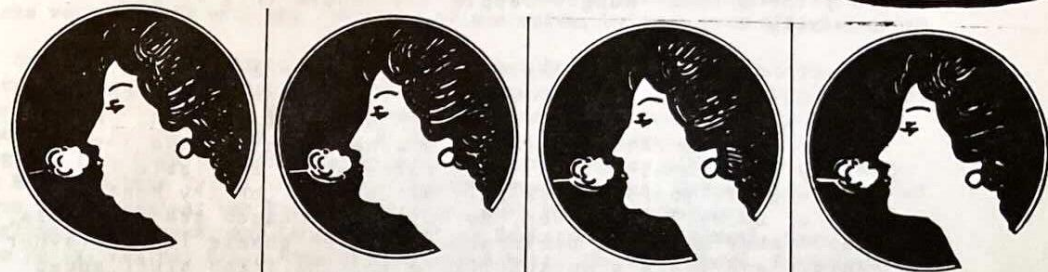
The maximum mark-up is 30%, with the exact amount being based on the quality of the item offered for sale. (And we're not exactly sure how this works.) There is no limit on the length of time work can be left in the shop and of course the craftspeople are free to pull their work out of the shop if they wish to. Craftspeople are sent a cheque at the end of each month for any work of theirs that has been sold. For more information, call Betty Cole at 522-3439. Better yet, drop in to OMS and see for yourself.

Not all sales opportunities are based in permanent retail outlets, however. The "craft festival" and the seasonal sale are two phenomena that have cropped up with regularity in Saskatchewan in the last few years. The potters and students working at the extension pottery department, University of Regina, have been holding pre-Christmas pottery sales for the last few years, with overwhelming success. The Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery's one-day Bazzart went over well this past June for its second year. Painters and craftspeople from all over the province were there. The Sun Dog Pleasure Fair is a two-day multi-media festival in Saskatoon's Centennial Auditorium, offering visual and performing arts as well as crafts. The \$1.00 admission fee to the building allows you to shop and look at fine crafts and arts, hear music day and evening, and watch theatrical and dance performances. While it is now too late for Saskatoon and area people to apply for booths (the Pleasure Fair happens December 11 and 12) the festival is still worth noting as a truly successful sales event organized by craftspeople.

There are many opportunities for display and/or sale that Saskatchewan craftspeople could be taking advantage of, and all the more reason for getting organized, at least for the sake of sharing information.

There are still other outlets that are not strictly craft-oriented, that have welcomed craftspeople to participate. Three come to mind immediately. Agribition has just concluded in Regina, and with all those sheep-raisers around, it's a good place for weavers especially to set up displays. Farmer's Markets are another recent development in several centers throughout the province, and have proved popular among consumers. The one in Regina in the later part of the summer is supportive to craftspeople, and booths can be rented for a nominal fee. Even The Bay in Regina has become a possibility. As part of its post-Christmas promotion, The Bay has provided a fair-sized space in its store for artists and craftspeople to display and/or sell their work. The details are a bit foggy at the present time; the only thing that's certain is the time period: three months beginning January 15 in the new year.

EATS



"EATS"

Yes folks, we are going to have a section on FOOD in this newsletter, for at least two reasons. The first is simple: the preparing of food is a craft, perhaps the oldest one around, and one that is a common experience, at its best or at its worst, to all of us, no matter what other craft we may pursue. The second reason is also simple (but can be laced with philosophy if you're interested). It concerns survival.

This first offering is derived from a book by American painter Ed Giobbi (Italian Family Cooking) whose involvement with cooking grew out of his "wish to survive, to nourish my health, in order to develop my art." He is referring to something more than the dictum of "eating to live" - and something other than "living to eat." He regards good, nourishing food as essential to giving him the necessary energy to paint. This is the simple version of the second reason. The philosophy creeps in when you start to wonder whether it is more than the belly being fed, and how much one's spirits are fed by the whole experience of eating.

The makings for this restorative dish are usually on hand, the recipe is easily adopted by even the vaguest memories, and can be quickly prepared.

- 1 large green pepper
- 2 tbsp. olive oil or butter
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped tomato
- 1 tbsp. fresh basil or 1 tsp. dried basil
- 6 eggs
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- grated parmesan cheese

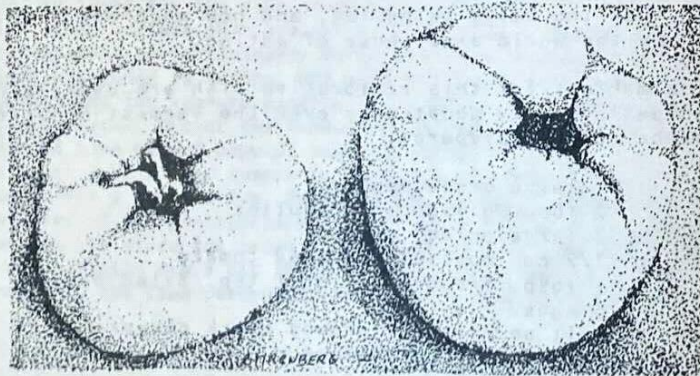
Cut pepper into 1/2 inch slices. In a skillet simmer oil, green pepper and onion for 3 to 4 minutes. Add tomato and basil. Cover and simmer over low heat until pepper is tender, about 15 minutes. Drop whole eggs into the skillet, being careful not to break yolks. Add salt and pepper to taste; cover and poach eggs over gentle heat until whites are cooked to desired doneness. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese and crusty French or Italian bread, to 3 (or 2 super hungry people can handle this if you use only 4 eggs.)

Notes: Other combinations of vegetables are possible; instead of green pepper, try zucchini, green beans, chopped broccoli, but the tomato and onion are best left in. A couple of tinned tomatoes well drained, can be used instead of the fresh one. If no fresh parmesan is available for you to grate yourself, skip it altogether (or try Monterey Jack or Colby.) Whatever, do not use packaged grated cheese, soap flakes would be preferable. Grated cheese loses flavour rapidly and there's no substitute for the fresh stuff added just before eating. (Fresh pieces of parmesan cheese can be bought in Regina at the Italian Star on Victoria Avenue.)

And yes, there is a reason why this is not a Christmas type recipe. You'll probably want something fresh, simple and wholesome as an antidote to the usual surfeit of rich things we indulge in by way of celebration.

In keeping with the idea of this newsletter, this recipe is presented as a stimulus to craftspeople to share their food, on paper, with others (and thus promote cooking as a craft in its own right.) For example, Elly Danica makes a mean cake dosed with Saskatoons and spices and Mel Bolen does something wicked with whole shrimp. Send recipes to 2826 College Avenue in Regina.

(A third reason for including this in our newsletter is - that it could be fun.)



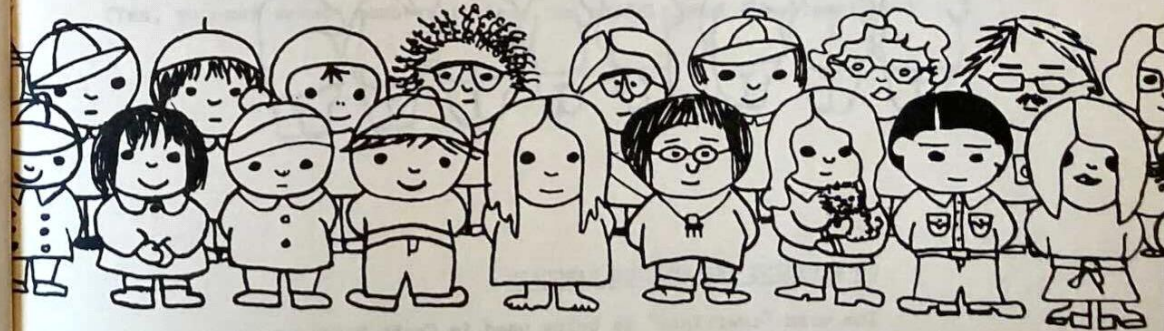
FOUNDING MEMBERS

For posterity's sake, we thought it would be stirring to here note the names of those fervoured few who entrusted five dollars to join the ranks before the ranks were blessed with the trappings of executive, bylaws, even official name:

David Miller, Saskatoon; Mel Bolen, Regina; Dorothy Doepker, Watson; Margot Lindsay, Saskatoon; Jane Evans, Saskatoon; Christel Barber, Prince Albert; Carley Farrero, Regina; Robert Oeuvrard, Regina; Robert Roycroft, Regina; Sue Samrt, Regina; Wendy Allard, Regina; Solly Buck, Regina; Wayne Pollock, Regina; Ivan Olynyk, Regina; Anne Marie Buchmann, Prince Albert; Robert Dalby, La Ronge; Bobbie Tyrell, Saskatoon; Norma Morgan, Regina; Wayne Morgan, Regina; Evan Quick, Regina; Lee Brady, Saskatoon; Ruth Welsh, Saskatoon; Marline Zora, Saskatoon; Lucretia Umholtz, Saskatoon; Jean McNeil, Craven; Pam Perry, Regina; Elsie Kowalsky, Prince Albert; Jim Thornsbury, Saskatoon; Margaret Deinceombe, Regina; Ruth Caron, Regina; Barry Lipton, Marquis; Elly Danica, Marquis; Joe Oliver, Prince Albert; Julie Everett, Harris; Karen Leitch, Regina; Walter Charabin, Regina; Marge Foley, Saskatoon; Cecilia Cote, Saskatoon; Judith Kunamen, Humboldt; Rosalie Zagorin, Regina; Emma Radfelder, Mossbank; Sharon Pulvermacher, Saskatoon; Pat Burns, Saskatoon; Sandy Ledingham, Saskatoon; Doris Tweddell, Saskatoon; Maria Stewart, Swift-Current; Helen Cooke, Saskatoon; Dick Love, Rouleau; Shirley Bracewell, Regina; Debby Turnbull, Regina; Larry Zabneski, Saskatoon; Carrie Shapiro, Saskatoon.

Fifty-three supportive souls whose names will be emblazoned forever on Saskatchewan's cultural history! The rhetoric, you realize, is offered in lieu of any concrete benefits for F.M.'s (founding members). Only the glory is theirs, plus any satisfaction gained from being in at the very beginning of what looks like it will become a Good Thing.

Since we adjourned that meeting in Saskatoon, the Saskatchewan Craft Council has gained fourteen more members. Once communications are fully restored, there will no doubt be more. (For information on obtaining membership, turn to the inside back cover.)



.....from the board of directors.....

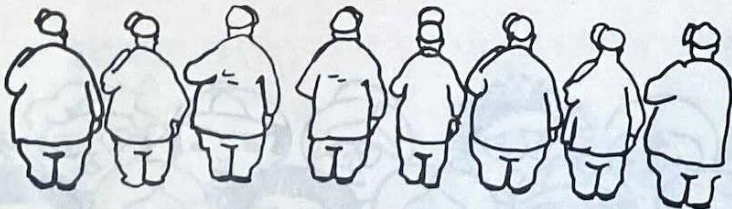
If you read all the way through the report from the founding conference you will have discovered the names of the S.S.C.'s newly elected directors. In the March issue we promise to have background information on all of them, written by themselves, for your enlightenment.

The newsletter will also strive to contain up-to-date information on board activities, especially regarding board meetings and decisions that were made concerning the fate of the S.S.C.

For instance: the first board meeting was held in Regina, November 15 and 16. Perhaps the most important item resulting from this meeting was the board's agreement to accept an invitation from the Department of Industry and Commerce to provide adjudication for the 1976 Battleford Craft Festival. The actual conditions have yet to be finalized, but you will get a complete report in the March newsletter.

The next board meeting occurs in Saskatoon January 17 and 18, and an informal get-together for Saskatchewan craftspeople is being arranged. The game plan for all board meetings, in fact, involves rotating the location to various Saskatchewan cities, and holding open meetings for local craftspeople on the same weekend. In this way it is hoped that the directors will have a chance to meet a greater number of people than they would by simply alternating meetings between Regina and Saskatoon.

Committees are currently being evolved, headed by individual directors. For example, Bobbie Tyrrell, Saskatoon, will be responsible for workshop organizing; Norma Morgan is working on the newsletter and bulletins, with technical assistance from Robert Roycroft, who will also be handling S.C.C. publicity; and Charley Farrero will be looking into problems with access to supplies--something that seems to concern craftspeople considerably.



ON REVISING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The word "craftists" is being used in Craft Horizons as an asexual term for those who make craft items.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

The S.S.C. and the Battleford Craft Festival: the complete details

Tax Tips for Craftspeople

Background Information on your Board Members

...and, of course, more "EATS"

ALSO a report from the January Board meeting in Saskatoon, a report on the logo competition, and more on supplies and outlets, plus a section containing classified ads and information exchange.

WANTED: upright, rug tapestry loom, two harness, 60" weaving width. Very sturdy (or someone who is willing to build one!) Pam Perry, 7-2105 Cornwall Regina, 527-8993

FOR SALE: 4-harness table-loom, 27" weaving width. Hand built in Craven, Sask. \$100.00-excellent condition Karen Leitch, 4-2105 Cornwall, Regina, 523-1328

Send such requests and notices to Norma Morgan, 2826 College Ave. Regina.

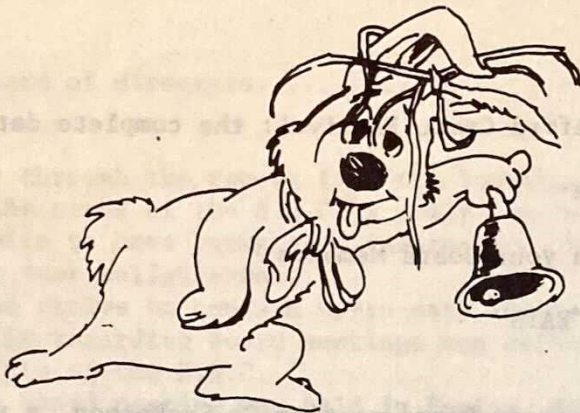
If you are interested in joining the Saskatchewan Craft Council, it's very simple. Send \$5.00 to S.S.C., c/o 2826 College Ave., Regina, S4T 1V2, and include the following information:

NAME:

ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE

CRAFT INTEREST (eg, potter, jeweller, teacher, art galleryworker, general all-purpose supporter, etc.)

You will be sent back a receipt, which you should save for Income Tax Purposes. (Yes, you may deduct membership fees for professional organizations.)



“

.....

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(WRITE YOUR OWN HOLIDAY MESSAGE ACCORDING
TO YOUR PHILOSOPHICAL PERSUASION)

GRAFT INTEREST (e.g. potter, jeweler, teacher, and galleyworker,
general all-purpose supporter, etc.)

