



## MG 339 - Jack de Jong Collection

**Dates:** 1927-1930, 1934, 1939-1942.

**Extent:** 6 diaries – 2.3 cm of textual records.

### **Biographical History:**

The primary author of these diaries is unknown; although evidence within the documents suggests the author was a married farmer and his wife's name was Annie. They likely lived in southeastern Saskatchewan. Although trips to town were relatively frequent, the town was never named; however, Sunday, 24 July 1927 included a trip to White Bear Lake; and the entry from 15 July 1929 states "Annie went to Virden" – presumably, Virden Manitoba. On Friday, 2 March 1934 [they] "went to Wawota to put on play" and in 1941, "went to Carlyle" (Monday, 10 November) – all of which strongly suggests a location in the SE part of the province. Also, his Saskatchewan Wheat Pool contract number (written on one of the diaries) was 63-237; other contract holders with numbers of the form 63-xxx had mailing addresses in Carlyle. Neighbours included the Georges, the Ingrams, the Badgeleys; but a quick search of the Saskatchewan Homestead Index did not produce any land descriptions.

Information in the diaries also suggests the man had served in the armed forces, originally in World War One. In late 1941 they rented their farm and the man joined the Veterans Guard of Canada.

### **Scope and Content:**

In terse, usually one-line descriptions, the daily work of a male farmer on a mixed farm through the Depression years are depicted. In addition to grain the couple raised both cattle and pigs; if there was also poultry this would presumably have been the purview of the woman and was not noted. Entries in a second hand are found at the back of the 1927 diary, primarily regarding quilting; and at the back of the 1939-1942 diary, noting household expenditures. At the end of 1929, the main author noted "Very poor year. Drought. Shortage of feed and water;" to which his partner appended, "All poor if you ask me???"

### **Custodial History:**

Purchased by Jack de Jong in a garage sale. Original owner/creator as yet unknown.

Title based on source of immediate acquisition.

### **Restrictions:**

There are no restrictions.

Donated to the University Archives in 2005.

Guide prepared by Cheryl Avery, 2005.

1927. – 27 February – 31 December.

Includes notations in a second hand on [guides], quilting, the flag [Union Jack].

1928. – 1 January – 31 December.

Single hand; account of farm work.

1929. – 1 January – 31 December.

Minor annotation only in second hand; account of farm work.

1930. – 1 January – 31 December.

Single hand; account of farm work.

1934. – 1 January – 31 December.

Single hand; account of farm work.

1939-1942.

1 January – 31 December 1939;

1 January – 31 December 1940;

1 January – 8 December 1941.

All in single hand; account of farm work.

At the end of the diary are several pages of "receipts and expenditures," in two hands, extending from 1939 to 1942.