



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 44, EDITION 4

SPARKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT MUSEUM



TAKING IN HISTORY AT THE WDM MOOSE JAW

CEO REPORT

Planning in a pandemic

VOLUNTEER FEATURE

Meet the Brownings

BRAINBUSTERS

Spot the differences

MUSEUM GALLERY HOURS

All WDM locations are open Wednesday - Sunday from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Wednesday - Friday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm is reserved for seniors and COVID-19 vulnerable persons.

For more information visit: wdm.ca/re-opening

BOOMTOWN CAFÉ

Boomtown Café in the WDM Saskatoon is open Wednesday - Sunday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

The Boomtown Café is now featuring:

Take and Bake Desserts

Take-out our homemade pies, cookies and cinnamon buns to enjoy whenever you like.

To order, call the Boomtown Café at 306-931-1910 EXT 326 or email boomtowncafe@wdm.ca.



“ It may look exceedingly simple, but that's the kind of place you get with most small-town cafés on the Prairies: simple, unpretentious and good value for money. ”

– *Flow Magazine*, December 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to continued concerns about COVID-19, in-person public events offered by the WDM are cancelled through December 31, 2020, with the exception of *Light Up The Village* at the WDM North Battleford, which is an outdoor drive-thru event. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



PLANNING IN A PANDEMIC

It is hard to believe it has been over six months since the world changed. The many precautions we now take to keep ourselves and those around us safe are starting to feel like normal behaviors. But this hyper vigilance is tiring and like everyone I wonder when the pandemic will end.

As the pandemic continues, planning for the future may seem like an impossible task. But that is exactly what we have been doing at the WDM. With so much of what we normally do on hold, this is the perfect opportunity to reimagine our future. To take a step back and think about the needs of our staff, volunteers, members and communities.

Does what we currently provide continue to meet your needs? Are there programs and services you wish we were providing? Are we ahead of or behind other museums and best practices in general?

One impact of the pandemic on museums in general, has been a rethinking of what museums are and the role we play in society. How do we continue to be relevant, engaging and in service to society when COVID-19 restrictions are keeping us apart?

Despite the weight of the pandemic on our psyches, I know that we have a great future ahead. We are fortunate because our WDM family is made up of talented, creative and dedicated people. Our staff, volunteers and members are what has made the WDM the great organization it is today. Collectively we are resilient and will navigate through the current storm. I know we have a great future ahead because I believe each of us can come together and create that future.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Over the coming months, you will be invited to contribute to our plans. I hope you will take this opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas along with your hopes and dreams for the WDM of the future.

Sincerely,

Joan Kanigan, CEO

IN THE GALLERIES

A WDM Moose Jaw

Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Archival Records of Library and Archives Canada
Travelling exhibit from Library and Archives Canada
Through December 6



B WDM North Battleford
Light Up The Village
Outdoor Exhibit
December 1 – January 9



C WDM Saskatoon
Eaton's Once Upon a Christmas
WDM Holiday Exhibit
November 4 – January 10

D WDM Yorkton
In A Prairie Attic: Bladon Family Toys
WDM Permanent Exhibit

#MEMORYMONDAYS

Every Monday our Facebook page (facebook.com/wdm.museum) features a historic Saskatchewan memory. Feel free to share our post or comment with your own memory.

The George Shepherd Library, located at the WDM Corporate Office in Saskatoon, contains many memories of times past. These photos, highlighting dogs on the prairies, are just a few in our Collection.



THIS C. 1935 PHOTO FEATURES J. F. MCINTOSH'S TWO PET DOGS
WDM-1973-NB-2792



SIX-YEAR-OLD BOY AND HIS DOG. ON THE BACK IS WRITTEN: TO GRANDDADDY FROM BEN. XMAS 1927
WDM-2016-S-21



THIS 1952 PHOTO SHOWS MRS. WHITEHOUSE AND HER DOG LADDIE. LOCATION UNKNOWN
WDM-2002-S-95



THIS STUDIO PHOTO, C. 1910, TAKEN IN ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND, SHOWS A WOMAN AND HER DOG POSING FOR THE CAMERA
WDM-1973-NB-2508

Prosthetic Limbs in Saskatchewan



WDM-1980-S-49.2.A-B, ROBERT WILKINSON'S PROSTHETIC ARM

Artificial limbs have been used for much of human history. The earliest known example of a prosthesis is a toe found on a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy. There are written records, such as the Rig Veda, the oldest holy book of Hinduism, dating from 3500 to 1800 BCE, which tells the story of Queen Vispala, who lost a leg in battle and had it replaced with a leg made of iron. This is believed to be the first written record of a person using a prosthetic limb.

Prosthetic technology has advanced quickly over the past few decades. The technology first started to advance with the advent of anesthesia, allowing for safer amputations. This was followed by increased understanding of germs and sterility, which increased the survival rate for amputations, leading to an increase in demand for prosthetic limbs. Injuries and amputations in conflicts like the American Civil War and the First and Second World Wars, led to an increased demand for prosthetic limbs.

In more recent times, technological advances have led to lighter and more flexible prosthetics, including the ability to open and close their hands with muscle impulses and the inclusion of computers allowing limbs to adapt to the actions of the wearer.

The WDM has some prosthetic limbs in our collection, though ours are mostly homemade. One, made of metal, is a patented Saskatchewan invention. Made in 1943 by Robert Wilkinson of Tisdale after he lost his arm due to injuries resulting from being hit by a train, Wilkinson found that no prosthesis on the market met his needs. He was a blacksmith and needed something that he could use to continue practicing his trade.

While in recovery in the hospital, Wilkinson contemplated what he needed in a prosthetic arm that would allow him to perform manual labour, and then proceeded to make his own arm. It was constructed primarily of metal and was strapped to his chest with a harness. He



WDM-1973-S-2483, JOHN MARCUS' PROSTHETIC LEG

used it for 26 years until he retired in 1970. The arm had a detachable hook at the end, which could be switched out for different sizes depending on the work he was doing.

The arm took only a few months to build but took years to patent. The patent was finally granted on March 28, 1950 and was registered in both Canada and the United States. This arm is now in storage at the WDM Corporate Office in Saskatoon.

Another example of prosthetic limbs in the WDM's collection are the pair of legs worn by John Marcus, another blacksmith. Born in Luxembourg, he immigrated to the United States and then came to Canada, settling near Eston. He broke his hip several times and eventually decided to have his leg amputated. A friend built a crutch-type wooden leg for Marcus, and then Marcus himself constructed a later version which was hinged at the knee. He was able to drive a Model T Ford with the leg.

A man who knew Marcus recalled helping out in his blacksmith shop as a child. One of his recollections was that Marcus often wore his prosthetic leg backwards, especially in the shop, as he said it provided him with more balance. Marcus lived in an old bunkhouse on the child's family's farm.

Marcus' second prosthetic leg (pictured above) is now in display at the WDM Moose Jaw in the *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibit.

We would like to thank The War Amps for providing guidance on the content of this article.

WDM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Martin, Chair – Regina
 Gwen Beitel – Spring Valley
 Susan Lamb – Saskatoon
 Tom Richards – Saskatoon
 Shauna Stanley-Seymour – Springside





SUPPORT

As a registered charity, we rely on donations to create fun, engaging educational programs that delight school groups and visitors from near and far. It allows us to create and maintain exhibits in all four of our Museums. Your gift supports the conservation and restoration of WDM artifacts that bring Saskatchewan's history to life.

VIRTUAL BOTTLE DRIVE

You can support the Western Development Museum by donating your refund from SARCAN to us through their Virtual Bottle Drive service.

Before you go to SARCAN

1. Remove all caps from your bottles.
2. Glass must be separate from cans. SARCAN will provide crates for your glass containers if needed.

SARCAN
RECYCLING
A DIVISION OF SARC



At your local SARCAN Depot's Drop & Go

1. Log in to the Western Development Museum (WDM) using our group phrase: **sk inspired**
2. Print off labels for the number of bags you would like to donate and put one label on each bag.
3. Leave your bags where designated by SARCAN.

Your deposit refund will be donated to the WDM. Thank you for your support.

Formal and Functional



This keptar, or sheepskin vest, likely originally belonged to and was worn by Partyn (also known as Carteme) Wlasichuk and was later passed down to his son George. The Wlasichuks lived in the Bukovina region of what is present-day Ukraine. In 1913 or 1914, Partyn, his wife Zanahiria, who went by Rosie, and their youngest sons Wasyl (who went by Bill), George and Steve came to Canada. George was approximately 11 years old at the time. Partyn and Zanahiria's two eldest sons Metro and John, had immigrated to Winnipeg in 1909.



WDM 2015-S-141

The family photo can likely be dated to 1909, as Steve is a baby. This portrait may have been taken to mark the occasion of the older boys leaving for Canada. The family are wearing their best clothing, they are adorned with beads and the keptar vests lend an air of formality. Men specialized in making and decorating keptar, doing their own embroidery, trims and leather work.

The Canadian Census shows that by 1921 the whole family had reunited and settled together near Veregin, in the RM of Sliding Hills. Little George grew up to work for Canadian Pacific Railway and farmed. He loved carpentry and playing cards and most of all he loved his grandchildren. George lived to 94 years old and passed two keptar vests down to his children. Both keptar vests are in storage at the WDM Corporate Office in Saskatoon.

Family Volunteer Experience



(LEFT) JORDAN, SAMANTHA, STEVEN & TRENACE
RELIVING MUSEUM DAYS AT HOME, JUNE 2020



(RIGHT) TRENACE, STEVEN, JORDAN, DICK,
SAMANTHA, RICHARD AND COLETTE BROWNING,
JUNE 2020

In 2019, over 1200 volunteers contributed their time and talent to the WDM. Our volunteers help with everything from repairing engines used for demonstrations to preparing craft supplies for events to helping deliver school programs. They are a talented bunch!

The cancellation of WDM events due to COVID-19 was a disappointment to many of our volunteers who look forward to meeting visitors and sharing their knowledge and skills at our various events. Here is the story of how one volunteer family recreated some WDM magic at home.

Ruth and Dick Browning of Loon Lake have volunteered at the WDM North Battleford since 1988. Every year, the Browning's have taken part in Museum Days, a program for students in Grades 2 - 7. Museum Days gives students the opportunity to explore the Museum while meeting volunteers who show them what life was like in a small, settler community in Saskatchewan in the 1920s. During the program, the Heritage Farm and Village comes to life with blacksmithing, seeding fields using horse-drawn equipment, rope making and more.



DICK & RUTH BROWING IN THEIR EARLY 20TH CENTURY OUTFITS WITH GRANDCHILDREN, JORDAN, TRENACE, STEVEN & SAMANTHA, JUNE 2020

It is around the farm that you will find the Browning family. Dick and Ruth, along with son Richard, daughter-in-law Colette and grandchildren, Jordan, Trenace, Samantha and Steven, all volunteer during Museum Days.

Dressed in early 20th century clothing, the family helps bring the farm to life. Ruth can often be found baking cookies in the wood-burning oven in the McLaren Family Farmhouse. Her grandchildren might be

showing other children how to wash clothes with a wash tub and scrub board. Students have learned to play marbles and spin old-fashioned tops with Dick and Richard.

The family have volunteered elsewhere in the Village too. Ruth remembers much time spent in the Schoolhouse volunteering with her children, doing demonstrations outside the Harris Family House and helping with games like sack races, nail pounding and log sawing. The Browning's made their volunteering a family affair. Ruth noted, "No wonder our kids have so many fun memories of the WDM."

The cancellation of Museum Days meant that the WDM North Battleford would not be welcoming students and volunteers for the program in June. However, the Browning's found their own way to mark the day which they shared with WDM North Battleford Programs & Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Stewart-Rahm.

Ruth wrote:

"We didn't get to volunteer at Museum Days, so that Friday (June 12) we had our own Museum Days at home. We cooked on the wood stove in our garage and ate supper outside. The kids enjoyed doing something different. They rode around on bikes and flew a kite out in the field in their old-fashioned outfits."

Ruth shared the photos you see featured in this article showing how the family celebrated their own Museum Days. What great family memories!

Our thanks to the Browning's, and to all WDM volunteers, who show their love of Saskatchewan history in so many ways.


BRAINBUSTERS

Word Puzzles


Each of the pictures below represents the name, or nickname, of a Saskatchewan place.

Can you puzzle them out?


1



2



3




4



5



6





Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol

Hidden somewhere in this issue of Sparks is a Western Red Lily like this one. This lily is Saskatchewan's official flower.

Can you find it?

Saskatchewan True or False

Which of the 5 “facts” about Saskatchewan are true and which are made-up?

1. Saskatchewan’s provincial animal is the gopher.
2. Regina’s CKCK radio was the first radio station to broadcast a hockey game live on-air.
3. Scotty the Pterodactyl was a dinosaur skeleton discovered on an old cattle trail near Eastend.
4. A Regina Girl Guide troop were the first ones to bake and sell Girl Guide cookies in Canada.
5. Lake Diefenbaker is Saskatchewan’s largest lake.

Answers on page 14

Spot the Differences

Did you know... a local Saskatoon company built a completely electric car that is used in potash mines across the world? Built in 2010, PapaBravo Innovations' prototype Gofer electric vehicle (EV) is on display at WDM Saskatoon as part of our *Fuelled by Innovation* exhibit.

Look closely to spot 5 differences between the two photos of the *Fuelled by Innovation* exhibit.



Want more activities like this? Visit wdm.ca/at-home-activities.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

In this feature we highlight one artifact from our vast collection on exhibit at each WDM location. Learn more about each artifact – from its history, to when, where and how it was used.

Centiped Log Hauler

The c. 1912 Phoenix Centiped Log Hauler on display in the WDM North Battleford was used for years in around Saskatchewan, including the Prince Albert, Big River and Carrot River areas. This engine was designed to haul incredibly heavy loads across ice roads. One engine could pull 32 sleds of logs, with each sled being loaded with as much weight as a railway car.



The WDM's log haulers may be the only ones in Canada, and there are likely fewer than 10 of these machines remaining in the world.

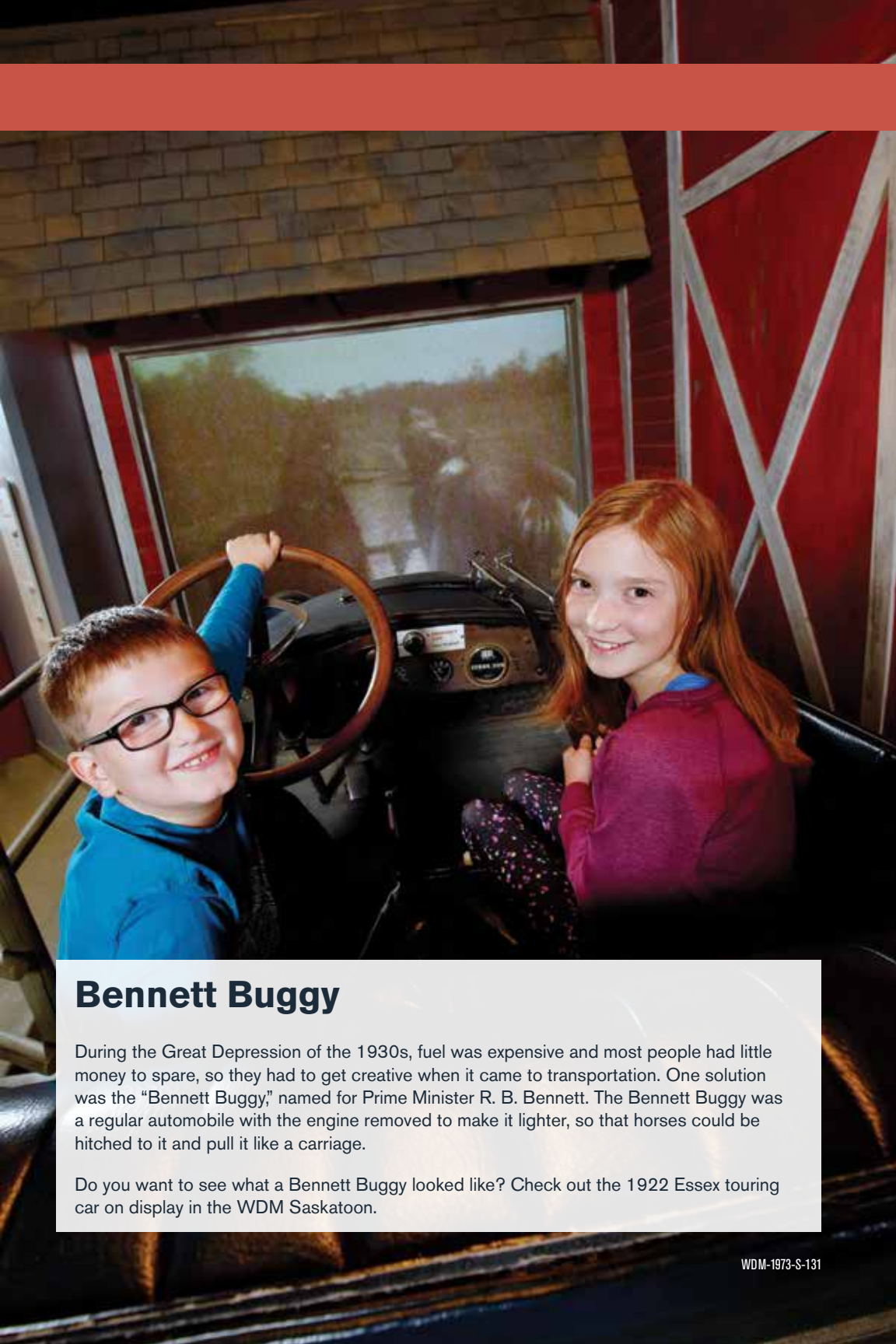


- Word Puzzles**
- 1. Glenaside
 - 2. Ituna
 - 3. Nut Mountain
 - 4. Penzance
 - 5. Smiley
 - 6. Woodrow
- Search for the Saskatchewan Symbol**
- The Western Red Lily is on page 7.
- Saskatchewan True or False**
- 1. False. Saskatchewan's provincial animal is the white-tailed deer.
 - 2. True.
 - 3. False. Scotty is a T-Rex.
 - 4. True.
 - 5. False. Saskatchewan's largest lake is Lake Athabasca.



Spot the Differences





Bennett Buggy

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, fuel was expensive and most people had little money to spare, so they had to get creative when it came to transportation. One solution was the “Bennett Buggy,” named for Prime Minister R. B. Bennett. The Bennett Buggy was a regular automobile with the engine removed to make it lighter, so that horses could be hitched to it and pull it like a carriage.

Do you want to see what a Bennett Buggy looked like? Check out the 1922 Essex touring car on display in the WDM Saskatoon.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

CF-SAM

The Norseman CF-SAM was part of the first non-military, government-operated air ambulance service in the world, the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance Service. It made emergency medical care more accessible to people in rural areas, and especially northern Saskatchewan.

The second plane purchased for the service, the CF-SAM flew its first mission on October 4, 1946 to Shaunavon. In the first year of service, the two planes flew over 250 patient missions. The Saskatchewan Air Ambulance Service continues to run today, based out of Saskatoon, providing emergency medical service to remote communities.

View CF-SAM at the WDM Moose Jaw.



WDM-1975-MJ-3



Icelandic Wedding Dress

On display at the WDM Yorkton, this Icelandic wedding dress was brought to Canada by Gudrun Bjornsson when she immigrated in 1900 with her three daughters, all under the age of 10. The dress, called a skautbuningur, is a costume that would be worn to very formal events.

Gudrun Bjornsson was born in Iceland in 1856 and was married in 1890 to Mr. Bjornsson, who later died of tapeworm, leaving his wife and three daughters to manage the farm. According to the family history, Mrs. Bjornsson was convinced by her brother that she and her daughters should immigrate to Canada with him. After she had sold all her possessions for money to make the trip, her brother changed his mind and decided to remain in Iceland. Mrs. Bjornsson had no choice but to proceed to Canada with her children. Ship manifests documenting Mrs. Bjornsson's immigration to Canada note that she traveled with a number of neighbours and relatives including her sister Margret.



WDM-1976-Y-74

FEATURE

Time Changes Everything: Calculators

Calculators are handy tools that today most people carry around in their pockets in the form of smartphones. However, there is a long history of tools to help people add and subtract, and later multiply and divide that predate any form of digital computing. The abacus is the earliest known form of a calculating device, first used in around 2000 BCE. There was little development in this technology until the 17th century CE, when the first slide rule was developed. This allowed for more advanced calculations including multiplication and division. Slide rules were commonly used until the 1980s, when digital calculators became more common.

The next step in the development of calculators came in 1820, when the first counting machine was patented in France. These machines were used until around 1915. The development of calculators using electricity began in the Second World War. The first fully electric calculator came about in 1961. After this, developments in calculating technology were more rapid, and by the 1970s and 1980s, they were similar in appearance to modern-day calculators.

Do you remember using any of these types of calculators?



THIS 1895 DESK CALCULATOR USED TWO ROTATING DISCS TO PERFORM BASIC ARITHMETIC
WDM-1973-S-10578



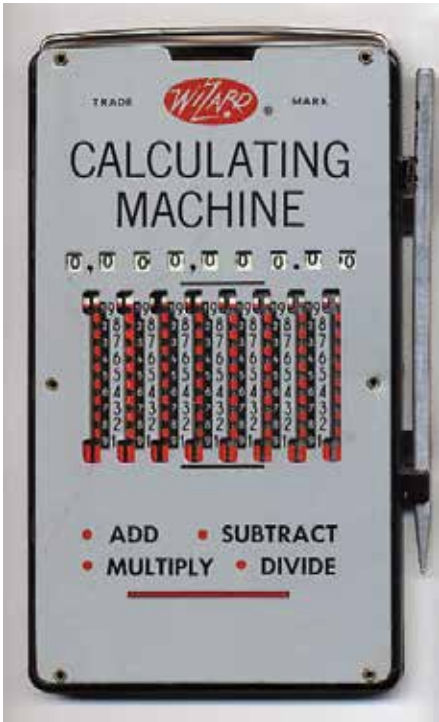
THE MEILICKE CALCULATOR FROM AROUND 1910 WAS USED TO CALCULATE INTEREST. IT PERFORMED NO CALCULATIONS ON ITS OWN BUT RATHER USED A SERIES OF TABLES TO TRACK INTEREST AND TAX RATES
WDM-1979-S-123 C



THIS ADDING MACHINE FROM 1947 USED 7 DIALS TO ADD NUMBERS
WDM-1975-NB-99

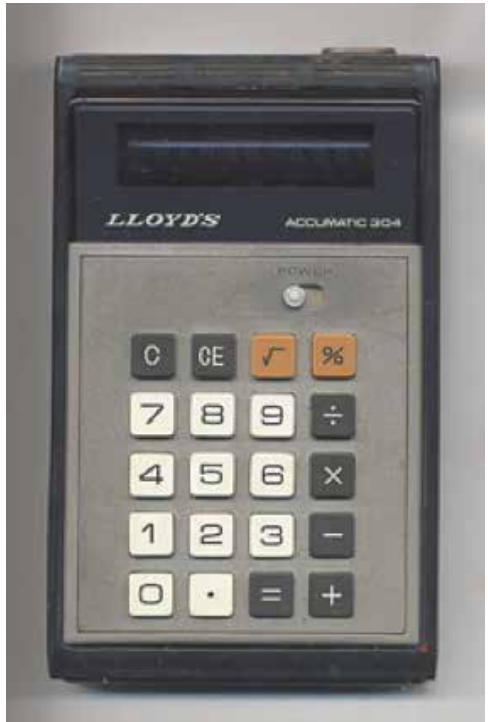


THIS 1947 SLIDE RULE ALLOWED FOR MORE COMPLEX CALCULATIONS THAN A SIMPLE ADDING MACHINE
WDM-2016-S-53



THIS "CALCULATING MACHINE" FROM 1960 COULD ADD, SUBTRACT, MULTIPLY, AND DIVIDE, BY USING A SMALL STYLUS TO CHANGE THE NUMBERS ON THE FRONT OF THE MACHINE

WDM-1988-S-18



THIS 1974 CALCULATOR WAS MORE COMPACT THAN ITS 1972 COUNTERPART
WDM-2004-S-248



BY 1972, CALCULATORS BEGAN TO LOOK SIMILAR TO THE ONES WE USE TODAY. THIS CALCULATOR RAN OFF ELECTRICITY

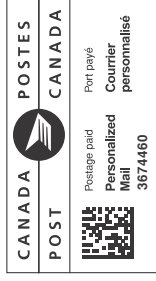
WDM-2015-S-133



BY 2010, SMARTPHONES WERE OVERTAKING THE PHONE MARKET, ALLOWING PEOPLE TO HAVE A CALCULATOR WITH THEM WHEREVER THEY WENT

WDM-2013-S-40

Western Development Museum – Corporate Office
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WDM Corporate Office

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8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday
Closed statutory holidays

Sparks Editor: Kerry Lubchenko

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HAT, BELONGED TO FRED MENDEL,
FOUNDER OF INTERCONTINENTAL PACKERS IN SASKATOON, C. 1965
WDM-2017-S-35



[WDM.CA](http://wdm.ca)



#SaskInspired