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83-15

GARRY FAIRBAIRN

JUNE 7, 1990

REVISED
NOVEMBER 2009

By ELIZABETH SEITZ

Note on Arrangement

Except for minor culling the files themselves remain intact but the general organization of the files has been altered. Three distinct subject areas have been created for ease of accessibility. Chronological order has been the general organizing principle both within subject area and for the collection as a whole.

Biography

Garry Fairbairn's journalistic career began in 1969 with the Canadian Press Organization. His first two years were spent covering stories in Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto, and for the two years following that he was stationed exclusively in Ottawa. From there he was sent to Regina from 1973-76. His work there caught enough attention that he was given an international assignment and spent two years in Washington. Not entirely happy with this post, he requested a transfer back to Canada (preferably Western Canada) and in 1978 he was assigned to the post in Calgary, which he held until 1981. Whether it was his original intention to become a business reporter/analyst or not, much if not most of his writing covered business or economics related issues.

As his career progressed people noticed his talents and he frequently garnered accolades from his colleagues. Several times he won the best story of the month contest (an internal contest in the CP organization); and even when he did not win, his name frequently appeared in the "Honourable Mention" category. His stature in the local community of journalists gave him some influence and he was instrumental in the development and incorporation of the Saskatchewan Journalist's Association and in its publications in the mid to late 1970's.

Despite his successes as a journalist, however, by 1981 he was restless and feeling a need for a change. He entered the competition to write a history for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool commemorating its sixtieth anniversary. His reputation and his proposals paid off and he was awarded the commission. In 1984 From Prairie Roots: The Remarkable Story the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool was published. This collection ends with some of the drafts of that work, which, before publication, was entitled Co-operative Empire: A History the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. The collection reveals a thorough and well organized journalist. His research is extensive and creative, and his continuing interest in journalistic ethics suggests that accuracy and fairness are important considerations in his work.

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Saskatchewan Journalists Association and its Publications

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- "The Saskatchewan Journalist" vol. 1, #4, Dec. 1975; vol. 1, #4, Feb., 1976; vol. 1, #6, April 1976; vol. 2, #1 April 1976; vol. 2, #2, July 1976; vol. 3, #2, Oct., 1976; vol. 2, #4, Dec., 1976; vol. 2, #6, April 1977; vol. 3, #1, June 1977
- "The Saskatchewan Journalist" vol. 3, #2, Aug. 1977; vol. 3, #3, Oct., 1977; vol. 3, #4, Dec., 1977; vol. 3, #5, Feb., 1978; vol. 3, #6, April 1978
- Saskatchewan Journalists Association "newsletter" Nov. 3, 1975 issue; Fall issue [1975?]; July issue [1975?]
- [Proofs/Galleys? of the "Saskatchewan Journalist"] - Nov., 3, 1975
- Saskatchewan Journalists Association - Executive minutes - 1975 - 77
- Saskatchewan Journalists Association - General Clippings [membership list, brief to special legislative committee on rules and procedures] - 1975 - 76
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Sixtieth Anniversary Commemorative History of The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool - Commissioned Work

NB--Since all the research for the history was done from 1981-83 dates in those years generally appear after each entry; the dates in square brackets refer to the contents of the files.

Administrative Considerations

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Saskatchewan Wheat Pool [letter of introduction for Garry Fairbairn to facilitate his research] - 1981

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 Lawsuits [1945] - 1981 - 82
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Box 6

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 Current News - 1982
 Charles Gibbings - 1982
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 Rapeseed - Research - 1982

Important Personalities in Wheat Pool Development

Aaron Sapiro [1923-80, ie., his initial and continuing impact on SWP] - 1981 - 82
 A.J. McPhail - general [1925-30] - 1981 - 82
 A.J. McPhail - personal [1923-32, 34, 82] 1981 - 82
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 McNay Papers D - 46[?] [c. 1922] - 1981 - 82
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 Sapiro - Milliken [reproduced documents of 1930-31] - 1981 - 82
 Broiullette L.C. (Louis) - Vice-president of Wheat Pool in 1924; some documents
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Drafts

- Original [draft] of Co-operative Empire Chaps. 1 - 4 - 1982
- Box 7 Original [draft] of Co-operative Empire, Chaps. 5 - 10 - 1982
- Saskatchewan Wheat Pool - Co-operative Empire, post Dec[ember] comments - 1981-82
- 1983 Printout--Final [draft] of Co-operative Empire : A History of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, pp. 1 - 153 - 1983
- 1983 Printout - Final [draft] of Co-operative Empire : A History of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, pp. 154 - 368 - 1983
- *NB - At some point before publication the decision was made to change the title to From Prairie Roots**
- Pix [photographs for possible inclusion in published work] - 1980 - 83
- Saskatchewan Wheat Pool - -Final consideration - production concerns before publication 1983 - 84
- **NB - The Call Number of From Prairie Roots: The Remarkable Story of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool is HD 9049W5C294. - a copy is located in this collection - Box 7.**