

scrutiny (St Denis hills, for example page 43, or cattle and hay bales in a snowy landscape, page 5) suggests the beauty he could have depicted had that been his primary intention. In addition to the photos, the book contains three thoughtful essays by well known Saskatchewan writers: Sharon Butala, Helen Marzolf and David Carpenter. A careful reading of these essays is likely to result in a deeper appreciation and understanding of Conway's art and sensibility.

Essentially, Conway shows what the prairie once was and what has since happened to it and to the dreams of thousands of farm families who immigrated to the West in the first decades of the twentieth century. His photos suggest a variety of reactions to a land that can be both inviting and cruel. Small towns are disappearing; many farm homes sit forlorn and abandoned; the larger urban centres reflect a new way of life, essen-

tially industrial and commercial, isolated from the land which nurtured aboriginals and early settlers. However, several of his pictures reveal the tenacity and spirit of the people still living in rural Saskatchewan: the remains of a bicycle mounted on a fencepost in imitation of modern art (page 13); a roadside sign: Shirl's Upholstery, standing in heavy grass. Conway's caption: "Shirl has done upholstery out of a mobile home for twenty five years."

A handsome book, reasonably priced, *Saskatchewan Uncommon Views* is a significant achievement, particularly fitting since it appeared in the province's centennial year.

J. FRANK ROY

912-606 Victoria Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J 0Z1
Canada

MISCELLANEOUS

Manly Hardy (1832-1910): The Life and Writing of a Maine Fur-buyer, Hunter, and Naturalist

By William B. Krohn. 2005. Maine Folklife Center, 5773 South Stevens Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine, USA 04469. 343 pages. \$24.95 hardcover, \$19.95 paper.

Manly Hardy documented more about Maine's wildlife during the last half of the 19th century than any other writer. He was "a keen and reliable observer ... a faithful recorder," and a "widely capable, fiercely independent, highly intelligent and positive man." Krohn demonstrates "just how dynamic Maine's natural environments were during much of the nineteenth century." This book was possible because the author had access to the documents collected by two unrelated people: Fannie Hardy Eckstorm, Hardy's first child, and the late Dr. Ralph S. Palmer. In addition, Palmer was responsible for much of the annotated bibliography which appears at the end of the book.

The first 78 pages, written by W. B. Krohn, deal with Manly Hardy's life. Hardy was a complex person with many seemingly contradictory qualities. A small and sickly child in the small town of Brewer, Maine, he became religious as an adolescent, and studied Greek and Latin in a private school taught by a minister. In his twenties he became a hunter and trapper who regularly took life for food and fur, yet he loved pets and could be sentimental about animals. When Hardy was 32, he inherited from his father the family fur business; he handled over half a million dollars worth of furs during his career, the largest fur business east of the Rocky Mountains.

When Hardy was growing up, Indians outnumbered white people in Brewer. Hardy's approach was unusually enlightened for his time; hunting and traveling with them, he learned their ways. He respected their knowledge and skills. They confided in him and he guarded their secrets.

Krohn deals mainly with Hardy's interests outside of his business. Hardy amassed a collection of over 3000 birds; he traded Passenger Pigeons from Maine to obtain some of the specimens. He wrote at least 150 articles about nature, over half of which appeared in *Forest and Stream*. Ernest Thompson Seton (some of whose delightful sketches are reproduced in this book) considered Hardy's writings to be among the most useful information in print; he quoted Hardy 72 times in his monumental, four-volume *Lives of Game Animals* (1925-1928). Ralph S. Palmer cited Hardy 21 times in *Maine Birds* (1949).

The main portion of the book, 203 pages, reproduces some of Hardy's most interesting articles, including two accounts of long winter trips in the Maine woods. The mammal articles selected by Krohn concern four species that are now extinct or nearly so in Maine, the woodland caribou, wolf, cougar and sea mink, plus others of special interest, the lynx, bobcat, fisher, moose, beaver, river otter, and porpoise. Hardy's well-written accounts are still of interest today, offering the best available comparison with what things were like more than a century ago. The final 32 pages give an annotated bibliography of Hardy's other bird and mammal vignettes. I found only one minor error, made by Hardy, who misspelled the surname of Roderick Ross MacFarlane [not MacFarland].

For those with an interest in the history of fur-bearing mammals in the days when Maine's woods were in a pristine state, this book is a treasure. It will be of nearly equal interest to residents of adjacent New Brunswick.

C. STUART HOUSTON

863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0J8
Canada