

Warden Clifton (Cliff) Millard

by Ethel Millard

Cliff was born June 1, 1921 on the family farm near Canwood, SK. He received his education at Moose Valley, Canwood, and Prince Albert Collegiate Institute. Cliff entered military service June 1941, 4th Armored Division, Royal Canadian Ordnance Corp. He received his discharge February 1946. In spring of that year, he was fired on as Tower man at Rabbit District, Prince Albert National Park. His career as Tower man was short-lived, as he was soon successful in obtaining apposition as Park Warden, and served in that capacity for 41 years, retiring in 1987 – the longest serving warden in Nation Park history. During his career, he was stationed at Boundary, Sturgeon Crossing, Waskesiu Townsite, Meridian and Crean Lake Districts.

In 1950, while still living at Boundary Cabin, Cliff married Ethel Panter, and they lived there for another 4 years. During this time, their two daughters, Joanne and Janet were born. Life as Park Warden in those years was much different than it is today. Many hours were spent patrolling their district to deter poaching of wildlife. In the 50s, logging permits were still being issued for areas within the Park, and it was the warden's job to oversee this operation. The warden travelled with a team of horses in winter and in summer by truck or horseback.

The outlying districts were quite isolated, and in winter we were often snowed-in for weeks. Schooling also presented a problem in the outlying districts. It was either home-schooling our children or boarding them away from home. When Cliff was transferred to the Meridian district in 1961, our daughters were able to live at home and travel to school by bus. Although they may have missed out on some of the things that urban children enjoy, our daughters consider themselves privileged to have grown up in the Park. Have many found memories of those days. And return for visits as often as possible.

After retirement in 1987, Cliff and Ethel resided in Prince Albert. Cliff worked as a Commissionaire for several years, and also enjoyed curling, bowling and golfing. Sadly, after some years of declining health, Cliff passed away August 8, 2004 at age 83. He loved to reminisce on his days as a warden, and could tell some interesting and often hilarious stories. He always considered his years with the Warden Service the best years of his life.



*Princess Margaret's visit to Waskesiu in 1958.
Warden Cliff Millard is on her right.*



25 year Service Award: Wardens Ed Sipes, Jack Leader, Cliff Millard



The Millards 50th anniversary celebration at the Community Hall, Waskesiu. Jan Pritchard (daughter), Cliff and Ethel Millard, Joanne Magatas (daughter).