

# Rex elevator closes down

Due to financial difficulties the CPR will be closing the Big Gully line along Hillmond, Greenstreet and Rex, leaving all three towns without elevators.

For most farmers this means 25 miles to the nearest elevator and probably a wait once they get there. An inconvenience for them and a step backwards step for the villages.

But for Rex, it's the death of a town. Only the two elevators stood as the town of Rex, and with both of them up for tender, it won't be long before only the tracks are left.

About 30 people turned out for the unloading of the last truckfull of grain Friday at Rex. Some of them had seen the town become established in 1910 with a post office, two stores, a blacksmiths shop, and stockyards. Now they came to see the end of it.

Rex, founded by William Wright, received its name because of the latin meaning, king. Since Saskatchewan already had a queen city, Regina, they found Rex a fitting name.

Although the town progressed, it did not get an elevator until 1929, which was owned by the Pool. The

first man to deliver grain to the elevator, Peter Mann brought his load with a horse team.

The next year, Reliance built an elevator, which was eventually bought out by Pioneer. In 1947, the Pioneer elevator burned down and many of the farmers helped build a new one.

Almost 24 years after that Pioneer bought out the Pool elevator and Orval Calfas became the agent of both elevators. Orval plans to farm, as a full time job instead as a sideline.

For Hillmond and

Greenstreet the loss has not been so tragic because they still have their town identity.

Fred Thompson, from Hillmond who always has hauled to the Pioneer and was an agent for six years, brought the last load of wheat to the elevator Wednesday. Helping him unload the wheat was Harold Currie the Pioneer agent.

The Pool elevator was built in 1929 and the Western elevator the next year. After 24 years Pioneer bought out the Western elevator.

Through the railway Hillmond used to get mail, ship their cattle, and ride the passenger car. The service quit being used and soon the main use of the line was grain. In 1947, the Pool shut down because it wasn't economical to stay in business. Now, because of the railway abandonment the Pioneer has also shut down.

Grain will have to be hauled to Lashburn, Lloydminster, or Marshall, the farthest distance since 1927.

Fred Thompson has his graineries within half a mile of the Hillmond elevator and now instead of making two train carloads a day, he may make two truckloads.

"I've hauled to this elevator since 1935, and it'll be a shame to see it go," Fred Thompson said.

Many of the farmers still have grain to come in, since it's only the first wheat quota but they will now have to go somewhere else.

"There's lots of grain to come in, there was an above average crop this year," Harold Currie, Pioneer agent said.

Most of the people seem displeased at the inconvenience it will cause and the backstep it will be to the community.



Unloading the last load of grain to the Pioneer elevator in Rex; William Light, left, founder of Rex, Orval Calfas, middle, last Pioneer agent, and Peter Mann, right, who delivered the first load of grain to Rex with a horse team.