Strongfield's Unknown Soldier

Strongfield, Saskatchewan is the home of one of the most unique works of art in Saskatchewan. The cenotaph of the Unknown Soldier stands proud in the school yard at Strongfield as a remembrance of the men and women who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

It was recently decided to rejuvinate the cenotaph so it may stand for generations to come. A group of interested people in Strongfield replaced the top of the concrete base with steel and completely repainted the entire statue. They are to be commended on their work. The structure is now in excellent condition. The next time you are in Strongfield pay a visit to the school and see this work of art for yourself.

Mr. Bill Lett and Mr. Gordon MacPherson veterans of World War II initiated the idea to build a memorial in remembrance of the soldiers. Both of the fathers had been overseas in World War I and this inspired the boys to go ahead with the projects.

Mr. Fred Clark, a welding instructor at Moose Jaw Technical Institute in Moose Jaw was commissioned to build the statue. Mr. Clarke's works include a statue of Winston Churchill and "The Man of Industry". The work on Strongfield's statue was completed in 1947. There are only four other statues like this in the world.

On Sunday, August 3, 1947 at the Jubilee Branch of the Canadian Legion Hall the unveiling ceremonies were held. Legion president, F.C. Wheeler conducted the ceremonies with Rev. E.A. McIlwain and Rev. Dyrud assisting with the program. There was a large crowd on hand for the dedication. A parade and a march to the cenotaph followed the program, with one minute of silence observed.

The statue is a very real reminder of the many great men and women who served Canada. It seems we sometimes forget the meaning of the prose: "In Flanders Fields the poppies blow. Between the crosses, row on row...."