



T. J. JACKSON AND HIS ORGAN

## ORGAN REVERIE

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### *Elbow man composes but can't play*

By KEN LIDDELL

ELBOW, Sask., May 2 (Staff Special).—There is little doubt that T. K. Jackson is the only bachelor in Saskatchewan with fluorescent lighting in his kitchen, and also the only one with a pump organ in his parlor which he uses in his hobby of writing songs.

In his work-a-day world Mr. Jackson is a cabinet maker and carpenter, but behind the scenes, or rather in his quarters above his shop, he is a song writer.

He also writes poetry, some of which he has had published, but he says he doesn't talk about that very much because, "well, you know how it is when a fellow writes poetry."

It was a broken back which started Mr. Jackson doing this sort of thing.

In 1940 he was working on airport construction at Mossbank when he suffered a broken back in a fall. It took him two years to recuperate and at one stage he was not sure whether he would be able to get around again, rather than feel sorry for himself he took his pen in hand and tried his hand at writing articles, poems and music. He figured he would some day earn his living that way if he did not get back to his saw and hammers.

Last year he made a trailer and left it on display on a lot. Tourists passing through Elbow were so taken with it that he made six more for people from as far as Minnesota and Vancouver.

The trailers varied from 14 to 24 feet in length and the interiors were fashioned like cupboards. When you closed the doors the trailer was converted into different rooms.

#### Songs Published

Mr. Jackson has had two of his songs published by a firm in Hollywood and he says the only trouble with what he writes is that he never hears it played, the way he thinks it should be played.

Reason for this is that while he can read music he says he doesn't know where the notes come on the keyboard, at least he can't pick them out fast enough to play his compositions.

However, when he writes something he can take his time about picking out his notes, so he sits there and pumps away on the pedals of the organ—he picked it up at a farm sale and an historic article it is, too—and picks out the notes on the keyboard.

#### Jumble to People

"When I am doing that," he said, "it is a jumble to most people. Sometimes it is to me, too."

Mr. Jackson at one time became rather fond of plunking a guitar but he gave it up when he said he found he was turning to cowboy songs, which he doesn't like unless they are of the best.

The songs Mr. Jackson has had published were "Sing Me a Song Tonight," which he described as a popular number, and "For You," which he said was something like "Because" which they always play at weddings.

#### No Problem

As it is with the hen and the egg, with song writers it is always a question of whether the lyrics or music come first, but Mr. Jackson said he isn't troubled that way because with him "it works both ways."

Big thing, he said, was to get an idea, and it may pop up at any time. He said he got the idea for "Sing Me a Song Tonight" after returning from a car ride on July 1.

In his carpenter business, which he followed at Strongfield before moving to Elbow a couple of years ago, Mr. Jackson specializes in cabinets and furniture, which is quite popular with the people hereabouts.

#### Designs Furniture

He designs furniture, too, and has designed a jackknife leaf table. When he found the hinges for the ones you buy in stores were patented, he fashioned one with two separate leaves that fold back and under without hinges.