

## **Burns Matheson - Senior Patrolman - 1931 / 36 - Field Officer - 1940 / 45**

Early in 1931 Burns Matheson took a job with the DNR as fire patrolman north of the Torch River. After his arrival in Nipawin he hired Harold DeLance to take him and his provisions north to the Torch River district with his 2-ton truck. After crossing the Torch River on the short-lived bridge at Lloyd's Crossing. The 25 mile trip from Nipawin to Bill Clarke's place east north-east of the future site of the Torch River school took them all day due to the badly rutted and exceedingly muddy roads. They spent the night with the Clarks and the next morning Gary Parker showed up with a horse-drawn buckboard to take Matheson the few miles west to his new temporary home with Kai Thorson. He and Kai were to assist the local homesteaders with their spring burning projects.

In September, 1931 Matheson filed on NE 28-53-15-W2 since he needed a place to live during the winter months. He stayed with a neighbor, Fred Carter, while he was building his cabin and log barn for his horse which he had purchased from Bill Clarke when Matheson had first arrived in the district.

While at Grassy Lake he met and courted a young lady named Edith Anderson, daughter of Zac (Jackpine) Anderson who also worked for the DNR. They were married in 1933 and in due course had a daughter, Peggy. In 1936 they made the move to Beaverhouse Tower when Matheson was promoted and became Field Officer there.

Upon Gary Parker's leaving Grassy Lake, and subsequently the DNR, Matheson replaced him as Field Officer at Grassy Lake. After his arrival at Grassy Lake he supervised the construction of the buildings at the new tower site which included a log house for the Field Officer's quarters and a log barn for the horses that were required to move about the district. Mac Howland was the radio operator while Matheson was Field Officer at Grassy Lake.

Burns Matheson ended his career in the DNR as Regional Supervisor in southern Saskatchewan. He retired in 1965 and passed away on June 28th, 1980.

*from the Torch River/Moose Run History- Marvin Torwalt*

*- see other articles by Marvin in this website*