

## Eberle farm auction has grisly twist

By Don Curran  
of The Leader-Post

PASQUA — Nothing seems unusual as the auctioneer's patter penetrates the crisp, cool November morning.

Bidder 471 buys three large wrenches for \$50, a big piece of sheet metal goes for \$22, and tools of all shapes and sizes are held up for the crowd's consideration.

It seems like any other farm auction in Saskatchewan, even if the farm is little more prosperous than many that end up on the auction block.

The auction Wednesday was at the farm of Frank and Katherine Eberle, the elderly farm couple whose violent deaths have shocked and fascinated the countryside around Pasqua.

A big combine and a bunch of tractors catch the eye of many in the baseball-capped crowd, some of them drinking coffee and munching on lemon meringue pie provided by the Pasqua Community Club.

But some of the hundreds of people milling about seem a little too curious, peering through the windows of the modest red brick home, and rummaging through boxes of knick-knacks as if looking for a clue.

Listen a little closer and you'll find much of the talk is about bodies and shallow graves, and not about air compressors and ATVs.

"It kind of gives you the creeps to know how they died," says one woman looking around a gunset but that's filled with the ordinary belongings of a household that came to a violent, extraordinary end.

Two grandsons — Kenneth Gerald Sutherland, 19, and Donald James Sutherland, 20 — are in custody facing first-degree murder charges in connection with their deaths. Donald faces one charge in

relation to Katherine's death while Kenneth faces charges in both deaths.

Many might have come to the Eberle farm auction to get a good deal on a freezer or a water pump, but others came just to see the scene of the crime.

"We were talking and we were told a lot of them were coming out of curiosity," said Andy Marcia, who came to buy an antique Studebaker truck, one of many delectable relics available including a wooden, horse-drawn wagon.

"I don't know if I can stick it out that long," Marcia said, pointing out the painstakingly slow progress of the sale.

Curiosity was the confessed motive of Regina resident Ted Bourree, who said the Eberle farm looked much like he expected it to from TV.

A veteran of the Thatcher murder trial, Bourree is hoping to attend the trials of

the accused Sutherland brothers, but is worried about the small size of the Moose Jaw court house where it will likely be held.

"It's kind of pathetic, the stories you hear," he said.

Bourree was impressed by the size of the crowd, which he estimated at over 1,000.

Over 600 "paddle cards," the numbered slips that identify bidders, had been handed out before noon.

"It's a good-time of the year; the farmers are finished their work," Bourree said.

"Many at the auction went about their business in a work-a-day way, as if oblivious to all the dark rumors that have been circulating about the farm.

"We want to thank everybody who turned out today. Actually it turned out

pretty nice," said auctioneer Jim Low. His firm, Low's Auction of Moose Jaw, was hired by the executor of the Eberle estate, Guaranty Trust Company.

Low apologized briefly for misleading descriptions of some of the goods on advertisements for the sale.

"With the circumstances we had to work with, we couldn't be awfully sure on some things," he said.

Only small moments like that broke through the casual surface, bringing up the grim events that probably lurked in most minds.

"It goes both ways," said Earl Mengel of Findlater, commenting on the mixed motives of curiosity and interest in a good bargain that brought the crowds to the Eberle farm.

"It's probably the biggest auction that's ever been around here."



Leader-Post photo by Don Healy

### Traffic slows down

City police and traffic officials report that drivers are handling barriers well at Albert Street bridge since work began on a \$1.2-million

restoration project last week. Two-lane traffic will move over the bridge in both directions until work is completed in 11 months.

### Regina out \$32,000 so far

## Province isn't giving city its money

By Gord Brock  
of The Leader-Post

The city has lost more than \$32,000 because of delayed revenue-sharing cheques from the provincial government.

And the meter is still ticking, with interest earnings to the city continuing to be lost because of provincial grant money that was expected to be in city coffers but isn't, council's finance and administration committee heard Wednesday.

The cost could more than triple if the province holds out until its March 31 fiscal year-end before coming up with the rest of the payments, according to a quick estimate by Doug Fisher, the city's senior director of corporate finance and administration.

The figures drew stern words from the committee, which voted to formally protest the problem

through letters to Premier Grant Devine and two of his cabinet ministers.

"There's a principle involved here and they're treating us — all municipalities — rather unfairly," said Coun. Joe McKeown.

Finance Minister Gary Lane and Urban Affairs Minister Jack Klein are also to receive letters of concern under an amended recommendation from the city's administration.

City Manager Bob Linner told the committee that \$9.8 million has been paid out of \$15.6 million that the Saskatchewan government owes the City of Regina in 1987 provincial revenue sharing grants.

Another \$1.9 million in grant money would already be in the city's hands by early October if the province had made the payments in the usual manner, a brief from the administration said.

As a matter of practice, the provincial government has paid out the year's revenue-sharing dollars in four equal payments ending Dec. 1, he told the committee. But there is no sign of when the last payment due for 1987 will make its way into city coffers.

No legal requirements lock the provincial government into the traditional payment schedule, meaning they could string it out until spring, Linner said.

Fisher said more concrete figures using the worst-case scenario will be prepared, showing city council exactly what it could lose in interest income. The numbers will go before council along with the executive committee's recommendation when council meets Monday, he said.

While the Saskatchewan government is off the hook legally for later-than-usual revenue-sharing pay-

ments, legislation binds the city to making such payments as the hospital and social services levy to provincial authorities by specified dates. "I don't think we've ever been late on those payments," Linner said.

Coun. Doreen Hamilton requested a report from the city's administration on just why payments to the provincial government had to be on time, but cheques for the city did not. The committee supported her request.

Hamilton also asked what city services would have to be cut because of the loss in interest revenue.

Linner said the administration has not designated programs or services to be axed as a direct result of the shortfall. But the missing income will have to be made up for somewhere in the overall civic budget, he said.

## Postal workers suspended for strike actions

Six inside postal workers in Saskatchewan have been suspended for their actions during the postal strike in October.

A 23-year-old Regina inside worker has been suspended for 10 days while five inside workers in Saskatoon have been suspended for a total of 70 days.

George Britton, secretary-treasurer of the Regina local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, said the Regina worker is now serving this suspension.

The union says the post office won't permit an appeal of any of the six suspensions because the incidents that led to them occurred during the strike.

When the inside workers went on strike, their contract ended. As a result, the contract's grievance and arbitration procedure for appealing such actions was no longer in effect during the strike.

However, Britton said the union is trying to file a grievance appealing the action of the plant manager who handed out the suspension to the Regina worker after the strike ended.

The union had its old contract reinstated by the back-to-work legislation passed by Parliament that ended the strike.

Failing this effort to appeal the suspension, the matter could be taken to the Canada Labor Relations Board.

Dave Byas, communications officer for the post office in Saskatchewan, said the Crown corporation will "accept the union's complaints at the complaint level of the grievance procedure, which is the first level in the grievance process."

Byas said no decision has been made whether to allow the complaints to continue through the grievance process and on to a hearing before a third-party arbitrator.

The suspended Regina worker was charged with mischief in connection with an incident on the picket line outside the city's main post office at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13. A tall light on a bus transporting replacement workers was broken in the in-

ferred to the Regina plant manager for further action, Britton said, but nothing has happened yet.

Two of the workers were stranded in the United States when their car broke down, he said. They telephoned the Regina post office and explained why they wouldn't be in, but the Crown corporation has refused to accept the call as justification because the workers didn't talk directly to a supervisor.

"The other (worker) thought he was still on sick leave but the post office thinks he wasn't," Britton said.

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## Tory ex-minister lands \$42,000 job

By Neil Scott  
of The Leader-Post

Former rural development minister Louis Domotor has landed a \$42,000-per-year job with the Saskatchewan Property Management Corp.

Information released in the legislature Wednesday by Graham Taylor, minister responsible for the corporation, indicates Domotor was hired in August and is employed as a classification compensation labor relations officer at a monthly salary of \$3,500.

While Domotor, who was defeated when he ran for re-election in Humboldt in last year's provincial election, is one of several defeated Conservative candidates who has received government work, Taylor denied that Domotor's chief qualifications are his political connections.

Domotor has Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees and has also taken some courses in labor relations, Taylor said.

The experience Domotor gained as a cabinet minister, as an MLA and as the assistant deputy speaker of the legislature for a period of time is also valuable, Taylor said.

Domotor is "well-qualified" for the job with the property management corporation, Taylor said.

But John Brockelbank (NDP—Saskatoon Westmount) remained skeptical. He asked in question period if Taylor could confirm that Domotor's chief qualifications are "his political connections which suit your government's desire to sanitize the civil service of all non-Tories."

Taylor said Brockelbank's suggestion is unfounded.

There were a variety of qualifications for the job in question, including experience in the personnel field, university degrees, good communications skills, good judgment and experience in dealing with regulations and legislation, Taylor said.

Domotor has those qualifications, the minister said.

While the Property Management Corporation is not technically part of the provincial government, the corporation was created earlier this year to do the jobs done in the past by the now-defunct department of supply and services.

The Domotor controversy is the



Louis Domotor

latest in a series of disputes over former Progressive Conservative cabinet ministers either directly or indirectly receiving work from the provincial government.

Other defeated cabinet ministers who have received government work are Paul Schoenhals, the chairman of the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan; Sid Dutchak, who worked under contract for a few months with the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation; Gordon Dirks, who was hired to do a study of private schools; and Tim Embury, who did consulting work on the reorganization of government.

While the NDP has frequently levelled accusations of patronage, Taylor said the NDP government in power up to 1982 was not without its own sins.

Several relatives of Murray Koskie (NDP—Quill Lakes) worked for the provincial government, Taylor said.

Domotor, who is now 44, was first elected to the legislature in 1982.

He was appointed as a Development Minister in 1983 but dropped from cabinet when Premier Grant Devine shuffled the cabinet late in 1985.

Eric Upshall of the NDP defeated Domotor in Humboldt in the Oct. 20, 1986 provincial election.

### Check that donation

The Canada Council actively is warning people to check their donations to ensure they are going to the right place.

The council says it has received reports of people donating to the wrong organization, and that some of the money has been misused.

The council is asking people to check the name of the organization they are donating to, and to ask for a receipt.

The council also says that some organizations are not registered with the council, and that their donations are not eligible for tax credits.

The council is providing a list of registered organizations, and is also providing information on how to check the status of an organization.

## Dale EISLER

There is a story that election which prettifies the Saskatchewan.

It happened to veto left his inner-city Regina constituency of the NDP.

Looking Shillingford summed up the political in one succinct comment. "The Tory approval," he said. "You vine. If you don't m.

Ultimately, that was reduced to when it came had was to access subsidies and low-interest, or accept the cy as not being good assistance to offer in.

Now, more than a the NDP still finds paralysis that, in tr since it was unceres

But the problem a the late 1970s. Back ment the party because of governing than th of Saskatchewan along the momentary with new and often challenge.

It became abundan the NDP had nothing time, grave economic from oppressiv's inter beginning to be clearly being fit on little sensitivity to the miscalculation.

Since that time, it considerably. It more complex because tend far beyond the Saskatchewan's arme battle over markets, its peak, thanks in pa 1970s in many Third corresponding battle.

By now it is an old been fuelled by subgrain-producing low lower prices at a tim to climb. In other success.

But it has also ad one that in no small vey Devine governanc in Arm River, fo

The financial pr triggered a political patchwork quilt of most blatant PC farr

## Real estate better

By Tom Blac  
of The Leader-Post

A bill passed by the Wednesday will hand the real estate elitist, secret body of large corporations, a

Anne Smart (NDI Centre) said the gov have little control ove katchewan Real Estat and the public almost it.

"It's giving more p who are already powe forcing the secrecy of and to discover the gve dicates its responsibility," Smart said.

But Doug Folk, pr Saskatchewan real estate, dismissed her co ing the new self-administration will result in better estate agents.

The bill creates th and gives it power to li late brokers and sales gate complaints about and determine their requirements.

Those functions are c ried out by the Const Department.

Five commission members elected by real estate for appointed by th cabinet.

The commission will authority to set bylaws range of matters. Howe erment's superintendent and the cabinet changes to the rules or entirely.

Consumer Affairs M Duncan said in an Wednesday that creati mission is part of the g plan to turn the day-to industries over to tector.