

703 MAIN STREET SOUTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
Many big, strong prairie boys became fine hockey players by learning their craft on the sloughs of Old Saskatchewan - including Humboldt’s Glenn Hall. Equipment was improvised or often optional. Skates, second and third hand, were passed from sibling to sibling. It was not unheard of that if there were two pairs of feet for one pair of skates, each pair of feet got one of the skates. It wasn’t fancy but it was fun.

627 7TH STREET SOUTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
The sheaf was the symbol of prosperity in Old Saskatchewan, although the lightness of the bundle denoted the very opposite some years. Stooking was itchy, back breaking work that began at dawn and finished at dusk. The entire family was involved in the harvesting process, whether in the field work that included binding and stooking or the feeding of the threshing crews with three huge meals and two big lunches each day.

616 MAIN STREET SOUTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
In Old Saskatchewan, milking was a chore for children. Usually beginning at an early age, both girls and boys would perform this task twice a day, 365 days of the year. This chore supplied milk, cream and butter. The cream was sold to the local creamery and the money served as a source of revenue for items like sugar, flour and other things that were not produced on the farm. In summer, when the boys were usually helping out in the fields the milking fell to the girls, fly season or not.

530 MAIN STREET NORTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
In the spring of their lives, she brought the gift of the feminine and he the gift of the masculine and they welded it together by trial and error, sadness and laughter into something as new as the beginning of the world. As they journeyed, their individuality became indivisible, merged into something other, something better. As they came to the winter of their lives, their roots were deep in the past of Old Saskatchewan, but their gifts will endure for generations to come.

520 MAIN STREET WEST WALL

Urban’s comments:  
Next to wheat the most important crop in Old Saskatchewan was the potato. The family could survive with a crop failure for a year or more, but were very hard pressed if the garden and the potato crop failed. In larger families, this staple was stored in the cellar and hardly a meal was served without it. Even in retirement, many pioneers counted the success of their gardens by the quality and quantity of their potato yields.

239 MAIN STREET EAST WALL

Urban’s comments:  
The grain is in the granaries, the potatoes in the bin, the fruits, berries and vegetables are preserved in sealers in the cellar and it is time to breathe a sigh of relief and give thanks for all that has been received. It was time for Thanksgiving, which was usually a celebration of the bounty that Old Saskatchewan families had received in the field, the garden, and the barnyard in the past year.

312 MAIN STREET SOUTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
One of the most difficult jobs was doing the laundry. It was a miserably cold job in winter and a hot job in summer, as the water had to be heated on the kitchen stove. The modern washer and dryer can in no way impart the delicate fresh-air scent of the sun and wind to the sheets and shirts that were enjoyed in Old Saskatchewan.

231 MAIN STREET EAST WALL

Urban’s comments:  
Though self-reliant and self-sufficient, Old Saskatchewan families were never in complete control, but subject to the whims of the weather. Blizzards, hail, drought and floods were all in the balance along with hard work, planning and prayer. An entire year’s work could be wiped out by a few minutes of violent weather. The family would pray through the storms. It was their only insurance policy. If the answer was positive, wonderful! If it was not, they would start over and pray for a better next year.

605 9TH STREET SOUTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
Everything was reused, rebuilt and recycled in Old Saskatchewan. Every home had a ball of string and brown wrapping paper kept from the store, to be used again. Old clothing was handed down, flour sacks became pillowcases, and worn sweaters were unraveled and knitted into mittens. The most useful and efficient recycling machine on the farm was the pig, which turned all manner of kitchen refuse into the most delicious bacon and hams.

638 10TH STREET NORTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
The outhouse was a standard convenience in the history of Saskatchewan, serving all farming and many village folk. There was no idle tarrying in its confines during the winter months, though in more clement seasons it could become a haven of rest and relaxation, away from all, for a moment, with a variety of reading material. The outhouse became the closest thing to a personal library for many pioneer families.

637 9TH STREET EAST WALL

Urban’s comments:  
The main fuel in Old Saskatchewan was wood harvested in the bushes that dotted the parklands. One of the main jobs of the boys of the family was to keep the wood box full and the ash pan empty. An endless need for fuel throughout the seasons kept the boys busy year-round. When a boy got older, he would be expected to go into the bush to cut the wood and haul it back to the yard and to help in the cutting, splitting and stacking of this essential resource.

632 9TH STREET NORTH WALL

Urban’s comments:  
The hot bed was an Old Saskatchewan form of today’s greenhouse, consisting of a simple box of boards and storm windows that were no longer needed on the house. Filled with manure enriched soil, it enabled the serious gardener to get a head start on the season, and they were all serious gardeners, because the produce was vital for winter and hard times when it was often the main source of food for the family.

PUBLIC ART

WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT “OLD SASKATCHEWAN” WALKING TOUR

ART BY URBAN LUKAN

A series of art throughout the downtown area, gifted to the community he loved.

Urban Lukan (1934 - 2012)



Proudly sponsored by the Humboldt Downtown Business Improvement District



This art project is the proud partnership of the **Humboldt Public Art Committee & the Humboldt Downtown Business Improvement District**

**URBAN LUKAN** had fond memories of his rural prairie childhood, growing up in Humboldt and the area. Urban was indelibly shaped by the beautiful Saskatchewan landscape, endless prairie skies, dramatic seasons, and the rhythms of his church and community life. From his earliest days, Urban always had a passion for drawing. Later in his life he joined a group of painters in the Humboldt region that met regularly and worked to capture the prairie reality. Urban was a printer by trade, working at the Humboldt Journal for 45 years, but was an artist at heart.

Urban was interested in genealogy and the history of his family in Canada and beyond. He was also dedicated to building family traditions that are fondly remembered by his children and grandchildren. One of his traditions was the publication of an annual Family Book that recorded family events, history, humour, artwork and recipes for more than 20 years. Urban loved to draw silhouettes, and noted that it was very challenging to get the message across with a minimal amount of mass and line.

We are grateful to the Lukan family for sharing these treasures with the community.

*For information on Humboldt Public Art:*  
[www.humboldtmuseum.ca/public-art](http://www.humboldtmuseum.ca/public-art)



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