



Category: 1c Notable tree

Name: Sen's spruce

Location: Ridgedale

Species: Spruce - white



History/Description:

If you were to travel on Highway 335,
Between the towns of Gronlid and Armley,
You may have noticed, way off side of the road,
Standing alone, surrounded by crops, a solitary, lonely tree.
It's been often asked and wondered aloud,
The reasons of where your origins lay.
Who planted you there, many decades ago,
To grow tall and majestic to this very day?
You seemed singled out to escape Man's travesty,
Of eradicating all trees from the land.
The dozer, the plow, giant machinery in tow,
You withstood all against ,man, with the axe in his hand.

Could it be that you are guarding some hallowed ground?
A nurtured monument of things that are past.
For that very spot might be sacred to some still alive
Or tribute to those dead, memories like shadows, only your branches can cast.
If only those branches could talk in the whispering wind,
Revealing past glimpses as a witness to scenes of some family homestead.
Mothering frolicking children around your growing trunk.
Or give cool shade to the brow of the sweat of some farmer instead.
Whatever the reasons, only you can whisper to us,
Witnessing cries of joy or hardships or laughter.
But all lives must end, to both people and trees.
Stand proudly, grand tree, proclaiming your tales 'till hereafter.

This tree remains near the site of the Old House of the Sen family. It was there in 1950s when the neighbours helped to cut hay. The old house deteriorated, and the nearby brush was dozed, but the spruce which stood a little apart, was left.

This tree is located on NE section 32, Tp47-R16-W2nd.

The poem was written by Harry Beskorovayny, and first appeared in the Rural Roots newspaper.

Nominated By: Harry Beskorovayny

Comments or additional information can be sent to: info@whitebirch.ca