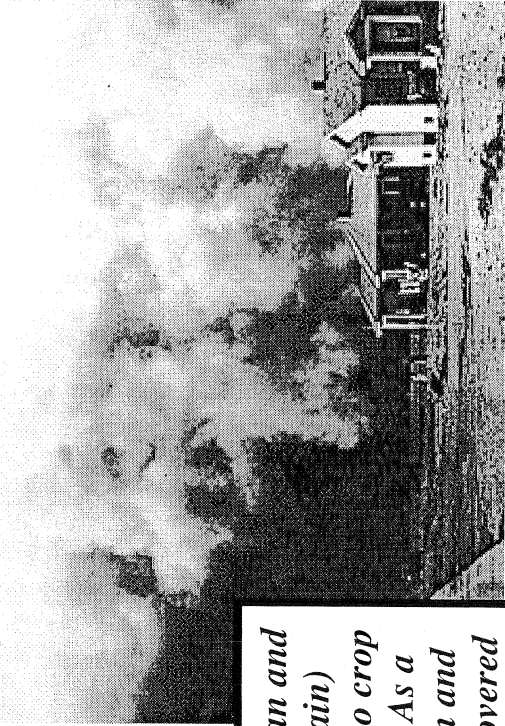
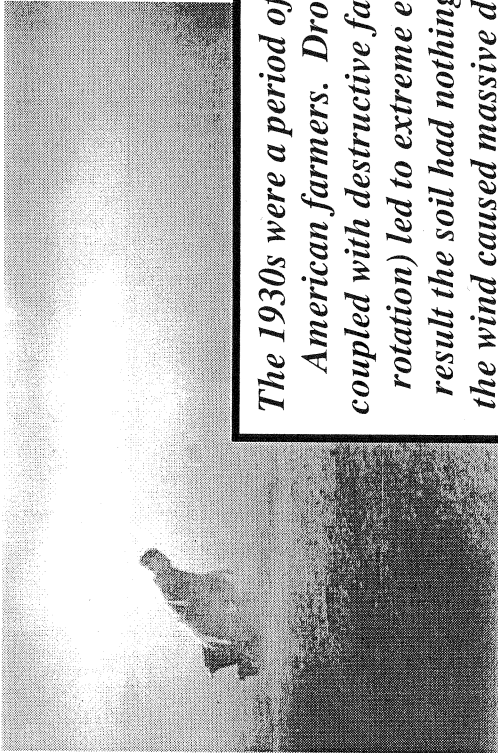
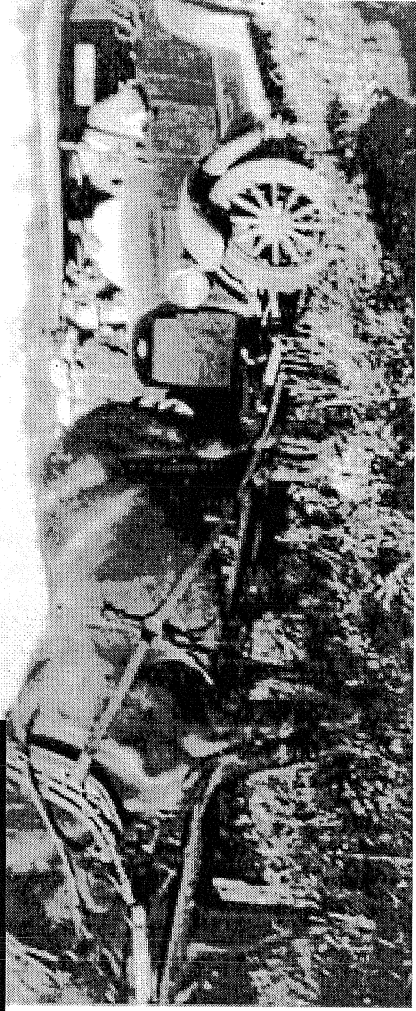
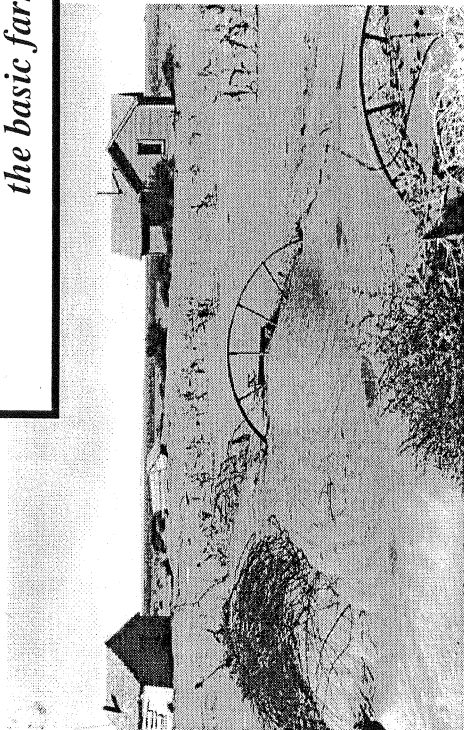


THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT DURING THE DEPRESSION



The 1930s were a period of crisis for Canadian and American farmers. Drought (little or no rain) coupled with destructive farming practices (no crop rotation) led to extreme erosion of the soil. As a result the soil had nothing to anchor it down and the wind caused massive dust storms. Soil covered everything (houses, furniture, etc.) and the farm land became useless. For this reason, the prairie region was called the 'Dust Bowl' during the Great Depression. Many farmers could not even afford the basic farm equipment.



'An Account from the Great Depression'

We were dryland farmers in the Palliser Triangle during the Dirty Thirties. Let me tell you, they sure were dirty. The wind blew all the time. It was always here, and it came from all four corners of the world. It sucked up every bit of moisture we had. When the wind picked up, the dry dust would just float away - like smoke. It was awful. Great hunks of dirt would just be blown right away. That dirt which blew off my land, that wasn't dirt. That was my land, and it was going south into Montana or north up towards Regina or east or west and it was never coming back. The land just blew away