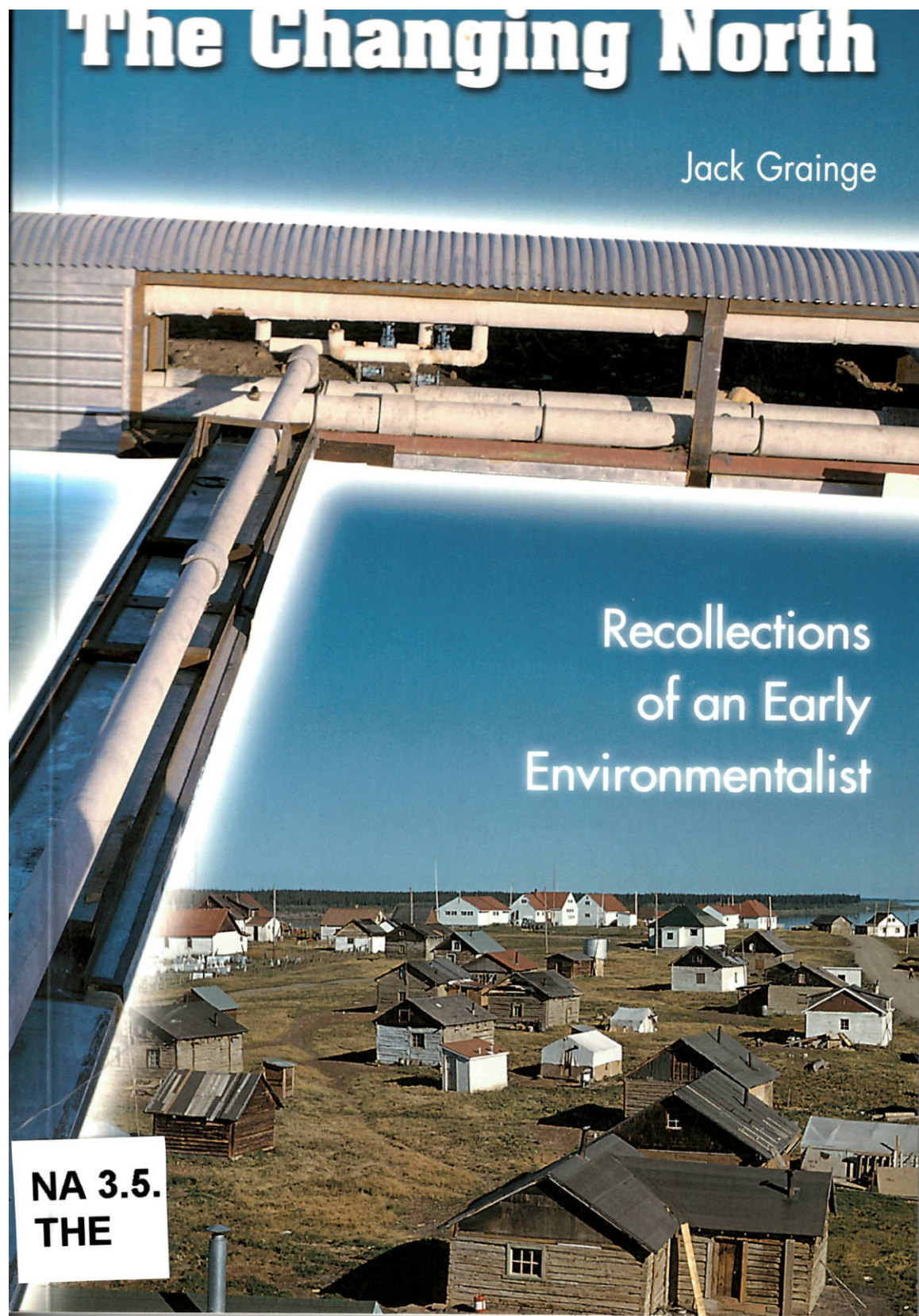


The Changing North

Jack Grainge

Recollections
of an Early
Environmental

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Unfortunately I did not keep a diary. I did not even save field notes. I left my files in the office for John Shaw, who succeeded me. After he resigned, they either became buried in old files or were trashed. Fortunately, Ev Carefoot, a retired engineer of AESL, had saved a few of my 1969 and 1970 reports. I had mailed them to him when he was making reports of his own.

I am grateful to Vern Christensen, Ron Kent and Terry Brookes, my contacts in the NWT administration, for their encouragement and advice. Also I appreciate the excellent suggestions by the reviewers of my submission to the Canadian Circumpolar Institute. In my writing, I referred to the publications Water and Sanitation Services, Northwest Territories, November 1981 and NWT Data Sheets. At the end of each community report, I listed other publications to which I have referred and the names of friends who provided information.

I am indebted to many people in the communities in the NWT, who helped me with my work, by answering my torrents of questions. The Inuit and Dene, the native people of the NWT, were always friendly and helpful. Many of them welcomed me in their homes even when we could not speak a common language. Their delightful gestures and smiles expressed their irrepressible humor. We had many hilarious moments together.

I am grateful to the "outsiders" who worked in the North. I found them to be generally dedicated. Thanks to those who helped and accommodated me.

Doctors, nurses and administrators in the DNH&W cheerfully accomplished their challenging duties. They and my own staff, made useful contributions. Elsie Stannard, my stenographer and receptionist for six years, was particularly friendly, efficient and hardworking. She still congratulates me on my birthdays.

I am indebted to many people who checked my writings. John Shaw, and Mike Pich, formerly on my staff, University of Alberta Professor Emeritus Jack Bilsland and members of his writing class to which I belong, and my wife Jess. Also my thanks to Jim Cameron, consulting engineer, Bob Milburn, who held several senior engineering positions in the Government of the NWT and the City of Yellowknife, Brian Edwards, whom I had hired to do research and later went on to direct a large research staff and Vern Christensen who reviewed the whole manuscript and offered useful guidance.

I arranged the chapters in this book beginning with Kugluktuk (Coppermine), one of the first communities. Next follow the other Arctic Coast communities, then those along the Mackenzie River and finally those further south.

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