

Footage	Subject headings
0 – 2:37	<p><b>Introduction:</b> Allan Schroter was born at the Royal Alex hospital in Edmonton 1934. His parents were William and Helen (Nellie) Schroter. Alex is his twin. He and Alex were the second youngest in the family. Dick was the youngest. Bob is now the patriarch of the family as he is 8 years older than Allan and Alex. He lived in the Big House (Bremner House) for 24 years. He left when he got married.</p>
2:38 – 7:09	<p><b>Nellie:</b> was involved in the FWUA [Farm Women’s Union of Alberta]. They held tea parties in the house every now and then. They had their meeting at the house and at other houses, the Duncans, Archie Hall’s wife, Beryl Schroter (Dad’s brother’s wife), also Clifford and Bertie’s (other brothers of William Schroter) wives. The FWUA divided Alberta in to areas and Nellie was quite prominent in the Bremner organization for a number of years. There used to be a Clover Bar organization and one at Ardrossan. Never went up towards Fort Saskatchewan. Nellie traveled around the province and must have been on the Board. Nellie entertained the FWUA in the house quite often and Helen who was taking music lessons in town would help with the entertainment. They had a grand piano in the living room. The FWUA aimed to improve life for farm women, lobbying, giving out information, current affairs, and picnics.</p>
7:10 – 12:30	<p><b>The big house</b>  <b>Interior:</b> Kitchen used to be where back door is and then they moved it in a little bit. The original stove was almost where the back entrance is. They modified the kitchen and dining and made the dining room the daily eating area. There was a door between the cooking area and the eating area. Sten changed it around. June understood that the back entrance was changed into a mudroom when coming in from the farmyard. Off to the right was the downstairs bathroom that was put in later and a place to hang your coats in the hallway. Off the downstairs bath was the den. It was never used much until Alex moved back from Drayton Valley and he moved in there. June understood that the den was a library; Allan says it was at one time. Alex moved back sometime after 1954. The little room off the kitchen was where the hired hand stayed. Allan used it as his bedroom later on. Jack and Bert may have also used it as a bedroom. Allan, Alex and Dick also slept upstairs. Allan moved downstairs, doing more milking so moved downstairs.</p>
12:31 – 17:39	<p><b>Renovations:</b> the walls and ceilings were plastered. Allan cannot remember if the original plaster was smooth or rough. He thinks they were smooth in the big living room. Allan’s parents didn’t change too much except for the downstairs bedroom where they slept. They put a doorway from their bedroom into the bathroom. Later they moved upstairs into Helen’s room (the master bedroom). Bob put in a door opposite his parent’s downstairs bedroom that led directly into the eating area of the kitchen so Nellie didn’t have to walk all the way around. June says that Nellie told her that Bob put in the doorway. “She had her desk out [in the hallway] at one time.” June and Allan discuss this doorway; June is quite certain it existed and Allan does not remember it. [In the original kitchen] there was a cloakroom area and a washer and dryer. Upstairs, a door was put in between the master bedroom and the upstairs bath, says Allan.</p>
17:40 – 22:28	<p><b>Dining room:</b> the walls above the wainscoting was just plaster, no wallpaper. Lathe and plaster behind the walls. Nellie would put her plates on the shelf that runs around the room, Christmas cards were put there. There were drawers for the cutlery. The dining room table was a big maple table. They gave it to Bob and Lois. The table seated 12 or 20</p>

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	<p>(June, Allan). Hardwood floors only, no area carpet on the floor. Upstairs, Allan says, was fir tongue and groove. Maple flooring downstairs. Nellie had quite a few rugs, deep wine ones, lovely. The third floor was the billiard room when Bremner was there but not in Allan's memory. They had dances on the third floor. Bob, Helen, Jack, Dick, Alex and Allan and school friends had a dance upstairs. Played records. Helen now has the living room carpets, 12' x 14', and smaller ones. Her mom had left them to her. Hall runners. Two carpets in the living room (Allan). The chesterfield was centred around the fireplace and bench around the windows</p>
22:29 – 23:50	<p><b>The conservatory:</b> Nellie didn't use the conservatory very much. Maybe Nellie started some plants there but if you didn't watch they would dry out so quickly (because of the heat). There were no screens on the windows.</p>
23:51 – 26:32	<p><b>Driveways:</b> "They used to drive up to the front door". June says that circular drive was not put in by Sten. Jane Ross says that the driveway running up to the front door is not there (she is wrong). Allan says that there was a lilac hedge south of the house separating the Big House from Alex's. And a big spruce tree. Also a lilac to the west. The informants are looking at a rough sketch of the yard. The lilacs south of the house got too big so Nellie cut them down but they came back up again. The driveway used to go to the barns. They locate the garage and Dick's house on the sketch. Allan says the sewer has to be close to the circular drive. There used to be a bushy area between the Range Road and the driveway, saskatoons. That has been changed. Canaries used to nest in the caraganas trees there. Also a rock garden.</p>
26:33 – 34:26	<p><b>The yard:</b> foundation plantings – the laurel leaf willow must have been cut down. Allan's mother was keen on peonies. [To the northwest of the laurel leaf willow] was a caraganas hedge that ran west to the lilacs. The laurel leaf willow was big enough that you could climb it and get onto the verandah roof. They could get out the bedroom window, down the verandah roof to the tree. June points out where Nellie had a flowerbed, full of peonies. Nellie took it out later on; it was too hard to look after. Sometime between 1930 and 1940, William and Nellie must have built the garage, the chicken shed, and the cow barn. Allan can remember the horse barn being built. Allan points out on sketch where Bremner car garage used to be. A single car garage. A workshop out from the back door. Allan points out where the various barns were located. June remembers a gas pump. Allan says his father cleaned grain in an old building at the back. It was quite old. They used to find whiskey bottles under it. Allan feels that this building was there when Bremner was there. This building was not log. It sat up "on pilings". "On the side of that big shed was a lean-to for a shed" and that's where the binder was stored. There was another workshop as well somewhere in the yard; that's where the big Rumley used to sit. The [vegetable] garden was large and was located off the kitchen door. Allan says that the garden was large enough to summer fallow. June remembers that Nellie had 4 rows of raspberries. Allan talks about playing scrub baseball on the west lawn where his mother's peonies were and "she didn't like us jumping over them." The peony garden was about 10 feet in diameter. The gas pump was next to the [Bremner] garage. Allan thinks that his parents put in the gas pump. Jim McGhan helped to build the horse barn because they had a lot of horses for the machinery. June says that afterwards the horse barn was used for Helen's horses. The chicken house had 4 rooms. "They said that the chickens brought in more money than anything else that one year."</p>

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34:27 – 34:50	<b>Livestock:</b> Leghorn laying hens. Cows were mostly Holsteins.
34:51 – 35:50	<b>Dairy operation:</b> His parents took milk into ECD and Bert used to pick up milk from different farmers and deliver the milk to Woodlands, NADP and EDC. Nellie would separate the cream, make her own butter. They shipped whole milk. Nellie would take some cream off.
35:51 - 39:30	Allan would have been six to 10 years old in the 1940s and the dairy barn was up then. In the fall, Alex, Dick and Allan looked after the milking while everyone else was busy harvesting. They did not milk by hand. They had a DeLaval milking machine. Some cows held the milk a little so had to “strip” and that was one of their jobs. [“Stripping” is squeezing the last of the milk from the cow’s teats after she had been taken off the milking machine.]The herringbone milking parlour and bulk tank was put in after Allan left. At first they had the milk running around the stanchions and later after Allan left they put in the milking parlour and did away with the pipes. Allan remembers 6 stalls in the milking parlour. The advantage was convenience and you could do everything standing. June asks how many cows were milked. Allan says the barn housed 40 cows.
39:31 – 40:00	<b>Government programs:</b> Allan does not remember his father being on any government herd improvement programme.
40:01 – 47:33	<b>Milk route:</b> Bert ran his father’s milk truck, fifteen or twenty years. Then he went to Lethbridge, Crystal Dairies. Someone took over the route “up here.” Allan says the truck had a license to haul milk. Hauled from 10 or 12 farmers. In the autumn, cows have milk “comes out their ears” and Allan remembers Bert stacking that 3-ton truck three high. The truck box was 8’ wide and 14-16 feet long. Front was triple stacked to half way back. Lots of the milk “would not go into quota, they practically give it away.” The cows came in, in October and November and we had more milking cows then to keep the quota up.” If you didn’t need those in the summertime, you dry them off and re-bred for the next year. You could have a surplus of milk “if you didn’t watch it.” You could buy quota from others and you could build up your quota. The short months when production was down in the winter, they would take the three shortest months but if you supplied enough milk you could raise your quota and you would not be over-supplying in the summertime. Allan doesn’t know how government kept up to what was happening on the farm. Allan thinks there are now too many regulations. June says it was Nellie who encouraged them to go into dairy - regular paycheque. June says that when a cow has at least one and sometimes twin calves every year it doesn’t take long to build up your herd. “Back then, you could buy quota from others or consistently ship more and build your quota up.” They didn’t start with 35 or 50 cows. Allan says that his father had around 35 milking cows and the same number of young stock. His father grew green feed for the cattle. They had hay, lots of hay land. Always fencing to do. Father had 4 quarter sections, then bought another two quarters. The creek took out quite a bit of land. You didn’t let the cows down in the creek that much because they soon ruin the bush [along the creek]. Same with horses.
47:34 – 53:20	<b>Schroter farm:</b> When his father started out, he raised pigs southwest of Bremner house, across the road from the greenhouses [Greenlands] where William built a house for Lawrence. He gave the quarter section to Lawrence. Bob now has it. When the highway was built, “they took out the old house and Lawrence’s new house.” There used to be a

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	<p>big pig barn there that was moved there from the home quarter [William Schroter's first place] further south. The house wasn't very large but there was a piano and they had singsongs with the neighbours. They had Yorkshire hogs, "the white ones." Allan does not remember any hog scams. Allan when he was going to school had to have a school programme. So he got six piglets that he raised. It was a good turnover every six month. You raise them as wieners and sell them. \$80 - \$90 a pig when you sold them. Allan used to buy some from Don Hutton, his relation [Nellie was a Hutton]. Allan does not remember any herd improvement programmes. When Lawrence married, William Schroter turned over the hog operation to him. And then William started into dairy. Later, William turned that over to Lawrence as well.</p>
53:21 – 56:10	<p><b>The Schroters:</b> June says the Schroters were extremely generous with their children. They made sure that they all had farms. He left the home place to Dick and Alex. Alex got 80, the home and south quarter and half of the west one and Maurine [and Dick] had the other, half of the main quarter and half of the other one. They helped Bob build his barn and get into dairy. They helped Allan get his half section. William was willed 80 A and bought the other 80 from his aunt Nellie. They cleared a quarter section of land with dynamite, axes, Uncle Roy, Clifford and William cleared that one quarter by hand. Used to haul the lumber up to John Schroter's place [Marina's] in the winter and in the summer saw it up for firewood. June remembers that she and Allan occasionally would have to remove a tree and get the roots out and she continues to be amazed at how they cleared a whole quarter section by hand. "You cut them down and leave them for a while. Dad would take the old Minneapolis [tractor] with the steel wheels and breaking plough and go through the [roots] like nothing and roll them out of the ground."</p>
56:11 – 59:06	<p><b>Farm machinery:</b> breaking plough, steel wheeled tractor. "Got the 48 Minneapolis new in 1948 and had the steel wheel [tractor] before that." But he used horses to haul hay. They had 8 or 10 horses in the barn, double both sides. Helen had riding horses there later. They rode horses to school to grade 6, then they took the bus to Clover Bar village. They would have to help clean the barn at the schoolyard. East and North Clover Bar schools they rode the horses. North Clover Bar school on the Bremner road [RR 225] 4 miles.</p>
59:10 – 59:30	<p><b>Farm:</b> grew barley, oats, sometime wheat and finally into canola.</p>
59:31 – 1:06:41	<p><b>Other residences:</b> Allan goes to find a photo of the horse barn. The yard has changed over time because the aerial photo from the 1950s show other residences that are not there now. Dick's house was not on Allan's photo. Jack and Pauline lived in the little white house for while. Before that a hired hand lived there. Bert and Vera lived in the small house on the west side of the property. William and Nellie went down east in 1952 or 1953 and brought back a house trailer. Discussion about the photo. Allan cannot remember what happened to Bert's house. He says that he thinks Pauline and Jack's house was moved "back to where Latam's was by East Clover Bar school." The garage was torn down and now there is a big metal shed. Allan points out where the garden used to be. June says that one year the garden would be on one side of the lane and the next year on the other side. Dick and Maurine's house was built 1958-1960. Built after Allan and June got married. The Schroters always had hired help outside and Nellie had help inside. Alex built his house 1965 – 1970. Bob and Lois lived upstairs and Alex and Joan stayed downstairs and Nellie moved upstairs [this is after William died]. Joan did not like the Big House and</p>

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	convinced her husband to build the new house. The upper two floors of the exterior of the house were cedar shakes and they used to paint them. They painted all the roofs of all the buildings red.
1:06:42 – 1:10:10	<b>Second floor:</b> Helen had the big bedroom (the Master bedroom) which Allan’s parents used later. Hardwood floor. Across the hall there is another bedroom (Bert’s room at one time). A third bedroom was across from the bathroom where a doorway was put into the MB. There is a small storage area in the hall, and a small balcony; the balcony was lined with galvanized [tin] and it would leak especially when there was snow on it.
1:10:11 – 1:10:57	<b>Third floor:</b> It was one big room. There used to be billiard tables up there. We used to go up there and sit in the windows to enjoy the view. There were no windows on the north side.
1:10:58 – 1:11:10	<b>Painting the interior:</b> Mom and Dad always painted the interior rooms.
1:11:11 – 1:12:15	<b>Chickens:</b> double decker chicken house. They sold their eggs to Woodwards one year; had a contract with them. “That’s what made it so good.” They sent in the eggs once a week into Woodwards. They had about 100 chickens in each corner, maybe 250. They had maybe 1000 chickens at one time. They cleaned the chicken house on the weekends.
1:12:16 – 1:14: 25	<b>Holidays:</b> The Schroters would take holidays to Penticton. June says that farmers who don’t have cattle and livestock have a small break between haying and harvesting. That’s when his parents could get away. Helen was at home and prepared the meals.
1:14:26 – 1:16:30	<b>Wells:</b> there was one in the cow barn. One was drilled on the east side of the house but it didn’t pan out so they drilled one on the north side of the house but it kept pumping too much sand. It didn’t pump that fast. The barn well had hard water but it was nice and cool; the cattle liked it. The well by the house had soft water. There were cisterns in the basement of the Big House next to the furnace with two pumps.
1:16:31 - 1:24:20	<b>Laundry:</b> Nellie did the laundry in the back kitchen, a washer and dryer. They backed onto the den. Allan draws a sketch of the downstairs layout. June cannot remember the house being cold in the winter but remembers it being cool in the summer due to the verandah. Allan doesn’t remember any bookshelves in the den. Used more to store the eggs because it was cooler. Where the trapdoor is leading into the basement used to be a porch at one time. And there was a window in it too. Discussion about Allan’s sketch. Lois and Bob lived upstairs for a couple of years. They hauled the lumber for Bob’s barn from Calder.
1:24:21 – 1:31:44	<b>Heating the house:</b> Used lump coal for a while and then put in a stoker that took nuggets of coal. They got their coal from Egg Lake, Black Diamond, two or three different places. Bert used to haul it and it was shoveled into the basement. Quite a big room in the basement. Allan thinks they got in 3 or 4 ton at one time. Allan didn’t think it would last a winter. The house was steam heated. A big furnace downstairs. On top a reservoir for water. One time the water got too low and cracked it. It was repaired. They had big propane tanks to heat the water for the steam heat after they stopped using coal. Maybe they switched over to natural gas when it came in. Allan hadn’t been in the house since the late 1950s. The propane was kept in a tank on the north side of the house. Looking at

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	Allan's sketch or photo. The distance between the house and the cow barn was about 300 or 400 feet. Changed the electrical wiring from the house to the barn. There was no buzzer connecting the house to the barn. It took one, one and a half hours to milk the cows and do the chores.
1:31:45 – 1:32:24	<b>4H:</b> Allan can't remember much. He thinks they had a cow or calf once year.
1:32:25 – 1:40:07	<b>Hamlet of Bremner:</b> There was a church manse on the corner, a house next to that then the store. Bertwell ran the store. He bought his chicken mash from him. There were another two houses west of there, nothing back of that because the creek was there. Harold Reynolds had the service station at the top of the hill. The manse was on RR 224 and Baseline Road there is a house on se corner is where manse used to be. It may be the same house. Allan says the manse was on Highway 21 and the church was just before the tracks. The old church was where the new Lutheran church now is. There was also a manse at Ardrossan. Allan doesn't remember the manse having lovely rock gardens. William hauled to the AWP elevator in Bremner. Fleming ran the AWP elevator. Gordon Fitch ran the UGG elevator. Allan used to haul to Griesbach. Making arrangements for a second interview.

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