

Footage	Subject headings
0 – 1:35	<b>Introduction:</b> Helen was born in 1932 in Edmonton. She lived in the Bremner/Schroter house until she married in 1958.
1:36 – 2:44	<b>Parents:</b> William was hard working and very kind hearted. He was quiet “but when he spoke it was worth listening to.” “Mom, I don’t know how she did it. She raised that whole family and she lived to 94 ½ so that’s OK”. Helen and her husband Don remember William coming in “off the dusty old combine late at night and working hard.”
2:45 – 7:43	<b>The farm:</b> Helen does not know how much land her father had. Don says William must have been interesting because he bought the farm during the Depression and then developed that milk route. Don and Helen say that John Schroter had the milk route first and William took it over. Don says that William took over the truck route after his father was killed. William was operating two businesses. He always had a lot of chickens. Helen can remember her father cleaning the eggs and selling them. Helen doesn’t know how many chickens her father had. She remembers “the big chicken house.” Don thinks that there were at least 500 chickens. William also milked thirty-five or forty cows. Don says “they were all stanchion barns at that time.” Later, Alex and Dick turned the barn into a free stall milking parlour. Don doesn’t think that William was involved in the herringbone milking parlour and that it would have been Dick and Alex. Helen and Don cannot remember when the barn burned.
7:44 – 10:52	<b>Nellie:</b> Helen says that joining the farmwomen’s organizations “was what you did. Communities got together. They did community stuff together” in the Bremner area. Helen says church was a big thing as were socials. There was always a Bremner picnic that Don thinks was sponsored by the UFA or the women’s organization. Don can remember going to a ‘junior UFA’. Helen remembers ‘a period’ that Nellie did quite a bit of traveling to different conventions; Helen does not know what years. Helen remembers that Nellie had some hired help especially when the babies were young.
10:53 – 12:24	<b>The farm:</b> Don thinks that William Schroter had the first self-propelled combine in the area. Self-propelled combines became available after WWII. Helen thinks that her family was well respected in the neighbourhood. She remembers community events being held in the Big House.
12:25 – 16:10	<b>Church:</b> Helen remembers attending Bremner United Church. The church was made of brick. Sometimes Don was janitor. It had wide steps up the front. Helen sang in the choir and they would go in the back door, down to the basement to put on their gowns. The minister had Ardrossan, Bremner, Clover Bar and Salisbury. Services were held at each of these churches every Sunday. The manse was at Clover Bar originally and then a manse was brought in to Bremner. Neither Don nor Helen remembers a manse with beautiful rock gardens. When Don was a young boy he remembers Rev. Kidd picking them up in his Model A Ford; he was en route to Bremner from the Clover Bar church. This would have been in the 1930s. The choir practiced at the Bremner manse. Helen would have been in her late teens (late 1940s).
16:11 – 16:48	<b>School:</b> Helen went to East Clover Bar school, then North Clover Bar school for Grades 7,8 and 9 and then Fort Saskatchewan for Grades 10, 11 and 12. She went to the Clover Bar schools on horseback. And were bussed for Grades 10-12.

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16:49 – 32:17	<p><b>The big house:</b> hired help slept in the bedroom off the side door. Helen thinks that her parents had made some renovations to the kitchen. Laundry was done in “the back room”. Helen says that the main floor bath and one of the bedrooms “was changed around.” The only one that was not altered was the den. The roof above always leaked. She never saw the fireplace lit in the den. There was a door from the verandah into the den. The wainscoting had a greenish stain. Neither Don nor Helen remembers either a wood or an electric stove. Her son Calvin still has one of the carpets that was in the living room. In later years, Nellie had the carpets that Helen now has in her condo. William and Nellie moved out of the Big House when Alex and Joan moved in. They moved into a small house on Highway 21. Don helped to move Alex and Joan out of Drayton Valley. Don and Helen were already married so this happened in the 1960s. Don says the kitchen was renovated by Mr. Hirsekorn who was a carpenter for Nellie. He put cupboards in along the east wall. Sten improved the windows “immensely”. Helen does not remember the house being cold except the conservatory that wasn’t heated. Nellie had ‘nice’ drapes in the living room and a grand piano sat in the bow window. Helen remembers Nellie having “beautiful” drapes, “beautiful mauve walls” and the fireplace functioning and the floors “really nice.” “The beams all showed through.” Helen remembers her mother putting a few plants in the conservatory. The den wasn’t used much; she doesn’t even remember storage in there. Nellie and William slept downstairs. Bob and Lois had a suite upstairs. They were there a couple of years. Bob and Lois were married in 1956 and Helen was “down east” then. When she was growing up in the 1930s and 1940s Helen had the master bedroom with the green fireplace. Then she went away to Toronto. When she returned she “was demoted to a little room on the east side.”</p>
32:18 – 36:00	<p><b>Helen’s studies:</b> Helen went down east in the early 1950s to study music at the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Nellie had a piano in the house. Then she sold it “and we each got one leg. Then this one [that is now in Helen and Don’s condo] came available and she helped us get that one when Helen and Don married. It was not a wedding present. It had come from John Schroter’s house Helen says that Nellie “set it up so that we could get it” for very little money. Helen was at the Conservatory for four and one-half years; the latter part there she taught for two years. Then she came home and got married. She taught here for quite a few years and then she gave up teaching but still plays the piano, “more than I ever played before.”</p>
36:01 – 36:14	<p>Helen and Don had four children, two boys and two girls.</p>
36:15 – 38:46	<p><b>The big house upstairs:</b> there was a doorway from the master bedroom into the bathroom next door. Helen does not remember going up to the third floor very much. “It was just wide open. Beautiful floor. You could see where there were lights at one time that hung down over for maybe a pool table.” Helen thinks Nellie had access blocked off. Helen thinks that the door and wall at the top of the third floor stairs was put in to block access. “You had to go through that door to get to the tin roof I told you about” [the second floor balcony above the den]. She remembers that she and a girlfriend used to climb out of the window and sit on the verandah roof and sunbathe.</p>
38:47 – 42:44	<p><b>The yard:</b> Helen remembers the laurel leaf willow and climbing on it. She remembers playing ‘anti I over’ and hide ‘n’ seek. Helen did not play with Doris because she was 10</p>

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	years older than Helen. Helen remembers the west lilac hedge "it was always there." She asks about the 'big spruce tree' in the southwest corner. Helen says that there was a lot of upkeep to the house. She remembers cleaning out the rock garden east of the driveway and alongside the east side of the house there were irises. The vegetable garden was north of the house. There was a raspberry patch. "Dad picked raspberries." Helen does not remember any fruit trees. There were no saskatoons near the vegetable garden. Helen remembers picking cranberries from a bush at Bob's.
42:45 - 44:28	<b>Changes to the yard:</b> Helen remembers Alex's white house and Dick's brown house. Bert and Vera lived in the little house alongside the road northeast of the Big House for quite a few years.
44:29 - 48:41	<b>Milk route:</b> Don thinks Bert took over the milk hauling business in the 1950s. When Northern Alberta Dairy Pool put their own trucks on the road, it put Bert out of business, says Don. Most of Bert's customers dealt with NADP. When they went from cans to bulk tanks NADP bought their own trucks and Bert went to Medicine Hat. [this is wrong; he moved to Lethbridge]. This would have been in the 1950s or 1960s. The Jacksons shipped to the NADP and the Schroters shipped to the ECD [Edmonton City Dairies]. When milk was shipped in the cans, haulers picked up for 3 dairies; the other dairy was Woodland. Don's father was Secretary of the NADP and later Don was on its Board.
48:42 - 51:25	<b>Bremner Friendship Club:</b> Helen recalls the club and the work that it did. Don says the Bremner church closed first, then Clover Bar and then Salisbury. Don has a fuzzy memory of the Bremner church being moved.
51:26 - 58:26	<b>Hamlet of Bremner:</b> was where the interchange of highways 16 and 21 is now. There was a store there, a manse, there was someone living beside the creek (Don thinks it was R.P. Ottewell). The store and the manse were right along the highway. Checkleys had a garage. Helen remembers going to the Checkley house; she was four years old when Phyllis died (1936) and she was not allowed to go to the funeral and was sent to stay with the Checkleys. Foster bought the store "right on the corner" and they lived in the manse. Bertwell built another store a bit further west of the Foster store. Bremner wasn't very big. Across the highway was the ball diamond, a red shale tennis court that had chicken wire netting around it. This was where the Red Cross held fundraiser picnics during WWII. Mrs. Kerr who lived 1 – 1 ½ miles south of the Big House raised foxes and Don's mother "won a silver fox wrap at a Red Cross picnic; it was a draw." Don remembers the clasp for the wrap was the jaw of one of the animals. Don remembers two grain elevators at Bremner, a National and an Alberta Wheat Pool. Don's father was one of the first to grow rapeseed and he hauled it to someplace in Edmonton. The grain elevators would not take it. It was not sold through the Wheat Pool.
58:27 - 1:10:23	<b>Don and Helen's farm:</b> they lived across the road from where Don was raised on highway 16 where the new Sherwood Park hospital is being built. "That's our land." "Just west of Greenland Nursery". They had a quarter section for their dairy farm on the south side of the highway, 70A on the north side where the house was. Don and Helen were into dairy farming "for quite a few years" but went into mixed grain. Helen says they switched because she didn't like the smell. "It was a steady income for a family." Don says that they had a registered Holstein herd of 60 milking cows and a total herd of 110. Don started in dairy when he was in high school. His father was looking after his wife who had

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	<p>MS and the dairy farm became Don's responsibility. The herd was registered with the Holstein Friesian Association. Don was involved in the provincial cow testing service and herd improvement programmes. Don says there were two systems, a provincial system and a federal system. ROP, Record of Production, was the federal system. It only covered registered cattle. The provincial system was set up for the grade, or commercial, cattle. It was very popular but controversial because you did your own testing, you took your own weight, you took your own butterfat tests. The ROP had an inspector who came once a month. Don started on the provincial system and then switched to the ROP. The ROP showed up on the pedigree of the cattle that you sold. It was a 3-generation pedigree – the record of the dame and the dame before that. "It was invaluable as far as buying cattle because you could look at the record of production and follow it." The provincial system wasn't policed and so there was always a problem with that. The provincial system was set up so that the farmer would have an idea what his cows were giving. When you knew that a cow was not producing you could cull it. The bulls had the same ROP. With the ROP a grader came out every year and he would grade your cattle. The grades were Excellent, Very Good, Good Plus, Poor or Fair. The grader would look at each cow, looking for certain points and that information would show up on the pedigree of the cow. Don had some bulls and sold two to some farmer in Ontario because Ontario had more registered Holsteins in one County than in all of Alberta. So, the provincial government bought a lot of cattle from Ontario. Don took cattle to Mexico City and the transport of the cattle was subsidized. They were sold there. The provincial government sponsored the train that went to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Don shipped some cattle, a cow named Julie and two bulls one of which was named Laddie, to the Fair but never "went on the train." The provincial government had a selector who went out to select the cattle that would go to the Fair. The farmer had to let the Department know he was interested in shipping to the Fair and then the selector would show up. Some of the cattle categories were: Mature Cows (three years old), Yearling Heifers (nine to fifteen months), Bred Heifers (sixteen months). They were all Halter Class that meant that the cow/bull was led by a halter. After they got out of dairy, they rented a lot of land around the refinery area [of Strathcona County]</p>
1:10:24 – 1:12:40	<p><b>Grain farming:</b> They were into grain farming at the same time as they were in to dairy because he felt they could make as much money grain farming as they did from the dairy. "We never succeeded at that." Then they bought some land at Dapp, 100 miles north, in 1984. 1400A up there. We farmed back and forth for four years then we increased the acreage up there. Their son took over the Dapp property. For several years, they drove their combines back and forth between Strathcona County and Dapp. "Now we have 10,000A there." They have incorporated, Cedarburg Farms. Their son is running the farm now.</p>
1:12:41 – 1:15:40	<p><b>Horses:</b> Helen was always interested in horses and when she was young she had a jumping horse. "Mom and Dad got me one. That's when I was still at home." She was 14-15 years old. "But when we were married we were given a little horse by relatives and the children started right here. Don says that they were interested in Arabians so they went to Belgium and Russia. They bought a Polish-Arabian that they bought in Belgium and had her shipped home. They had 4 offsprings from her. Their two girls were very interested in riding and showing as was Helen. They had an arena on the south side of the highway that burnt 2 years ago just after they sold the place. Their girls gave lessons in that arena for quite a few years.</p>

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1:15:41 - 1:16:32	<b>Sale of farm:</b> They sold the farm in the immediate area about 5 years ago. They still have more land further south.
1:16:33 – 1:17:10	Chit-chat
1:17:11 – 1:19:53	<b>4-H:</b> Neither Don nor Helen was involved in 4-H but their children were “in the horse part of it”. As with the Bremner Light Horse club, ‘light horse’ meant a riding horse. Don thinks Helen performed with her jumping horse at Northlands but Helen cannot remember it. Discussion about showing horses today.

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