

Footage	Subject headings
0 – 2:03	<p><b>Introduction:</b> Maurine was born in 1938. Joan (wife of Alex) was in Maurine’s nursing class at the Royal Alex Hospital. Joan had been chumming around with Alex since they had been in high school. Joan invited Maurine to a party at the Bremner House. The parents were away. That’s when she met Dick Schroter. This was in 1958. They were married in July 1960.</p>
2:04 – 4:33	<p><b>Dick:</b> was the youngest of the Schroter children. Doris always said that she raised Dick because Nellie was involved in the Master Farmer programme and was traveling a lot. Looking at a family photo, Nellie in the centre and she points out Dick, “the nicest looking”. She points out who is who in the photo that is of the family on the occasion of the parents’ 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.</p>
4:34 – 5:00	<p><b>Their children:</b> Brief discussion about their children Susan and Randy.</p>
5:01 – 8:20	<p><b>Their house:</b> they started building their little Muttart pre-fab house before they were married. It wasn’t completed by the time they married so they lived in the Big House for about three months until their house was finished. It was 700 sq. ft. It was brown. Looking at a photo 1964 with Dick, the dog with the house in the background. “It was exciting to have our own little house and we had it fixed up really cute.” It had two bedrooms on the main floor and they finished the basement where there was another bedroom. They lived in this house until they built a new house in 1978, eighteen years. Their new house was half a mile down the road going north. Looking at an aerial photo of their new place. The new house is much bigger than the pre-fab. It took them two years to build the new house. Maurine sold the house 8 years ago (2003).</p>
8:21 – 10:25	<p>Looking at a fairly recent photo of Bremner House: Randy refers to the second floor balcony as a patio. “Someone built it in.” Randy pulls out a painting that was done before the balcony had a roof. It is a watercolour that Maurine had an artist (no name) execute. Randy remembers playing on the balcony (patio). Maurine says that Randy remembers the house better than she does since he used to play there a lot.</p>
10:26 – 12:31	<p><b>The Bremner house kitchen:</b> Maurine remembers a little bedroom off the kitchen. Randy says it was the maid’s chambers because it was close to the back stairs. The laundry facilities were to the right. The little bedroom was used to store preserves and vegetables. Maurine does not remember the back stairs as she wasn’t in the Big House that much after they moved into their own pre-fab house.</p>
12:32 -13:37	<p>Randy remembers another house on the Bremner farm that belonged to “Uncle Jack”. Discussion about different houses on the property.</p>
13:38 – 15:43	<p><b>The kitchen:</b> Maurine and Randy say that the Zimmermans (who rented the house from Alex) made a lot of changes to the house. After Dick and Maurine began to build their new house in 1976, Alex decided he wanted to have a new house too. Alex was living in the Big House; Nellie and William “were gone by then.” Maurine says the house was rented to the Zimmermans after 1978.</p>

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15:44 – 19:50	<p><b>Renovations:</b> before the swirl plaster on the walls, the walls above the wainscoting were plain, smooth plaster. Randy remembers the hallways and wainscoting being “real dark oak.” Randy says that the wainscoting in the den was a greenish tone to go with the green tiles around the fireplace. Most of the house was “a sandstone plaster.” Randy says that the Zimmermans removed a partial wall around the top of the main staircase; “it was never open”. “It was an oak wall.” Randy says the Zimmermans removed these walls. Randy remembers this wall well because when he was playing hide ‘n’ seek in the house you could always disappear. “You go up the stairs, turn and you were gone. Nobody could see you.” Randy says there were no carpets on the floor; it was all hardwood. Maurine remembers area carpets in the living room where there was a big grand piano that Helen used to play. Randy remembers playing hide ‘n’ seek in the storage areas under the window bench in the living room. Randy remembers the beautiful double doors that led into the living room.</p>
19:52 – 21:20	<p>Maurine brings out a high school photo that shows Alex, Joan and Dick at Fort Saskatchewan. Randy is looking at an interior photo of the Big House and repeats that the house had hardwood floors. Discussion of family photos. Looking at a photo taken in the living room with William Schroter in it. Maurine says William had very little grey hair, was “a tall, good looking guy.”</p>
21:21 – 22:07	<p><b>William Schroter:</b> Maurine remembers him being very hard working. She remembers him coming back home around 8:00 o’clock at night and “he would be pitch black and she would say to him ‘You must be so tired’ and he would say “No, all I do is sit there all day.’ Maurine really liked William. He would go over to their house to visit in the yard with the kids.</p>
22:08 – 22:51	<p>Looking at more photos. Randy is looking at another photo that shows vines on the back of the house with Alex and Allan. Looking at family photos.</p>
22:52 – 23:41	<p>Randy remembers a two-piece bathroom on the main floor. Flipping through photo albums.</p>
23:42 – 23:55	<p>Maurine and Randy discuss photo of Zimmermans in the hot tub.</p>
23:56 – 24:26	<p><b>The conservatory:</b> Randy says it was all glass and was never heated. He has no memory of it being used for anything.</p>
24:27 – 26:02	<p><b>The Zimmermans:</b> Randy brings out the Alberta Report history book with the photo of the Zimmermans in the hot tub that they installed in the veranda. Maurine does not remember the hot tub. It wasn’t there when she lived there. “They put it in afterwards.” Randy says the Zimmermans put it in. They were chiropractors. “They were there in the early ‘80s” Randy thinks they were there three, four years. Randy says that for doing the renovations, they got a break on the rent.</p>

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26:03 – 26:40	<b>Third floor:</b> Randy and his cousins played roller derby “up there all the time.” “There was never anything up there.” It was one big open space. “There was no bathroom up there, nothing.” It had one little closet. “There were rings on the floor where the pool table used to sit.”
26:41 – 28:11	<b>Charlie Bremner:</b> Discussion about him. Randy says they used to talk to Bremner. “If anything weird was going on we blamed it on him.” The children knew that Bremner had committed suicide in the house and the children said that the house was haunted.
28:12 – 32:37	Maurine pulls out newspaper articles. Discussion of Bremner’s family. One is of the Nielsen family. Maurine says “Mrs. Schroter had [the living room] so beautiful with the Persian carpets and everything.” Maurine says the piano was located in the bow window. Looking at another aerial photo. Randy points out where Jack lived, “the original barn” meaning one of Bremner’s barns that Jane Ross disputes, and the old machine shop. “When Sten bought it he bulldozed it and built the other shop.” Dick and Alex built the Quonset hut. “They never did complete it. They started it.” The vegetable garden that is closer to the Big House than Jane Ross thought.
32:38 – 35:00	<b>Alex and Dick’s dairy farm:</b> Alex and Joan were not at home when Maurine and Dick married. “Mom and Dad wanted Alex and Joan to come back to the farm and run the dairy farm with Dick. They ran the dairy farm until ca. 1980 when they decided to get out of dairy and go into grain farming. They built a large addition onto the dairy barn. The two brothers were also partners in land ownership. Eventually Dick and Alex agreed to split and go their own way. “They got rid of the dairy herd and they divided up the land. So, Alex got the home place with all the buildings and everything ... and we got some land further north.” When they had the dairy farm, they milked 50 cows. Randy says the herd was over one hundred.
35:01 – 36:07	Dick died in 1986. Maurine stayed on their farm until 2003. She rented the land. “Alex farmed it for many years and now Bob farms it.” She and Randy farmed it for two years [after Dick died]. Randy was 19 at the time. “It was hard to keep up with the machinery.”
36:08 – 37:00	Looking at a photo of the Big House: discussion about the colour of the wall shingles on the exterior upper two floors. Randy does not remember the colour since vines grew on the back of the house.
37:01 – 37:29	<b>Ghosts:</b> He remembers always looking up at the upstairs window at night looking for ghosts. “Cousins didn’t help either.” Maurine says “it [the Big House] was a fun place in those years because Alex had four children and I had two.” They were all fairly close in age.
37:30 – 38:54	<b>Hired domestics:</b> Randy says that Nellie had her daughters to help in the house. Maurine says that when she was living in the brown bungalow only Alex and Joan lived in the Big House. “When Alex and Joan moved back, they moved upstairs and had a kitchenette and lived up there for quite a few years.” Randy does not remember a kitchen upstairs at all. Maurine disagrees and says, “She didn’t cook with Joan downstairs.” She does not remember Nellie (Mom) and Joan cooking together.

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38:55 – 39:12	<b>Spruce trees:</b> Randy says that Dick planted the row of spruce trees along the road.
39:13 – 42:17	<b>Wells:</b> before City water, they used well water. Randy says there was access to the well pumps via a concrete slab in the ground. Randy says that there used to be a walkway between the Big House and their brown pre-fab. “There was a big well pump sticking out of the ground ... When Sten bought it he must have taken it out.” Right in front of Jack’s house there was another well. It was a ‘culvert’ and Dick stored the potatoes and carrots in there in the wintertime. “That was the well pump for the barn.” There was also a well room in the house. Randy says City water went in 1972. Maurine says the water line from Edmonton to Fort Saskatchewan went right through their property along the railway line and they had the City water put in at the Big House and Maurine and Dick’s new house. Maurine remembers there always being problems with the water. “The water was always bad there.” High iron content. Randy says “lots of soda.” Maurine was happy when City water came through.
42:18 – 45:15	<b>Landscaping:</b> the coloured aerial photo shows the brown house surrounded by poplar bush. “We had a nice row of lilacs going up the driveway and all around the backside.” The lilac hedge on the west side of the house was huge. “You could not see through it. You could not see the field beyond.” “It was completely secluded and private.” Randy remembers the large laurel leaf willow. There was a large spruce tree at the other end of the house; it is gone now. There was a clump of very large spruce trees on the north side of the house and crab apple trees on the south side of the house.
45:16 – 45:44	By the time Maurine moved onto the property, everyone was gone including Jack. Jack moved to Ardrossan where he had a farm.
45:45 – 45:56	<b>The conservatory:</b> neither Maurine nor Randy remember anything being in the conservatory.
45:57 – 47:20	<b>Basement and kitchen:</b> Randy remembers the old coal furnace that had been converted to natural gas. He remembers the steam registers, “always whistling at night.” Randy remembers the house being cool, but not cold. “When you turned and walked in the kitchen there were cupboards on this side and a counter went along under the window.” There was “a huge cast iron sink”.
47:21 – 49:22	<b>Windows:</b> Randy remembers double hung windows with “individual pieces of glass”. The windows slid up. The screens were the full height of the window. They were wood screens that went on the outside. As a kid, Randy remembers how they would look through the small panes to see the differences between them “because they were all blurry.”
49:23 – 51:44	<b>Roof fire:</b> a new roof was put on after the fire. “Dad [Dick] had to cut a hole in the roof, the time when all the cattle died in the lightning storm.” “They had lightning rods put on the house and the barn and the power line that ran to the house. The ground cable came loose and rub against the ? The whole farm was on an artesian well so it was natural springs. So, the current from the power line to the house went through the ground into the barn while they were milking the cows and it just tickled the cows but they pulled back against the stanchions and they were starting to drop, starting to drop dead and Dad put

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	<p>his hand on the stanchion and could feel that it was electrical. So, him and Alex, they just got a shipment of those glass balls, fire extinguishers [that] take the oxygen out. They went out of the barn and they could see smoke come out of the roof of the house where the lightning rods were. The inside of the roof caught fire and they run up and got on the roof and chopped a hole in the roof and put the fire out.” Randy was very young, maybe three years of age [ca. 1970] but he remembers the story and the little glass balls. “We always had those in the barns.”</p>
51:45 – 52:11	<p>In the winter, the kids would toboggan off the roof of the barn.</p>
52:12 – 53:49	<p>Maurine remembers sharing the vegetable garden [with Joan]. Looking at more photos. Randy does not remember the chicken house but he remembers the pig barn. Maurine says she refused to have chickens if she married a farmer. Maurine does not remember “the old pig barn.”</p>
53:50 – 55:04	<p><b>Getting out of dairy farming:</b> Alex got out of dairy 1979. Maurine remembers that when she and Dick moved into their new house, Alex still had the dairy herd. She thinks that they got rid of the herd in the early ‘80s. They got out of dairy because they were tired of being tied down to milking the cows [twice a day]. There was not more money in grain farming according to Maurine. Dairy farming is a lot of work. You have to milk them twice a day, “get rid of the manure, and get hay, you got to feed the cattle, you got to roll the oats.”</p>
55:05 – 1:02:17	<p>Looking at photos dated 1910 of threshing crew, an auction on a farm, Byers coal mine. Also photos of Dick and Maurine’s new house under construction. Nellie died 1991 or 1992. Randy says that William Schroter died 1975 when they were living “in the little green house on the highway.” Randy says he was five years old when William died [1972]. Lawrence died in 1996. His name was actually William Lawrence. When Maurine and Dick first married, Dick had a little MG car, then bought a new yellow and green Impala. After their daughter was born, she stayed home for eight years and then went back to work for quite a few years.</p>
1:02:18 – 1:02:41	<p><b>Milk route:</b> Maurine remembers a milk truck. Randy remembers Grandfather John Schroter dying in an accident in a milk truck.</p>
1:02:42 – 1:04:20	<p><b>The farm:</b> Maurine says that Dick and Alex had quite a bit of rented land as well. Maurine and Randy cannot agree on how large the farm was. All the land was adjacent to each other.</p>
1:04:21 - 1:05:00	<p><b>Grain farming:</b> Dick grew canola and barley, a little wheat. They hauled to Fort Saskatchewan.</p>
1:05:01 - 1:05:50	<p><b>Hamlet of Bremner:</b> Maurine remembers the service station. One night when she was coming home from work there was a big accident on the highway and a lot of people were injured. She knew they would be heading to the Royal Alex so she turned around and went back to work. She worked in Emergency. There is nothing left of Bremner now.</p>

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1:05:51 – 1:06:31	Maurine grew up in Edmonton. She didn't want to learn how to milk cows because "a lot of these farmers like to go curling and leave their wives to do the work so I decided I wasn't going to learn." She was also working full time. Maurine says she was not considered a good farm wife because she "did not do all these things."
1:06:32 – 1:09:45	<b>Hired help:</b> they used to have the exchange students come over from Europe, a lot of Danes, Norwegian. They came for 6 months in the summer. Maurine had to feed them but they lived in a house trailer [on their own farm]. There was a Danish couple who stayed in the Big House with Joan and Alex. There was a set salary. Dick Jackson sponsored Sten. The programme "went on for years and years." Maurine had a babysitter because she was working.
1:09:46 – 1:10:40	<b>4-H:</b> Maurine says Dick was never involved. Randy did not go to 4-H either. He had a full time job on the [family] farm. "If I took a load of grain to the elevator I got a quarter. You could buy a Slurpee, a chocolate bar and 2 sticks of licorice for a quarter." "The kids had horses and ponies but were never involved in 4-H stuff."
1:10:41 – 1:13:58	<b>Wind-up:</b> After the Zimmermans left, Jon [Alex's second son] and Peggy lived in the Big House for several years. Alex had five children.