

Footage	Subject headings
0 – 6:20	<p><b>Introduction:</b> Reg Marler was born in Bremner, now part of Sherwood Park. He has lived in Bremner, Clover Bar and now Sherwood Park. He was born in the house on [his parents'] farm along with eight other siblings. There were a total of thirteen in the family. His father married Mary Radway in 1919 just after he returned from WWII. The Marlers had a number of quarter sections ca. 1916 but didn't get the land until 1921. Reg's father, Roy, farmed independently after he married in 1919. He bought NE 23-53-23 W4 from a man named Quebec (sp?). He might have got the land through the Soldier Settlement Scheme.</p>
6:21- 9:08	<p><b>Father's farm:</b> Reg was born in 1927. He is the fifth eldest in the family. When Roy first started out he had a log barn for the animals, another log barn where he crushed the chop and another that served as a blacksmith shop/workshop. It had a big door so you could drive a car inside. Reg thinks that his father might have had a Model T car fairly early "as he was fairly aggressive that way". He thinks that if his father had a good crop he could buy the car outright "because they didn't have all the taxes that we have now." His father grew grain. People relied on cream quite a bit because "that is where they made their cash" and he went right from there into shipping milk. In 1929/30 he built a barn 36' x 60' where he could put in twenty-six dairy cows.</p>
9:09 – 12:05	<p><b>NADP:</b> About the same time, Roy Marler and about seven other farmers started the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool. He was one of the first shipper [of milk/cream] with the NADP. His can was #4. At first the hauler who lived to the south hauled the milk with a team or a sleigh. Then Bill Schroter started up with a 1929 International truck. Roy Marler then shipped with him. Schroter delivered milk to the NADP and the Edmonton City Dairy. They painted the top part of the can. The Dairy Pool painted it blue. The ECD didn't paint the cans. The farmers had to have a double set of milk cans; when one set of cans was sent to the dairy, the second set was then used. When the hauler came in the morning he would drop off the empty cans from the creamery. Most of the steam cleaning of the cans was done at the dairy.</p>
12:06 – 16:27	<p><b>Dairy barn:</b> was built in 1930 at the onset of the Depression. He hauled all the gravel for it in a one-ton International 1929 truck from Jenkins' down by the river. They loaded it by hand and hauled it and emptied it by hand. The concrete was good. Reg does not remember having any trouble with the concrete in the barn. [In contrast] the farm that Reg had, the barn was built in 1900-03-05 and they [the builders of the barn] used very little concrete and the cows would break through and then you had to go in and clean it out and pour more concrete [to fill the holes]. Reg feels that his father was a better manager than many farmers. Roy Marler always had good hired hands. He always said that "it wasn't what they did but what they [the hired help] allowed you to do." The layout in the dairy barn was the standard type, two rows of cows back to back across an aisle with gutters behind them. It was thirteen in a row. He [Roy Marler] put a water tank in the south end of the barn. He would let three cows drink at a time and they didn't have to take the cows outside to get a drink. The cows were outside all summer. The barn was unheated. Often cows get too hot and you have to leave the doors or vents open. You do have to heat the milk house. Their milk shed was on the southwest corner of the barn. They had a pump outside that would feed the tank inside the barn as well as the stock tank outside and into the barn. They had young stock outside. The pump ran on a 1½ h.p.</p>

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	<p>John Deere engine. Roy Marler had power but it was just for lights. They had a generator in the basement of the house with a shelf of batteries. Sometimes the light was so dull you could hardly see and someone would have to go down to start the generator. It was a nuisance.</p>
<p>16:28 – 17:05</p>	<p><b>Rural electrification:</b> Reg feels that power came in either in 1940 or just after the war. “They went two miles we were on and then they went a mile east and back on the [highway] 21 back to highway 16, they put in that one ... and then they just expanded.” The power company was Calgary Power.</p>
<p>17:06 – 18:52</p>	<p><b>Dairy operation:</b> the cows were milked by hand. Roy Marler “hired couples to come in and look after the cows, feed them and water them and that stuff.” They could milk them in 1 ¾ hours in the morning and then again in the evening. At the end of the first week, their wrists were so sore “and after that they toughened up”. The couple lived in a little house on the Marler land close to the railway tracks. They had use of all the milk they could use, land for a garden. They worked six hours a day because they also had to clean out the barn etc.</p>
<p>1853 – 20:35</p>	<p><b>Swine operation:</b> Roy Marler had purebred pigs. “We were showing pigs before the war at Northlands. He would take them to Calgary or something like that. He entered them in the fall shows, summer shows and also the fall sales. ... He was kinda interested in that. He was a member of the Alberta Swine Breeders Association. He went to Ottawa a time or two as an Alberta representative of the Association.” Roy Marler had the odd sow at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto but he never took down his whole herd. The government men would come and pick out the ones they thought had a chance. The summer shows were indicators as to which herd or individual pigs were judged to be a high standard. “They loaded up a box car of cattle, pigs, sheep, you name it, horses, they shipped them down there.” Roy Marler raised Yorkshire pigs. He had a purebred boar and sows. If they weren’t purebred they couldn’t be shown.</p>
<p>20:36 – 23:00</p>	<p><b>Government herd improvement programmes:</b> they had the A.R. programme for registered pigs. You would enter your sow and they would come out and weigh all the piglets, six, seven weeks old and when they came of age, two months old or so they would take them into the R.O.P. and they would put them on test there in groups of four.” On test means they were checked for how much feed they took, how much gain they made, “At the end they would send a report that your pigs: they would measure the loin, they measured the length of the pig, how much fat was on the back when they butchered them. Then the government sent the farmer a report with a grade for each pig.</p>
<p>23:01 – 25:38</p>	<p><b>Classes of pigs:</b> there was the herd sire, another for the female dame. You could enter each pig in two classes if you wished “but no more.” Another class was pigs up to nine months; six months was another class. “So when they were breeding the pigs they wanted to make sure that the sows would come in the day after January 1<sup>st</sup> to get the most days out of it”. Another class was a herd of four pigs; another was the best all around boar. That would take in all the breeds, Tamworths etc. They all competed against each other in that one class. Roy Marler won money at the shows for his pigs. It probably paid for the week that he was away at the show. The family went to the shows. They pitched a tent on the grass and stay for the week.</p>

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25:39 – 27:15	<p><b>The shows:</b> when Roy Marler went to Calgary. The pigs were housed in barns. In Edmonton there was a pig barn that was two barns attached to each other. Each exhibitor had a pen for his bedding, feed etc. for each group of pigs an exhibitor had. The pigs had to be washed the day before they were shown. Reg's job as a young teen was to wash the pigs at the wash rack. He did this until he was about 18 years of age.</p>
27:16 – 27:56	<p><b>Bacon for Britain:</b> once WWII began, things changed. Reg was most often at the fall sales because they wanted to get the boars out in to the country because they had this 'Bacon for Britain' and people were in to buying boars and brood sows in the spring shows. During the war, the government sent Roy Marler northeast of Edmonton to the farmers to hold clinics in the different areas to show them how they could get an extra sow that, in turn, meant that much more bacon for the war effort. Roy Marler enjoyed teaching at the clinics. The regular farm work was taken care of by his sons. Roy Marler was not a field agriculturalist but a swine breeder who the government used. A District Agriculturalist would arrange the meetings and take Roy Marler around to the various meetings. He was on the road quite a bit with this programme. The District Agriculturalist was based in Edmonton.</p>
27:57 – 31:19	<p><b>Swine scams:</b> Reg Marler does not remember hearing about the Chester White or the Palouse swine scams. Reg says, though, that pigs used to be shorter and thicker so they carried more fat on them. The reproduction programme aimed to stretch out the pigs, get them thinner, to measure the loins and make sure they weren't carrying too much fat.</p>
31:20 – 34:15	<p><b>Swine diseases:</b> Roy Marler had about 150 hogs. During the war there was a shortage of labour and the Marlers at first did not cut back on the dairy cows or the pigs. Rhinitis disease spread through the province. The disease could even turn the pig's nose to the side of the head. At that time they were raising pug-nosed pigs but after this disease "they tried to stretch them out so they wouldn't have so much problems." The disease did not kill the pigs but it spoilt them for showing. Reg's brother had a herd affected by the disease. When Reg got into pigs himself he had some trouble because his water wasn't good for the piglets and he had to haul water from the city. After that Reg went into feeder hogs. He bought them off the stockyards. His brother's pigs were full of Rhinitis. He bought them. Some he had to put down. During the war [because of the shortage of labour] the farmers neglected their herds and they brought them into the stockyards to sell and they had to take whatever they could get for them.</p>
34:16 – 37:14	<p><b>Mastitis disease:</b> Reg remembers mastitis in cows. Once the cows have it, it's a hard thing to get rid of. Doctors Ballantyne and Longman (sp?) would inspect the herd of dairy cows and try to figure out how to get rid of it. Mastitis would get in the udder and teats and there sometimes would be lumps. Reg remembers when a cow would give birth one day and the cow would be dead the next because the udder turned blue. Reg doesn't know what causes the disease. Maybe it was the milking machines. They got their milking machine during the war. No one really knew how to run the machine. If you leave them on too long or if you take them off too quickly "you're going to wreck them one way or another." The Marlers bought a milking machine due to the lack of labour.</p>

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37:15 – 40:13	<p><b>Foreign workers:</b> Reg does not remember any English young men coming over but he remembers Dutch men and Danish. He had a Danish man work for him. Roy Marler had a Dutch couple before Reg married. They stayed three or four years. This took place after the war. The Dutch had the support of their church [Dutch Reform?] to help them when they first arrived.</p>
40:14 – 42:17	<p><b>Effect of WWII:</b> Prices were good during WWII. Reg does not remember price controls on sale of pigs. He remembers that he could get \$65 for a hog. Roy Marler had about 70 boars that he wanted to sell [after the war] but couldn't because those farmers who got into hogs only did so as part of the war effort. They got out of hogs as soon as they could. Reg himself did not get out of pigs until 1966. Reg was around hogs all his life when he was little he had to hold the pigs while his father tattooed them and ensure that the piglets were under the heat lamp.</p>
42:18 – 50:11	<p><b>Reg Marler's hog farm:</b> he started off with Yorkshire hogs. His problem was the salt in the water. He went to a R.O.P. sale in Camrose where he bought a boar that he crossed with some of his sows. But the piglets had "no life to them at all." Purebred breeders had a habit of inbreeding. The pigs' legs would bend down. In an effort to get the perfect pig, they [the breeders] "go one step too far." Reg was in to sheep for a while. Purebred sheep were prone to "spiders", the same problem as in purebred hogs. The same held true for race horses. In Suffolk sheep, they were trying to get them taller and they put so much emphasis on that that the legs were too weak. Reg bought market feeder pigs. He had about 600 feeder hogs with a partner in Ardrossan and another 300 at home. This translated into sales of 3,000 hogs a year. "There was probably 3 or 4 percent loss on the pigs that you bought because somebody didn't finish them out ..." When Reg bought his market hogs they were two – four months old. Sometimes after buying a hog he would discover that they were almost ready for market. Reg never grew silage for his hogs, just hay. They tried to grow alfalfa. The second crop in the fall is excellent for the dairy cows. For the hogs, he grew barley, about 900A at one time between his own land and rented land. Later, they found that hogs did better on wheat so now a lot of wheat is being put in to feed. His father had a standard pig barn that was built ca. 1926. When he went on his own, underground pits were the thing with a slatted floor. The concept hadn't been perfected. The Americans had come up with the concept and the Department of Agriculture was trying to copy it for here. Reg had trouble with this type of barn. By 1966, he was tired of hog farming. When he got out he and his partner would take one or one and one-half truck loads of pigs to town each Monday. He did this when the hogs reached 200 pounds.</p>
50:12 – 57:47	<p><b>His farm post-1963:</b> Reg sold his dairy herd in 1963. He had an old barn that must have been built with green lumber because when it was cold the steam from the cows would frost up the walls and freeze the water. The barn needed replacement and rather than build a new one, Reg got out of dairy farming as well. He never raised beef cattle. One time, another farmer put in a number of hives on his land and in payment Reg got jars of honey. The beekeeper was from Roleyview. After Reg got out of dairy and out of hogs, he moved into grain farming. He grew mostly barley. He had more free time so he bought some purebred sheep. He started showing them. Tom Reid convinced him he should show his sheep. He showed for eight or nine years. The breeds were Suffolk and Tamworths.</p>

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	<p>Reg did not get involved in any government breeding or herd improvement programmes for his sheep. “Mostly to keep the grass down.” Coyotes and dogs a problem for sheep. He had 125 sheep in the summer. Reg had 900 cultivated acres. He had a half section of his own land and the rest he rented, some from his father, Roy. Renting land is an easy way to get more land without the outlay of money to buy the land outright. Reg cannot think of a downside to renting land.</p>
<p>57:48 – 1:01:00</p>	<p><b>Changes to farming during WWII:</b> during the war, the Marlers went from using a 1929 International 22-steel wheel tractor and horses. Just before the war, they came out with an eight-foot tiller. Roy Marler bought an eight-foot Minneapolis tiller. He used it in combination with his steel wheel tractor. Then in 1940 Roy Marler bought the farm that Reg later got. He went to an equipment demonstration in Wetaskiwin. They had a Quad Number 2 tractor, rubber tires, Chrysler motor. He paid \$1,800 for it. The tractor could probably pull a three-bottom plough but it was fairly light but you could harrow twice as much in a day as you could with the horses. The tractor was less time consuming – harnessing the horses etc. They used this tractor for everything, so there was no need for the horses. When Roy Marler used horses, he had to build shelters for them around his land where he would tie them up for the night and feed them. It wasn’t long before Roy Marler bought a heavier tractor that could pull a heavier load. Then he started farming more land.</p>
<p>1:01:01 – 1:07:07</p>	<p><b>Machinery:</b> Roy Marler bought his first tractor in 1929, a 22-36 International that could pull a four-bottom plough. Roy had a Fordson tractor in 1921 but he didn’t use it much because it was just as easy to use the horses. It was too light and small so he needed his horses anyway. Then he bought a Rumley Oil Pull tractor about 1926 that he used on the threshing machine. He didn’t use it very much either; it was too cumbersome. In about 1950 the industry came out with a tillage cultivator. A few years later the industry came out with air seeders where air is used to push the seed into the ground. It’s so much cheaper; it doesn’t move the soil; there is no wind [to blow away the seed]. In southern Alberta, farmers grew caraganas hedges to protect the fields from the wind. Reg can remember only once when wind was a problem; his grandfather’s land blew into another field. This was about 1939. Reg’s grandfather died in the 1950s; he was in his 90s when he died. In 1939 or 1940 Roy Marler bought a Cockshutt 8-foot swather with a Hercules motor. The first year, Reg’s oldest brother combined some 400A with it. Then Massey-Harris came out with a self-propelled combine and Roy Marler bought one.</p>
<p>1:07:08 – 1:12:48</p>	<p><b>Dairy farming:</b> the Department tested for TB in the cattle. A number of herds had to be put down due to TB in the early 1920s. Roy Marler milked the milk hauler’s herd because he knew that the man did not take care of his cows. He eventually bought this farm. Reg talks about this man who then hauled milk in Edson. Some discussion about the dairy in Cadomin.</p>
<p>1:12:49 – 1:21:23</p>	<p><b>The Marlers’ community involvement:</b> Roy Marler was head of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture for nine years. He went overseas with the government to Geneva as an advisor to the government when they were involved in wheat deals. He did this two or three times. He was on a government Commission along with Professor Stewart and a lawyer who acted as Chair, to study the feasibility for a railway in northern Alberta. He was also involved in the Canadian Co-op Implements. He would have liked to have been a lawyer, if</p>

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	<p>he could have been. He had a lot of respect for J.C. Browning , Premier of Alberta, and the Dean of Agriculture at the university. Reg sat on the Rural Recreation Board for nine years. He was head of the agricultural society in Ardrossan; he got \$75,000 to build a hall in Ardrossan. Reg was also with the Lions Club. The County informed the Lions that it would take over all the recreation in the County. This left the Lions at a loss as to what they could volunteer for. Reg was also Chair of the community league in Ardrossan and President of the curling club. He was in charge of renovating the old hall. He was Vice-Chair on the committee to build Festival Place in Sherwood Park. He later became Chair of the committee. Reg thinks that Festival Place opened in 1988 or 1989.</p>
1:21:24 – 1:32:00	<p>Reg was also involved in 4-H. When Reg was a teenager, Howard Byers and Charlie Galloway wanted to start a beef club. They got twelve or fourteen kids from the area to start the club and they bought some Shorthorn calves, weaning calves in the fall. The club members had to raise them so they could be sold in the spring. This was with the Boy's and Girl's Club, not 4-H. The Boy's and Girl's Clubs were around many years before 4-H. They also started a Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan Swine Club. They had shows and sales. Reg was only in the Swine Club a year or so. Ron Galloway and Reg once went to the provincial finals. The second year, they went to Ottawa; this was near the end of WWII. They were there for one week.</p>
	<p>Years later after Reg returned from Vermilion where he spent two years, his children, three girls, got involved in horses. Rita Jackson, who "is horse nuts". She was a teacher and good for the children. She convinced the kids that they should be riding horses. His youngest girl took to horse riding in a big way. The other two girls got involved for the fun of it, more than anything. They went on trail rides. Rita Jackson started the 4-H horse club. They had some fancy horses, Arabians, that they showed. They were part of a horse club in south Edmonton. When Rita Jackson left the 4-H Club, Reg Marler took over. There were quite a few horse clubs in the region. Reg wanted to change the rules so that the children had a chance to win a ribbon now and again. Reg headed up the 4-H Horse Club for nine years.</p>
1:32:01 – 1:47:34	<p><b>Family:</b> Discussion about Reg's grandchildren and his father's parenting skills. Reg's mother died when he was eleven years old. There were thirteen children in the family, the youngest only one year old. This was 1938. He remarried about five years later.</p>