

Footage	Subject headings
0 – 2:45	<p>Introduction: Robert was born in 1926 on highway #21 in a little house. They moved into the brick house, the Bremner House when he was 3 years old in 1929. 1929-1940 Robert lived there; 1940-44 he lived in Edmonton where he went to high school and then he worked out for a while for BA Oil and then came back farming to work with his father in 1950. He and Lois married in 1956 and they moved to a farm on NW20-53-22 W4, the current address. It was a half section of land. They started their own dairy operation in 1959.</p>
2:46 – 6:40	<p>Parents: Helen (Nellie) Hutton was his mother. She was a delegate with the FWUA. Lois says she was involved in the Master Farm programme. They traveled all over Alberta to choose to nominate farmers for certain awards. Nellie was involved in this programme for several years. It was a UFA programme. It was not the UFA then, the Farmer’s Union of Alberta was the name. Robert does not know what his mother did in the FWUA [Farm Women’s Union of Alberta]. Lois says that at the meetings they would draw up proposals to present to the government to improve things. Nellie came from a large family, eight or nine in the family. She was born in Scotland and came over when she was nine years old with her parents, the Huttons. He was in the real estate business in the Strathcona County. He had a farm near Clover Bar. Robert does not know where his parents lived. Lois says that there was community spirit in those days and people went to picnics and ball games, at the church. Robert thinks that the Huttons attended the Clover Bar church, not the Bremner church.</p>
6:41 – 7:15	<p>Sports: William Schroter sponsored the Bremner softball team. It was a good team; they won the Provincials one year. Robert was on the team, Lawrence as well.</p>
7:16 – 9:09	<p>Nellie Schroter: she was quite outgoing. She was involved with music. Her sister, Maggie, was an opera singer. Nellie went to the symphonies and other music shows. William and Nellie wanted all their children to take music. They tried to get Robert to take violin “but that didn’t work out very good.” They bought him a violin and Robert took lessons from the school principal, Mr. Cook, at East Clover Bar School. He can’t remember who else taught him violin. “The violin probably got demolished.” They sent the rest of the children to piano lessons, all the opportunities to be had.</p>
9:10 – 10:04	<p>William Schroter: he was a hard workingman. “Not too many men in the community could keep up to Dad. Dad broke a lot of land in this area. Originally it was his grandfather John’s. They had two great big Minneapolis tractors and a big eight-bottom plough behind” before the 1920s.</p>
10:05 – 13:10	<p>His father was versatile in his farming. He had a hog barn and hired help to look after the hogs; he had milk truck and had hired help to drive the milk truck; he had a dairy farm and milked about fifty cows and that was before the milking machines came in. Robert use to milk the cows by hand before he went to school. He can remember the day that the milking machine arrived. He milked at night when he came home from school. His father also had a two-storey chicken house, had hatching eggs. He grew grain as well – basically a mixed farm. His father had eleven quarter-sections all of them close to each other. His boys were of some help but he always had several hired help. There was another house on the Bremner farm that Charlie Bremner had built and William Schroter’s hired help stayed in that house. One drove the milk truck; others did field work. This house was north of the Big House. Jack lived in another house later. “That’s where Bert lived.” Bert is</p>

	<p>Robert's twin brother. Bert drove the milk truck later on; he took over the milk truck business. This little house was "through the gate and sitting right there." It was moved to there.</p>
13:11 – 13:40	<p>Robert thinks his father was a member of the Dairymen's Association. Robert does not know when.</p>
13:41 – 17:50	<p>The farm: William Schroter was involved in hogs at the same time he had his dairy farm. He milked around fifty head. The herd had about 35 young stock. Robert cannot remember how many hogs because they were kept over on the quarter where Nellie and William first lived and where Robert was born. That quarter became Lawrence's farm later on. There was a dairy barn there; the hog barn was just south of the dairy barn. Lois cannot remember the hog barn. William kept the chickens for quite a while longer. William still had his dairy farm in the 1950s after Lois and Robert married (1956). Maybe Dick and Alex tore down the chicken house. Dick and Alex took over the farm. William got out of hogs in 1941. Jane Ross questions why then since there was a 'bacon for Britain' drive during the Second World War. But it was Lawrence who took over the hog farm. William and Lawrence later had Yorkshire hogs. Mr. Burdess, a hired hand, looked after the hogs on the other quarter before Lawrence took over the hogs.</p>
17:51 – 18:18	<p>Government programs: William Schroter had a 'commercial' herd. They were not pedigree cattle. He was not involved in any government programmes like the cow testing service or herd upgrading programmes.</p>
18:19 – 18:55	<p>Hog scams: Robert does not remember anything about the Chester White or Palouse hog scams.</p>
18:56 – 27:45	<p>Dairy farm: William Schroter paid \$36,000 for the Bremner estate in 1929. It was hard during the Depression to pay back the loan but he paid it off in 1940. Robert doesn't remember the Depression as "we had everything". We had a house, running water, electricity and "everything." William Schroter always had two men to milk the cows; he milked sometimes. Milk was shipped in 8-gallon cans every day. He had a 1928 milk truck, then he had a 1936 International truck; that's the one that grandpa Schroter was killed in. He hauled to Edmonton City Dairy, Silverwoods after that. The Schroters used to haul to the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool too, but their milk went to Edmonton City Dairy. They hauled to three dairies, NADP, Edmonton City Dairy and Palm Dairies. Bob drove the milk truck on Sundays when Bert took the day off. Each can had a number; every shipper (farmer) had a number. Bert knew which cans belonged to which farmer. Robert cannot remember the Schroter number. It was a strenuous job. You had to haul the 8-gallon cans out of a tank that was below ground, pull it up and shove it up onto the truck, and double deck the cans on the truck. Farmers kept the milk cool in well water. Robert does not remember any accidents except the one that killed John Schroter. Highways 21 and 16 were gravel highways. They hauled fluid milk; it was not separated. When William had the milk hauling business he simply paid his hired help a monthly wage. Once Bert took over the milk hauling business, William had nothing to do with the business. Robert does not know what Bert charged. The farmers were paid in pounds for their milk; the price varied from year to year. The milk plants would mail the farmers a monthly cheque. Once Bob and Lois married, they started up their own dairy farm. Robert shipped with Bert for a while but then Bert went into the bulk business and moved down to Lethbridge. After he left, it was Bailey's truck. At that point, they had to switch from cans to bulk refrigerating tanks. It would keep the milk for a couple of days. The milk hauler picked up every day. Everything was automated by then. The truck would arrive at Bob and Lois' farm at 7:30</p>

	a.m. so the milking had to be done by then.
27:46 – 29:25	School: when Bob was growing up went to school in a democrat in the summer. Alan and Alex, Dick and Helen went by bus to Fort Saskatchewan. “We used the cutter in the wintertime. Mother would get up in the morning and heat bricks on the stove and put them in the cutter on the floor so we could keep our feet warm going to school. And I would be the one who went out and got the horses ready and harness them.” They used one horse on the cutter but two on the democrat. Robert remembers the cutter better than the democrat. He remembers a runaway down a steep hill and no breeches on the horses and the cutter would be home and we would be in the ditch and they had to come and get us.”
29:26 – 32:27	Milk customers: his uncle Roy Schroter was the first pickup, Fred McCalla, Allan Parkins, Alex Bailness who used to be the mailman after he got out of dairy, the Rices, Frank Latam, Checklease (?) who was married to Robert’s Aunt Ada, Uncle Zeke’s who lived up at Clover Bar. They all lived along Range Road 225 and the next Range Road west. At first, their farm was as far north as they hauled milk from; later they went further north to Myers and Stetsons, both of who are further north of RR 225.
32:28 – 33:10	Milk haulers: they did not have to be licensed by the government to haul milk. There was no contract between Schroter and the people he picked up from. Schroter was paid by the dairies to haul the milk. The dairy deducted that cost from the suppliers.
33:11 – 37:16	Dairy barn: Lois and Robert say that William Schroter did not have a herringbone milking parlour. Rather it was they who had the first one. William Schroter did have a milking parlour. It was a straight walk-in, four cows one behind each other. The cows entered through one door, went through the milk parlour and out the other door. Lois and Bob had a 6-cow herringbone milking parlour. William Schroter made the change from hand milking to a milking machine during WWII. Robert does not remember any problem with TB in the herd. He remembers mange (the cows abort) but they were not bothered by that. Lois and Robert remember that the herd was tested for TB before the milk left the farm. The government vet did the testing. It was a blood test that went to a lab and the farmer got the results in a couple of weeks. They only tested once every three or four years unless they thought there was an outbreak in the area and then they would check more frequently.
37:17 – 39:00	Poultry: the Schroters had a double decker, four-pen chicken house with a feeder in the middle down below and one up. It was the boys’ job on Saturday to clean the chicken house. The boys hated it. They’ve never forgot it. Robert cannot remember how many except that there were a lot. They were Leghorns. They sold their eggs to a hatchery; they were hatching eggs. There used to be a hatchery downtown Edmonton. There was another hatchery in north Edmonton as well.
39:01 – 40:15	WWII: Robert went to high school in Edmonton 1940-44. He attended Strathcona High School. Lois remembers her mother using a coupon ration book to get butter.
40:16 – 42:25	Changes in farming: in 1936 Robert would drive a team of horses on a John Deere binder. The first tractor that William Schroter had came out in 1936. It was a rubber-tired Minneapolis. William took the rubber tires off and put on steel tires. He broke all “this half section” that had a lot of bush on it with a breaking plough and that tractor with no fenders on it He used to ride that tractor, It had no cab. Robert had to remove all the fencing before they “brushed out” the land.

42:26 – 42:42	Robert “more or less” bought the land where he is now from his father. It was at “a good price.” This happened after he and Lois married (1956).
42:43 – 43:40	Looking at some photos including one of 1936 International milk trucks, another of the Clover Bar mine.
43:41 – 45:45	Farm accident: Nellie use to drive the binder on occasion. She drove the binder the year that William “had blood poisoning in his arm.” He was very sick and was in the hospital. William was working on an old binder and fixing it to swath and ran a rusty file into the palm of his hand. It happened the same year that sulfur drug was introduced. Bob and Bert had to take off the entire crop; George Williams helped them as well. They had eleven quarter-sections.
45:46 – 49:01	The farmyard: When the Bremner horse barn burnt down, William did not rebuild on the same location. William Schroter’s new bar was located further north; Jim McGhan helped to build it. The old barn was northwest of the grain bins on the property. There was also a well there that has now collapsed. After the County purchased the property it took down William Schroter’s dairy barn. It had a manure pit underneath; it was a modern idea of dealing with manure. Manure was scraped into the pit and a pump pumped it out. The grate ran down the centre of the barn, behind the cows.
49:02 – 52:10	William’s retirement: Discussion as to when William retired from farming. He retired when he passed on the home place to Alex and Dick. Alex married in 1957 but he didn’t work on the farm but worked in Drayton Valley in the oil fields for a number of years. Robert thinks that the farm was handed over to Alex and Dick sometime in the 1960s. When Alex moved back home, William and Nellie lived on the second floor for a while and then moved to the new house on the highway. William still worked on the farm. William was a hard worker. Robert has a son just like him – a Schroter trait.
52:11 – 53:57	Nellie’s health: She outlived William by quite a few years. She lived to 94 years of age in 1992. All the Huttons are long lived.
53:58 – 59:45	Changes to the farmyard: Robert draws a map of the farmyard with Big House, Alex’s new house, the dairy barn, chicken house, hired help’s house (it was moved, with an arrow on the map), the roadway. When the hired hand’s house was moved, Bert lived there. When Bert moved out [to go to Lethbridge], John Maul, a hired hand, moved in. Robert remembers shoveling grain into the granaries by hand. He marks where the old Bremner horse barn used to be. He marks on Bremner’s car garage. William put in the old gasoline pump. The first map is the “Early Yard”.
59:46 – 1:01:50	Second drawing: he goes back to the original drawing to mark on another garage with a workshop. This was built by William Schroter. Alex and Dick put up the Quonset hut. Sten put up a large shop in place of William’s old shop and garage.
1:01:51 – 1:02: 25	Discussion about seeing the Big House.
1:02:26 – 1:14:39	Second drawing: draws in Dick’s house, Sten’s new workshop, Quonset (stored machinery there), dairy barn, cow feeders (mangers); Robert’s son Brad moved them over to their quarter section a few years ago. The Centre Clover Bar School is now on the property; the County moved it there from Centennial Park. Robert marks on the laurel leaf willow, and

	<p>other trees. Robert remembers having parties in the third floor of the Big House. Discussion about Arthur Dowling, his photos etc. Robert marks on the garden where William grew strawberries, raspberries. Discussion about location of Jack's house. It was on this side of the Quonset. Jack lived there before 1954. Jack worked at home when Bob was in university for 2 years and then worked for BA Oil.</p>
1:14:40 – 1:20:03	<p>The upstairs: Lois and Robert lived in the house for two and one-half years when they first married. They built the barn on their own land first, before they built the house. Robert was in the dairy business. They had an apartment on the second floor of the Big House. They moved out in the spring of 1959. Their apartment upstairs had a kitchen. When they moved onto their own place they took the kitchen cabinets with them. The present bathroom was divided into a bath and a kitchen with a wall separating them. When they lived there, Helen had the bedroom at the top of the stairs (not the MB). Dick (unmarried) was in the other bedroom. Just before Robert and Lois moved out, Joan and Alex moved into the bedroom across from the bathroom for a short while. Allan slept in the little bedroom by the side door. The third floor was not used for anything but when the children were going to East Clover Bar School, they had parties up there. Robert says that Charlie Bremner had a billiard table up there. Robert does not remember the billiard table. He had a wine cellar downstairs.</p>
1:20:04 – 1:23:50	<p>The kitchen area: Robert draws another sketch. The utility room where Nellie had her washer and dryer used to have the wood stove. There was a pantry area and then you went downstairs. Robert remembers a big table in the eating area where the threshing crew would eat. He talks about the layout of the main floor. Nellie and William slept in the downstairs bedroom. There was the food preparation and party room and a separate room, the kitchen eating area.</p>
1:23:51 – 1:23: 56	<p>The conservatory: Nellie had plants in there. There was no heat out there.</p>
1:23:57 – 1:25:57	<p>Heat: Robert says the house was warm. There was a monstrous furnace downstairs; it used coal and wood. They got their coal from Marcus mine, Black Diamond mine. There were several mines around. Years later, they put in gas. The gas was put in before Robert and Lois lived there. Their stove in their upstairs apartment was electric.</p>
1:25:58 – 1:27:33	<p>Second floor: there was an area carpet on the floor of the master bedroom when they lived there. The floor was fir. Lois remembers the walls being a peach-dusty rose colour; Bob is uncertain.</p>
1:27:34 - 1:29:21	<p>The exterior: Robert remembers the wall shingles being dark brown. Robert does not remember the shingles being painted dark green.</p>
1:29:22 – 1:30:45	<p>William or a contractor would have painted the interior walls. Looking at a painting done by Lois of the house. Robert took the photo when Sten was living there. Weathered cedar shingles on the roof.</p>
1:30:46 – 1:31:20	<p>The veranda: there was no railing on the veranda. Nellie had flowers around the base of the veranda.</p>
1:31:21 – 1:36:18	<p>The Zimmermans: rented the house from Alex. Robert and Lois think it was Zimmerman who put on the swirl plaster on the upper walls and ceilings. Robert and Lois say that the walls were a smooth plaster. The Zimmermans put in the hot tub but Robert and Lois</p>

<p>1:36:19 – 1:45:57</p>	<p>never saw it. Once Alex and Dick took over the farm, Robert and Lois were in the house only rarely, just too busy farming.</p> <p>Stories: Christmas and Christmas tree was always in the bow window in the living room. As kids, they used to sneak downstairs to see if Santa had arrived. Nellie always had Axminster rugs in the dining room, the living room, in the upstairs hallway and a runner going up the main stairs. Helen got the rugs. Robert looks up the telephone number for Zimmerman chiropractic office in Fort Saskatchewan. Discussion about Randy Schroter (Dick and Maurine’s son) and his memories of playing in the house. They used to slide down the electric thing at the corner of the house. They used to slide down it from the second floor to the ground. Robert remembers Nellie and William going away in 1954 and they left Robert to look after the farm; they went down to Ontario and circled back through the United States with a trailer. They had not yet sold the farm to Alex and Dick. Lois says that William Schroter was recognized all over the community for his word, his honesty. He would help out anyone. A hand shakes man. Robert doesn’t remember too much about Phyllis.</p>
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