

Dayton had no work. It was the same condition all over the southwest, except durum wheat.

In 1935 the Hartney Council decided to put on a third man in the power plant staff. I applied for and got the position. I was with them for two years and then got the operation of the plant in Waskada in January, 1939. I was there two years less one month. In December, 1939 I was transferred to Deloraine to operate the power plant there, owned by the National Utilities Corporation of Winnipeg. I was in charge there until October, 1947 when the National's franchise with Deloraine expired and the Manitoba Power Commission took over. I then hired with the municipality of Winchester as operator on their road construction machinery. I ran the first municipal snowplow through the community in the winter of 1948.

In 1949 we bought the present farm in the Dand district and moved onto it in the spring of 1952, taking up residence in the same building that I now live in, which was built as a car garage, out of material from the house that was on the farm at the time of purchase. That summer we built a new home and moved into it the following winter.

During all these years my wife and I worked and planned together.

Our family are, in order of age:

Ruth, Mrs. Wallace Cutworth, Brandon, has four children, Herby, Carol, Dauna and Brian.

Grenaline, Mrs. John Creaghe, Stratford, Ontario, has two children, Robbie and Bradley.

Hazel, Mrs. Terry Suckling, Fort William, Ontario, has two children, David and Philip.

Herb, whose history follows.

Howard, married Marie Whittingham and they live in Portage la Prairie. They have three children, Linda, Gregory and Brent.

My wife passed away after a lengthy illness on March 1, 1957.

Because I was broken in health my sons carried on the operation of the farm from the time of purchase until recent months when I turned it over to my elder son, Herbert, Jr. I purchased and moved to the Matthew Neely house in Dand in 1965.

HERBERT A. ROBERTS, JR.

I was born on June 5, 1928 and spent my early days in Hartney, Waskada and Deloraine, receiving most of my education in Deloraine Public School and Falconer Collegiate.

When I was 17 I started as an apprentice projectionist for Jim McLachlan in the Jubilee Theatre in Deloraine and at 18 wrote examinations and received my second class projectionist's certificate. At that time I was still in school, completing Grade XII.

While waiting for acceptance into Electrical Engineering at the university, I spent the summer months working on my uncle's farm at Newton Siding. At that time priority was given to returning soldiers so one had to have a clear Grade XII in order to be accepted into university. I came back to school to try to clear two Grade XII subjects. Next summer I went back to my uncle's farm again. In the fall of that year, 1948, Dad was negotiating for the farm at Dand, so in the spring of 1949 I came, with my brother Howard, to work Dad's farm.

When we came there was an old two-storey frame house that could be seen for miles around, also, the remains of a stone foundation for a barn, on the side of a hill. There was a mound where an old sod poultry house or barn had stood and quite a hole where a previous occupant had been digging for water. Several had given up the farm because they could get no suitable drinking water.

Once when my uncle was visiting we got into a discussion of "water witching". He did not believe in it, so just for fun we all took willow branches and walked all over the farm. At one point my uncle had become separated from the rest of us, and to his amazement, and ours, his

twig started bending toward the ground, with such strength that it began taking the bark off the twig. We got the post auger and put down a test hole. At about eight feet we got into water, sampled it and found it to be excellent for drinking. We then made several test holes around, to determine the best spot for a well. Eventually we dug a four-foot well, 12 feet deep. We just struck the edge of a stream in gravel. The first winter, the water level went down so we dug deeper. At the present, the well is 16 feet, and is maintaining a reasonable level. We feel we should dig the well a little further north to be more in the stream. This well is 600 feet from the house and we now have it piped in. It has been sufficient to supply water for 2,200 chickens, field spraying, and the house, but is not sufficient for cattle at the present depth.

Howard and I lived in a granary for two summers, cooking on a kerosene burner and lighted by a six-volt light off the tractor.

There were lots of stones in the fields. Howard and I spent a good many days picking stones, using them to fill in a grade through a slough on our present driveway. We broke up approximately 50 acres in that first two years, prairie that had never been broken, just used as pasture. This was with a small, two-plow tractor, working night and day. In 1952 we bought bigger equipment, and started renting another half-section. Progress was slow for these six years.

For winter employment, my brother worked in a store in Deloraine. I usually went to my uncle's farm at Newton Siding.

In 1958 Howard gave up farming. I kept farming the section for two years with still little advance, so decided to give up the other rented half-section and concentrate on improving the income from the home half-section.

About 1956 I started into bees and have gradually increased to 50 colonies.

In 1958 I tried to make my fortune in poultry and raised 1,200 heavy breed cockerels. This effort was a success so I tried on a bigger scale in 1960. We got 2,100 heavy breed cockerels in January of that year, and put them into a building that was far too small, in the meantime, starting a large building. Neighbors rallied to our assistance and a new poultry barn was up in a very short time. However, the damage had already been done by the time the chickens were moved. We also had difficulty in heating the new building, so that we were fortunate in breaking even. A further poultry effort in 1962 was completely disastrous. We had good success in raising them but the poultry price went down and the feed price went up.

For the school term 1961-1962 I drove a school van for Dand Consolidated School. The children on my route were Charlie, Marshall, Larry and Adrienne Teetaert of Desire Teetaert's family, Ronnie Teetaert, son of Gaston Teetaert, and Denis and Carolyn DeBacker, children of Albert DeBacker. Quite often my twins came along for the ride. It made a pleasant diversion for me and I got along well with the children.

Because of our farm financial setbacks and because we wanted to buy the farm from my father, my wife secured another pastoral charge, at Alexander.

In an effort to increase actual farm income, I joined the Souris Farm Business Group in the fall of 1962. With the knowledge gained there and with further expansion in bees, I hope some day to make a success of the half-section, S. $\frac{1}{2}$ 20-4-23.

MRS. HERBERT A. ROBERTS, JR. (Nee Carol Palmer)

I was born on Christmas Day, 1925 at Petersfield, Manitoba, the youngest of four and the only girl. We lived on a farm $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of the village and between two creeks. In the springtime when the creeks were filled to overflowing the place was lovely. Some of my happiest memories are of leaning my elbows on the sill of my open bedroom window, listening to the water babbling over the