

The Descendants of William and Mary Andrishak



By
Steve Andrishak

Dedicated
to the
Andrishak Family

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All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Elk Point Historical Society. The Society also accepts advertising for its web site and donations to pay for its gathering and publishing of local history.

Preface

The origin of *Descendants of William and Mary Andrisbak* comes mainly as a result of the request of Steve's daughters, Janice and Carole. They had for some time made this call as they felt they knew so little of their grandparents. Great-grandchildren knew less and great-great-grandchildren were even further removed in time and knowledge.

Steve gave in to the request and with surprise, he even learned a lot as he began his research in other local histories and other sources. Even greater surprise came with a measure of pleasure when relatives contributed photographs that he had not viewed before. This project made Steve's winter of 2003–04 memorable. He constantly said "It would have been so much better if only I had started earlier."

The main satisfaction comes from it being finished now. In ten years this book would be different and less complete. It is hoped that there will be a second edition as individuals send more anecdotes of William and Mary and more complete information about themselves to be included. There are many incomplete areas in this history and with hope, people become aware that they can add to the book. The correcting of mistakes is gratefully accepted as well. Some additional picture identification is also necessary. More pictures would enhance the book. Steve has turned over final rendering of this book to the Elk Point Historical Society.

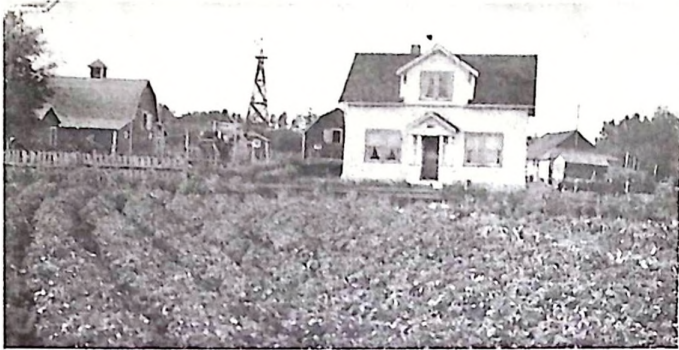
More writing to include the life and times in Elk Point would improve the fullness. Little details like did Bill and Mary speak to each other in Ukrainian and English only to their children ? What language did Bill use with most of his customers from across the river ?

As errors probably exist, they were unintentional. For further communication the historical society can be reached at www.elkpointhistory.ab.ca . Ron Onusko can be reached at ronus@telusplanet.net .

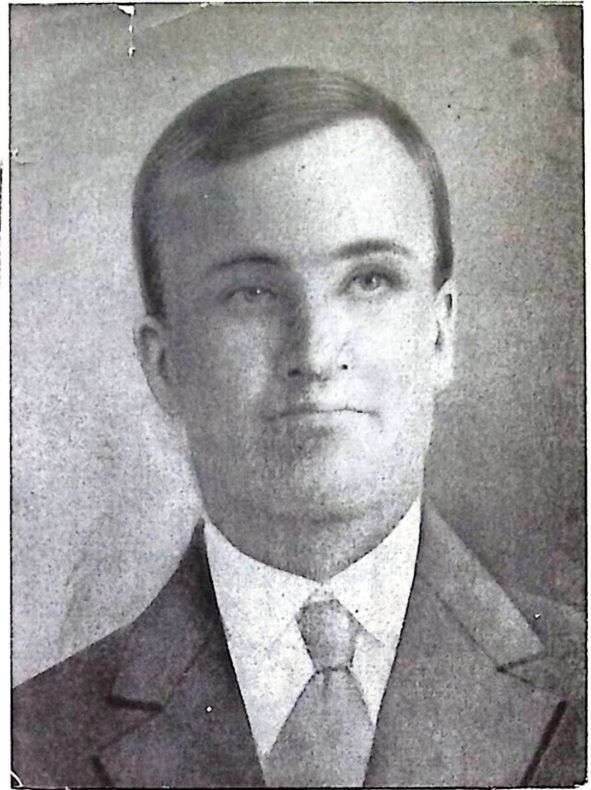
**THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM AND MARY
ANDRISHAK**

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William and Mary's farm house in the Elk Point area



Young William Andrishak

William Andrishak

During the early 1900s the West and Alberta were largely unsettled. It was part of the "Great Lone Land." About the only areas that were settled were the small cities - some towns - and small settlements of early pioneers. A working definition of a pioneer has been proposed as "someone living west of Winnipeg previous to 1905."

Alberta first became a Province in 1905, it was earlier part of the Northwest Territories. Its main concern was to try to attract immigrants to the vast area of unclaimed land through out the province. The Government advertised throughout the world that it would give each immigrant a quarter section of land for only \$10 under the following conditions: the person applying had to be 18 years of age, had to agree to live on the land for 6 months for each of 3 years and improvements had to be made on the land. Then he would get title to the land.

To people living in Europe, Britain and the United States an offer such as this was unreal. Many were very poor and had no prospects for improvement in their native land. The chance of accumulating this much land was undreamt of.

There were many gimmicks in advertising to try to attract settlers to come to this Province. One was a small booklet sent around the world which read "How fortunes are made in Sunny

Alberta .”

It was touted as a place where wheat was King and where the best security was earth itself. Many people throughout the world had little to lose by accepting this offer. They were often poor and had little choice.

Little is known of my father's early history. We do know he was about twenty-five when he left Ukraine in approximately 1910. He was quite poor and travelled alone.

His chances of ever getting ahead were remote, but he was intelligent to make a move.. After working hard for very small wages, we conclude, he finally saved enough to make the trip.

When he arrived in Holland somewhat later, he boarded a cattle freighter and after a long, tiresome trip across the Atlantic Ocean, he finally arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He must have had very little money as we do know he stopped over in Quebec where he worked in order to earn sufficient funds to continue his way westward.

When he arrived in Edmonton late in 1910 his first visit was to the Dominion Land Titles office where he arranged to acquire his \$10.00 homestead. His quarter section of land was in the Northbank settlement area which was populated by many other Ukrainian immigrants.

It was located about 10 miles southeast of present day Warspite, not far from the North Saskatchewan River. His description of his quarter section of land was N.W. ¼ of Section 3 (Township 59 Range 18 West of the 4th Meridian).

The date that he acquired and settled on the land was February 10, 1911.

For about 8 or 10 years he worked as a coal miner west of Edmonton (Coal Branch area). He always worked for six months during the winter then spent the remaining six summer months making improvements on his land.

In 1912 he built a home on his land which gave him a place to come back to.

Dad was a hard worker. After a few years of hard labour he was successful in building a good farming operation. He was glad he left Ukraine when he did. He never revisited his native land.

Although my father never knew my mother while living in Ukraine, they found out later that they had settled in the same area of Alberta.

Township 59 Range 18 W. of 4

G. Buchanan Dec. 16 1911	J. Gwaltney Oct. 19 1912	J. May Mar. 5 1912	C. Calvert Dec. 20 1912	A. Calvert July 2 1912	F. Boychuk 1913	F. Boychuk June 10 1912	T. Predy Dec. 17 1910	M. Predy May 21 1909	T. Drozda Jan. 20 1910
John Gray Sept. 14 1914	P. Snook Feb. 10 1913	A. Rankin Mar. 15 1912	J. Lilge May 20 1913	G. Nason Dec. 17 1912	A. Hagan Dec. 17 1912	J. Guz- 1914 1915	T. Semeniuk July 7 1911	P. Kulczycki Sept. 12 1905	
Wm. Wallace Dec. 4 1911	W.R. Dry Mar. 15 1912		L.S. A. Kuzik Dec. 1 1927	C. Innes May 4 1916	D. Soencer July 15 1913	Ts. AP 1919	J. Spachynski Jan 3 1912	T. Pawlowicz May 4 1911	
N. Lloyd Aug. 19 1910	Wm. Clark July 28 1913			A. Snook Feb. 3 1912	R. Chambers Dec 9 1912	J. Spencer Oct. 12 1915		G. Sem- eniuk July 17 1911	
L. Lloyd Jan. 13 1909	G. Lloyd Jan. 13 1909	R.E. Phillips Jan 10 1912	R. Robertson July 23 1913	F. Chambers May 13 1912	F. Harty Dec. 18 1912	John Carson Mar. 27 1912	T.S. J. Carson 1917		
O. Byrne Aug. 14 1911		S.S.B.	Wm. son	Pat. son	Dan Carson Nov. 24 1911	S. Moore Nov. 28 1913	M.A. Peterson Mar. 29 1912		
D.A. McDonald Nov. 18 1917					E. Evans Aug 8 1911	M.E. Carson Nov. 11 1912	Wm. McDonald Aug. 28 1918	C. Curling Feb. 7 1912	F. Lawes 1917
R. Bibby Feb. 8 1906					F. Hansen Aug. 8 1911	D. McCorn Aug. 7 1911	C. Obel Sept. 5 1911	M. Lowe Mar. 11 1912	F. Carlson May '12
A.M. McRae Sept. 2 1908					J. Cormick June 24 1911	M. Byrne Dec. 20 1911	C. Franson Sept. 5 1911		I. Romanzuk May 8 1911
J. Larose Sept. 2 1908	H. Street Nov. 10 1908	S. McDonald Apr. 26 1906	J. Bilitz Apr. 26 1906	Taylor Nov. 1911	S.A. J. McCormick 1911	T. McCormick Jan. 19 1912	H. Moroz Dec. 29 1911	L.S. S. Mostyniuk Dec. 1 1927	W. Sutherland Dec. 30 1911
A.A. McEachern Apr. 28 1905	E. McCuaig Apr. 29 1905	Dunc. McDonald Nov. 27 1908	Rory McDonald July 18 1911	S. Van Iderstine Sept. 4 1906	A. Ralstin Dec. 22 1911	W. Andrishak Feb. 10 1911	A. McCormick Dec. 17 1912	C. Parker June 9 1914	Wm. Carson Nov. 5 1914
H.J. McDonald Apr. 26 1906	A. Pawelkowsky Feb 3 1913	E. Persson Dec. 15 1908	P. Feniak Apr. 21 1910	B. Anderson Feb. 22 1907	D.J. McDonald May 8 1906	M. Melnyk June 19 1912	N. Poliszczuk May 8 1911	E. Harchanek May 8 1911	J. Lopatynsky Jan. 7 1913
									A. Bobowick July 24 1911

Location of William Andrishak's first homestead in Alberta



Mary Muzyka's birthplace in Denysiv in the Oblast of Ternopil, Western Ukraine



Location of Smoky Lake relative to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



Dmytro and Mary Muzyka.

Mary (Muzyka) Andrishak's Story

Mother was born in Denysiv near the city of Ternopil in Western Ukraine near the border of Austria in 1890. At the time this entire area was part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy headed by Emperor Franz Joseph. Her parents were Jacob and Barbara Muzyka. Mother had three brothers and two sisters.

They owned very little land and were considered poor. Dmytro, mother's older brother often worked for the town lord, *pan*, for as little as 30¢ a day. Other jobs paid very little more.

In 1910 Dmytro learned that he could obtain 160 acres of land in Alberta for only ten dollars. He arranged for Michael, his older brother, to remain with his parents and he and his two sisters left their homeland for Alberta - never to return again to Ukraine.

They arrived at Antwerp, Holland where they boarded a ship. To their dismay it was a cattle freighter which took two weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They were a sorry mess when they arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia. By the middle of May they took the train and reached Edmonton.

Dmytro, mother's brother, stopped at the Provincial land office and obtained the location of his land which was on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River twenty miles north

east of Lamont. It was situated in the Delph, Alberta district. The area was made up mostly of Ukrainian immigrants.

The description of Dmytro's land was N.E. 1-58-19-4 of the West Meridian. Shortly after his arrival he built a log house. This dwelling had mud-plastered walls and ceiling. Layers of sod were laid on a slanted roof instead of shingles. The floor was hard-packed clay - not wood. Furniture was handmade. Because of the sod roof the house became a mess every time they had a hard rain. This home provided a suitable shelter for Dmytro, my mother, and another sister.

Later Dmytro married Mary Krywaniuk on February 11, 1912 in Edmonton, Alberta. Their nearest hospital was at Lamont twenty miles south west of their Delph farm. Their nearest post office was at Penno, seven miles away. Their closest market town was Lamont.

About 1913 my father met Mary Muzyka and they were married. The circumstances under which they met and their wedding day are lost in time. Dad already had a home built and my mother had only a short distance to move.

Four children were born in our family between 1915 and 1919. The oldest was Anne in 1915 followed by Olga in 1916, Fred in 1917 and Mike in 1918. They were all born in the Northbank district except Olga who was born at Pine Creek which was later renamed Waskatenau, Alberta.

Mary Andrishak



The family remained on this land from about 1912 to 1920. In early 1921 dad sold his homestead and moved to the Warspite area. He had taken a barbering course and decided to build a pool hall and a barber shop.

* * *

We lived on a farm about one mile south of Warspite and four of the oldest in our family attended school in Warspite.. In 1921 I was born at Warspite and in 1924 Peter was also born there. Dad didn't do too well with his pool business and barber shop. Hair cuts were 25¢ a head and he wasn't getting rich with his pool hall. Early in 1926 dad heard that the CNR was extending its railroad to both Elk Point and Heinsburg.

After much thought he decided to sell his pool hall and barber shop and move to Elk Point. Early in 1926 he made the move. I was too young to remember much about the move. However my sister Anne who was about eleven at the time described the move to me well in a recent exchange of information.

According to her, the family travelled to Smoky Lake by sleigh. A neighbour drove us there so we could take the train to St. Paul. The first leg of the journey was terrifying. Apparently we were crossing a large slough on our way to Smoky Lake when the ice broke from under the sleigh and every one of us thought we might drown, however we all made it to shore. Looking back it must have been a harrowing experience.

Arriving at Smoky Lake we loaded what few belongings we had and boarded a train for St. Paul which at that time was the end of the line. Dad had to hire another sleigh in St. Paul so we could continue the trip to Elk Point. We arrived there later towards evening.



Pool Hall, 1926



First school for Elk Point, 2 1/2 miles SE of EP.



Back: Olga, Ann, Fred
Mike, Peter holding Jean, Steve

It was difficult to find a place to stay in Elk Point, however we spent a few days living in a dugout or building on a farm owned by Leo Babcock until we could find something better. When dad came to Elk Point he bought a pool hall equipped with a couple of pool tables which was located across the street from where I now live - 50th Avenue and Hwy. 41 on the north east quadrant. He later turned this building into a general store.

Elk Point was only a small hamlet in 1926. It was centred near the four corners of Highway 41. It had a total of about seventy-five people and no more than a dozen places of business and about twenty-five homes.

The four eldest members of our family started going to a country school which was located two and a half miles south east of Elk Point. There was no school in Elk Point at that time.

It was not long before dad opened his general store. He had a rough time operating it. He had very little education and he couldn't read or write, but it did not take him long to learn. In the meantime when sister Anne wasn't in school, she helped dad with his correspondence, ran the cash register, wrote up the bills as well as performing other duties. It was great help to dad having both Anne and Olga working for him. Being near a Ukrainian district it didn't take long before he had most of the Ukrainian people south of the river dealing at his store.

The railroad finally arrived in Elk Point on September 22, 1927. During 1926, dad had bought two lots on Elk Point's new main street. One where the Stedman's Store is now located, and the

William Andrishak Store, 1930



other directly west behind it facing present day 51st Street. Here he built a comfortable home which we moved into in 1927.

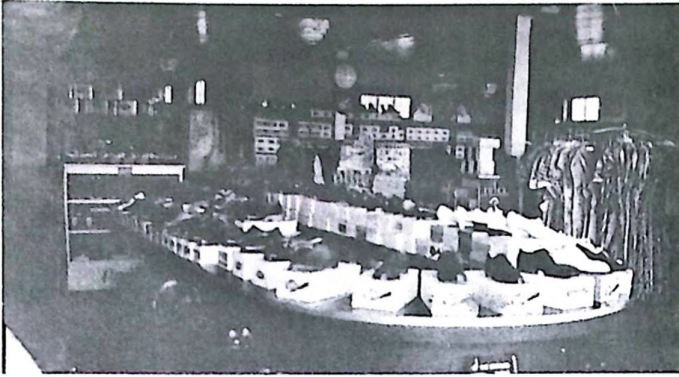
He also moved his store building to the new main street location so he could be near the railroad station. The stockyards and grain elevators were positioned nearby next to the tracks. Once dad moved uptown he built on to his store building making it twice as big.

He eventually acquired the John Deere Agency and sold various types of machinery, sold dry goods, groceries, fence posts and bought furs. For a man who had very little education he became a sound business man. The store turned out to a gold mine. In 1927 Elk Point was still in the horse and buggy days. People didn't go very far away to shop. They travelled mostly in buggies, on horse back, and with wagons.

Every Tuesday was market day. Farmers all brought their cattle and pigs to market then spent a good share of their money on needed supplies. There were only two other general stores in town, C. A. Johnson's and C.J. Markstad's. Dad did about twice as much business as the other two put together.

The old country school was finally moved into Elk Point from its out of town location and a new, two-room elementary school was also built in 1928. I started going to school in 1927. It was in the United Church building where the Ron Onuskos now live (5125 48 Street). This school burned down and was relocated down the hill in a big abandoned log store building. I will always remember this school. I was in grade two at the time.

A Christmas concert was scheduled in December and I had a very small part in it. My part was to do a recitation about Simple Simon. When the curtain opened I was sitting on a stool with a fishing rod and a pail filled with water. I started my reciting, but when I looked down at the crowd, I panicked and forgot my lines. I started out reciting, "Simple Simon went a fishing in his mother's pail" - then I couldn't remember the rest of my lines and kept repeating "in his



Interior of Andrishak Store

mother's pail, in his mother's pail". Finally there were a few snickers, then a lot of loud laughs and about then I jumped down from my high stool and quickly took off for home. That ended my career in acting.

In 1929 the great depression set in. It was caused by the New York and world wide stock markets crashing throughout the world. Everything was going along fine at my dad's store until then.



William Andrishak standing proudly in front of his store.

Suddenly the bottom dropped out of everything. Very few people had any money, jobs were hard to find, and it became difficult to feed a family. Farm labourers got 50¢ a day working long hours. The price of goods dropped to rock bottom. A loaf of bread sold for 5¢, eggs were 5¢ a dozen, wheat dropped to about 30¢ a bushel, feed oats sold for 5¢ a bushel and a fully grown hog sold for \$3.00, and a steer for about \$20.00 to \$25.00. All things were dirt cheap, but very few people had any money to buy anything.

Dad charged goods to many of his better customers thinking that things would soon improve, but they didn't. One ninety-year-old former customer recalls (in 2004) that if Bill Andrishak hadn't lent them \$38.00 to buy a mowing machine they would have never got their crop off. They did and repaid him the same fall. He saved their whole way of living.

Suddenly World War II was declared and it seemed everyone had money to burn. Many of dad's customers repaid him for the goods they received during the depression, but many others who owed dad big bills never came near the store again. I often wondered how he was able to renew his stock in the store under these conditions. Our whole family pitched in and helped dad run his business during the many years he was in the store business. We unpacked goods, filled shelves, made the store presentable, dusted and swept floors.. We also helped ourselves to some of the tastier items on sale to the general public.

In 1937 my sister Olga met and married Max Fischer who had just come from Germany. During previous years dad kept buying farm land. He had 11 quarters by 1938. He decided this would be a good time to move to the farm and let Olga and Max run the store.

Mom, dad, and about four of the family moved to the farm which was located two and a half miles north west of town. Dad raised many good crops and always had his granaries filled. He had two large barns, a log granary and a grain elevator he had built which was similar to grain elevators built in town but only half as big.

Dad's main love however was raising purebred, polled Herefords. During the early 1940s he loaded some of his prize, young bulls in a box car and entered them in the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. He also took his prize stock to fairs in Calgary and Edmonton. He always came back with red and blue prize ribbons for his efforts

* * *

So far I have said a lot about my father, but very little about my mother. Mother was a stay-at-home type of mother – a hard worker especially during the threshing season which lasted about three weeks each year. She, along with a hired woman, were busy feeding the threshing crews. Endless meats, potatoes, loaves of bread and pies were prepared. She was an exceptionally good cook.

Her Ukrainian type of cooking was tops. She was ranked with the best of them when it came to preparing Ukrainian food. Her perogies and cabbage rolls seemed to melt in your mouth.

Mother always looked after us at all times. You could never hope for a better mother. She never failed to have a good garden on the farm as well as keeping us well-clothed at all times.

Getting back to dad and his farming operations, I must mention a few items. During the War farm labourers were almost impossible to hire. Dad solved some of his problems by buying one of the first combines in our district to take off his crop. A combine will cut and thresh grain in one operation. It will separate the grain from the plant stock while going on the field and cutting the stocks thus reducing the number of labouring men. He also had a three-ton Dodge truck which he used for hauling his grain to the town elevators.

His first car was a 1928 Whippet that he purchased in 1937. In 1942 he was able to purchase a new Dodge Deluxe car for \$3000.00. Today for a similar car you would have to pay ten times this amount.

In 1944 dad was stricken with cancer and with most of us boys in the armed forces he was stuck for help. Sister Anne's husband, Steve Lazaruk, came to the rescue and for about two years he seeded dad's crop in the spring and was back in the fall to harvest it. Steve Lazaruk lived at Rycroft in the Peace River country of northern Alberta. He was an experienced farmer who also later built a general store and still later a garage and dealership. I often wondered how Steve managed to do so much for my father at a time of need especially when he had to hire someone to do his work in Rycroft. Dad was very grateful for all of Steve's kindness during the time he was ill.

When dad was failing with cancer, he knew his days were numbered and started dividing his property. He helped every member of the family by setting them up in business or allocating farm land to them.

By 1945 he retired and lived in a home next to mine. Over the next five years he was in and out of hospitals. Dad started me off in the entertainment business by buying the Arnott hall in Elk Point in June 1, 1945. This hall was badly run down and he invested thousands of dollars upgrading it.



Mary (Muzyka) Andrishak
in Elk Point



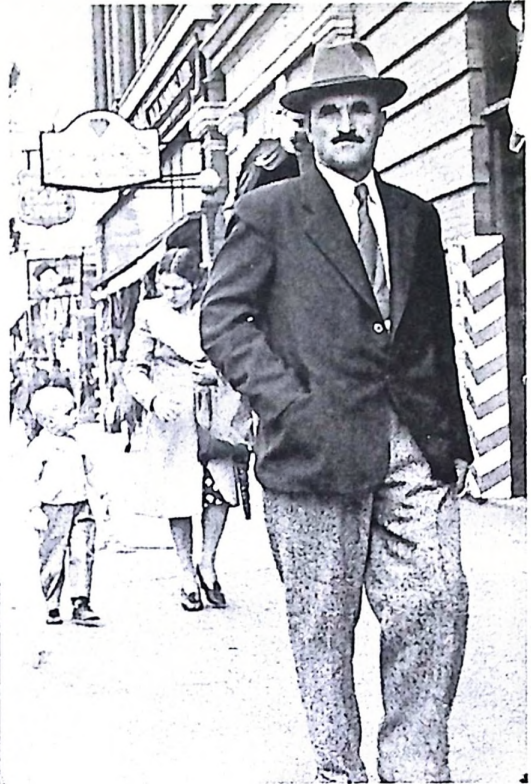
Fred with Olga and Peter



Florence Johnson and Anne with C.A. Johnson house in background



William Andrishak's new Dodge, 1942



William "Bill" Andrishak
in Edmonton



Andrishak truck. Note phone number



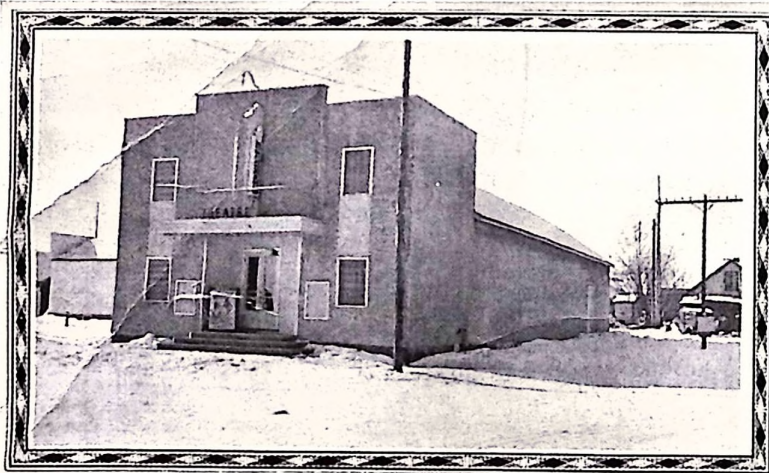
1928 Whippet bought by Bill Andrishak in 1937. Bill on left on running board.
Anne at the wheel.

From 1945 to 1950 it was used as a dance hall and a movie was shown once a week by a travelling movie operator. In 1950 I took the dance floor out and installed a sloping floor and 300 theatre seats were installed.

In 1952 I had two 35mm projectors installed and was able to get much better movies. Before television came along I was packing the theatre every night, but once television was established and most people had receiving sets my business dropped something terribly. However with help I received from my family I was able to stay open.

In 1986 I started getting my old age pension so I closed the theatre down and sold the property to the nearby Co-op grocery store who wanted the land for parking. I spent forty-two years running my theatre and never regretted it.

During the many years I operated the theatre, I had a lot of spare time so I started a museum. I celebrated 50 years in which I was open to the public in 2002. My three Visitor Books show that 40,000 people had passed through it. This museum is housed in four buildings. One day checking over some of my Visitor Books I found I had people visit from every province in Canada as well as its Northern Territories. People came from thirty-three US states and people came from thirty-one countries of the world. I never got rich running it, but over the years I had lots of company.



Steve Andrishak's Arrow Theatre
(formerly the Arnott Dance Hall)

Mary Andrishak
just walked to town

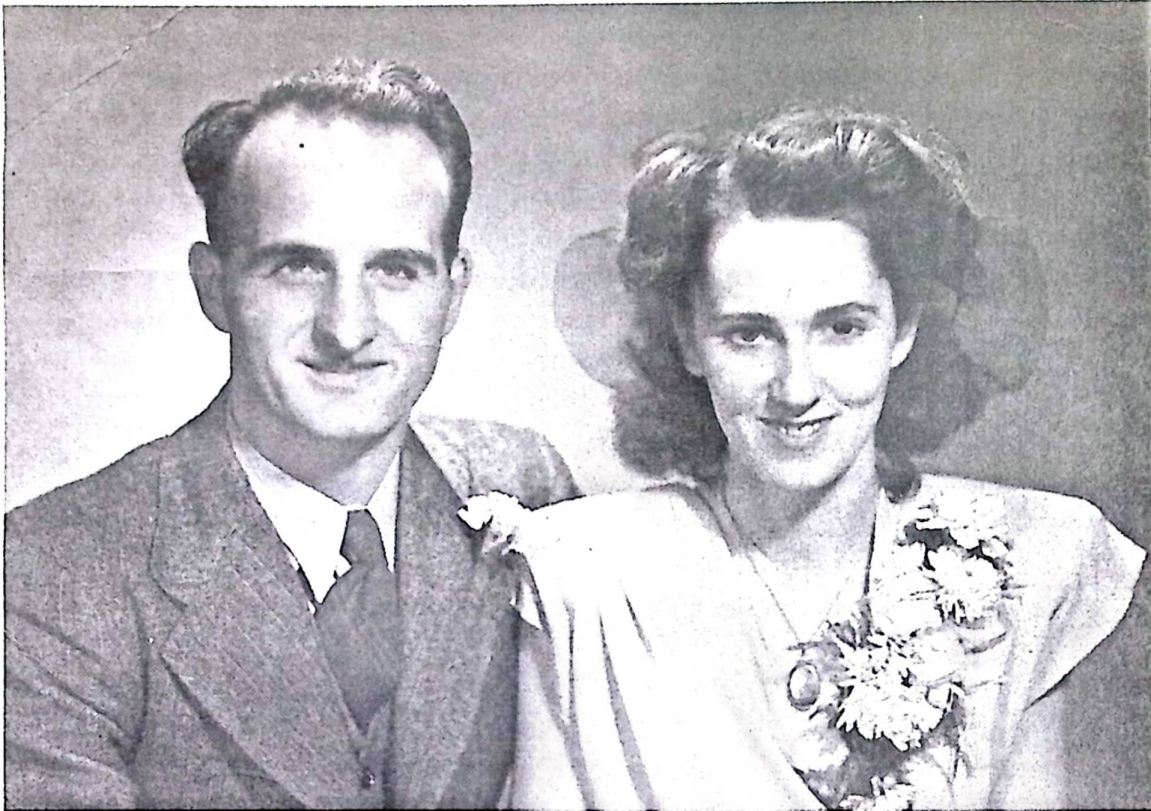


Dad belonged to the Ukrainian Orthodox faith. During the 1940s, there was no Ukrainian Orthodox church in Elk Point. About once a month an Orthodox priest came to town and service was held in my theatre on Sundays. About 1944, when they decided to build an Orthodox church in Elk Point dad donated almost an acre of his farm land to this church project. He passed away before the church was ever built.

When dad passed away on July 30, 1949 after fighting a courageous battle with cancer our entire family was devastated. He will always be remembered by all of us.

Mother continued to live next door to me for many years. She was sick most of the time and dreaded seeing a doctor. The family felt she would be better cared for in a nursing home. She was admitted to a nursing home in St. Paul. But she was never happy there so we had her moved to a nursing home in Myrnam where she would be among other Ukrainian people. Later my sister Olga had mother moved to a nursing home in Edmonton so she could be near her. I visited her whenever I was in Edmonton. One day I went to Edmonton and failed to call on her. I felt bad about it. Something kept telling me to go back and visit her so the following Friday I made a special trip just to see her. She seemed happier than I had ever seen her. We had a very good visit and when I was leaving she walked me to the door – she was very glad I had come to see her.

About three days later we got a telephone call from Hollyrood Nursing Home in Edmonton telling us mother had a massive stroke. She passed away on March 8, 1973. It was truly a tragic loss to lose mother. I shall always remember my father and mother as two honest, hardworking parents who tried to give their family a better way of life than they had in their homeland in Ukraine.



Steve Andrishak and Doris Walton's
Wedding Picture

Another event of great importance to me, also in 1945, was when I got married on December 1st.

Doris Walton, a nurse who had just graduated as a registered nurse from the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton arrived in Elk Point during March 1945 and started working in the Elk Point Municipal Hospital. We met and after a whirlwind romance we decided to get married. I was twenty-five years old and she was a year younger at twenty-four years old.

For about two years we lived in a little house a block south of the theatre later moving into our old home which had been moved back to its old original location. During the next six years three daughters were born. They were Janice born in 1947, Carole born in 1949 and Ellie came in 1951. John and Jim were born somewhat later. John in 1958 and Jim in 1962.

Doris worked for a number of years at the Elk Point hospital before spending many more years at Doctor F.G. Miller's clinic which was located where the Roadside Pizza & Grill is now at the south west corner of Highway 41 and 50th Avenue. Doris was a dedicated nurse and was well-liked by the doctors as well as her patients. She curled for a number of years with Doctor Anne Weigerinck's rink and in the summer she spent a lot of time camping at Lake Whitney with the

children.

Doris became ill about 1955 and spent a lot of time in different hospitals. In 1955 she spent a month at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1954 I had bought a new Buick Century car and drove there to pick her up when she was about to be discharged. Thinking a long trip would do her some good, I decided to take her on a two-week holiday. We drove through Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. While we were at a motel in Wyoming, a snow storm blew up during the night and piled drifts of snow about ten feet high. We had to remain there for two days while they cleared the highways so people could travel again. It was an interesting trip, but a tiring one having covered five thousand miles in two weeks.

Doris continued working in Doctor F. G. Miller's clinic for about fifteen years, but had to quit because of her illness. She spent the remaining five years of her life in the Elk Point hospital in Long Term Care before passing away on July 30, 1990.



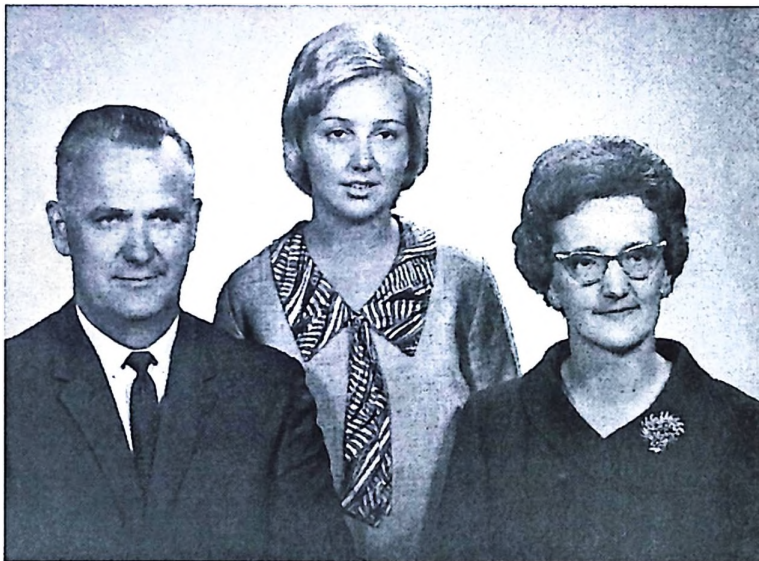
Doris enjoying the sunshine

The History of Anne (Andrishak) Lazoruk and Family

Anne , the oldest member of our family, was born in 1915 at Northbank, Alberta ten miles south east of Warspite, Alberta. She lived on dad's original homestead where she spent about six years of her early life. When the family moved to Warspite in 1921 she attended school there until we moved to Elk Point in 1926. When Anne wasn't going to school she helped dad run his general store in Elk Point. During the late 1930s, Anne decided to be a teacher and enrolled in the Camrose Normal School for one year. On completion of her training she accepted her first teaching assignment at the Martin School District which was situated east of Heinsburg, Alberta.

She taught at this school for about one year and then moved to the Rycroft, Alberta area where she began teaching at her second school. Later while teaching at this school she met Steve Lazoruk. Anne and Steve were subsequently married. Steve was a respected member of the Lazoruk family which included a number of brothers and sisters. Steve was farming at that time.

When dad was stricken with cancer, Steve journeyed to Elk Point to help dad farm during the fall and spring for about two years. Shortly after Steve and Anne were married, they opened up a general store in Rycroft which they operated for about seven years. Following that they started up a General Motors Company dealership, farm machinery and appliance business which they ran successfully until their retirement.



Steve Lazoruk, Marolyn and Anne.

Meanwhile, Marolyn, their only child, a practising nurse had left home for California. While Steve operated his General Motors dealership in Rycroft he was involved in many community affairs. He served as town councillor – later becoming the mayor of Rycroft. While nursing in California, Marolyn met and married Doctor Myron Wacholder. Myron was a medical doctor during the Vietnam war.

Three children were born in the Wacholder family: Ashley, Rachel and Daniel. They have all grown up and have left home. Ashley is married to Brian Tyus and they have just had a new baby (2004). Ashley is a school teacher. Rachel is a professional beach volleyball player and works in television commercials. Daniel is an engineer with a new job with an inventor

Upon retirement Steve and Anne left Rycroft and retired in Kelowna, but they later moved to California to be near Marolyn and Myron and their three grandchildren. They live at Laguna Niguel, California. Marolyn and Myron live at Laguna Beach not far from where Anne and Steve live. On August 5, 2004 Anne and Steve will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary.

History of Olga (Andrishak) Fischer

Olga was the second child born in dad and mother's family. She was born May 14, 1916 at Pine Creek, Alberta which later had its name changed to Waskatenau. Dad sold his homestead quarter section which was located in the Northbank district in 1921 then moved to Warspite, Alberta.



Front: Olga, Bill and Maz Fischer
Back: Judy and Maryanne

All four of mom and dad's children attended school in Warspite before moving to Elk Point in 1926. When my dad opened his general store in Elk Point Olga was only ten years old. She soon proved to be very helpful to dad in the store when she wasn't going to school. Olga and Anne both learned fast and soon became good clerks in dad's store. Olga was a real business woman and was a great asset to dad.

Up until 1937 our general store was a family operation. Everyone in the family pitched in and did their share. However all this changed when Olga married Max Fischer in 1937. Max prior to this had just arrived in Canada from Germany. Soon after they married dad turned the store over to Max and Olga and most of our family including dad, mother and about four children moved two and a half miles north west to our farm. Dad had been buying land for a few years and had always intended to farm. The farm we moved to had a good house so we didn't have any real problems to overcome.

In 1939 Maryanne was the first child born to Olga and Max followed by Judy then Bill. Olga and Max first lived in an upstairs apartment above the store, but around 1940 they had our old house moved back to Elk Point's old town site which was on the east side of town. Soon after they had a spacious home built on the same lot. Olga and Max had many busy years in the store – which proved to be very profitable. In 1949 Olga and Max bought the Alberta Hotel in Elk Point and sold the store to brother Mike.

Olga and Max operated the Alberta Hotel for about seven years then sold it and bought another hotel in Camrose. Subsequently they sold the Camrose business and bought two hotels in Edmonton, Alberta. They were the Gateway on 6th Street and Jasper and the New Gateway on 95th, three blocks north of Jasper Avenue. Neither of their two hotels served liquor however.

On June 13, 1959 Olga's daughter, Maryanne, married Victor Iskiw. They had five children: Robert born in 1959, Catherine in 1961, Dave in 1962, Karen in 1963, and Susan in 1964. The children are all grown up and some have children of their own. On October 13, 1976 Olga's husband, Max, passed away leaving Olga to run the hotel business. The Gateway on 6th and Jasper was surrounded by many high rise buildings and the lot that the hotel sat on was considered very valuable. After having a number of good offers she sold it. She also sold her other hotel on 95th Avenue which was managed by her son Bill and retired – still living in Edmonton.

She travelled a lot mainly to Hawaii where her daughter Judy lived. Olga celebrated her 80th birthday in 1996. A number of our family attended the party. Olga suddenly passed away on July 14, 1998 in Edmonton. Maryanne and members of her family still live in Edmonton. Judy lives in Hawaii and Bill lives in the Gunn, Alberta district.



Mike Andrishak
with Maryanne



Fred Andrishak
in the Navy

Fred Andrishak

Brother Fred was born on a farm in the Northbank, Alberta district – ten miles south east of Warspite in 1917. He started school in Warspite about 1923. He moved to Elk Point with mom and dad and five other brothers and sisters in 1926. He then continued his schooling going to a country school two and a half miles south east of Elk Point. He usually walked back and forth with three other members of our family. In 1928 the country school was moved into Elk Point and the older children of our family no longer had to walk to and from this little white school house. This original school house still stands in Elk Point now serving as a rummage hall on 50th Avenue at the back of the lot between the RCMP building and the United Church hall.

During his earlier years he clerked in my dad's store when he wasn't attending school. In 1934 Fred bought his first car. It was a Ford Roadster that had a rumble seat for added passengers. Fred liked to dance and he hardly missed any dances in town or out of town. Because of his flivver that he drove he was quite popular with the girls. As a pastime Fred enjoyed partying as well as playing poker.

In 1940 Fred joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He took his training in Regina. When he graduated, his first posting was Brandon, Manitoba. Fred never seemed happy in the police force. Apparently he did not like handing out traffic tickets which made him different from other policemen. In 1942 he was transferred from the RCMP to the Navy and spent his time on the high seas until the War ended. During the War he met Velma Keene, a teacher who lived in the Rycroft area



Fred and Velma
at their wedding

In 1942 they were married and after the War they moved to Elk Point. At that time dad was dividing his property and he gave Fred a number of farms. Dad then retired and moved to Elk Point leaving Fred to operate the farms. Over the years Fred and Velma had a family of six children: Ruth, Gary, Susan, Brian, Murray, and Dana who died at a very young age. A grandson, Lance, Ruth's son was also raised by Fred and Velma.

Fred did quite well on the farms raising many good crops as well as a fine herd of cattle. After dad passed away in 1949 Fred later sold his farms and moved back to Elk Point where he operated a furniture store as well as selling television sets as they were first coming in. He seemed to enjoy his business operation.

Velma, Fred's wife taught school in Elk Point and district. Later they bought a spacious home – one that was previously owned by Dr. A.G. Ross a long time doctor who first came to Elk Point in 1922. Velma got sick during the 1980s and passed away.

Somewhere along the way Fred picked up the nickname of “Honest Fred the Farmers' Friend” and this epithet remained with him for the rest of his life. Fred became ill in the late 1980s and passed away in 1990. All of Fred's property was then sold and the entire family moved out of the district.

Ruth, Fred and Velma's oldest daughter, went to school in the Elk Point district. When she completed her education she began writing. She wrote many articles some which if my memory serves me right were featured on CBC Radio years ago. Ruth is a good writer and enjoys her work. For many years she lived with Fred and Velma along with her son Lance who is now grown up and is on his own.

A few years ago she moved to Komarno, Manitoba where she still lives. In 1994 she attended our family reunion and visited with our entire clan.

Susan, Fred and Velma's second daughter, grew up in Elk Point. In her teens she spent some time with Elk Point's all-girls marching band with Carole Andrishak, Karen Kovach, Dianne and Maureen Warren and others. They attended many events such as parades in and out of town. She later married Jim Mitchell, son of Edith and Bob Mitchell and moved to British Columbia where Jim worked, I believe as a butcher.

Later he and Susan moved to Kelowna where he works for Save-On-Foods. Susan works part time at a library. Susan informed me she recently became a grandmother.

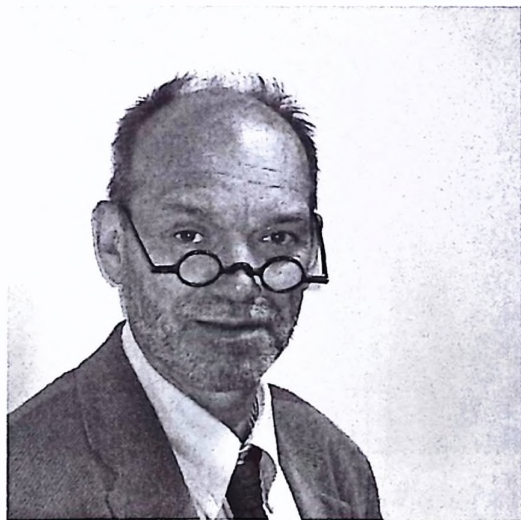
Gary, the oldest son was born to Fred and Velma in 1945. He attended school in Elk Point. In 1969 he was a student at the University of Manitoba and took his graduate studies at the Royal Danish Academy of Art in 1973. He is now a renowned architect. He designed the Alberta Pavilion at Vancouver's World Fair in 1986. He also designed the Reynold's Alberta Automobile Museum at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. He did work for Coca Cola in Las Vegas. The Fairmont Hotel, at the Vancouver airport marks work done by Gary. Olympic related events throughout the world in which Coca Cola had a hand bears Gary's signature. He has also designed projects in Louisiana and Japan.

Gary while studying in Copenhagen, Denmark met Ann Marie Weincke and were later married. They have two children. Gary and his wife now live in West Vancouver.

I have been unable to make contact with Fred's two other boys, Brian and Murray. I do know they are both living in the Vancouver area and are unmarried.

Gary Andrishak

The eldest son of Fred Andrishak, Gary Andrishak (b. 1945) received his undergraduate education from the University of Manitoba (1969) and postgraduate training at the Royal Danish Academy of Art (1973). In the late 1970's Gary opened an architecture studio in Calgary AB with partner Jeremy Sturgess. Their breakthrough achievement was winning the competition to design the Alberta Pavilion for Vancouver's - EXPO 86. The project quickly became a 'must see' at the Worlds Fair. Following the achievement of the Alberta Pavilion, Gary was contracted by the Alberta Government to produce interpretive designs for a series of museums, most notably the Reynolds-Alberta Automobile Museum, in Wetaskiwin AB, and the Remington-



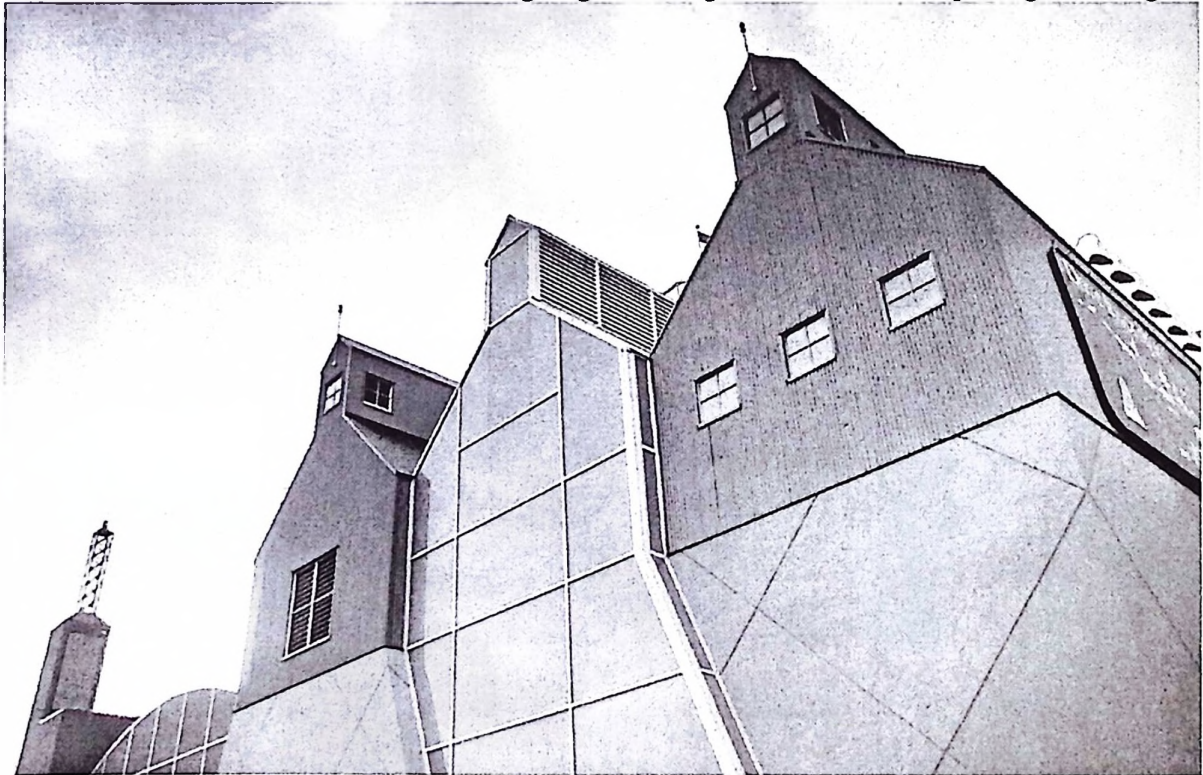
Gary Andrishak
2004

Alberta Carriage Center, in Cardson AB.

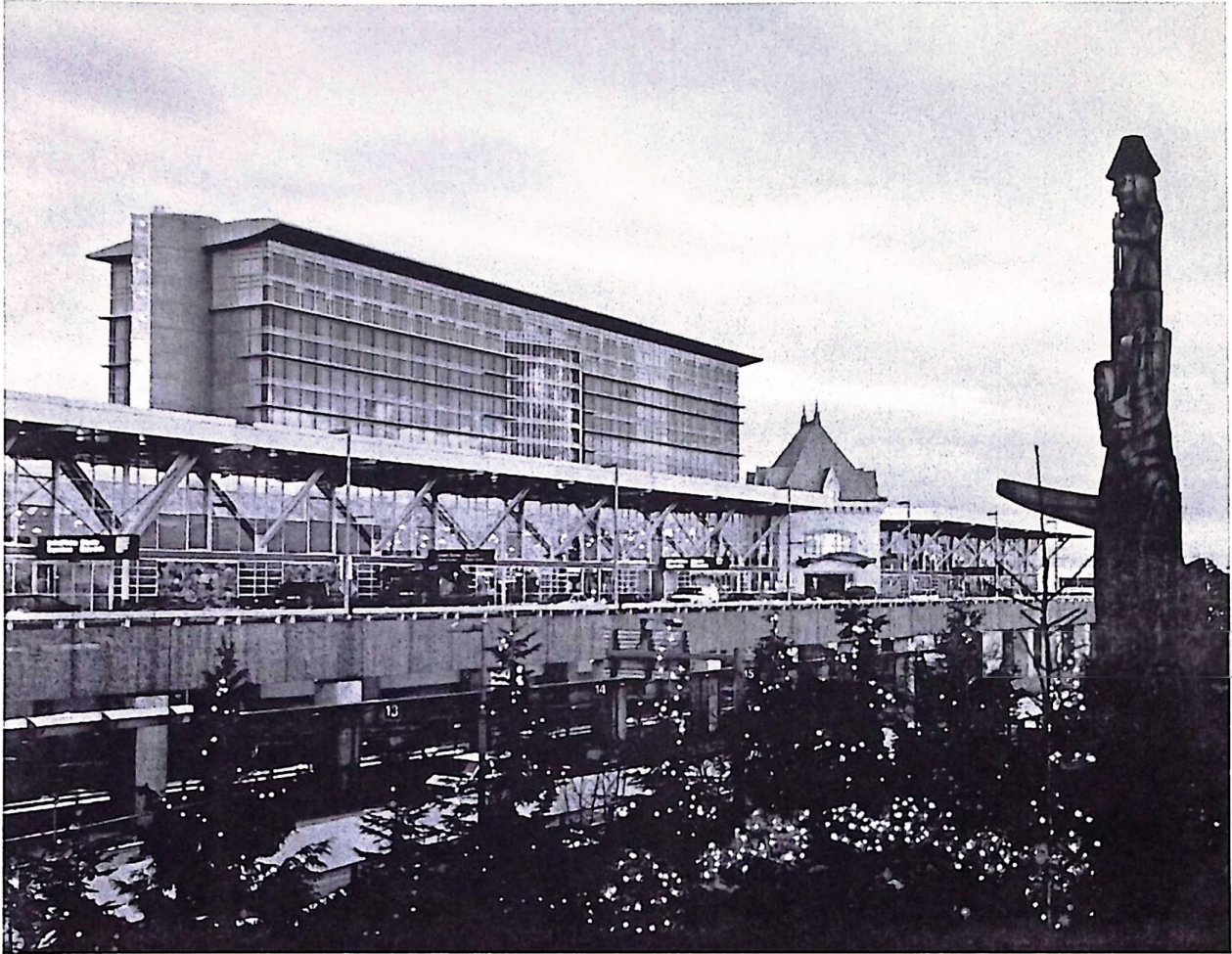
In the late 1980's, Gary was retained by the Coca-Cola Company to handle its Olympic-related events design around the world. In addition, he worked extensively in Europe and Japan on other projects for Coca-Cola from his new company - Andrishak Design Group - with offices in Atlanta GA and Vancouver BC. One project of note built during this period was the World of Coca-Cola facility on the strip in Las Vegas NV, which features the World's tallest Coke bottle - 100 feet high.

In 1998, Gary merged Andrishak Design Group with IBI Group, a multi-national consulting firm with offices in 20 cities in North America, Europe and the Middle East. He works on a variety of large scale, complex projects, most of which are associated with rapid transit systems requiring new patterns of land use development from IBI Group's Vancouver office. He flies 100-*plus* days a year to service his portfolio of work. A representative project from this work is the entry pavilion of the Fairmont Hotel at the Vancouver International Airport.

In the process, however, Gary has not lost his interest in museum design. Most recently, he teamed up with his old partner, Jeremy Sturges, to enter the competition to build the new Canadian Museum of Human Rights, sponsored by the Asper Foundation, to be built in Winnipeg MB. Despite the fact that this is an international competition entered by the world's most renowned 'Starchitects', the Andrishak-Sturges submission has made the "short list" and so the team is in the hunt (at this writing), against long odds, to win this prestigious assignment.



Alberta Pavilion at Expo 86 ub Vancouver



Andrishak designed pavilion near Airport Fairmont Hotel



Susan, Alex, Robin, Teiko, and Jim



Fred Andrishak



Velma and Fred in Berlin 1966



Fred with Mr Keene and Gary

It was while studying in Copenhagen that Gary met his wife, the former Anne Marie Weincke (b. 1947). They reside in West Vancouver, BC where wife Anne Marie is an accomplished textile artist who works daily in a studio in their home. They have two children. Daughter Sacha Maria (b. 1974) resides in West Vancouver with her husband, Meyrick Jones and son Mattias Oskar Jones (b. 2002). She is a primary grade school teacher. Son Nikolaj Frederick (b. 1976) is studying architecture at a Graduate School level, at the University of British Columbia.

Mike Andrishak

Brother Mike was born on June 10, 1918 at Northbank, Alberta. He was the fourth child born in our family. When dad homesteaded in the Northbank area, Mike was too young to go to school, however when dad moved to Warspite, Alberta, in 1921 Mike attended school there for five years. When the family moved to Elk Point in 1926 he had to walk two and a half miles to school. The hamlet of Elk Point had no schools.

Back in the 1930s Mike almost drowned. He went to a swimming pool with a number of other boys. This swimming pool was privately built on a creek about one mile south of our present Water Treatment Plant on land by the river presently owned by Brian and Daphne Schnurer. Mike couldn't swim and as he was wading in the shallow pool, he suddenly dropped in a deep hole and had gone down two times before my brother Fred passed a long branch for Mike to grab. He was then pulled out.

Mike was the inventor in our family. He was always trying to invent some gadget, but was never successful – not that he was incapable of doing so. He was an above average student. He excelled in science in chemistry, geometry and algebra. Mike had no trouble completing high school.

In 1939 he made a trip to Ontario. He had saved his money for a long time with this trip in mind. He took the bus to Hamilton, Ontario, but failed to find employment there. The depression was still on and no one was hiring. After staying in Hamilton for a few days he decided to travel to New York City and see the World's Fair. He bought a small motorcycle in Hamilton which could travel one hundred and eighty miles on a gallon of gas. Gasoline in those days was about 25¢ a gallon. He claimed he made the trip from Hamilton to New York City at a cost of \$4.00.

Mike stayed in New York for three weeks and enjoyed the sights and exhibits of the Fair. While there he also visited the Statue of Liberty, the Bronx and many of the other interesting parts of New York City. Mike returned home soon after on his motorcycle. He enjoyed passing through many states and their sights on the journey home.

On September 1939 World War II broke out and Mike spent 30 days training in the army base at Camrose, Alberta. In 1941 he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and it resulted in a five-year stay with the Air Force. He served at Vulcan, Alberta at an air base. He was also stationed at Penhold, Alberta, Moncton, New Brunswick, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and at Goose Bay, Labrador. Mike was in charge of canteens at all these locations.

Mike Andrishak, aged 21 in 1939 in New York City for the World's Fair



When Mike got his discharge, he spent some time in the Peace River country. There he met and married Mary Polny. Later they moved to Edmonton and he worked with the Alberta Avenue Real Estate Company for about two years. He later moved back to Elk Point and worked in my sister's store. In 1949 he bought the store from my sister Olga and remained in the store business until 1952. He sold the store in 1952 and moved back to Edmonton where he bought a home. Mike and Mary raised two children named Joan and Bill.

Mike was a very good salesman. He was variously employed as a salesman by the North West Furniture Company, Eaton's, the Hudson's Bay company and Sears for a number of years. During Mike's retirement he was stricken with cancer and passed away a year later. Joan, Mike and Mary's only daughter, was killed in an automobile accident on the West Coast of British Columbia. Joan's only child, Robyn, returned to Edmonton to be raised by his grandmother, Mary.

About a year ago (2003) Robyn Andrishak married Lora and they now live in North Edmonton. Mary remains in a nursing home in Edmonton.

Steve Andrishak

I, Steve Andrishak was born on January 7, 1921 on a farm about a mile south of Warspite, Alberta. I remember very little of my life prior to our move to Elk Point in 1926.

During my life I have always been a collector. One thing I do remember well and one I always wanted to forget took place in 1928. I was only seven years old at the time. For some reason I became interested in car keys and decided to start my first collection. In those early years people didn't lock their cars and often left their keys in the ignition. That day there were about thirty cars parked on both sides of main street. When the car owners weren't looking I removed their thirty or so keys and placed them on a ring. I made the mistake of showing the collection of keys to Sam Soldan. When the car owners suddenly found that their keys were gone, he squealed on me and soon the chase was on. Everyone was chasing me to get their keys back. I remember one fat lady about five feet tall spotted me and gave chase. I took off, but she soon outran me and recovered all the car owners keys. I never tried that one again.

My next collection was collecting gopher tails. The government paid a bounty of two cents for each gopher tail and this was a lot of money when the depression was on. It was one way of getting a few pennies together so we could buy some treats that otherwise we could not afford.

Next I collected birds' eggs – then Indian arrowheads and in later years anything that was antique. The railroad was being built and we often walked two and a half miles west just to watch the action. Growing up during the depression of the 1930s wasn't any fun. You always had to do without so many things.

Many Americans had settled in the Elk Point area during the pioneer years. They always held their sports day on July 4th which was Independence Day in the USA. Money was impossible to get your hands on, and you always had to have money at a sports day in order to buy treats. Another boy and I solved our problems. In the 1930s, Elk Point's sidewalks were made of two by fours laid side by side with a span of about a half an inch apart. My friend and I would get up about 5 o'clock in the morning and crawl on our hands and knees peeking in between the space left between the planking. Whenever we spotted a coin under the wooden sidewalk we would place a wad of chewing gum on the end of a stick, heat it with a match and lower it to where we spotted the coin. We fastened the end on a coin and brought it up. It came very easily. Although our knees were sore and the knees of our pants were badly worn. We usually ended up finding about \$3.00 each. Our find included nickels, dimes, and quarters and sometimes a fifty cent coin all dropped by someone during the past year.

We were considered rich and other kids envied us during the sports day. We were eating something all day – ice cream, chocolate bars, bottles of pop and other treats. The other kids wondered if we had robbed a bank. We did this for a number of years. We eliminated all the competition by not telling them where we got our money.

In 1929 a new two-room school was built in Elk Point for the next few years I attended classes regularly at this school. I was always interested in sports, mainly hockey and baseball. They remain my two favourite sports. In 1934 Dr. F.G. Miller organized a juvenile hockey team which stayed together until the war broke out in 1939.

I recall a time in 1939 when a number of us teenagers almost got killed. We heard that the river ice was going out so we decided to watch. Because no one could cross the river, an overhead

cage was used to take passengers across. When we got to the river someone suggested taking a ride in the cage. About eight of us piled in and were on our way. When we got about half way across the river the anchor pulled out of the ground on the south side and we plunged eighteen feet to the solid ice below. Luckily the cage didn't roll – if it would have there would have been a number of deaths. As we were falling an overhead wooden beam weighing about a thousand pounds landed on the top of the cage narrowly missing our heads. We got back to shore by boat and about an hour later the river ice broke.

I completed most of my grade twelve in 1940 and decided to take a year off from school. A friend of mine and I bought a 1927 Model T Ford for twenty-five dollars and after spending another fifteen dollars putting it in top shape we left Elk Point for Ontario. We arrived at Fort William and Port Arthur (now known as the Lake Head) and spent about a month away from home. About that time we were running short of money and decided to go home. We travelled about twenty-four hundred miles and during the entire trip we only spotted one other Model T Ford car.

In 1940 I went to Mountain Park, Alberta which was known as the coal branch. I was supposed to play hockey with a senior Mountain Park team that year as well as holding down a miner's job. In the morning we rode a small car a half mile into a mountain. My job was to keep the coal running down an inclined shaft to coal cars below. We had a battery operated lamp on our steel helmet and on two consecutive days my battery went dead and I was in total darkness until someone came along with a spare battery.

You can't imagine how dark it is a half mile in a mountain without a light. I didn't remain a coal miner very long. I just dreaded going into the mine after that experience and decided to quit and go home.

That fall I went back and finished my grade 12. Just two weeks after school ended my army call was waiting for me and for about the next three years I was in the army. I first reported to the armouries in Edmonton and was then assigned to the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. A day or two later our entire group was on its way to Barriefield, Ontario (Kingston) where I commenced my training. We were there for about a year, then transferred to Debert, Nova Scotia which was the embarkation base for soldiers going overseas. We spent about a year in Debert completing our signal corps training.

That fall I got a thirty-day farm leave so I could go home and help my dad take his crop off. When it was time to go back to Debert, I received a wire telling me to report to Mewata Barracks in Calgary for further posting. Later I found out my unit in Nova Scotia had gone overseas. From then on it was a case of mass confusion. Apparently they lost my records and the next thing I knew I was in Red Deer, Alberta, just north of Calgary, taking my basic training over again with the Army Service Corps. After about a month they must have found my lost records and one day I was called up before the major of the unit and the first thing he said was : "Andrishak ! What the hell are you doing in Red Deer taking your basic training over again with the Army Service Corps when you belong to the Signal Corps?" My answer was, " I really didn't know. I'm not running this army."

Next I was back to Calgary where I remained there for a few months doing nothing but washing dishes. My next posting was the Suffield, Alberta (poison gas) experimental base where we were

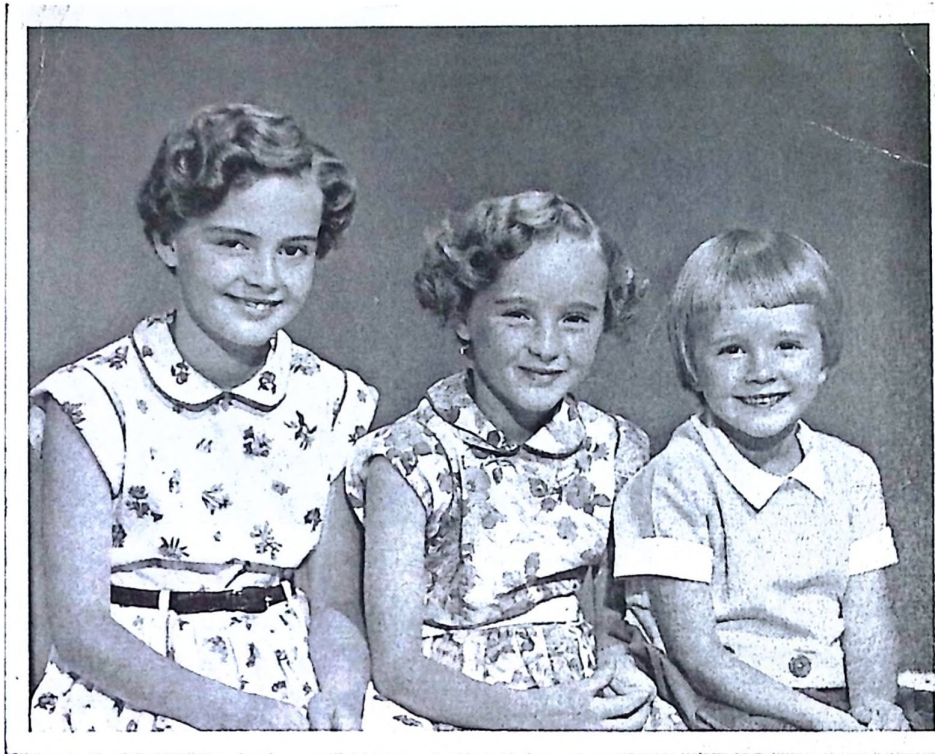


A young Steve dressed for courting in front of the old Hospital in Elk Point.

Steve in Uniform

guinea pigs doing their gas experiments. Then back to Calgary and more dishes to wash. I finally got posted to Vancouver, British Columbia (Shaunessy Army Base) and again assigned to more dish washing. I was returned to Calgary later. As the war was almost over I was able to get an early discharge and again I was a free a man.

After a short holiday at home I got a job in the Turner Valley oil fields. At that time the Leduc and Redwater oil fields hadn't been discovered till later. After working at Turner Valley for a few months I received a letter from home telling me that dad had cancer. I quit my job and went home to help dad on the farm.



Janice, Carole, Ellie

Janice (Andrishak) Zarowny

Janice, the eldest child of Steve and Doris Andrishak family, was born on September 29, 1947. She completed her high school in Elk Point. In 1965 Janice decided to become a registered nurse and shortly after she enrolled at the University of Alberta. In 1970 she graduated with her registered nurse designation and her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Her first job was with the University Hospital in Edmonton for two years.

Prior to this Daniel Zarowny also attended the University of Alberta at the same time as Janice attended. Daniel graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree and taught school in Edmonton for two years. In 1969 Janice and Daniel were married in the Elk Point United Church. When Daniel quit teaching after two years Daniel and Janice came back to St. Paul and both Daniel and his twin brother David took over their father's Ford Agency and garage business.

Janice and Daniel built a very nice home on a acreage five miles north of St. Paul. Janice was



Doug, Colin , Janice, ~~David~~, Ryan
Daniel

employed for about three months with the North Eastern Alberta Health Unit in St. Paul before taking a job with the St. Therese hospital. She has stayed in this position ever since. Janice and Daniel raised a family of three boys: Douglas, Colin and Ryan. Over many years Daniel and Janice did a lot of travelling. They made trips to Australia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Cuba, Holland, and England as well as many trips to the United States.

Janice likes to curl and golf and both often ski at various ski resorts. Douglas, their oldest son attended the University of Lethbridge for five years and received a degree in business management. He is currently working at Zarowny's Ford Agency and Garage. In September of 2003 Doug married Janna Butler who came from Red Deer, Alberta. Janna is now working as a dietitian in St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul.

Colin, their second son, was at the University of Alberta for five years and graduated with Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical engineering. Currently he is working for Petro Canada in Edmonton. Two years ago Colin married Nathalie Tellier, a school teacher from the Bonnyville area. They live in Edmonton where Nathalie teaches school. Colin played hockey with the U of A Golden Bears for five years. They played in the Dominion Universities of Canada Hockey Playoffs three years and won the Canadian university Championships one year.

Ryan, their youngest son, went to NAIT for two years and three years to the University of Lethbridge where he received a degree in business administration. He is currently working in Edmonton.

Carole

Carole (Andrishak) Rae, our second daughter, was born in Elk Point on January 14, 1949. She enjoyed camping at Lake Whitney with her mother and two sisters during her early years. After she completed her schooling in Elk Point, Carole decided to go to the University of Alberta. She spent three years at the university and received a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics, majoring in clothing and textiles. In 1970 she married Tom Rae. Tom for a number of years was employed by the National Cash Register Company in Edmonton. Carole worked for Centennial Draperies for three and a half years as an interior decorator. She then accepted a job with the City of Edmonton doing the interior furnishings for Fort Edmonton Museum for three and a half years.

In 1977 Carole and Tom decided to move back to Elk Point. After they built a home, Carole began her drapery business operating it from her home for five years. Tom worked at the salt plant for Windsor Salt.

In 1982 Carole and Tom opened a drapery store in St. Paul and have continued the business to this day. They have done well in St. Paul. Carole and Tom have built a good reputation for their draperies and installing and have been very busy for many years. Tom has also been employed by Zarowny Motors since 1990.



Tom, Carole, Tom, Suzanne

Carole and Tom have a family of two: Suzanne and Tom. Both are grown up and on their own. Suzanne went to the University of Alberta for four years and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geophysics. She has been employed for the past six years by Core Lab in Calgary, processing seismic data for oil exploration. She has done very well. Tom lives in Edmonton. He attended Grant MacEwan College for two years taking musical theatre. He also took photography at NAIT in Edmonton and does freelance photography. He also works as a bartender on weekends.

Carole also enjoys gardening, however she finds little time for the hobby. During their spare weekends they often go to Edmonton and Calgary to visit their son and daughter.

Ellie (Andrishak) Garnier

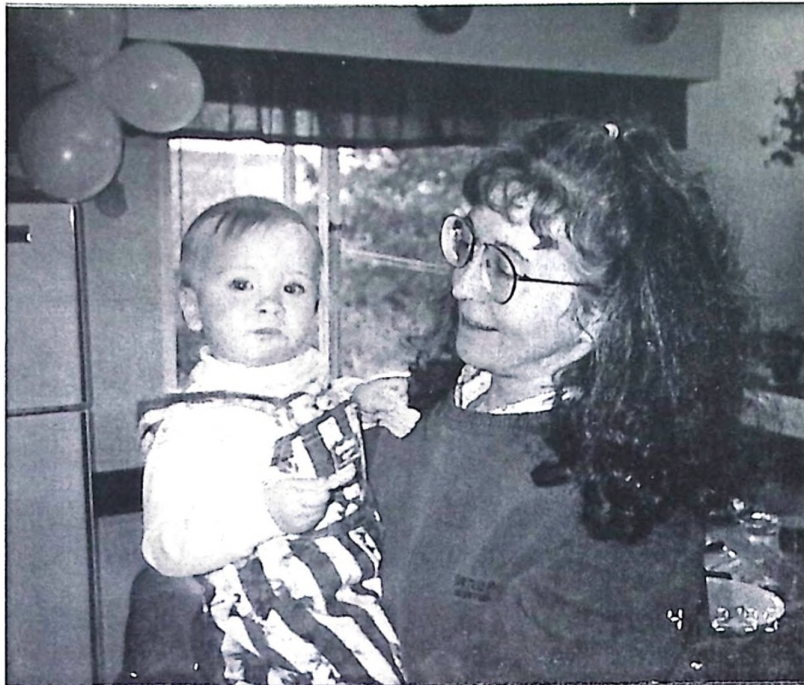
Ellie (Andrishak) Garnier, third daughter born in our family, came into this world on July 3, 1951. She took all her public schooling in Elk Point. When she was about fourteen, she enrolled in Ron Barwick's Girl's Marching Band along with Susan Andrishak, Maureen and Diane Warren, Karen Kovach, and other girls I do not recall. For a number of years they performed in various towns surrounding Elk Point.

In later years she married Dennis Garnier of Dewberry where they farmed for a number of years. About twenty years ago they sold out and relocated to Courtenay on Vancouver Island. She took a nursing course and has worked as a nurse at the Cumberland, BC Nursing Home. They left Courtenay a few years ago and built a fine home on an acreage at Fanny Bay, BC.

Ellie and Dennis had two boys born into their family. Both are grown up. They are Cody and Ian. Cody works in nearby Courtenay and Ian is in charge of a fishing vessel which operates on the Pacific Ocean.

Ian married Traci in Courtenay a few years ago and have a girl and a boy born into their family, Desiree and Taylor. When Desiree was born about eight years ago I became a great grandfather. We suddenly had a four-generation family – Myself, my daughter Ellie, her son Ian, and Desiree, Ian and Traci's daughter.

Ellie also has always liked country life and spends a lot of time in her garden, raises chickens, and cares for the acreage. Often they have wildlife passing through their property. These include elk, deer and other animals. Dennis works for a ski resort in the winter and does carpentry work around the Courtenay area during the summer.. Ellie has worked for about twenty years at a nursing home which is about fifteen miles from her home.



Ellie (Andrishak) Garnier

Recently they bought a cabin beside a lake and they plan on spending a lot of their time relaxing and swimming. Ellie and Dennis do a lot of salmon fishing whenever they get the opportunity and they enjoy life on the island.

John Andrishak

John was born in Elk Point on October 4, 1958. He was the fourth child born to Steve and Doris Andrishak. He completed all his schooling in Elk Point. Later when he left home, he worked for various companies in Edmonton before he accepted a job with the Great Western Containers Incorporated. This firm reconditions steel and plastic barrels for various oil companies. He has now been with this firm for about fifteen years.

He bought a house in Gibbons and commutes to Edmonton daily. John got married about eight years ago to Sandra Yu who had come to Canada from Taiwan a few years ago. They have a daughter named Amanda who is nearing six years and is a kindergarten student. Sandra works during the week at a Boys' Home in Edmonton.

John came close to becoming a victim of the tornado that killed twenty-seven people in Edmonton a few years ago. He was working outside of their plant when suddenly the dark tornado cloud was fast approaching their area. The workers all layed down when it came near

their plant, however at the last minute the tornado veered in a different direction and missed them. The following year John went to a bank to do some business. While there a bank robber entered and held the bank up. He made everyone lie down while he was robbing the bank. After John told me of these two incidents I asked John what he planned to do next year for excitement.

John and Sandra flew over to Taiwan twice. Once to introduce John to Sandra's family and the second time they took their daughter Amanda to meet and visit her grandfather. It was a long journey as the flight took many hours. John and Sandra are hard workers; they seem to be happy raising their only child. They have spent many hours finishing their basement rooms the past couple of years. John and Sandra flew out a year or two ago and visited his sister Ellie on Vancouver Island. They also spend long weekends visiting our families in Elk Point and St. Paul.



John, Sandra, and Amanda

Jim Andrishak

Jim was born in Elk Point on July 14, 1962. He completed his schooling in Elk Point. During his teen years he played a lot of hockey with the Elk Point teams. They were always in provincial playoffs and on one or more years his team was the provincial finals tournament. He was a good goaltender. He later quit hockey and concentrated on getting ahead in the oil industry. He spent a total of three years at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton taking an oil related course for two years and a course in Steam Engineering another year.

Upon finishing his course he began working for Norcen Oil Co. in the oil field south of Elk Point. During the following years he did a lot of travelling. He spent over a month touring the British Isles and Europe where he toured at least ten countries. He has also visited Australia three times, Mexico twice, Thailand and made some trips to the United States. On one of his trips to Australia he met Michelle McFadden and the following year she left Australia and came to Canada where she married Jim in Elk Point in 1993. They now make their home at Rocky



Michelle, Dana, Jim, Sara

Mountain House. They have a family of two fine girls, Dana eight and Sara five as of the year 2004.

Jim has now worked in the oil fields for over twenty years. Presently he is working for Apache Oil Co. in the Rocky Mountain House area. Jim and Michelle enjoy taking their two girls to many lakes and resorts. Jim's main hobby is fixing and driving antique cars. They live about seventy



Young Peter Andrishak



Peter and Joanne

miles west of Red Deer and make occasional trips to the mountains west of Rocky.

Peter Andrishak

Peter was born in Warspite in 1924. He was about two when our entire family – mother, father and six children moved to Elk Point where my dad opened a small general store in the old section of Elk Point in 1926. He started school about 1930 when he was six years old and completed all his grades in Elk Point.

After my sister Olga and her husband Max Fischer took the store over in 1938, Peter moved to dad's farm which was two and a half miles north west of town. In the middle 1940s he was given three quarters of land by my father. He then started to raise a good breed of Hereford cattle. His land was located east and north of our present industrial section of town. Here he raised hundreds of cattle during the next half century.

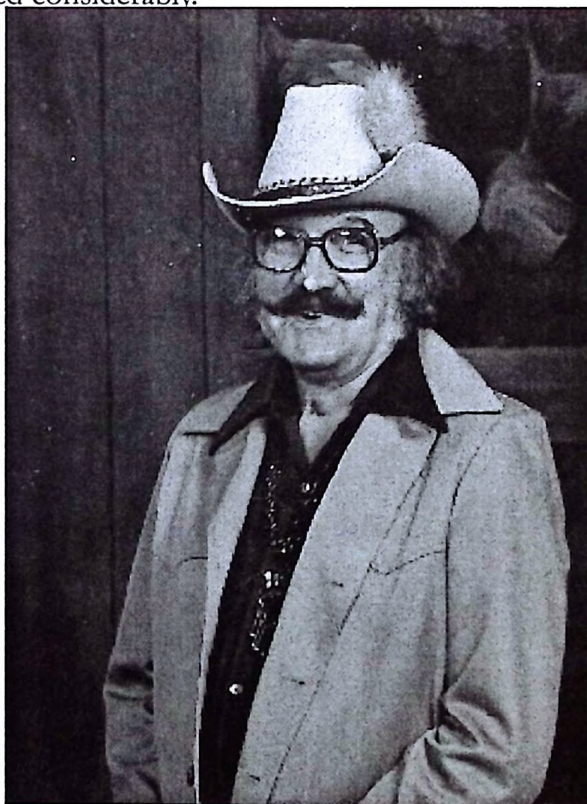
Peter spent some time in the army, but because the war ended in 1945, he didn't get any overseas service. On November 11, 1950 he married Joanne Kobylnyk. Their only child, Pat, a daughter, was born in 1952. He remained on his land until 1994 and then retired leaving his land and cattle to his daughter Pat.

A number of years previous to this he sold a large portion of one quarter to the town. This area was used later to become the Industrial Park for the Town of Elk Point. Since his retirement he has spent a lot of time travelling. He visited our homeland of Ukraine. He found the people friendly, but in many instances poor. Besides Ukraine he also visited England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Holland and Belgium. Other trips included Australia, Panama, New York City and California. He has been to Hawaii, twice to Mexico and once to the Bahamas.

He was in the cattle business for over fifty years and sold a lot of good breeding stock to many other ranchers. Upon his retirement he built a fine home in Elk Point. Cattle raising was quite profitable a few years ago, but due to a very dry year in 2000 and the recent scare caused by the discovery of Mad Cow Disease things have changed considerably.



Pat Andrishak



Honest Fred, the Farmer's Friend

Peter's wife Joanne passed away with cancer on December 22, 1991. Peter now lives in the north part of town and Pat lives on the farm. On July 16, 1994 he organized a homecoming and many relatives from far and wide gathered at the Seniors Centre immensely enjoyed visiting and reminiscing with one another.

Jean (Andrishak) Provenzano

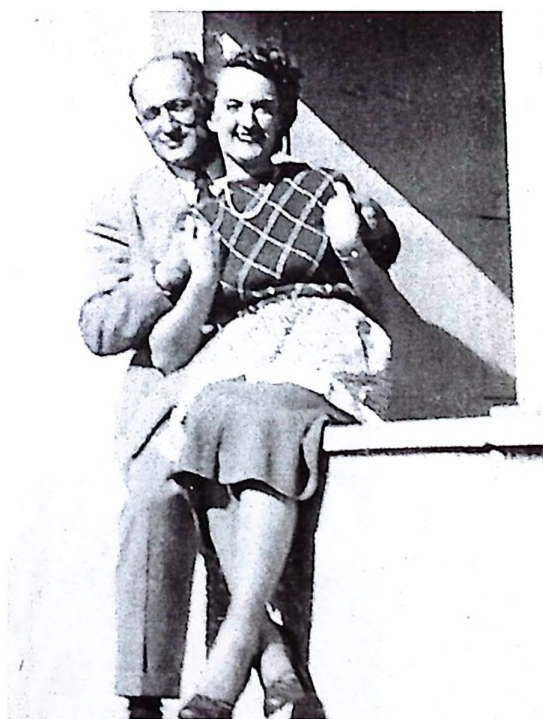
Jean the youngest member of our family was born in Elk Point in 1929. She was the only child of Mary and William Andrishak who was born in the Elk Point District. She completed her public schooling in Elk Point. In her spare time she helped Olga in the store. Later she took a job with the Alberta Salt Company. Jean lived with my mother who lived next door to my house.

About 1951 she met Angelo Provenzano who was a highway engineer. They were married in 1952 and later moved to Edmonton where he had a job with Edmonton's highway department for the next few years. They raised a family of four children – Mark, Lori, Bard, and Greg. Prior to 1960 Angelo obtained a job with the BC government to help BC's new highway which was to go through and over Roger's Pass.

In 1962 Angie was killed in an air crash. The crew were to fly out to their job that morning and



Jean Andrishak

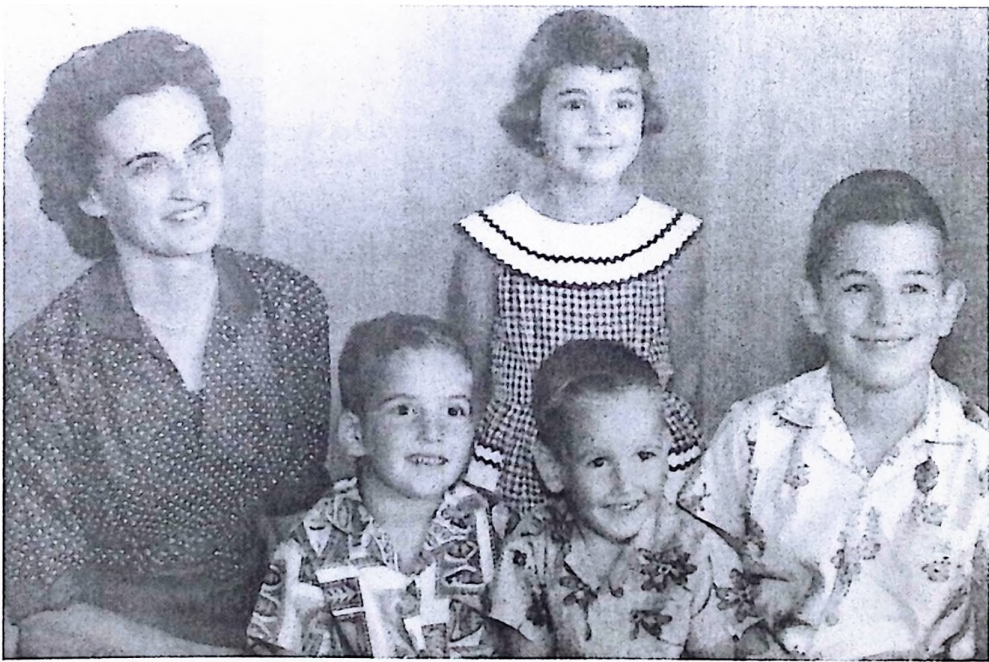


Jean and Angelo Provenzano

had just taken off when suddenly the plane came down over the air field in Victoria and crashed killing every on board. After this tragic accident Jean decided to move to Cranbrook, BC to be near Angie's relatives. She has lived there ever since. With all four children in the Cranbrook area. The family has now scattered. One lives in Manitoba, one in Saskatoon and another in BC. Lori, a daughter, moved in with her about eight years ago and is good company for her. Recently I received a letter from Jean stating that she will soon be seventy-five. It's hard to

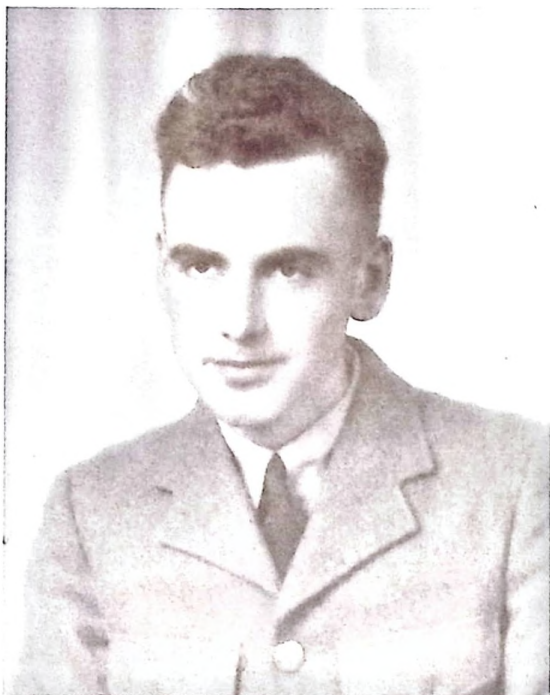


1994
 Front: Jim, John, Lori, Carole
 Back: Janice, Marie, Pat, Mary Anne, Judy, Garry, Ruth
 Far Back: Bill

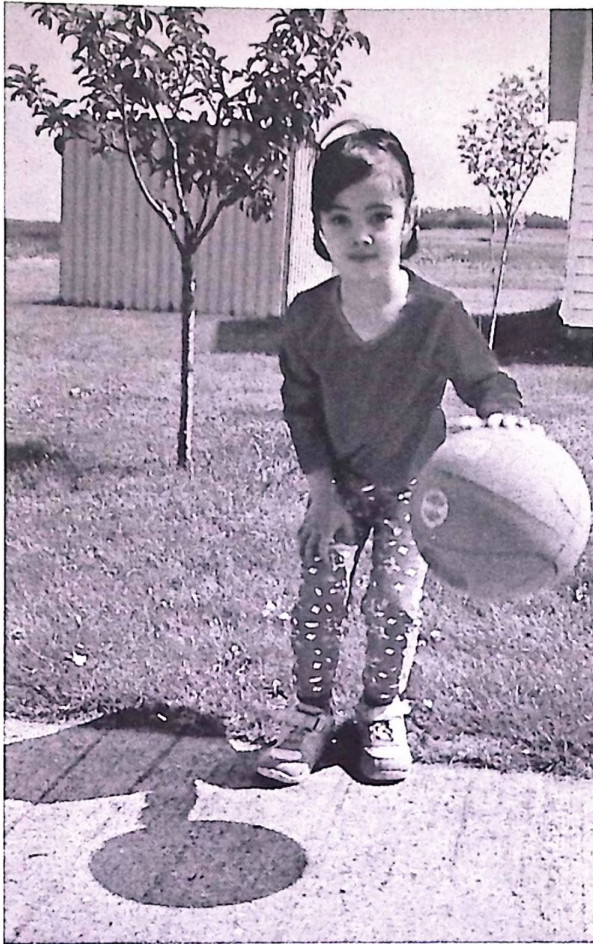


Back: Jean, Lori. Front: Bard, Greg, Mark

believe that she is that age. It seems like just a short time ago when she was in Elk Point.



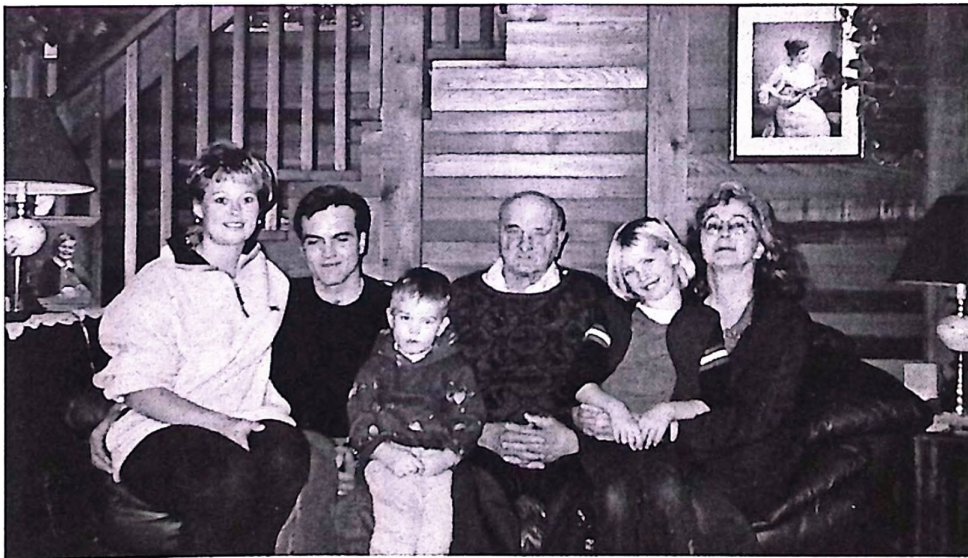
Peter Andrishak in WWII army uniform



Amanda Andrishak



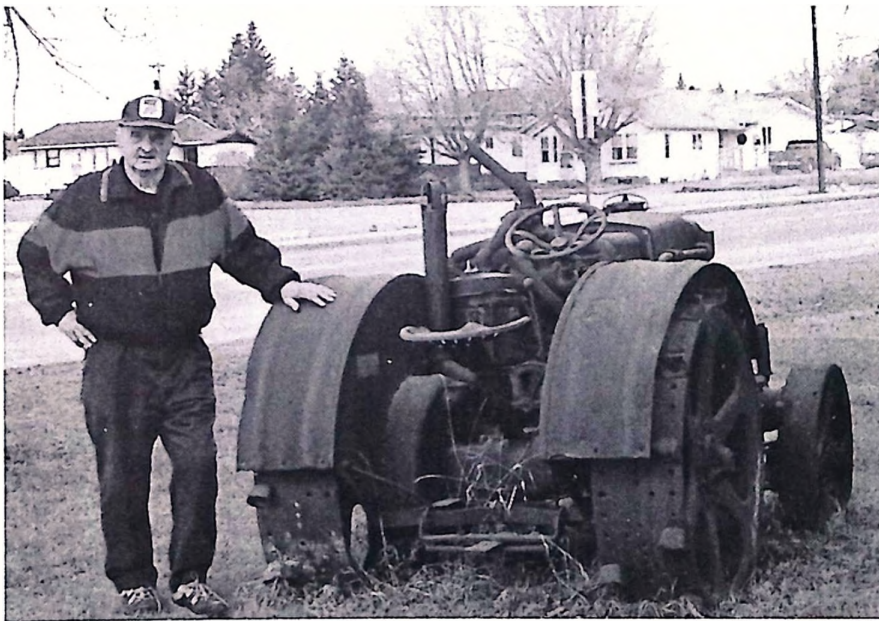
Robyn and Lora Andrishak



Traci, Ian, Taylor, Steve, Desiree, Ellie



Jim, Steve and 1903 Ford



Steve and his 1918 Case Tractor



L-R: Dave, Ryan, Janice, Doug, Colin, Carole, Tom, Suzanne, Steve, Michelle, Jim, John.



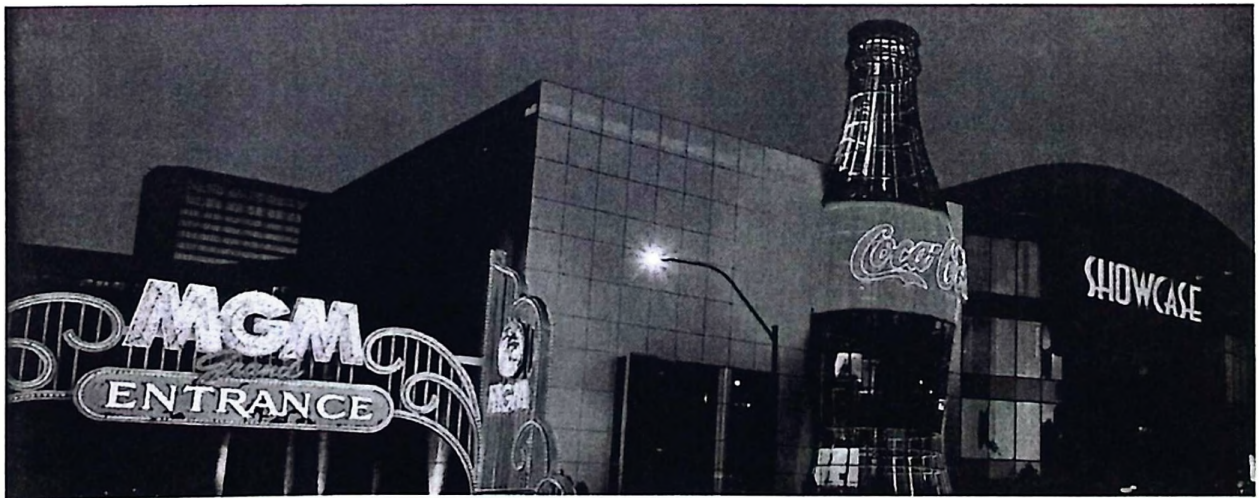
Front: Olga, Maryanne, Judy Fischer

Middle:

Back:



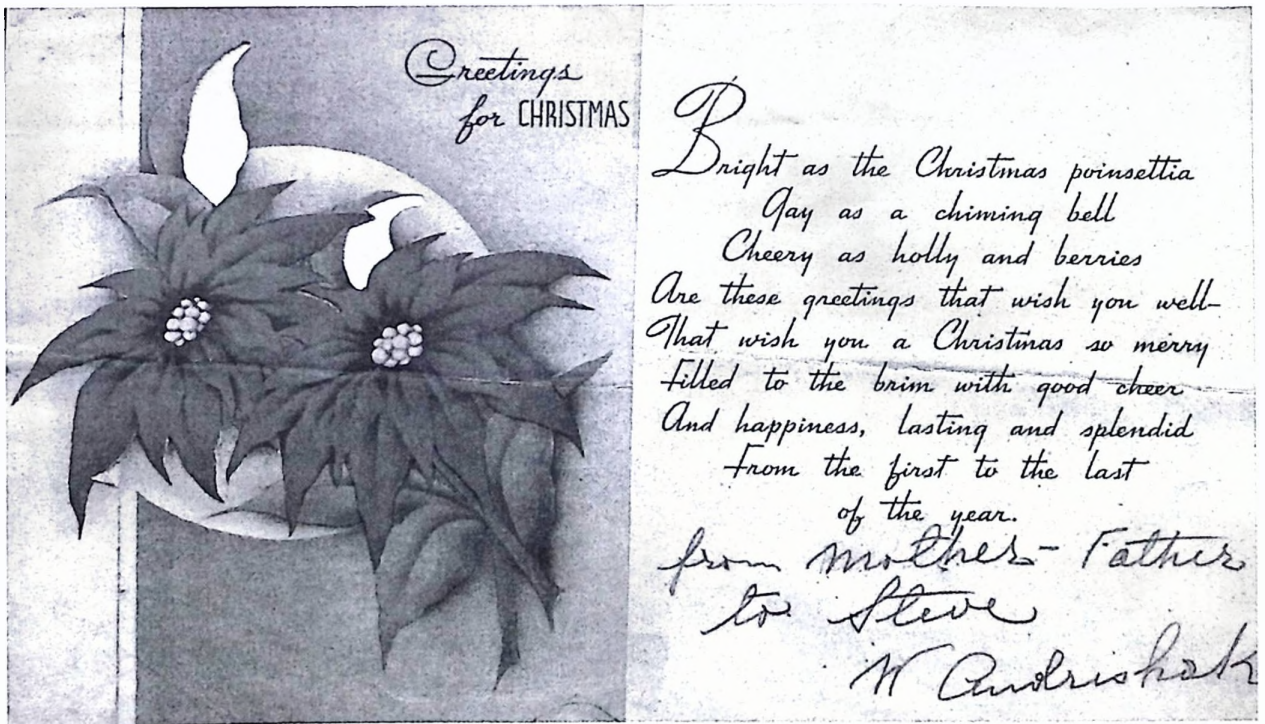
Steve and his Mountain Ash



Andrishak Design Group Project for Las Vegas



Front Mary Andrishak
Back Fred and Ruth



Christmas Card to Steve while in army from his mother and father



Jean, Peter, Steve, Olga, Anne



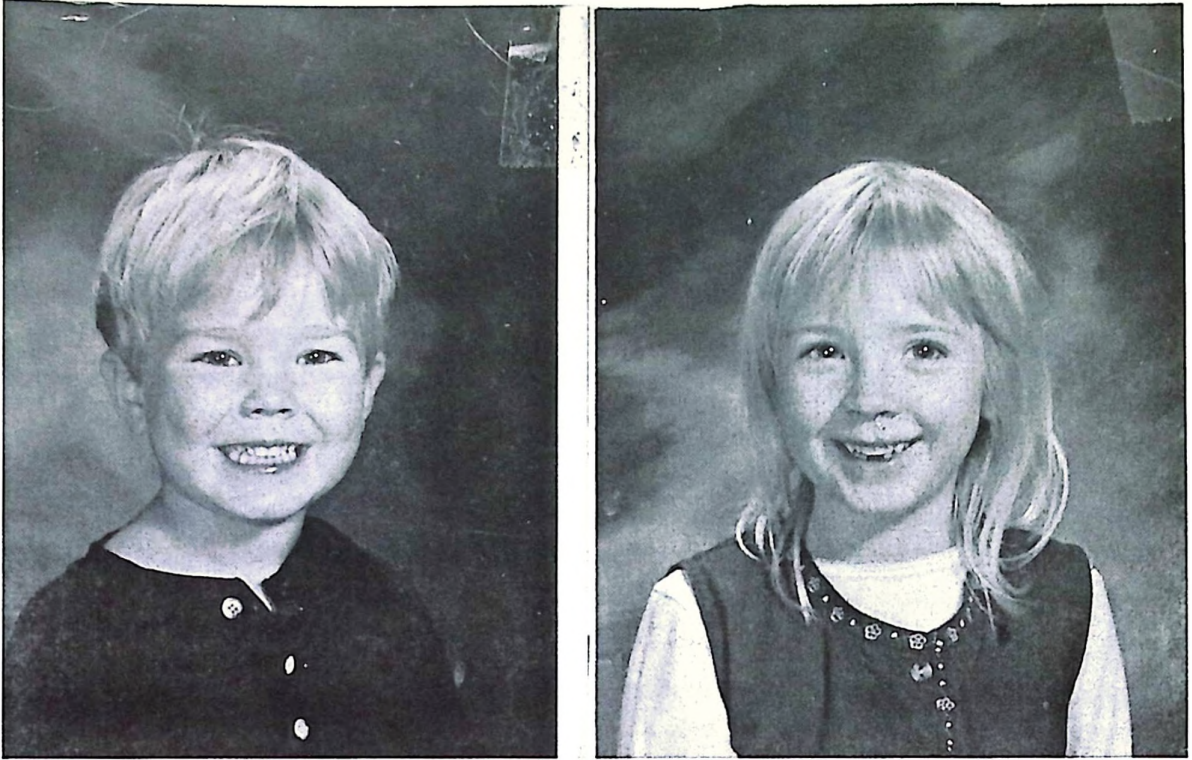
Fred wearing the red sarge of the RCMP



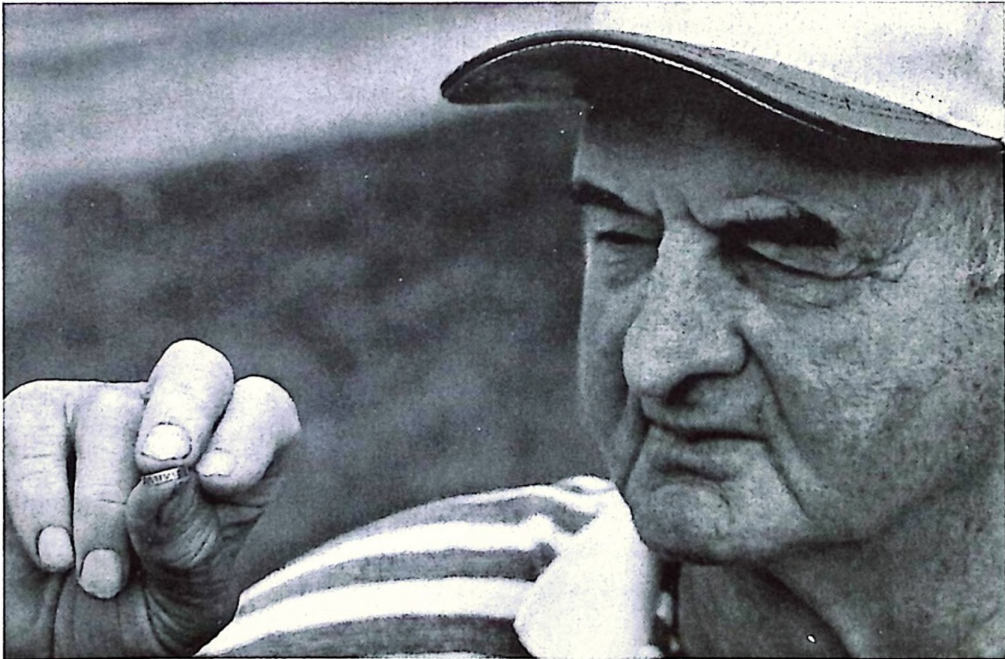
Four Generations



Steve and Anne Lazoruk's 60th Anniversary



Taylor and Desiree Garnier (great, great grandchildren)



Steve with the long lost ring

An Unusual Hallowe'en

by Steve Andrishak

In the early 1960s a number of teenage school children, including two of my own daughters, decided to get away from the usual Hallowe'en routine and do something different.

One of the girls in the group lived in the country and somehow smuggled three or four chickens into town. When it got dark, the girls released these chickens into the parcel chute of our post office. Apparently some boys got wind of what the girls had in mind and they released a small dog and two cats in the small parcel chute as well.

In no time the interior of the post office resembled a merry-go-round. The dog chased the cats and the resulting action excited the chickens. The cats, dog, and chickens remained in the post office until around midnight. Someone passing heard the racket and noise and notified the postmaster who decided to investigate. He found the interior of the post office a mess the chickens had "fowed" up the mail section by post-marking much of the mail in their own little way with chicken droppings. The postmaster almost had a fit and you could hardly blame him.

The participants (the cats, dog and chickens) were all removed from the post office after his inspection. The following morning the postmaster notified the postal authorities in Edmonton and the incident was investigated by our town constable, Harry Keck. This all happened before the RCMP came into town in the late 1960s.

Our constable somehow got the names of most of the teens responsible and started to question them. I remember when my two teenage daughters were on the stand, as such. They were scared something awful and probably thought they would be severely punished. After all, the tampering of Her Majesty's Royal Mail was illegal and it was considered a criminal offence.

Harry Keck, the constable, handled the investigation. He was a devoted town policeman who took his investigations seriously, but I am sure along with everyone else in town he thought the incident was amusing. While questioning my daughters I thought I noticed a grin on his face.

After Harry finished with his investigation of all the people involved, he decided teenagers were too young to prosecute and after conferring with the post office department the matter was dropped. The scare each one of the children got as well as a stern warning was sufficient penalty for their actions.

The incident drew a lot of laughs from our local residents. However, it was soon forgotten. You have to give credit to the youngsters for a Hallowe'en prank that was different. I often wondered if the three or four chickens were returned to their rightful owner or did the postmaster have a special barbecue for his staff of workers!

The stained mail and parcels had to be sent to Edmonton for dry cleaning before it could be sorted, delaying delivery for a few extra days.

End Notes

This pretty well completes our Andrishak Family history book. Because we left it for so long this project proved to be a difficult one. I enjoyed doing it because by doing much research, I found out a great deal about my family that I never knew before. My apology if I made any errors or left anyone out. Contacts were made, but not all replied. Provision is being made for second edition.

As of February 2004 our original family is now down to four. Anne the oldest at 90 years, I, Steve, am eighty-three, Peter is eighty, and Jean is seventy-five.. The other three members, Olga, Fred and Mike have passed away.

Anyone who has lived during the 20th century realizes he or she has lived through a very interesting period of time.

In my case, early pioneers were just settling in our vast west in 1911 just ten years before I was born. My birth in 1921 was less than two and a half years after World War I end in 1918. I lived through the depression of the 1930s and I remember the excitement of World War II when the tyrant dictator Adolph Hitler was the cause of so many people dying throughout the world.

I lived during the period and watched on television of the landing of the first man on the moon. During my period of time there has been vast improvements in the field of medicine which has increased our life expectancy by a few years. Operations performed today like organ transplants were unheard of fifty years ago. Today they are common. Who would have thought the age of electronics would give us television which would enable us to watch happenings when they happen. This includes the armed beginnings of war on site. New improvements to our telephone system enable us to take a phone call from Australia or other countries of the world. The latest phones lets us see through their camera imaging as well. The call comes in clearly as does the picture as if we are conversing with some one across the fence in our backyard. Who would ever imagine the impact made on our living by new devices such as computers and other electronic wares commonly used today?

It would be interesting to know what life will be like in the next fifty years providing the countries don't kill each other off by wars. Our civilization has invented atomic and biological weaponry don't forget. It is hard to imagined that a trip to England only takes few hours today when our pioneers had to spend twelve days traveling on the Atlantic Ocean to make the same trip !

* * *

At this time I would like to thank Ron Onusko who spent much time putting photos on file on the computer. He has arranged and typed material in preparation for the book form this will take. Ron and Marvin Bjornstad, both members of the Elk Point Historical Society have been instrumental with other members, in producing other local history books with the Elk Point area as the subject source. Without the help of the Society, this book would never have been published.

All profits from the sale of this book will be turned over directly to the Elk Point Historical Society from which no individual or group of individuals profit.

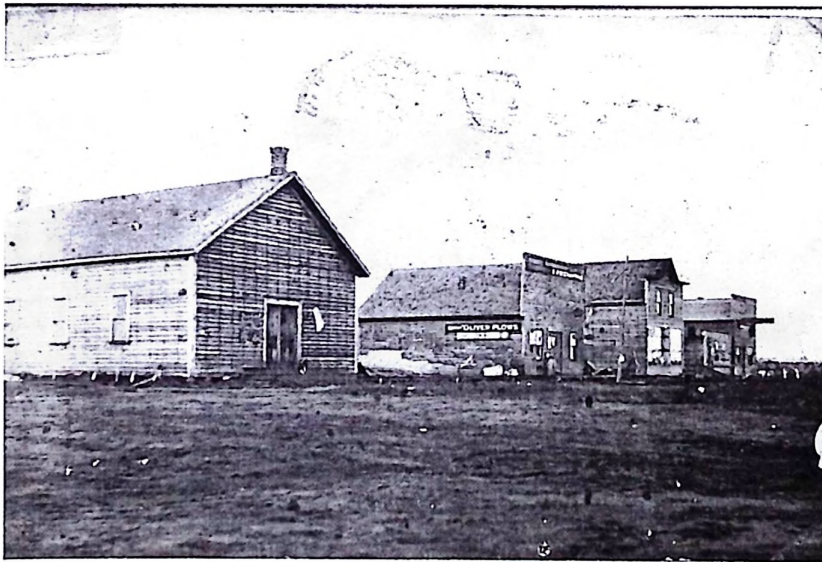
Statistics of Early Elk Point and District

by Steve Andrishak

The earliest settlers who came to our district between 1907 and 1910 were Americans. Charley and Quint Hood checked their homesteads in 1906 and returned in 1907 followed by O.J. Fish, Tom Aarbo, Court Smith, John Babcock and William Higby who arrived soon after.

Our hamlet was named Elk Point by a Mr. Higby who came from Elk Point, South Dakota, USA.

All immigrants during this period were promised a quarter section (160 acres) of land for only \$10.00 by the government and it was for this reason that they came.



Elk Point about 1917, Main Street where
Steve's house now stands

Elk Point was established in 1909 on the south west corner of Charley Hood's quarter of land.

Elk Point's first school was built two and a half miles south east of our hamlet in 1911. There weren't any schools in Elk Point at that time.

All settlers in Elk Point and those to the east later paid their taxes to the Municipal District of Lincoln which was located at Mooswa which later changed its name to Lindbergh. A portion of their taxes were paid to the school in their area. The settlers to the west paid their taxes to the Municipal District of Laurier which was based in the town of St. Paul.

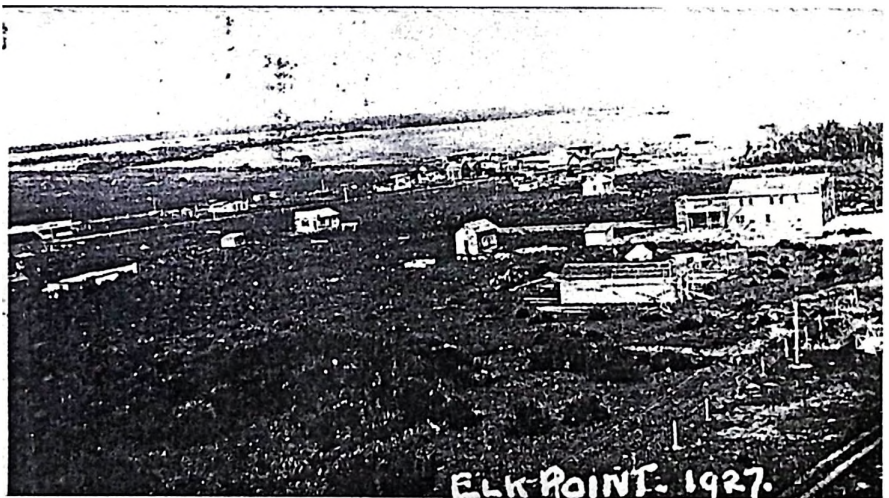
Our first Post Office was located a half mile east on Charley Hood's homestead. He was our first postmaster. It was established in 1909.

Our first river crossing was at Hopkins – about three miles west of our present bridge. It began operating in 1908, was later moved in 1913 to where our bridge now stands.

Phone service came to our district on August 9, 1913.

Elk Point held its first Agricultural Fair on September 25, 1912.

Elk Point's first hospital opened in 1923. It was located on the next lot east of our present United Church and was privately owned by Doctors F.G. Miller and A. G. Ross. A new Municipal hospital was built in the west part of town in 1928. It was demolished after our present hospital was complete in 1986.



Elk Point after the building of the hotel 1927. The Andrishak home, built in 1926, stands northwest of the Alberta Hotel.



The first CN Train in 1927

Electricity first came to Elk Point when Doctor F.G. Miller purchased a Delco plant and provided power to his nearby hospital. In 1928 Doctor Miller added a much larger power plant and provided power to all Elk Point residents. In 1952 he sold out to Canadian Utilities and they provided power to Elk Point and area.

The railroad was finally completed and our first train arrived on September 22, 1927. Prior to this Elk Point businesses were established in the old portion of town to the east. However, soon after the arrival of the railroad, every business moved to the present Main Street area, now 50th street.

Our first hotel was built in 1917 by Oran Caskey and it was later taken over by his mother Mrs. S.F. Caskey. The Alberta Hotel was built in 1927 by Helge Hesselgren, and later owned by William Yakimec.

The first bank was built in 1919 and was known as The Canadian Bank of Commerce. It burned down in the big fire of 1922 along with about five other businesses.

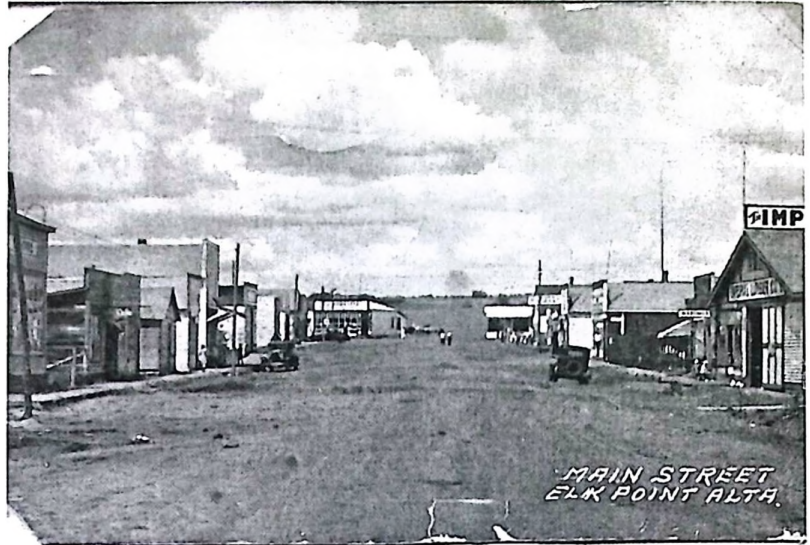
The initial drug store was opened by Bruce MacDonald in 1925.

Elk Point became a Village in 1938 and in 1968 became a town.

Elk Point's water supply and sewer lines were dug and became operational in 1954.

An RCMP detachment was open in 1968 and new barracks were built later.

Our first bridge built over the North Saskatchewan River was opened for traffic in 1951. In 1986 a new open span bridge replaced it after a fire and accident. Some of our earliest stores were operated by Johnson Bros., Jim Babcock, C.A. Johnson and a hardware store owned by Charley Hood.



Elk Point's Main Street 1937

Our grain elevators were built in 1927-28. The United Grain Growers elevator was first managed by Eugene McDonald, the Victoria elevator by Lawrence Sumpton and the Alberta Pool by Jack Fitzimmons. They were all demolished when the railroad stopped running.

When our family came to Elk Point in 1926, Elk Point was small. There were about a dozen businesses, about twenty-five homes and a population about seventy-five strong.

The current population is 1492 caused mainly by the oil industry in our area.

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