

Franklin Tour Ltd.

adventurous trip.

"Because I was a nurse (clients) seemed to have confidence I could help them if something went wrong," Doris recalls.

One woman with a serious burn relied on Doris to dress her wound every day and night. Once, on a trip through the Redwoods National Forest in California, a customer had a heart attack. Doris kept him calm all the way to the nearest hospital, and he survived the ordeal.

The sons helped make the tour business, which catered to retirees, a success as well.

"Our sons started driving right out of high school. They were very popular because they were young. I remember when Monte started he had many compliments on his driving — he was only 18. He said, 'Well, I had a good teacher.' And he would smile at (the passengers) and say, 'It was my Dad,'" Doris warmly recalls.

Monte remembers being

nervous on his first few trips.

"I was doing tours to California at a very young age and I was always worried how people would react to such a young person. It took a couple of days to gain their trust," he says.

In 1972, while Monte was at Ontario Business College, the Smiths sold the business. Within a year, they bought back the one coach and the licence for its routes, but not the school buses and their routes.

From that point on the Smiths have focused on coaches, with charters becoming increasingly important. The company now has 12 coaches.

Throughout the years of change, the sons and their families have ensured the business continued to grow and prosper.

"We had lots of hardships. My parents both worked very hard over the years. Dad was away a lot (driving), Mum was looking after the business and raising the kids," Monte says.

Clearly, the hard work has paid off.

*Intelligent, Remember
Feb. 6, 1995
When:*



Monte and his brother Steven (holding the gun) playing on one of the first buses. The picture was taken in Marmora in the late '50s.