

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Schildroth cont'd:

December 14, 1914 was stormy, and Norman's brother William reports that he assisted his father to dig out the gateway in order to admit the doctor.

Norman's grandfather, William Schildroth Sr., lived in the house on Lot 11, Con. 2, Saugeen between 1913 - 1916 and took employment in a Port Elgin factory. Wm's. son, Fred, continued to live on Lot 15, Con. 2, Saugeen. At this time Wm. Schildroth Sr. owned Lot 15.

Lot 11 was the first farm that Mr. Frederick Schildroth owned. By 1913, when he bought it, he had five children. Wm. Schildroth Sr. had come to Saugeen from Greenock Township.

Norman married Ann McCaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William S. McCaw of Paisley, in 1946. Their family is Paul, Joan, Martin, Garth and John.

In 1946 when Norman bought the farm from his father, buildings were, the house, barn, garage and a stone hen house.

The garage had been built in 1926, hydro was installed in 1939, a pressure system in 1943 and a bathroom in 1944. There was a shower but no tub until 1956.

In 1944 water bowls were put in at the barn.

In 1949 an archway was cut between the living room and downstairs bedroom to make a dining room. A porch was built to the north side of the kitchen. Mr. Charles Nelson, Saugeen, was the carpenter. Floors were sanded by Mr. Arthur Duddle, Paisley, Ontario.

In 1951, a laundry or utility room was built in a corner of the large kitchen, and a set of cupboards was built in the kitchen. The entry was also changed. The door on the south wall was moved to its present position, and a weather shelter was built over it. Hugh W. McCulloch, Bruce Twp. was the carpenter.

Norman Schildroth and his family made many improvements to the land and buildings. With the coming of more modern machinery, it was found necessary to remove many of the centre fences, and make the fields larger. In doing so, stones which had been picked from the fields and thrown into the fence rows, had to be cleared away. Men with bull-dozers were engaged to bury some stone piles near the back of the farm. They also filled in the foundation of the barn on Lot 11, it had been struck by lightning in June 1917.

Mrs. Fred Schildroth said the fire took place on a Saturday night. She noticed it as she was teaching the children their Sunday School lesson. The oldest daughter, Annie, bundled Norman up, and stood ready to vacate the house. Norman was then two years old. However, the house did not catch fire. As the wind was blowing directly from the burning barn to the house, fear was expressed ~~that~~ for the home, and the men ascended to the roof to wet it with water. At that point the wind changed, and the house was saved.

This was not the only barn that the family lost, for, on losing the barn in 1917, Mr. Fred Schildroth bought the farm east of him, Lot 12, Con 2, Saugeen. This barn was burned also when a spark from ashes which had been set out as a poultry dust, set fire to a pile of straw, September 1921, and the barn was burned along with the season's crops and a few pigs. Norman reports seeing the barn on fire as he was returning from school.

This was quite a disappointment to the family, as they had just completed a new house on Lot 12 in 1919 - 1920. Most of the material for the house had been taken from the bush and cut at Miller's planing mill, Port Elgin. The house, of frame construction was a big improvement over the log house which the family first occupied after they moved from Lot 11. It was draughty and a haven for rats.

A careful inspection of the lawn in the summer time will show the outline of the woodshed which used to stand at the back of the log house. Wm. Osborne, son of Albert Osborne who owned the farm log house 1916 - 1918 reports that he used to sit on the cellar steps with a light, and kill the rats with a club when they came toward him.

There had been daffodils planted around the log house. When the land was cultivated later, the daffodils were scattered to many parts of the field, and now bloom faithfully every Spring.

There was no woodshed at the back of the new house, and, for a few years, each armful of wood was dried in the oven. At first the house was painted white. Later it was covered with a green asphalt shingle.

Mr. Fred Schildroth wasted no time in having a new barn built. In the Fall of 1921, he engaged the Eastern Steel Co. of Preston, Ontario to put up the oldest section of the present barn. That is the 60' x 50' part to the south. Building was completed in ten days. Mrs. Schildroth gave the men room and board, even though by this time she was having difficulty getting about the house because of trouble with her legs.

In 1951 Mr. James Parker of Paisley, was engaged to put up the wall for the straw shed which was built the next year to the north of the original structure. The Eastern Steel Co. again did the work and completed the job in less than two weeks. The men received room and board in the home. This was in August 1954 when Paul was five and Joan was two. The children were greatly impressed as the building took form and as the men gathered about the meal table.

The implement shed was built in 1952, Mr. Harry A. Schildroth assisted.

In 1962, Mr. Raymond Spitzig of Chepstowe was engaged to construct a pole barn and feedlot to the east of the barn and straw shed. He and his men whom he had engaged locally from around Chepstowe drove to work each morning, and had their noon meal with the family. They put up a board fence