

# From HARVEY S. FILSON & MABEL SMITH

- Stuart Filson

Harvey Stuart Filson was born in November 1890 on Amherst Island in Lake Ontario of United Empire Loyalist stock. He grew up on his father's farm, and after completing high school, went to Ontario Agricultural College.

Harvey first came to the Wood River area in the fall of 1909. In the spring of 1910 he filed on the S 16-8-6-W3 (homestead and pre-emption). On the sixth of April 1910 he left Moose Jaw with a loaded wagon hauled by four oxen, for his homestead.

During his first summer in Wood River country he broke some land, built a small shack, started work on a sod barn, and made several trips to Wood Mountain for poles. He spent the winter of 1910-11 working on a farm west of Moose Jaw. When he went to his homestead in the spring of 1911, he

took with him a team of horses and a milk cow as well as his oxen.

Values of some items from his year end inventory 1911 listed in his journal seem interesting: six oxen - \$500, one team of horses - \$550, one colt - \$65, two sows - \$30....

In April 1912, he married Fanny Mabel Smith, who had been born on her father's farm, about ten miles northeast of Moose Jaw, in October 1888....

Before their marriage, Harvey, with the help of a neighbour, had been building a new five-room house, and although not completed at this time, it was well along and could be used. Four children were born to them in this house on the homestead: Jane, Anna, Stuart (Anna's twin sister died in infancy).

In 1917 Harvey purchased [more

land]. Before the spring of 1918 the family had moved house and all to the south bank of the Pinto Creek on the SW 23-8-6-W3. Here the two younger children, Harry and Ross, were born.

In 1922 an Advance-Rumley Oilpull threshing outfit was purchased. Harvey did custom threshing with this outfit as well as threshing his own crops. His longest run was in 1928 when he threshed for forty-three days. By 1925 he was using an Acme Stook Loader, which reduced the number of stook teams from ten down to five.

One foggy night in December 1925, while on the way to a Christmas concert in McCarter school, the Filson family had what could have been a serious accident. They were riding in their 1925 Star sedan and Harvey didn't notice a freight train moving



Year of high water behind the Neilson Store (which year?)

Maurice Hogeboom