

"It takes a mighty skilled person to be a successful farmer. He needs to know so many things. A successful farmer could do just about anything."

Asked why he didn't become a farmer, he is quick to point out he didn't like horses, adding that it was a difficult occupation to start without land. He got into the electrical business by accident. "My generation didn't start with an idea of what to do. They just did what came up."

Thinking back to his working years, he acknowledges he worked too hard, at the expense of his family. Others would quit at 5 and go home. He would work on. After his time on the site, he had business bookwork to prepare.

Underlying much of what he does there is a real understanding of the realities of life and its limitations. Still mulling over his younger years, he asserts that he did what he had to do and a lot of what he liked to do. In 2009, he stopped hunting – at 88.



At 89, Elwood Jones continues to roll along, leading a life that is full and meaningful. He and Sharon are on the Cemetery Board for the Castleton Cemetery. Elwood has been president for 15 of the 30-40 years he has served. He has at his fingertips, all that anyone might ever need to know about the cemetery and the people buried there.

He says a lot of people don't want to deal with a cemetery. But he's a realist. "If you're born, you have to die. Someone has to look after the details."

And in an era when everything seems to be transient, Elwood, and those like him, provide a valued tie to another era, with values that would make all of our lives richer.