

Mr. A. Mikkola immigrated to Canada from the Ostrobothnian region of Finland shortly after 1912. At this time he decided to take residence in the Sudbury area because of the employment opportunities and stable wages provided by the expanding local mining industry, the existence of other Finnish immigrants and the landscape which was reminiscent of his homeland. Thus in 1931 he purchased a farm in Waters Township.

The farm property which consisted of all of Lot 4, Con. 4 was part of the former Grenon Estate. This estate, in turn, had been purchased from the Gordon Lumber Company in 1889. With the 320 acre parcel, Mr. Mikkola proceeded to clear away stumps and debris left from the Timber era and to open up new tracts of farmland. By 1932 forty acres had been cleared for agricultural purposes. He had also proceeded to erect a house, barn and granary. Soon after, a hay shed, blacksmith shop, wood shed, hen coup and sauna were added to make the farm unit as self-sufficient as possible.

For the most part the farm economy was based on animal husbandry. The actual livestock consisted of two work horses, up to thirty-five Ayershire and Holstein dairy cattle, six sheep, two pigs and variable numbers of hens, geese and turkeys. Special attempts were made for inbreeding of each of the above to promote the continued existence of animal husbandry.

Hay, oats and barley were the basic feed grains grown on the farm, in addition, some feedstock was purchased in the City of Sudbury. Milk and eggs were also produced and kept in a cold storage room.

Sources of energy and power were also important. During the development of the farm it passed through most of the historical stages of power transformation, e.g., man-power, horse-power, wind and water power, the gas-powered engine and finally electricity. Most of the plowing and cultivation was done by hand. This

demanding considerable physical endurance, long hours of labour and man-power. In 1947 a gas engine relieved much of the manual labour required in the milking operation. This gas engine which powered a De Laval Milker was replaced with the introduction of electricity to the farm in 1948. Accompanying this change-over was the removal of the windmill which had previously powered a generator used in the charging of batteries. These batteries were the power source for lighting up until 1948.

Milk production totalled up to 8 gallons daily. It was stored in the cold storage room for a period of one week and then delivered for sale to Co-operative Dairy in Sudbury.

Sheep provided wool for the family. While some wool was spun by Mrs Mikkola, most was sent to the wool mills in Flesherton in Southern Ontario. The wool was then used to make clothing and other woolen articles in the Mikkola home.

The livestock provided a yearly supply of meat for the family. Some outside revenue came from the sale of piglets, cattle, milk and eggs. Eggs, some sixteen dozen daily, were periodically delivered to Johnson's General Store in Copper Cliff, where the weekly bartering ritual took place. Very seldom did the Mikkolas have to transact with money to obtain goods. In fact, the family preferred the bartering system because of its more personal character.

The fall harvest was the busiest time of the year. At this time both feed grains and vegetables were stored, although the feed grains were not sold, many of the vegetables were distributed for sale in Copper Cliff and Sudbury.

All of the above characteristics were typical aspects of the Mikkola Farm throughout Mr. A. Mikkola's ownership of the property. Following his death in 1939, his son Eino continued the family's farming tradition.



*Mikkola house built in 1931.*



*In the grain field with the binder, here are Sr. Mrs. Mikkola (at extreme right), with members of family and other help.*