

## THE BUCHNER FARM HISTORY

When Fred Brown decided to sell his 200 acre farm, (The old Brown homestead since the formation of the village of Brownsville) it seems the farm that Mr. and Mrs. ~~Lubrey~~ Buchner of Courtland, would be happy to own. Due to the increasing difficulty of continuing dairy operations in a tobacco growing area, Mr. and Mrs. Buchner had made a decision to relocate in a new area. They saw several things in favour of the Brown farm.

- (1) the soil was excellent silt loam for dairy farming;
- (2) easy rolling for good drainage and sloping gently to the south for a sunny warm exposure;
- (3) the location adjacent to the village was convenient for stores, churches and school;
- (4) the Continuation School in the village was a cherished asset for his family after the hardships experienced by him to get secondary school education;
- (5) the Borden Milk Plant still receiving milk for trucking into Belmont or Tillsonburg was an easy, convenient market for dairy farmers in this area;

In his opinion, the farm had one drawback, in that period of time, and that was the extremely large brick house. It was a bit frightening for a young married couple to deal with. They purchased the farm in early March, 1941, but did not move to it until a year later.

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Sims, an elderly couple from Clarkson, were employed as a caretaker-tenant and lived in the small tenant house. The fields were grain cropped and harvested by a combine, one of the first machines to be used in the area.

The front half of the house was taken down and sold for salvage. The remaining structure was remodelled into four bedrooms, 2 story house with two car garage.

In the remodelling, five chimneys were removed and the remaining structure still retained three chimneys, one for the kitchen and one for the furnace. For a few years, wood was used for heating but eventually natural gas was used for the cooking and heating.

During the remodelling, old acetylene gas piping and early electrical wiring were removed and new hydro service installed. New plumbing was installed and a new automatic water pressure system to supply water to both house and barn, replaced the elevated cement water tank in the backyard, which was kept full by a windmill over the well to one side of the tank.

In March, 1942, the remodelled home was ready for occupancy. W.A. Buchner sold his farm in Middleton Township and retired to a home in Courtland. Aubrey Buchner resigned as Clerk and Treasurer of Middleton and with Bertha and their two children, Betty age five and Gerald, age two, moved the dairy herd and farm equipment to the Brown farm in Dereham Township. Thus began a whole new chapter for the Buchners.

The next seventeen years brought many changes and experiences, some were pleasant, cherished memories, some near tragic mishaps.

