

# Teen understands situation

● From Page A1

moved from the farm for attempting to prevent the removal of a piece of equipment, she said she held no grudge against police or the trustee who were "just doing their job."

Clarence Rounds was petitioned into bankruptcy by the Bank of Montreal Jan. 17, 1983, and was released from bankruptcy on March 9, 1984. The farm now belongs to Sharon Rounds and Glenn Rounds through refinancing from the Farm Credit Corp. They have been negotiating for several years to buy back from the trustee the machinery involved in Clarence Rounds' bank-

ruptcy. It had never left their possession.

The Rounds said they were shocked at the sudden seizure because they had been allowed to keep the machinery for two years and were working on a deal to buy it back that fell through only last Friday.

"It's terrible timing," Sharon Rounds said. "It's certainly going to cripple us. We'll have to ask neighbors to help us out."

The Rounds have about 700 acres (280 hectares) of their own crops to harvest and had contracted to harvest about 400 acres (160 hectares) of neighbors' crops, the money from which was to go to buying back the machinery. Their negotiator in the

dispute, Ron Phillips of Kingsmount/Deloitte in London, has arranged a meeting with the trustee today at 9 a.m. to work a deal on the machinery.

Kingsmount/Deloitte lawyer Doug Ferguson huddled with Clarence Rounds throughout the day and by telephone worked with another lawyer in London trying to halt the court equipment seizure order, which brought police and the bankruptcy trustee onto the property.

Ruth Skillings, a former neighbor who has lived in nearby Lakeside for two years since she and her husband lost their farm, said it was ironic and sad that the equipment was seized before the Rounds got their crop off.

The whole neighborhood will be hurting because of the custom harvesting work Clarence Rounds does, Skillings said. Neighbors and Rounds now will have to make difficult last-minute arrangements to harvest their bean crops.

Rick Jackson, representing trustees in bankruptcy Thorne Ernst and Whinney Inc. of London, said he was just put on the Rounds case this week because another trustee who had handled it for several years went on vacation.

Jackson, who at one time worked for the federal bankruptcy office in London, said he doesn't always like his trustee's job, "this part of it anyway. I'm from a farm originally. I sympathize."

In the early 1980s, the Rounds were active in the Canadian Farmers' Survival Association, which has all but vanished from the farm scene in the last two years.

"There aren't very many of us left," Sharon Rounds said.



Bill Ironside of The Free Press

Farmer Clarence Rounds of RR 3, Lakeside, and London lawyer Doug Ferguson huddled frequently throughout the day Wednesday, trying to find a solution that would prevent the removal of farm equipment from the family farm.