



The Therkelsen Gang

Left to right, back: John Therkelsen, Eric Therkelsen, Fred Vedder, Chris Therkelsen, "Bert" Therkelsen. Centre: Michael Vingerholds. Front: Bill Frappier, Roland Leduc. (Photo by Rowsell)

Therkelsens: family on the move

When the Therkelsen's moved the family farm machinery business two months ago, it was no small affair.

Even the old brick building that the firm left on Concession Street in Russell is no longer there! The structure has been demolished to make way for a future bank building.

Eric Therkelsen and Sons Ltd. took up new quarters in no less dramatic fashion on the Embrun-Russell Road, two miles east of Russell.

The new building is a bright, modern, spanking affair with more than 5,000 square feet of floor space - a world of extra room.

And don't think it wasn't christened with champagne. The bubbly flowed at an open house at which more than 500 people finished off more than 40 pounds of cheese and danced the night away to the strains of Helen's Selections. More than 300 doughnuts were engulfed in the morning alone.

"It was a great turnout. Everybody got enough to eat thanks to Helen Cooper and Bonnie Langill of Country Caterers and Jack Tyo of the Russell Red and White. It was well done," said Birthe "Bert" Therkelsen, the "Mrs." of the family.

"I was a little sad to see the old building go. I didn't go over the day it was being wrecked."

The company will continue to provide the latest in New Holland machinery to local farmers and has expanded into Toro snowblowers with full servicing.

Salesman Peter Dagenais has

been added to the familiar faces of the staff: Michael Vingerholds, mechanic; Bill Frappier, apprentice mechanic; Orland Leduc, assistant mechanic; and driver Fred Vedder.

Bert and her daughter-in-law Debbie run the office.

Chris, 22 and Johnny, 17, are the present and future sons in Therkelsen and Sons. Marie, 21, an employee of St. Vincent's Hospital in Ottawa, Elizabeth, 15, a student at Osgoode High, and Annette, 11, a student at Russell Public, make up the daughter side.

Then there's dad. Eric Therkelsen came to Canada from Denmark in 1957 in answer to an advertisement for farm help. He started as a resident worker on

the farm of W. A. Spratt south of Ottawa where Bert joined him three months later.

In 1960, they bought a farm in Embrun and Eric started work with Ollie Walsh, who was then running the farm machinery dealership out of the "old brick building" in Russell.

After a partnership of three years, Eric and sons took over business in 1975 when Ollie retired. The Therkelsen's live on Craig Street in Russell.

"Eric wanted to leave Denmark because he was an adventurer, he wanted to see the world," said Bert.

"Things have gone well for us since, the local people have been good to us. But if it wasn't for the boys, I'm not sure we would've carried on."

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