

March 1981

MARY BARFOOT

Mary McMillan, daughter of John D. McMillan and Mary Jane Johnston, was born on the farm homestead, January 22, 1901, and had a very happy childhood among brothers and sisters. There were none of us. I attended Cavell School. We lived a few miles from the school and had a pony and cutter to drive to school in the winter and in the summer part of the time. During school hours the pony was stabled in Mr. Wm. Cavell Senior's barn across the road from the school. After I finished public school, I stayed home and helped on the farm until my marriage to Robert C. Barfoot, April 26, 1922.

We were married in the farm house, where I was born, by Rev. M.S. Elliott of the First United Church, with father and mother and all by brothers and sisters present along with uncles and aunts and several cousins and friends. It was a spring wedding and the house was decorated with pink and white streamers and white wedding bells, tulips and lilacs. The big long table was set in the dining room which was laden with a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and many other goodies. The three-tier wedding cake was on the buffet. We were married at 4 o'clock and the sun was shining. Everyone sang "Happy is the Bride that the sun shines on." and the omen has held out for us for we have had a happy married life. After the dinner, we left to start our married life on the farm my husband had bought, Lot 4 Con. 1 Sarawak, with everyone's "Good Wishes."

Our oldest daughter, Isabel Mary, was born March 31, 1925, on my father's birthday. He was so pleased to have the double birthday with her. It always was a big event to look forward to and celebrate. One birthday stands out more clearly than others. We could not tell Isabel what we had for her to give to Grandpa for his birthday for she would tell ahead and there would be no surprise, so she thought she did not have a gift for him, and went along the roadside and picked a bouquet of dried weeds and took them over to him in the morning when he was watering the cattle and said, "Grandpa, I don't have anything for your birthday so I picked these weeds for you". He said, "That was the best birthday gift he had ever been given." and kept them in the dining room for many years and would not let anyone throw them out, and in later years they hung in the back shed. These celebrations were short lived for Father passed away when Isabel was 8 years old, but memories are still with us.

In 1931, April 8th, we were blessed with another little girl. We named her Marie Evelyn.

We farmed on into the depression days and times were very hard on the farm. We raised registered Hereford cattle and prices went down, till we only got beef prices for these at the sale. We decided to make a change and sold our farm to Mr. Norman Brown with the agreement that we would buy his house at 2719 3rd Ave. West, Owen Sound. My husband took up his trade of boat building at Russel Brothers, and we had this large home and I opened it up as a tourist home, and took in quests to help out the budget. We owned property at 2905 3rd Ave. West, Owen Sound, right on the water front.. an ideal spot for tourist business we thought. We decided to sell our home and property

