

70th 49 Ag Grad Reunion

According to my count, we had 106 degree grads and 57 diploma grads in 1949. Of that group, and with the help of the Alumni, we have only been able to find 3 of the degree group and 6 diploma grads who are still with us. Since we are now down to such a small number, the objective of this newsletter is to help us keep track of each other as long as possible. The content of this letter has been made up in bits and pieces as our 49ers provided pictures and short bios. We hope that it turns out to be of some help in enabling us to keep track of each other in the days ahead. We hope that the pictures help us to recognize each other at the reunion.

Degree Grads

Doug Kent, Box 126 Grenfell SK S0G 2B0, 306-697-3053, emkent@sasktel.net



I was born in Grenfell. Graduated in 1949 from U of S with a BSA . I kept on Farming. In 1950 I married Home Ec Grad Eileen Hardy. We raised 3 boys and 1 girl. Our boys all attended U of S. One MSC in Civil Engineering, one BSC in AG Engineering and one graduated in Voc Ag. Our daughter excelled in piano, swimming, and figure skating. I farmed with son Michael (AG Eng) until year 2000 and retired in Grenfell. My wife Eileen and I are proud and happy that 2 grandsons now farm land that has been in our family since 1896.

**Jim Calanchie, 287 Wellington Ave., Yorkton SK, 306-783-4226,
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I was born and grew up on a farm in the Calder-MacNutt district of Saskatchewan, the 10th son of Maria and Wasil E. Calanchie, who were pioneers from Romania. After attending a country school, Minerva, Calder school and Yorkton Composite high school, I graduated with a BSA from the U of S in 1949. I travelled to Calgary and there worked at the Plant Products Laboratory with the Federal Government. While in Calgary I met and married Irene Paterson in 1952. In 1955 we moved to Calder to take up farming some of the land that my father and older brothers had farmed before us. We were blessed with three daughters who are married and have children and grandchildren of their own. One runs a food bank in Manitoba, one is a music teacher and one is a Physio Therapist, who earned her degree at the U of S. For many years we were 4H leaders, which gave us great pleasure. We are now retired, live in Yorkton and rent out our farm which has been in the family for over 100 years. Each August our children arrange a family gathering at our farm, which they, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren greatly enjoy.

**Jim Webster, 326 – 310 Cree Crescent, Saskatoon SK S7K 8C7, 306-260-6766,
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I grew up on a small farm at St. Walburg. I was active in a 4-H beef club and represented Saskatchewan at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair in National Competitions. Joined the Navy in 1944 and took the degree in Agriculture after discharge. I married Jean Robinson in 1949 and together we raised two boys and a girl. Our oldest boy is an engineer from U of S. The second boy is an Architect and our daughter is a dietitian. The family was always active in sports and excelled at speed skating. Both Craig and Brenda competed in the 1980 Winter Olympics. I retired from public service with the Government of Saskatchewan in 1984 after having progressed through positions of increasing responsibility to the level of Deputy Minister. When I retired from Provincial Service, I formed EXP Consulting Limited and spent many years as President of my company which is still in operation with daughter Brenda Comfort as President and CEO. One of my activities of the company included serving as the Canadian project manager for a total of 12 years in Zambia, Sudan, Jamaica and China. I enjoy bird hunting and skeet shooting and I am still a competitive skeet shooter and I also still shoot a few geese and grouse with Grandsons in the fall. I miss Jean a great deal since she passed away in January 2017.

Diploma Grads

**Eric Beamish, 306 – 5117 50th Street, Lloydminster AB T9V 0M2, 780-808-5373,
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After University, I returned home to the family farm (100th anniversary in 2006) until passing it now to 4th generation (son, Don). I trained for and earned a private pilot's license while in Saskatoon, used it mostly for recreation, and I belonged to Sask. Flying Farmers. The Beamish family brought the first all-metal aircraft into this area after WW 2. I married Leona Nielsen, a Reg Nurse, graduate of St. Paul's Hospital. We have 2 sons, Don who is a 4th generation farmer, and Niel who has his drafting/design business in Calgary. We are blessed with 5 grands, ranging in age from 12 to 24. We offered our farm as a host farm for the International Agricultural Exchange Association from 1978-2002 for 27 young people.

Bill Heenan. Regina

Contact Bill through his son Dale at Dale Heenan heenanagrilt@sasktel.net



I was born in Regina in 1929 and raised on the farm at Grand Coulee with my parents Bill and Annie and brother Gordon. I graduated from the U of S Voc Ag program in 1949 and considered those two years the best experience a farm boy could have had. I returned to the farm to work with my dad and expanded into the pedigreed seed business. In 1953 I married Eleanor Threfall, a nursing grad and we had two children Dale and Deb. As winters weren't as busy then as they are today, I also drove cab and sold WearEver pots and pans door to door to help make a go of it in those early years. Dale graduated from the Voc Ag program in 1973 and started farming alongside us, and today his two sons Caleb and Ben are now the fourth generation on the Heenan farms. Eleanor and I enjoyed thirty winters in Sun Lakes Arizona. We would love to hear from classmates or have a visit if you are in or around Regina.

Irvin Perkins, PO box 206, Nipawin SK S0E 1E0, 306-862-9535,

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I married Marie Rosher from Etonia Saskatchewan, a beautiful nurse who had come to Nipawin to work. We raised a family of one son and three daughters. Our son Tim is also a Voc Ag as is my brother Bill. I farmed with my father, brother Bill and Tim and in that order. We did mixed farming to start and gradually shifted to all grain and legumes. I had select grower status back in the days of public ownership of most varieties. We grew foundation canola and then peas. Our farms were in the Codette and Carrot River areas. We tried to do our bit in the communities of Codette and Nipawin as well as in agricultural organizations. I was asked to serve on the U of S Board of Governors, a position which I held for seven years. We moved to Nipawin in 1998 where we built a retirement home to suit our needs. Marie has endured many years of contending with MS but has managed it very well. Hello to all of the class of 49 who are still with us. Our best wishes to you in the coming year. I was dumfounded to learn so few of us are left.

Fred Grant, RR1 Glenbush SK S0M 0Z0,306-342-4514, fredconnieg@littleloon.ca



I was born in North Battleford in 1927 and raised on a small farm at Sandwith, about forty miles north east of the city. My high school was completed in 1944 at Battleford, too late for me to become a Spitfire pilot. I wanted to farm so went back to work with my father on the stony, less than prime soil of that area. I went to School of Agriculture to help me get rich fast. I graduated in 1949 and I have a small plaque to prove I was there. It indicates that I got "First Aggregate" in the "ASA Field Day" that year. I married Holly Drieschner in 1953. Knowing that the small farm was unable to support our desires I took teacher training. That position gave me lots of satisfaction and supported us and the farm. We had two daughters and one son, Dale, who had farming as his goal. After twenty-five years at it, I retired from teaching to help him farm. I have since lived on the farm and have seen my helper role shrink steadily as his farming operation has grown in scale and technology. Holly passed away after 61 very happy years, on our anniversary in 2014. Then mutual friends introduced us and I met Connie Leask in 2017. Her husband of 61 years passed away two years earlier. We soon bonded, finding that we had so many similar likes and dislikes. We were married in November 2017,

honeymooned in Branson and have seen winter months in Florida. We are very happy and hope and pray that we will be blessed with quite a few years of health yet.

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Matthew is still helping his son on the farm at Wilcox. He is living on the farm by himself this winter to make sure that everything remains secure and in order. During the winter he is busy looking after the cats and dog and keeping everything in ship shape. Matthew still drives his own car but he limits his driving to local and up to a year ago he made the occasional trip to Regina. Matthew is looking forward to getting some notes on his surviving fellow graduates.

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No Photo and no news