

THE UNITED FARMER

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THE UNITED FARMER

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COVER PICTURE

The comfortable and attractive farm home of Clarence Visser, R.R. # 6, N. Edmonton.
Reprinted through the courtesy of the Home Economics Section, Department of Agriculture, Government of Alberta.

The Time — 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, 1969.

The Place — the Edmonton Sales Pavilion

The Happening — the 21st Annual Convention of the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

There have been many important milestones in Alberta's agricultural history. December 9, 1969, will be remembered as one of these.

This was the day Alberta farmers voted for the amalgamation of the Farmers' Union of Alberta and the Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

Delegate Explosion

This annual convention usually draws approximately 500 delegates and the meetings are held at the Macdonald Hotel. This year, more than 1100 delegates poured in from every corner of Alberta. It soon became evident that the meeting rooms of the Macdonald would be inadequate. The important Tuesday session had to be moved to the Edmonton Sales Pavilion.

What caused this "delegate explosion" at the 1969 annual meeting of the F.U.A.?

A Time For Decision

The tremendous attendance must be attributed to one main factor — the realization by the members of the F.U.A. that in the farming industry, which is facing a period of drastic readjustment — the time had come for a decision to be made — a decision that would affect every individual in the agricultural industry.

A Business To Care About

Agriculture is the business Alberta's farmers are in. They care about their business. Any doubts concerning this were certainly dispelled by the 'delegate explosion' and by the results of the Tuesday session. A vote was taken and a mandate was broadcast loudly and clearly that tolerated no static interference. The direction the delegates wanted their organization and elected officials to take became clearly defined.

"Tie Yourself In There"

Before The Vote

Before the vote, three roads were open to the members of the F.U.A.: (1). Join the National Farmers Union; (2). Amalgamate with the A.F.A.; (3). The F.U.A. remain basically the same.

The past year, which has been a particularly turbulent one for agriculture, has clearly shown the necessity of establishing a general farm organization — an organization which would enable all farmers to participate in decision making and to deal with social and economic problems. Many interested and knowledgeable people have for many years felt that the amalgamation of farm organizations, now in existence in Alberta, could enable Alberta farmers to become a powerful force in

spite of their relatively small numbers.

The Farmers Union of Alberta

The F.U.A. was organized in 1949 by the amalgamation of the Alberta Farmers' Union and the United Farmers of Alberta. The F.U.A., at that time, represented only 20% of farmers in Alberta. Today it represents about 60%.

During the years, many notable achievements were made by the F.U.A. The original aim was to co-ordinate the efforts of the various branches of agriculture for the purpose of promoting their common interest through collective actions. The F.U.A. was also projected to—
— promote and secure necessary and just legislation for agriculture.

- achieve a relationship of price which would insure to agriculture, its fair share of national income.
- promote a higher standard of community life by the study of economic and social questions relating to agriculture and democratic citizenship.

The F.U.A. has been fortunate in having as presidents, men who have worked with great dedication for their organization. Carl J. Stimpfle of Egremont was the first president and he was followed by Henry Young of Millet. In 1955, Arnold W. Platt of Lethbridge was elected president. In 1959, Ed Nelson of Brightview became president, and in 1963, Paul Babey of Beaverdam took over the chief executive position.



Edmonton Sales Pavilion Crammed For Vote on Unification.

Unity of Farm Organizations

These men, each in their unique way, but with the same common goals, deserve much of the credit for the outstanding achievements made by the Farmers' Union of Alberta. But there has always been the matter of unity of farm organizations, a subject for much discussion, little action and few results.

The F.U.A. has remained non-political. However, many of its members feel that the major achievement of the F.U.A. — and this is a vitally important one — is the development of a good working relationship between the government and the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

In addition, the F.U.A. has developed an extensive staff which can help its membership solve some of their problems. This staff includes economists, accountants, tax consultants, lawyers and writers.

The Alberta Federation of Agriculture

The Alberta Federation of Agriculture is an organization which includes all farmer owned and controlled organizations as members. There are some 34 member organizations in the federation which is comprised of many types of agricultural and co-operative associations. The affiliated member bodies bring forth their findings on any particular matter affecting agriculture and these are consolidated for the purpose of presentation to the governmental authorities, provincial and federal. Co-operatives have provided an opportunity for farmers to have a say in the manner in which their product was handled and to share in savings on an equal basis. Farm purchasing power was consolidated to provide a price advantage in

the purchases of large volumes of inputs. All these organizations are controlled and owned by farmers and exist in order to improve the farmers' economic position.

The A.F.A. and the F.U.A.

Relations between the A.F.A. and the F.U.A. have been good and these two organizations have always worked closely together. There was a feeling, by some, that these were separate organizations and there must be a difference. But both these organizations do represent the farm people of Alberta. Both organizations have one purpose — to improve the economic and social position of farmers.

Amalgamation — Effectively Working Together

The amalgamation of the F.U.A. and the A.F.A. will be a strong move to give agriculture an equal opportunity to work with other sectors of society. The amalgamation will mean working together in a well financed, strong organization, representing all facets of agriculture. Individually, the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and the Farmers Union of Alberta have made some outstanding achievements. Together, with greater co-operation they can really be effective.

Decision Day

This was the background. The time had come for the delegates to make a decision as to which of the three roads they wished to travel. On Tuesday, the delegates representing 60% of the farmers of Alberta, defeated the proposal to join the National Farmers Union.

In another vote, the delegates, enthusiastically and with

Don't be like the heads of some of the United States farm bureaus who wouldn't warm up to each other even if they were cremated together."

Sister Thomas More

no indecision whatsoever, voted for the unification of the Federation of Agriculture and the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

In crushing the N.F.U. resolution, 946 delegates voted "no", while 260 voted in support of being part of the National Farmers Union, formed last August in Winnipeg. It was a clear showing of 'thumbs down' on Roy Atkinson's proposal for Alberta's farmers to join the N.F.U.

85% Favor Amalgamation

The resolution to give all Alberta farmers a single voice by amalgamation was supported by 947 delegates and opposed by 143. This was an 85% vote in favor of amalgamation and positively defined the stand taken by the delegates.

However, Archie Hogg, veteran farm organization worker in Alberta, after the vote for unification, said, "I am pleased by the proposed amalgamation between the F.U.A. and the A.F.A., but there should be no gloating over the defeat of those who took a different view. We should try to heal any wounds, preserve the unity of

our organization and genuinely respect the motives of those who voted against the majority."

And now to 'Tie Yourself In'

For the work has just begun — Sister Thomas More who spoke at the F.U.A. Annual Meeting, made a tremendous impact on everyone who heard her. She is a Franciscan Nun who is profoundly dedicated to her work, which is the study of farm organizations.

Many of her dynamic, common-sense remarks bear repeating — more than that — they demand the consideration of every individual whose business is agriculture. Sister More said, "Individual unconcern is really farmer selfishness. Become accustomed to the word compulsory — this is really self-imposed loyalty. If you want unity to be effective, you must 'tie yourself in there'. Don't be like the heads of some of the United States Government farm bureaus who wouldn't warm up to each other even if they were cremated together! The basic purpose of farm organization is to enable a man to choose agriculture as his profession and hang on in there as long as he is willing to work at his profession."

"Don't ask the organization what it can do for you — because it can do nothing — but you can use your farm organization as a tool to accomplish your objectives. If you want to be effective you must 'tie yourself in there!!'"

The interest and enthusiasm for unification that was so magnificently in evidence at the F.U.A. meeting must continue. It is only through work that goals are achieved. Ideals are necessary, but they must be practical ideals and this means putting ideas into practise.

25 YEAR SERVICE AWARD



Gordon Gimbel and Howard Walker.

Howard Walker, United Farmers' Agent at Rimbey, recently received his 25 Year Service Award.

Howard was signed in as Petroleum Agent at Alliance by Art Riley, the first Petroleum Division Manager for U.F.A. Howard grew up in Alliance and after completing his schooling, he worked with his father in the hardware and fuel oil business. The Walkers later moved to Rimbey to take over the fuel oil bulk plant there.

Howard and his charming wife, Jean, have worked hard. They have an excellent knowledge of the petroleum business and this coupled with their fine relationship with many of the farm people in the area has certainly helped the agency to grow.

Jean has always been actively associated in the business. She waits on customers while Howard is delivering and also does the bookkeeping.

The Walker's only son, Graham is married and is a Calgary City Police Constable with the Traffic Division. His wife, Deina is in training for a nurse at the General Hospital.

Gordon Gimbel, Petroleum Marketing Supervisor from Territory #4, wrote in to say, "Congratulations, Howard, on your 25 Year Service Award. We hope you and Jean will keep up the fine job you have always done."

From the rest of your associates at United Farmers, Howard and Jean, we sincerely echo Gordon's wishes.

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MEET YOUR DELEGATES



NORMAN ADOLPHSON

Grain and beef — that's the business of Mr. Norman H. Adolphson, whose farm is located N.W. 1 - 70 - 22 - 5, which is southeast of Valleyview.

Mr. Adolphson is a former president of the Valleyview local of United Farmers. He has held executive positions in the Valleyview Old Timers Association, of which he was a past president, and in the East Valley Mutual Telephone Company of which he still is the president. He has also served on the Agricultural Service Board.

This was Mr. Adolphson's first Annual Meeting as a delegate to United Farmers and he enjoyed his association with the other members of the delegate body, the directorate, and management of United Farmers.

Norman Adolphson, his wife Yutta, and daughters Rhonda, Lorraine, and Sonia belong to and attend the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Valleyview.

Our delegates are farmers who are keenly aware of the problems facing their neighbours. They assume the responsibility of achieving more effective member relations. They advise United Farmers on policies members feel should be implemented. They disseminate to members information as to what makes the wheels go round at United Farmers."

In 1969, elections were held in the odd-numbered sub-districts. The United Farmer introduces the following delegates who were elected at that time.



PAUL GELINAS

The very modest biography sent to this office by Mr. Gelinus didn't offer too much information. However, Mr. Gelinus is a welcome addition to the delegate body and enthusiastically enjoyed his first Annual Meeting.

Paul Gelinus was born on a farm about 10 miles south of Cardston and now has a mixed farm near Trochu. He is married and has three children, one girl and two boys.

He is secretary of his local F.U.A. His election to United Farmers as the delegate from the Kneehill area, is a first for him as a provincial delegate.



MERVIN GIEM

United Farmers' delegate from the Camrose South area is originally from Melville, Saskatchewan. However, Saskatchewan's loss is Alberta's gain.

Mr. Giem is involved in raising hogs and grain. He has won many prizes at horticultural displays, mainly for his fruits and vegetables.

Prior to his election as delegate, Mr. Giem was on the Camrose Advisory Committee of United Farmers. He is a past president of the local F.U.A., served as secretary-treasurer and is now a director of the Battle River Gas Co-op. He has also served as president of a sub-committee for the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Mr. Giem is dedicated to church work which he feels is his main hobby. He has held several offices in the United Church, is now an elder and held an executive position at a recent Church conference.

United Farmers is owned co-operatively. Members control the Organization through 63 delegates and 9 directors they elect to represent them.

United Farmers is dependent on having a knowledgeable membership to guide its operations. The Company is constantly being challenged to operate effectively in today's efficient market place while maintaining the essential characteristics that set co-operatives apart. It is important our members have a sense of pride and ownership in an organization that is so uniquely endowed.



STANLEY MAGDIAK

Farm and community organizations are very much a part of Mr. Magdiak's life. Although this is his first term as a member of United Farmers' delegate body, he has held many other executive positions. He was born in Myrnam and his farm is located there.

Mr. Magdiak served on the Myrnam Hospital from 1956-1963. He was vice-chairman from 1963 - 1967, at which time he was elected chairman. He has also been a director and is now vice-chairman of the Myrnam Seed Cleaning Plant. Mr. Magdiak has served as director of his local F.U.A. local and was president of the local for three years.

He and his wife, Annette have two children, a daughter Joni and a son Allan. Joni is married and working in the Royal Alexander hospital in Edmonton as an R.N.



ROBERT STEEN

Our delegate from the Taber area, Robert Steen, was a most interested participant at his first Annual Meeting.

Mr. Steen was born in Enchant, Alberta, and his farm is located in this area at N.W. of 2 15 - 18. He believes in diversified farming and raises wheat, rye, barley, flax, peas, radishes and hay.

Mr. Steen is a member of the Advisory Council of the Department of Agriculture in Taber. He also belongs to the Fish and Game Association and for a hobby enjoys rifle shooting.

His other hobby — coaching boys' hockey teams — has earned a multitude of fans for Mr. Steen as the young hockey enthusiasts whom he coaches, sincerely appreciate the time and effort he devotes to them.



KERMIT SOLBERG

Although his affiliation with United Farmers has been lengthy, Kermit Solberg is now serving his first term as a delegate to our organization from the Hanna area. He was an United Farmers' trustee with the Acadia store and also served as secretary and president of the local U.F.A.

In 1910, Mr. Solberg's father moved from Garrison, North Dakota, to a farm at Sunnynook. Mr. Solberg and his brother, Maurice, now operate the farm and are involved in grain farming and cattle ranching.

Not only has Mr. Solberg been active in farm organization work — he is a life member #6 of F.U.A., a member of the Wheat Pool, C.C.I.L. and A.L.C. — he has also been very involved in community work. He belongs to the Al Azhar Temple and since 1951, has been secretary-treasurer of the Pollockville Curling Association. In 1969, he skipped a rink representing District 11 at the Provincial Bopspiel.

Kermit and his wife, Dorothy have two children. Their son, Jim is in 2nd year Agriculture at Montana State University in Bozeman, and their daughter, Anne is a grade 12 student at the local school in Cessford.

MEET YOUR DELEGATES



GLENN VALLEAU



JOHN TERLESKY



ALBERT STEINBRING

Mr. Valleau was born in Picton, Ontario. His coming to the West has given a dedicated worker to the co-operatives and farm organizations he belongs to.

For 22 years, Mr. Valleau served as a co-operative store director. He has served for 24 years on the supervisory committee of the local Credit Union. He was the F.U.A. local secretary for a number of years and is now sub-district director. Mr. Valleau is also secretary and director of his local R.E.A. He has served on advisory committees to the Wheat Pool and United Farmers — has been the agricultural representative on the Wainwright Chamber of Commerce and is a delegate to C.C.I.L.

Mr. Valleau is United Farmers' delegate from the Wainwright area.

John Terlesky was U.F.A. oil agent at Buford from 1956 - 1961. He is now a member of the delegate body and represents the Leduc area. His farming enterprise is located at S.E. 18 - 49 - 27 - W4, where he is in the grain and poultry business.

Thorsby, Alberta is Mr. Terlesky's birth place. He acted as councilor of the Municipal District of Leduc, from 1946 - 1952 and is on the Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board.

Mr. Terlesky is a member of the F.U.A., the Thorsby Rural Fire Association, The Alberta Wheat Pool, and the Alberta Hatching Egg Association.

Mr. Terlesky and his wife, Mary can be proud of the two fine sons they have raised. Russel is a petroleum engineer employed by Chevron Standard Oil Company and Richard is an electrical engineer with Calgary Power Limited.

Our delegate from the Barrhead area is engaged in mixed farming. He raises barley and oats, and keeps Yorkshire Hogs and Aberdeen Angus cattle. Some years ago, Mr. Steinbring was awarded a 1st prize for his seed barley at the Barrhead Seed Fair.

His activities in farm and community organization are numerous. He is a member of the F.U.A.—the Lunnford Community Association—a director of the Barrhead R.E.A. and has been a member of his church council for 12 years.

Elsie and Albert Steinbring are to be particularly commended on their fine family. Their son, Bruce, is teaching in Edmonton; their daughter Sharon, is in her 3rd year of Education at the University of Alberta, their son Reg recently graduated from high school and Morris is in his fourth year of high school.

HALF A CENTURY WITH TWO HOBBIES



Mr. Elmer Johnson and Mr. Elza Arthur.

Mr. Elza Arthur, once noted that his hobbies were "co-operatives and community endeavors".

For over half a century, Mr. Arthur has been dedicated to his hobbies and he can deservedly take pride in the many worthwhile achievements this has accomplished.

Although he is now retired and rents out his land, for many years Mr. Arthur actively farmed in the Wainwright area. In 1921, he was appointed a member of the Willoughby school board — a position he held until 1925. He joined U.F.A. in 1922 and at various times was chairman and secretary of his local. He belonged to the two local co-op stores, the Autumn Leaf which he joined in 1923 and the Wainwright in 1945.

Mr. Arthur served as a councillor of the Municipal districts of Gilt Edge from 1941 - 1942 and Wainwright from 1947 - 1953.

In recent years he has been chairman of the Wainwright Farm Purchase board, president of the Old Timers Association, delegate for four years to C.C.I.L., and a member of the Wainwright Chamber of Commerce and Stampede Association.

In 1963 Mr. Arthur became a delegate to U.F.A. He retired this year and in appreciation of the conscientious manner Mr. Arthur had shown toward his delegate responsibilities, he was presented with a silver tray on behalf of United Farmers.

Mr. Elmer Johnson, Chauvin, second vice-president of United Farmers, made the presentation.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

— To recognize the recipients of 5 Year Service Awards before they are to be awarded their 10 Year Service Awards.

10 YEAR



TIM VOLK
CONTROLLER

In his 10 years with United Farmers, Tim Volk has been instrumentally involved with the proficient sophistication of our accounting systems. As Controller of United Farmers, Mr. Volk is responsible for the accounting department, office services and data processing systems.

Mr. Volk is a Chartered Accountant. He has completed a number of short courses and university extension courses in business administration and data processing. In addition he has completed the Management Development Program at the University of Calgary and attended the Banff School of Advanced Management.

AWARDS

10 YEAR



BILL DUIMEL
SENIOR PRINTER

Bill joined United Farmers on August 26, 1959. In his position as Senior Printer, he operates various types of presses and binding equipment in the production of forms, letters, manuals, memoranda, and other material. Bill operates the Heidelberg Kord Off-Set Press, the Multilith 1250, the Electrostatic Copier, the Baum Folder and Inserting Machines. He also does negative layout and stripping and is responsible for the paper and envelope stock control.

5 YEAR

GARY JENSEN

Assistant Manager
Grande Prairie Farm Supply
Centre
July 2, 1964

DENNIS CANNING

Assistant Manager
Calgary Farm Supply Centre
June 29, 1964

GEORGE SCHRAMM

Head Warehouseman
Falher Farm Supply Centre
May 19, 1964

BERT DELANEY

Manager
Grande Prairie Farm Supply
Centre
September 30, 1963

ALVIN BURDEYNEY

Head Warehouseman
Grande Prairie Farm Supply
Centre
April 16, 1964

RON FERNLEY

Manager
Vermilion Farm Supply Centre
January 15, 1964

BARRY BROWN

Head Warehouseman
Provost Farm Supply Centre
March 9, 1964

GORDON BLADES

Head Warehouseman
Red Deer Farm Supply Centre
December 2, 1963

NORMAN BREITKREUTZ

Assistant Manager
Lethbridge Farm Supply Centre
April 2, 1964

RANDY MERONIUK

Salesman
Lethbridge Farm Supply Centre
May 1, 1964

JEAN BITTORF

Calgary Head Office
Senior Reshipping and Invoice
Clerk
December 15, 1964