

PIONEERS

ASC history parallels West family: 200 years service with the company

The history of the Alberta Sugar Company parallels that of the six West brothers, who have accumulated more than 200 years of dedicated service to the company.

They — and the company — started out at Raymond, then moved on to Picture Butte, and then to Taber.

Their parents, Curtis West and Iona Larson, as teenagers, came to Raymond in 1903 from small towns in Utah, as part of the Mormon migration that brought irrigation and the beet sugar industry to Southern Alberta.

Following their marriage in 1908, the senior Wests raised a family of four girls and six boys, all born in Raymond.

The sons, in order of age, are Cliff, Deral, Lloyd, Russell, Larry and Allen. The two elder daughters, Mrs. J. (Melba) Pickett and Mrs. G. (Lavon) Pickett, live in Portland. Donna (Mrs. Lloyd Erickson) and Janice (Mrs. Alan Shaw) reside in the Taber area.

There is a span of 26 years between the eldest member (Melba) and the youngest (Janice) of the West family.

Over the years the West brothers have been very active in sports and outdoor recreation. Cliff, Russell, Larry and Allen at various times played for the renowned Raymond Union Jacks, the almost-perennial basketball champions of Alberta.

Russell, Larry and Allen played baseball and fastball on various teams in the summers around Southern Alberta. Lloyd carried one of the hottest cues in the area — his prowess at the snooker tables kept the West boys in pocket money in the leaner years.

ALBERTA SUGAR CO.



The West brothers: back row from left, Cliff, Allen and Lloyd; front row, Russell, Deral and Larry.

Allen and Larry were particularly outstanding at basketball.

Larry played on one Canadian and several Alberta championship teams. Allen played on ten Alberta and four Canadian championship teams (1958 to 1963). He ended his basketball career by playing on the national team that represented Canada at the Pan-American Games and World Basketball Tournament in Brazil in 1963. Later that year the same team played in an invitational tournament in Manila, Philippines.

Cliff

Cliff West started his 46-year career in the beet sugar industry in 1930, working during campaign in the sugar packing house for the Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. at Raymond.

Following five years of campaign and part inter-campaign work at Raymond he joined the permanent staff and transferred to Picture Butte to work on construction of the factory, becoming a sugar-end foreman for the first campaign and beet-end foreman in 1947.

Cliff spent the 1957 campaign at Manitoba Sugar as a shift superintendent. In 1961 he transferred to the Taber factory as assistant superinten-

dent, became superintendent at Taber in 1972 and two years later was promoted to superintendent operations for Alberta Sugar Co.

Cliff retired in 1976 and he and his wife Edna (sister of Agriculture Superintendent Arledge Hill) continue to reside in Taber, but spend the winter months in the warmer Southern States. When in Alberta, Cliff keeps active with fishing, hunting, golfing and gardening.

Deral

Deral (Lefty) West started working campaigns at the Raymond factory in 1934, joining the permanent staff in 1943. Following two years service in the navy he returned to the company in 1946 and became a beet-end foreman five years later.

Following closure of the Raymond factory, Deral transferred to the Picture Butte factory in 1964 where he had worked during construction in 1936. Unfortunately, Deral was involved in a serious automobile accident that made him a paraplegic, forcing a permanent disability retirement in 1971 at the age of 58.

Deral and his wife June (Hall) reside in Picture Butte — and he still drives his car.

Lloyd

Lloyd West worked the 1938 campaign at Picture Butte, then transferred to the Raymond factory for campaign service over the next 10 years. This was interrupted by three years' duty as instructor with the army RCE at Chilliwack, B.C. Lloyd returned to the company in 1956, joining the permanent staff at Taber as part of the power house crew.

Lloyd retired last year; he and his wife Mildred (Speer) make their home in Taber, where Lloyd keeps busy with gardening, yard work and short recreation trips.

Russell

Russell West's introduction to the sugar industry involved spinning sugar at Picture Butte in the 1940 campaign. Two years later he joined the RCAF, graduated as a pilot and, after being posted to England, became a flying instructor. While on leave in London he met, and later married, Hazel Walker.

After the war he returned to the company at Picture Butte as a permanent employee, then transferred to Taber in 1950 as a sugar boiler. There he progressed through a variety of jobs to shift superintendent. With completion of the new warehouse and shipping office at Taber in 1978 he transferred to his present position there.

In his spare time Russell enjoys gardening, fishing, hunting, golfing, reading and travelling.

Larry

Larry West worked for seven years on a non-permanent basis just before closure of the Raymond factory. He then joined Tollestrup Construction Co. as an equipment operator and, before long, became a partner in a Lethbridge-based contracting company.

Recently he sold his interest in this company but, in semi-retirement, still accepts some equipment operation contracts to "keep his hand in."

Larry and his wife Audrey (Liddle) make their home in Lethbridge.



GIFT—MLA LeRoy Fjordbotten presents an Alberta flag to Piyami Manor resident Deral West. The presentation was made during the official opening of the Manor Friday (Story on Page 3).

Allen

Allen West came on permanent payroll as a teenager in 1947, joining the permanent staff there as a sugar boiler in 1956. With the closing of the Raymond factory, he transferred to the Taber factory. There he progress-

ed through various stations to the position of shift superintendent that he now holds.

Allen and his wife Jacqueline (Ririe) reside in Taber, with part of their family of seven. Allen is an ardent golfer and is handy with a shotgun in the fall.