

S. J. McKee Archives



Eric B. Gowler and Hugh Broadfoot interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14572>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH313.Gow

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: November 10, 1982

June 23, 1983

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [00:55:00]

History /

Biographical:

Eric Bamford Gowler was born on September 2, 1901 in Toronto, ON. His family moved to Grenfell, SK in 1904, and that is where he received his schooling. From 1920-1926, Eric worked as a bank clerk for Dominion Bank in Grenfell, Regina and Boissevain, moving to the latter in 1923. In 1926, Eric resigned from the bank and formed a partnership with George McDonald in an implement business. The partnership was dissolved in 1935. Subsequently, Eric took on an International Harvester dealership for tractors and machines. In 1946, his dealership was the first International Harvester dealer outside of the United States to be modernized. A significant portion of the business' success, was the publication of the advertising bulletin, "The Waggin' Tongue," which ran for twenty-two years. Eric retired in 1961, selling the business, but not the building, to John McDonald, Hugh Broadfoot and R. Nicholson. Eric married Mildred Welch (1900-1971) in 1927 and together they had two sons: Douglas and James. Eric Gowler died in 1990.

Hugh Gibson Broadfoot was born on July 2, 1935. When Gowler retired from the implement business, Hugh bought into the company along with John McDonald and R. Nicholson. Hugh married Judith Elaine Smith (1939-2022) on May 26, 1962 and together they had four children: Devron, Jason, Susan and Shirley. Hugh Broadfoot died on April 4, 2015 in Boissevain, MB. He is buried at Boissevain and Morton Cemetery.

Custodial History:

As part of the Westman Oral History Collection, this collection was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. The original tapes from the Westman Oral History project were deposited in the Brandon Public Library. Copies of these originals were made by Margaret Pollex of the Brandon University Language Lab at the request of Eileen McFadden, University Archivist in the early 1990s. These copies compose the collection held in the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Eric Gowler and Hugh Broadfoot about their implement business in Boissevain, MB. Interviewer is Bernice Pettypiece.

Notes: History/bio information from the records, the Boissevain-Morton local history "Beckoning Hills Revisted," FamilySearch.org and obituaries for Hugh and Judy Broadfoot. Description by Christy Henry.

Language Note: English

Audio Tracks
