

Marilyn Smith
760 Dougall Road South
Kelowna, B.C. V1X 3J8

June 25, 1997

Dear Garth,

It was nice to get your letter and the information you sent for the Bjelke Family History. Myrna and I have got together and found some pictures and documents you may use if you wish. We have also included a few memories of our father and some information about our families.

We are very interested in the book and look forward to getting copies when it has been published. Please let us know when the book is available. I'm happy someone chose to undertake this project.

It would be nice to see you one day. I think the last time I recall seeing you was when we visited Aunt Ruth and Uncle Peder at Strongfield many years ago. I think you were only about two years old.

Best wishes to you all and wishing you success with the book.

My phone number in Kelowna is 250-765-6572 if you have any further questions or require more information.

Sincerely,

Marilyn

Our parents moved from Burnt Lake in 1953 to operate a grocery store in Red Deer. After selling the store my father worked for McGavins Toastmaster for a number of years until he suffered a stroke at the age of forty-three. He lost his speech but could read and understand anything we wrote down for him. He greatly enjoyed watching the Saturday night hockey games on T.V. When his health improved after the stroke, my mother arranged for him to work at the dairy where she worked as a bookkeeper. He worked there until he had the heart attack on Remembrance Day November 11, 1965.

Dad enjoyed bowling on a league two evenings a week. One evening with a men's league and one evening with a mixed league. He also enjoyed going fishing in the rivers around the area.

Myrna and I remember our Dad with great fondness. He was a very kind and gentle man. He would make an ice skating rink on the spare lot across from our house in Red Deer for all the children in the neighborhood to enjoy. Quite often he would put on his skates and join us. He was often called upon to rescue us or neighborhood children from trees after they had climbed up and were afraid to come down.

We are quite sure he would have really enjoyed his grandchildren, as the grandsons were always and still are very active in sports. They have all been involved in football, basketball, rugby, baseball and hockey. Michael (Myrna's eldest) is a physical education teacher in Vernon, B.C. Christine, being his only grand-daughter, would still have been his "little girl". Fortunately Dad was still alive when Christine was born so he had a year and a half of knowing one grandchild.

Marilyn is married to Raymond Smith and they live in Kelowna, B.C. They have two children, Christine born April 21, 1964 and Darren born January 25, 1971. Christine is married to Adolf Friesen and they have two children Vanessa born February 9, 1987 and James born April 17, 1992. Christine and her family are presently living in Scottsbluff, Nebraska where her husband is involved in road building. Christine is a respiratory therapist. Darren is single and will be attending University in the fall to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree.

Myrna is married to Gary Scheller and they live in Vernon, B.C. They have two sons Michael born March 2, 1969 and Jeffrey born May 24, 1970. Michael is single and is presently teaching in Vernon and Jeffrey is single and lives in Kamloops where he works in a large grocery store. Michael has continued his love of sports and is teaching physical education and is very active coaching and playing rugby.

I hope the above information is helpful. Use what you wish. I hope the photocopies are of good enough quality for you to use as we did not wish to part with the originals. Myrna's birthdate was corrected on the copy you sent us from 1956 to 1947. She much preferred the birthdate you gave her but for sake of accuracy we changed it.

We wish you success with your book.