

ART MERRICK'S BIO FOR GYRO:

I was born in 1944 and raised in Lethbridge by parents who had served in the Canadian Airforce. Dad trained people in Morse Code communication and Mom ran the telephone system at the Lethbridge air base.

From day 1 I was turned on by math and science, winning several scholarships for entry into Engineering at the U of A in Edmonton. Although I got decent marks that first year, Engineering didn't turn me on so I went on to complete a B.Sc. in Physics and Chemistry.

I met a farm gal from Lethbridge who was taking Home Ed at the U of A. We married in 1967 and, while she taught Home Ec at the High School in Stoney Plain, I went into Law School at the U of A – because my Dad, who worked for the RCMP in the radio room, thought I should be a lawyer. One year was enough to tell me I didn't like that profession either – so I went on to get a B. Ed.

After teaching high school science in Stoney Plain for 2 years, I got the opportunity to be principal of a country school East of Didsbury. My wife also got a teaching job at my school until we had our first son, Russell.

We then moved out to her parent's farm near Lethbridge and I taught Chem and Physics in the Coalhust High School for 5 years. Again I got bored so I moved on to another profession – sales. Believe it or not, I became the top Electrolux door-to-door salesman in Canada, making twice my salary as a school principal.

Within the next five years all sorts of things happened: my wife had twin boys, I became the Lethbridge Electrolux branch manager, then Regional Manager of the stores in southern Alberta and B.C.

My three sons did not do well: in 1994 the twins were in a headon with a large truck in a snow storm on the way to the ski hill. Trevor passed away and Todd has been in a wheel chair for 27 years. Their older brother, Russell, passed away with a terrible virus two years later and my marriage totally fell apart.

I moved to Kamloops to run the Electrolux southern district but decided, in 1995, to settle at the Red Deer branch. In 1996 I was offered a sales job in Red Deer – for Olympia Benefits. The product was fantastic and I did well enough to be offered the job as Edmonton Regional Manager. Just before moving I became enamored of a real estate gal. Judy Taylor. Every weekend I travelled back to Red Deer and we became inseparable.

Judy decided to move to Edmonton and, in 2001, we married. Business went so well we realized it was silly to continue renting so we got a builder in Sherwood Park to build us a house in Ardrossan. In order to beat the tax guys, we incorporated and have taken dividends with the direction of Gary Kleebaum's accountant daughter, Jill.

Sadly, Judy passed away on January 30, 2021 with cancer. We were sort of in the process of planning our retirement but I guess I need to do lots of thinking!

Anyhow, I've had a good life in spite of the trials and tribulations!