

NORMAN & GLADYS MOON

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moon

Moons mark 60th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moon, pioneer residents of Grande Prairie, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at an "open house reception" Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Moon — Mrs. Moon was the former Gladys Kennedy — were from well-known Edmonton families and were married in Central United church in Edmonton on March 9, 1912.

Mr. Moon, a young businessman in Edmonton, heard the call of the north and brought his bride over the Edson Trail to the Bezanson district in 1912. They have been active members of the community and over the years became involved in many organizations and projects.

The reception was given by the family, and ladies of the Women's Institute. More than 200 guests attended the reception.

The head table was centered with a three-tiered wedding cake topped with a miniature family tree. A mauve and white decorative theme was used throughout the lounge and tea room.

Family and friends came from as far as Toronto in the east, Victoria in the West, Calgary in the south, and Fort St.

John in the north. Their bridesmaid, Mrs. Ross (Annie) Wales was also in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Moon received more than 300 messages of congratulations and numerous telegrams and remembrances.

Among the telegrams were messages from Queen Elizabeth; Gov.-Gen. Roland Mitchener; Lieut.-Gov. Grant MacEwan; Prime Minister Trudeau; Sen. Harper Prowse; former Prime Minister Lester Pearson; Premier Peter Lougheed; Edmonton Mayor Ivor Dent and numerous others from as far away as Africa and Hawaii.

Mayor & Mrs. Elmer Borstad brought greetings from the city and presented the Moons with a symbolic Trumpeter Swan.

The Moons have four children — Hugh of Beaverlodge, Gordon of Grande Prairie, Margret of Toronto and Lawrence of Victoria. They have 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Moon entertained for the immediate family.



Gordon Moon

Pioneer remembers trek

Five-mile horse ride to school

By MARG SMART
of our staff

The completion of the railroad into Grande Prairie in 1916 was a big event but don't expect Peace Country pioneer Gordon Moon to remember anything about it. He was only one year old.

"That's what I always said, beat the railroad here anyway," he said with a chuckle.

Mr. Moon was born on a farm east of Grande Prairie at Bezanson, the son of Norman and Gladys Moon. Although there was no hospital in the area, the settlement at Bezanson was a fair size, Mr. Moon said.

His parents were from Ontario. They met and married in Edmonton, where his father had a real estate business, in 1912 and later moved to this area to set up a homestead.

A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Nowadays Peace Country children are warned not to stray too far from home in case they get lost or injured in passing traffic but things were a bit different in the days when Mr. Moon was growing up.

"I suppose it's hard for people to realize, but we were always warned not to go out of the clearing," Mr. Moon said. He said there were many bears in the bush and a big concern were lynx which hid up in the trees. "That was my mother's concern — that her little darlings would get gobbled up."

Mr. Moon has one sister, Margaret, who currently lives in Ontario and one brother, Lawrence, who lives in Victoria. A second brother, Hugh, is deceased.

Recalling his days as a child, Mr. Moon remembers a daily five-mile ride to a little country school — which still stands — taught by Dorothy Leslie, of Grande Prairie.

"In fact me, my brother and a cousin of mine, all rode one horse," he said.

"I often wondered, you know the snow was awfully deep at times and we were just small, and I'd wonder if we ever fell off into the snow, if we'd ever get back on the horse again."

"Well, we always looked forward, with great anticipation, to the 24th of May Sports (day)," Mr. Moon said when asked of his favorite memory. "Because we all had horses and we were always arguing about who's was the fastest."

The annual sports day races would quell the arguments for a short time.

When Mr. Moon was 11 years old the family moved to Grande Prairie.

"After being on the farm, it was quite a change," he said. And things kept changing.

"Our ball field, where we used to play ball, was where the Ranch House and Midtown is now. It used to be all vacant area there," he said.

After working with various businesses Mr. Moon's father moved back to the old homestead in 1931.

"I stayed around the farm for a few years and worked for a fellow for \$10 a month," Mr. Moon said. "That was during the depression, of course."



Pioneer portrait

In 1936 Mr. Moon began working for United Grain Growers. He married Irene (nee Hamell of Beaverlodge) four years later. The couple had eight children, four boys and four girls. After working for UGG for 21 years, Mr. Moon took the position as city office manager. He worked for the City of Grande Prairie for seven years and left for a position with Tisington Industries. He also served on city council, from 1966 to 1972, as an alderman. A fire in 1971 destroyed the Tisington Industries building, thus affecting his employment, so in the fall of that year he started up Prism Glass and Paint. He eventually sold the business.

Although Mr. Moon has a high opinion of Grande Prairie, he can't help but miss one aspect of life in a farm community.

"I think the thing a person misses most is the closeness of the community. Everybody knew everybody and helped them out."