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**1962 – 2012**

History of the **Department  
of Resource Economics and  
Environmental Sociology**  
at the University of Alberta:



# **The First Twenty Years**

By Brett Lambert



# Introduction



When I set forth to chronicle the history of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, it was my original intent to document the *entire* history of the department, from the department's controversial beginnings trying to get established in 1961 as Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, then as Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in 1969, followed by Rural Economy in 1975, and finally the latest name change to Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology in 2011.

In an attempt to learn more about the Department's beginnings, I spent a lot of time in the University of Alberta Archives looking through the papers of Travis W. Manning, the Department's first Chair who had done so much to build a Department from scratch. He did not do it alone, and the papers housed in the Archives show it. Boxes upon boxes full of correspondence, meeting minutes, memos, reports, and other miscellaneous ephemera capture a dynamic young Department going through periods of rapid growth. Further documents tucked away in old filing cabinets of the Reading Room were also discovered and helped fill in some of the blanks.

Due to time constraints and the sheer amount of information contained about these early formative years, eventually my focus shifted to capturing the Department's first twenty years. With this publication, it is my intent to shed light on the origins of the Department, demonstrate how it grew, and what directions it followed as it reached its 20th anniversary in the early 1980s. In essence, this document should be viewed as a chronicling of how we got to be who we are today. Any interest in making a second volume chronicling the department's latter history should be directed to myself; feedback would be very welcome.

It is my sincere hope that people enjoy this publication – especially for those who were around during these formative years – and that I have done justice to the collective memory and accomplishments of the Department. If there are any errors or omissions, these are completely unintentional.

**Brett Lambert**

Reading Room & Communications Coordinator

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# History of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta:

## The First Twenty Years

By Brett Lambert

*Author's Note: There are various incarnations of the Department's name. In 1961, the Department was formed as Agricultural Economics and Farm Management. In 1969, it was known as Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. In 1975, the name was changed to Rural Economy. Finally, in 2011 the department became known as Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology (REES). In referencing the name of the Department, we use its name during the period in question or the generic use of "the Department" in order to avoid confusion.*

Although the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology (REES) began operations at the University of Alberta in 1961 as Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, its history extends well before the 1960s. The earliest indication of an agricultural economics focus was a listing in the 1916-17 calendar of the University for a "Department of Rural Economics" in the Faculty of Agriculture. Two courses were listed: a junior course titled "Rural Economics" that dealt with production, marketing, and accounting; and a senior course titled "Farm Economics." However, no instructors were listed and the formation of the Department was stalled, apparently a victim of the First World War.

### The Presence of Agricultural Economics at the University of Alberta Before 1960

If you were a student enrolled at the University of Alberta before the 1960s and were interested in the agricultural

economics discipline, your options were limited. Agricultural economics courses were first offered by the newly formed Department of Political Economy within the Faculty of Arts and Science during the 1920-21 academic year. By the mid-1960s, when courses in Agricultural Economics were still being offered, Political Economy split into two separate units: the Department of Economics and the Department of Political Science.

In these early years, some of the economists had interests in agricultural economics and either taught courses or engaged in research in this area at some point in their careers. However, a small portion of departmental resources was devoted to agricultural economics. Typically, there was, at any time, only one professor whose interests aligned with that of agricultural economics or policy. Duncan Alexander MacGibbon, the first Department head of Political Economy was a member of the Royal Grain Inquiry Commission in 1923-24 and taught two half-courses in agricultural economics (entitled "An Introduction to Agricultural Economics" and "Agricultural Marketing") along with Archibald Forster McGoun, another Lecturer in the Department of Political Economy. MacGibbon left the University in 1929 to become a member of the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada until 1949. He also wrote a book in 1932 entitled *The Canadian Grain Trade*. These, and other examples, illustrate

the early active involvement in—and contributions of University professors to—important contemporary agricultural economic issues.

One of the first agricultural economists appointed to the University of Alberta's Department of Political Economy was Einar Jensen, a Danish agricultural economist who was Lecturer in Agricultural Economics from 1932 to 1934. The strongest early influence on the agricultural economics curriculum was Andrew Stewart, who had emigrated from Scotland in the early 1920s and farmed in Manitoba. Stewart received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Manitoba. At the University of Alberta, he was appointed Lecturer in Agricultural Economics in 1936 and proceeded to develop this area vigorously. He would become Head of the Department of Political Economy in 1946, Director of the School of Commerce in 1949, and finally President of the University of Alberta in 1950. During Stewart's time with Political Economy, he undertook several land use and land classification studies of the drought area of Alberta, going out into the field and working closely with agricultural officials of both the federal and provincial governments.

William Mackenzie was appointed Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics in the Department of Political Economy in 1951, where he remained until



and work simplification. Mackenzie also taught a course on agriculture in developing countries. He was noted as a very able economist with enthusiasm for his subject.

John Boan and Varge Gilchrist served as part-time lecturers of farm management in 1951-52. They were employed by the Canadian government's Department of Agriculture as agricultural economists.

### **A Department of Our Own: The Challenges of Creating a Dedicated Agricultural Economics Department**

By the late 1950s, the agricultural economics courses offered at the University of Alberta focused on the role of agriculture in the economy, international agriculture, and agricultural marketing. The economics of farming was not stressed in either teaching or research. The concern was expressed that this posed limitations for the needs of the Alberta farming community and that the research focus of Political Economy did not place much emphasis on applied research, but tended to be more theoretical in approach.

Alberta farm leaders complained that their needs for farm management information were not being met. The narrow areas of teaching and research in the previous 20 years had attracted few undergraduate students and only a handful of graduate students had specialized in agricultural economics. It was argued that although students from the Faculty of Agriculture were permitted to specialize in agricultural economics by taking part of their course work within Political Economy, this was not a very satisfactory situation and resulted in few students choosing the hybrid curriculum. Farm organizations repeatedly passed resolutions urging the University of Alberta to expand their teaching, research, and extension efforts in farm economics.

Responding to these demands, the Faculty of Agriculture created a farm management position in July 1960 with the appointment of Dr. Gordon Ball, a Canadian who had been working at Iowa State University. Ball was also given the responsibility of directing the newly created farm economics division of the Alberta Department of Agriculture. Dr. Ball accepted the university position in the belief that he was appointed to establish

1962. Mackenzie was a graduate of the University of Glasgow and earned graduate degrees in agricultural economics from Oxford and Cornell universities. He took hold of the development of courses and research programs in agricultural economics at the University of Alberta. This included his appointment to direct a study of agriculture in Canada by the Gordon Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects.

Mackenzie taught senior level courses entitled "Economics of Agriculture," "Agricultural Marketing," and "Farm

Management." Topics in the first course addressed agricultural production (the position of agriculture in the general economy) and agriculture and the consumer (which includes the marketing and consumption of agricultural products, price stability and planning). The second course analyzed the supply and demand of major Canadian agricultural products and appraised current marketing problems. The third course dealt with the organization and management of farm business including farm records, budgets, finance and credit, appraisal, job analysis,

a Department focusing on agricultural economics. However, the University President and Dean of Agriculture believed they were not in a position to make any promises of this nature. Nevertheless, Dr. Ball saw a great hunger for knowledge, information, and activity in this field from Alberta farmers, farm organizations, and others in the agricultural industry. He proceeded to make plans for a new Department and to develop a complete course program. In 1960, he introduced a proposal that Dr. Mackenzie and all of his courses from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences be transferred to the Faculty of Agriculture. In the fall of 1960, with the backing of Alberta's major farm organization, the Farmers' Union of Alberta (FUA), Ball proposed the creation of a university department dedicated to agricultural economics and farm management.

The arguments in favour of creating a new Department in the Faculty of Agriculture were based on multiple factors. First, the Department of Political Economy had not responded to the requests for more research and teaching related to farm management, and appeared to be unwilling to expand its staff in the area of agricultural economics. It was also argued that the Faculty of Agriculture provided a better environment for applied agricultural work than could be provided in any other faculty by encouraging needed interactions between biological scientists and economists working on related problems. As well, it was argued that rather than being a branch of economics, agricultural economics was a discipline in its own right dating back to the 1800s, incorporating elements of biology, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology as well as economics. Finally, experience in other universities in North America during the previous 20 years were cited, indicating that separate Departments of Agricultural Economics had greatly expanded, especially in graduate work, demonstrating that agricultural economics thrived best in a separate Department. Agriculture had changed so rapidly in the years following the Second World War that the need for a specialized agricultural

economics department devoted to tackling these issues was seen to be of much importance to the Alberta agricultural community.

The landscape of the agriculture and agricultural economics field changed very rapidly in the decade preceding the new Department. Prior to 1950, most agricultural economics graduates were employed in farming, education, and government service. Subsequently, many more employment opportunities opened in agricultural-related businesses such as farmers' co-operatives, grain companies, meat packers, food processors, farm suppliers, and agricultural service agencies, including banks. Agribusiness grew so fast that in the 1960s, 50 percent or more of agricultural economics graduates were being employed in this field.

A profile of the new Department, published in the March 1964 issue of the *Agriculture Bulletin*, noted that educational requirements for farm management and other agricultural businesses had doubled in the previous 25 years with a university education becoming desirable in most areas of agricultural business. This was expected to continue within the next 25 years.

At the time, University of British Columbia's Dr. Joseph Richter recollected that opposition to the creation of a University of Alberta Agricultural Economics Department had been strong within the Department of Political Economy, both from the Department Head, Dr. Eric Hanson, and agricultural economist William Mackenzie. While Political Economy agreed that the Faculty of Agriculture could include farm management, they saw agricultural economics as belonging with them. Dr. Richter – who later became a professor in the new Agricultural Economics Department in Edmonton – also recalled that while the Faculty of Agriculture wanted jurisdiction over agricultural economics, this did not necessarily involve an Agricultural Economics Department (which would shift emphasis from applied natural sciences to applied social sciences).

Grave misunderstandings over Dr. Ball's proposal persuaded the University Administration to reject the proposal.

Gordon Ball resigned from the University of Alberta in 1961 in protest and returned to Iowa State University. (As he had been on leave from Iowa, Ball apparently saw his appointment as a high risk venture).

News of the rejection of the proposal and Ball's subsequent resignation created an uproar among farm leaders, the Alberta Department of Agriculture, the Faculty of Agriculture, and the Board of Governors. A storm of protest ultimately persuaded the University Administration to reverse their decision. The creation of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management<sup>1</sup>, to begin operations in the 1961-62 academic year, was authorized by the Board of Governors in 1961.

These early events no doubt created some tensions between the newly formed Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management and the Department of Political Economy as the latter still continued to offer two courses in agricultural economics designated as "Economics of Agriculture." The desire of the new Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management to offer *all* courses in this area, but this would not occur until later in the decade.

Despite earlier opposition to the creation of the new Department, Eric Hanson and William Mackenzie came to realize the keen interest throughout the province in this field. Dr. C. Fred Bentley, Dean of Agriculture, asserted that with the development of a good Agricultural Economics Department, cordial relations and cooperation would arise. As the University of Alberta was experiencing a period of great growth at that time, it was difficult to forecast the kind of development this new Department could anticipate, but Bentley believed that "with good leadership and favorable economic climate, a half dozen years could see the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management have a staff and status equal to that now enjoyed at the University of Manitoba." Bentley expressed confidence that effective teaching and a vigorous program of research would attract graduate students in short order. With the dream of a new Department devoted to the fields of agricultural economics and farm management now a

<sup>1</sup> Despite Agricultural Economics and Farm Management being the full name of the Department (this was the name reported in *The Edmonton Journal* newspaper and other supporting literature), the Department seemed to largely go by Agricultural Economics as a shorthand during these early years, until the name was changed to Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in 1969.



Travis Manning

reality, it was time to find someone to head the Department.

### **Travis Manning, the first Head of the Department**

That man would turn out to be Dr. Travis W. Manning. He was appointed as the first formal Head of

Agricultural Economics in December 1961 and officially took up his duties in February 1962. Arnold Platt – a member of the University of Alberta's Board of Governors and previously president of the Farmers' Union of Alberta (FUA) – apparently persuaded Manning to take the position. Platt played an important role in creating the Department by convincing the Faculty of Agriculture that the only way to attract experienced, senior staff members was through the creation of a new Department.

Manning was born in Oklahoma and had obtained degrees from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Minnesota. Before joining the Department, he was an agricultural economist with the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City. Among other things, he prepared a bulletin called *The Wheat Adjustment Problem* in 1961 which acquainted him with problems in wheat production. Manning specialized in agricultural marketing, but also taught courses in agricultural business, agricultural prices, and agricultural policy and had a keen interest in natural resource economics.

Arnold Platt himself credited the Farmers' Union of Alberta (FUA) with persuading the university to establish the Department and the provincial government in funding it. Nevertheless, Dr. Joseph Richter and others credited the Department's existence to Arnold, citing his leadership skills in working with farm organizations in persuading the University of the need for its creation. Apparently Arnold suggested in 1961 that Richter be the person to head a new agricultural economics Department. Richter considered this because he knew Arnold was one of the few people in Canada at this time who fully understood how important the area of agricultural economics was to

the entire program of agricultural study and research. One couldn't solve all the problems of agriculture with a microscope. Richter met with the Dean Bentley in the spring of 1961 about the possibility of an agricultural economics department but success could not be guaranteed (based on the recent resignation of Gordon Ball).

Issues affecting agriculture at this time included economics, the marketing of agricultural products, and business management of farms. The new Department was created to fulfill this need and to "meet the demand of students and other persons for information and assistance in farm management, agricultural economics and marketing" said Fred Bentley. The early emphases in the Department's teaching and research at this time were farm management, marketing, irrigation, and rural development.

The March 1964 issue of the *Agriculture Bulletin* noted the shifting nature of agriculture. "Once a farmer could be successful just by being a good business manager. Good management in agriculture requires a great deal of knowledge – about machinery, design of facilities, how to organize work, marketing methods, price relationships, buying and selling, financing, budgeting, and other business operations. Today's agriculturist must be well informed and he must know how to continue learning." Manning was tapped to execute this mission.

Initial courses offered by the Department according to the 1961-1962 University calendar were: "An Introduction to Farm Management," "Agricultural Marketing," "Marketing of Farm Products," "Agriculture and Farm Finance," "Management of Business Associated with Agriculture," "Land Economics and Appraisal of Farm Real Estate," "Research Techniques in Farm Management," and "Production Economics."

During Manning's first year as Department head, he strengthened the curriculum, initiated a Master of Science program, organized a research program, and established valuable contacts with members of the Alberta farm community, the Alberta Department of Agriculture, and the Canada Department of Agriculture.

### **The Formation of the Agricultural Economics Advisory Committee**

One of the pivotal early initiatives that laid the groundwork for further development of the newly formed Department was the establishment of the Agricultural Economics Advisory Committee (AEAC) in 1963 with the assistance of Arnold Platt (a member of the University Board of Governors), Walter Johns (President of the University), and Dean Fred Bentley (Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture). This committee included 17 members of Alberta's farm community leaders and four ex-officio members of the University faculty. [See Appendix A]



Arnold Platt

The purposes of the AEAC included a variety of functions. It sought to counsel and assist the University in developing research and teaching programs in agricultural economics oriented toward the economic needs of Alberta farmers, review and evaluate research programs, and help the university obtain financial support. It was believed that the Advisory Committee could make valuable contributions to fulfilling the Department's needs: providing expert guidance on the nature and magnitude of farm problems in Alberta; regular review of research and teaching programs to make sure these served their proper functions; the need for improved channels of communication with the farm public; the need for a forum to discuss farm policies and develop a better understanding of farm problems by the general public; and the need for moral and financial support for the Department's functions.

Since Dr. Manning was new to the province of Alberta, he hit the ground running by becoming extensively acquainted with agriculture leaders, teaching classes, and participating in meetings for farmers, country bankers, agrologists (professional agriculturists), and the Canadian Feed Manufacturers' Association. For example, Dr. Dhara Gill – who would later become a professor in rural sociology – recalled Manning as someone who took extra care in working with farm leaders. When Gill was first hired, he went on a weeklong tour of southern Alberta in the summer of 1970 with Manning.

The success of the Advisory Committee on meeting these needs owed much to the efforts of Arnold Platt, a firm friend and supporter in times of need for many years thereafter. Arnold had the strong belief that "existing institutions were not doing all that was necessary to provide farm people with an education that combined the economic and social elements of agriculture with the big picture."

The Advisory Committee took the pulse of where the Department was, identifying trends in the agricultural field to respond to and assisting in assigning priorities to phases of research work, as well as giving advice on curriculum and course offerings where requested, seeking sources for funding of research programs, and taking stock of the strengths and weaknesses of the Department. Arnold Platt chaired this Committee for its first six years and was

very active in guiding the early directions of the Department.

This Committee was sufficiently active that subcommittees were formed directed at specific concerns of the Department. These included a subcommittee on finance which was given a budget for research associates and graduate assistants to help the committee with its work. Through this work, a province-wide fundraising plan was developed and implemented to provide funds to support selected research projects and decide which research proposals should be selected.

This Committee was part of Platt's vision for the interrelationship between academic leadership and agricultural leadership with ideas flowing both ways to strengthen innovation.

The Committee was considered such a valuable resource that it was said that during the first 10 years of the Department's existence, virtually no substantial decision was made by Dr. Travis Manning without first consulting Platt and the Committee.

The Advisory Committee would remain active until 1970, when its last meeting was held, based on the rationale that the Department had matured.

### **Early Appointments to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management**

Travis Manning could not run the Department by himself and he needed personnel in order to fulfill its teaching and research obligations. The first appointments included two secondments from the Alberta Department of Agriculture as sessional lecturers: Thomas Alfred (Alf) Petersen and Clarke Ferries. Petersen taught a full course in farm management and Ferries taught a half course in farm finance.

Dr. George Winter was seconded from the University of Alberta School of Commerce (today known as the Alberta School of Business) to teach a half course in agricultural business. After a year with a major forest company, in 1963, Winter returned to the Department as Associate



**Eric R. Berg**

Professor, specializing in agricultural business and statistics, and did a great deal to establish the agricultural business program on a sound footing. He eventually resigned in 1966 to accept a position as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of British Columbia.

Another professor, Dr. Eric R. Berg, was originally appointed as an agricultural economist in 1962 within the Department of Political Economy, and partially transferred to Agricultural Economics and Farm Management in 1965. His research areas were in price analysis and foreign agriculture. Berg was widely recognized as an expert in agricultural commodity futures markets and international trade in oilseeds and oilseed products. Berg was well liked and an extremely effective teacher, with courses that had some of the largest enrollments in the Faculty of Agriculture. Berg continued to hold a joint appointment in both Departments until his sudden death in 1969. Tragically, he died of a heart attack after helping a neighbor move a car out of a snowbank. After Berg's death, the Departmental reading room was named in his memory.

Following Manning, the first permanent faculty appointment was Dr. Harold C. (Steve) Love in September 1962 as professor specializing in farm



management, production economics, and agricultural finance. Patricia Makar, the first Department Secretary, and John MacKenzie, Graduate Assistant represented the non-academic staff for the 1962-63 academic year. Graduate Research Assistant positions (held by graduate students) were also created at this time.

Support staff positions grew to relatively high levels in the first decade and provided valuable services in areas such as clerical, financial, computing, data entry, reading room, graphics, and other areas. Support staff in the very early period included Alex McInnis (Administrative Officer), Meg Richesson (Publications supervisor), Bill Thoman (Computer Analyst), Vic Yanda (Statistician), Avona Blair (clerk-stenographer), Mildred Hrubizna (Department Secretary), Helen Kuzyk (key punch operator), Lasha Savage (Clerk-typist, office supervisor), E.L. Sheppard (Clerk-stenographer), and Joan M. Wilson (Clerk-stenographer).

The Department's began with 13 students specializing in agricultural economics for the 1962-63 academic year – with one graduate student, and 12 senior-level undergraduates.

### **Department's Early Growth and Development: Faculty, Curriculum, and Research**

By 1964, the Department had grown rapidly to comprise six academic staff,

four non-academics, and ten graduate assistants. Graduate enrollment increased to 12 and the number of undergraduates specializing in agricultural economics grew to 30. Physical facilities were also starting to expand as the Department occupied more rooms in the Ring Houses on campus.

With growth came challenges, and the Department responded. In its third year of operation, the Department modified the undergraduate curriculum to permit greater flexibility in meeting student's needs. In an October 18, 1963 meeting with the Advisory Committee (AEAC), Dr. Manning took note of limitations in the curriculum, particularly in undergraduate offerings. Manning indicated that this was "satisfactory for students interested in economics and management at the farm level, but is inadequate for those interested in professional agricultural economics, graduate work, or agricultural business." A need was identified in Alberta for agricultural economists in areas like agricultural extension, farm appraisal, farm credit supervision, management, consulting work, agricultural statistics, resource use management, market analysis, government research, and advisory positions.

With the expansion of teaching and research enabled by more faculty and students, it was possible to address prior limitations in the curriculum and permit greater flexibility in meeting the needs of students. According to the

1963-1964 university calendar, in addition to taking agricultural subject courses, undergraduate students could specialize in one of the following: 1) *farm economics* (farm management, farm finance, and land economics) and take electives and other requirements in the agricultural sciences, 2) *marketing economics* (agricultural marketing, prices, and managerial economics) and take electives in commercial subjects, as well as taking agricultural courses, or 3) *general agricultural economics* (including both of the preceding areas) and take electives in economics and analytical subjects as well as taking agricultural courses.

Course offerings of the Department greatly increased, with many new junior and senior level courses listed in the 1963-1964 calendar. New classes offered included "Agricultural Prices," "Agricultural Finance," "Managerial Economics for Agricultural Business," "Price Analysis," "Economics of Land Use and Conservation", among others. The early development of course programming placed emphasis on the undergraduate degree. Over time, the emphasis in expanded course offerings also included graduate-level courses.

Expanded course offerings frequently provided improved training for students interested in non-farm aspects of agricultural economics and business management, to provide a stronger background for graduate work in agricultural economics, and to attract more student enrollments. The Master's program would further develop to allow students to emphasize production economics and farm management, agricultural marketing, agricultural policy, international trade, and natural resource economics. One concern in these early years was a challenge of getting people from farms to enroll in universities as enrollment in agriculture was low and the costs per student was high. As the AEAC concluded in their Oct. 18, 1963 meeting: "We believe this program would greatly strengthen the Faculty in the area in which it is weakest and would help bring enrollment and student:staff ratios more in line with the University. Above all, we are convinced that it would enable us to serve Alberta and Canadian agriculture more effectively."

A brochure entitled "Careers in Agricultural Economics," distributed to

promote the upgraded curriculum and career potentials that the Department offered, contained listings for "Undergraduate Programs in Agricultural Economics" and "Courses Offered by the Department of Agricultural Economics." Reception from the Committee was very positive with hopes to see wide distribution of the brochure.

With the great increase in Departmental course offerings, the Agricultural Economics Department appointed more professors to teach these classes. Paul Jenson was appointed as Graduate Research Assistant in 1963 and Lecturer in 1964, with general teaching responsibilities (including teaching a course in "Agricultural Prices").

Dr. Wolfgang Schultz was appointed as Associate Economist in production economics and Dr. Walter Rogers was appointed as Associate Economist in resource economics. Initially these were temporary research appointments, but subsequently given permanent academic appointments. Schultz's focus areas included agribusiness, production, and resource economics. Rogers was instrumental in establishing the discipline of rural sociology within the Department and inaugurated courses in that area. Although he was recruited as a resource economist, he also had trained in rural sociology, giving him the expertise in helping to establish that discipline within the Department. The rural sociology component allowed students to study rural and regional development, agricultural institutions, and agricultural and rural extension. During his time with the Department, Rogers became a very popular faculty members for engaging in extension activities and helped forge relationships with farm and rural development organizations such as the Farmers' Union of Alberta (FUA), Farmers' Union and Cooperative Development Association (FU&CDA), and the Agriculture and Rural Development Association (ARDA). Rogers later resigned in 1969 to accept a professorship in Tennessee.

From the 1961-62 academic years to 1964, academic staff within the Department grew from zero to six while the non-academic staff grew to three secretaries, one technician, and with 10 graduate students. Undergraduate students majoring in agricultural economics grew from 12 to 30 in these

three years. The first graduate student started in 1962 and by 1964 there were 12 in the Department.

During this time, research projects were growing even faster than the teaching program. By 1964, 12 research programs were underway in such diverse areas as livestock market behaviour, livestock price movements, economics of fertilizer use, farm income variations, risk and uncertainty in livestock enterprises, economic benefits of irrigation, farm production trends, agricultural business management, farm ownership versus leasing, economic growth, rural economic development, and crop yields.

At this time, this research program was seen as a "beginning on the considerable backlog of agricultural economics research problems in Alberta." The research program was oriented towards solutions to the growing problems of agricultural growth and adjustment, although conditioned by the individual research interests and needs of graduate students. Research problems in agricultural economics at the time included production economics (e.g. economics of fertilizer use); resource utilization (e.g. land use); market structure and efficiency (e.g. farmers' co-operatives, integration in marketing); demand, supply, and prices (price relationships and forecasting, foreign trade prospects); economic development (rural community changes, farm population trends); and economic policy (e.g. agricultural policy evaluation). Satisfying research problems was contingent upon the development of the agricultural economics staff and the graduate programs.

Emphases in agricultural economics research were expected to shift with time, especially with the prospect of future development of a PhD program. Some areas of research anticipated to become more prevalent included agricultural development in developing countries, co-operative management, farm credit, irrigation economics, marketing efficiency, farm population adjustments, and resource utilization.

Funding for research programs grew at an exponential rate, starting from a few hundred dollars in 1961-62 to about \$100,000 for 1965-66 with 80 percent of these funds coming from business, government, and foundation sources. Nevertheless, the short time period

of these grants – generally for one or two year periods, was seen as a major problem, requiring faculty resources to be spent on seeking new grants to replace those that were expiring. The need for a steady source of research funds to support the basic program of research, with a better means of providing continuous financing of graduate student research would be a continuing focus.

Despite this rapid growth in the 1960s, there were some initial difficulties of establishing a social sciences department operating within the applied biological science faculty of the Faculty of Agriculture. The heavy emphasis on biological and physical sciences in the Faculty made it difficult for agricultural economics students to obtain sufficient economics and other social science courses to fulfill their needs. Nevertheless, the Faculty's rigid requirements were relaxed to offer undergraduate students in the Faculty of Agriculture specialized courses in *Farm and Ranch Management*, *Agricultural Business*, and *Rural Social and Economic Development* in addition to its general Agricultural Economics program. The new Farm and Ranch Management Program was designed for students interested in farm operation and farm-related occupations, such as agricultural extension and farm credit supervision. It placed heavy emphasis on supporting courses from other agricultural disciplines and was intended primarily for students who would terminate their training with a B.Sc. degree.

The *Agricultural Business Program* was designed for students interested in agribusiness management, marketing, farmer co-operatives, and sales work. Emphasis was placed on supporting courses in business, economics, statistics, and operations research and was designed to terminate at either the B.Sc. or M.Sc. level.

The *General Agricultural Economics Program* was designed for three groups of students: 1) those who desired a broader background in various fields of agricultural economics, 2) those whose career interests were indefinite, and 3) those who expected to proceed into graduate studies. Major emphasis in this curriculum was placed on supporting courses in mathematics, economic theory, and other social sciences.

The course work for a typical student studying in this Department usually concentrated on data analysis, management, production economics, agricultural finance, land economics, marketing, prices, agricultural policy, or economic development.

The *Rural Social and Economic Development Program* later became the Rural Sociology option in the Department, with Rural Sociology courses introduced in the 1966-67 academic year. These first courses covered topics such as the sociology of community development, the sociology of rural life, rural social problems and public policy, and agrarian social movements. In an effort to strengthen the rural sociology component of the program, Associate Professor Charles Hynam from the Department of Sociology accepted a joint appointment with the Department in exchange for Walter Rogers' joint appointment with Sociology. Hynam stayed with the Department until 1977 and retired at the age of 65 (three years later, he passed away in Montreal). This exchange greatly enhanced the fledgling rural sociology program, resulting in a curriculum enabling students to specialize in rural sociology at the undergraduate level with the Sociology Department contributing substantially to the strength and quality of the program.

### **Visionary Development Initiatives**

During these early formative years, Travis Manning considered several ways to develop the programs in the Department. In 1965, Manning wrote about establishing a summer training program for its undergraduate students on a pilot basis with the hopes of its gradual expansion over a number of years. The purpose of this program would be to acquaint the students with various career opportunities, enable them to integrate theory and practice, acquaint employers with the potential value of agricultural economics training, and provide an easier transition from academic life to full-time employment. Although there were early signs of progress (with reports of several employers expressing interest, especially those who did not hire university graduates previously), the summer training program did not develop into anything long-term.

Another example of Dr. Manning's visionary spirit came in the form of a

proposal to establish a Centre for the Economic Development of Agriculture. An undated proposal (most likely from the mid-to-late 1960s) written by Dr. Manning outlined an ambitious faculty-wide research centre that would provide the framework to "(1) coordinate and rationalize research and extension work in agricultural economics, (2) place an economic interpretation on new developments in agricultural technology, (3) promote economic and technical research in those areas where problems are most pressing, (4) provide advisory services to farmers and agricultural businessmen to aid them in economic adjustments, and (5) disseminate information on agricultural adjustment and development as widely as possible." The organizational structure proposed was very elaborate with specific units and sections to tackle everything from statistics to economic forecasting to marketing and others. It is not presently known how far the proposal went, but it evidently never took off.

### **Early Development of Graduate Programs**

By 1965, with the Department nearing four years of operation within the University of Alberta, anticipation was growing in the prospect of expanding the graduate education opportunities in agricultural economics. This was reinforced by reports of growing student interest and employment prospects throughout North America. The Master's program started in 1963 with enrollment of four full-time graduate students. These numbers increased to 12 by 1964, with numbers anticipated to be around this level in 1965. The chief limiting factor to increasing enrollments was believed to be the availability of funds for graduate assistantships. The hope was that continued growth of the research program would lead to an increased supply of research assistantships. Growing employment opportunities were seen for those with completed graduate degrees.

Inquiries and applications were being fielded from potential PhD students. There were hopes of starting a PhD program as soon as the Department acquired the adequate staff. It was determined that recruiting would be focused on candidates from other universities because of the undesirability of permitting any student

to obtain all three degrees from in the same Department. It was expected that caution would be necessary in establishing the PhD program to avoid weakening the M.Sc. and B.Sc. programs and to assure a first-rate program. Strong support staff was cited as very important in developing the graduate programs and considerable emphasis was placed on economic theory courses in the PhD program.

A PhD program was instituted in 1967 (the first PhD student, Curtis McIntosh, would graduate in 1972). Entry was limited at this time to specializations in agricultural marketing, natural resource economics, and production economics and the degree was offered in cooperation with the Department of Economics. Many of the early PhD students were international students from developing countries.

### **Bringing Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Research to the Wider Community**

As the research of the new department was expected to be of immediate practical importance to farmers, agricultural businesses, and policy makers, an adequate information service was considered to be very important to disseminate research findings to practitioners. Thus in addition to dissemination through academic journals and conferences, emphasis in the early years encouraged early direct means of disseminating information through the production of research reports published and distributed by the Extension Department and staff participation in farmer programs.

Notable early publications published as part of these series were considered to be landmark studies during their time and contributed to policy changes described as "prompt and perceptible action which was judged to be beneficial," according to future Departmental internal reviews.

Some examples include the 3rd publication in the Agricultural Economics Research Bulletin series written by Walter Rogers, Travis Manning, and Herbert Grubb titled *The Economic Benefits and Costs of Irrigation in the Eastern Irrigation District of Alberta* published in 1966. The report was based on a three phase study in partnership with the Engineer Branch of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and the Economics Branch of the Canadian Department of

Agriculture. It demonstrated that the rehabilitation of an established irrigation system would be advantageous to the economy while the development of a new one would be excessively costly. As a result of the report, the provincial government devised a cost allocation formula for irrigation works financing.

Another notable early research achievement in the Department's early years was its survey of hog marketing practices in Alberta which took place from 1966 to 1967. This research formed the basis of a thesis completed by Master's student Jim Lockhart titled *Alberta Hog Market, Conduct and Performance*. Lockhart's findings demonstrated that the marketing practices of the day resulted in excessive physical losses and inefficient pricing which were costly not only to producers but also to the consuming public. A subsequent research bulletin written by Travis Manning and issued by the Department laid out proposals to make this more cost efficient. As a result, many of these proposals were subsequently implemented with the establishment of the Alberta Hog Marketing Board.

Perhaps the most significant early research was that of a series of studies of pricing and other food retailing practices in Edmonton from the time period of 1967 to 1969. Under the supervision of Dr. Murray Hawkins, the thesis of Grant Devine (who would later go on to be Premier of Saskatchewan) titled *Metropolitan Market Conduct in Food Retailing*, as well as further publicized results published in the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, demonstrated that a dominant food chain habitually priced its products at a higher level in low-income districts and at a lower level in stores adjacent to competing stores. When these facts were revealed, the food retail chain changed its pricing policy to uniform pricing throughout the metropolitan area, eliminating price discrimination against residents of low-income neighbourhoods and predatory pricing that extended its market domination. Dr. Hawkins appeared before the Alberta Supreme Court and provided testimony based on these research findings. Under the Combines Investigation Act, the Canadian government undertook action and obtained a Consent Order against the retailing chain. The sampling techniques to determine food prices for the Consumer Price Index were subsequently

revised to account for the possibility of price variations within one market area.

In addition to collaborations on courses for undergraduate and graduate students and research bulletin publications, the Department also actively cooperated with the Extension Department in a number of conferences and short courses. This included participation in the very successful annual Western Farm Leaders Conference and Farm Leadership Conference amongst others.

Involvement in the wider community outside the university environment was also considered to be very important and in keeping with the philosophy of giving the University a more integral role in the community at large. Department staff members participated in numbers of advisory committees, local action groups, and other activities concerned with the economic problems of agriculture and the overall economy. In a "Prospectus" report of the Department written in 1965 by Manning, he noted that these activities were expected to continue to grow and would become increasingly important as a means of "serving the province, the nation, and humanity in general." Hopes to become involved in programs to assist the "Indian, Meti, and Eskimo people in Canada and other economically distressed people in other parts of the world" were also noted.

### **Continuing Development of the Department's Faculty**

In developing and growing the Department, the primary goal of faculty development at this time was to have a well-rounded, well-balanced, and highly competent academic staff. By 1965, Manning concluded that a minimum academic staff of eight to ten was required to cover the number of specialized fields in agricultural economics with the hope of at least one professor employed in each of the major fields. The result of staff appointments in this direction were projected to be greater efficiency, smaller turnover, and less real cost to the University for the amount and quality of work performed. The Department had been very fortunate already to have attracted a fair number of experienced and well-trained staff members, which Manning credited as the basis of the rapid early development. Had the Department been restricted to the appointments of new

and inexperienced personnel, the chances for success would have been "seriously jeopardized."

In addition to hiring experienced academic staff, it was projected that heavy teaching obligations would preoccupy academic staff during the winter session, reducing time for research except in the summer months and through direction of supervising graduate student thesis research. A need for research staff at the academic and technician level, such as research associates, was seen. The challenge of the employment of these associates on a temporary basis from research grant funds was unfair. Arrangements for permanent appointments were critical. "First-rate research personnel cannot be retained on a 'second class' staff status," said Manning.

Despite its place within the Faculty of Agriculture and compelling reasons for being so located, there was a sense that the Department suffered from a lack of contact with the other social sciences departments within the Faculty of Arts. Joint appointments with other departments were seen as a way of substantially alleviating this problem and a wise move for a new department trying to establish itself when other more mature departments had resisted or opposed the Department out of a concern for losing territory. Arranging for joint appointments were expected to help alleviate that problem.

Appointments with the Department of Economics were pursued with hope of joint appointments with Sociology and Anthropology further down the road. Desirable Departments to form joint appointments were seen to include Geography, Political Science, and Psychology, which were all identified due to their overlapping areas of interest. Related interested applied in land and water economics were identified with Geography, rural sociology with Sociology and Anthropology, economic behavior with Psychology. While only some of these joint appointments came to fruition, there would eventually be joint appointments with Economics, Native Studies, Renewable Resources, Women's Studies, and eventually, many years later, with the Augustana campus.

## Continuing Concern for Departmental Facilities

Space became a continuing concern relative to the Department's facilities. The Faculty of Agriculture had a long tradition of emphasis on research, establishing a number of laboratories and experimental farms to support this research. However, none of these facilities were suited for agricultural economics and rural sociology research.

Projections that space needs would double by 1966, triple in 1968, quadruple in 1973 and by 1978 would require six times the space it occupied at first (estimates were based on space allocation recommendations by the Campus Planning Committee in 1962) to house staff, graduate students, and Department offices, as well as space needs for statistical laboratories, reference room, and seminar rooms for graduate classes. Other technical requirements needs anticipated for the future included an "electronic digital computer" for joint use with the Agricultural Engineering Department, which would be a "console linked with a master unit in the University Computing Center." The two Departments would also share an "analog computer,

card punch machine, verifier, and printer."

The need for a data collection service and a data processing division was seen as essential. The latter developed into the Computer Laboratory for the Department (with Clare Shier hired as support staff for the Computer Laboratory), but the former never materialized. By 1968, the University of Alberta had acquired an IBM 360/67 mainframe computer which occupied the entire west half of the second floor of the General Services Building and was accessible by means of punched program/data cards. During this time period, research continued to depend on ad hoc data gathering procedures and limited resources.

## Taking Stock of the Department's First Five Years and Its Future

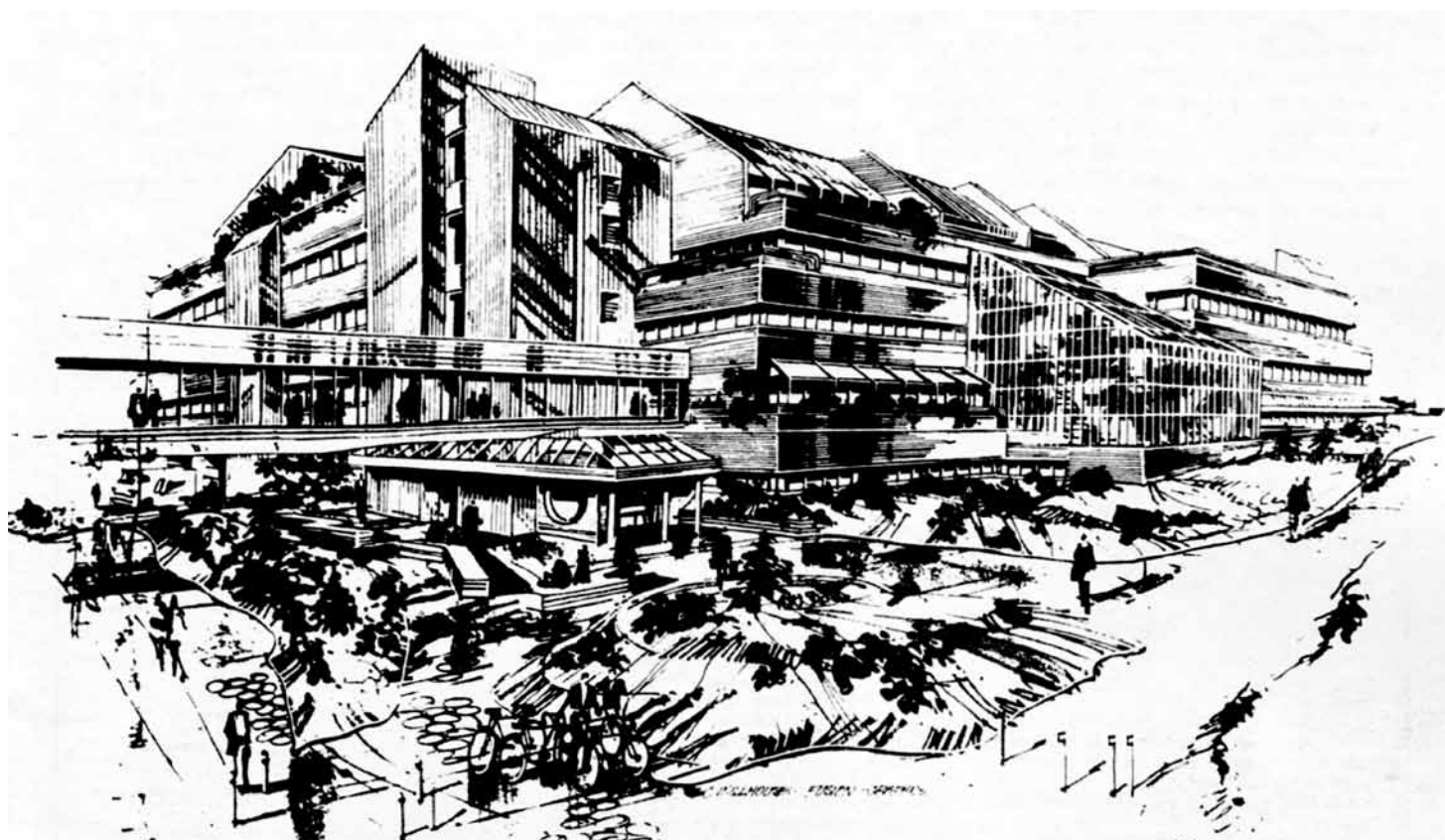
With 1966 marking the fifth year of the Department at the University of Alberta, there was a real sense of accomplishment. In a quinquennial report to the Agricultural Economics Advisory Committee meeting on April 5, 1966, it was reported that their leadership had helped build a foundation for a strong Department and that would shift their attention to other dimensions of development in agricultural

economics and rural sociology. Although the Department was off to a strong start, there were still challenges related to infancy coupled with the changing needs of agriculture, the university environment, and government policy.

Throughout the very early years, the AEAC had been critical in the early development of the Department, helping guide this through the changing role of agricultural education, the business and social aspects of agriculture, as well as shifts in trends with economics and sociology.

As the Department looked ahead to the future, it was identified that emerging needs in agricultural education include the education of rural youth for places in a modern urban society, solving problems of rural poverty, and planning for economic growth and development. Also identified was the emerging need to increasingly focus research on problems outside of Canada, including developing nations.

With the establishment of the Alberta Agricultural Research Trust (AART) in 1966 – which was introduced by the Alberta Department of Agriculture for the purpose of assisting the Faculty of Agriculture to expand its research efforts – the



Department was encouraged that research funding could foster a shift toward applied or problem-solving research. This Research Trust would result in grants given to the Department for research projects for many years. The first grants awarded to the Department for 1966 were for a livestock marketing practices project by Travis Manning and the use of a cost-benefit analysis computer program for rail line analysis. Dr. Murray Hawkins chaired this committee for several years. With the help of other economists and friends in the Alberta Department of Agriculture, the Trust funding moved to a balance between physical and social directions in research funding.

During this time period, there was also an interest in adult education, which the University of Alberta did not emphasize at the time. While consideration was given to fostering an adult education program, the lack of time to this was an obstacle. However, individual professors were active in programs such as the Rural Leadership Conferences, Western Farm Leaders Conference, Refresher Courses, Meat Industry Committees, and Farm Finance Committees.

Staffing and space issues were perennial concerns at this time. As the agricultural economics field placed a stronger emphasis on new research and technologies, there was desire for non-academic support assistance. The Department was still occupying temporary quarters originally designed for residential use. The quinquennial report stressed the urgent need for a new space. "Proper development of the staff, courses, and research are being inhibited by lack of some specialized facilities, particularly data processing laboratories. The new space being planned will permit substantial improvements in the work of the Department."

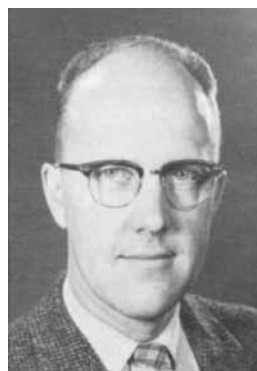
Forecasts suggested that a future challenge was the increasing demand for university training with the number of students enrolled in university expected to double within the next six years coupled with the growing demand for agricultural trained grads exceeding the supply. Emerging trends in agricultural and rural development were cited as strong factors in the increasing demand for university enrollment. Agricultural business was expected to increase several fold, and government expansion in rural

development, community development, and the war on poverty was projected to overburden the ability to train students in rural social and economic development. Also, the Department was beginning to be involved in international development projects. This "offers possibilities of service to mankind hardly equaled by anything we have faced in the past," the quinquennial report noted. In short, there was a backlog of research needs. Problems of rural poverty, resource development, farm business management, marketing, financing, and many others remained to be solved.

From the inception of the Department, the research program had strived to be oriented towards practical problem solving for agricultural and rural issues. However, to fulfill this mission, increases in fundamental research was deemed essential. Without this, it was feared that the applied research program soon would become sterile and redundant. "New economic and social problems cannot be solved adequately without the development of new principles and research techniques."

Additionally, growing challenges that adult education posed to the University were noted by the Committee. Community engagement was of concern to the Department during this time period and it was keen to establish closer communication with the larger community. Societal changes were occurring at a rapid pace – in terms of technology, urbanization, and growing affluence – and a demand for continuing education was increasing, especially for agriculture. Lack of coordination and cooperation between different aspects of agricultural education in the face of the enormous demands of the future was feared. To deal with this challenge, links between researchers and extension work were seen to be necessary in order to enhance continuing education and professional development for farmers and agricultural business people.

Since the Department strove to tackle



**T. Alf Petersen**



**Daryll Murri**



**Allan Warrack**



**Peter Apedaile**

social problems and offer solutions to various issues of relevance to rural communities, it was seen to be imperative that education be a lifelong pursuit. In an Advisory Committee meeting from December 1968, the desire for strong engagement with students and the community at large was emphasized. "Our concern with the student will not end with the convocation ceremony, but it will go with him throughout his career and into his lengthening period of active retirement."

As the Department took stock of its five years regarding future directions, a barrier to meeting these new challenges for agriculture was seen to be lack of support by the University coupled by the fact that farm people had not made strong demands on the University. These factors were considered the reason for the University's lack of emphasis on the Faculty of Agriculture. If agriculture was to be given more attention, farm people would need to make their demands felt, give greater attention to university affairs, work more closely with university officials, and make better use of their political influence.

Two major barriers to the full development of the Department were identified: inadequacy of financial support,



Murray Hawkins



Bill Phillips



Joe Richter



Dhara Gill

and conflicting responsibilities of the Alberta Department of Agriculture's Farm Economics Branch.

With respect to financial support, the Department had to depend on year to year grants, which made it difficult to develop a comprehensive continuing program. A major problem at this time was data collection and processing. Efforts to utilize undergraduate students to assist in research efforts had disappointing results and serious limitations were cited in using graduate students. The need for a permanent staff of well-trained technologists for data collection, data processing, and publication assistance was stated. An expansion in staff for these purposes was seen to be necessary for proper development of research programs.

The Department was at a crossroads and could take any of several directions into the future. Nevertheless, it was difficult to determine the needs that were most important ("We need a crystal ball" they remarked). With the help of the Advisory Committee, the Department would devise a strategy to maximize contributions to society.

In 1986, when Manning reflected upon the process of developing the program, he likened it to "an exercise in

social psychology. Ideas blossomed and clashed, people interacted in every possible combination. Full-blown proposals went into the hopper; elements were stirred, blended, sifted, sorted, and compromised. The end results often resembled nothing that went in, at least, not very closely. We operated like a parliament in which each member represented a different party. We accomplished much, but the process was never completed."

### The Move To the General Services Building

Among the problems facing the Department in its early years was that the allocated space was temporary. During the 1960s, the Department operated in a series of Ring Houses

(houses originally built as residences for faculty members). This arrangement was far from ideal as space was at a premium, especially for data and computing use, a crucial limitation since this was need for both teaching and research. By 1967, the Department was equipped with a Data Processing Section equipped with key punching and verifying machines. There were promises of more advanced equipment, but space needed to be available. More data processing machines were expected when more space was procured.

To alleviate space problem for several different units, the University was building the General Services Building which was expected to be completed by September 1968. Meeting minutes show that the Department would likely get "temporary space" in this new building. Apparently other options had been considered, including the possibility of a new agricultural building being created, but this was uncertain.

Floor plans and space allocation requests and negotiations occurred throughout 1967 and the beginning of 1968 with the expectation that the Department would be able to occupy space on the 5th floor of the General Services Building.

Space planning included offices for the Department Head, the General Office staff, classrooms, offices for professors, a computer and statistical research laboratory, and a reading room/library [see Appendix B]. In an inter-Departmental correspondence dated April 22, 1968 to C.F. Bentley from University Vice-President W.H. Worth, the Department was specified to relinquish Ring House 1, 5, and 10 and be allocated the fifth floor of General Services Building (with Rooms 504, 511, and 559 centrally-scheduled given priority to Agriculture classes). According to correspondence records, the Department was assigned an occupancy date of May 20, 1968 in time for the 1968-69 academic year. If the original intention behind the move was that General Services Building was going to be a temporary space, that notion changed quickly as the Department still operates in this space to the present day!

### Name Change to Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

In 1969, the Department underwent a name change from *Agricultural Economics and Farm Management* to *Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology*. The name change sought to reflect the broadening areas of emphasis in the Department from its initial concentration on farm management and marketing also to include natural resources and rural sociology. The Department's broadening focus reflected paths followed by many agricultural economics Departments in North America at the time and also represented organic growth of the Department to accommodate changes in rural society and agriculture and disciplinary developments in the contributions of the social sciences to rural issues. "Any good agricultural economics department needs a good rural sociology component," reflected Terry Veeman when the Department fought to retain its rural sociology component in the aftermath of budget cuts during the 1990s.

### Staff Appointments in the Late-1960s and Beyond

The late 1960s and early 1970s would see the appointment of some very prominent staff members, many of whom would prove to be pivotal in the directions the Department would take for the forthcoming years and decades to come.

Dr. T.A. (Alf) Petersen officially transferred from the University's Extension Department to the Agricultural Economics Department as Associate Professor in 1966. Previously, he had taught some courses in farm management for the Agricultural Economics Department and served as Director of the Agricultural Extension Program for the Department of Extension. His wealth of experience in farm management and extension education from the Extension Department and the Alberta Department of Agriculture before that was a valuable asset to the Department. His research areas were centered largely in production economics. Petersen would become the Chair of the Department from 1974 to 1978.

Dr. L. Peter Apedaile also joined the Department in 1966 as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics. His area of interest was in economic development and he also made substantial contributions in statistics and agricultural policy. Apedaile went on to spend many years examining social and economic issues in the agricultural sector, both in Canada and in the developing world.

The late 1960s and early 1970s would see the appointment of several new professors to the Department. In 1967, Murray Hawkins – who was the first graduate student of the Department to complete a thesis in 1964 – returned to the Department as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics after receiving a PhD from Ohio State University. Before being the first student to complete his graduate work, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Husbandry from the University of Guelph. After graduation, he was employed by Canada Packers Ltd. in Toronto as a livestock buyer before being transferred to Edmonton and

eventually enrolling as a graduate student with the Department. In the capacity of professor, Murray's areas of interest were in agricultural marketing and business management as well as other diverse topics like Canadian grain, livestock, meat marketing, and consumer behaviour. At the time of his appointment, Hawkins was chairman of the Meat Industry Coordinating Committee of the Province of Alberta. In the late 1980s, he became Associate Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture.

Dr. Daryll Murri was jointly appointed as Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology with the Department of Sociology. A native of Idaho, he received his university training from Utah State University and the University of Wisconsin. Along with several other colleagues, he helped lay the groundwork for the Department's rural sociology curriculum.

Allan Warrack was jointly appointed to a one-third position in the Department of Economics and a two-thirds position in the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1967 as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics. He received his PhD from Iowa State University after completing a B.Sc. at the University of Alberta, Warrack's teaching and research focused on agricultural marketing and economic theory. He would leave the Department in 1971 for politics, to become a Minister in Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed's Cabinet [Minister of Lands and Forests, 1971-75; Minister of Utilities and Telephones, 1975-79] before returning to the Department in 1979 and transferring to the University of Alberta School of Business in 1981. Later, he served as the University of Alberta Vice-President (Finance & Administration).

In 1968, Dr. William Phillips was appointed as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics, specializing in natural resources. He had previously earned his PhD from University of California, Berkeley before joining the University of Alberta. The Department as a whole always has had eclectic research interests, and Bill was certainly no exception. His research interests have included wildlife evaluation, grazing land and timber production evaluation,



Michele Veeman



Terry Veeman

the economics of soil erosion, and water resource issues. He would become Chair of the Department from 1987 to 1992.

1970 also saw a wealth of new appointments with six new staff members. Michele Veeman and her husband Terrence (Terry) Veeman were both appointed. Michele – a native of New Zealand – was appointed Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics with marketing and international trade of agricultural commodities being her major areas of research. Her PhD in Agricultural Economics was earned at the University of California, Berkeley; her M.Sc. from the University of Adelaide; and her B.Sc. Ag. is from Massey University in New Zealand. She would go on to be Chair from 1992 to 2002. Terry – a native of Saskatchewan – was jointly appointed with the Economics Department as Assistant Professor in Agricultural Economics with economic and agricultural development, and resource economics being his primary areas of interest. Agriculture-related land and water use was also an area of interest for him. Prior to joining the Department, he had completed his BSA at the University of Saskatchewan, studied Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship and completed his doctoral studies in Economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

After Walter Rogers left the Department for an academic position in Tennessee, Dr. Dhara Gill was hired to replace him in 1970 as Associate Professor of Rural Sociology. Dhara was also a joint appointment with the Department of Sociology. Dhara earned his PhD from Cornell University and B.Sc. from Panjab University in India. Dr. Gill had extensive involvement with the FAO, UNESCO, and the UNDP in the areas of extension education and rural sociology in India, Nigeria, and Belize. His research interests



Wayne Anderson



Milburn L. Lerohl



**The specialists in farm management and production economics:  
Alf Petersen, Wolf Schultz, Steve Love and Len Bauer.**

include extension service analysis, the assessment of agricultural innovations in developing countries, the training of professional workers for agricultural and rural development in addition to his interests in rural youth and women.

After the passing of Eric Berg, Dr. Joseph Richter was appointed as Professor of Agricultural Economics in 1970. He joined the Department after a three year assignment with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. His research interests have included marketing and trade, and he also taught undergraduate and graduate courses in those areas.

Dr. Mel Lerohl joined the Department in 1971 as a Visiting Professor to fill in for Steve Love (who was seconded to CIDA for three years) and his appointment was made permanent in 1974. His area of specialization was in agricultural policy and he would help establish an agribusiness program within the Faculty. Prior to joining the Department, he worked with the Agricultural Economics Research Council of Canada. He would go on to become Chair of the Department from 1978 to 1987.

Dr. Marvin Anderson briefly joined the Department from 1972 to 1973 as a Visiting Professor. He was hired to fill in for Allan Warrack's position. He earned his PhD from Cornell University, his M.Sc. from Purdue University, and B.Sc. at the University of Guelph. After his brief stint

with the department, he went on to pursue consulting.

Dr. A. Wayne Anderson joined the Department in 1974 on a joint appointment with the Department of Agricultural Engineering. His major contribution to the Department centered around the development and application of mathematical programming models for agricultural economics and taught courses in quantitative methods. His research output has focused on the use of input-output models for agricultural policy analysis.

Dr. Leonard Bauer joined the Department in 1977 to replace the retiring Steve Love. Previously Bauer had spent seven years as Chief of the Farm Records Section of Agriculture Canada and as a farm management specialist with Alberta Agriculture. Working jointly with Mel Lerohl and Alf Petersen, he was instrumental in developing the Farm Management Field Laboratory (FMFL), a program for solving farm problems and improving farm management.

Among the support staff, a notable appointment was Reginald Norby. An undergraduate student in the late 1960s and then a graduate student in the early 1970s, Norby joined the Departmental staff roster as Administrative Assistant in 1974 and became the Administrative Professional Officer in 1976. During his time with the Department, he was also involved in academic functions by teaching

introductory courses in retailing and agricultural marketing.

Another long-time support staff member who was previously a graduate student in the Department was Jim Copeland. After completing his M.Sc. in 1974, Jim would serve for more than 30 years as Faculty Services Officer and would contribute invaluable assistance to students in computing and statistical analysis.

Long-time fixtures of the Department that emerged in the late 1960s and early 1970s included Judy Warren (who would later marry and become Judy Boucher) who took on many different tasks including Data Entry Operator, Reading Room Assistant, Head Secretary, and Communications Coordinator in a time period that spanned nearly 40 years. Wendy Williamson was also a strong presence for more than two decades of service as Departmental Secretary. Other important appointments included Evelyn Shapka (Publications Supervisor), Ronn Bence (Graphics), Peggy Lowrey, and others.

### **Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in the 1970s**

While the resources and responsibilities of the Department greatly expanded in the 1960s, the 1970s experienced a slowing down in resources while responsibilities continued to expand. This was a period of slow growth for the University in terms of student enrolment, budget, and staff development. In response, the Department revised the teaching program and attempted to establish more relevant priorities for its various activities. Where the early years represented a period of organizational growth and institutional development, the later years represent a period of maturation.

One sign of the Department's maturity and recognition in the field of agricultural economics was hosting the 1973 joint international meeting of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, American Agricultural Economics Association, and the Western Agricultural Economic Association. 1,500 people from all over North America attended. Those who were there indicated that it was "one of the truly outstanding meetings ever hosted." Six years later, the Department hosted the 1979 meeting of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in Banff. The latter was a monumental task

for the Department as local arrangements were made for 1,100 delegates from 90 countries. Generous funding was received from the federal and provincial governments and the agricultural industry. The local arrangements committee was ably chaired by Dr. Murray Hawkins and Reg Norby.

Maturation in the 1970s yielded many benefits of continuity and increased stability. However, as Dr. Travis Manning reflected in 1986, there were also some disadvantages. "Change was easier but more erratic before institutional constraints were developed," he said. "The committee and council system of governance tends to be deliberate, ponderous, slow, and very conservative. The size of an organization contributes to this lack of responsiveness. More people have to be consulted and convinced that change is desirable. More ideas have to be taken into consideration. These characteristics of mature organizations have good and bad aspects. Needless change is constrained, but needed change may be constrained as well. More deliberation is given to change, but new ideas and concepts gain acceptance very slowly." Despite these frustrations, Manning noted that the benefits outweighed the setbacks.

Anticipating a new decade with a maturing Department, consideration turned to how to move forward in the next decade. An Advisory Committee meeting was called on January 23, 1970 to assess progress since there were concerns about recent declines in enrollments. For the first decade, in each year since its inception, enrollments had increased by 30 percent. 1970 was the first year in which enrollment had declined despite broad career opportunities and employment prospects. Concern of possible stagnation and questions of whether the courses were stimulating and challenging were raised in terms of whether the Department was too absorbed in theories and methodological details and had failed to focus sufficient attention on significant social problems of the time.

Research support had also become more difficult to obtain. There was discussion on whether proposals were lacking in imagination or failing to focus on significant social problems. A common issue was the Department's role and status as a small social science group

within the Faculty of Agriculture, in which applied science dominated, relative to its influence in the Faculty and the opposition encountered in matters concerning Department welfare. There was lament that the Department seemed to enjoy less positive publicity as it grew in size relative to the early years when it was a much smaller Department.

Despite these concerns, it was resolved to be more assertive in recruiting student support and interest, shaking complacency, reorient research to intersect teaching and research while moving toward larger scale projects, and re-evaluating the curriculum in terms of focus on major social problems such as agricultural adjustment, management of natural environment, urbanization, rural development, foreign development, economic inequalities, and public policy.

While the Department's early years saw an explosion of non-academic staff in a variety of positions (secretarial/administrative, data entry, programmers, graphic design, library assistants, etc.), in the 1970s and 1980s, a gradual attrition of non-academic staff was experienced to meet budget stringencies. Computer technologies also evolved during this time as personal computers and word processors became more and more prevalent, facilitating the elimination of a number of these positions.

### **Travis Manning Steps Down as Chair and Another Name Change to Rural Economy**

After more than a decade of helping to build a Department from scratch, Dr. Travis Manning, on June 12, 1973, announced he was resigning as Chair. Dr. T. Alf Petersen would take over as Chair effective July 1, 1974. As Manning looked back at 12 years of leading the Department, he remarked: "Although my time as Department chairman has been interesting and rewarding, I have felt increasingly frustrated by having insufficient time to pursue my teaching and research interests."

His time as Chair has been warmly remembered by those reflecting several years later. In 1996, when Bill Phillips delivered a eulogy at Manning's funeral, he noted Manning's invaluable contributions. "It grew and prospered under his leadership – and what a legacy he left [...]" He was a superb leader and facilitator.

He inspired and helped young faculty get established; he provided excellent counsel; his office door was always open; he listened to others' problems with care and provided needed support; he was always positive and up-beat." Academic achievements aside, Manning helped give the Department a reputation as "one of the friendliest, warmest places on campus. Staff turnover was low and spirits were high, thanks in large part to the family-like atmosphere he fostered."

Indeed the task of chairing the Department – especially one that had to be built from the bottom up – could be seen as a daunting and time consuming task. When Manning stepped down, he devoted more time to teaching and research in the area of Natural Resource Economics until his retirement in 1983 when he became professor emeritus. Alf Petersen, a professor in Farm Management who had been with the Department since the early years, continued the process of consolidation for a four year term as Chair.

One of the first things that Petersen initiated was a name change for the Department. The matter had been given some consideration under Travis Manning's chairmanship (he disliked the fact that the Department name – Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology – was then considered the longest Department name in the University), but deliberations did not begin in earnest until Petersen took the leadership position.

Alf Petersen led an *ad hoc* Department Name Change Committee to look into the possibility of changing the Department's name. The then-current name was considered unsatisfactory for numbers of reasons, including the length of the name and the fact that it did not adequately describe changing activities of the Department, which by then was expanding to include work in agricultural economics, resource economics, forestry economics, rural sociology, and extension education.

The Name Change Committee weighed the pros and cons of changing the name. Drawbacks noted some inevitable confusion that a name change would bring to the public at large, especially if it was a radically different name. The possibility of opposition no matter what name was also considered. Nevertheless, no matter the setbacks, a name change was considered necessary.

In a meeting held October 4, 1974, a short-list was drawn of the following names and their merits were considered:

- 1) Agricultural Economics
- 2) Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology [the possibility of keeping the name as is was also on the table]
- 3) Rural Economy
- 4) Rural Social Sciences, and
- 5) Social Sciences

"Agricultural Economics" had the advantage of being short, a well-known discipline, but not accurate to the Department's full research output. "Rural Economy" had the advantage of being short, descriptive, and a reasonably well-known discipline at the time. "Rural Economy" is a traditional term encompassing both agricultural economics and rural sociology which could also encompass extension education and forest economics. The drawbacks of the name included the fact that it might seem archaic to some North Americans and unknown to others. The name "Rural Social Sciences" was relatively short, encompassing all fields but was not sufficiently descriptive. "Social Sciences" was also short and encompassed all fields, but was not descriptive and would almost certainly have encountered opposition from the Faculty of Arts.

Other names floated around during this time period included Rural Economics and Sociology, Socioeconomics, Rural Socioeconomics, and even Applied Social Science and Applied Economics and Sociology (those latter names were deemed unacceptable to other Departments). Concluding the October 1974 meeting, the following notice of motion was proposed; "that it be recommended that the name of this Department be changed from Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology to Rural Economy."

The motion was passed in December 1974, its acceptability was polled to 50 people representing farm organizations in Alberta, officials from the Alberta Department of Agriculture (ADA), and the University of Alberta. The response to this name change was varied but positive overall. Many alternate suggestions for name changes were received (notable suggestions included Rural Life and Economy, Rural Economic Sciences, Rural Economics, Renewable Resources Economics, Rural and Forest Economy, Land Economy, Agriculture and Rural

Development, Bio Resource Economy, etc.). Many welcomed a shorter name, but some were concerned that this didn't properly reflect rural sociology or extension education. Some worried that placing the word "rural" would restrict focus solely to the rural sector "at a time when rural problems are more related to the global economy." Some outright did not like the new name (a notable voice of dissent: "I'm afraid the proposed name sounds like a poor translation from a Soviet Bureau").

When it came time to voting on the name change, the choices were that the new name would be an improvement, that the voter was neutral, or that the new name would not be an improvement. Of the 50 respondents, 27 (54%) saw this as an improvement, 10 (20%) were neutral, and 12 (26%) saw no improvement.

An additional vote was conducted on the merits of Rural Social Sciences versus Rural Economy among 27 people representing Alberta farm organizations, the Alberta Department of Agriculture, and the University of Alberta. Six people saw Rural Social Sciences to be better, three were neutral, and 18 indicated that Rural Social Sciences was worse. The name change to Rural Economy took effect in December 1975.

### **New Degree Programs and Initiatives**

In addition to the 1975 name change, other changes included the introduction of a program for the M.Sc. in Forest Economics in the same year, an extension of the undergraduate specialization in forest economics. This graduate degree was directed at economic problems in forestry, including production, marketing, and regional development issues. Dr. Michael Carroll, who was appointed in 1974 was the forest economist and held a joint appointment with the Department of Economics. The M.Sc. degree is similar in structure to the Agricultural Economics M.Sc. degree except that undergraduate courses in forest economics are prerequisites instead of undergraduate agricultural economics courses.

Another change in the curriculum was the introduction of the Master of Agriculture degree in the mid-1970s, allowing entrants with appreciable previous experience in a variety of agricultural sectors to specialize further in agricultural economics, extension

education, and/or rural sociology. The M.Ag. degree was encouraged by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and designed for those with a Bachelor's degree and subsequent professional experience to upgrade their knowledge and skills in their chosen field. Unlike other graduate programs in the Department, no thesis is required. Instead, students completed more courses and a research report. The program has tended to draw candidates mostly from public or private agricultural agencies in Alberta, though a number of international students and professionals from other provinces have enrolled. The first M.Ag. student to complete the degree was Charles Chung-Ming Pei in 1975.

During the later 1970s and 1980s, Rural Economy became involved in some new important research initiatives. The University of Alberta's Farm Management Field Laboratory (FMFL) was one such example. Started in 1979 through a "Farming for the Future" grant, the purposes of the laboratory were to provide a communications link between the Department, faculty, and the farming community. Some 40 commercial farm operators, working with the Department, provided useful financial and physical data about their businesses. The information collected about these organizations was useful for research and teaching purposes to the Department and served as a window on the real world of commercial farming in Alberta and as a community relations activity for the Faculty. Thanks to the program, workshops on timely farming topics were held in each FMFL region involving university staff and graduate students who were involved in specific related research projects.

Alongside new research initiatives, the Department took on the responsibility of producing issues of the *Agriculture and Forestry Bulletin*, a quarterly periodical then published by the Faculty to highlight the research and teaching activities of the Faculty as a whole. Former Chair Travis Manning (now a professor in natural resource economics) became the new editor of the publication in 1978. A great deal of production work was done by the Department in assembling the issues. Initially, this *Bulletin* was put together using a system of manual manuscript editing and typesetting, but this was quickly changed to computerized word

processing and typesetting using the TEXTFORM system, allowing the layout to be edited with greater ease and greatly reducing chances of human error ("we can no longer blame our mistakes on the printers," Manning quipped in an editorial). Manning concluded his term as editor in 1981. He described his work as editor as "interesting, stimulating, frustrating, and rewarding. It is one of those jobs one is happy to have done but would not care to repeat – at least not until all the other things that have been delayed get done."

Throughout their years of service to the Department, several faculty members have served in editorial positions at the *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, adding prestige to the research accomplishments of the faculty and the Department.

Research projects in the 1970s and early 1980s continued to include more diverse topics that typically were of broader scope than in earlier years. In the Department's earlier years, focus was directed to Alberta's agricultural issues. In subsequent years, research topics tended also to considered issues of importance on a national and international level.

Examples of international research included studies advising UNESCO on a relevant methodology to determine educational needs of youth in rural areas of developing countries who stay in their villages rather than migrate to cities ("Education for Rural Youth – Some Problems of Determining Learning Needs" by Dhara S. Gill). Studies on a national level included the marketing of woodchips from the Alberta forest sector ("Marketing Woodchips from Alberta Sawmills" by Geldart and Carroll) as well as the possibilities of initiating 4-H club work in urban settings, especially low income neighbourhoods (M.Ag. project written by Richard Bjorge). The latter study became of interest to Alberta Agriculture, other provincial 4-H organizations, and the National 4-H Council.

## **Rural Economy in the 1980s – A Question of Where to Shift Resources**

When the Department reached its 20th anniversary in the early 1980s, the expansion and evolution of its program had been enormous. Staff numbers had rapidly grown as research responsibilities and student enrollment increased. In the 1970s, responsibilities continued to expand

while resources tended not to increase. The Department faced the 1980s with the necessity either to expand its resources or to contract its roles and responsibilities. The objectives were to perform all of its assigned roles and to meet new responsibilities as they arose.

Prompted by the President's Advisory Committee on Campus Reviews (PACCR), the Department underwent a thorough review process during the early 1980s. The Department's staff, achievements, facilities, and future were examined carefully both internally and by external reviewers, in a process mirrored in other Departments of the University. The evaluations showed the Department to be performing robustly. The undergraduate programs, for example, were "producing graduates who have no difficulty in obtaining employment or in adopting productive careers in agribusiness, government service, and agricultural production." [See Appendix C] Some of its graduate programs were younger, but there was evidently high levels of success in graduate students finding fulfilling careers in government and industry. A relatively large number of Master's students had successfully pursued PhDs in other institutions. Seeing these students and the Department's own PhD alumni rise in the ranks of academia was another source of pride as was the tendency for international students have to return to their home countries to pursue successful careers.

While the Rural Sociology and Forest Economics M.Sc. degrees had been recently introduced, these were already drawing increasing student interest. Developments like these were seen having furthered the reputation of the Department as a training ground for agricultural policy, rural development, and agricultural extension education specializations. However, concerns about the PhD program were noted. At the time, the PhD program was small and maintained a stringent candidate selection procedure so as not to overextend then available resources to service this program. If the PhD program were to grow, more staff and resources would be needed in order to further nurture it. Two notable recommendations were made by the external evaluation committee and accepted by the University. One was to establish a new degree program in Agricultural Business, the second was to create an academic

position in econometrics. This led to the appointment of Dr. Wiktor (Vic) Adamowicz as a econometrics specialist. Adamowicz would greatly strengthen the resource economics side of the Department.

Rural Economy's position as a social science-based Department within a biological and physical science faculty had posed challenges in securing research funding. The Department was not always supported from funds allocated to broader social sciences or humanities funding agencies. Because the discipline is a social science, it has not always been supported from funds allocated for the sciences.

As the Department looked back on 20 years of scholarship and service in the early 1980s, there was a sense that emphasis on new and expanding activities was needed due to the radical changes that had occurred in agriculture and rural life. Among the noted changes were the changing career patterns of agricultural economics graduates. Previously, a degree in this area was often regarded as a passport to a job away from the farm. In the 1980s, it was noted that a return to the farm after graduation might become more common. Emerging concepts of space and habitation, coupled with protection of the environment, was creating a rising demand for activities ranging from land use planning to part-time farming and the integrative activities of rural people. The Department resolved to ready itself for future shifts in research interests and was expecting major growth in undergraduate and graduate student enrollments within the subsequent decade.

It was thought that the changes that were undertaken in the early 1980s would set the state for the Department to pursue dynamic research in the coming decades in such diverse areas as resource economics, co-operatives, the food industry, health economics, risk management, agricultural biotechnology, environmental sociology, community resilience, poverty alleviation, and a host of other topics.

The first 20 years, as chronicled here, have laid the foundations for a dynamic Department well positioned to respond to the shifting trends and challenges of the economic, sociological, and business dimensions of agriculture, food, forestry, and the environment.

## APPENDIX A: Members of the Agricultural Economics Advisory Committee

The list below names the members of the Agricultural Economics Advisory Committee as of Dec. 16, 1969. The names are taken from the meeting minutes of that time period. Only the initials of the names were noted in the original minutes. Alex McCalla (Professor Emeritus, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California-Davis) and Gerald Schuler (formerly of Rural Education and Development Association) provided invaluable assistance with decoding exact names and affiliations, save for that of one individual.

Clarence E. Anderson – Farmers' Union of Alberta  
A.T. (Bert) Baker – Alberta Wheat Pool  
Jim M. Bentley – Alberta Federation of Agriculture  
Gordon L. Burton – Rancher from High River, Alberta.  
Charles A. Evaskevich – Farmers' Union of Alberta  
H.T. (Bert) Hargraves – Canadian Cattlemen's Association  
Lalovee R. Jensen – Sheep Growers Association and Unifarm  
C.D. Lane – Alberta Stock Growers  
Ernie R. Lewis – Potato Grower from Winterburn, Alberta  
George C. Loree – Farmers' Union of Alberta  
Fred R. McCalla – Alberta Milk and Inspected Cream Producers  
J. Harold McLaughlin – Seed grower, Spruce Grove.  
Allan J. Macpherson – Alberta Wheat Pool  
F.B. Murphy  
Arnold W. Platt – Board of Governors, University of Alberta  
Andy F. Silver – Vice-President of United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative

### Ex-officio

H.C. (Steve) Love – Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management  
Fenton V. MacHardy – Dean of Agriculture  
Travis W. Manning – Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management  
Max Wyman – President of the University of Alberta

## APPENDIX B: E.R. Berg Memorial Reading Room

The Department's reading room facility – designed to complement the major University of Alberta Libraries system – began operating in the mid-1960s shortly after the inception of the Department. By Departmental agreement and determination, this facility, judged to enhance both the education and research missions of the Department, was maintained, although with lower levels of staff resources, during major budgetary cuts of the 1990s. The Reading Room is comprised of a specialized collection of periodicals, statistics, books, government documents, grey literature, and Departmental theses devoted to agricultural and resource economics, rural sociology, development economics, environmental economics, and other related areas of applied economics. Monetary and other donations and a variety of soft funds have been used to maintain the collection.

Historically, the Reading Room had been staffed by one or two personnel (who have either had library technician diplomas or Master's degrees in Library Science) who maintain the reading room. In addition to library services (reference, collection management, cataloguing, etc.), Reading Room staff are also in charge of Departmental publications (editing and production of research bulletins as well as the typing and editing of student theses).

When the Department first moved to the General Services Building in 1968, the Reading Room was located in Room 519 (which is now the computer lab) before moving to a larger space in 1980 (Room 504). Retrieval of materials was done through a traditional card catalogue before transitioning to a computer-assisted system called Stanford Public Information Retrieval System (SPIRES) which produced an up-to-date book catalogue. By the mid-1990s, the book catalogue transitioned to a computer catalogue using the Athena library system.

By the 1970s, the Reading Room was named after Eric Richard Berg, in recognition of the late professor's early contributions to developing the Department's program. Materials collected by the Department have included donations from professors and students, free publications from government agencies, university departments, and international organizations, as well as the purchase of selected materials and periodical subscriptions.



Library staff: Barb Johnson, Mina Shaw and Hildegard Zeidler.

## APPENDIX C: Student Memories

Among the numerous students who have passed through the halls of the Department, many walk away with very warm memories towards the program, the professors who taught and supervised them, the support staff, and their fellow students. While the regimen of an undergraduate, Master's, or PhD program required a great deal of effort in the pursuit of scholarship, students also found the time to engage in fun activities and forge friendships that would last through the decades.

When the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1990, students from the Department were invited to share their recollections and personal histories. Bar None and Agriculture Club events were commonly noted as highlights of their university experiences. Alumni James Loree (M.Sc. '71) reminisced about how student clubs could maximize their activities: "Ag club executives explaining to club members about the benefits of getting club funds out of the University account to a bank where they could get interest. The bottom line was that "x" dollars in interest meant "y" cases of beer. They put the benefits in terms we could understand." Undergraduate student George Rock (B.Sc. '66; M.Ag. 1990) even noted a shift between today's student and his era: "Today's students are much more concerned with grades than they were in the early '60s and for good reason!"

Douglas Taylor (M.Ag. '79) noted: "Good fellowship, good friendships, inspirational professors, a time for international growth."

Charles Pei (M.Ag. '75) – an international student from China – noted the Department's professors and students as being very important in making his university and post-university life enjoyable. Reflecting on his time at the Department in the book *I Was There: A Century of Alumni Stories About the University of Alberta, 1906-2006*, he had kind words to say about many of his professors. "I was most impressed with Dr. Travis Manning, our Department head, a gentleman always striving for academic excellence and management success. Dr. Allan Warrack was a young, down-to-earth fellow who wore jeans and casual clothing. [My wife] Caroline even mistook him for a student. Dr. Bill Phillips, who taught statistics and resource economics, was another favourite." Charles forged a friendship with classmate Will Pattison (M.Sc. '70) that was critical during periods away from family in China during holidays. Pei would join Will for Christmas dinners when both couples had newborn babies. When Pei got married, Will's father-in-law stepped in and performed the roles his own family was not able to perform. "My wedding was like a Departmental issue. So many people from the Agricultural Economics Department were there at the wedding and in the pictures!"

Jim Lockhart, who was an undergraduate student in the early days of the Department before earning a Master's degree in 1967 explained the ultimate legacy of Travis Manning and Harold "Steve" Love in building the Department: "They created leaders." Indeed, the varied achievements of the students in pursuing rewarding careers in government, academia, agricultural industry, and international organizations would be the Department's shining achievement.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The undertaking of chronicling the history of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology when you have only joined it in 2010 was a challenging task, to say the least. It could not have been done without the invaluable assistance of others.

I would like to thank the staff of the University of Alberta Archives, Jim Franks and Raymond Frogner. Over the course of several visits, they were extremely helpful and patient with me as they helped me sift through the papers of Dr. Travis W. Manning and make sense of the paper trail.

I was also fortunate enough to have the availability of professors, students, and staff who were around for several years of the Department's history. I would like to especially thank Bill Phillips for the many telephone conversations we had. His kindness and generosity was greatly appreciated as he reminisced and made sense of all the developments that transpired during his time with the Department and his insights on Travis Manning's leadership and actions when he was building the Department from scratch. Conversations with Michele and Terry Veeman, Jim Lockhart, Reg Norby, Dawn Zrobok, Evelyn Shapka, Allan Warrack, Murray Hawkins, Alex McCalla were also greatly appreciated in adding further dimensions of what the Department was like.

Working in the Department's E.R. Berg Memorial Library, I managed to stumble upon some extra archival material not found in the U of A Archives tucked away in filing cabinets and boxes as Manning's early reports, proposals, and insights into developing the Department and its potential future directions. Finding these papers was an unexpected delight. I would like to thank previous Reading Room staff (Dawn Zrobok, Barb Johnson, E. Culver-James, Evelyn Shapka, Meg Richesson, Hildegard Zeidler, Terry Maubert, and others) for their stewardship in preserving these invaluable resources.

Before signing off on the final version, I shared the draft with several former professors, students, staff, and friends of the department to solicit their feedback and insure that all my facts were correct. I would like to thank Bill Phillips, Michele and Terry Veeman, Murray Hawkins, Reg Norby, Evelyn Shapka, Pete Apedaile, Wayne Lamble, Alex McCalla, Dhara Gill, Mel Lerohl, George Winter, Walter Rogers, Gerry Parlbay, Allan Warrack, Vic Yanda, Jim Copeland, for taking the time to look it over and offer constructive feedback and their insights. Their assistance with filling in the blanks was tremendously helpful and I greatly appreciated the help.

Finally, I would like to thank the late Dr. Travis W. Manning for keeping an exhaustive record of his personal papers and having the foresight to donate them to the University of Alberta Archives in the first place. Without this documentary heritage, this project may not have been possible to accomplish.

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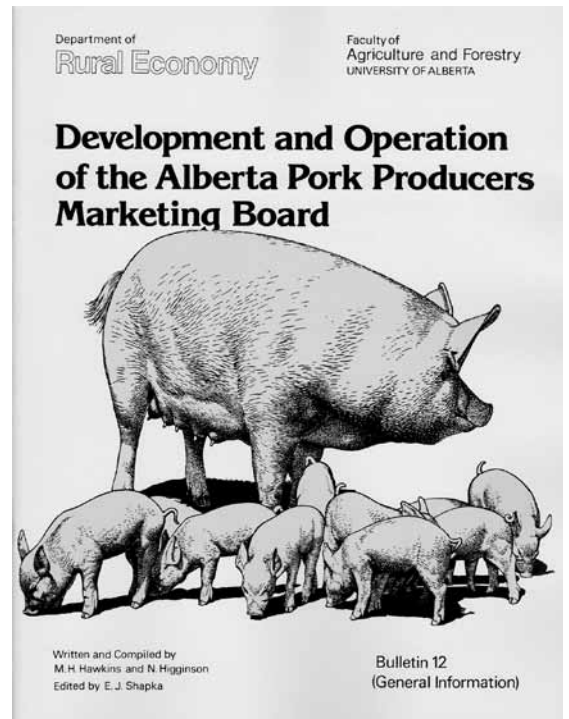
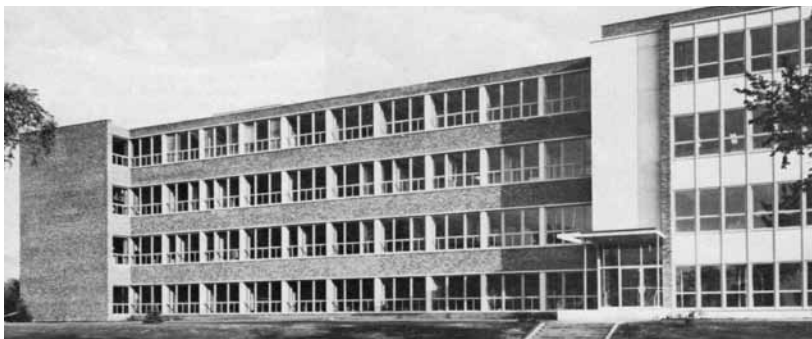
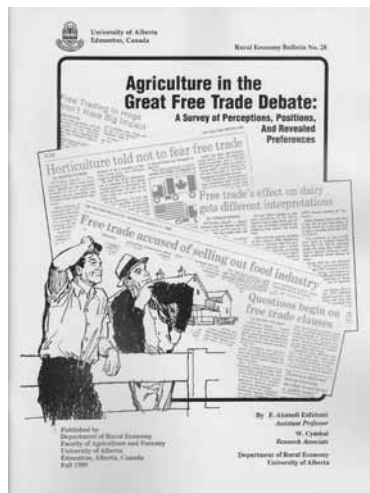
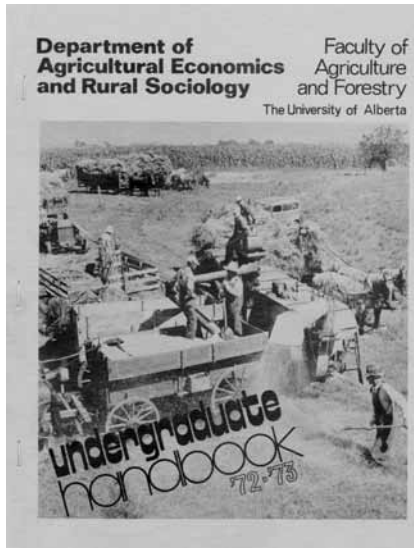
### Archival Holdings

*Note: The vast majority of sources for this material comes from the personal papers of Travis Manning held in the University of Alberta Archives.*

University of Alberta Archives  
Travis Manning Papers 83-123

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