

Memories of My Grandparents' Farm By Nancy Nortier Bel

The picture on the left below is of the original Nortier farm house which belonged to my grandparents, Edward and Florence Nortier. The photo was taken about the time their first son, William Roy, was born in 1912. Five other children - Lester, Clifford (my father), Mildred, Robert, and Arthur - were born there. The farm was located at 1128 Rt. 441/Penfield Road, the first farm west of Canandaigua Road. Four different pieces of property were added through the years.

I am the oldest of 13 grandchildren. I spent many hours in this old house learning to bake from my grandmother. I gathered eggs from the hen house, and brought them in wire baskets to the cellar where Grandma cleaned, candled, weighed, and put them into cartons ready for sale. Many regular customers stopped to buy their eggs daily. They returned empty cartons and picked up full ones. Most of the eggs were sold at the Public Market and on a special route my Uncle Bob followed each week. Summertime I used to go with him as a kid. It was fun but you got up early, before 4 A.M. The truck was packed the night before.

There was a large porch added to the house on the east side after the picture was taken. It was there until the house burned on September 7, 1956 – the night before Leighton and I were married. Leighton and his father, Ernest, heard the fire siren and discovered the farm house was on fire. They rushed back to the village to tell my parents, Clifford and Bernice. A ranch-type home was built on the site and an open house was held on September 6 and 7, 1957.

My grandmother died in the fall of 1949 when I was 10 years old. My Grandfather died soon afterwards of stomach cancer in the old Lyons Hospital; I think Dr. Bovet of Marion was his doctor.

My grandparents were the first to have electricity on Rt. 441/Penfield Road. According to a newspaper clipping, the farm was the “first all electrical farm in the world”. They also had a phone very early on. It was a big wooden box hanging on the wall. There was a speaker on the front and an earpiece hanging on the right side with a handle to crank after you picked up the earpiece to get the operator. I don't ever remember them giving the operator a number. They just told her who they wanted and she got them on the line. I don't remember it ringing very often as not many people had phones.

The property has remained in the family and is currently owned by Bob and Edna Nortier's sons, Kenneth, Donald, and Richard.



**Early 1900's photo of the Nortier home
which burned on September 7, 1956**



**2007 photo of the Nortier home built
on the same site in 1957**