

Fred Boss came from Yorkville now Greisbach to the Starr District in 1919, and bought one quarter of land from the C.P.R., NW5-56-19W4th, and one quarter from the Hudson Bay Company, SW8-56-19-W4th. The farm was four miles north of Lamont on the West road.

His sister, Annie Boss, kept house for him. At first, they lived in a bunk-house and a tent. He built a house to do for ten 10 years but lived in it until 1944. The design and construction of the horse stable was interesting because the boards of the walls were applied vertically, as in Ontario; instead of horizontally as was more usual in the West.

He used a 1912 Case tractor to break the land and ploughing with a ten bottom plow and for threshing right up to 1940, which is a good indication of Fred's ability as an engineer. Annie liked and needed fresh air so she helped pick roots and later blueberries. The tractor was bought by Stan Reynolds museum in Wetaskiwan.



1915 Overland
Image - courtesy of Jean Anderson / Bob Long

The 1915 Overland touring car was another hallmark in the Boss tradition. In the thirties, the engine of the car was used to run a feed-crusher. Fred and his nephew, Lloyd Anderson, mounted the engine plus propeller shaft on a wooden frame and fitted a pulley and homemade governor on the shaft. It was a 12 inch crusher and the engine did not have the power to drive it at full capacity but by reducing the flow of grain it did a pretty good job. The main difficulty was keeping it cool, but by connecting a 40 gallon barrel to the radiator as a reservoir they were able to crush 150 bushels without it boiling.

There was an old C.N.R. grade across the southeast corner of the northern quarter, which Fred got permission to level out. In 1948 he paid \$5.00 to have the 0.17 acres transferred into his name, completing ownership of the quarter.

In the late twenties, the C.P.R. built a railroad from Edmonton to Willingdon, crossing the southern quarter. The neighbour, Mrs. Joseph Eggar complained to the road foreman, when their camp was at the Boss' gate. He said "We can't put the railroad on paper". The new post office was at Starr.

In October, 1936 Fred bought one share in the Beaver Creek Mutual Telephone Company for \$24.00. It was a party line. The farmers had to buy from the Alberta Government Telephones.

Fred Albert Boss by niece, Jean Anderson

Most of the time, Fred had a hired man. In the winter, in the thirties, they sometimes got only \$5.00 a month or just their board. Once was a Scotsman who played the bagpipes. One Sunday the horses were frightened and got out. Getting them back was a nuisance, so he did not play the bagpipes again.

The roller-towel was a useful way of keeping the family towel reasonably dry.

Strawberries, raspberries, chokecherries and Saskatoon's grew along Beaver Creek. The beavers made dams along the creek, so the creek was well named. It ran though the southwest corner of the southern quarter and was useful for stock and later for pigs.

In 1929, Fred undertook to see that his nephews and niece, Lloyd, Fred and Jean Anderson (Will and Tina Anderson's younger children) could continue their education in Edmonton. Mary Boss kept house for them. It was then that Fred went into raising hogs. Prices were very low. Eggs were five cents a dozen and Annie bought a tubular-type bedstead for \$5.00 from the Russian Mercantile Store in Lamont. Fred Anderson went to the Peace River and eventually took up homestead in 1932 at Watino, after being around Grande Prairie for a time. Lloyd and Jean Anderson went to Starr School in 1932. Jean got a High School Teacher's Certificate in 1936 and taught school for six years; the last three in the high school room in Starr. Lloyd graduated in Electrical Engineering in 1939 and went to England.

In the thirties, there were many whist parties and school Christmas concerts and plays. The Eatons and Simpsons catalogues were important reading material. After a party one could look in the catalogue and find how much someone's new blouse cost. Fred boos and Lloyd Anderson made a tennis court so the young people could play.

After being without a car for several years, it was very convenient to have a second-hand 1929 Chevrolet in 1935. Lloyd hauled stones from near Elk Island Park for the building of the new stone United Church in Lamont; the old frame church had been destroyed by fire.

Fred's mother, Mrs. Mary Boss, passed away in 1936. Mrs. Buchanan was the undertaker. The funeral was from Swan's Hall. Dr. Archer sang "The Touch of a Hand".

Miss Mary Boss, and occasionally Laura Boss, were at the farm. Laura kept house for the older brother Chris at Grande Prairie. Annie Boss passed away in 1943. In 1944, Jean Anderson got a job in the weather office in Edmonton. Fred first rented and then sold his farm to Arnold Dickie. Fred and Mary went to Grande Prairie to help Chris on his farm.

After Mary died in 1948 and Chris in 1953, Fred and Laura moved to Edmonton in 1955, renting the Grande Prairie farm. Fred passed away in 1959 and Laura in 1974. They are buried in the Fort Saskatchewan Cemetery.