



Remembering Galen

14-Dec-1948 to 19-Sept-2017

Early Years

1948 – born in Albany, Oregon to Wilma Hersberger Kennel and Paul Kennel

1959 – moved to Hesston while his dad went to college

1961 – moved to Goshen while his dad went to college

1963 – moved to Eugene, Oregon

1968-1969 – went to Hesston College

1969-1970 – went to Oregon State University

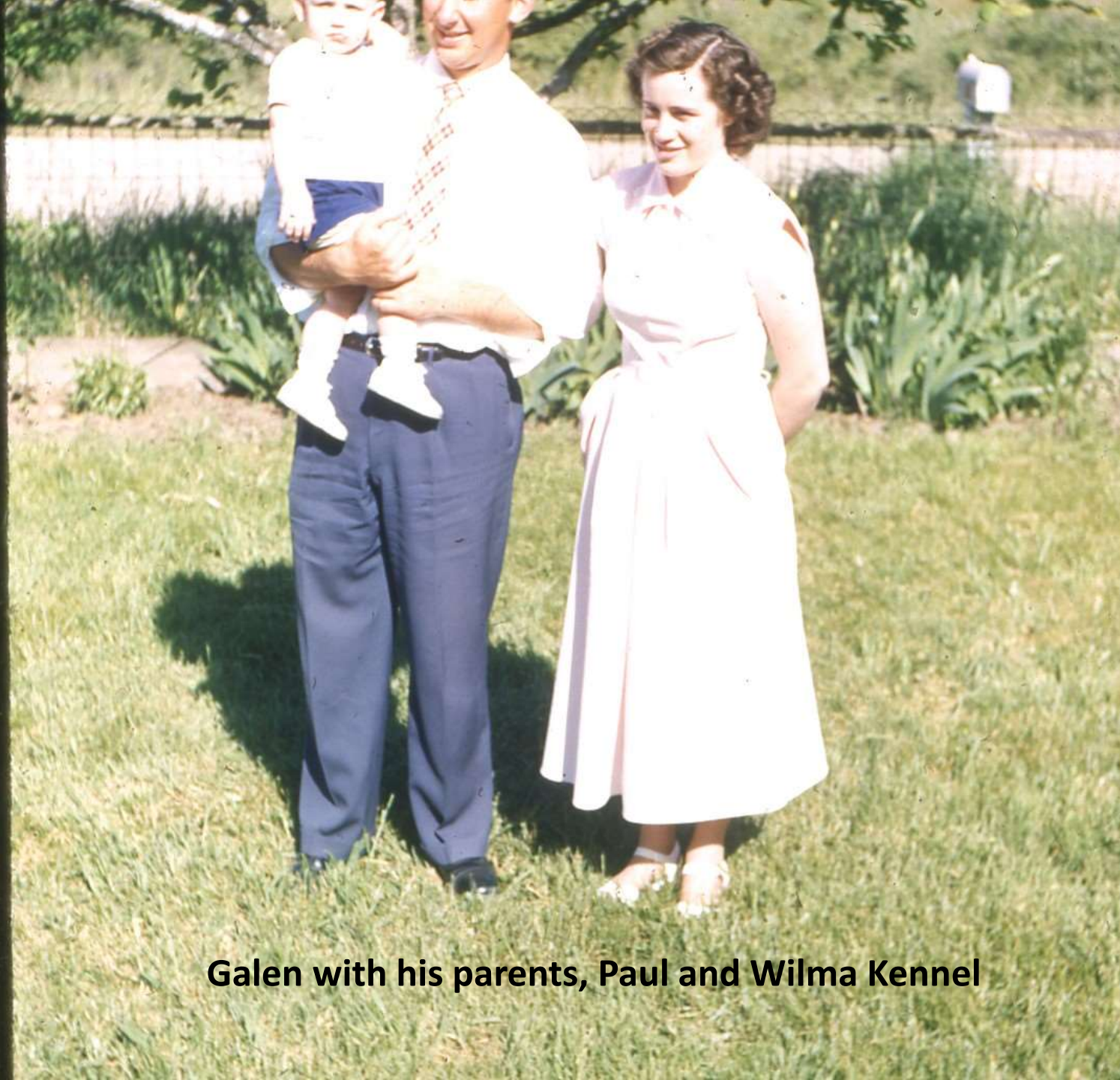
This photo is Galen at 1 ½ years.



Grandmother Katie Hershberger

- Galen (center) with his cousins





Galen with his parents, Paul and Wilma Kennel



Galen, in the yellow jacket, with his cousins.



Galen, on the right, with his cousin



Galen buried in the sand.





Galen's family



Galen with his siblings, Pamela and Donald.

Botswana with MCC, 1970-1973

Galen managed a training program in mechanics as an alternate service to the Vietnam War. He travelled through the Kalahari desert with some friends and stayed overnight with a Kalahari nomadic tribe.



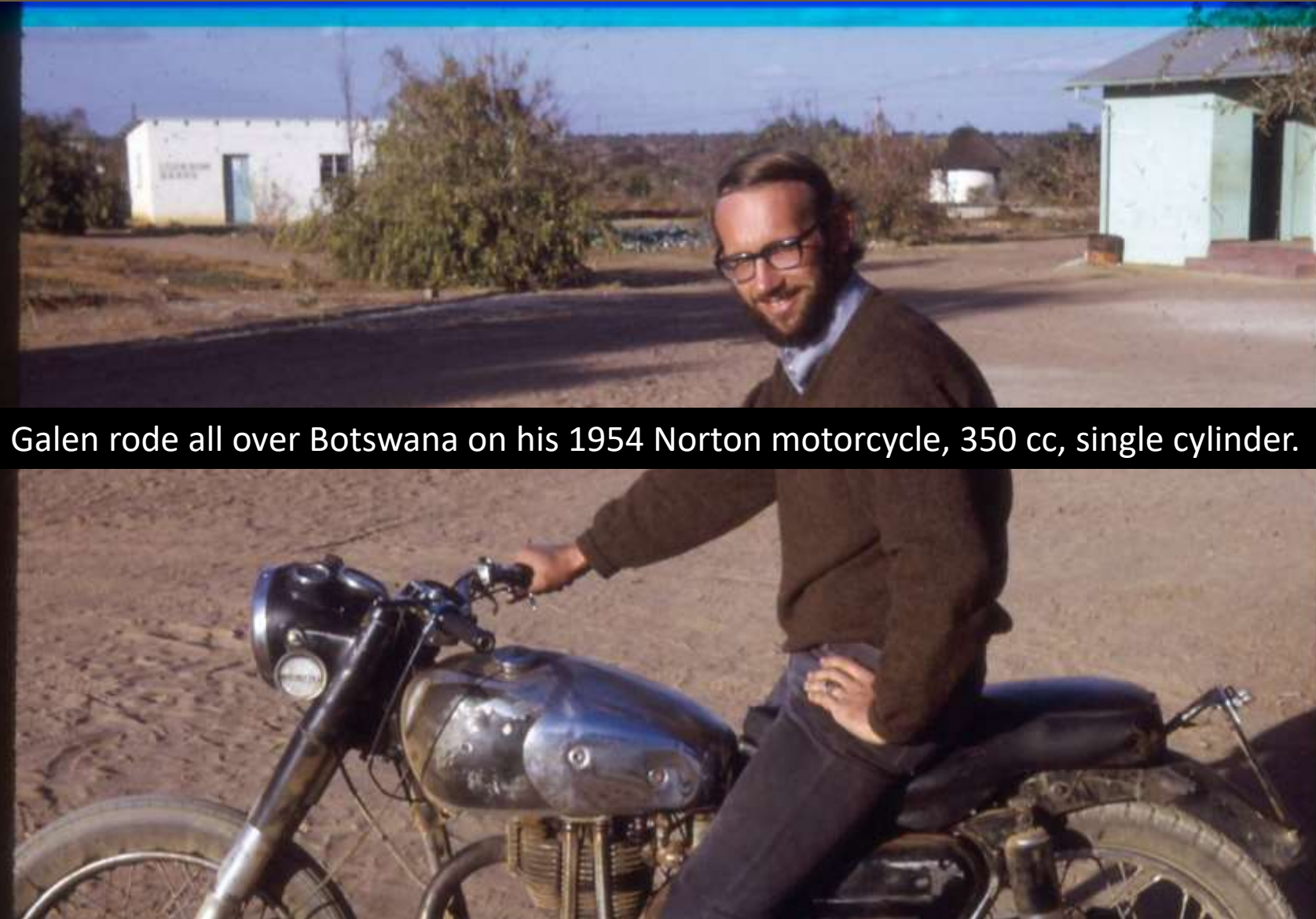


Galen with some of his trainees.



Galen with his Swana colleague.

Galen with his Swana colleague



Galen rode all over Botswana on his 1954 Norton motorcycle, 350 cc, single cylinder.



Wedding Day

- Galen and Rebecca were married at Guernsey, Saskatchewan on December 28, 1974
- They lived in Eugene, Oregon until Galen got his immigration papers in the spring of 1975
- They moved to Guernsey where Galen worked for his father-in-law, drove school bus, and helped local farmers.

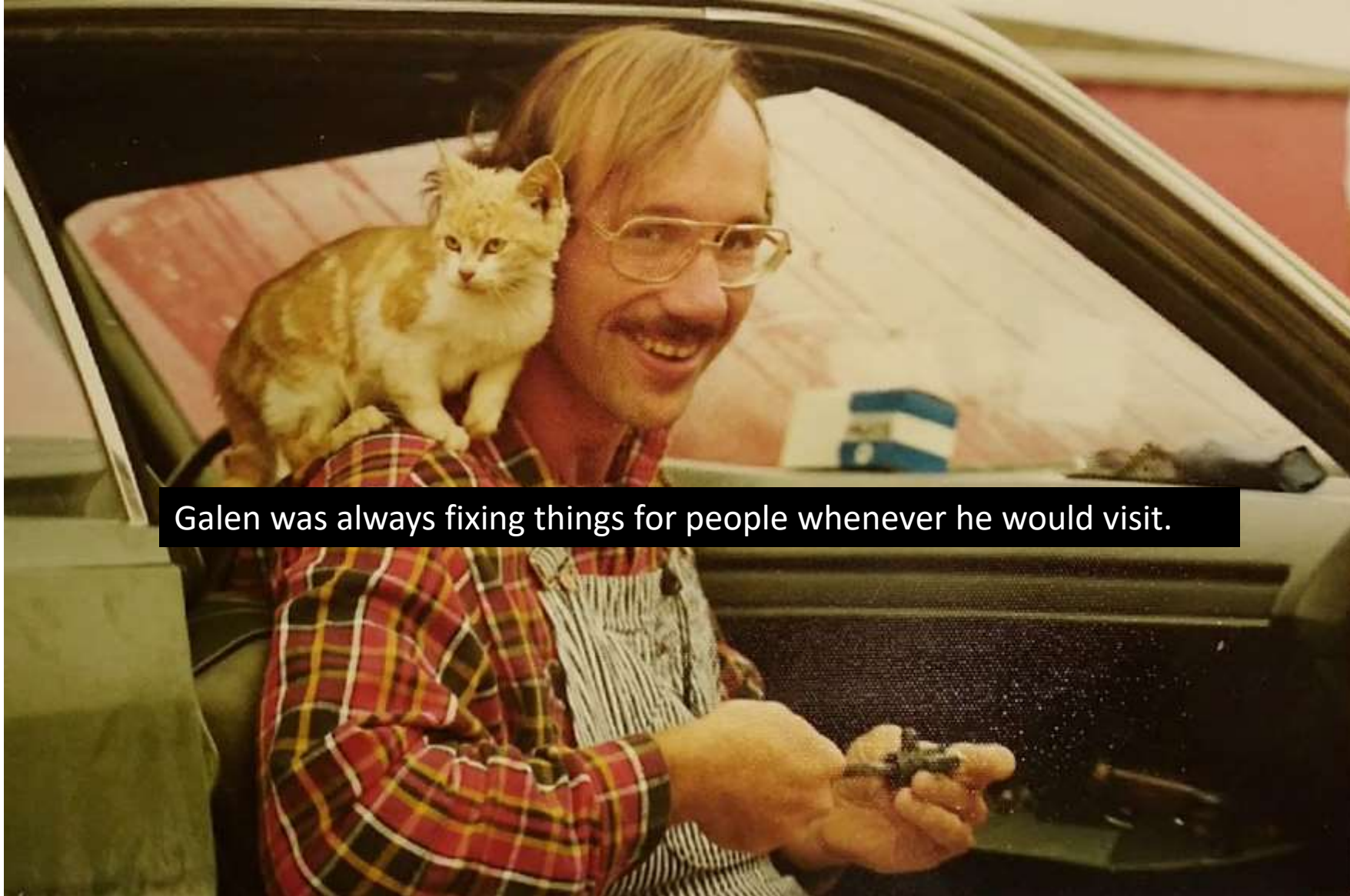




Galen's parents and his brother, and Rebecca's parents and her siblings, sister-in-law and niece.







Galen was always fixing things for people whenever he would visit.

Bicycle trip, summer 1976

Two-month bicycle trip from Guernsey to
Manitoba and south through Minnesota,
Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri
and Kansas.





Prince Albert, 1977-1979

- Galen and Rebecca moved to Prince Albert as they wanted to buy land in the Parklands.
- Galen worked for Amos Construction and Rebecca at Woolco, saving all their money to buy land



Shell Lake



Old log cabin before it was restored



Galen's workshop, part woodworking, part metalworking.



Galen was famous for his breakfasts: crepes, waffles, baked oatmeal.



For the first couple of years at Shell Lake, Galen and Rebecca kept bees and sold honey, as well as doing construction and remodelling projects for people in the area. Unfortunately, these were the years when all the photos taken were slides and they haven't been digitized.



Outhouse with stained glass window and blacksmithed door handle..

The “jewelry” wall: Galen’s collection of interesting iron pieces.

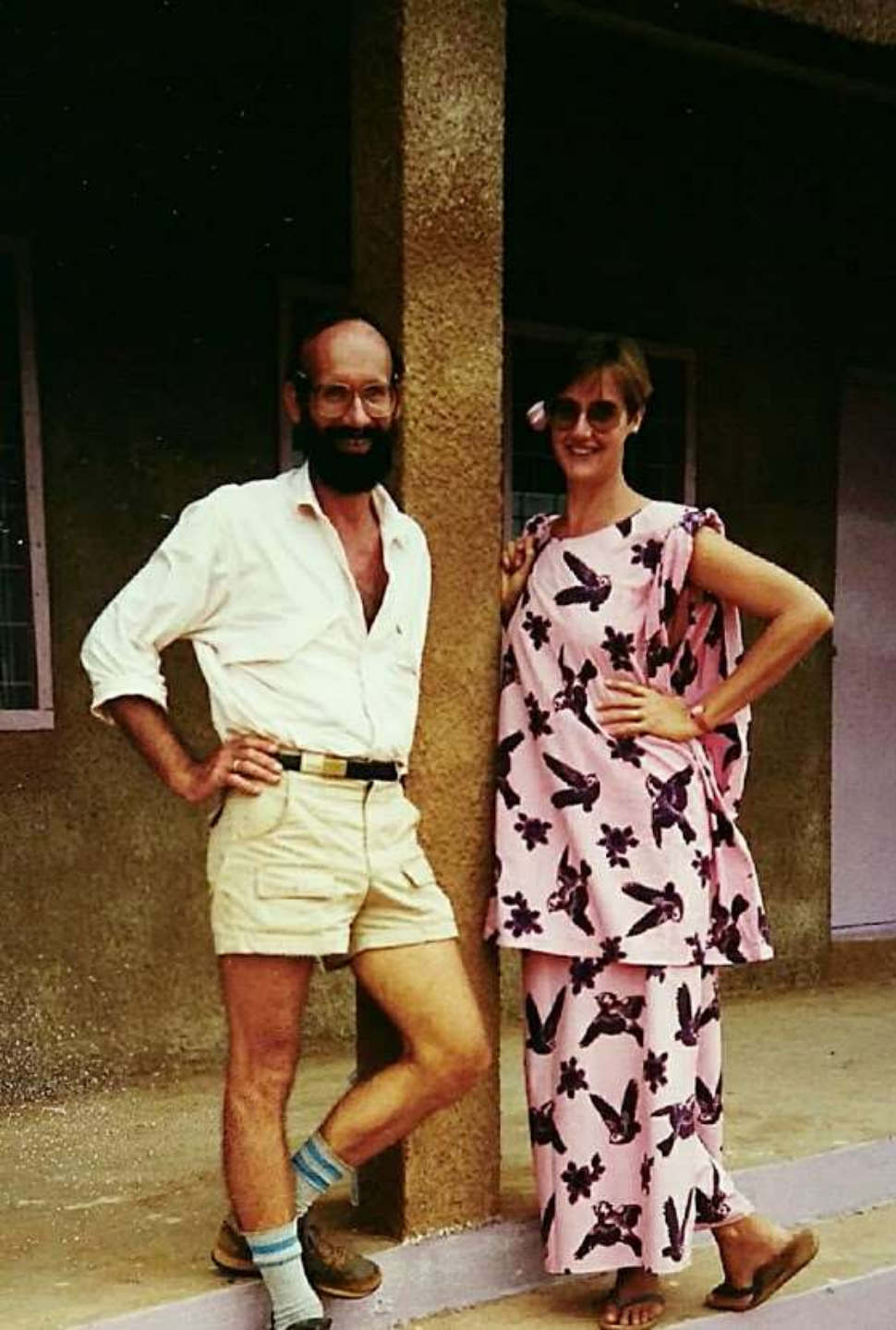




Galen made the stove for the sauna out of an old cream can.

1985-1988 - Saskatoon

- While Rebecca finished her degree at the U of S, Galen worked for Specialty Fixtures as a cabinet maker.

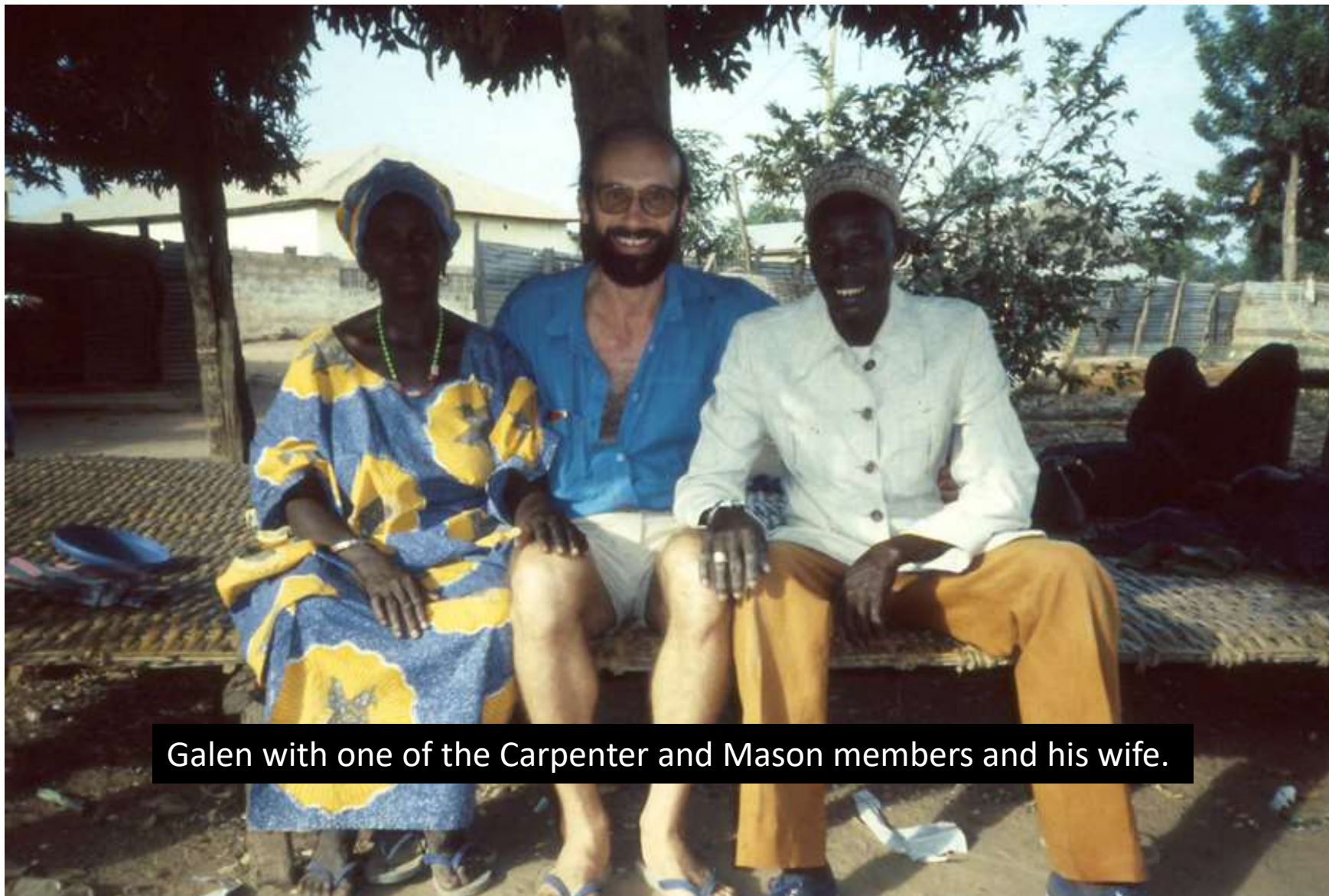


1988-1990

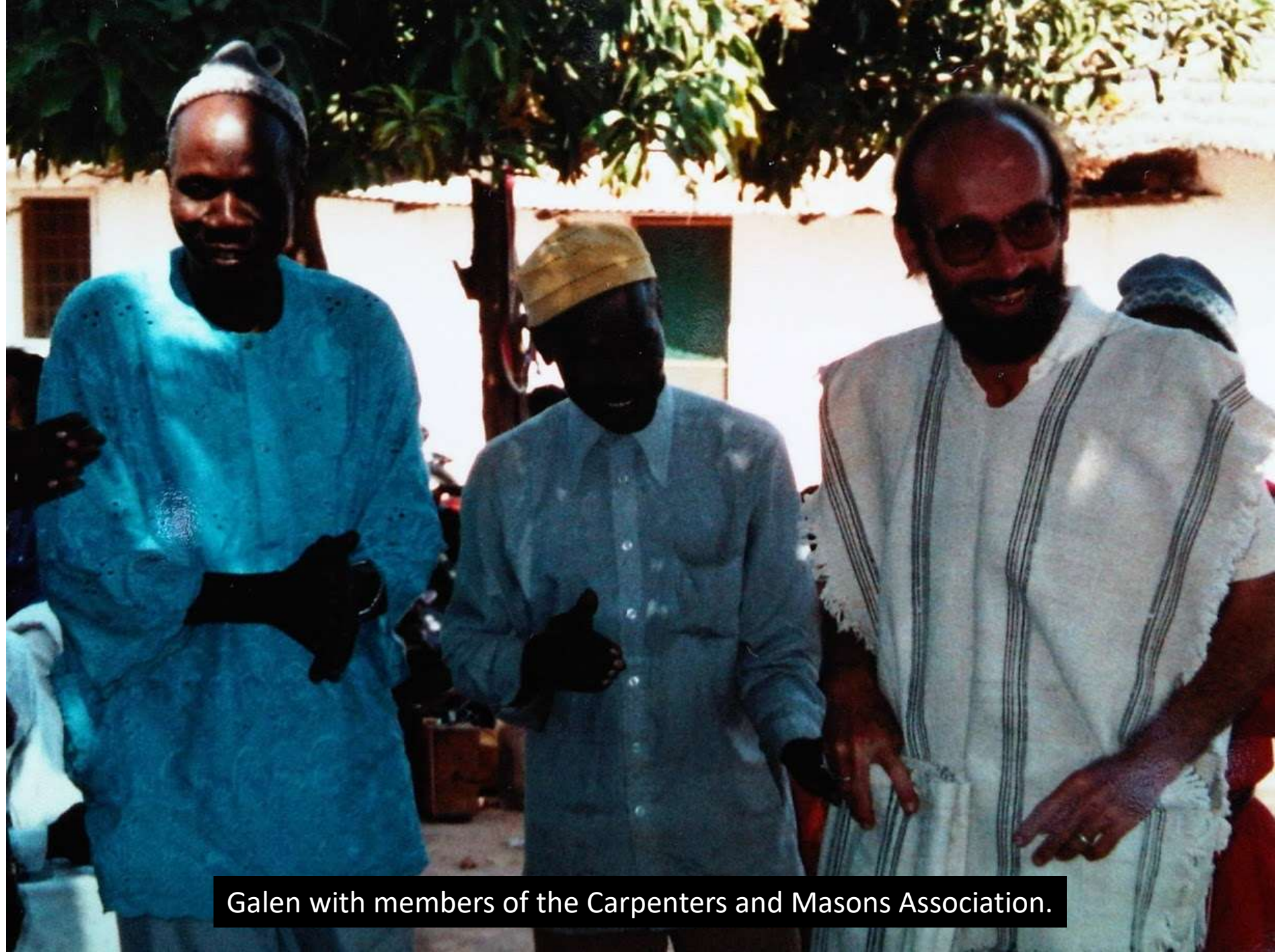
- Two years with CUSO in Basse, The Gambia
- Galen worked with the Carpenters and Masons Association and Rebecca worked at a training centre for women.



Silversmithing, Gambian style.



Galen with one of the Carpenter and Mason members and his wife.



Galen with members of the Carpenters and Masons Association.

Brazil, Jan. – Mar., 1991





From Brazil, they stopped in St. Lucia to be part of a friends' wedding party. Here Galen is arranging bouquets for the wedding.

Edmonton, 1991 to 1992



Galen and Rebecca tried city living for a year, but it didn't feel right. They chose to move back to Shell Lake to a self-employed lifestyle.

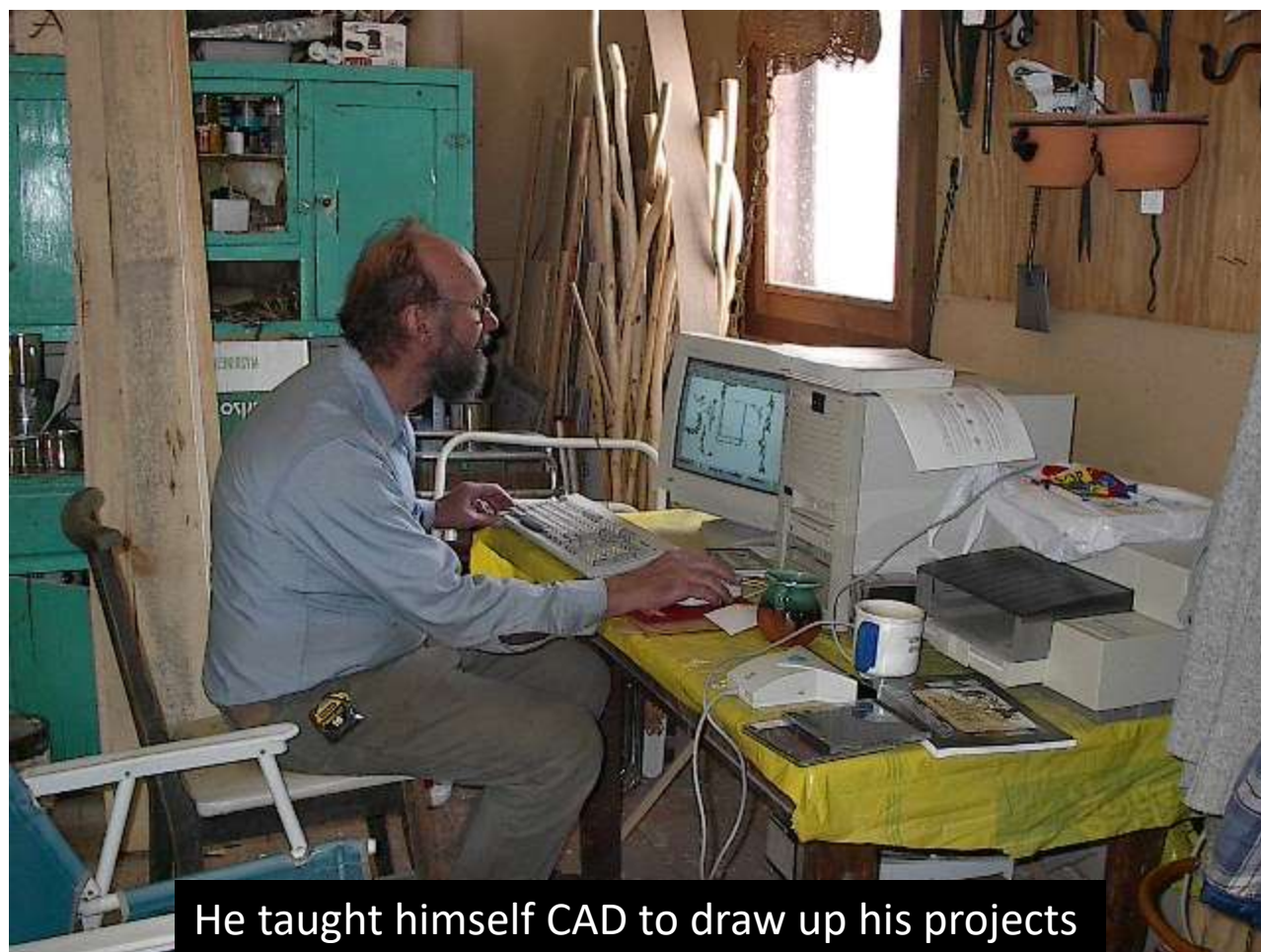
Shell Lake Projects

Galen took on many challenges that people brought to him. He learned wheelwrighting and restored buggies and sleighs.





Making walking sticks



He taught himself CAD to draw up his projects



He designed and built many sets of custom kitchen cabinets.



People would bring him the worst projects and he would restore them.



Galen restored this cutter sleigh.

Working on the velvet tufting with Belle Mullet.





Galen restored a canvas-covered canoe.



Restoring a caboose at the Resort Village of Big Shell.



The finished caboose



Galen taught woodworking classes in his shop.





Summer 1996

- Galen and Rebecca spent the summer working for Ric Driediger at Missinipe.





Shell Lake Fun



There are many kilometers of cross-country skiing trails at Woodhill. Here Galen is cross-country skiing with Jenna.



Fishing with the Peanut Butter guy.



And cleaning the fish. .



Hiking the trails



Galen built a box for holding his fly tying tools and supplies.

Projects with Friends and Family



Helping Alayne build a stool

Making stilts with Jenna and Alyssa, while Mary Ann ties flies.





Helping his niece, Sara, learn to carve.



Building with the erector set, with his nephew, Mark.





Teaching his niece, Kirsten, how to solder two glass pieces together.



Hauling in the yearly supply of firewood, with his parents

The Demonstrator



Galen was so good at demonstrating blacksmithing and getting people involved in the process.









July 1, 2017, Seager Wheeler

- Galen demonstrated on Canada Day at Seager Wheeler, his last demo.

Hosting Hammer-ins at Woodhill





A blacksmithing design workshop, hosted in Galen's shop



Blacksmiths at work at Galen's shop

2003 Hammer-In Sign Project



The blacksmiths chose to make a sign for Galen and Rebecca. They collaborated on the basic design, then each blacksmith made an individual letter.



The sign at the end of the lane

Blacksmithing



Galen built a treadle hammer for hands-free blacksmithing

Blacksmithed light fixture with
frosted glass.







A repousse candle holder



Galen made a set of blacksmith chisels for himself, as well as other people.



The only online order that he got, from a man in California.
Candle wall sconces and decorative ceiling light fixture.



Galen excelled at repousse work. Here is a set: earth, air, fire and water.

Village of Shell Lake Projects



Galen designed the gazebo for hosting events on the museum grounds in Shell Lake.





Getting ice blocks from the lake for carving.



Ice blocks set up and ready to carve



Galen's ice sculpture



Acting with the Patchwork Players



Bread from the bread oven he designed and built with the Shell Lake community on the museum grounds.



Galen was one of organizing artists for the first artist studio tour in Saskatchewan – the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail. Here are some of the original artists.



Travels

Exploring the World

Galen loved to travel.



2001, Zacatecus, Mexico

Mexico Trip, 2014



Enjoying the fruit and studying Spanish



Mexico, 2017

Round the World
trip, 2007-2008







Hiking up to a temple in India.



Buying a padlock in India



The hardware store



Keeping a cool head on a hot hike.



Planning the next move.



Listening to the musical pillars.



Drinking chai out of a disposable pottery cup



On the road in Sumatra, Indonesia.



Inspecting the carved stone, waiting to be installed in a temple in Thailand.

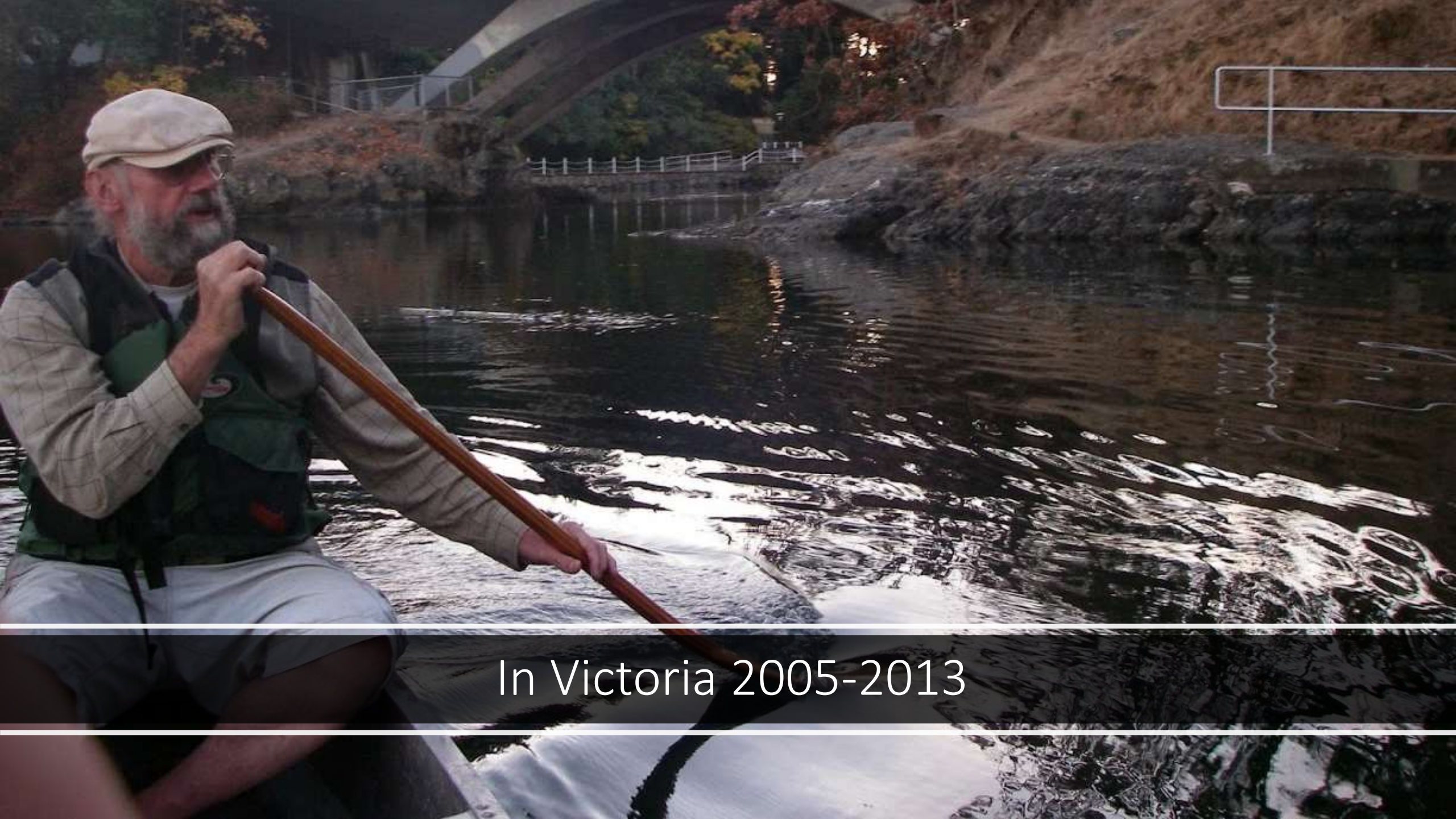


Please
clean
Barbecue
after
use

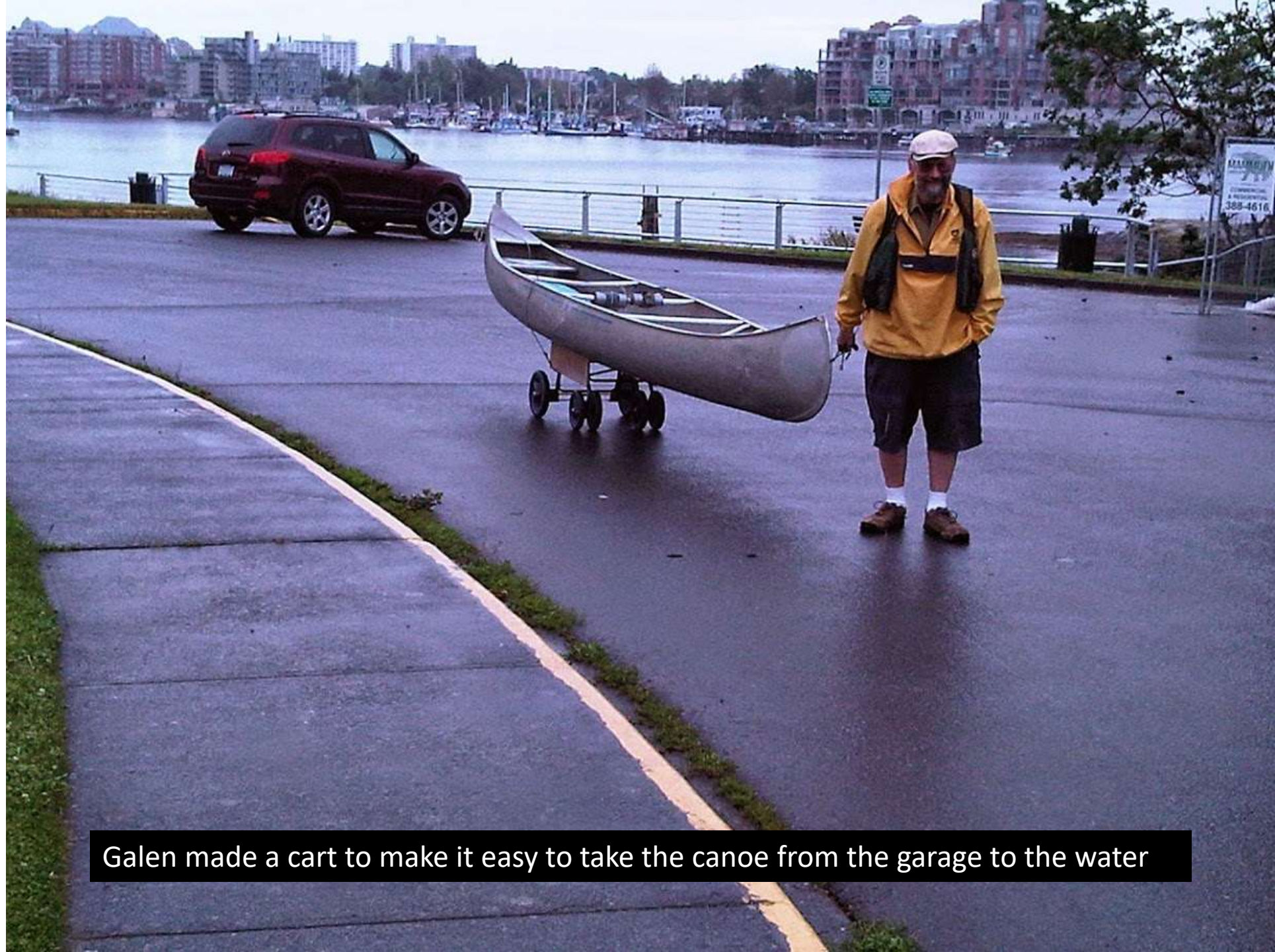
Camping, Australian style.



Galen was always curious about everything around him.



In Victoria 2005-2013



Galen made a cart to make it easy to take the canoe from the garage to the water





Camping on Salt Spring Island.



Riding his bike to work in Victoria.



While in Victoria, Galen volunteered with the Saanich Historical Artifact Society.

In Victoria, Galen did
special projects for a
few people who
appreciated his artistic
ability and his attention
to details.

Custom Woodwork



A chicken house, herb drying shed, and guest house.



Easy to collect the eggs







Artistic treatment to fence.





Outdoor shower.





Building a deck on Saturna Island





Outdoor shower.



Rustic booth in Victoria restaurant



Moved to Rosthern, Dec. 2013





Digging into house renovations in Rosthern.



I wonder what is behind this wallboard



The exposed wall in the living room



Plastering the wall.



The plastered and painted wall.



Removing the rotten garage roof

Recent Projects

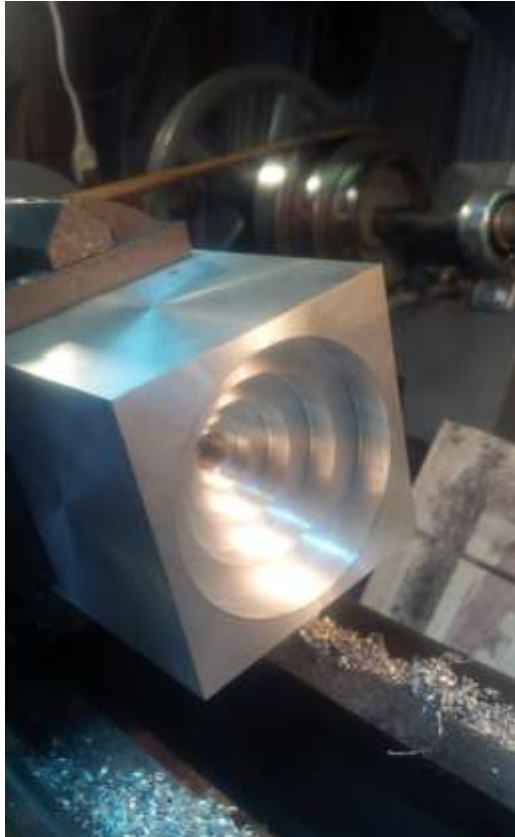
Galen built a hydraulic dump trailer for the garden tractor.



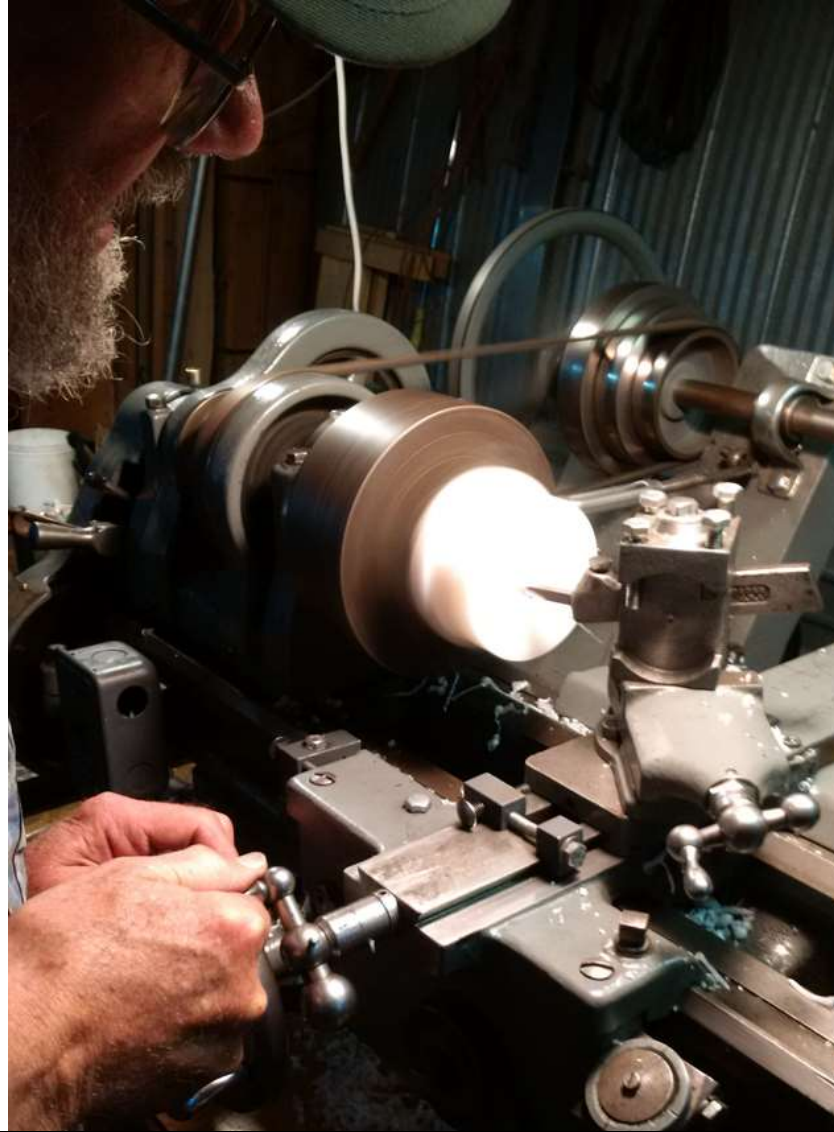


Since getting a metal lathe a couple of years ago, Galen became obsessed with metal work. He often said in the last couple of years that he wouldn't live long enough to do all of the projects he wanted to do. He thought he still had at least 10 years.

Turning a cube



One of Galen's first projects was turning a cube on the lathe



Cutting the nylon electrical plug for the teardrop trailer

The Teardrop Trailer

One of Galen's last projects was building a teardrop trailer from scratch.







Finishing up the kitchen in the teardrop.



Creativity at the Rosthern Winter Festival







Galen complained about winter, but he wasn't afraid to get out and enjoy himself through the cold.



The bronze statue in Saskatoon, modeled after Galen.

Jim Jensen of Nisse Foundry used Galen as the model for a bronze blacksmith sculpture. It is located on the east side of the Farmer's Market parking lot in Saskatoon.