

The “Newer” Rancher’s Hall

In the late 1940’s, Millarville community members and local ranchers discussed replacing the old Rancher’s Hall, which was situated west of Millarville on Joe Fisher’s property. Deciding on the new location created quite a controversy. Some wanted it built in the Millarville Community and some wanted a hall at the Racetrack so two halls were built – Rancher’s Hall and Racetrack Hall. The newer Rancher’s Hall is located in the hamlet of Millarville, adjacent to Millarville Community School.

Funding the construction of the new Rancher’s Hall was the next issue. Hans Backs, who built Millarville Motors in 1945, also had a Ford Dealership. He arranged for a new Ford car that would be raffled. Initially, Elmer Anderson drove to Calgary with Merle Backs and Vera Haney to sell tickets. Later on, most week days would find Merle Backs and Vera Haney parking the raffle car on 8th Avenue, Calgary selling raffle tickets. Due to wonderful ticket sales, enough money was made to pay for the car from the proceeds of the raffle and buy materials for the hall. Bob Campbell was the carpenter and everything was a community effort. Everyone who had equipment and time pitched in - from digging the basement and pouring cement to raising rafters and roofing.

The newer Ranchers’ Hall is a great asset to Millarville and the greater community and is still an important venue. Before Millarville School had a gymnasium, gym classes were held in Rancher’s Hall. It was home to the Millarville Kindergarten class for many years, and is now used for Preschool and Playschool. It is also an important place for extra-curricular activities such as Yoga classes, birthday parties, family gatherings. The basement has been converted to dressing rooms for hockey teams. There is also a small concession for activities being held there.

It truly is an essential community gathering place.

