

18. Early Company Startup Years with Verigin Brothers

Like everything else that is so well planned in advance, the only part that was left out was the education of the original founders who had no idea where to start an organization. Neither did their youngest brother.



This photo was taken by Kyle at Kenneth Khadekin's wedding. Elmer is on the left with Lawrence followed by Russel on the right. Note the long noses!

Lawrence and Russel were retired at that time.

Elmer worked at E. Verigin Consultants Ltd.

My older brothers brought with them a tremendous practical talent and I had just left a high-end Engineering Pulp Mill, and nobody had a plan as to how all this “new” venture was to come together. I quickly found out that the operation was essentially bankrupt (opinion of the Accountant Leo Soligo, CA) with a seriously deficient working capital. Only brotherly love would allow this venture to take place and begin the process to climb up as we were definitely at the bottom.

To make matters worse the two sisters-in-law were not exactly fond of each other, and both ensured that their husbands knew what a sacrifice they were making by just tolerating each other.

So, the three brothers had to first of all cloister together and do some soul searching to establish a permanent bond that would tolerate the negative talk when at home. So, we made that clear that no one will tell us what the other may or may not be doing in the organization. Only a direct question will receive an answer from each other and not any innuendo from an external source.

Marilyn and I designed and constructed our house on a lot purchased at 830 Silver Birch Lane, Castlegar. This was our first home that we would own. With the help of brothers Russel and Lawrence we were able to volunteer all the wood framing and finishing and as I recall our total costs was \$17,000 with a direct mortgage from Canada Mortgage & Housing which was possible at that time. We needed Gramps (Father-in-law, Alex Verishine) to co-sign our purchase loan for the lot of \$2,100 from Oglows. We moved to the completed house in the spring of 1967.

We did have family discussions as to how we were going to make the monthly payments and delayed moving in until we had a consensus (Marilyn and I) that we would make it happen.



Photo is somewhat later as the driveway was not paved until mid 1970s after we could afford to do so.

We moved to Tsawwassen in 1985 and sold the house a few years later.

We now had a family of Nona, Lori, and Tamara. Kim was the only one to be conceived in this home and brought home directly from the Castlegar Hospital in 1971.



We are now a family of six (6).

This photo was taken in the Living Room in the picture window alcove on the South side of the house

Kimball is on Dad's knee with Lori beside and then Nona and Tamara

Mom is sitting on the floor.

Photo was taken by Harry Soloveoff

L. W. Verigin Construction Ltd. At that time, had Phil Sherstobitoff and Andy Tarasoff along with a few others working together on essentially custom homes in Tadanac, Warfield, Trail and Rossland. It is likely that the estimates were not developed properly as it was customarily to offer prices by the square foot. Unfortunately, each custom house had its own character and "ballpark" additions or deletions from a "shot in the dark" price was compromising the company's attempt to get established.

I worked as a carpenter and started estimating in evenings and eventually we became convinced that someone needed to do this full time if we were going to get anywhere.

I received my Professional Engineering status the summer of 1965 and so, I could offer Engineering advice and I also started drafting drawings for houses and additions. Slowly the word went out and the drafting became a much-needed additional income and provided a conduit to contracts as well.