

washing machines, although I never had seen a washing machine. I studied the manual, which came with the machine, for three days and nights; and after that I took the machine apart, repaired it, and put it back. To my own surprise, the whole thing worked.

"Then I went into the selling of iron staircases and railings for a couple of months; then another immigrant and I pooled our savings and bought some gravel trailers, which we leased out. That went on for about three quarters of a year and we sold out. Then I went into business with a friend, rented a Volkswagen pickup, and sold deepfreezes to the farmers. That was very profitable, and as a matter of fact the farmers called our service 'home delivery.' It lasted six or eight months until the winter — the winter of '54 was very cold.

"In '55 I established the German-Canadian Radio Committee, and we started a half-hour, daily German-language program on the French-Canadian radio station in Edmonton. I bought the time from the station and then sold it to advertisers. Then I bought more time on another radio station. We taped our programs in Edmonton and shipped them out by bus. That was good money, \$800 to \$1,000 a month, and a step into my own enterprises. One of the radio programs is still going strong, with one of my old hand-picked announcers.

"At the same time, in 1956, I started in the real-estate business and became extensively engaged in community affairs. We formed a

German-Canadian Relief society to help immigrants of German background who became ill or were in financial need and formed also the German-Canadian Business and Professional Organization and later on the German-Canadian Association of Alberta. The aim of the organizations was somehow to take the stigma away from German post-war immigrants who were still treated as second-class citizens. Now the German immigrants have become highly respected and very equal among other ethnic groups in the province and in Canada.

"My wife and I were in one of those unfortunate immigrant situations, and after a while the marriage did not stand up. She went to the United States, and my son grew up there. He's a US citizen, a member of the Marine Corps, and is now studying for a Master's degree in languages.

"I remarried, to a German immigrant. In a new country you seek companionship among the people who are familiar, although a lot of my friends have married Canadian girls.

"My real-estate business has changed over the years. I took an absolute professional approach — going to the university for a number of years in evening courses and to the Real Estate Institute of Canada. I had originally dealt in residential and commercial real estate, some apartment buildings. Later on, my partner, a Polish immigrant, and I formed a company. We have built warehouses and apartment buildings, but we do not sell what we build. There couldn't be a better place in North America than Edmonton at this time."

Mr. Wekherlien and one of his buildings.

