

WAL Jr and Being Self-Sufficient

Dad also discussed the family orchard, which was something of a catastrophe in his mind. When he was out in the Pacific he thought of the mountains and especially of fruit, and he conceived the idea of growing fruit trees. So when we returned from Michigan, Dad set out two of each of several kinds of tree - cherries, apples, peaches and so on. And he sprayed them and pruned them and did everything to keep them healthy until they were old enough to bear fruit. And then he netted the trees to keep the birds off the fruit. He had in mind that we would be to a great extent self-sufficient - kill a steer every year and freeze the meat, chickens of course, and he bought a big deep freeze. Also he thought to exchange produce with friends and neighbors. When things started to ripen he told us to go get 'em, which of course we were less than eager to do, and though Mom did once freeze peaches (I remember this) she was really

too busy to engage in full-scale freezing and canning. Most of the fruit landed on the ground. So after a few years Dad had Ken Zimmet doze the trees out. I do recall the grape vineyard where I sat in the shade reading on hot summer days. We continued to have a few cattle “to keep the weeds down” and a couple of years we had baby calves because in April 1956 Dad bought a bull, a handsome Hereford.



The Bull and Ken Zimmit