

Glenn and Rex Turple were born in the towns of Cereal and Hanna, Alberta and grew up on a farm near Olds, midway between Red Deer and Calgary.

Glenn bought a used 1926 Harley Davidson JD74 when he completed high school in 1946. Soon after, he and Rex combined resources and ordered a Panther 350cc motorcycle from England through Nicholson Brothers in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It cost \$490 and arrived on December 19th, 1946. Not the best time of year to receive a new motorcycle, but you can imagine the excitement!



1946 - Glenn on the brand new 1946 Panther 350

The Panther came with a single seat that Glenn had Nicholson's replace with a Harley Davidson double saddle to increase its versatility. This may also have been the point in time that Glenn discovered girls.

Glenn sold his interest in the Panther the following year and bought an Ariel, which he in turn traded for a Triumph.



1947 - Glenn on his 1939 Ariel 600 side valve single



1948 - Rex on the '39 Ariel 500 Red Hunter he used for travelling and racing at 1/2 mile dirt tracks

"It was just an interest in some economical transportation." Glenn says of his wheeling and dealing. "It didn't start as being a business, that's for sure."

Glenn and Rex's father tolerated the brothers' preoccupation with motorcycles, assuming it would be temporary. "He thought he might as well let us do it and get it out of our system," remembers Glenn.



1951 - Rex loaded up for his July trip to San Antonio, Texas

By 1949 the brothers were operating Olds Motorcycle Sales, selling and repairing motorcycles from a converted shed on the family farm.



1955 - Glenn on a Triumph 650 Thunderbird



1955 - Glenn & Joyce Turple on ride to Sturgess Rally & Races

In 1956 they relocated to Red Deer, hoping to take advantage of the larger market.

Their first shop was an old house on Gaetz Avenue. The brothers poured a concrete floor in the kitchen so they could use it for the Service Department.



1956 - The Original Red Deer Shop



1972 - Turple Bros. Ltd. Dealership on Gaetz Avenue

“Red Deer was a booming city of 13,000,” says Glenn. “Our Gaetz Avenue location put us right on what was then the main Calgary-Edmonton highway.

“We initially dealt in British and German bikes. Triumph, BSA, Norton, BMW and NSU were the popular makes but we had an active trade in used Harley Davidsons as well, especially the 1942-1943 WLC war surplus bikes.” states Glenn.

Then, in 1959, Honda arrived in Canada. Glenn and Rex saw the future and Turple Bros. obtained the dealership.

By 1962 the brother’s abilities and reputation for fair dealing, quality products and good service had built the business to a point where it required a new building. That building underwent 17 additions and renovations over the years as it grew to 26,000 square feet.

The brother’s skills and personalities were a good combination. Glenn ran the sales end of the business while Rex ran the service.

Glenn is known as a long distance touring enthusiast, having accumulated over 1.25 million kilometres aboard a long list of bikes. Rex excelled at motocross, hill climbing and flat track racing. With a home full of championship trophies, Rex had a strong following of younger riders eager to follow his winning ways.

Unfortunately, we lost Rex to cancer in 1990.

The brother’s vision also included safety, as Turple Bros. was the first dealer in Alberta to sell motorcycle helmets imported from England.

In 1964, during a road trip on his Triumph, Glenn visited the offices of American Honda in California. Joining him on that trip was Ivan Walker, who was riding one of the first Honda 305 Hawks.

The new Hondas were worthy of his trust and by 1967 Glenn was riding a 1966 Honda CB450 to Key West, Florida, one of many cross-country trips over the years.

Turple Bros. grew and began adding new product lines to serve Central Alberta.

The 1966 Ski-Doo snowmobiles arrived in late 1965.



1965 - Glenn & Rex with the first 1966 Ski-Doo

“The Honda ATV’s came in around 1970.” says Glenn. “I was a little skeptical about these strange vehicles. They were just an oddity to us at the time.”

In the 1970’s, Turple Bros. sold significant numbers of Moto Guzzi touring bikes, popular because of their shaft drive and comfortable ride.

The full-line Suzuki dealership was taken on in 1988 and Sea-Doo personal watercraft arrived in 1993.

The next big step came in 2000. The highway had long since moved west of Red Deer, so following the same philosophy as in 1956, Turple Bros. moved to a new, designed as a motorcycle shop from the ground up, 46,000 square foot building. And what better place than Gasoline Alley! Despite some anxiety about this hefty investment, the decision was a good one as Glenn knew they could provide better accessibility and service to their customers. “We’ve had to work a lot harder since we came out here,” says Glenn “because we’ve had a lot more business.”

Another milestone in 2000 was being named the “Red Deer Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year” in the large business category.

Glenn sums up fifty years in the business best in his own words. “Fairness and honesty have been important to the growth of Turple Bros., as they should be key ingredients for any business. It also helps to have a genuine interest in the product you sell. Some do reasonably well without it, but I guess I really enjoy using the products we sell. It definitely helps create enthusiasm.”

“We believe that careful spending practices have been important to the success of this business. And plenty of sweat also went into the company over the years. We worked some terrible hours, averaging sixty a week.”

“We also credit Central Alberta’s surging economy for the prosperity of this business over the years. It’s a great area to be in and the community has been very good to us. We are now dealing with the grandchildren of original customers.

“I’m only working 37 hours a week in the store now, but I did put 34,000 kilometers on my Gold Wings last year. *Somebody* has to do the product research.”



1981 - Rex at Medicine Hat Hill Climb



The new location on Gasoline Alley/Queen Elizabeth Highway

