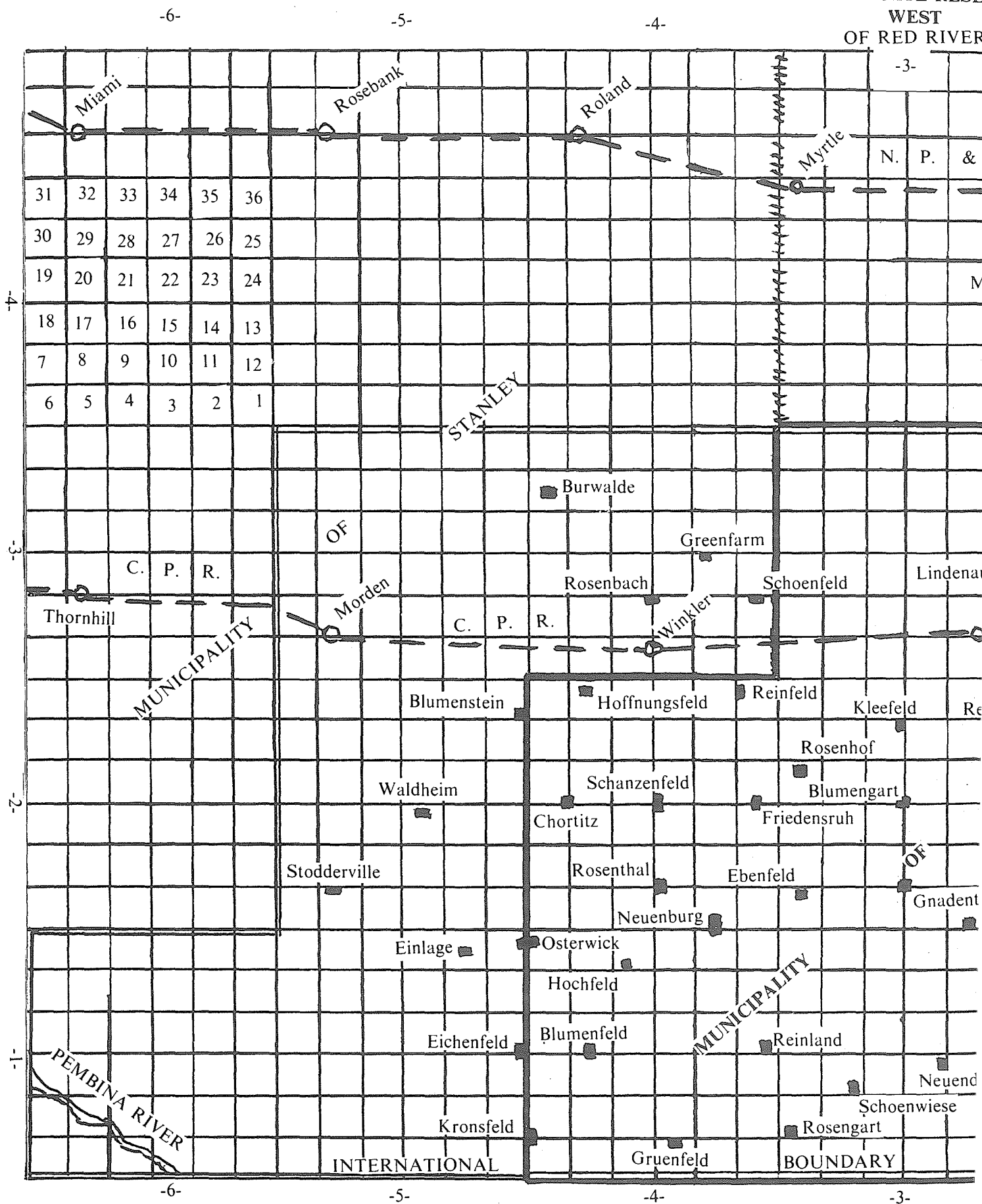


# A HISTORY OF WINKLER

1872-1973

MENNONITE RESERVE  
WEST  
OF RED RIVER





1

Published by  
Otto Gaube  
Altona, 1898.

The map shows the Municipality of Morris, with a grid of land parcels. Key features include the Red River, Roseau River, and the C.P.R. (Canadian Pacific Railway) line. The map is divided into sections by a grid, with labels for 'MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS' and 'MONTCALM'. The map is oriented with North at the top.

Labels on the map include: R., Lowes Farm, Morris, Row's Farm, Grossweide, St. Jean, C. P. R., Rosenheim, Rosenfeld, Weidenfeld, Rome, Gruenweide, Kleinstadt, Bergfeld, Schoenthal, Hochstadt, Rudnerweide, Schoenau, Altona, Eigengrund, Lichtfeld, Gnadenfeld, Neubergthal, Blumenthal, Sommerfeld, Gruenthal, Silberfeld, Schoenhorst, Kronthal, Blumenhof, Neu Anlage, Edenburg, Halbstadt, Gretna, West Lynne, Emerson, and Roseau River.

## FOREWORD

The invitation to write a Foreword to Frank Brown's History of the Town of Winkler brings me pleasure and pride — pleasure, because I like what the people of this community have accomplished; pride — because the industry and hard work of the people of this community is outstanding. The Author himself is a living example of one who has dedicated the best years of his life to the educational endeavors of our community. It is indeed fitting that a man who has lived and worked in this community all his life, should write the history of his home community.

While the Town Council of the Town of Winkler does not assume any responsibility for the contents of this book, and claims no credit for the writing of this history, we are nevertheless extremely pleased at its appearance. The fact that it appears at the eve of the Centennial Celebrations of the coming of the Mennonite Pioneers to Manitoba, is very appropriate. No doubt this book will be a source of pride and pleasure to many former and present citizens of the Winkler Community.

I congratulate the author, and commend cordially to the readers, what has been written about our people's struggles, work and accomplishments.

H. F. Wiebe  
Mayor of Winkler  
1973

## DEDICATION

### TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF GARDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION

“And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which He swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not.

“And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

“Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

“Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him.”

Deuteronomy 6:10 - 13

## Appreciation

The writer gratefully recognizes contributions made directly or indirectly by many individuals and groups who have a sincere desire that some of the local historical records and data be collected and preserved in a form that is readily accessible. Besides the Winkler Town Council and the trustees and staff of Garden Valley School Division, generous assistance for the compilation was received from publishers of newspapers, senior citizens through personal interviews, as well as from others who supplied helpful contributions of material and encouragement. May these chronicles be a tribute to the spirit and unselfish toil of our pioneers on whose foundations we are building for eternity.

The nucleus of this material was submitted to the Manitoba Historical Society in 1956 in the Margaret McWilliams Medal competition for District No. 4. The encouragement from the Society is gratefully acknowledged.

# A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF WINKLER

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# A HISTORY OF WINKLER

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY SURVEY

To keep accurate records of what has transpired during the first years of settlement, has invariably been difficult for any people opening up a new country. This is not surprising when we consider that the early pioneers were too absorbed in the immediate problem of building shelters and wresting a bare livelihood from the soil. In the case of the first settlers of the area surrounding the present town of Winkler, there was also a somewhat negative attitude toward any education beyond the ability to read the Bible in the German language. Therefore, it is difficult to find written accounts of events dating back to the 70's and 80's. Consequently, the purpose of this paper is to add to the few written records of this area by giving a brief summary of the history of the town of Winkler.

When Manitoba joined Confederation in 1870, its population totalled 11,963. The majority of these people lived on the banks of the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers. Provincial authorities realized the dire need for settlers, especially in the area which was then the large municipality of Douglas on the southern prairies. The municipalities of Rhineland and Stanley have been carved out of this tract of land.

When Alexander II of Russia withdrew the special status which had exempted the Mennonites from military service, they felt themselves compelled to seek these privileges elsewhere. With this in view, a Committee of Twelve was sent to Canada in 1873 to investigate the possibilities of finding a new home in Manitoba. The members of this Committee brought glowing reports of the possibilities for an unmolested life on a terrain similar to that of southern Russia. As a result, the negotiations between the leaders of the Mennonite settlements on the fertile steppes of Russia and Mr. William Hespeler, an immigration commissioner of the Dominion Government, resulted in the allocation of eighteen townships to the sect on the west side of the Red River just north of the International Boundary and stretching to the foothills of the Pembinas.<sup>1</sup>

Mass migrations of Mennonite families from the steppes of southern Russia started in 1874 and by August, 1879, it was estimated that in Manitoba alone there were 7,383 Mennonites. Most of these had settled on the West Reserve. Mrs. Margaret McWilliams says, "They were the first settlers to demonstrate that it was<sup>2</sup> possible to live and farm well upon the open treeless prairie." Mennonite successes on the treeless plain between the Red River and the Pembina Hills whetted the appetites of the Ontario settlers in 1879 and they began to arrive here in ever increasing numbers.

These early pioneers settled in villages according to Russian traditional pattern. From twenty to thirty families would live together in a village with each farmer retaining a deed of his ten-acre lot and house. The houses

were built on both sides of a long wide street. The first temporary shelter was dug three or four feet into the ground with low walls of sod above the ground and also a roof of sods. The Mennonite settlers called it a "simlin". However, this was generally replaced by a log house the following year.

As wood for building and for fuel was scarce, the settlers continued to move farther westward where wood was available on the Pembina Hills. Some of the villages which mushroomed in the area surrounding the present town of Winkler were: Reinfeld, Schanzenfeld, Rosenbach, Hoffnungsfeld. Of these, the first two are almost intact today except for some streamlining through the coming of electricity, the telephone, roads, etc., whereas the latter two have almost completely disappeared with some of their citizens moving to Winkler as the hamlet began to grow. In 1891, the entire quarter section (except for the railway) on which the down-town shopping area is now located, was still under cultivation according to the late Mr. Aron Wiens, the son of Mr. Isaac Wiens who was the owner at that time. The first mention of this locality in a neighbourhood newspaper is recorded in the "Morden Herald" of May 5, 1892. The issue refers to "That siding at Hoffnungsfeld will deal a severe blow to Morden's trade." The village of Hoffnungsfeld had been settled in 1876.

From August 31 to September 2, 1963, a reunion was held at Winkler by the descendants of Jacob Wiens who emigrated with his family from southern Russia in 1876, broke the Canadian prairie near the town of Winkler and founded the now extinct village of Hoffnungsfeld one mile south-west of the town. Mr. Wiens was born at Neuosterwick, south Russia, in 1816, and died at Hoffnungsfeld in 1888. He kept a diary en route from Russia to Canada, and the first entry was made May 12, 1876, and related how they arrived at Cherjon where a steamer owned by Jacob Tieszen awaited them and they left the harbor at 7:53 a.m. Other interesting entries are found on the following dates:

May 24, 1876, "It seems to me that in the whole country of Russia we do not have as many factories as we've seen during this one trip from Hull to Liverpool."<sup>3</sup>

May 26, 1876, "Horses here in England are from 5½ to 6½ feet high, with very strong legs and large hips. The streets are paved and the houses are made of square bricks 1½ feet in diameter."

June 4, 1876, "Friday - Motto: 'Remember the Lord Jesus Christ...continuing instant in prayer', Romans 12:12. Yesterday the deceased child was placed in a coffin and lowered into the ocean."

June 8, 1876, "The speed of Canadian trains surpasses any we have seen."

June 9, 1876, "Toronto is a large city. Merchandise is cheap. I bought a pair of rubber boots for \$2.50, and an axe for \$1.00."

June 19, 1876, "We landed at Dufferin. Here we were escorted to the immigration halls."

June 21, 1876, "Monday - Motto: Continuing instant in prayer, Romans 12:12. Bought the following: a cow with its calf for \$39.00, an iron stove with equipment for \$28.50, a shovel for \$1.00, two pails for 65 cents, a coffee mill for 50 cents, soap for 25 cents, matches for 30 cents, and two plates for 20 cents."

June 22, 1876, "Bought a pair of oxen for \$139.00."

June 24, 1876, "Arrived at Jacob Wiens in Reinland at 11:00 a.m."

June 29, 1876, "Went to Emerson to do some shopping. Purchased the following: a plow for \$24.00, wood for \$12.00, four bags of flour for \$12.50, ten pounds of coffee for \$3.50, seven pounds of sugar for \$1.00, a pitchfork for \$1.25, one pound "Licht" (light) for 30 cents, and 40 pounds of lard for \$9.00. Left Emerson and spent the night under the blue sky."

July 16, 1876, "Friday - Have come to the decision to settle in Reinland."

July 17, 1876, "Saturday - Again, there are contentions regarding the site that has been chosen."

July 18, 1876, "Sunday - Motto: 'Love not the world', I John 2:15. The elder, Johann Wiebe, preached a sermon here today."

July 19, 1876, "Monday - Again we viewed two sites - found water on the latter and decided to settle there. The place is to be named 'Hoffnungsfeld'."

July 20, 1876, "Tuesday - Took our families and possessions to Chortitz."

July 21, 1876, "Wednesday - Hauled wood out of the woods and started to build."

July 22, 1876, "Thursday - Together with Isaac Wiens I went to the Pembina Hills as far as Dakota where we bought a yoke of oxen for \$72.50; for Jacob Enns another yoke of oxen at \$60.00; a cow with a calf for David Wiens at \$35.00; a pair of oxen for slaughtering at \$40.00 for Isaac Wiens (Note: this was the first owner of the quarter section S.E. 4-3-4 on which the town of Winkler was founded); a cow with a calf at \$35.00 for Aaron Neustaetter."

August 4, 1876, "Wednesday - Moved from Chortitz here to our new site, Hoffnungsfeld. Moved into the barn. Hauled some more wood."

By January, 1878, there were 24 families with 120 persons living in Hoffnungsfeld. Hence, Jacob Wiens founded the village of Hoffnungsfeld. When this village disintegrated somewhat later, his son Isaac Wiens founded the village of Rosenbach which is one mile north of Winkler. Although Mr. Isaac Wiens lived at Rosenbach since 1883, he also owned the quarter section of land on which the village of Winkler was started in 1892. However, before the siding was opened by the C.P.R., Mr. Wiens had traded his quarter section to Mr. Valentine Winkler in exchange for S.W. 10-3-4W.

The reason why Mr. Jacob Wiens decided to leave Russia appears to be stated in a letter which he wrote after his arrival in Canada, in answer to a letter received from Russia. The reasons that he stated in his letter are almost prophetic. Among other things he says: "...

What you wrote about the difficulties in regard to our migration to Canada is partly true. It is painful to sever friendship ties. But what if a man will have to leave wife and children and take up arms? This will certainly happen. What if the nihilists shall gain power and overthrow all power?

"In the near future, Russia is facing a time of horror. A powerful revolution will break out in which these terrorists will take part. The close of the 20th century will witness a drama of horrors in comparison to which the French Revolution at the close of the 18th century was mild.

"These horrors, however, will end. But when we'll stand before God in the day of judgment we'll give account of ourselves. What if he will say: 'I gave you a way to escape the giving up of your faith, but you treasured your earthly joys, possessions, and friends more than Me - you are therefore not worthy of Me.' To keep the true faith in Russia, in my opinion, is impossible."

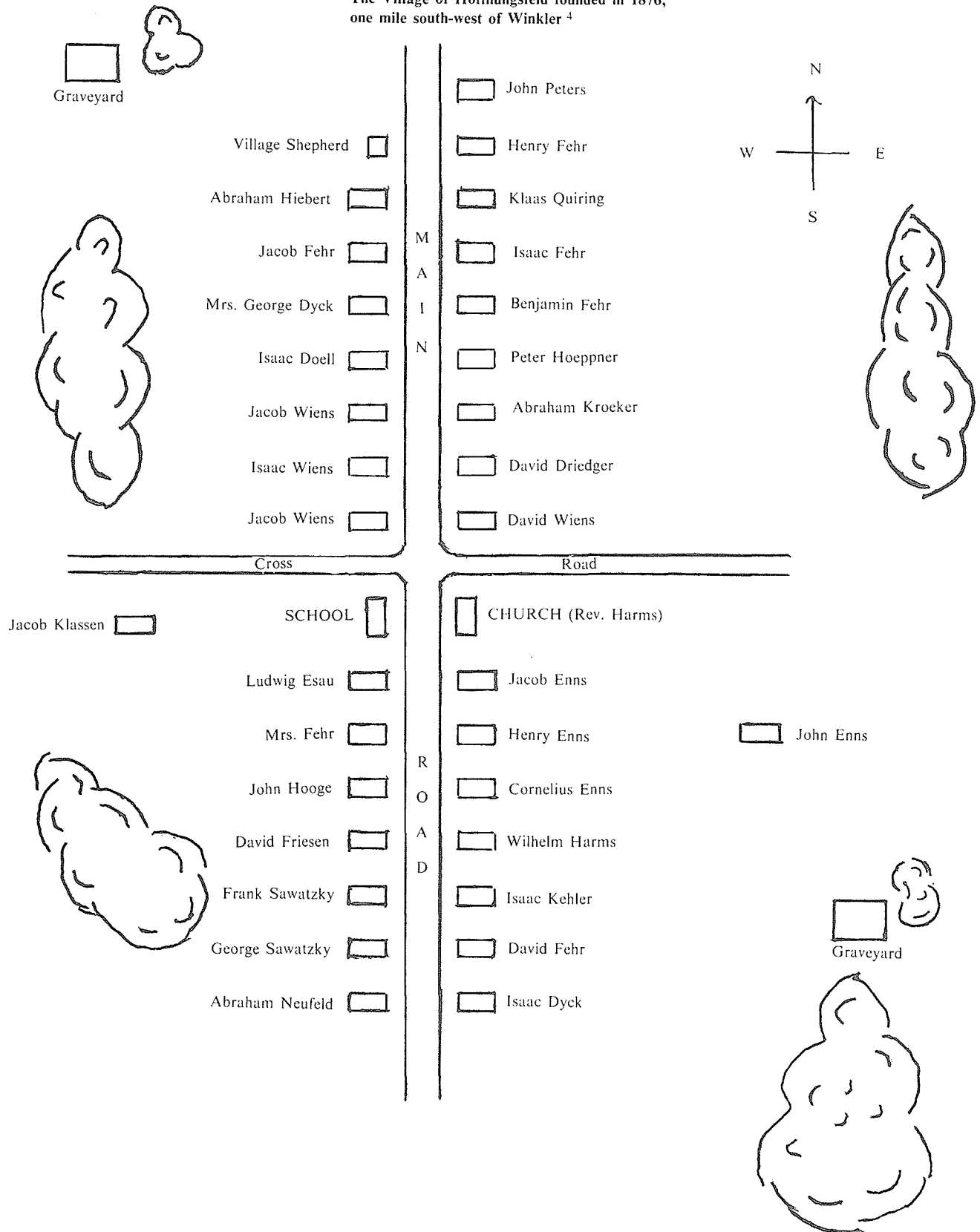


Jacob Wiens



Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Wiens. Mr. Wiens was the original owner of S.E. 4-3-4 west quarter section which he obtained as a Crown Grant on September 6, 1883. However, part of the quarter section had already been turned over to the CPR right-of-way in 1881. This picture was taken in Liverpool, England, in 1876, on the way to Canada from Russia.

The Village of Hoffnungsfeld founded in 1876,  
one mile south-west of Winkler <sup>4</sup>



This chart shows the residents of Hoffnungsfeld a few years after it was settled. After 1892 when Winkler Siding (also referred to as Hoffnungsfeld Siding) was started on the railway, some of the villagers began moving to town while others moved onto their outlying homesteads. Except for two rows of parallel trees, only one farmyard remains in the extinct village.

The Diary of Bishop Johann Wiebe en route from Russia to Canada, 1875

(Translation from the German)

Bishop Johann Wiebe was born March 23, 1837, in Russia, and died February 21, 1906, at Rosengart, Manitoba. He served as minister of the Old Colony Church for five years and as bishop thirty-four years. During this time he baptized 2228 candidates, married 294 couples, delivered 1544 sermons and 660 funeral orations.

Rev. Wiebe begins his diary with the following prayer: "May the saving grace of our Lord and the peace of Jesus Christ increase in all believers through faith in His dear Son, and may we be washed by His blood from all our sins so that henceforth we may walk blamelessly in His love to praise and honor Him from now through all eternity, Amen. 'He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches,' Revelation 2:11.

"On June 3, 1875, I, Johann Wiebe, together with many brethren, sisters, children, as well as some weak and maimed, boarded a boat in order to escape from Russian military service and worldly power. We are looking forward to freedom of worship which has been promised us in America so that we may again serve God according to the teachings of the apostles. Providing we do not neglect our prayers and supplications, we trust the Lord will give us the strength to walk in the footprints of His children so that each one of us may enter the gate of heaven when our body is laid to rest in the grave. We also trust that the Lord will lead us just as He led the children of Israel. However, many are beset with fear and doubt at the prospect of going to an unknown waste, possibly harboring wild animals and savages that might attack us. Besides, our friends and neighbors who remained in Russia tried to frighten us with the probability of starvation for lack of food in the new world. Doubts and fears of this nature entered the minds of many of our refugees. However, we were not deterred by all these uncertainties, knowing full well 'That all things work together for good to them that love God,' Romans 8:28. If we put our burdens on the Lord, He will care for us and 'Feed the flock of God which is among you,' I Peter 5:2.

"My dear brethren and sisters, these were our thoughts at 10:00 A.M., on Tuesday (the last day of Pentecost), June 3, 1875. Prayers ascended and tears flowed freely as we boarded the ship in the Russian village of Lepetikha on the Dnieper River. However, we know that tears from a contrite heart are pleasing to God, for Christ is ever ready to purify and sanctify those who thirst and hunger after righteousness.

"The penitent woman in the Scriptures had only tears to bring to Jesus. Tears are an indication that the human heart has been touched and that the Saviour wants to enter in and take possession for regeneration. The rebirth can only take place through the shedding of tears.

"For this reason we had to undertake this difficult and troublesome way to see whether we are willing to accept all these trials and tribulations as a Fatherly chastisement. 'Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby,' Hebrews 12:11.

Therefore, if we earnestly contemplate the experiences of the early Christians when we read, 'And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth,' Hebrews 11:36-38. In comparison, our flight has been trifling and comfortable even though it has caused grief and tears for many who have left behind father, mother, children, relatives and friends. 'Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God,' Hebrews 12:1-2.

"Just as the early Christians who followed the Lord did not shun the cross of Jesus, we too embarked for our journey. We were poverty stricken materially and even more so spiritually, but the Lord will provide for us. Confident that God will never leave His children if only they do not become negligent of Him, I want to describe our migration from Russia to Manitoba in order that you may keep this diary as a remembrance after I have been laid to rest.

"Hence, as I have already stated, on June 3, 1875, at 10:00 A.M., we boarded the ship at Lepetikha, Russia, and our thoughts and prayers were: 'Lord, abide with us. Your holy will be done.' As our prayers ascended to heaven with a sigh: 'Lord be merciful to us sinners,' we sailed quietly down the Dnieper River and left behind our dear fatherland and birthplace. By the kind providence of God, we arrived safely at Kherson that afternoon at 5:30 P.M., however, already a child from our group died and was buried. We remained at Kherson for the night. On Wednesday evening, June 4, at 8:00 P.M., we left Kherson and arrived at Odessa the following day at 5:00 P.M. After two days we entrained at Odessa on June 7, at 10:00 A.M., and (thanks be to God) on Sunday, June 8, at 8:00 A.M., we reached Podwolotjihiska, Galatia, well and happy. Here we praised God and encouraged one another through the singing of hymns. At 7:45 P.M., June 8, we passed through Mislawitz, and at 6:00 A.M., June 9, we entered Berlin, Germany, and departed from here at 2:30 A.M., June 10. On Wednesday, June 11, at 11:00 o'clock we detrained at Hamburg. Here we rested for two days and took time to look at Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith and also strengthened one another through admonition and encouragement not to grow weary.

"On Friday, June 13, at 9:00 P.M., we embarked to cross the North Sea and by Sunday, June 15, at 3:00 P.M., we disembarked at Hull, England, where we boarded a train to cross England and reached Liverpool on Monday, June 16. Here we were billeted until 6:00 A.M. Thursday, Then we entered a small ferryboat which took us to a large ocean liner and by 5:00 P.M., Thursday, June 19, we had all boarded the ship which left the harbor to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Most of our



wishes and prayers now were: 'Dear Lord and Father, if it be Your holy will, bring us safely to the other shore; be good to us, forgive our trespasses and sins for Jesus' sake and remember our sins no more, for life and death are in Thy hands.'

"On Friday, June 20, our vessel received a heavy jolt from an iceberg so that the sailors were concerned whether there had been some damage done to our ship. After a thorough investigation which lasted for half an hour, the liner again began to move in the soft breeze and pleasant weather. A week later, Friday, June 27, the fog was so thick and impenetrable that we stopped for practically the entire day. On Saturday, June 28, our boat began to move and on this day the number of our passengers was increased by one when Mrs. Jakob Neudorf gave birth to a son. May the Lord be praised. Almighty God and Father, Your ways cannot be fathomed; we cannot comprehend how You reign. Your hand is omnipotent. 'Say unto God, how terrible art Thou in Thy works. Come and see the works of God: He is terrible in His doing toward the children of men. O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of His praise to be heard: which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved,' Psalm 66:3-9. 'God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him,' Psalm 67:7. Early on July 1, 1875, after crossing the large ocean upheld by the wonderful grace of God, we landed just as the sun was rising, on the shores of the St. Lawrence River across from the City of Quebec and with happy hearts sang the following hymn of praise and thanksgiving: 'Nun danket alle Gott mit Herzen, Mund und Haenden, Der grosse Dinge thut an uns und allen Enden. Der uns von Mutterleib' und Kindesbeinen an Unzaehlig viel zu gut, und noch jetzt-und gethan.' U.S.W.

"After we thanked and praised God, we had breakfast. Hence, we had floated on the ocean from 5:00 P.M., June 19, to the early morning of July 1, or a total of twelve days. We entrained at 6:00 P.M., July 1, and arrived in Montreal at 6:00 A.M. the next morning. Here we had a breakfast of cold tea, fried potatoes and beef. At 11:00 A.M., we departed for Toronto where we arrived at 6:00 A.M. the following morning and remained until 10:00 A.M., Friday, July 4, when we departed for Berlin and Aexania (Sarnia?) where we embarked at 9:00 P.M. From here we were told it was a distance of 818 miles by boat to Duluth. Now the weather was very nice. At 7:00 P.M., Tuesday night, July 8, we disembarked at Duluth and after spending the night here we entrained and continued on our journey at 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 9. We were advised that 253 miles to the west lay Moorhead, Minnesota, where we arrived at 4:00 A.M., Thursday morning, and at 10:00 P.M. we boarded a steamer which was to take us another 150 miles north on the Red River to Manitoba. However, praise God, early Monday morning we reached the immigration sheds at Dufferin a few miles north of the International Boundary. Here we already met many of our brethren and sisters in Christ who came to greet us and who had departed from Russia one week and two weeks before we left. Although they were already singing a song of lamentation, we personally thanked God through Jesus Christ our Saviour that His protecting hand had brought us

safely to our loved ones. There were warm handshakes, embraces, kisses, and hearty greetings with cordial wishes which may best be expressed in the words of I Samuel 7:12, 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.' It was our prayer that the Lord would continue to lead us and ultimately take us to His eternal home. May he grant us this wish through His dear Son, Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen, Amen. There could have been some who did not share the feelings expressed here, but from what I heard and saw these were the sentiments of most of the migrants, and hence, I join in the prayer of the poet when he says,

'Der ewig reiche Gott  
Woll uns bei unserem Leben  
Ein immer froelich Herz  
Und edlen Frieden geben.  
Und uns in seiner Gnad'  
Erhalten fort und fort,  
Und uns aus aller Not  
Erloesen hier und dort.  
Lob, Ehr und Preis sei Gott  
Dem Vater und dem Sohne,  
Und dem der beiden gleich  
Im hohen Himmelstrone,  
Dem dreieinigen Gott  
Als der im Anfang war,  
Und ist und bleiben wird  
Jetzt-und immerdar. Amen.

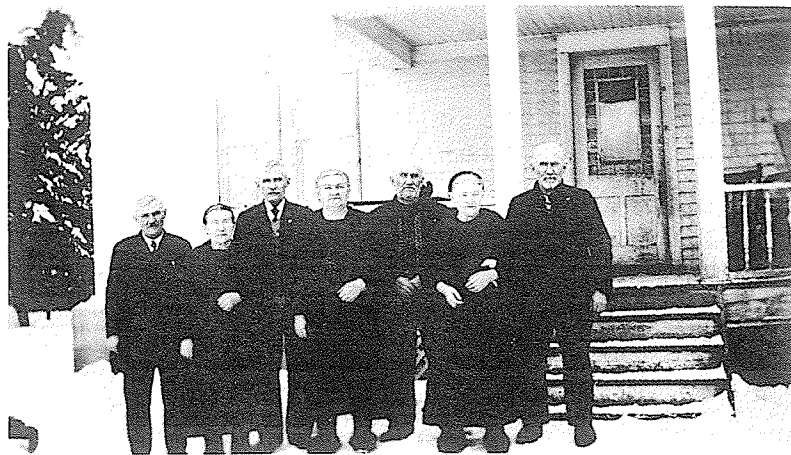
"What has been written so far dealt chiefly with our migration from Russia to America, but if the Lord gives grace, I want to add something to encourage each one of us to 'Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,' Philippians 2:12. As we have faced many difficult situations, we want to keep God's word as our guide and precept, follow its teachings in our daily lives which we often neglected to do in Russia because we were human and yielded to the lusts of the flesh. 'For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace,' Romans 8:6.

"Instead of yielding to brotherly love and admonition, church members submitted to the governing powers of this world and hence it was impossible to enjoy the liberty with which Jesus set us free for the disobedient brethren were being disciplined by worldly might and by the arm of flesh as the Lord says in Jeremiah 17:5, 'Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.' The elders and ministers, as well as church members, did not remain true to the faith, and worldly power which should be only exercised by the government, gradually replaced brotherly reproof. Instead of depending on worldly authority, followers of Jesus Christ have solemnly promised to obey Him until death.

"We read in Galatians 5:1, 'Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.' In Galatians 3:3, Paul asks, 'Are ye so foolish?' Again in Galatians 4:9, he continues, 'But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?' How can a disciple of Christ, or the members of His church commit such incongruities? Those of us who grew up to adulthood in

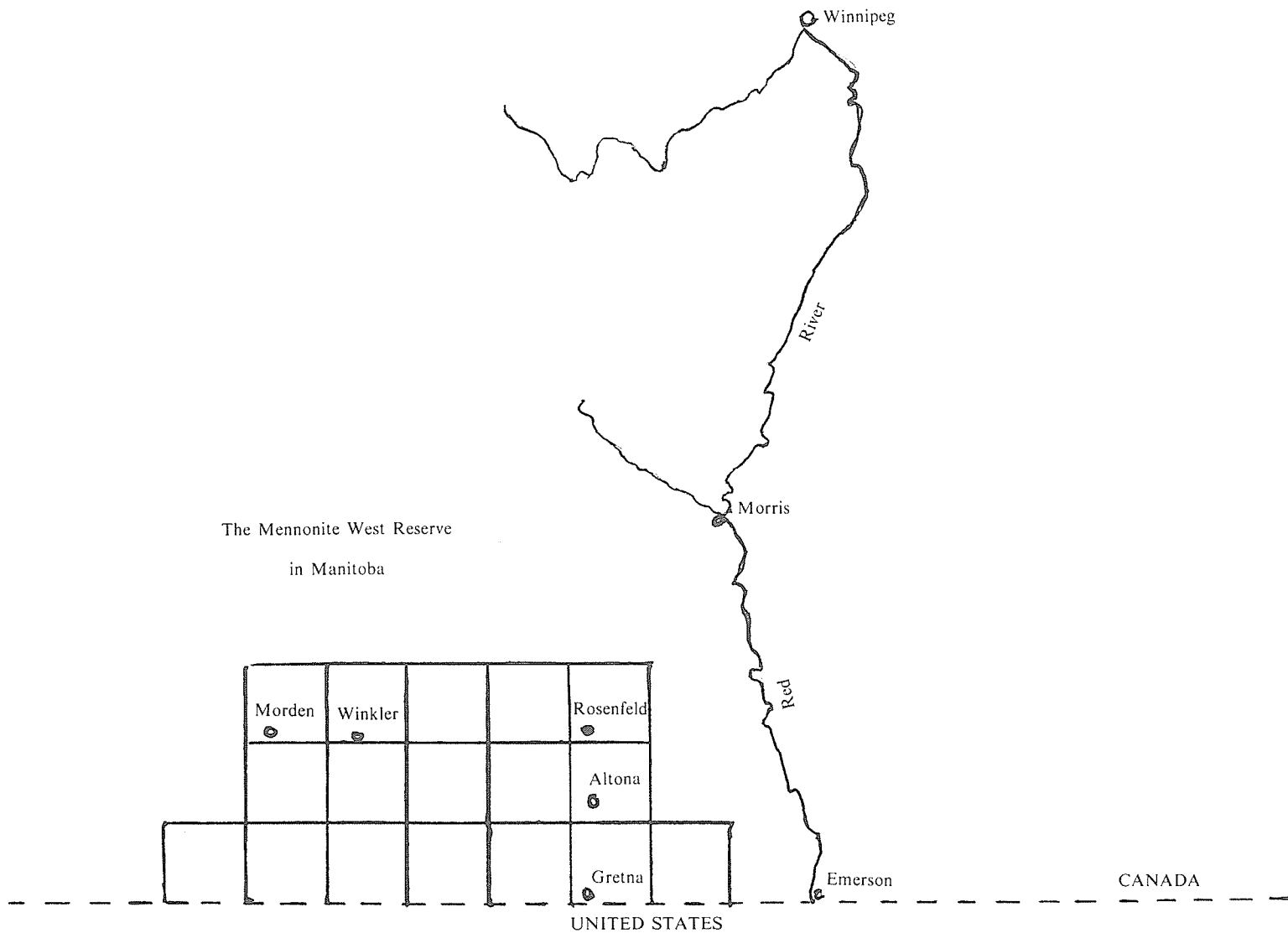
Russia have often observed that the authorities imprisoned guilty brethren, fed them bread and water, and even punished them with the rod, but alas, their names remained on the church register. Others were castigated by having them dig ditches, cut down trees, and pay fines. Are people like that pleasing to God? Can He bestow His Spirit on them? Never, for Jesus says to His disciples, 'Ye know that the princes of the gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you,' Matthew 20:25-26.

"Even though the kings and princes governing this world act like that, God's children should abstain from such practice. Hence all Mennonites who exercise dominion and authority in this manner, cannot be His followers; for Jesus says, 'But it shall not be so among you.' We also read in John 3:26-27, 'But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.' Amen, Amen.



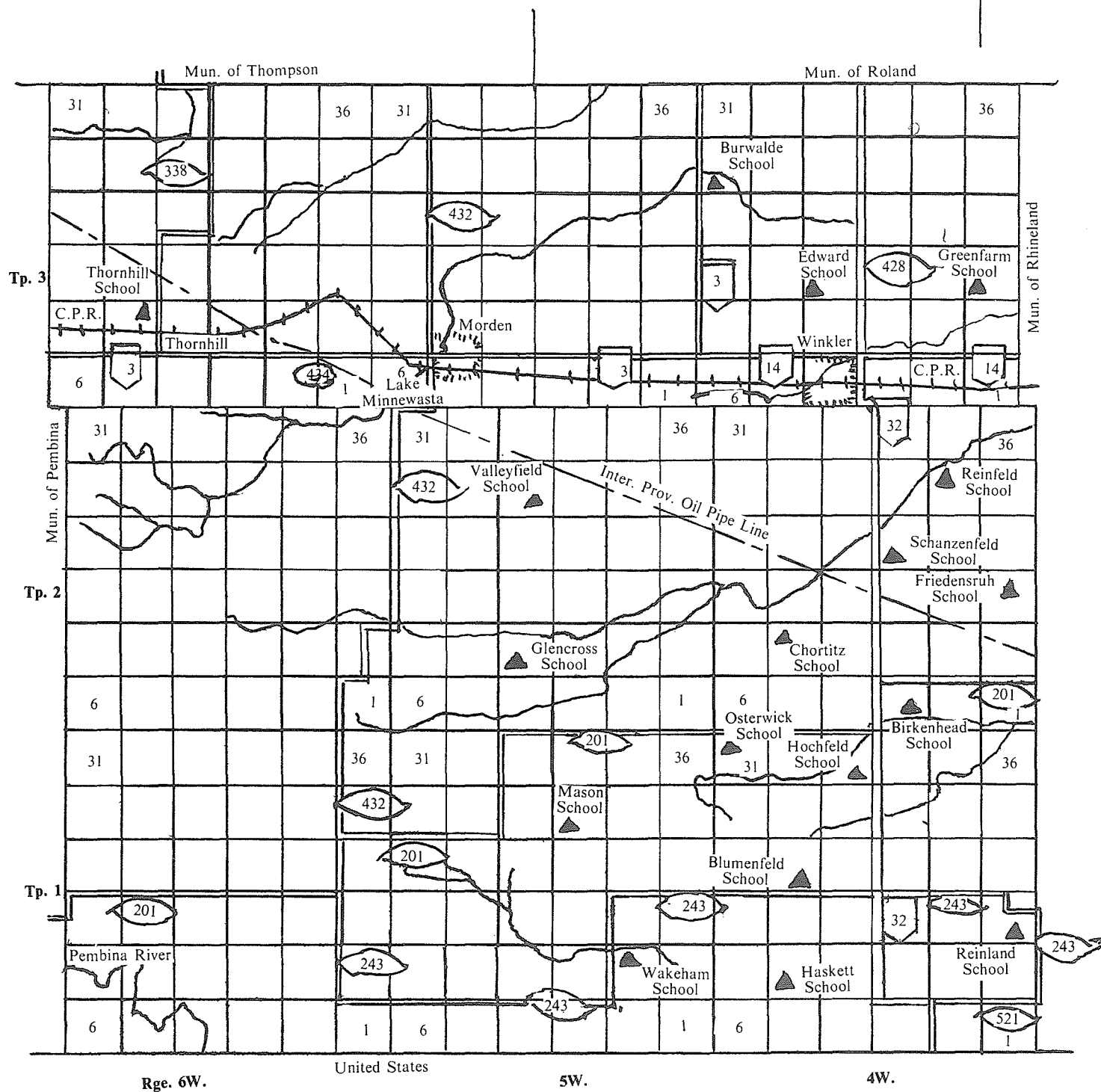
Children of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Wiens: (Left to right) David Wiens, Mrs. William F. Enns, Aron Wiens, Mrs. Peter Dyck, Jacob Wiens, Mrs. Johann Braun, Isaac Wiens.

On April 25, 1876, the Government of Canada, by Order-in Council set aside 17 townships in the south-central part of the province of Manitoba in what are today the municipalities of Rhineland and Stanley.



# The Rural Municipality of Stanley<sup>9</sup>

N



Province of Manitoba  
Department of Transportation  
Design Office  
Winnipeg, August, 1969  
Scale: 1" = 3 Miles

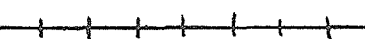
Provincial Trunk Highways



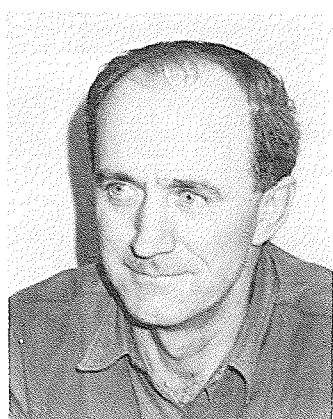
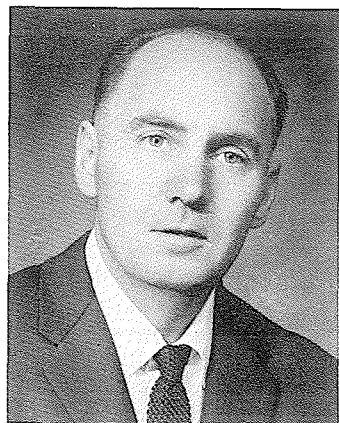
Provincial Roads



Railways



## The Rural Municipality of Stanley



Council of Stanley Municipality 1973. Top row: (L. to R.) G. J. Froese, Reeve; L. Godkin; W. Olafson; P. F. Goertzen. Bottom: A. H. Enns; J. D. Wiebe; H. I. Hoepfner; M. Foussard, Sec.-Treas.



1961 Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley. (Left to right): W. T. Hartry, Secretary-Treasurer; R. Mayert; W. L. Enns; B. Johnson; O. Gruener, Reeve; I. Warkentin; D. E. Dyck; L. Godkin.

Local government as we know it today had its origin with the Industrial Revolution in England towards the end of the 18th century. The population of the cities, such as Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Sheffield and other centres doubled and tripled because of the invention of motive power. In this period the building of roads and bridges was the first task of local government and people using the roads and bridges had to pay toll. The construction of these roads was done by forced labour.

The passing in England of the Great Reform Bill of 1832 prepared the way for "The Municipal Corporations Act" of 1835, organizing all municipal corporations of England and Wales on a uniform model and providing for an efficient elective machinery. At that time there were 246 boroughs, shires and other local government units in England, most of them under the so-called feudal system.

To this Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 in the United Kingdom can be traced many features that have been embodied, generally speaking, in the laws pertaining to Canadian Municipalities, but with variations to suit Canadian conditions and laid out on democratic principles. In 1873 the first Municipal Act of the Province of Manitoba was passed. It forms the basis on which a Municipal Council can function and administer local affairs within the limitations of that Act. Thus the Municipality is dependent on and subordinate to the Province.

In the West Reserve, Emerson was the nearest post office with Blumenort on the International Boundary and west of Gretna as a substation. About 1881 the entire West Reserve, for all intents and purposes, constituted the Municipality of Rhineland. However, as the original Municipality of Rhineland did not function very effectively, it was merged with Douglas. As far back as 1883 steps were taken by the local citizens of the area to organize a rural municipality. In 1884 by Letters Patent, it came into being as the Corporation of the Rural Municipality of Douglas. The first Council meeting of the Municipality of Douglas was held on Tuesday, January 8, 1884, in the home of Erdman Penner, Gretna, with Reeve Otto Schultz presiding.

Before Douglas was incorporated, its boundaries had been laid down in the Municipal Act of 1883 without consulting the local population. Thus a whole township (1-1 East), which sociologically was part of the compact Mennonite settlement, was added to the French Municipality of Montcalm.

Hence, soon after taking office, the councillors were besieged with problems that waited for a solution as is evident from the minutes of February 2, 1884, when the Council met at 10:00 a.m. at the house of John Klassen, Esquire, in the village of Neuanlage, located a mile east of Gretna. At this meeting it was moved by councillor Peter Friesen and seconded by councillor Gerhard Klassen: "That the rules as laid down in Section 484 of the Municipal Act of 1883 for the guidance of municipal councils, be and is hereby adopted as governing the workings of this Council." Carried.<sup>6</sup>

Another revealing resolution of interest today was moved by councillor John Schwartz and seconded by Gerhard Klassen, states "That this council, having been petitioned by the Mennonite population of 1-1 East to

assist them to have said township detached from the Rural Municipality of Montcalm and made over to this Municipality of Douglas, now appoint a special committee to consist of the reeve and the mover and seconder of this resolution, to confer with the reeve and council of Montcalm; that a copy of this resolution also be sent to G. H. Tennant, M.P.P. for this district, for his assistance and advice in the matter." Carried.

Pursuant to this resolution taxes levied in 1-1E were promptly paid into the coffers of Douglas Municipality, in spite of the fact that this shuffle of boundaries was a contentious matter for several years. Not until July 8, 1891, was 1-1E finally and legally considered as having been added to Douglas Municipality.

At a special meeting of the Douglas Council on January 11, 1887, a petition was presented by residents praying that the council do not accede to the proposal of building a road from Walhalla, N.D., diagonally across Douglas to Morris, Manitoba, as it would devalue the farms through which the road would pass. The road was not constructed. The proposed course of the road as it would have affected Douglas can still be traced on a Dominion Survey Map, designated thereon as a trail.

On January 1, 1891, the name "Douglas" was changed to "Rhineland." The Municipality of Stanley was incorporated in 1890 and Valentine Winkler served as the first reeve. Prior to the formation of municipalities, Manitoba was under the county system. The Rural Municipality of Stanley was formed from parts of South Dufferin County and North Dufferin County. The county seat for South Dufferin was Mountain City and for North Dufferin it was Nelsonville.

Stanley Municipality was named in honour of Stanley of Preston (Sir Frederick Arthur, first Baron and afterwards the 16th Earl of Derby). Baron Stanley, respected and popular, was appointed Governor General of Canada in 1888 and held this office until 1893. To encourage Canada's national winter sport, he donated for competition the Stanley Cup which was to be presented to an outstanding Canadian hockey team annually. However, the Stanley Cup has become symbolic of the professional National Hockey League championships.

On January 1, 1917, the western two townships 1-4 and 2-4W, were detached from Rhineland Municipality and added to the Rural Municipality of Stanley, thus enlarging Stanley to nine townships with a population of almost 5,000 people, excluding the towns.

One source of information of the writer indicates that in 1884 the Provincial Government divided the Mennonite reservation west of the Red River into the Municipality of Rhineland where the more conservative group had settled and the Municipality of Douglas which was populated by the progressive element. The area which was at first known as Rhineland, now is part of the Municipality of Stanley. The initial Municipality of Douglas later became the present Municipality of Rhineland. In 1891 these two municipalities were united to form the Municipality of Rhineland, while the adjoining area to the west which was part of the Municipality of Dufferin, was incorporated into the Municipality of Stanley.<sup>7</sup>



Members of Stanley Council in 1973 are the following: Reeve George J. Froese and Councillors Lawrence Godkin, Willie Olafson, Henry I. Hoepfner, Peter Goertzen, Jake Wiebe and Abe H. Enns.

The late W. T. Hartry served with distinction for 19 years as secretary-treasurer. The other members of the secretarial staff are Mrs. Irene Monaghan, Mrs. Elva Meilicke and Bill Dyck. The Stanley municipal offices are located in Morden.

The Rural Municipality of Stanley is represented by two members in the Manitoba legislature; namely, J. M. Froese, Social Credit, elected for Rhineland Constituency; and George Henderson, Progressive Conservative, for Pembina. Representing us in the federal parliament at Ottawa is Jack Murta who was re-elected for Lisgar in 1972.

Reeves of the Rural Municipality of Stanley<sup>8</sup>

Valentine Winkler, 1890-92

Not available, 1893-1907

D. F. Stewart, 1908

George H. Bradshaw, 1909

John Borthwick, 1910

Henry Johnston, 1911-15

R. A. Henderson, 1916-20

John Sweet, 1921-22

John S. Gillis, 1923-31

John Braun, 1932

John H. Martens, 1933-41

John R. Walkof, 1942-49

Otto Gruener, 1950-63

Isaac Warkentin, 1964-67

George J. Froese, Reeve since 1968



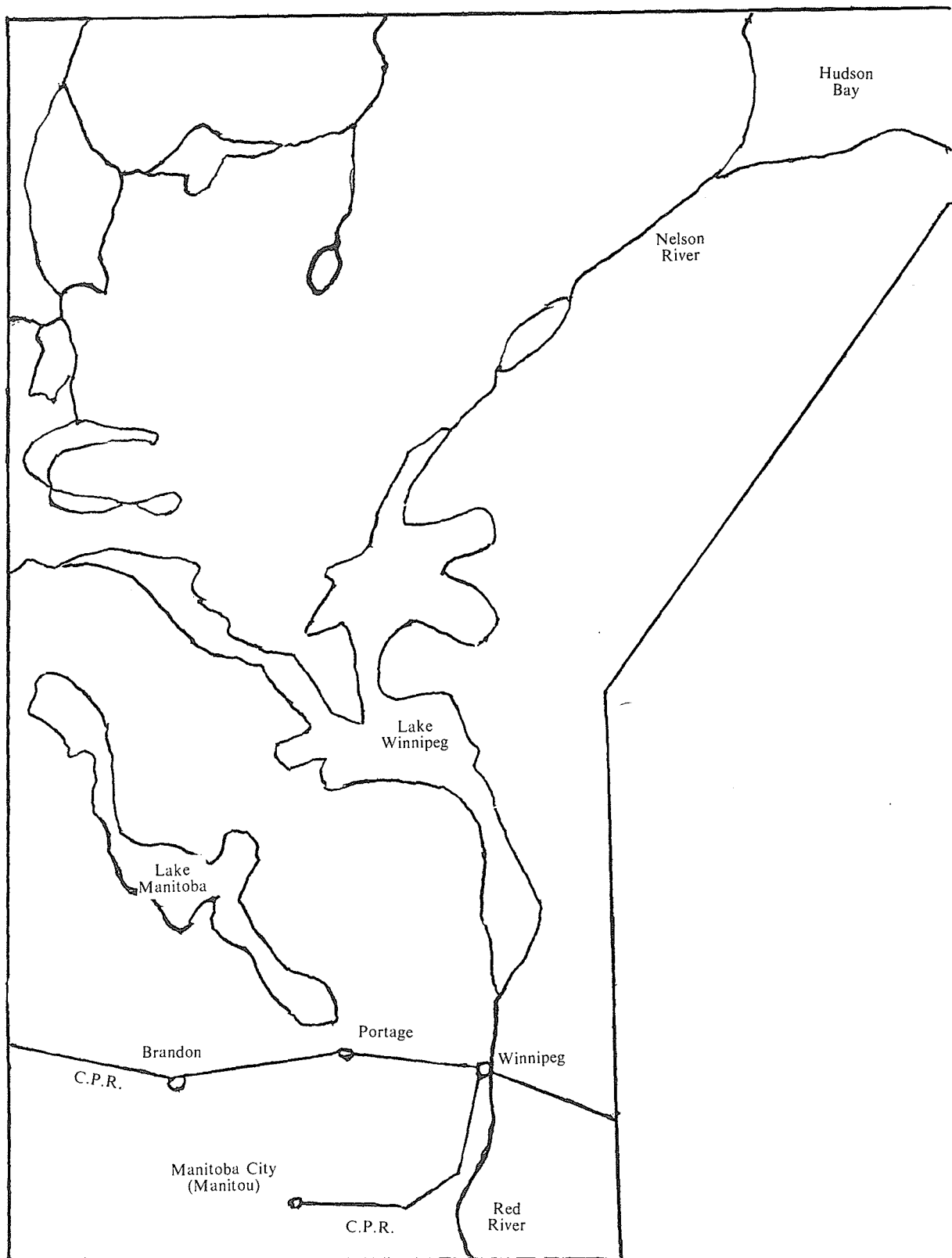
Valentine Winkler founder of the townsite that bears his name.



The first Town Council posed for this photo on the porch of the mayor's home at corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. Councillors from left to right are William Graeber, Fred Penner, David Klassen, Frank E. Rietze, Dr. Nelson Cooper (mayor), and Peter H. Neufeld, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Cooper appears to be watching the proceedings through the window of the door.

1906

The South-western Branch of the C.P.R. constructed in 1882.



Manitoba, from a C.P.R. map.  
Scale: one-third inch equals 25 miles.<sup>10</sup>

## CHAPTER II

### THE TOWN AND THE COUNCIL



**Winkler Town Council, 1973. Sitting: (left to right) Arnold Brown; Henry F. Wiebe, Mayor; J. Harold Dyck. Standing: Henry H. Kuhl and Nick R. Wiebe, Deputy Mayor.**

When the Canadian Pacific Railway Company started building the transcontinental railroad, Mr. Cornelius Van Horne, the engineer, promised that "he would build 500 miles of the road on the prairie" in 1882. On taking stock at the end of the year, "it was found that, counting sidings and a section on the Southwestern Branch in Manitoba, the estimate had been passed, although the actual work on the main line showed only about 445 miles, with some more graded ready for spring." The line from Winnipeg to Manitou, between which two points Winkler is situated, was placed<sup>1</sup> in operation on December 10, 1882. It was ten years later that a siding was built at Winkler. When the railway was first constructed, 56-lb. rails were laid. At the present time, 100 lb. rails are in use along this line. Trains used local sun time until standard time zones were established by Canadian and United States railroads in 1883.

On January 10, 1883, the Manitoba Free Press which became the Winnipeg Free Press in December, 1931, carried a news item from Pilot Mound, Manitoba, indicating that Baird and Snowball had commenced running a regular Stage between Pilot Mound and Manitoba City (now Manitou) to connect up with the C.P.R. trains. The Stage left Pilot Mound Tuesday's and Friday's and

returned on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The distance from the Mound to Manitoba City was about twenty miles, and farmers began to haul grain to the end of the rail at Manitoba City (Manitou). The price of wheat was 65 cents and oats 35 cents per bushel.

There was also pressure put on railway magnates not to by-pass established towns in the area as is indicated from a report in the Grand Forks "Plaindealer" of January 5, 1883. Apparently Mr. McKay, the Mayor of Nelson which was located about eleven miles northwest of Morden, accompanied by Mr. Locke, had an interview with Mr. James J. Hill in which the latter stated that the railway would be pushed forward as rapidly as possible in the spring, and that it was not the intention of the Company to avoid established towns, but on the contrary the management desired to tap all settled communities wherever possible. However, as the town of Nelson was by-passed its citizens moved to the railway at Morden and all that is left to mark the location of this once thriving community is a cairn.

Some of the old citizens of the community maintain that the beginning of the siding at Winkler was the derailment of a freight car. However, the nearest trading centers for the area had been the two general stores at Schanzenfeld, three miles south, and the siding at Steven-

son with its lumber yard and provision to receive the farmers' grain, three miles to the west. This siding was abandoned in 1884 as the town of Morden began to sprout. Supplies for the stores at Schanzenfeld had to be brought by wagon from Gretna, Emerson, and other centers. Therefore, a location right on the railway seemed to be the most practical. Also, the last water tank for the C.P.R. trains moving west was at Rosenfeld, eighteen miles to the east. About a mile west of the present town of Winkler there is a fairly sharp rise in elevation and some of the pioneers remember how the railroad engineers would replenish the boilers of their engines by carrying buckets full of water from near-by ditches after the locomotives had stalled near the top of the rise. Hence a new siding with a water tank was a necessity to make sure of an adequate supply of water to get up enough steam for the 100 foot rise to Morden which was located seven miles to the west, just below the Pembinas. This C.P.R. water tower has since been dismantled.

The first owner of S.E. 4-3-4 west quarter section, on which the town of Winkler was later built, was Mr. Isaac Wiens, grandfather of the late Mr. Isaac Wiens, veterinary, who lived east of the town of Winkler on Highway 32. Mr. Wiens, the original owner, obtained the land as a Crown Grant on September 6, 1883. However, part of the quarter had already been turned over to the C.P.R. right-of-way in 1881. In 1892 the C.P.R. acquired the station grounds and one-half interest in the quarter section. The part bought by the C.P.R. as right-of-way and station grounds was about 18 acres.<sup>2</sup>

The village of Hoffnungsfeld which was located about 1½ miles to the south-west of the present town of Winkler, was by-passed by the construction of the C.P.R. in 1882. From 1882 to 1892, the passenger and freight trains did not stop at Hoffnungsfeld Siding, as Winkler was known at that time. In 1892, a box car with the name "Winkler" was set off here. There was no agent until the station was built.

Although the first store and the grist mill were built by Mennonites, the reader does not have to scrutinize the names of the early settlers in Winkler very long to realize that ethnic groups other than Mennonites make up the greater percentage of its first business men. Undoubtedly, the immigrant German Lutherans, Jews, Dutch, and Anglo-Saxons did not have the same hesitation to move into town that had been a characteristic of the Mennonites through the centuries. In those days the Mennonite clergy exercised almost unlimited power over their flock, and their objective was to keep their people away from town where they might mingle with those "outside the faith", and to keep them on their farms.

As the early Mennonite churches looked askance at any member who moved to town, Mr. Wiens was also reprimanded and advised not to have anything to do with the establishment of a townsite on his farm, although he himself was living one and one-half miles to the north of the proposed site. It is true that the first Mennonite settlers of this area lived exclusively in villages but these villages were away from the railways and organized in a manner that the principles of the churches and their leaders were the controlling influence. Hence it appears that when the siding at Winkler was started in 1892, Mr. Isaac Wiens got into a bit of a quandary for he did not

want to lend his name to the new townsite. Therefore, when Mr. Wiens did not quite know what to do with his quarter section of land, Mr. Valentine Winkler of Morden came to his aid. Mr. Winkler owned a quarter just a half mile to the north east, known as the Winter's farm, and at present occupied by Mr. John Siemens, son of the late Rev. J. J. Siemens. Consequently, Mr. Wiens and Mr. Winkler traded farms to their mutual satisfaction. Thus, Mr. Wiens was relieved of a lot of red tape and the new siding could begin to grow without any qualms of conscience.

When Mr. Valentine Winkler, who in 1890 became the first reeve of Stanley Municipality, traded his quarter section for the Wiens quarter section, he had the latter surveyed into lots for a village site. The surveyor was Mr. M. B. Rombough, D.L.S., who since 1892 lived near Morden. Mr. Rombough was the father of Mrs. Valentine Winkler, and the grandfather of Mr. Howard W. Winkler who for eighteen years, 1935 to 1953, represented the Constituency of Lisgar in the House of Commons at Ottawa.

Mrs. Josephine Winkler (nee Rombough), the wife of Mr. Valentine Winkler, was born in 1863 and died in 1956. She was buried at Augusta, Georgia, where she used to live with her son Howard during the winter months. Her father, Mr. Marshall Bidwell Rombough, was born in 1836 and died in 1912 at Morden. Mr. Valentine Winkler, 1864 - 1920, the son of David and Barbara Winkler, was also buried at Morden. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Winkler, namely, Manly David (1887 - 1888), Myrtle Grace (1888 - 1890), and Howard W. (1891 - 1970). On July 7, 1892, the Morden Monitor reported a baseball game and stated that "Mr. V. Winkler proved himself the best base stealer on the ground and caused lots of fun for the crowd."

The understanding with the Canadian Pacific Railway was that Mr. Valentine Winkler was to give the Company every second block of land in the village site. In return the C.P.R. established a station there which they called "Winkler". For a number of years it was only a flag station. An old box car without an agent served the purpose. In 1898, the station was erected. The first station agent was Mr. W. J. Wells. In fact, Mr. Wells had served as the local agent even before the new building was erected. He was followed by Mr. J. M. Davis, who in turn was succeeded by Mr. Thomas S. Acheson.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Acheson came to Winkler in 1899 and remained here until 1905 when he was promoted to Supervisor of Agencies for the C.P.R. When Mr. Acheson came to Winkler he was highly pleased with his assignment for at that time he had been contemplating marriage and therefore had looked with a great deal of anticipation to the prospect of taking his young bride to the brand new station at Winkler. In September, 1952, Mr. Acheson paid a short visit to Winkler and expressed sorrow at seeing how age was beginning to tell on the C.P.R. station here. However, he was pleasantly surprised at the growth of the rest of the town. The C.P.R. station was sold and moved away in 1972.

It was in June, 1901, that Mr. Acheson was married to Miss Mary E. Croll, the daughter of Rev. & Mrs. R. M. Croll. One year later their eldest son, Samuel was born in the station at Winkler.

Mr. Acheson joined the Canadian Pacific Railway on October 1, 1895, at a salary of \$62.50 per month. By the time he retired on June 1, 1946, his monthly salary had risen to \$800.00. For years, Mr. Acheson lived at 976 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg. Until the end of his life he remained active with a keen interest in the Winkler community. He died in January, 1954.

The successor to Mr. Acheson at Winkler was Mr. Jim Mein. For a number of years, Mr. Oscar Kellough was the local station agent. Other agents have been Mr. Jim Young, Mr. Clinton McGregor, and Mr. Eugene Luptak was the agent from 1953 to 1969.

About 1900, Bishop Wiebe and Franz Froese of Rosengart went as scouts to northern Saskatchewan to find land for the members of their church. They located some land adjoining Rosthern, Hague and Osler on the Prince Albert branch of what was then the C.P.R. and which is now the C.N.R. Subsequently, a large number of Mennonites from the villages south of Winkler moved out there in 1902. As a result, the local railway station became the scene of frenzied activity. However, the station agent at that time had one serious complaint because on some days during the exodus he had to discard his broom and use the shovel to throw out the sunflower hulls which covered the floor of the waiting room.

#### Mr. Thomas S. Acheson - Station Agent

Mr. Thomas S. Acheson was the C.P.R. station agent at Winkler from 1899 to 1905. He was born at Durham, Ontario, in 1878, and died in January, 1954, at Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mr. Acheson could boast that not a mile of railroad was built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the west since 1914 that he had not been over the ground before the steel went down. He was general agricultural agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Winnipeg until his retirement on pension in 1946 and had in all 51 years of service with the railway.

By buckboard, canoe and on foot he reconnoitred territory in which it was proposed to build branch lines. One trip he liked to talk about was 2,400 miles long; he made 1,700 miles of it on foot and the remainder by canoe along the Beaver River when a line was proposed from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to Edmonton, Alberta, via Lac la Biche.

His first job with the C.P.R. was as night operator at Marquette, Manitoba, in 1895. Mr. Acheson inaugurated the C.P.R.'s weather and crop summary in 1904 and ran Better Farming Trains which sometimes stayed on the road two months before the days of agricultural colleges. He was travelling freight agent and general grain agent before becoming general agricultural agent, a post he held for 32 years. In 1944 the Blood Indians he had known since his days as a young telegrapher, conferred on him the honorary title of Chief Iron Horse at a ceremony near Cardston, Alberta. Since he left the C.P.R. he had been Canadian Public Relations representative for the Reader's Digest, of which his cousin, Mrs. Lila Acheson Wallace, was a co-founder.

Mr. Acheson was born at Durham, Ontario, and grew up at Kippen, Ontario, and on his grandfather's farm at Virden, Manitoba. He married the former Mary Elizabeth Croll at Nesbitt, Manitoba, and their first child, Samuel, was born in the station at Winkler.

Besides the freight train service, the C.P.R. for many years operated a daily passenger and express train through Winkler and other points on the southern Manitoba branch line. The daily schedule for the arrival of the passenger train from Winnipeg was 10:00 a.m., and departure for Winnipeg was at 2:00 p.m. However, during the depression years of the 1930's when everyone was looking for a bargain, the wives of the employees of the C.P.R. availed themselves of the free transportation provided by the passes to which their husbands were entitled. These women used to come out in large numbers from Winnipeg at ten o'clock in the morning so that possibly all the passengers in one of the coaches had free passes. After purchasing fresh eggs, butter, pork, etc., they would then board the return train to Winnipeg at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon after having saved many a "pretty penny" for the family coffers. To put a stop to this "business", the C.P.R. reversed the train schedule on the local branch line. Subsequently, the passenger train departed from Winkler for Winnipeg at 11:15 a.m., and the train out of the city arrived here at 12:55 p.m.

Mr. Frank G. Loewen, the local postmaster since May 20, 1949, who used to help his father in the store on Main Street, relates how on one occasion a passenger by rail who had just arrived from Winnipeg to make the usual purchases in Winkler, entered the grocery store, put down a suitcase and then left to continue his shopping in town. After the bag had been gingerly filled with several dozens of eggs, the local undertaker, Mr. Frank Dyck, came into the store, saw the suitcase, picked it up and jokingly said, "Now I'm a traveller". Then he literally dropped the bag with its contents on the floor. Shortly after, just before train time, the customer quickly came into the store, grabbed his suitcase, and headed for the station. It has never been revealed whether the purchaser retained all the produce until he arrived in Winnipeg.

During the years of the depression when \$5 bills were as scarce as hens' teeth in the dirty thirties or the dry 1930's, there were many men drifting across the country looking for employment. As a means of transportation, these unemployed would resort to the railways, not as paid passengers, but on occasion freight trains with as many as 100 men on the freight and flat cars would pass through Winkler. While the engine was shunting the cars, some of these unsolicited passengers would hurry to the nearby homes on North and South Railway Streets to beg for a snack. These passengers were not appreciated by the trainmen, however, if the drifters were chased off one car they'd catch the next one.

For a number of years Winkler was served daily by two passenger trains. In 1929, the C.P.R. began a second passenger coach service from Winnipeg through Winkler by way of Carman and Plum Coulee. This train left Winnipeg at 6:30 p.m., and since it was a mixed train carrying freight as well as passengers, it arrived in Winkler at 11:30 p.m. However, after a few years this passenger coach service was discontinued. Local cattle shippers could always avail themselves of the caboose attached to the freight trains if they wished to arrive at the St. Boniface stockyards together with their livestock.

However, because of increasing competition from Thiessen Transportation Bus Lines and Grey Goose Bus Lines, as well as from privately owned automobiles on



Highways 3, 14, and 75, the daily passenger service to and from Winnipeg was reduced to three passenger trains each way per week. Finally, on October 25, 1958, the C.P.R. almost eliminated the passenger service by providing only one mixed train on a tri-weekly basis. This consisted of adding a passenger coach to one of the regular freight trains. However, the mail was delivered to the local post office by truck even before the passenger and express trains were discontinued completely on October 25, 1959. Today, the town of Winkler is served by the C.P.R. with freight trains only. Since the station was officially closed down, Mr. Roy R. Stevenson was promoted to Mobile Supervisor for this area and transferred to Winkler. From here he travels by car, covering Winkler, Plum Coulee, Horndean, Rosenfeld, Altona, Gretna and Morris. The C.P.R. station at Winkler was located near the tracks on the east side of Main Street between North and South Railway Avenues. The freight storage annex was demolished and the main part of the station containing the telegraph office, waiting room, and living quarters was moved away in 1972.



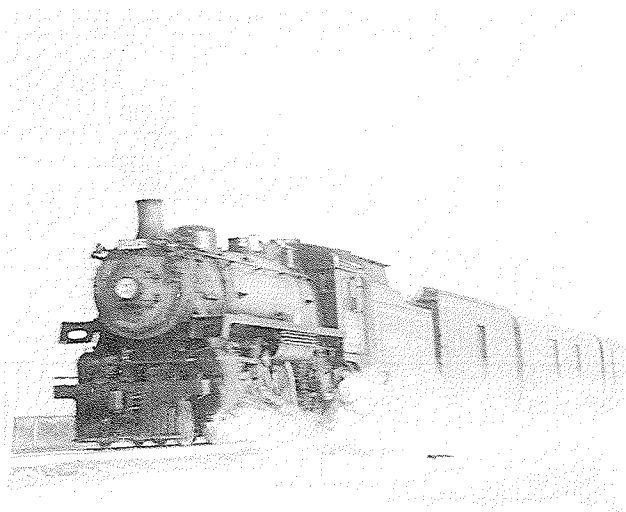
August 11, 1924, Mennonite immigrants arrived from Russia



August 11, 1924, Mennonite immigrants from Russia collecting their belongings after disembarkation. They were then billeted in the community.

In the 1930's Mr. George Hiebert provided special bus service for short trips as well as for extended tours to California and Mexico. Because many members of the Old Colony Churches to the south of Winkler emigrated to Mexico in the middle of the 1920's, there was considerable interest in these tours. Mr. Hiebert used an improvised bus that seated about twenty passengers. By 1936, he was giving daily bus service to Winnipeg. However, this bus route was discontinued when Mr. Hiebert moved to B. C. Then in August, 1946, Mr. A. J. Thiessen inaugurated a bus service from Gretna and Winkler to Winnipeg. This bus line was known as Thiessen Transportation and later amalgamated with Grey Goose Bus Lines.

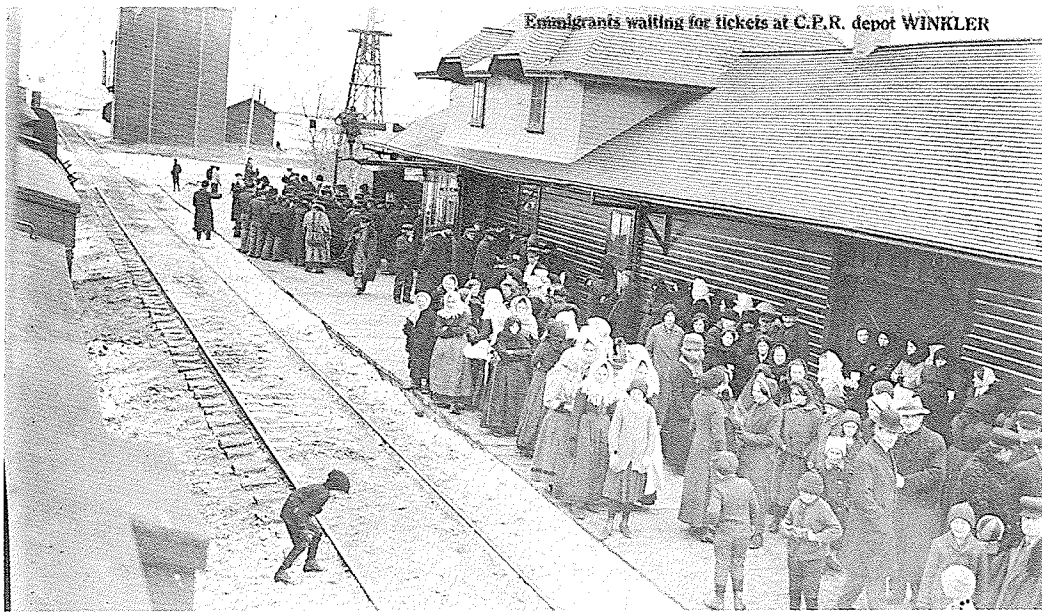
Train time at the CPR station



The Express & Passenger Train



Freight Train



Emigrants waiting for tickets at C.P.R. depot WINKLER

Area emigrants leaving  
for Mexico in 1922.



Count the elevators.



The CPR station, 1938. Left to right: Mrs. Mein, Mrs. Margaret Wiebe, Jack Mein, Ella Uhrich.

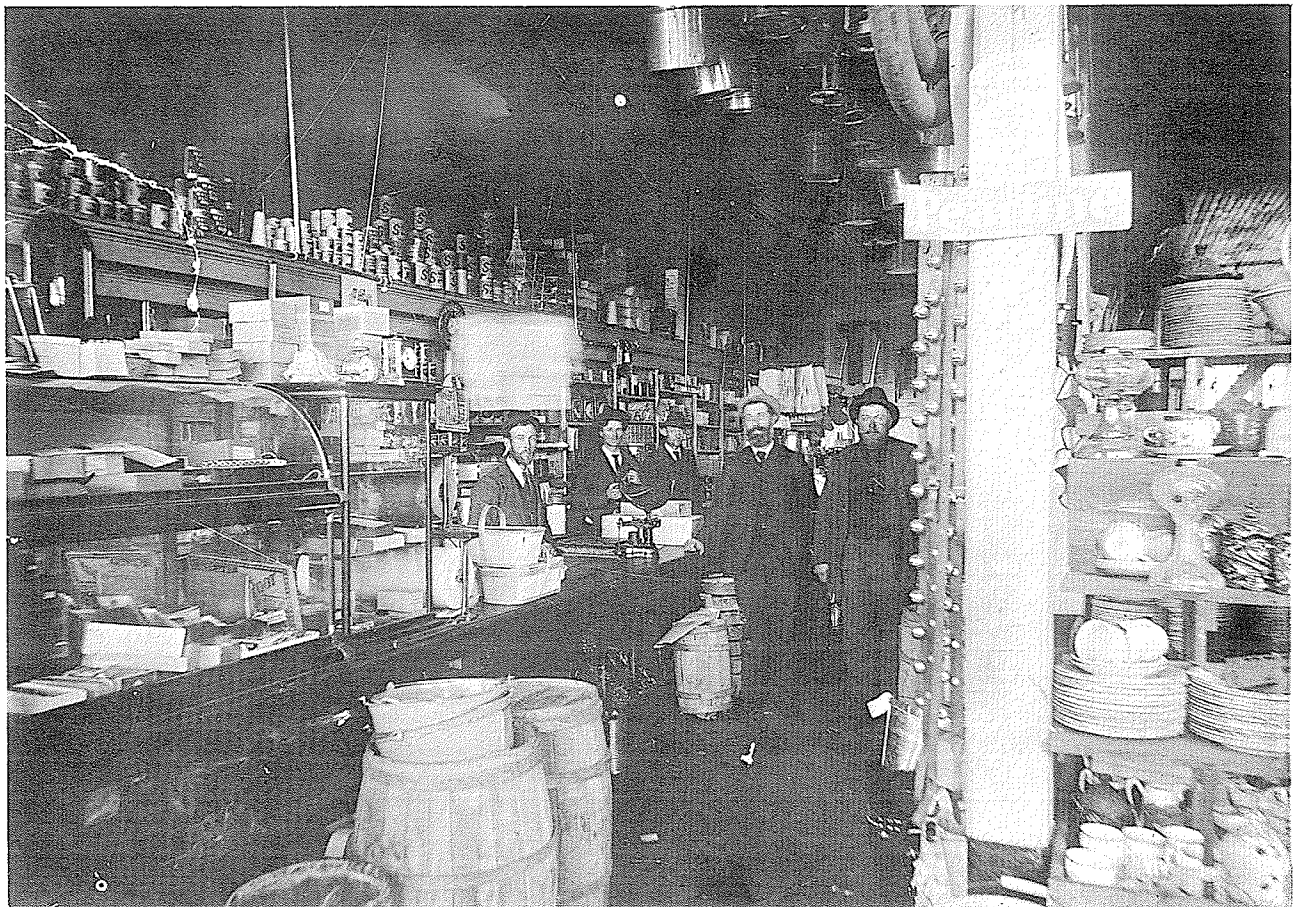


J. J. Wiebe Drug Store on South Railway Avenue

1915



Winkler Town Council, 1956. From left to right: John J. Wiens; H. S. Friesen, Secretary-Treasurer; Mayor George W. Neufeld; Constable Jack Felde; Nick R. Wiebe, Seated, left to right: H. D. Dick and William M. Enns.

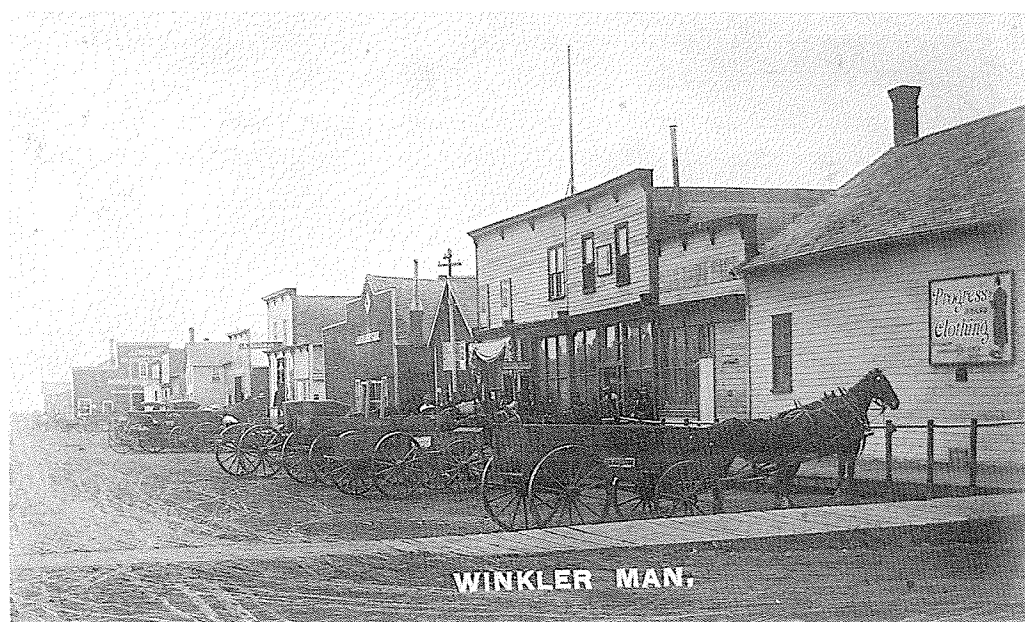


The first store in Winkler owned by Bernard Loewen. Note the sleighbells.





B. Loewen Store erected 1892.



Main Street



Left to right: Ike Loewen, postmaster; Bernard Loewen, the first storekeeper in Winkler; Louise Loewen, church soloist.

### The First Buildings and the Owners

On October 1, 1892, the following news item appeared in the Morden Herald, "Seven and a half miles east of Morden is the new town site of Winkler, named after the proprietor of the town site, Valentine Winkler, Esq., M.P.P. for Rhineland. The elevator is nearly finished, also the mill. A store and other buildings are in the course of erection. A plentiful supply of water is said obtainable at all points."

The "plentiful supply of water" at the Winkler town site was a boon to the early settlers and there has been plenty of potable water available to the local citizens throughout the years, even before 1964 when the waterworks system and the water treatment plant were installed. In fact, during wet years the sub-soil water level was so high that trucks parked on seemingly dry streets, would sometimes gradually sink up to their axles and before the driver was aware of it, his truck was stuck and immovable in the quagmire. There were many good wells dug in town and in some cases the water came up so fast that the owners had to scurry out in order to escape getting drenched from an over-flowing well. Particularly in spring, this high water level has plagued the town fathers and also in recent years when they were considering paving the streets. In 1957, the Winkler Town Council made an application for a grant-in-aid to the provincial Department of Public Works to black-top Main Street from South Railway Avenue to Mountain Avenue; double prime and sand South Railway Avenue; re-gravel Mountain Avenue. However, before the Council was eligible for the grant, it was necessary to remove three feet of top soil on Main Street and replace it with pit run; a base of crushed rock, sand and clay; and asphalt. The installation of the sewerage system in 1956 has helped to lower the sub-soil water level.

In 1892, the first general store was erected at Winkler by Mr. Bernhard Loewen. He came to Canada from Russia in 1877. Before moving to the new village site on the railway, Mr. Loewen had in 1884 already been operating a store and post office at Schanzenfeld, three

miles south of Winkler. By January, 1878, there were 26 families with a total of 154 members settled in the village of Schanzenfeld. With a vision for the future, Mr. Loewen built a large store so that part of the building could house the post office which was operated by his son Ed and was established on February 1, 1893. He also chose the most favourable location for his store at the time. It was built at the south-west corner of Main Street and South Railway Avenue. At times, Mr. Loewen had as much as \$150,000 worth of stock on hand. He used to import women's shawls by the carloads from Austria. About 1912, Mr. Jacob G. Loewen who for years was the local bandmaster and in April, 1933 opened a small grocery store, started clerking for Mr. Bernhard Loewen. Other clerks who were employed in Loewen's General Store during the early years were Jake Siemens, Alex Heim, Jake Sawatzky, Aron Friesen, Paul Ewert, as well as Susan, Tina, and Isaac Loewen. Mr. Bernhard Loewen himself had clerked for Mr. David Redekopp who owned the first store at Schanzenfeld. Later, Mr. Loewen took over this store which he then operated until he moved to Winkler.

In 1893, Mr. Loewen was appointed superintendent of the Sunday School at Hoffnungsfeld. After the Winkler Bergthaler Church was erected in 1895 and many members transferred from Hoffnungsfeld to Winkler, he became one of the leading laymen of the Church in town. Mr. Loewen retained the interest in the activities of the Church until his death on February 29, 1936. Even in his old age he actively participated in the Sunday evening Young People's meetings. Mrs. Bernhard Loewen was a sister to Rev. Jacob Hoepfner, bishop of the Bergthaler Church.

In 1916, two brothers, J. A. Kroeker and A. A. Kroeker, established a partnership known as Kroeker Brothers and purchased the business formerly owned by Mr. Bernhard Loewen. Mr. J. A. Kroeker went into business in the Winkler district in 1900. As time went on his business grew to include real estate, conveyancing, and automobile and John Deere farm machinery. He died on July 31, 1945. Today, Stanley Consumers Co-op Garage occupies the lot formerly owned by Mr. Bernhard Loewen.

The first house to be used as a residence at Winkler appears to have been erected in the spring of 1892 by Mr. Jacob B. Dyck. When his son, Mr. John B. Dyck, arrived here with the first load of lumber, he was compelled to find shelter for the night underneath his wagon. This first house was located at 374 Park Street on the lot which is at present owned by Miss Anne Enns. It seems that the second house to be constructed was built just north of the Dyck home and the first owner of it was Mr. William Peters. His son, William, later became the miller for the Winkler Milling Company. The Peters' residence was the first house south of the Inter-Ocean Grain Company Limited plant on Park Street. These first two houses were constructed according to the same style and were very similar in appearance. The Peters' house was demolished in January, 1973 and until recently was occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Hoepfner. Mr. and Mrs. Hoepfner celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sunday, July 26, 1970. Before retiring and moving to Winkler, they farmed in the Burwalde district.



Dyck & Kroeker Store (1900-12); now Janzen's Department Store Ltd.



South Railway Street, Winkler, about 1905. Left to Right: Stanley House (Hotel), Bernard Loewen's Store, note Giesbrecht's Livery Stable behind the next two stores, Bank of Hamilton, and Standard Medicine Co. (drug store) owned by John Wiebe.



Soon after completing construction of their houses Jacob B. Dyck and William Peters built the Winkler Grist Mill a little to the north of their dwellings and on the same street. In fact, for some years this was known as Mill Street. It appears that Peter Peters, a brother of William Peters, had been operating a flour mill in partnership at Blumenort west of Gretna, as early as 1877. However, as this partnership was dissolved in 1879, Peter Peters assisted his brother in establishing a steam operated flour mill at Winkler. On February 3, 1892, The Morden Monitor reported "Mr. William Fursman has been secured as miller for the new mill at Winkler." Another miller was Mr. Borm who had come here from Austria. Mr. Borm appears to have been an efficient miller for the Ogilvie Flour Mills used to buy flour from the Winkler Mill and export it in bags which had the Ogilvie stamp. At that time the mill was operated by steam. Since then the Winkler Milling Company changed hands several times. Besides the original owners, there have been others such as Dyck-Kroeker, J. P. Riediger & Sons, and Inter-Ocean. The grist mill has been demolished and replaced by grain elevators.

A house at the north-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Third Street was built for Mr. Philip Urich who was one of the first grain buyers in Winkler. For many years this house was occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Isaac M. Miller. It has now been demolished. Another house which has held its ground while others have come and gone was situated on the west side of Sixth Street and was occupied by Mr. Jim Dyck, owner of Jim's Tire Shop. Mr. Dyck moved this house to 6th Street South. In 1903, when this house was purchased by Mr. Jacob Klassen who had moved here from Altona, it was already considered to be an old house. In 1897 Rev. Gerhard Wiebe built the red brick house which still stands today at 237 Sixth Street.

Other business places which were built soon after Mr. Bernhard Loewen had made a beginning, sprang up along South Railway Avenue and almost a block south on Main Street. In recent years the trend has been away from South Railway Avenue to Main Street south and to Mountain Avenue. Hanson & Schultz had a dry goods store at the south-east corner of South Railway Avenue and Sixth Street. Later, Mr. Ernest O. Rietze went into partnership with Mr. Hanson on the same location with a general store business. Hanson & Rietze were followed at this location by Mr. John J. Wiebe who carried on a drug business here and also operated the first telephone exchange office. By the 1920's, this building had been renovated and changed into a sash and door factory operated by Mr. A. C. Friesen and sons Frank and Albert. In 1932, Mr. Friesen sold this business to Mr. Isaac R. Loewen who was the owner of these premises during the 1930's and '40's. Just east of this building, Mr. Ed Wiebe had a sheet metal business which was purchased by Mr. Henry G. Loewen in 1923, and is now known as Loewen Plumbing & Heating Ltd., and operated by his son Henry H. Loewen. Just across the street from Hanson & Schultz on the south-west corner of Sixth Street and South Railway Avenue, Mr. W. Schram's Massey Harris Machine Shop was located. As his assistant, Mr. Schram in 1898 hired Mr. Frank Derksen who soon followed him as owner of the business. This corner

is now occupied by Stanley Consumers Co-op Lumber Yard. Immediately west of this location Mr. John Coltart started the first creamery business in Winkler about 1918. As a Scotchman, Mr. Coltart was an avid curler and tried his utmost to promote this sport in town. He was also a lay preacher. The Coltart's lived east of Highway 32, approximately where Jack's Body Shop is located today.

Also on South Railway Avenue in the vicinity of the Plumbing and Tinsmith Shop operated by Mr. Henry G. Loewen & Sons, was a business pioneered by Mr. Hans Quittenbaum. Mr. Fitzsimmons owned the Butcher Shop which was later taken over by Mr. J. J. Schultz and which is at present the property of Mrs. Henry J. Penner. Next to the Butcher Shop there was the Deering Machine Shop owned by Mr. Bill Potter who also was the first grain buyer for the Lake of the Woods Elevator Company in Winkler. About 1904, Mr. William Neufeld took over the Deering Implement business on South Railway Avenue. Later, Mr. Neufeld accepted the International Harvester agency and moved to the location on the east side of Main Street opposite the Monarch Lumber Yard, or now the Winkler Co-op Service.

In 1924, his son George W. Neufeld became the manager of this business and in 1929 he bought the machine shop from his father. When fire destroyed this building in 1949, Mr. Neufeld erected a new shop at the south-west corner of Stanley Avenue and Main Street.

## Banking

The first banking business in Winkler also began on South Railway Avenue. At first it appears to have been a private bank with Mr. William Russel as manager. About 1900, it was taken over by the Bank of Hamilton which was amalgamated with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce on December 31, 1923. Mr. W. Russel, the first manager of the Bank of Hamilton was succeeded by Mr. Edgar Wahn. The Winkler branch of the Bank of Hamilton also served the citizens of Plum Coulee on several days of the week. It was on one of the business trips to Plum Coulee by horse and buggy that Mr. Edgar Wahn, Herb Kennedy, and Jake Warkentin were accosted and robbed by two men, one of whom was Mr. "Jack" Krafchenko and the other had been employed as a shoemaker's helper in Plum Coulee.

In 1909 Mr. William G. Graefer started as a junior clerk with the Bank of Hamilton in Winkler and was regularly promoted until he became the manager. Later it became known as the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and it now is the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. From South Railway Avenue, this banking business was moved to Main Street in the area of Gladstone's Shopping Centre. After thirty-one years of banking, Mr. Graefer was appointed field inspector for the Government under the Wheat Acreage Reduction Act.

Seldom, if ever, has anyone leaped into national and international fame to equal Bob Williams, a Kamsack, Saskatchewan, railway brakeman, born in Winkler, the son of the former Tracy Graefer. In July, 1960, he fell heir to an English baronetcy, following the death in England of Sir William, a second cousin. His official title now is Sir Robert Williams, Baronet of Tregulow and



The Bank of Hamilton on South Railway Street 1907. Left to right: Charles Brikett (Manager), J. B. Warkentin, John J. Wiebe, John Reuter, Dr. G. F. Weatherhead, Philip Uhrich.

the estate he has inherited is worth over a million dollars. In other words, Sir Bob is a millionaire.

Sir Robert is the son of Mrs. Tracy Williams (nee Graefer) who lives in Dauphin, Manitoba, where for many years she was employed in the Post Office. Claude Williams, the father of Sir Robert, was employed by the Union Bank of Canada at Winkler when he became the victim of a bank robbery.

Sir Robert Williams, national famed baronet, was born in Winkler, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Earnest Claude Williams. Mr. E. C. Williams was employed in a local bank when he met Mrs. Tracy Williams (nee Graefer). Mrs. Williams says laughingly now that their first acquaintance back in 1920 occurred when she lived with her parents across the street from the bank in the former Graefer residence where the Janzen Variety Store is located today. Evidently, Tracy Graefer on one occasion winked at Earnest Williams and he called her a flirt. Beside the Graefer residence on Main Street stood the Manitoba Telephone Office where Tracy and her sisters were employed as operators and next to the office Mr. William Graefer operated a blacksmith shop. This chance acquaintance developed into a romance that blossomed into a marriage a number of years later.

After marriage the Williams' lived in various communities to which he was transferred by his bank. It was while he was transferred to Alberta that Mrs. Williams came home to her family to have her first baby and that is how Sir Robert came to be born in Winkler on June 6, 1924. They moved to Dauphin in 1926 after Mr. Williams quit the bank and there he entered the provincial civil service working for the Manitoba Highways Branch. He passed away in 1933 and left Mrs. Williams two children, Bob and a daughter June.

Sir Robert's father, Claude, was born in Russel, Manitoba and his grandfather was English by birth. It was through this English ancestry they fell heir to the title.

The connection that Bob Williams got with the peerage was about 1958 when the eighth Baronet was still

childless and Burke's Peerage (who establish the heirs) informed him he might fall heir. His actual connection to the peerage is through his grandfather who came to Canada and he was the fifth son of the second Baronet.

In a recent interview with the Winnipeg Tribune, Sir Robert said, "When I was a boy I knew I had relatives in England with titles but when I told my friends, they laughed, so I put it right out of my mind."<sup>5</sup>

"When I got a letter two years ago telling me I was heir apparent it came as a complete surprise," Sir Robert stated, "It was freak circumstances of childless marriages and untimely deaths that landed me the title," he concluded.

To explain what rank Sir Robert holds a baronetcy has the dignity or degree or honor, next below a baron, and above a knight. It is inheritable and has precedence over all degrees of knighthood except that of the Garter. This order was founded by King James 1st in 1611 and is still in effect.

#### **WINKLER BANK ROBBERY OF OCT. 13, 1920 REPRODUCED HERE FROM THE FRONT PAGE OF THE MANITOBA FREE PRESS OF THAT DATE<sup>6</sup>**

Failure of the local constable at Winkler to carry out his sworn duty for protection of life and property, resulted in five bandits robbing the Union Bank of Canada and making their get-away with \$19,000. The robbery took place early Wednesday morning. George Hiebert, the constable, had knowledge that the robbery was progressing fully one hour before the bandits made their escape, and in spite of the fact that he had a shotgun and revolver in the house, he made no effort to stop the burglary.

Hiebert declared the reason that he did not go out to arrest the men was because his wife wanted him to stay in the house with her. Local residents urged him to go to the scene of the robbery, but he refused. He admitted that he was afraid.



In a heroic attempt to awaken the citizens by ringing the firebell, William Graefer, aged blacksmith, was shot by one of the robbers who was guarding the front door of the bank. Graefer, who lived across the street from the bank, heard the explosions of the safe being cracked and immediately got out of bed to warn the town.

The gang, it is believed, are Americans, who have been engaged in running liquor across the border. They were in possession of high-powered motors and had a thorough knowledge of the town. Telephone and telegraph wires were cut. Precaution was even taken to cut the rope on the town bell.

Provincial and state police have a network spread throughout Canada and the United States. It is feared the robbers made their escape into North Dakota, as Winkler is only twelve miles from the border. They had made their get-away one hour before the general alarm was given, and it was not until 5:30 in the morning that the police network was spread. No one could furnish a description of the culprits.

Claude Williams, 955 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg, teller in the bank, was awakened at 2:55 in the morning with a revolver and flashlight stuck in his face and the words "hands up" in his ears. Williams was ordered to open the safe. He opened the vault door, but said that he did not know the combination of the inner safe where the money was stored. The robbers then proceeded to blow up the safe. Three blasts were required before the door was blown off. They worked for over one hour and thirty minutes opening the door.

"I was afraid something was wrong before the robbery took place," Hiebert, the policeman, admitted. "I went to Morden at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening and my wife also went out. She locked the doors when she left shortly after me. On her arrival home she found the door unlocked and felt that someone had gone through the house. When I got home a few minutes later I heard someone sneaking around the garage door which is just behind the house, but I did not look to see who it was. My wife forced me to search the house to see that everything was all right. I did so, but could find nothing wrong. We went to bed then." Hiebert was of the opinion that the robbers were searching for his guns.

"About two o'clock my wife, who was very restless, heard a shot fired. She woke me up," Hiebert continued, reciting the story of the night's events.

"Two more shots were fired and we heard screams, but I did not get up for my wife urged me to stay with her." (The shots were those fired at Graefer, the blacksmith.)

"Twenty minutes later we heard a big explosion. Two more occurred a few minutes later."

"But didn't you go out to see what was the matter then?" Hiebert was asked.

"No, my wife made me stay with her," the constable replied.

"Twenty minutes after the explosion a man came to my house and urged me to go out, but my wife insisted that I stay with her, so I did, and besides I was nervous," Hiebert said.

Hiebert did not leave until Williams, the teller, arrived at his house after freeing himself. The constable was told the coast was clear, and along with Williams he

started out to investigate. Hiebert insisted that they go to the Bank of Hamilton first for fear it was being robbed also.

Hiebert stated that he had secured information to the effect that two large American cars went through Schanzenfeld a few miles from Winkler, at 1 a.m. and passed through the town on the return journey at 4 a.m.

He also told of having strangers enquiring about his duties several days ago from persons about the town. This led him to think that something suspicious was going on.

A check up is being conducted with the customs officials of all cars which have passed the border. It is believed this might help solve the question of who robbed the bank.

W. C. Chandler, provincial inspector of the Union Bank of Canada, and F. K. Wilson, assistant inspector, motored to Winkler Wednesday afternoon to investigate the robbery.

Sergeant J. J. Moodie, Morden, of the Manitoba Provincial Police force, and Constable McLean, of Greta, have been detailed by Commissioner Rattray to investigate the case.

Claude Williams told the Free Press of the manner he was awakened and said that flashlights were kept trained on his face so that he could not see them.

He was roughly handled until he told them he was a returned soldier when one, who appeared to be the leader, said, "Treat him easy." He opened the vault, which opens into the room where he slept, but said he did not know the combination of the cash safe. "I knew the combination all right, but I didn't want to help them any more than I could," he said later, in telling of the robbery.

He was bound and put in bed again, while the robbers worked leisurely at the safe, charging it with nitro-glycerine. While working, they carried on a discussion with him on the war, saying they were ex-American soldiers. "Our government did not give us any bonus," one said, "so we're going to get it out of Canada."

When the safe was ready for the explosion, the men carried Williams, in his bed, to the yard, and advised him to cover his ears, as he said he had been shell-shocked.

The first explosion failed to open the safe, and the second did not open it sufficiently for the bandits to take the money. A third charge blew the safe door, weighing several hundred pounds, a distance of 20 feet, through the bars of the teller's cage, and blew a hole through the brick wall of the vault, two feet thick. The inside of the vault was demolished.

The sound of the explosion awoke the whole village, William Graefer, blacksmith, 58 years old, father of W. Graefer, manager of the local Bank of Hamilton branch, whose home was on Main Street across from the bank, rushed out thinking it was his son's bank which was being robbed.

A fifth bandit, standing in front of the bank, ordered him back into the house, threatening to shoot. Graefer made a dash for the village bell, 100 yards from the bank, and the bandit shot at him three times, the third shot wounding him in the leg.

Other residents who left their houses were ordered back under threat of death.

After taking all the money in sight, the bandits dashed for a high-powered car which had been left standing just outside the village, several blocks from the bank.

It was half an hour after they left before anyone dared approach the bank, and Williams had to extricate himself from his bonds.

Williams and A. J. Livingston, manager of the bank, had to drive to Morden to give word to J. J. Moodie, local provincial constable.

Every town in southern Manitoba and northern North Dakota was notified immediately to be on the lookout for the bandits.

"The bandits were evidently experienced," Williams said in telling of the robbery. "They worked without any excitement, and took fully an hour and a half to do the job. They asked me if the safe was lined with rubber, before pouring in the nitro-glycerine."

Claude Williams, teller, had been an employee of the Union Bank at Winkler for one year. His family lived at 955 Grosvenor Avenue, Winnipeg. Mrs. T. E. Williams, his mother, said he appeared to be feeling all right after his experience, when he phoned her. He said he had been very excited, and Mrs. Williams feared for him since he had suffered from shell shock during the war. He was overseas three years, enlisted with the 107th battalion. He was later transferred to the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Winkler village is situated on the southwestern line of the C.P.R. about eight miles east of Morden. It is nine miles west of Plum Coulee where the famous bank robbery occurred in which figured Jack Krafchenko, who was later hung for the killing of H. M. Arnold, the local manager, who was shot in the robbery. The village is situated on the north edge of the big Mennonite reserve, which extends from Gretna to near Morden, and its residents are Mennonites in the majority, with a number of Germans and English-speaking people. The place claims a population of one thousand. A large amount of local business is done in the three leading stores, and several smaller establishments.

The town was founded about twenty-five years ago, and a group of elevators sprang up to handle the huge grain crop from the Mennonite reserve south, and the rich lands north; at one time the place claimed to be the leading wheat shipping point in Canada, and the nine elevators in use then were very busy. There is still a very large grain business done. Following the establishment of this grain business, the first store was built by Loewen Bros; most of the business establishments still bear names of German origin, as the Mennonites, though from Russia, speak a dialect of the German, as they moved from Germany to Russia first.

The village was named after the late Hon. Valentine Winkler, who was minister of agriculture for the Manitoba government before his death last spring. Mr. Winkler had business interests there and always took a close interest in the place; he sat for the constituency it centres for over thirty years.

The volume of business done at Winkler is very large in proportion to its size, and the local deposits in the banks are reported to be very large, and there are many wealthy farmers near by. Possibly this is a reason that attracted the attempt to rob the bank at this point.

"Jack" Krafchenko's robbery of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Plum Coulee and the subsequent spectacular escape and trial was recalled by many area citizens. Krafchenko held up the bank on December 3, 1913, securing between \$4,000 and \$5,000. In making his escape he shot and killed H. M. Arnold, the manager. Police captured Krafchenko a week later on College Avenue, Winnipeg. His preliminary trial was held in the city police court on a charge of murder. He made his escape from the central police station jail on January 10 and was recaptured on January 18 and hanged on July 12 for murder. Krafchenko's robbery and escape were notable events in provincial crime annals and occupied the public eye for the whole period of his living days after the robbery. Several local policemen and other citizens were implicated in his trial and escape.

Previous to this affair a bank robbery was committed in 1907 when masked men entered the Union bank on Logan Avenue at Sherbrook Street, holding up and shooting one of the employees and escaping without any loot.

This bank robbery of October 13, 1920, made newspaper history when an airplane was used for the first time for news-getting. On Tuesday, October 13, 1920, Winkler residents re-enacted the robbery and a milestone in news coverage. On that Tuesday, (it was Wednesday before they left town) bank robbers had taken over the whole village and Free Press reporter Cecil Lamont (then nineteen years of age) made a historic first flight to cover news by airplane. Mayor Henry Wiebe, the Town Council, and members of the Chamber of Commerce were on hand at noon Tuesday when a Tiger Moth carrying Dunc Marshall and a Free Press reporter arrived to take part in the re-enactment. Mr. Lamont, now 69, of Winnipeg, was also on hand for the celebration.

### Krafchenko Case

Another bank robbery at Winkler occurred when John Krafchenko held up and robbed the manager of the Bank of Hamilton. As the Winkler branch of the Bank also served the citizens of Plum Coulee on certain days of the week, it was on one of the business trips from Plum Coulee by horse and buggy that Edgar Wahn, Herb Kennedy, and Jacob B. Warkentin were robbed of \$2600 which they carried in club bags belonging to Mr. J. B. Warkentin.

Bankers Wahn, Kennedy, and Warkentin had carried \$4600 with them to Plum Coulee on October 24, 1904. However, during business hours they paid out \$2000 to an elevator agent so that he could cash some of the farmers' grain cheques. On the return trip to Winkler, the two men, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Warkentin were sitting on the front seat with Mr. Warkentin in charge of the reins, and Mr. Wahn occupied the back seat of the democrat buggy where he also kept the two club bags with the money and promissory notes.

As it was toward evening and possibly growing dusk, the bankers were suddenly surprised to see two men who had emerged from a culvert, approach them. Both men had their heads covered with a sack. However, since it was fall of the year the men on the horse drawn carriage did not find this too unusual, but when one of the pedestrians pointed a revolver at them, there were some

second thoughts. One of the robbers remained in the middle of the road to stop the team of horses which had been hired from the livery stable at Winkler. When the thief who approached the buggy shouted, "Throw out the bags of cash", Mr. Warkentin, who was a junior clerk and had been in the employ of the bank for only twenty-one days, thought it was all a big joke and turned around to see what was going on in the back seat where Mr. Wahn was in charge of the money bags. Consequently, there was a second command that the two passengers in the front seat were not to turn around or they would be shot. When he noticed that the robbers were also taking the second bag, one of the three passengers in the democrat shouted, "Don't touch it, they are promissory notes".

Fortunately, before escaping across the border to the United States, the robbers had deposited at the office in Plum Coulee the bag with the promissory notes as well as the empty bag which was slit open to remove the cash. Later, it was revealed that the accomplice in the crime with John Krafchenko had been an apprentice in the Plum Coulee harness shop. John "Jack" Krafchenko lived in St. Boniface but he frequently visited his father, Eli Krafchenko, who was a blacksmith in Plum Coulee. All three of the bankers who were held up, also had relatives in this area. Mr. Edgar Wahn was a cousin of Mr. Howard W. Winkler; Mr. Herb Kennedy was the son of Mr. Alex Kennedy of Morden who at one time operated the Stanley Hotel at Winkler; and Mr. J. B. Warkentin who later became a public school teacher, was the son of Rev. John J. Warkentin a former leader of the Winkler M. B. Church.

Krafchenko was well known to police and in 1908 was sentenced to three years in Stony Mountain for an earlier crime. He had been convicted of holding up and robbing three men on the road near the same town, Plum Coulee. The Free Press of Nov. 18, 1908, told that remarkable story:

Tired of being hounded by police officers for a crime of which he declares his innocence, but admitting guilt on minor charges, John Krafchenko, alias Pearl Smith, was arrested Monday night by four provincial detectives at his aunt's house, 133 Barber Street. Though reckless of his life, he was captured so quickly that he had no chance to use the automatic revolvers with which he was armed to the teeth.

John Krafchenko has a peculiar history for a man of 25 years of age. His father was a Russian engineer and his mother a Greek. For years he lived in Winnipeg and as a boy attended the Sunday School at All People's Mission. He easily acquired the two languages of his parents and also spoke English fluently. After the death of his mother, his father married a German woman and through her training the boy became proficient in several languages. His step-mother now lives in Plum Coulee and he has a great affection for her.

Krafchenko visited the Free Press office Monday afternoon and asked advice about surrendering himself. He was advised to do so yesterday. He declared he was innocent of the crime near Plum Coulee, but he knew the police were aware of his presence in Winnipeg. He declared his recklessness of life and that it would be dangerous to arrest him. But he was tired of a wandering life and would give himself up. It was his regard for his

stepmother that had brought him back to the province and he wanted to aid her.

He admitted being guilty of obtaining a small sum of money by false pretences for which he was sentenced to a term at Prince Albert. He escaped from jail there shortly after and from that time, four years before, he had been free.

The man was advised to surrender himself to the proper authorities and exonerate himself from the worse crime, as well as admit the minor one and accept the punishment. It was the terrible weight on his mind that bore him down and rendered him desperate, he stated.

About five years ago Krafchenko travelled the country as a pugilist and stated he had married a relative of Jim Corbett, the champion. Since he returned to the province early in October he has been wearing a disguise. When arrested he was wearing a false mustache.

No decision has been arrived at as to the handling of the case against Krafchenko. He will probably be tried for the Plum Coulee charge and then remanded for trial at Prince Albert.

Krafchenko spent 1908-1911 at Stony Mountain and during the two years following his release had been in and out of the spotlight.

It was reported that he was greatly admired by members of the Manitoba's criminal element, many of whom looked up to him. Also that with his ability to speak several languages he was a familiar figure in areas largely populated by European immigrants, where he was both admired and feared. The reluctance of the foreign element to "squeal" on him enabled Krafchenko to remain hidden when police were looking for him, both in Winnipeg and rural areas.

#### Banking.

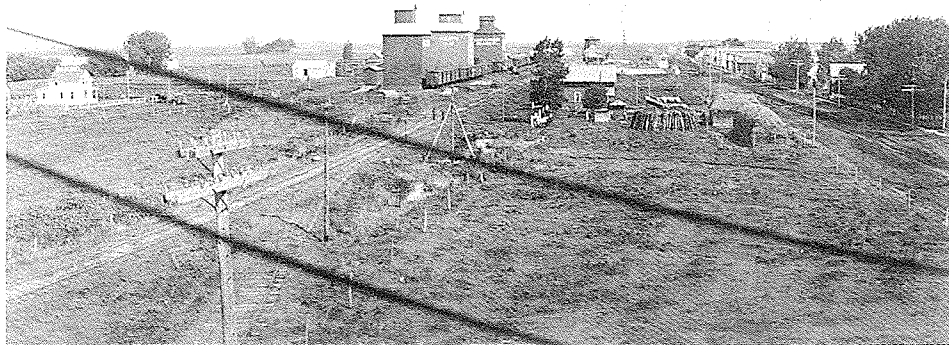
The building which was directly west of Stanley Consumers Garage, and which was demolished in the spring of 1954, served as the first bank. It was vacated in the spring of 1951 when the new Bank of Commerce building at the north-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Fourth Street was completed.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce, now known as the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, has the longest record as a banking service in Winkler. At present, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at Winkler is also continuing to serve its customers on two days of the week at Plum Coulee. The personnel staff of nine employees at the Winkler branch of the bank is indicative of the consistent service it is continuing to provide in the community.

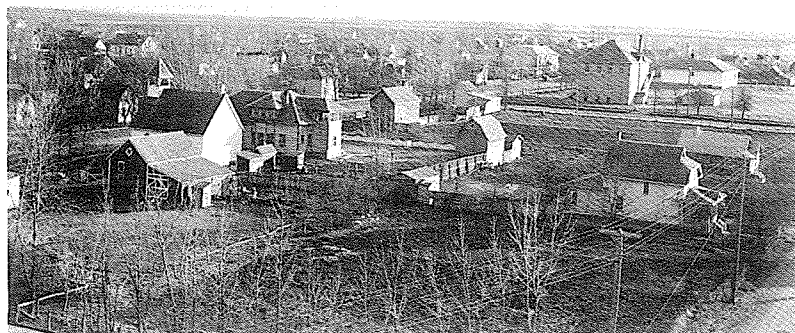
The Bank of Commerce appears to have a policy of changing managers at its branches every five to ten years. During the last few decades some of the managers have been as follows: Messrs. N. A. Rudiak, 1944-48, Ben E. Orton, 1948-56, Howard G. Boughner, Alf Parkinson, Don Hodgson who came to Winkler in July, 1967, and Ross Leatherdale who took over January 1, 1972.

About 1922 the Dominion Ticket and Financial Corporation opened a banking business on Main Street in the building which was later occupied by J. B. Dyck & Son. They operated a general store until May 10, 1941, when Janzen's Red & White Store opened for business at this location. The manager of the Dominion Ticket & Financial Corporation was Mr. Bruno Schiminovsky and

Mr. John H. K. Dyck was the accountant. As this new banking business paid a high rate of interest, many depositors with the Bank of Hamilton transferred their deposits to the Dominion Ticket Office. However, on February 6, 1923, the Dominion Ticket Office suddenly failed to open its doors. Consequently, when assignment was made for the benefit of creditors shortly after, many depositors lost their savings.



Looking east from Park Street. Note the CPR water tank and windmill in the distance.



1939

## WINKLER CREDIT UNION LIMITED

The most recent banking business to begin operating in town is the Winkler Credit Union. It received its charter on November 16, 1940, and moved an office building onto a vacant lot at 236 Main Street. From 1940 to 1950 the manager of the Credit Union was Mr. David J. Loeppky. Since July 1, 1950, Mr. Henry F. Wiebe has been the manager. The following names appear on the charter document of the Winkler Credit Union: Edward W. Penner, Jack J. Funk, David J. Loeppky, Herman L. Dyck, Ben H. Loewen, Bill Dehmke, Jacob H. Teichroeb, John D. Bueckert, John H. K. Dyck, and Ewald A. Teske.

The members of the Winkler Credit Union at their annual meeting elect a Board of Directors of not less than five members. They also elect a Credit Committee and a Supervisory Committee of three members each. The directors have general management of the Credit Union, set its policies, approve all applications for membership, set the interest rate which is never more than 1 % per month on the unpaid balance, and declare the dividends. From the directors they elect a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. The officers and directors meet monthly and hold additional meetings if necessary.

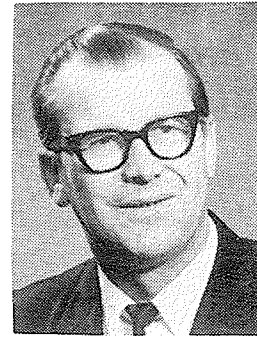
The untimely recession of the Winkler Credit Union in 1950 could have rung the death knell for the Society. Fortunately, many of its members rallied to support the local Credit Union and helped to bring it through this difficult period. One reason for the remarkable come-back and up-surge of business staged by the Winkler Credit Union Society has been its manager, Mr. Henry F. Wiebe. He was appointed manager in 1950 when the Credit Union faced its most crucial days, and he brought with him to this new post the necessary qualifications of friendliness, firmness, and efficiency that put confidence into the members and made the up-swing possible.

Mr. Wiebe was born in 1922 at Myrtle, Manitoba, the son of Rev. & Mrs. Bernard P. Wiebe. He received his early schooling in Plum Coulee and in 1942 he graduated from the M.C.I. at Gretna, Manitoba. After graduating from the Manitoba Teachers' College at Tuxedo, Mr. Wiebe was engaged by the Winkler School District in 1947 as a member of the teaching staff. Besides acting as manager of the local Credit Union, he has served as mayor of Winkler since January 1, 1968. Previously, he served as trustee for three years and for twelve years as chairman of Winkler and of Garden Valley School Boards. Mr. Wiebe is treasurer of the Pembina Valley Development Corporation and a director of the Co-operative Credit Society of Manitoba. He is a charter member of the Gideons' International and has served as Sunday School superintendent of the Winkler Mennonite Berghaler Church. Recently, he was a member of the local Church Building Committee and for a number of years he has also been active on the Canadian General Conference of Mennonites Boards and Committees. Mr. Wiebe is married to the former Miss Louise Peters of Winnipeg. They have two children.

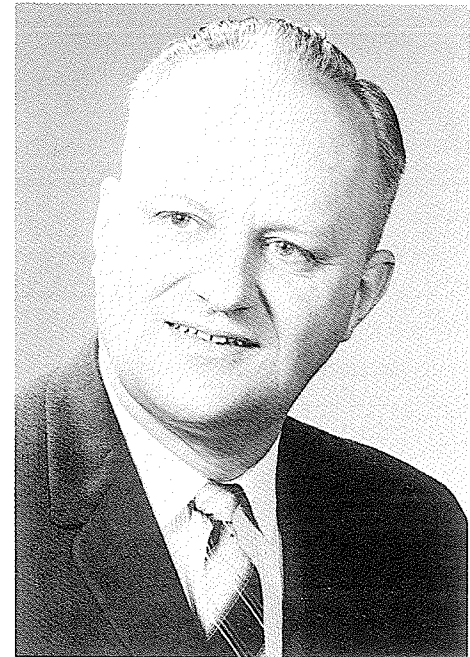
In 1957, the Winkler Credit Union Society Limited erected a new office building on the north-west corner of Main Street and Stanley Avenue. These offices at 204 Main Street are again proving to be inadequate for this

growing and expanding enterprise. Therefore, on August 18, 1972, Mr. Peter Wiebe, president of the Winkler Credit Union turned the first sod for an addition of 48 x 85 feet to the building of the Society at the north-west corner of Main Street and Stanley Avenue. Friesen & Wiebe Building Supplies & Construction have been engaged as the general contractors of the project. The expansion will also include additional parking space. The purpose of the chart which follows is to show the growth the Winkler Credit Union made since the granting of its charter on November 16, 1940.

The Winkler Credit Union.



Peter Wiebe, President



H. F. Wiebe, Manager

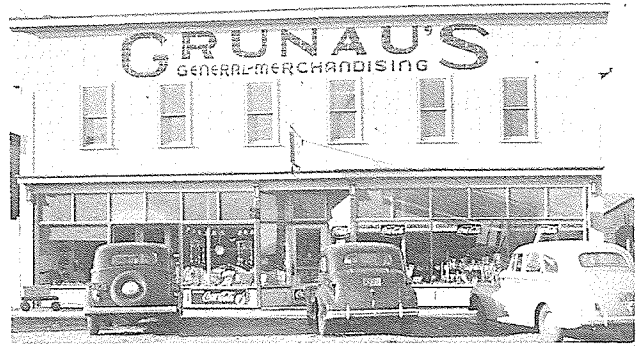


Erected 1957



**Winkler Credit Union —  
Thirty-two Years of Progress <sup>7</sup>**

Year Ended Dec. 31	Number of Members	Total Assets	Loans Out- standing	Members' Deposits	Members' Shares
1941	194	\$ 1,321	\$ 1,099	\$ 287	\$ 979
1942	181	2,084	1,736	592	1,318
1943	237	4,151	2,858	2,406	1,505
1944	302	9,910	8,574	6,847	2,525
1945	358	26,739	10,801	22,186	3,260
1946	556	62,329	40,729	54,664	5,733
1947	979	108,540	86,649	94,129	11,374
1948	1,302	289,072	159,096	259,348	20,702
1949	1,635	492,371	418,683	408,047	39,342
1950	1,627	332,574	253,749	269,485	43,905
1951	1,563	359,875	247,403	292,407	43,971
1952	1,566	349,247	253,953	280,864	46,734
1953	1,470	375,651	296,972	248,024	103,723
1954	1,613	428,399	301,207	167,339	237,306
1955	1,806	559,371	364,504	159,106	374,173
1956	2,086	916,593	732,390	264,059	604,847
1957	2,330	1,184,995	982,096	291,009	762,181
1958	2,625	1,502,534	1,210,515	354,721	1,058,260
1959	2,909	1,951,814	1,609,905	469,816	1,375,164
1960	3,167	2,492,044	2,016,075	569,287	1,769,662
1961	3,431	3,016,389	2,464,260	550,491	2,267,371
1962	3,614	3,625,563	2,784,891	778,581	2,604,821
1963	4,025	4,479,588	3,520,596	861,058	3,298,421
1964	4,285	5,251,729	4,545,037	918,948	3,919,738
1965	4,476	6,128,106	5,487,014	1,130,827	4,476,509
1966	4,866	7,352,565	6,200,419	1,649,262	5,065,084
1967	5,078	8,176,404	7,346,892	1,788,306	5,438,868
1968	5,362	8,177,636	7,386,481	1,752,927	5,603,428
1969	5,400	9,002,129	8,281,914	1,682,945	6,058,537
1970	5,600	9,669,492	8,384,481	1,460,758	6,866,921
1971	5,804	11,047,915	9,145,810	1,964,488	8,217,550
1972	6,079	14,767,416	8,768,799	2,535,489	11,634,357



1941



Klassen's Bargain Centre



June, 1941, Sale of Victory Bonds. Officials participating: (left to right) A. A. Kroeker; W. S. Edgar, banker; Peter Bueckert, mayor; Henry Loewen, councillor; J. J. Enns, chairman of school board; and J. A. Kroeker.

#### The Shopping Centre of Southern Manitoba

Mike and Henry Uhrich built the first livery stable in Winkler. This livery barn was erected on the location where the Winkler Co-op Hardware Store now stands. By 1914 this stable was owned by Mr. Isaac Giesbrecht. After the Union Traders wrecked the stable, they erected a large garage on the same site. When the Winkler Co-op Service Store was organized in 1942, the first board of directors purchased this building from Mr. C. H. Grunau who had been operating a general store there. On June 20, 1949 this building was totally destroyed by fire, and during the summer a new Co-op Store was constructed. The first managers of the Co-op Store were H. H. Janzen and J. F. Peters. At present, Mr. H. W. Bergen is the manager.

Possibly, an important factor that contributed to the growth of Winkler and attracted business from the rural areas was that since the proverbial "Mohammed did not come to the mountain; the mountain went to Mohammed", in that local peddlers by means of horse and buggy worked out from Winkler selling merchandise in the villages to the south as well as to the farmers to the north of town. Often the Jewish peddler would drive a team of horses hitched to a democrat that had a 200 cu. ft. box back of the driver's seat. Below the seat there was sometimes provision for egg crates, and at the back or on the sides of the box containing the merchandise there were chicken coops. As ready cash was not always available on the farm, much of the rural trade was carried on through barter. There was also an occasional peddler in summer who walked from farmyard to farmyard selling his finery, particularly if he traded in watches and jewelry.

Mr. Bernard Loewen who opened the first general store in Winkler in 1892, also sent out Mr. Bill Simmons into the surrounding rural districts to peddle his wares in exchange for butter, eggs, and poultry. Mr. Simmons, a congenial Englishman, had left his home in the old country to seek adventure in the new world. On arriving in Manitoba, he eked out a living as a shepherd on the Pembina Hills where his fellow countrymen had settled before the Mennonite farmers came to the open prairies below the foothills. As he got acquainted with the new immigrants, Mr. Simmons hired out to the lowland farmers where he became fluent in the Low German which stood him in good stead after he moved to Winkler and plied his trade in the surrounding villages. Mr. Simmons was married to the former Miss Katherine Miller. With their family of five children, they resided at the north-west corner of Stanley Avenue and Seventh Street. After the death of Mr. Simmons in Saskatchewan where the family later resided, his widow moved to Alberta.

The writer of this recalls with what anticipation he looked forward to the semi-annual visits of Mr. Simmons to his parental farm home. These visits were enhanced not only by the sweets, bright sweaters, and general merchandise which the peddler carried on his wagon from village to farmyard, but also by his jovial and friendly disposition. Mr. Simmons sometimes aimed his ready wit at his Anglo-Saxon friends by addressing them in Platt Deutsch, which they would not understand. He then turned to those who understood the Low German and remarked on the sly, "Daut es oba en dumma Englaenda. De vesteit nich enmole plaut dietsch."

In April, 1888, Rev. Gerhard Wiebe arrived here from Russia to take over the leadership of the newly organized M.B. Church at Burwalde. Later he moved to town and opened a lumber yard in Winkler at the southeast corner of Sixth Street and Stanley Avenue and in 1898 erected a red brick house at 237 Sixth Street. This house is now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. George Kroeker and is one of the oldest buildings in town. The red bricks which were burned somewhere between Winkler and Morden have withstood the test of time well and just a few are beginning to soften. The foundation which was made of chiselled stone, as well as the bricks in the walls, do not show any significant cracks. The dimensions of the house are 20 by 28 feet. Except for an air space between the inside and outside shiplap below the bricks, there is no insulation in the walls. The rafters as well as the uprights in the walls are constructed of two by sixes.



Almost from the first beginnings of the Town of Winkler there have been business firms operating on South Railway Avenue between Main Street and 4th Street. Just east of the Stanley Hotel there was a bowling alley. In 1917, Mr. Isaac I. Brown built a garage, Winkler Motor Car Exchange, at the south-west corner of 4th Street and South Railway Avenue. After this first building was destroyed by fire in 1923, an office and a garage were again erected on the same site. This property was then sold in 1927 to Rev. John J. Wiens. The garage was enlarged and operated under the name of Wiens & Son. The firm also had the Imperial Oil agency which was sold by the Wiens Estate in 1967 to Mr. Dave Wolfe who has since carried on the bulk oil as well as fertilizer sales. In 1968, the building was sold to Penner Tire and Mr. Gordon Kehler operated Central Tire Sales at 416 South Railway Avenue.

During the depression years of the dry 1930's after Mr. Isaac Brown had sold the garage, he used to buy secondhand Ford cars in Chicago, tow them to Winkler, put on some repairs when necessary, and then sell them to local customers. He would buy some of the cars in Chicago for as little as \$25.00. However, even that amount was a lot of money in those days, and so Mr. Peter Bueckert who owned the Winkler Lumber Yard helped to finance these transactions.



(L. to R.) I. Brown, J. Wiens, W. Brown

Shortly after Mr. Dave Wolfe took over the bulk oil agency, a new fertilizer storage building was erected by Dow Chemical Company for Imperial Oil Limited at Winkler. The structural part of the building was erected by continuous winding in 10 hours, until the dome shaped structure was completed. Following the molding process a door was cut in, and the outside painted. It is the first building of its kind in Canada.

Mr. David A. Dyck who was born in the Crimea, Russia, on February 2, 1882, started a watch repair business in 1900 at Halbstadt after having studied for his trade in Germany. In December, 1925, he immigrated to Canada with his family and on January 4, 1926, opened for business in his residence and continued to ply his trade in Winkler. Later Mr. Dyck rented a building on Main Street from Mr. J. A. Kroeker until in 1946 he erected a new shop at 356 Main Street where his daughter, Mrs. Katherine A. Unger, joined him as a clerk in Dyck's China Gift Shop. When Mr. Dyck passed away in 1958 after 58 years in the watch repair trade, Mrs. Unger continued the business at the same location on Main Street.

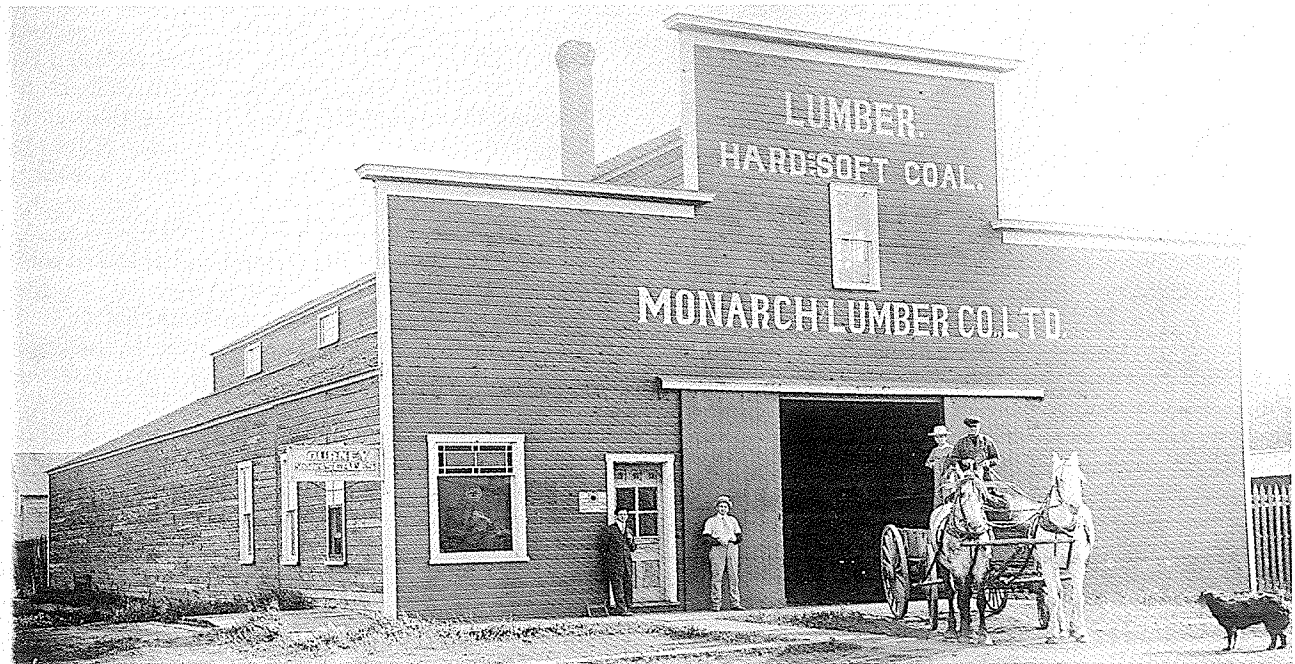
In July, 1948, Mr. Donald A. Loewen and Mr. Isaac Krahn started out as electrical contractors in Winkler, using Mr. Krahn's garage as a workshop. When the latter moved away, Mr. Loewen continued in his trade and on June 1, 1966, he formed a partnership with Mr. Manfred Enns. A month later, July 1, 1966, they also took over the Wawanesa Auto Insurance from Mr. H. H. Janzen, and in December, 1966, moved into the building at 457 Stanley Avenue. In November, 1971, they became agents for "Autopac", the Manitoba government provincial auto insurance coverage.

Mr. Peter P. W. Dyck who grew up on his father's farm two miles north of Winkler in the Edward School District, built a garage in 1945 adjacent to his dwelling at the south-west corner of Ninth Street and Mountain Avenue, across the street from the Winkler Elementary School grounds. Not only was Mr. Dyck an auto mechanic, but he also did much repair welding. He demolished the garage in 1971.

#### Mr. A. K. Friesen — Lumber Yard Manager

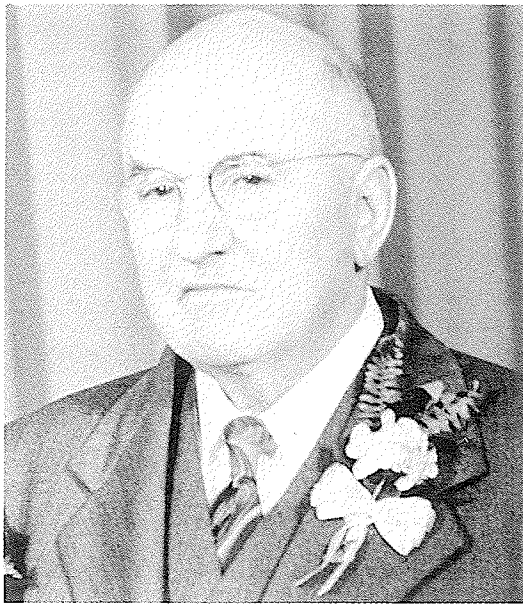
Mr. Abram K. Friesen was born February 1, 1881, at Lichtenau near Steinbach, Manitoba. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Abraham R. Friesen. He was married at Rosenfeld June 29, 1902, to Miss Anna Sawatzky. On June 26, 1952, Mr. & Mrs. Friesen celebrated the Golden Wedding in the Winkler Bergthaler Church with their family of six children. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Friesen was married on December 27, 1959, to Mrs. Nettie Friesen (nee Toews) who predeceased him January 26, 1963.

For a number of years before coming to Winkler Mr. Friesen was engaged as a public school teacher, first at Steinfeld (October 14, 1901 to June 27, 1902), and then at Lowe Farm (October, 1904 to June, 1907). In 1907 Mr. & Mrs. Friesen moved to Winkler and for many years they resided at the south-west corner of Mountain



The manager of the lumber yard, Mr. A. K. Friesen with white shirt and hat, stands to left of wagon.





**A. K. Friesen**

Avenue and Seventh Street. At first Mr. Friesen found employment as clerk in Dyck & Kroeker's General Store, and from 1908 to 1910 he taught in the Winkler Public School. His salary was \$35.00 per month and he had 60 children in his classroom. On June 1, 1910, he accepted the position as manager of the Monarch Lumber Company Limited at Winkler where he remained until his retirement on April 30, 1954. The Monarch Lumber Yard building had been constructed about 1899 at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Main Street by Mr. Jacob B. Dyck.

Apart from the office hours as lumber dealer, Mr. Friesen found time to serve the Village of Winkler as councillor (1914 to 1915), and the Winkler School District as trustee and secretary-treasurer with interruptions from 1917 to 1930. At various times he also participated actively in such sports as tennis, golf, and curling. He passed away December 22, 1963.

Mr. A. K. Friesen traced his family tree ancestry as follows:

A. K. Friesen, born February 1, 1881, at Lichtenau near Steinbach, Manitoba. He died December 22, 1963, at Winkler.

Abraham R. Friesen (Father), born February 16, 1846, at Wernersdorf, Ukraine, Russia. He died September 16, 1884, at Lichtenau near Steinbach.

Cornelius Friesen (Grandfather), born December 7, 1810, at Lindenau, Ukraine.

Klass Friesen (Great-Grandfather), born in 1774, in West Prussia.

Isbrand Friesen (Great-Great-Grandfather).

#### **Mr. John J. Loewen - Mayor & Hardware Merchant**

Mr. John J. Loewen who served as trustee, councillor, and mayor of the Village of Winkler, was born February 28, 1873, in Russia and immigrated to Canada with his parents. In 1891, Rev. H. H. Ewert arrived in Manitoba from Kansas to take over the principalship of the M.C.I. at Gretna, and Mr. Loewen's name appears on the student roster for that year. In 1905 he opened a hardware store in Winkler on the east side of Main Street

and continued in business there until his death in 1932. Before coming to Winkler Mr. Loewen had opened business outlets in Regina and Osler in Saskatchewan, as well as in Altona and Plum Coulee, Manitoba. He continued to operate a farm machinery outlet at Plum Coulee and in the late 1890's sold the first threshing machine to be used in the Mennonite community near Winkler. The threshing outfit consisted of an American Abel return-flue steamer and an Advance separator.

About 1908, Mr. Loewen purchased the first automobile in Winkler. This was a buggy style vehicle with large wheels and narrow solid rubber tires. It could do about ten miles per hour. A little later he acquired a big seven-passenger Reo that was equipped with carbide headlights and in those days was considered to be a luxury car. One day son Henry Loewen and his pal found a discarded carbide tank and decided to quench some of their curiosity by tossing a burning match into the container. When the flammable gas exploded both boys were badly burned about the face. Mr. Loewen later owned two other cars, namely, a Star sedan with electric lights, and an Essex with a Venetian type radiator shutter which was push-button controlled and proved to be a real bonanza during the low temperatures of winter.

Mr. & Mrs. Loewen with their family of six children lived for many years in a large dwelling at the north-east corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. This house was known as the former Esau residence and was later occupied by Dr. G. F. Weatherhead after the Loewen family moved a block south to 195 Sixth Street. On one occasion when the family arrived home from a visit they found their street blocked by the town belfry and tower which had been blown over in a severe storm.

As Mrs. John Loewen had been born in Southern Russia on January 1, 1875, under the Julian calendar, and as her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jakob Braun, immigrated to Canada later that same year, the problem arose as to the desirability of changing her birthday to January 13 in accordance with the Gregorian calendar which was the accepted Canadian procedure. However, the Braun family decided not to follow the usual practice and consequently Mrs. Loewen ever after continued to celebrate her birthday on January 1, the most popular day of the year.

In the Loewen family, mother set the example of service in the home, church, and community. Her love for service in the local Bergthaler church ranged from culinary kitchen duties to personal spiritual counselling of the erring to accept Christ and to live for Him. She found time to attend night classes and acquired a comparatively rich English vocabulary through the study of Shakespeare so that she could correspond with their two daughters, Susan and Mary, while they were away from home following the teaching profession. Two of the sons served the Town of Winkler in civic offices; Jake as councillor, and Ed as trustee of the school board. In his childhood, John was seriously injured while playing a game of King of the Castle on an earthen mound which had been deposited on the Winkler Elementary School grounds from the excavations for the basement of the two-storey brick building. He subsequently lost his eyesight in 1919, but after studying braille at Brantford, Ontario, he read, carried on considerable cor-



**The J. J. Loewen Family**

**Left to right: Mary, Mrs. Loewen, Dietrich Hoeppner, John, Jake, Susan, Mr. Loewen, Ed, and Henry.**

respondence, and used a seeing-eye German shepherd dog to find his way about town. John is now confined to the Rest Haven Nursing Home in Steinbach.

Another son, Henry Loewen, who operated a service station at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, became the first local boy to obtain a civil pilot's licence and to own an airplane. He did a good deal of barn-storming together with parachutists who would jump from his flying craft with confidence. However, on a Sunday in 1931, a Devil's Lake physician who used a plane to visit his patients, developed engine trouble and sought the mechanical help of Henry and his friend to make the craft airborne. After they had the motor running, they found that the plane would not take off with both of them in the cockpit and Henry suggested that he try to take it up alone. He was soon airborne but as the aircraft failed to gain altitude, the motor stalled, and the inevitable crash resulted in fatal injury to pilot Loewen.

In 1943, Burns & Company, with Mr. Robert Wonick as local manager, built an egg grading station on Main Street two doors south of the Winkler Co-op Hardware Store. Previous to that, Mitchell and Sons operated a store on the same site and they in turn had been preceded by Mr. W. Esau on the same location. A little to the south on Main Street, Wilton Bros. erected a general store with a drug department. Mr. Walter Wilton was a licensed druggist. This store was later destroyed by fire. Next to Wilton's store the first post office building was later built when the available room in Loewen's store became too small. At this location the postmaster was Mr. Ed. Loewen, the son of Mr. Bernard Loewen. South of the old post office stood the William Graefer residence, the blacksmith shop, and the telephone office.

Next to the smithy, Mr. Aron Nitikman built a large store, which he later sold to Dyck & Kroeker (J. B. Dyck & J. A. Kroeker). In 1910, J. Nitikman, Isaac Sirluck, and A. J. Nitikman purchased this store from Dyck and Kroeker. Today the firm trades under the name of Janzen Dept. Store Ltd. Henry H. Janzen, Bill Janzen, Ron Janzen and Glen Janzen are the shareholders.

Mr. Isaac Sirluck came to Winkler in 1906. From 1906 to 1910, he went about the community peddling merchandise. In 1923 and 1924 when there was an exodus from the villages south of Winkler to Mexico, Mr. Sirluck began buying land and went into white collar farming. He was one of the first to grow corn and buckwheat on the light soil south of Winkler. About 1928, Mr. Sirluck went into the grain buying business and later built several granaries and a small elevator on the south side of Mountain Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets. In 1952, Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Sirluck visited Israel. After retirement the Sirlucks moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. Jacob B. Dyck constructed the lumber yard at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Fifth Street. This was soon taken over by the Monarch Lumber Co. Following Mr. Dyck, the next two managers were Mr. A. I. Friesen and Mr. Peter Bueckert. From 1910 to 1954, Mr. Abram K. Friesen was the manager of the local Monarch Lumber Co. He was succeeded by Mr. Harry Klassen. Prior to accepting the position in the lumber yard, Mr. Friesen had been employed in a local store. On June 26, 1952, Mr. & Mrs. A. K. Friesen celebrated their golden wedding. Today, the Winkler Co-op Service Store is located on this site.

For many years the business place farthest south on the east side of Main Street was located approximately where Gladstone's Store stands today. It was a harness shop operated by Mr. John Reichert. Just to the north of the Harness Shop was Taylor's Hardware Store which was later purchased by Mr. J. J. Loewen. Mr. Valentine Winkler had the first lumber yard in Winkler. It was built on the site later occupied by the Winkler Lumber Co. Following Mr. Winkler, the owners were Rev. Gerhard Wiebe and Mr. Jacob Friesen. When the Beaver Lumber Co. bought this business, Mr. J. J. Funk was employed as manager. In 1918, Mr. Peter Bueckert became the owner and he went under the trade name of the Winkler Lumber Co. After the death of Mr. Bueckert in 1946, three of his sons, John, Peter, and Bill carried on this business. Later, this business was again carried on

under the trade name of Beaver Lumber Co. Ltd. with Mr. John D. Enns as manager from 1966 to 1972.

The site on the east side of Main Street where the Green Lantern Cafe is situated at present, was for many years occupied by Mr. Isaac Cohn's General Store. Mr. Harry Kashtan built a large livery barn on the lot where Stanley Service operated a gasoline station for about 15 years. It was later the home of Jim's Tire Service. It has recently been renovated and changed to Winkler Beauty Salon.

The Stanley Hotel which still stands at the south-east corner of Main Street and Railway Avenue was built about 1893 by Mr. Jack Kennedy of Morden. His brother, Alex Kennedy operated the hotel, but by 1907, Mr. Botting had become the owner. Mr. Kennedy sold the hotel for \$17,000. Later, Mr. Joe Herba operated the Stanley Hotel. Other owners have been Dick Howard, followed by Alex McEachern. The present owner is Mr. S. Gottfredsen.



**Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Giesbrecht and sons. Mr. Giesbrecht operated a livery barn on Main Street.**

The second livery stable operated by Jacob Schultz, was located on the east side of Fourth Street three lots north of Mountain Avenue where the Winkler Clean and Wash Centre was built in 1969. It would appear then that there have been three livery stables in Winkler. Besides doing livery business, they took care of the horses of farmers coming to town to do their shopping during the horse and buggy days. Of course, apart from the livery stables, there were metal railings fastened to posts in front of every store so that the farmers could tie their teams of horses to these railings while they were shopping.

In August, 1937, the Winkler village council erected STOP signs at the corner of Main Street and Mountain Avenue which had become the busiest intersection in the village.



**Mr. John J. Enns - Mayor**

Mr. John J. Enns was born August 29, 1891, in the village of Hoffnungsfeld one mile to the south-west of the town of Winkler. He obtained his education at Winkler and later joined the teaching staff here from 1912 to 1919. After teaching in the local public school for seven years, Mr. Enns was engaged as manager of the Winkler Milling Company and later as grain buyer for the Federal Grain Company. In August, 1932, while Mr. Enns was the local agent, the Federal Grain Company replaced the gasoline engine by wiring for electric power to operate the elevator. On July 14, 1914, he was married to Miss Anna Dyck who together with a family of six children remained to mourn his passing July 4, 1941.

Mr. Enns confined his entire life of service to the Winkler district. Besides following his vocation as public school teacher and grain buyer, he was active in the community in various other areas. During the years 1920-24, 1926-27, and 1938-41, Mr. Enns was a member of the Winkler School Trustee Board, and for five years of these three terms he acted as chairman of the Board. He was a member of the Winkler Village Council for eleven years and during eight of these years, i.e. from 1928 to 1935 which were the worst years of the depression, he held the mayor's gavel as he presided at Council chamber meetings. Since the organization of the Bethel Hospital Board in 1935 and until his death in 1941, Mr. Enns served as a director. He was also active on the political scene and in the 1936 Provincial election when Dr. C. W. Wiebe did not seek the nomination for re-election, Mr. Enns was nominated as the Liberal candidate in the Morden-Rhineland Electoral Division. However, Mr. W. C. Miller the Conservative candidate for the constituency was elected to the Manitoba Legislature.

When Rev. Frank J. Wiens, missionary to China, conducted evangelistic services in the Winkler M. B. Church, Mr. Enns experienced a rebirth and on confession of faith he was baptized on August 29, 1928. He was an active member of the church and served in the choir, Gospel Male Quartet, the Winkler Male Voice Choir, the Sunday School, as president of the Young People's Society, and as leader of the Christian Young Men's Meetings in the Winkler Berghaler and M. B. Churches. A sign of the respect and affection for Mr. Enns in the local community was evidenced by the estimated 2000 relatives and friends who attended his funeral.



**Frank Derksen - Implement Dealer**

According to the Julian calendar, Mr. Frank Derksen was born November 29, 1870, however, he always celebrated his birthday on December 11 in conformity with the Gregorian calendar. In 1876 he emigrated with his parents from Ekaterinoslaw, Russia, and came to Manitoba where his father took a homestead two miles south-west of Plum Coulee. On December 2, 1898, he was married to the former Miss Maria Leiding and the young couple moved to Winkler that same year where Mr. Derksen found employment in Mr. W. Schram's Massey Harris Implement Shop. Soon he became the owner of the shop and for 45 years he was in the Massey Harris implement business. Mr. Derksen received a gold watch for his first 25 years as dealer with this firm. Besides Massey Harris farm machinery, he sold De Laval cream separators, Rumley Oil Pull tractors, Marconi radios, and operated a service station and auto repair shop. Mr. Derksen also sold Baine wagons, buggies, democrats, bob sleighs, cutters, Beatty washers, Holland binder twine, and Stanley Jones threshing machines which had no straw blower, no feeder and no band cutter so that the sheaves had to be put in manually. He always had great faith in the integrity and honesty of his customers, and did not know the real meaning of a promissory note until his later years. He travelled by horse and buggy early and late to service grain binders during harvest time.

Although Mr. Derksen started business in the horse and buggy days, he made a fast switch to automobiles and also took out the agency for Ford cars and accessories as well as Fordson tractors. The slogan used in those early days to solicit customers was, "Ford, The Universal Car". When the Ford V8 motor came out, it did not take long before other leading manufacturers of cars followed with the same type of engine.

However, the first car that Mr. Derksen owned was a 1909 Kennedy model which was manufactured in Preston, Ontario. As he had pinched and saved \$1000, he was able to pay cash for the first two seater car in Winkler. However, it was the second automobile in town as Mr. John J. Loewen had already purchased a one seater. Mr. Derksen's first car was shipped via C.P.R. freight and unloaded at the local stockyard ramp. Then he eased behind the steering wheel to drive his car off the

ramp and to take it for "a spin" around town. Although he had diligently studied the driver's manual, Mr. Derksen had evidently missed some of the fine print for he failed to realize for some time that his new car had more than just a low speed. For some of the finer features it was equipped with coal oil lamps, and high buggy type wheels with solid rubber tires. Such luxuries as windshield, bumper, and doors were nonentities. However, a windshield was added later.

Besides operating a successful business in town, Mr. Derksen acquired a farm and found time to serve on the Winkler Village Council and on the Winkler School District board of trustees. Hence, his all out effort went into giving his children the legacy of an education which had been denied to him in his childhood. Therefore, it is not surprising that five of the eleven children in the family entered the teaching profession. The eldest member of the family, Mrs. Mary Klassen, not only taught public school but also became the first and only woman to be elected to the Board of Trustees of the Winkler School District. While indulging in some reminiscence, Mrs. Klassen suggested that in 1914 "a son with a voice like a Rumley Oil Pull" was born to her parents. Unfortunately, she left him anonymous, possibly to avoid being charged with libel. Mr. Frank Derksen was well-liked in the community and dearly loved by his family. He died December 13, 1943. His children will long remember their father's favourite maxim, "Charity begins at home."

#### **Isaac Sirluck - Store and Grain Merchant**

Mr. Isaac Sirluck, the son of Asher Zailig and Bailla Sirluck, was born October 15, 1880, at Teofipal, Wallien, Ukraine, Russia, where his father was the overseer on a Filverick or estate. Mr. Isaac Sirluck migrated to the Argentine, South America, where he worked in a Jewish farm settlement known as the Baron Hirsch Settlement. From here he went on to New York, and after conversing and visiting with people who were also immigrants there, he found the atmosphere not to his liking. In Winkler there were fellow countrymen who knew his family, and from New York he came to Winkler in 1906. He purchased a house at the north-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street from Mr. John Demke. Mr. Sirluck paid \$100 cash and another \$100 were extended to him on credit. (This house is to be replaced by the new federal post office). In 1906 he married Rachel Nitikman, the daughter of Joseph and Fraida Sass Nitikman.

From 1906 to 1910, Mr. Sirluck went about the community by horse and wagon as a peddler, selling and trading merchandise at farmyards and in the villages until he upset and suffered a broken leg because of runaway horses.

Shortly after recovering from this accident, Mr. Sirluck went into the retail general store business with his father-in-law, Mr. Joseph Nitikman, and brother-in-law, Aaron Nitikman. The partnership purchased the Dyck & Krocker General Store. As it happened to be December 24, 1910, when the business transaction was completed, Dyck and Krocker suggested that they would be in church on Christmas day but that Mr. Sirluck could take stock while the former owners of the store were taking

their holidays. This first firm, known as J. Nitikman & Company; subsequently became known as Nitikman Sirluck Company; then Nitikman Sirluck and Safeer; later as The I. Sirluck Company; and for many years this general store at Winkler continued to serve the community as Sirluck & Janzen Departmental Store Limited, with Henry H. Janzen and William H. Janzen as managers. Since March, 1973, the sign above the door at 308 Main Street reads, "Janzen's Department Store Limited", and H. H. Janzen, W. H. Janzen, Ron Janzen, and Glen Janzen are the shareholders.

In 1922, with the exodus of a large part of the Orthodox Mennonite community south of Winkler to Mexico because the provincial government removed the privileges which they had enjoyed of sending their children to private schools, Mr. Sirluck's father purchased a farm at Neuenburg. Later, Mr. Isaac Sirluck and the Nitikmans purchased more of the land being sold by the emigres in the vicinities of Chortitz, Blumstein, and Neuenburg. The peak holding of the group was approximately 4000 acres, which Mr. Sirluck worked with about 90 horses. His own maximum holding was about 2000 acres. Mr. Sirluck was possessed of a real attachment to the land. In the summer and fall months it was his daily custom to rise at 5:00 A. M., drive out to his farm, be back for breakfast, and then attend to the store and elevator. This attachment to the land was like soul substance, a spiritual state quite separate from the adventures he enjoyed as a successful business man. He was one of the first to grow corn and buckwheat on the light soil south of town.



Henry Janzen



Bill Janzen







November 10, 1929, the staff at Sirluck's Store. Front: (Left to Right) Albert Bleet, Isaac Sirluck, Robert Sirluck, Barney Safeer, Mr. Feinstein. Second row: Mrs Lydia Friesen (Regehr), C. Grunau, J. J. Janzen, G. Warkentin, Miss Mary Loeppy. Back: H. Janzen, A. Penner, J. Kaethler.

In the late 'twenties Mr. Sirluck established his grain business. Because the C.P.R. refused to sell him land at the railway sidings, he purchased an old windmill in the Reinfeld community and rebuilt it into an elevator on the south side of Mountain Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets. From here he competed with the well-established grain elevators on the railway tracks, adding annex to annex, and building higher and wider with the years.

During the dirty 'thirties, Mr. Sirluck called in his mortgagors from Mexico and told them that if they wanted him to hold on to the land they would have to forego payments until such time as the economy improved, but that he would guarantee to pay the land taxes. His proposition was accepted, and in the years to come no-one was the worse for waiting.

In later years Mr. Sirluck consolidated the land holdings, selling the greater part of it to pay off his creditors and partners. He retained the original farm purchased by his father plus his own holdings in Neuenburg. These were left severally to his four surviving children, who operate them jointly as "The Sirluck Farm."

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Sirluck had a family of five children, two sons and three daughters. The younger of the sons, Pilot Officer Robert Sirluck, was killed on active service in 1944. Dr. Ernest Sirluck is president of the University of Manitoba, and the three daughters are Mrs. H. B. Mitchell and Mrs. David Bruser of Winnipeg, and Mrs. Ernest Sture of Washington, D.C.

After Mrs. Sirluck died in 1936, Mr. Sirluck remarried, and in 1944 moved to Winnipeg, however, retaining for some years the house in Winkler, where he and Mrs. Sirluck usually spent a part of each week. This house was later sold at a very nominal price to Mr. & Mrs. Waldo Dyck who were struggling to raise a large family of children several of them having been crippled by polio. Mr. Sirluck died in Winnipeg on Monday, September 19, 1966, and funeral services were held at the Chesed Shel Emes on Tuesday, September 20.

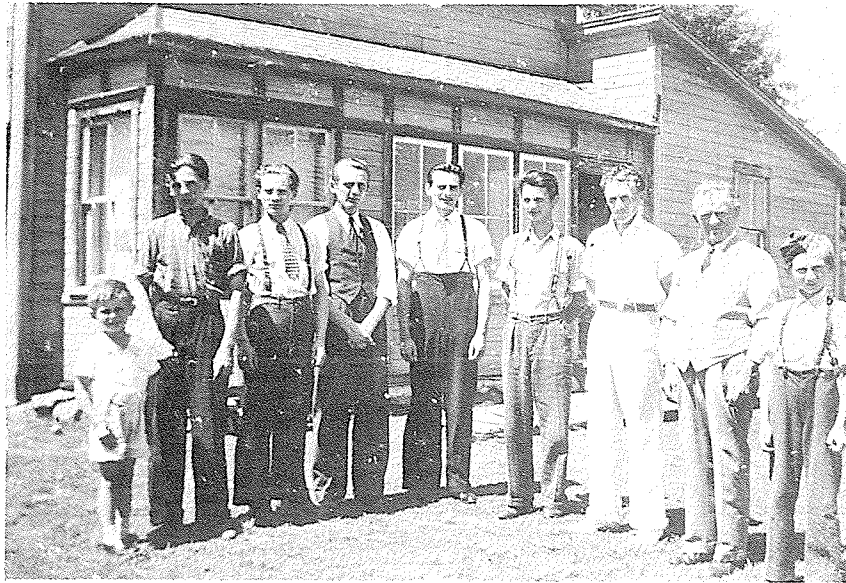
In 1914 the Zionist Movement started and Mr. Sirluck, as local representative, registered over thirty members in Winkler. He also served as Palnes (president) of the Jewish Synagogue here. After moving to Winnipeg, Mr. Sirluck participated actively in community affairs, serving as vice-president of the Ashkenazi Synagogue and as board member of the Talmud Torah, the Jewish Old Folks' Home, Mizrahi, and the Jewish Welfare Fund. He was also a member of the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University, Histadrut, Sharon Zion, B'nai B'rith, and the Manitoba Historical Society.

When Rev. Isaac P. Friesen of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, conducted evangelistic services in the Winkler churches in 1934, there were many local citizens who at the invitation to repent and confess, moved to the front of the church at the conclusion of the evening service and at the altar found remorse and repented for their sins. To rectify their misdeeds and to allay the pangs of

conscience, some new converts would head for the downtown area next morning and make restitution in the stores where their fingers had been too long. It appeared that some had taken advantage of Mr. Sirluck's kind and gentle nature, and behind his back, had left the store without waiting for the cash register to ring out a sale. Because of this sudden increase in retribution money, Mr. Sirluck personally decided to attend some of the services in the local Mennonite church to see and hear first hand the motivation for payment of these debts which had not found their way into the charge account ledger. Later Mr. Sirluck remarked, "Rev. I. P. Friesen accomplishes things which no policeman can achieve."



Store owned by J. B. Dyck and J. A. Kroeker, about 1900. It has been renovated and is now the Janzens' Department Store Ltd.



Frank E. Rietze and sons.

### Frank E. Rietze - Grain Buyer

Mr. Frank Edward Rietze was born on March 17, 1872, at Frankenthal, Saxony, Germany. In his youth, he immigrated with his parents to Canada and arrived at Langenburg, Saskatchewan, about the middle of June, 1888. From Langenburg Mr. Rietze went to Winnipeg and then to Cavalier, North Dakota. In 1896 he came to Winkler where he spent the remaining 58 years of his life. On February 11, 1901, he was married to the former Miss Ottilie Winters who passed away June 17, 1908, and subsequently Mr. Rietze was united in matrimony with Miss Pauline Teske on August 30, 1908. He was the father of a family of sixteen children. Their first house was located on Sixth Street on the present Co-op Hardware parking lot. Later, the family resided about a block to the north of North Railway Avenue.

On his arrival in Winkler, Mr. Rietze found employment with his brother, Ernest O. Rietze, who was a partner in the firm of Hanson & Rietze. They operated a store at the south-east corner of Sixth Street and South Railway Avenue. However, in 1899 the International Elevator Company began to build an elevator on the C.P.R. tracks at Winkler and when the construction was

completed in 1900, Mr. Rietze was engaged as the first agent. When the elevator was taken over by the Federal Grain Limited, he continued as grain buyer and his son Reinhold estimates that his father took in about three million bushels of grain during his thirty years as agent at Winkler.

Mr. Rietze served the local community in various capacities. He was elected to the Winkler School Board as trustee and for many years was a member of the village council. In fact, he was elected to the first council when Winkler was incorporated as a village on May 9, 1906. Mr. Rietze played in the first brass band that was organized here, and was one of the founders of the Lutheran Church at Winkler where he served as elder. He died Saturday, July 24, 1954.

### Mr. Conrad Nauer - Grain Buyer

Mr. Conrad Nauer was born on February 3, 1868, at Grulich, Austria. In 1896, he came to Canada where he met and married Ida Lange who at the age of 17 had immigrated from Bromberg, Posen near Hamburg, Germany.

After spending a number of years on a farm near Gretna, Manitoba, they moved to Plum Coulee where he engaged in carpentry, a trade he learned in Austria after completing his military training. He was also a bartender in Plum Coulee for a number of years. Next, he accepted a job as elevator agent at Kronsart and thus had to walk home to Plum Coulee every week-end and back to Kronsart on Sunday.

In 1913 they moved to Winkler where Mr. Nauer accepted employment with the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company as elevator agent. In 1936, at the age of 68, he retired from the service of this company, after having handled an estimated 1,150,000 bushels of grain in 28 years as elevator agent. Their first house in Winkler was situated north of the tracks. From here they moved to the west side of Park Street where son Alfred is still residing. In their family of nine children who are all in fairly good health, there are twin boys.

Mr. Nauer was one of the first members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Winkler and for many years served on the church council as elder and as treasurer. For a short period, he also was a member of the Winkler village council. He passed away on September 6, 1959, at the age of 91, and Mrs. Nauer died May 23, 1962, at the age of 83 years.



Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Nauer and son

### Philip Uhrich - Grain Buyer

Mr. Philip Uhrich was born April 4, 1863, at Formosa, Ontario. At the age of 16 years he left his parental home and came west, arriving by river boat at East Lynne (Emerson) in 1879 where he was employed in a grocery store. Before the coming of the railroad, Mr. Uhrich delivered groceries from Emerson via the Post Road with a team of horses to Nelsonville which was located about nine miles north-west of Morden. One night's lodging for him and his team cost 35 cents. Later he worked at Gretna for a short time and then went to Nelsonville where he found employment with Mr. Valentine Winkler in a lumber yard. With the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1882, Nelsonville was moved lock, stock, and barrel to Morden, and Mr. Uhrich vividly recalled how he helped to move large houses and business offices with a team of horses. Today only a cairn is left to indicate the former townsite of Nelsonville.

In 1891, Mr. Uhrich made the trip from Manitou to St. Leon by horse and cutter where he was married to Miss Anna Loustel who had been born in Vienna, Austria. After their marriage they made their home in Plum Coulee where Mr. Uhrich worked in a grist mill for about a year. In 1892 when the Village of Winkler was started as a siding, they moved to Winkler. Their first house was built for them by Rev. John Warkentin at the north-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Third Street. In 1902, they purchased a house on Seventh Street where the high rise Heritage Apartments are now located. Mr. & Mrs. Uhrich had a family of eleven children. Their oldest son, Charles, was the first boy born in the Village of Winkler, August 22, 1893. He was killed in action in June, 1918, during World War I. Lieutenant Charles P. Uhrich served with the 28th Air Squadron 14th Division of the Royal Air Force.

When Mr. Uhrich moved to Winkler he was appointed agent for the International Grain Company and later for the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. The first elevators were operated by steam engines and these were later replaced by stationary gasoline engines. With the coming of the Manitoba Hydro, these have again been replaced by electricity. Apparently, Mr. Uhrich always had his share of the business during the threshing season when drivers of teams with wagon loads of grain waiting to be unloaded would sometimes line up for blocks. After forty years as an elevator agent, he retired in 1931.

In 1941, Mr. & Mrs. Uhrich celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home in Winkler. They attended St. John's Roman Catholic Church at Morden where Mr. Uhrich served as elder. Mr. Uhrich died on February 19, 1942, and Mrs. Uhrich passed away in June, 1956.





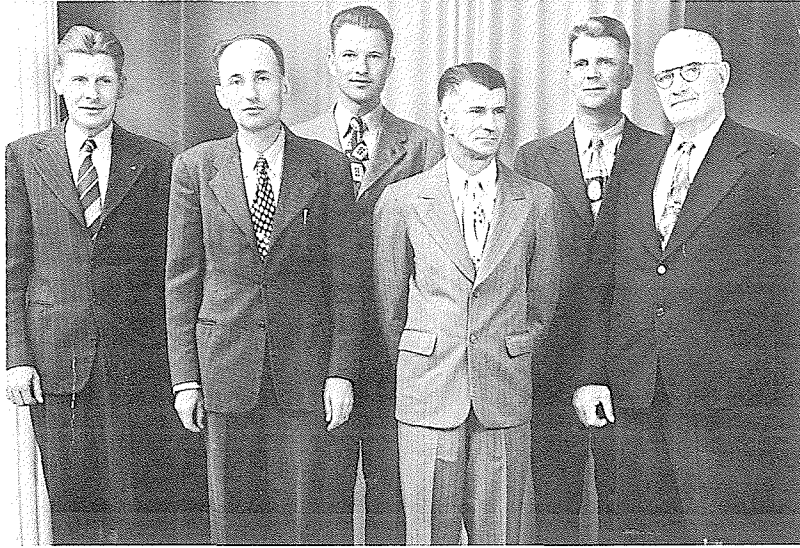
The Philip Urich Family, 1902.



Mr. and Mrs. Philip Urich, Dec. 28, 1941, on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They came to Winkler in 1892.



Mr. and Mrs. Urich with children and grandchildren.



Winkler Village Council 1949. (L. to R.): E. A. Teske; H. S. Friesen, Secretary; P. F. Derksen; G. W. Neufeld, Mayor; J. J. Wiens; J. G. Brown.

### Grain Elevators

According to the records of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company Department of Public Relations, the first elevator at Winkler was constructed in April, 1893, by W. W. Ogilvie. The same source reports that the largest number of elevators in operation in Winkler at any one time appears to have been about 1910 when the following six elevator companies bought grain here: Northern Elevator Company; Lake of the Woods Milling Company, Ltd.; Dominion Elevator Company; International Elevator Company; Ogilvie Flour Mills Company Limited; and the Manitoba Elevator Company.

However, Mr. Frank E. Rietze who was a grain buyer here for many years, maintained that the number of elevators operating in Winkler shortly after the turn of the century was eight, and naming them from west to east, he listed the following: the International Elevator Company; Ogilvie Flour Mills Company Limited; Lake of the Woods Milling Company; Northern Elevator Company; Bredy, Love, and Brian; Mr. Valentine Winkler's double elevator; the Farmer's Elevator; and the Dominion Elevator Company.

Mr. Thomas S. Acheson who served as local station agent from 1899 to 1905, lists the following elevators from east to west:

- 1) The Dominion, owned by D. H. McMillan.
- 2) The Ogilvies Flour Mills Co. with Mr. Henry Erewein as the first grain buyer.
- 3) The Northern Elevator Company with Mr. Struthers as the grain buyer. Their building consisted of two elevators and was located directly in front of the station.
- 4) The Livingstone Linseed Oil Company which was also handled by Mr. Struthers. This building consisted of a flat warehouse and the owner purchased only flax.

- 5) The Lake of the Woods Milling Company which seems to have had the distinction of having been operated with horses for the longest period of time, for the owners were the last of local grain buyers to change over to steam. One of the first houses to be built in Winkler was occupied by Mr. Philip Uhrich who for many years was the grain buyer for the Lake of the Woods.
- 6) The McMillan and Potter Elevator was situated where the Ogilvies Elevator was located later.
- 7) The Federal Elevator was erected where it still stands today.

All of these elevators were at first operated by horse power. Then they all changed to steam power. As wheat was selling at fifty cents per bushel at that time, some of the owners of the elevators used to burn frozen wheat as fuel. Later they all changed to gasoline engines and today the local elevators are operated by electricity. The three elevators in town today have greatly increased capacity. They are Inter-Ocean Grain Co. Ltd., Federal Grain Ltd., and Manitoba Pool Elevators organized in 1952.

At the beginning of this century there was often a great shortage of freight cars especially during the harvest season. Therefore, Mr. Acheson, the station agent, used to plead with the C.P.R. officials to despatch a train of about thirty-five freight cars to Winkler on Saturday night. Before Sunday morning, these cars would all be loaded with golden grain. The locomotive would then proceed to Morden, turn around, pick up the loaded freight cars at Winkler and continue to Winnipeg on Sunday. Mr. Acheson who was the station agent at that time remarked that there was no charge for overtime in those days. The shortage of flat cars exists today, especially during the beet harvest.

### Valentine Winkler

According to some of the information obtainable by the writer, it would appear that the first grain elevator in Winkler was built and operated by Mr. Valentine Winkler and his partner Mr. James Stodders. It was a double elevator and stood opposite the location of the C.P.R. station.

Mr. Valentine Winkler had close associations with this community from the time he was fourteen years of age. He represented the municipality of Stanley in the Manitoba Legislature from 1892 - 1920. For part of that time, 1915 - 1920, he was the Minister of Agriculture in the Liberal government of Manitoba. His son, Mr. Howard Winkler, whose earliest recollections of Winkler went back to about 1895, represented the constituency of Lisgar in which the town of Winkler is located, from 1935 - 1953 in the federal Liberal government at Ottawa. Mr. H. W. Winkler served four terms as member of the House of Commons. He had succeeded Mr. J. L. Brown of Crystal City as the Liberal candidate and in turn was succeeded by Dr. W. A. Pommer of Manitou in the Dominion election on August 10, 1953. For many years, the votes cast in the town of Winkler during provincial and federal elections were Liberal by a large majority. This trend changed with the coming of the Social Credit Party, and in recent years the local electors have favoured the Conservative party by casting their votes for George Muir, and in the Lisgar by-election on Nov. 16, 1970, Jack Murta was elected.

Among the political dignitaries and statesmen who have visited Winkler and addressed the electorate there have been Manitoba premiers, like John Bracken, S. S. Garson, D. L. Campbell, Duff Roblin, Walter Wier, and Ed Schreyer. Premier E. C. Manning of Alberta has also spoken in town. The following Lieutenant Governors of Manitoba visited the community: R. F. McWilliams, Richard S. Bowles, and W. J. McKeag. Neither have Dominion prime ministers and leaders of national parties neglected Winkler but rather appear to have vied with one another for speaking engagements in town. These include W. L. McKenzie King (July 22, 1933); Lester B. Pearson and Mrs. Pearson (Oct. 7, 1965); John G. Diefenbaker (Nov. 13, 1970); as well as Robert Thompson and Real Caouette.

The Winnipeg Free Press reported November 16, 1970:

"Ex-Lisgar MP, H. W. Winkler Dies

Howard W. Winkler, 78, a former member of Parliament for Lisgar, died Saturday at his winter home in Mesa, Arizona. During the summer months, he and his wife Ruth lived in Morden.

Mr. Winkler came from a pioneer Manitoba family with a long tradition of political involvement, and was first elected to the House of Commons in 1935.

Mr. Winkler was re-elected to the House in 1940, 1945, and 1949. He retired in 1953.

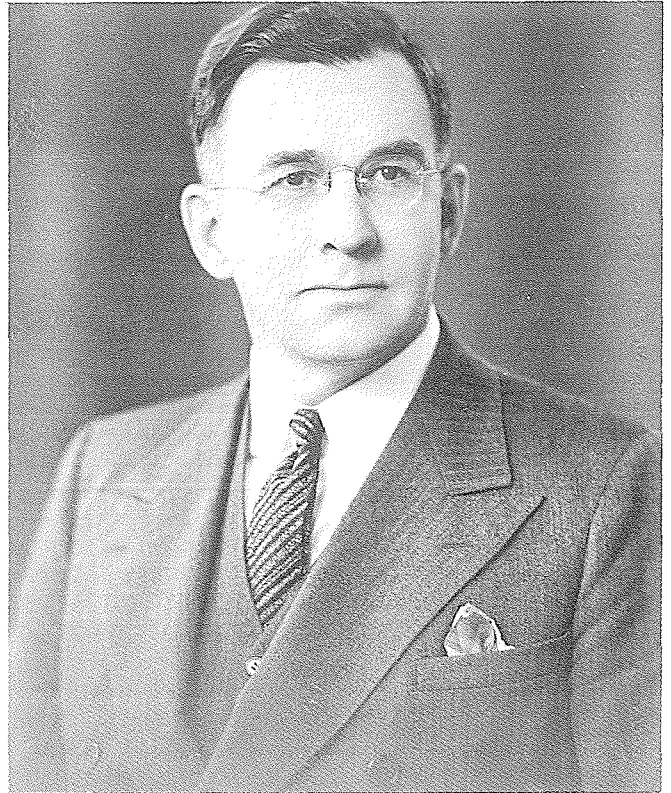
Born near Morden in 1891, he attended the local schools and afterwards went to Wesley College, graduating in 1912. Later he attended the Manitoba Agricultural College, finishing his course in 1916.

On the day of convocation he left for overseas service with the 11th Canadian Field Ambulance and served

in France for more than a year. He was invalided home in the early winter of 1917 and for a few years had to live in the southern United States to regain his health.

Returning to Morden in 1919, he commenced farming, and on the death of his father in 1920, just prior to the provincial elections, he was nominated as Liberal candidate in Morden-Rhineland, the seat his father held as minister of agriculture in the provincial Liberal administration.

Mr. Winkler married the former Ruth Doern in September, 1954, in Winnipeg."



Mr. Howard W. Winkler, Liberal M.P. for Lisgar 1935-53

His father, as a boy of fourteen, joined his older brother Enoch at Emerson in 1879. He was employed there for two years in his brother's lumber yard. In 1881, the Canadian Pacific Railway built a subsidiary line southward to join the Great Northern at Neche, Dacotah Territory. When this line reached Gretna, Manitoba, Enoch Winkler had already established a lumber yard and grain warehouse near the International Boundary at Gretna. His younger brother, Valentine Winkler, was now transferred from Emerson to Gretna and placed in charge of the business. Two years later the C.P.R. surveyed a townsite on the farms of two young settlers, Frank and Wilmot Morden, who owned land which had been cut by a branch line in 1882. When Enoch Winkler established a business at Morden in 1883, his younger brother was again transferred as his agent of this small empire.

Until 1923, Mr. Howard W. Winkler, B.A., B.S.A., personally operated his farm a mile east of Morden with three five-horse teams and a tractor. It was about this time that tractors were beginning to replace horses for ploughing. It appears that he took a good deal of pride in his fine Clydesdales. When his father who had been



Minister of Agriculture in the provincial Norris Government, died in 1920, Mr. Howard Winkler was surprised by a group of his father's friends who took him to the nominating convention at Plum Coulee where his name was one of two placed before the meeting. Before he realized what was happening, he was the Liberal candidate in the Morden-Rhineland constituency for the provincial election. Because of the attitude of the Norris Government to the Old Colony Mennonites on the school question, Mr. Winkler was defeated in his first attempt at politics.

In 1873, the Mennonite delegates from Russia had apparently been promised by the Macdonald administration, "That the Mennonites will have the fullest privilege of exercising their religious principles and educating their children in schools, as provided by law, without any kind of molestation or restriction whatever." (P.C.957,'a' 10). The Manitoba Government maintained that no such promise by the Dominion Government could have been given, for education was the constitutional domain of the provinces. A thorough search was made to find the original written agreement but without any success at that time. However, the Order in Council which was signed July 28, 1873, was kept secret and the Mennonite delegates had not received a copy of it. Furthermore, Mennonites were exempted from military service but disenfranchised. As a result, they were not permitted to vote in 1917, during World War I. In the original agreement with the government, there was also an arrangement that "Any person who is the head of a family and 21 years of age or over, shall be entitled to one quarter section or less quantity of unappropriated Dominion Lands for the purpose of securing a homestead right in respect thereof." It also provided that he could later buy the remaining three quarter section at \$1.00 per acre. Apparently, this part of the promise was not kept. Mennonites were also given the privilege of affirming, instead of making affidavits as is provided by law.

Besides owning one-half interest in the village site, Mr. Valentine Winkler also operated a lumber yard and a grain elevator in Winkler, with Mr. J. E. Doerr as his agent. Although Mr. Winkler himself resided at Morden because he wanted to send his children to school, he paid frequent visits to the town which bears his name. These visits were made with horse and buggy. It appears that Mr. Valentine Winkler also found some time to interest and to divert himself in game and in hunting. Therefore, he kept several large hounds which would accompany him on his trips to Winkler. However, since there was a farmer with a herd of sheep living on the road which led to the village from the north, Mr. Winkler found it advisable to enter the hamlet on the south road and thus retain control over his game-minded hounds. On one of his business calls to his namesake, Mr. Winkler had lost the sum of \$3000 on the road. Fortunately, he did not have long to wait before the finder returned the entire amount to him.



Welcome for W. L. Mackenzie King, July 22, 1933, Park Street looking south.



July 22, 1933, reception at the primary school for former prime minister Mackenzie King. On the steps are John Coltart, Mackenzie King (under the umbrella in raincoat) and J. J. Enns.



Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson visited Winkler Oct. 7, 1965.





The Rt. Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister of Canada addressed a Winkler audience on November 13, 1970. Deputy Mayor Nick R. Wiebe presented Mr. Diefenbaker with an honorary citizenship pin.

### Business Section

Recently, business places have been built south on Main Street as well as on other streets away from South Railway Avenue. Since the disastrous fire in February, 1949, the following business firms have erected buildings on the east side of Main Street south of Mountain Avenue: The Variety Store (now Speed Dee Mart), the Winkler Drug Store, Macleods, Miller's Hatchery, (now Penner's Dry Goods), and Elias Motors (now Gladstone Tire Shop). Across the street from these, Mr. D. D. Fehr erected the Streamline Crusher works in 1940. However, this building and the building directly south were later occupied by the Winkler Transfer with Mr. J. H. K. Dyck as owner, and until recently owned by Winkler Express Lines. The Winkler Motors at the north-east corner of Main Street and Stanley Avenue opened for business in 1950. The partners who operated under the trade name of Winkler Motors were C. J. Funk & Co. and J. J. Sawatsky. The Winkler Co-op Creamery which was organized in 1940 as the first co-operative enterprise in Winkler, and purchased the creamery on Railway Avenue from Mr. John Coltart, built a new Co-op Creamery in 1943 at the south-east corner of Main Street and Stanley Avenue. Mr. A. J. Friesen, the first manager of the creamery, who was killed in an airplane crash, was succeeded by Mr. Jim Hamm, who in turn was succeeded by Mr. Peter Wiebe.

In the spring of 1947, Prairie Cannery Limited erected a vegetable cannery on North Railway Avenue and Highway 32. The original dimensions of the plant were 180 by 160 feet, and the canning plant proper covered 16,500 square feet of floor space. Many high school students found seasonal employment here during the summer months. The contractor in charge of building the plant was Mr. Hugo Penner. The first manager of Prairie Cannery Limited, later known as Co-op Prairie Cannery, was Mr. Harry Wasylyk and Mr. John J. Elias served as the first fieldman for the cannery. For a number of years Mr. Wm. Ternowetsky was the manager. He was succeeded by Mr. Isaac R. Dyck when the cannery became a co-operative. In 1967, the cannery was reluctantly bought by Co-op Vegetable Oils of Altona, but it discontinued operations 1970.

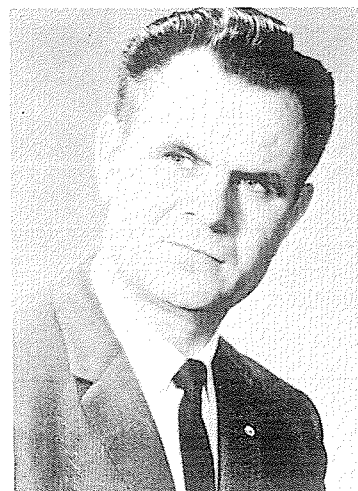
### Medical Doctors

Some of the medical doctors who practised in Winkler after the turn of the century have been Dr. Nelson G. Cooper; Dr. G. F. Weatherhead; Dr. O. Uhle; and Dr. Smythe, as well as the dentists Dr. J. B. Doerksen, (1933-34); and Dr. Pasika (1941-55). Other medical doctors who joined Dr. C. W. Wiebe at the Winkler Clinic have been Dr. A. P. Warkentin (1941-55); Dr. Harold U. Penner joined the staff in 1951; Dr. Ben Froese; Dr. Harold Wiens; and Dr. Vogt. However, after practising their profession at Winkler for a few years, they invariably looked for opportunities to specialize in Winnipeg. In 1972 there are five medical doctors practising at the Winkler Clinic to take care of the health needs of the community, namely, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Dr. Feroze Khan, Dr. V. C. Jacob, Dr. Punnoose Pachikara, and Dr. Walter T. Hoepfner.

On Monday, May 7, 1973, Mrs. C. W. Wiebe and Mr. Dave Bueckert, chairman of the Bethel Hospital Board, turned the first sod to announce the start of construction for the new 7,000 square-foot Winkler Clinic Buildings Limited at the north-west corner of Rietze Avenue and Main Street North. The contractors are Fonger Construction Limited with Mr. Peter Derksen, Morden, as foreman.



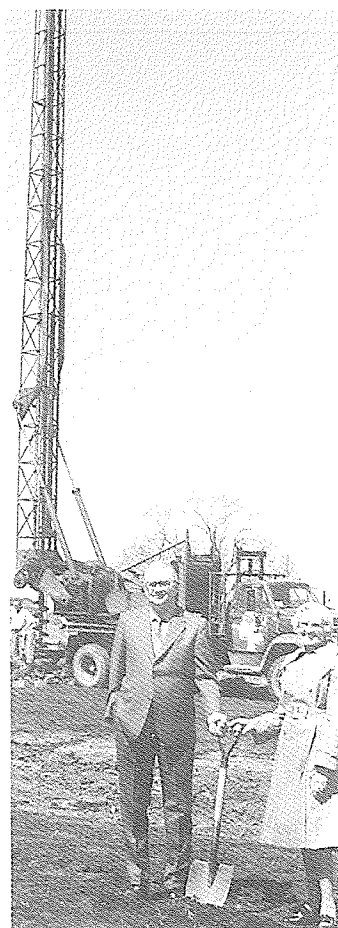
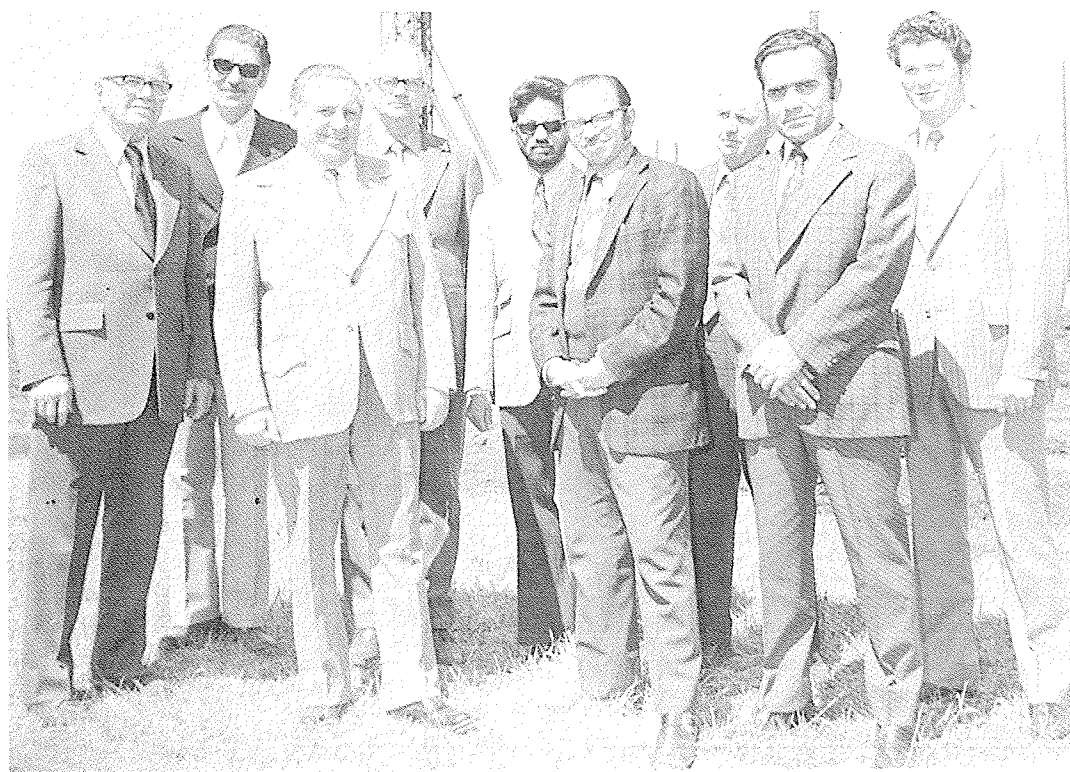
Dr. H. U. Penner



Dr. Ben J. Froese



Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Wiebe Appreciation Day, Sunday, July 2, 1972, and a few of the estimated 6000 Dr. Wiebe babies.



Sod turning ceremony for the new Winkler Medical Centre May 7, 1973. Photo at left shows, left to right: Dr. C. W. Wiebe; Nick Wiebe, deputy mayor of Winkler; J. M. Froese, Rhineland MLA; Dave Bueckert; Dr. Feroze Khan, chief of the Winkler medical staff; Dr. V. C. Jacob; George Froese, Reeve of Stanley Municipality; Dr. P. Pachikara, and Dr. W. Hoepfner. Photo at right: Mrs. C. W. Wiebe, and Dave Bueckert, chairman of Bethel Hospital Board.

## Dr. C. W. Wiebe — Founder of Hospital

Dr. C. W. Wiebe came to Winkler in 1925 and opened his first office in a drug store on the west side of Main Street. However, soon after this he moved the office to the present location of the Winkler Drug Store. In 1937, he built an office at 564 Mountain Avenue, and in 1944 the Winkler Clinic was erected on the same site.

Dr. C. W. Wiebe was born February 18, 1893, at Altona, Manitoba, where he received his elementary and high school education. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Peter B. Wiebe, operated a farm near Altona. Dr. Wiebe was married to the former Miss Helen Groening of Plum Coulee. After attending Wesley College (later known as United College) and more recently as the University of Winnipeg, and after completing Teacher Training at the Provincial Normal School in Winnipeg, his interest in education became firmly rooted and he was engaged in the teaching profession for seven years. However, he had a childhood ambition to become a doctor and entered medicine at the Manitoba Medical College where he graduated with honours in 1925.

The need for a local hospital at Winkler had already been felt for many years by Dr. C. W. Wiebe and other citizens when in August, 1935, a provisional committee was elected at a general meeting of the community. Within two weeks, this committee had drawn up a constitution and another meeting was called in order to adopt this constitution and to elect the first Board of Directors. The Directors immediately purchased the present hospital site from the J. H. Black Estate at a price of \$1,200.00. The property consisted of four acres of land and a large residence which was later renovated and used as a nurses' home. However, on December 1, 1935, before sufficient funds had been raised to erect a new hospital, the upper storey of a private residence (the former J. B. Dyck home on Eighth Street) was improvised as a maternity home.

After donations had been solicited, plans for a new \$8,000.00 hospital building were drawn up by the Board of Directors and approved by the Manitoba Department of Health. On September 27, 1936, the contractor began construction of Bethel Hospital and by December of the same year the fifteen beds were ready for occupation. In 1942, the south wing was added at a cost of \$10,500.00 and this addition brought the accommodation up to 36 beds. Voluntary labor was available to a considerable extent for the erection of both of these first two structures. In 1946, the \$46,000.00 fire proof north wing was built to provide operating rooms as well as to bring the capacity to 40 beds. On June 28, 1959, a new \$90,000.00 thirty-bed Nurses' Residence was officially opened and dedicated. It provides accommodation for nurses and hospital staff.

On January 29, 1964, construction of the 57-bed District Hospital got underway when the chairman of the Hospital Board and Dr. C. W. Wiebe, head of the medical staff, turned the first sod at a ceremony held on the building site. The new million-dollar-Bethel Hospital was officially opened on Sunday, September 19, 1965, when the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, Richard S. Bowles cut the ribbon. Patient care in Winkler has seen a miraculous transformation. This has only been possible through the tenacious, indomitable, and sacrificial

courage of Dr. Wiebe. It may best be summarized in his own words which he spoke at the sod turning ceremony for the new hospital when, after reviewing briefly the history of the Winkler Bethel Hospital Society, he stated: "The previous projects seem small to us now, but I can assure you that at the time they were started, they seemed very formidable. We hope that the 'spirit of service', so evident in the history of the Bethel Hospital Society will not be dimmed, but that it will glow ever brighter as we care for the sick in this new hospital."

The four periods of construction at the Winkler Bethel Hospital that Dr. Wiebe spearheaded, may well be compared to the birth, infancy, youth, and manhood of the 6000 babies which he helped to deliver. This is a record that would be hard to surpass in the life of one individual. If all the Fords, Chevies, and Buicks with which he used to scour the countryside on "horse and buggy" roads to reach the bedsides of his patients in the shortest possible time were able to speak, there would follow tales of mud holes and ditches, snowstorms and blizzards, anxious moments and the touch of a helping hand. Dr. Wiebe evidently had one of the most hectic days in his medical career on December 29, 1936, when he was the attending physician, as triplets — two girls and a boy, arrived at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Kauenhoffen of Schanzenfeld.

However, Dr. Wiebe has confined his services not only to the sick but has been active in many other areas in the community, not least of which have been the educational institutions. For 18 years, out of the 24 years that Dr. Wiebe has served on the Winkler School Board as trustee, he has acted as chairman of the Board. He was chairman in 1929 when the primary school was built; in 1948 when the building for the elementary grades was erected; and again in 1954 when another 14 classrooms and the auditorium were constructed. Thus Dr. Wiebe acted as chairman of the Winkler School Board during all new construction since 1912, until the Garden Valley School Division was formed in 1964. Not only was he interested in the academic achievements of the local high school students, but he also encouraged the introduction of a commercial course as well as providing accommodation for a library. Dr. & Mrs. Wiebe saw all of their children, Leonard, Verna, Thelma, and Howard attend the local high school, and two of them, Leonard and Thelma (Mrs. John Harp), graduated from the University of Manitoba; the former in Science and the latter in Home Economics.

Dr. Wiebe has also served on the Manitoba School Trustee Association, and the Canadian Medical Association. On June 16, 1932, he was elected to the Manitoba Legislature as Liberal candidate for the Electoral Division of Morden-Rhineland.

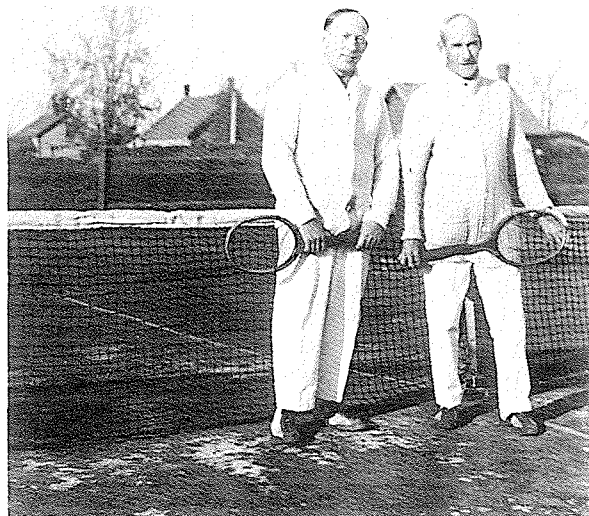
Since 1958 Dr. Wiebe has been active in another educational venture in the community by guiding and bringing into existence the School for Retarded Children. For five years he served as educational director of the Association for Retarded Children Winkler Branch. As building supervisor he was influential in 1963 for the construction of the best School for Retarded in rural Manitoba. He has devoted much time to encourage parents in the home care of their children. Dr. Wiebe has acted as president and vice-president of this Association.



An old song says, "Give Me My Flowers While I Live". This song actually came to fruition on February 12, 1956, when the congregation of the Winkler Berghaler Church paid tribute to Dr. & Mrs. C. W. Wiebe for 30 years of community service, and also celebrated the beloved doctor's sixty-third birthday. After reading, "The Lord hath done great things for us", Psalm 126:3, the pastor asked all those present who had received any medical service from Dr. Wiebe to stand, and, by appearances the large congregation that filled the church and balcony, rose. The presentation of a bronze plaque to the honoured guest was then made. It bore the inscription, "Presented to Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Feb. 12, 1956, by the Berghaler Church of Winkler in appreciation of the untiring services you have rendered us and the citizens of our community the past thirty years. 'Well done thou good and faithful servant', Matthew 25:21."

In 1945-46 Dr. Wiebe served as president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, and for 1952-53 he was elected president of the Manitoba Medical Association. He was granted Life Membership in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba in 1958, and elected Senior Member of the Canadian Medical Association and the Manitoba Medical Association in 1965. Dr. Wiebe was a member of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba by election in the following years: 1942-47; 1949-51; 1960-63. On November 4, 1967, he was honoured with the Manitoba Golden Boys good citizenship award.

An estimated 3000 area residents attended the Dr. C. W. Wiebe Appreciation Day sponsored by the Winkler Parks and Recreation Committee at the local park on West Street, Sunday, July 2, 1972, to honour the family doctor and surgeon for his 47 years of continuous service to the Winkler community. The celebration began with an open air church service in the morning, followed by a roster of speakers in the afternoon, and ended with a barbecue in the Arena.



W. G. Graefer and Dr. G. F. Weatherhead

Dr. George F. Weatherhead who was born March 31, 1872, at Brockville, Ontario, came to Winkler in 1910. Dr. & Mrs. Weatherhead with their family of seven children resided at the south-east corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. Besides serving the community

in the medical profession, Dr. Weatherhead took a keen interest in the promotion of sports, such as tennis, hockey and figure skating. In May, 1927, the family moved to Winnipeg where Dr. Weatherhead passed away on March 5, 1948, after practising medicine for 37 years. Mrs. Weatherhead who was born April 1, 1885, at Winslow, Quebec, died August 31, 1954. Dr. & Mrs. Weatherhead were buried in Brookside Cemetery, Winnipeg.

### Dr. Hugh McGavin

Although Dr. Hugh McGavin practised his profession in Plum Coulee, he treated many of his patients in the Winkler Bethel Hospital which he called the "Little Mayo Clinic." In 1902 when the Plum Coulee village council advertised in the Free Press and "Der Nordwesten" for a medical practitioner, it was Dr. McGavin, a young graduate from the Manitoba Medical College, who flipped a coin to decide whether to set up a practice in Altona or Plum Coulee.

When a Winnipeg retired chief of police had his investigations and court cases published, the Krafchenko murder of a Plum Coulee bank manager figured prominently in it. In 1952, when a member of the committee in charge of preparations for the 50th anniversary of incorporation of the village of Plum Coulee went to Winnipeg to buy a large quantity of sports ribbons for the celebration, the shipping clerk was immediately oriented and exclaimed, "Oh, that's the place where a bank was robbed." Here is an example of how much easier it is to achieve notoriety than to build a reputation. One blast from a gun gave one man more publicity than fifty years of humanitarian service gave Dr. McGavin.<sup>8</sup>

Born in Bruce County, Paisley, Ontario, in 1874, Dr. McGavin lost his father at an early age. His mother took her family out west in 1877, settling in Winnipeg, and later moving onto a farm in the Springfield area where he attended Prairie Grove school. Before entering the University of Manitoba Medical College, Winnipeg, Dr. McGavin taught school in the Qu'Appelle Valley district of Saskatchewan for two years. He died on March 8, 1958, at Plum Coulee, Manitoba.

Dr. McGavin had gone to Altona where he met a traveller who asked him, "Why don't you go to Plum Coulee? There is an opening there." Although the young doctor did not even know where the village of Plum Coulee was, he hired a democrat, loaded his trunk, and on June 30, 1902, arrived at his destination where he replaced Dr. F. D. McKenty. On December 31, 1918, he was married to the former Miss Ida Nauer of Winkler who helped the doctor to bring up a family of two children.

In 1948 Plum Coulee and community celebrated "McGavin Day" to pay tribute to their hometown physician. The roster of speakers who addressed the citizens assembled on the doctor's recognition day, included Dr. C. Jackson, Deputy Minister of Health; Errick Willis, leader of the provincial Conservative party; and the Hon. W. C. Miller, M. L. A. for Rhineland. The most impressive tribute, however, was the parade of grandparents, parents and children who were lined up as the "Dr. McGavin Babies." Many of the estimated 5000



babies had been delivered in the family home during the early days of his medical career.

In the horse and buggy (and sleigh) days when hospitals were many hours away, the doctor would examine the patient in the home instead of in his office. Even surgery was performed during the house calls. Hence, in 1919 Dr. McGavin with the assistance of a surgeon performed an appendectomy for Miss Nettie Kroeker on the dining table in her parental home on 8th Street in Winkler. During the severe outbreak of the flu in the fall of 1918, he was often forced to work for 24 hours a day. Within a short time about 50 deaths occurred in the area before the epidemic could be checked.

In 1910 Dr. McGavin was the Conservative candidate for the Morden-Rhineland riding in a provincial election. His opponent was the Hon. Valentine Winkler who served his constituents with distinction for a period of 28 years, during which time he also attained the rank of cabinet minister. As he had expected, Dr. McGavin lost the election. When he was later interviewed about the campaign, he suggested, "You just couldn't beat Valentine Winkler."

However, in 1927 Dr. McGavin was successful when his opponents were Peter Bueckert, mayor of Winkler as Liberal standard bearer, and W. Black, a Morden lawyer who represented the Progressive Party. Although Mr. Black received most votes, the transfer of ballot system was used in that election and Dr. McGavin was elected on Mr. Bueckert's second choices.

Dr. McGavin stood for re-election again on June 16, 1932, but the successful candidate this time was his Liberal friend and colleague, Dr. C. W. Wiebe of Winkler.



**Winkler Kinsmen, 1964:** Left to right, Jack Kielback; Alfred Wiens; Harvey Friesen, president, presenting a \$15,000 cheque to Mayor P. J. Kroeker to aid in the building of the swimming pool; Pete (Flash) Elias; and Alf Parkinson.

### Kinsmen

A branch of a service club of national renown was organized at Winkler in 1958 when a group of local citizens formed the Winkler Kinsmen Club. Following the example of their husbands (in this case) a little later, the ladies organized as Kinettes. Some of the major projects undertaken by the Winkler Kinsmen have been the construction of a Kiddies' Playground and a Little League Ball Park, and collection of donations for local and national charitable institutions. The executive of the Winkler Kinsmen Club in 1970 was composed of the

following officers: Herb Klassen, president; Roy Brown, 1st vice-president; Willy Doering, 2nd vice-president; Jim Craig, secretary; Don Elias, director; and Dr. F. Khan, bulletin editor and past president.

The other members in 1970 were John H. Wiebe, Peter Bergen, Don Hodgson, Gordon Wiebe, Henry R. Thiessen, Dale McComb, Harvey Peters, Ken Schaak, Vic Epp, Ken Ginter, Ed Sawatzky, Borden Petriw, and Keith Wiebe. The Honorary members were Tom Faulkner, Menno Kroeker, and Ralph King. Besides these, Jake Loewen, Jack Kielback, and Harvey P. Friesen served as Charter members.

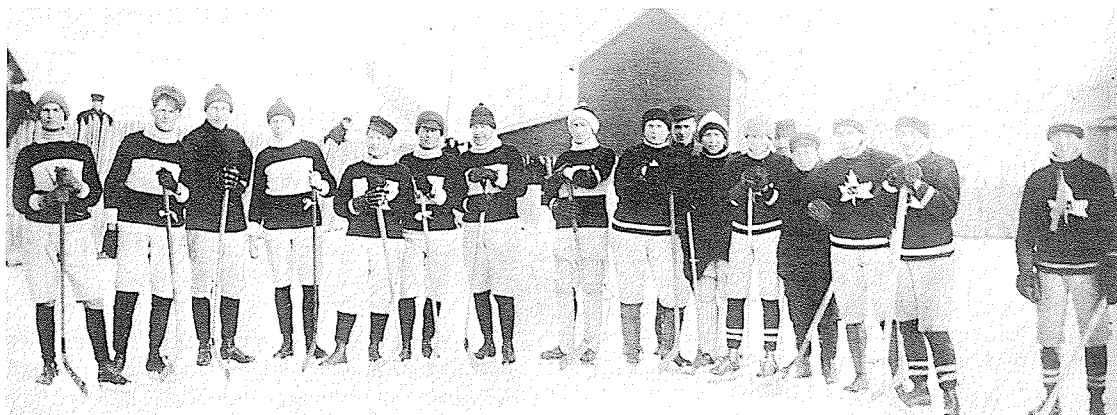
### Sports

Except for a few years, most of the pleasure skating and hockey at Winkler was confined to open-air skating rinks. For many years there was an outside skating rink on Mountain Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets. Later an open-air rink with a board fence around it and a shed for dressing was flooded and prepared during the winter months on Main Street south of the Co-op Creamery. However, about 1926, Mr. Peter Bueckert who was the mayor of Winkler and owner of the Winkler Lumber Yard erected a skating rink on the east side of Main Street in the area of the present Gladstone Tire Shop and Garage. After four years of indoor skating, this privately owned rink which had been built in a hurry and was consequently later condemned, was dismantled and Mr. Bueckert used the lumber to build a barn on his farm at Blumstein.

The Winkler Sports Arena was built in 1950 and officially opened on December 14 of that year. It was located on the east side of Main Street just a little south of the present location of the Manitoba Dairy and Poultry Co-operative Limited (formerly the Winkler Co-op Creamery) and adjacent to the curling rink. In fact, this was the lot used previously for an open-air skating rink. Unfortunately, an early morning fire on January 9, 1967, completely destroyed the Winkler Sports Arena. The estimated insurance loss on the Arena was \$60,000.00.



**Winners at southern Manitoba bonspiels, 1973, from left to right:** Ray Doell, Harold Sawatzky, Harvey Peters, and Herb Dick, skip.



The Winkler and Morden Hockey Clubs, 1912-1913. From left to right the Winkler players are I. M. Miller, P. Hiebert, G. H. Hiebert, Bruno Schiminowsky, Ed Loewen, Math Miller, Dr. Weatherhead, W. G. Graefer. Morden players not known.



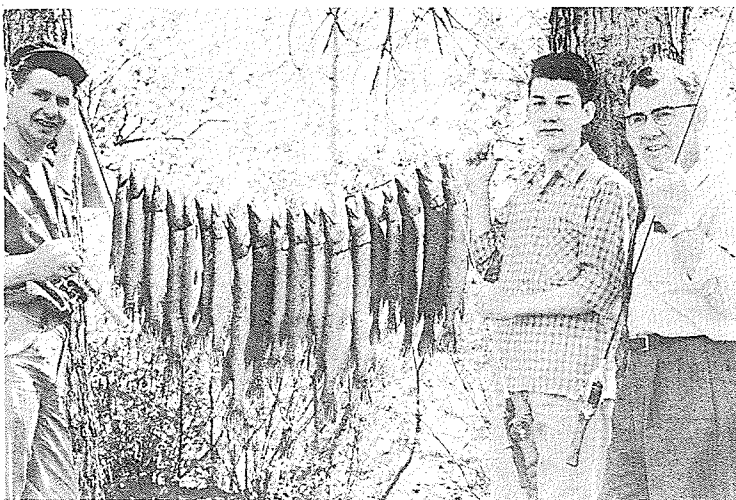
The Winkler Royals, 1970-71 Winners of the South-Eastern Manitoba Hockey League Trophy



Snowmobile Safari



Bonspiel Winners, 1972. Left to right: Herb Dick (skip), Harry Friesen, Harvey Peters, Walter Demke.



Percy Enns, Robert and Menno Kroeker.

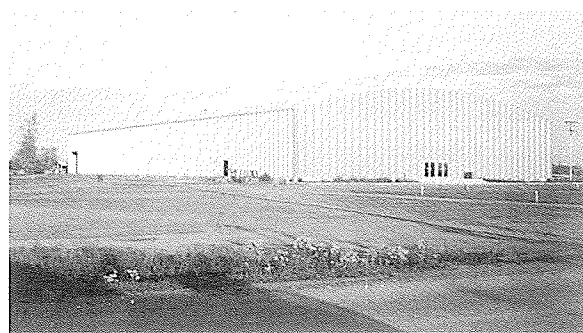


William Graefer and Son William, 1910.

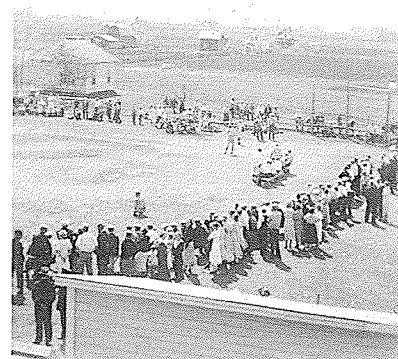




Johnny Bower day at Winkler, January 23, 1970



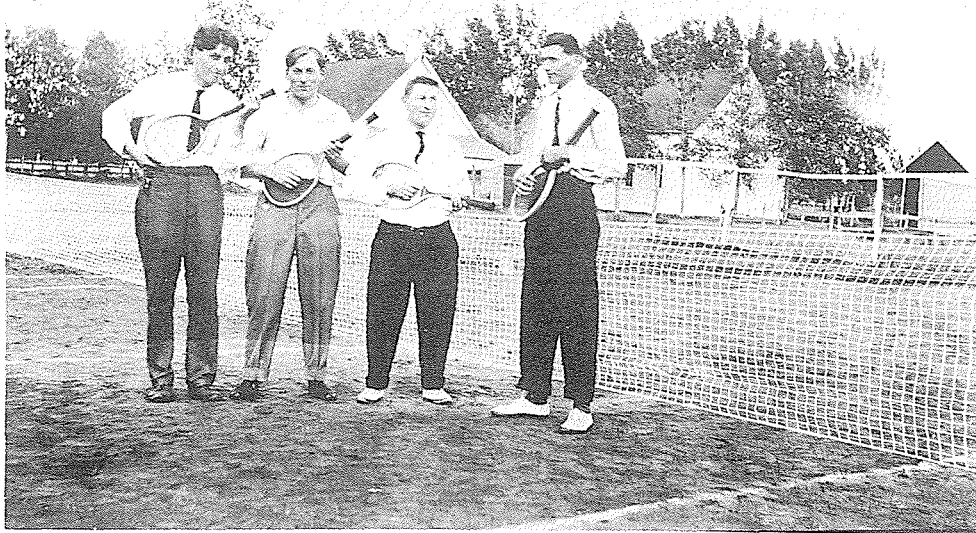
Winkler Arena erected 1967.



Baseball at the Elementary School Grounds, 1926.



January 24, 1908, J. B. Warkentin, Tina and Susan Loewen, and Dr. G. Weatherhead playing tennis on the lot north of the Winkler Bergthaler Church.



(Left to right): Geo. Hiebert, Wm. G. Graefer, Isaac Loewen, Cornie Hiebert

Baseball at Winkler, 1923. The players, left to right, back row: Ernest Rietze, Isaac M. Miller, Frank Derksen, R. P. Browne, R. F. Rietze, William Graefer, Matt J. Schultz, Fred Hill. Front row: Les MacKay, Ed Demkey, Bill Derksen, Emil Demkey, Reinhold Ulrich, Otto Ulrich, Bill Rietze, Frank Brown, John Brown, and Abe Fleischman.



Dave B. Doell has received several "Master Shooting Excellence Awards." He has also won 15 Gold and 4 Silver Shields.





Winkler Junior Hockey Club, 1935-36. Front: (L. to R.) G. Doell, H. Wonnick, W. Hiebert, H. Loewen, R. Nauer. Second Row: E. Pelsner, W. Nauer, H. Loewen, J. R. Wolkof, President; W. Bueckert, W. Miller, F. Rietze. Third Row: W. L. Schultz, Coach; R. V. Ulrich, Trainer; F. Brown, Secretary.

### Curling

The first meeting of local curling enthusiasts, headed by Mr. John Coltart owner of the Winkler Creamery, was held on January 5, 1932. This organizational meeting elected the following officers: John Coltart, president; W. S. Edgar, secretary-treasurer; A. K. Friesen, Joe Herba, Herb D. Dick, and Fred Hill as committee members. It was also decided that the curling club purchase eight pairs of rocks.

Shortly after the organization of a curling club, another meeting was held on January 12, 1932, with the Scotch president, Mr. Coltart, chairing the urgent business meeting. The motion, "To build one sheet of ice across the south end of the Monarch Lumber Yard" was seconded and passed. It was to be an open-air curling rink with a board fence on one side. The location of this rink was approximately on what is today the Winkler Co-op Service Store parking lot.

In order to strike while the "iron was hot", or the ice cold, several teams of Winkler curlers went to Morden on January 14, 1932, "to learn the game". The skips lined up as follows: Mr. John Coltart played Mr. Herman Dyck of South-End Motors; while Mr. Fred Hill played the Dr. C. W. Wiebe rink. The first game on Winkler ice was played January 16, when Mr. Fulton of the local bank played Frank Brown, and John Coltart owner of the Winkler Creamery challenged W. S. Edgar manager of the local bank. By January, 1937, five years after curling had been organized in Winkler, there were ten rinks in the local curling schedule. The skips of these rinks were Peter Bueckert Jr., Herb D. Dick, John I. Dyck, Jack Felde, A. K. Friesen, P. T. Friesen E. H. Mann, G.

W. Neufeld, I. Sirluck, and R. Ulrich. Messrs. F. Hill, P. T. Friesen, H. Demkey and Max Gladstone made up the first curling team from Winkler to take part in the Winnipeg bonspiel in 1938.

### Committees and rinks of the Winkler Curling Club 1932 - 33

Honorary Patron: Dr. H. McGavin, Plum Coulee, Manitoba

Honorary President: Mr. John J. Enns, Mayor of Winkler

President: Mr. John Coltart, Winkler

First Vice-President: Mr. W. S. Edgar, Winkler

Second Vice-President: Mr. Isaac Sirluck, Winkler

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. J. B. Doerksen, Winkler  
 Executive: A. K. Friesen, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, A. V. Robinson, Herman L. Dyck, and Fred Hill

Finance: Dr. J. B. Doerksen and Vernon Fines

Membership: Henry J. Penner, Joe Herba and Barney Safeer

Rink: Isaac M. Miller, H. W. Zacharias and George W. Neufeld

Competition: John I. Dyck, Frank Brown, John S. Wiebe and R. J. Fulton

Entertainment: J. H. K. Dyck, J. J. Enns, John Coltart, W. S. Edgar and Dr. C. W. Wiebe

The members grouped into rinks as follows: John Coltart, Vernon Fines, Barney Safeer, and F. Rempel; Frank Brown, John R. Wolkof, Isaac J. Dyck, and E. Reimer; Herman L. Dyck, Jake Rempel, Joe Herba and Isaac Sirluck; John I. Dyck, Math Schulz, Pete Derksen

and Harry Friesen; J. H. K. Dyck, Dave Loepky, Jack Felde and Isaac J. Wiens; Dr. J. B. Doerksen, Isaac M. Miller, D. A. Dyck and Otto Ulrich; W. S. Edgar, R. J. Fulton, Isaac Kehler, and Charley Robinson; A. K. Friesen, J. J. Enns, A. V. Robinson, and H. W. Zacharias; Fred Hill, Robert Wonnick, Ewald Graeber, and M. Mitchell; G. W. Neufeld, Herb D. Dick, P. T. Friesen, and John Fast; Henry J. Penner, George Penner, Max Gladstone, and Alex Heim; Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Menno Hooze, John S. Wiebe, and John Bueckert.<sup>9</sup>

Forty years later, 1972, three of these original members are still actively curling, namely, G. W. Neufeld, P. T. Friesen, and Jack Felde. The grand aggregate champions of the Winkler Curling Club for 1972 were Ike Dyck, Red Hiebert, Barry Smart, and John Dyck, while Mr. & Mrs. Ike Loewen and Mr. & Mrs. Herb Dick, Jr., won the mixed championship trophies.

The Winkler Curling Club had put up their first building for indoor curling adjacent to the open-air skating rink east of Main Street. However, when the Winkler Sports Arena was destroyed by fire in 1967, the adjacent curling rink had already been dismantled. In October, 1959, the Curling Club took out a building permit to construct on Park Street, just north of the water tower, a new rink large enough for three sheets of ice, dressing rooms, and a canteen. Later an artificial ice plant was also installed. Hence, it was generally agreed that a location across the street from the Curling Rink in the public park and recreation grounds north-west of the centre of town would be most suitable for a new skating arena.

Consequently, 72% of the voters in Winkler approved a \$150,000.00 money by-law on May 5, 1967, for the construction of a new Arena. The final phase of construction on the \$195,000 Winkler Arena, except for the bleachers, was completed in January, 1968. The 282 by 131 feet arena is of all-steel construction with concrete floors. The general contractor was Peter K. Doerksen of Morden. In 1969, a new cement floor containing pipes was laid in the Winkler Arena. These pipes could eventually be used for making artificial ice once a plant has been installed.

Friday, January 23, 1970, was Johnny Bower day in Winkler for that was the day when this "Goalie of the great ones" was here in support of the Valley Rehab Centre. During his visit in town, this great goal tender of the Toronto Maple Leafs made appearances at the Winkler Elementary School and Garden Valley Collegiate, at a banquet, and at a Collegiate hockey game between Garden Valley and Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Covered rinks during the last two decades have been a boon to local hockey players. The Winkler Royals have on numerous occasions come out on top in tournaments and at League play-offs. In 1969, in a Pre-Centennial Hockey Tournament which was won by the Winkler Royals before a crowd of over 1100 spectators, the following players were listed as members of the team: Gary Toews, Bill Wilms, Bernie Wiebe, Cliff Dyck, Ed Wolfe, Ross Browne, Harold Reimer, Willy Unrau, Randy Rietze, Wayne Busse, Gary Severson, Warren Browne, and Doug Dyck. Other activities are also held in the Winkler Arena, such as the Stanley Agricultural

Fair, the annual Winkler Auto and Trade Show, and the Southern Manitoba "Crusade for Christ" with Rev. Vernon D. Duerksen, Freeman, South Dakota, as evangelist and Mr. John Boehr, Omaha, Nebraska, as songleader, was held here June 21 - 30, 1968.

Members of the Winkler Junior Hockey Club for the 1935-36 season were as follows: Eric Pelser, Walter Nauer, Harvey Loewen, William Bueckert, Walter Miller, Fred Rietze, George Doell, Harold Wonnick, Bill Hiebert, Herb Loewen, Roy Nauer, and the officials were John R. Wolkof, president and manager, William L. Schultz, coach, R. V. Ulrich, trainer, and Frank Brown, secretary. The Garden Valley soccer team has also won the local zone 4 championship for the last four years and subsequently reached the provincial high school finals at Brandon and Winnipeg. In 1970 the team was made up of the following soccer players: Lawrence Schmidt; Terry Thiessen; Murray Stewart; Vic Remple; Bruce Hildebrand; Bernie Loepky; La Verne Reimer; Rudy Hiebert; Lloyd Hildebrand; David Hildebrand; Laurie Stewart; Rob Jackman; George Klassen; Errol Pelser; Ron Dyck; Albert Loepky; John Klassen, manager; and Mr. Wayne Busse, coach. Since the construction of the Winkler School gymnasium in 1955, and the Garden Valley Collegiate gym in 1967, basketball has increased in popularity with local spectators and as a result good teams have developed. The basketball players that composed the 1970 boys' team at Garden Valley were the following: Bob Hildebrand; Vic Penner; Don Funk; Albert Loepky; Stan Schmitt; Ron Dyck; Don Doerksen; Paul Goosen; Rob Jackman; and Mr. Wayne Busse, coach.

Another sport that created a great deal of interest with many enthusiastic participants in Winkler was tennis. For some years, the tennis courts were located on Mountain Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets. In winter these same lots were used for a skating rink. Then about 1927, five shale tennis courts were prepared on the C.P.R. right-of-way, just west of the station between the railway tracks and South Railway Avenue. Tennis was very popular in the 1920's and 1930's not only in Winkler, but also in the neighbouring towns and there were many local tennis tournaments. Besides Dr. Weatherhead, there were others like George H. Hiebert, Jake B. Warkentin, P. T. Friesen, and Fred Rietze who supported tennis. One of the best female tennis players in this area was Mrs. A. Friesen (nee Helen Derksen). In recent years tennis has been revived somewhat when the Town Council made two tennis courts in the recreation area on Park Street.

With the construction of the Swimming Pool in 1964, many young people and children have now taken swimming lessons in summer so that some of them are now good swimmers. Another very popular sport in the 1920's was baseball (hardball). Many baseball tournaments were held in Winkler as well as in surrounding towns. However, with the coming of the dry 1930's and the depression years, softball gained in popularity because no expensive equipment was necessary for this game. Two of the best local hardball catchers were John R. Wolkof and Ed Demke. There were many other players who supported the game, such as Fred Hill, Reynold Rietze, P. Warkentin, Bill Derksen, Jake Enns,

Bill Hoepfner, etc. In Softball, the Winkler Voyageurs team has been giving excellent account of itself in softball tournaments which it has entered recently. In 1970 they won the S.E.M.F.L. championship but lost out in the Manitoba Provincial Championships. The line-up that made the Winkler Voyageur team in 1970, was composed of the following players: Pete Dueck, Bernie Wiebe, Harold Dyck, Menno Wieler, Don Bergen, Dave Dueck, Pete Thiessen, Barry Peters, Ted Klassen, Dave Klassen, Dave Hoepfner, Randy Rietze, Bill Luptak, and Bill Thiessen.

Golf is another sport that has gained in popularity especially since the acquisition of the Centennial Golf Course in 1967. The nine hole golf course is located on a 55 acre site on the west side of Winkler. The golf course site was paid for in large by the Golf Club and was turned over to the town for the Centennial project. Mr. Wm. H. Janzen and Mr. Menno Kroeker of the Winkler Golf Club have been largely responsible for course designing. The two top golfers have been Bill Wilms and Herb Dick Jr. The first golf tournament was held in Winkler on June 9, 1952, when J. E. Partaker came in first, and William H. Hanzen, second.

The Winkler and District Game and Fish Association has also been actively engaged in promoting this outdoor sport. The president of the Game and Fish Association for the year 1969 was Mr. Alvin Wiebe and Mr. P. F. Goertzen was the vice-president. Winners at the Annual Awards Night for the 1969 season were the following: Jake Reimer, Walter Nauer, and Herb Klassen, Membership Chairman. At the Winkler and District Game and Fish Derby on June 3, 1970, at Rock Lake about 40 people entered the derby and the prize winning catches were made by the following: Colleen Doell, George Dyck, Art Siemens, George Doell, John Wieler, and Vern Wieler. Mr. Arthur P. Siemens was the local No. 1 fisherman in 1972 for on December 12 he pulled a pike weighing 15 pounds and 6 ounces through an ice hole at Rock Lake. However, it was no record for the most ardent angler in the Winkler area, because in 1961, Mr. Siemens caught at McArthur Falls a 19 lb. pike measuring 41 inches. Peter D. Dyck has been one of the most energetic organizers of the local Game & Fish Association.

In recent years there has been a resurgence of hardball baseball which may in part be attributed to John Doell and his brother Jake Doell who have given much of their time to the organization of Little League baseball for boys ten to twelve years old. Another reason for this interest in baseball may be the games on television by major league teams.

### **The Business Section**

West of Main Street (5th Street) on Mountain Avenue, there has also been expansion during the last two decades. The Post Office at the south-east corner of Mountain Avenue and 6th Street was constructed by the Federal Government in 1938 and enlarged 1954, and is again proving inadequate in 1972 as it has tripled in volume of mail, boxholders, and employees since May 20, 1949, when Mr. Frank G. Loewen was engaged as postmaster. Consequently, in March, 1973, a contract for the construction of an \$85,043 post office at the north-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street was

awarded to Fonger Construction Company Limited of St. Boniface, Manitoba. The structure measuring 58 by 56 feet will be a one-storey post office with steel joist and an exterior finish of masonry. The Winkler Bakery was built by R. P. Browne in 1946 at 680 Mountain Avenue. It is now known as Dutch Bakery and the present owner is John Hildebrand. Teske's Cold Storage was erected in 1947 on the south-east corner of Mountain Avenue and 7th Street. The present owner of this building is Mr. Nick Letkeman who operates his business under the name of Country Textiles.

Mr. Jake Wieler, who later moved to Winnipeg, built the West End Grocery Store at 1027 Mountain Avenue in 1952. This store was sold in 1957 to Mr. Julius P. Dyck who had Mr. Jake Klassen operate it for him until May 1, 1958, when the store was resold to Mr. C. H. Thiessen. In November, 1958, Mr. Thiessen also took over the Free Press truck route and consequently on August 7, 1965, disposed of West End Grocery to Mr. John I. Reimer. In February, 1966, Mr. Isaac Hoepfner, the present owner, purchased this grocery store. Previously, Mr. Hoepfner had been in the electric appliance repair service.

The T. Eaton Company opened an agency on Main Street in Winkler in 1954 with Mrs. Harry Dueck in charge of catalogue shopping on a commission bases. She was assisted by Mrs. Walter Nauer. When Mrs. Dueck left the district, Mrs. Nauer took over the agency.

A year or two later, possibly 1956, Hooge Cleaners started a catalogue sales office for Simpsons-Sears Limited in the front part of the building at 646 Mountain Avenue. They continued the catalogue shopping service until 1968 when Mr. Walter Braun set up an office on Main Street and served local customers for about a year.

On August 18, 1969, Mr. & Mrs. Peter D. Labun took over the Simpsons-Sears catalogue sales office at 340 Main Street. Mr. Labun is also an authorized Autopac agent, as well as CIS and general insurance agent. From March 1, 1948, to April, 1969, he was the manager of Stanley Consumers Co-op at Winkler. During that time the Consumer Co-operative expanded, not only as a garage and service station, but also as bulk fuels and fertilizer distributor, insurance agency, and New Holland and Allis-Chalmers implement dealer. Mr. Labun has also been active in the community as trustee and chairman of Garden Valley Collegiate Institute, member of the Gideons International, and Sunday School teacher.

Before Mr. Henry G. Loewen started his own tinsmithing business, he was employed for ten years by Mr. John J. Loewen who operated a hardware store on Main Street. In 1923, Mr. Henry G. Loewen opened a plumbing and tinsmith shop at 560 South Railway Avenue. This is possibly the only business in Winkler that has been operated by the same family for 49 years. Of course, today son Henry H. Loewen is the owner of Loewen Plumbing & Heating Ltd. For some years, the three brothers Henry, Jake and John were engaged in providing this type of service to the community, however, with the coming of the sewerage (1956) and water (1964) mains to Winkler there was a corresponding increase in the number of plumbers in town, and subsequently Jake H. Loewen accepted the position as waterworks

superintendent in Winkler, while his brother John sought greener fields in southern California.

Mr. Henry G. Loewen was born on August 30, 1886, at Silberfeld near Gretna, Manitoba. Before coming to Winkler, Mr. & Mrs. Loewen had lived at Poke, Oregon; Lowe Farm, Manitoba; and at Rosendale five miles south of town. After having operated his tinsmith shop for 38 years, Mr. Loewen retired in 1961. He served as local town councillor for 12 years. Mr. Loewen died November 23, 1972.

Mr. George J. Sawatzky is another local citizen who has been involved in various business transactions and ventures even before moving into town. He has been in the oil sales and distribution since 1939. In 1955, Mr. Sawatzky purchased Winkler Hardware and also continued with the bulk oil sales for British American, which has since changed to Gulf Oil Canada Limited. Besides serving the area as agent for Gulf Oil at 607 South Railway Avenue, he is the local salesman for Investors Syndicate, and secretary of the Winkler Industrial Development Company Ltd.

Mr. Ed Elias, president of Dutch Mobile Homes, who had been operating Country Lumber Yard on Highway 32, ten miles south of Winkler, moved his business by constructing a ready-mix concrete plant at 586 Centennial Street. The following year, 1968, Mr. Elias sold the ready-mix plant to Mr. John Wiens of Morden Lumber & Fuel, who changed the name to Valley Concrete. The same year, Friesen and Wiebe Building Supplies Limited purchased Country Lumber Yard.

With the construction and paving of Highway 32, there has been a trend toward the location of business enterprises on the east side of the Highway so that the property owners could avoid the by-laws and taxes that are applicable in town. Several streets with private dwellings have also been opened in this area of Stanley Municipality. Two of the main thoroughfares are Victoria and Aberdeen Avenues. However, since this suburb has not amalgamated with the town, the streets have no house numbers and there are no water and sewerage mains.

In fact it has happened that former residents of the surrounding area who moved to Ontario and took up fruit farming on the southern peninsula of that province have returned to Winkler with truck loads of cherries and peaches and in their endeavour to earn "a quick buck", started selling fruit on the streets at reduced prices. On one occasion in July, 1969, Mr. Bill Unger from St. Catharines, Ontario, was doing brisk business on the street when the local merchants became aware of this and complained to the town fathers who immediately asked Mr. Unger to buy a licence or to stop his trade. The latter only moved his truck with the fruit to the east side of Highway 32 and continued a "rushing" business.

About 1945, Messrs Jake Kroeker and Dave Wall erected a building at 427 First Street (Highway 32) and Pembina Avenue. At first it seemed they had planned to use this building as a dance hall, however, as things did not "pan out" their way, they started a garage and service station. After a few years, the garage was sold to Mr. Ben Thiessen who disposed of the property on March 15, 1949, to Mr. David B. Doell, the present owner of

Stanley Implement Co. Mr. Doell has since been carrying on a repair shop, auto service, and electrical welding.

Mr. A. C. Wiens began hauling gravel with one truck in 1947. Today, Winkler Construction Limited own three semi-trailers and two service trucks. With the coming of sewerage mains to town in 1956, he started excavating and today he operates six trenchers. The building at 399 First Street was erected in 1966.

About 1939, Mr. Jacob W. Harder started a blacksmith shop at the south-east corner of First Street and Aberdeen Avenue. When Mr. Harder moved away in 1957, the smithy was sold to Mr. Jacob I. Wall who has been plying the same trade since 1958. Mr. Wall also makes open coffins for the churches in this area that prefer them to those sold by the local undertaker.

Shortly after the blacksmith shop had been moved to First Street by Mr. Harder, Mr. Jacob Sawatzky built a garage across the street from the smithy at the north-west corner of First Street and Stanley Avenue. After Mr. Sawatzky died in 1957, Mr. William Reimer operated the garage and North Star Service Station at this location for a short time before it was let to Mr. Dave Derksen. When the garage was destroyed by fire on March 18, 1962, a new service station was erected at this site.

While Mr. Dave Derksen operated the North Star (later Shell) Service Station on First Street and Stanley Avenue, he started another station at 351 First Street which was known as Helen's Service. Later it was known as Dave's Service and operated by Mr. Dave Wiebe.

About 1958, another shop was opened on First Street when Mr. George Derksen started a bicycle repair and saw sharpening service on the west side of Highway 32 adjacent to his dwelling. However, it could be that First Street will have competition from business establishments on Main Street North now that this thoroughfare has been completed and paved. Of course, business men who prefer to escape the restrictions of by-laws within the town limits may continue to locate to the east of Highway 32.

### **William Graefer - Blacksmith**

Mr. William Graefer, the father of Mr. William G. Graefer and the grandfather of Miss Margaret Graefer who is clerking in the Winkler Pharmacy, was born May 17, 1862, in Boguslawka, Russia, near the German border. Before emigrating, he was married to Miss Emma Schuman. They immigrated to Canada and settled in Winkler late in 1894. Here Mr. & Mrs. Graefer raised a family of eight children. They built a house, blacksmith shop, and telephone office on the west side of Main Street where Janzen's Variety Store and Henry Doell's Barber Shop are located today. On arriving in Winkler, Mr. Graefer started a blacksmith and woodwork repair shop. At first much of his time in the smithy was devoted to shoeing draft horses. Mr. Graefer's competitor in this trade was Mr. Otto Koepke who owned a blacksmith shop on South Railway Avenue just half a block east of the Stanley Hotel. Mr. Graefer also had a brother August, who served as a Winkler town constable and night watchman for eleven years.



Mrs. Victor Short, nee Margaret Penner a sister to Mrs. J. Felde, 1912

### Telephone

The telephone office adjacent to the Graefer dwelling was very conveniently situated for the six Graefer sisters who were alternately employed at the Winkler central as operators. After Mr. William Graefer died on August 14, 1933, his grandson Robert Williams inherited a large estate in England where he now resides. In July, 1960, he fell heir to an English baronetcy. His official title now is Sir Robert Williams, Baronet of Tregullov, and the estate he has inherited is worth over a million dollars. The late E. Claude Williams who married Theresa Graefer, was an employee of the Union Bank of Canada in Winkler when he became the victim of a bank robbery here on October 13, 1920. Sir Robert Williams was born in Winkler. His widowed mother, Mrs. Tracy Williams (nee Graefer) lives in Dauphin, Manitoba, where for many years she was employed in the Post Office.

The first telephone operator in Winkler appears to have been Justina Esau who in 1905 had only two numbers on the switchboard in the office which was located in John J. Wiebe's Store on South Railway Avenue next to Wilton Bros. Drug Store. For 34 years the daughters of the William Graefer family, Tillie (Mrs. Isaac Miller), Tracy (Mrs. Claude Williams), Bertha (Mrs. Math Miller), Hattie (Mrs. Henry M. Miller), Frieda (Mrs. Math Schulz), and Edna (Mrs. Frank Derksen) operated the Winkler telephone exchange. The telephone office was located on the west side of Main Street between the William Graefer residence and the blacksmith shop owned by Mr. Graefer. The location was just to the north of the present Janzen's Department Store Ltd.

Another operator at the Winkler telephone exchange office was Mr. Isaac M. Miller who was a lifelong resident of Winkler. He was born in Winkler on June 19, 1896, and married Tilly Graefer on October 3, 1917. Mr. Miller was a member of the Winkler Lutheran Church who was employed by various local business firms but chiefly as telephone operator. He died January 4, 1956. Pastor W. Deutschhausen of the Winkler Lutheran Church officiated at the funeral and Wiebe's Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

After vacating the old office on Main Street, the Manitoba Telephone System on April 20, 1948, opened its new office at 650 Mountain Avenue. However, after sixteen years at this location, the operators from the Winkler telephone exchange were transferred to Morden where the central for this area is now located, and the Manitoba Telephone System proceeded to construct a new building at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Third Street. At the completion of this new office and the installation of the electronic equipment for a new dial telephone system, the Hon. Maitland Steinkoff, Minister of Public Utilities, who had spent his childhood and youth in Winkler as his father was a local storekeeper, assisted by Mr. J. E. Kroeker, President of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce, officially opened the new dial system here on January 28, 1964. Mr. Herb D. Dick, deputy Mayor of Winkler, placed the first long distance call on Tuesday, January 28, 1964, out of the new dial telephone exchange in Winkler. A few seconds after the cutover it seemed everybody set out to try their new dial phone. There were thousands of clicks and hundreds of calls were placed in the next half hour. The Manitoba Telephone System announced that Winkler and area would receive Direct Distance Dialing, known as DDD, on January 12, 1971.

### Library

When the Manitoba Telephone System made the changeover the building at 650 Mountain Avenue was sold to the Town of Winkler and used as a library with the local police offices in the basement. The Hon. Stewart MacLean, Minister of Education for the Province of Manitoba, officially opened the Winkler Branch of the Winkler-Morden Regional Library on Wednesday, October 20, 1965. Mrs. Kay Loewen has acted as librarian since the opening of the library here. Immediately following the Winkler opening, a motorcade left for Morden where another official opening was held at 4:30 p.m., for the Morden Library.

### Business and Housing

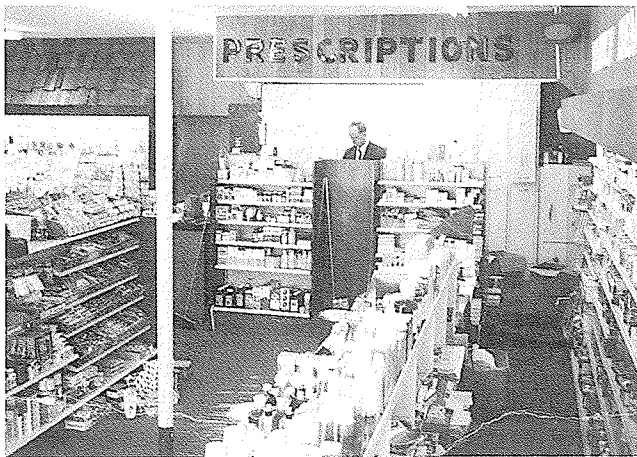
The building at 334 Main Street has been used for various business and entertainment enterprises since it was erected near the beginning of the century as a machine shop. It has also been renovated on several occasions; each time to serve a different purpose. Mr. Isaac Brown and J. K. Loewen used it as a public hall for social, business, and public functions. Known as Crystal Hall, the building was used for a surprise birthday party on February 9, 1934, for Mr. Joe Herba the owner of Stanley House (Hotel). Debates, public meetings, and programs of various kinds were held in this building. For some years Mr. J. K. Loewen used this building as a garage and service station. Mr. K. H. Neufeld used part of it as a print shop. Then on December 20, 1946, Mr. Goldie



Dagg opened the Winkler Theatre at this location, but of course, not without considerable opposition from local church leaders. Mr. Dagg was succeeded by Mr. E. J. Diemert as the owner but he soon sold the movie house, and today this building after considerable renovation has four business firms under its roof. Mr. Fred J. Rietze carries on his business here under the name of Winkler Real Estate & Insurance Ltd. Mr. Rietze has been active in the community as town councillor, businessman, and sports promoter. The other firms that occupy this building today (1970) are: Krahn Jewellers; the Winkler Music Shop, operated by Mr. Isaac J. Brown and son Arnold; and the Bible Book Shop, with Mr. A. C. Klassen as owner.

During the last two decades there has been a steady growth in new housing, business, manufacturing, and other developments in the town of Winkler. Since the naming of the first avenues such as Mountain, North and South Railway, Stanley, Pembina, and the streets from 1st to 15th, new streets have come with new developments, particularly north of North Railway Avenue. Some of the streets opened in the last decade or so are as follows: Crystal Crescent, Parkview Drive, Harmony Lane, Salem Crescent, Rietze Avenue, Roblin Boulevard (named in honour of former Manitoba premier Duff Roblin), and Centennial Street. After grading and construction in 1970 of Main Street north from South Railway Avenue across the C.P.R. tracks to Highway 14, the thoroughfare was paved and officially opened Saturday, August 21, 1971, when Mayor H. F. Wiebe cut the ribbon and Mr. Jake M. Froese, M. L. A. for Rhineland, representing the Legislative Assembly, addressed the local citizens at the special ceremony during Old Time Value Days.

### Drug Stores



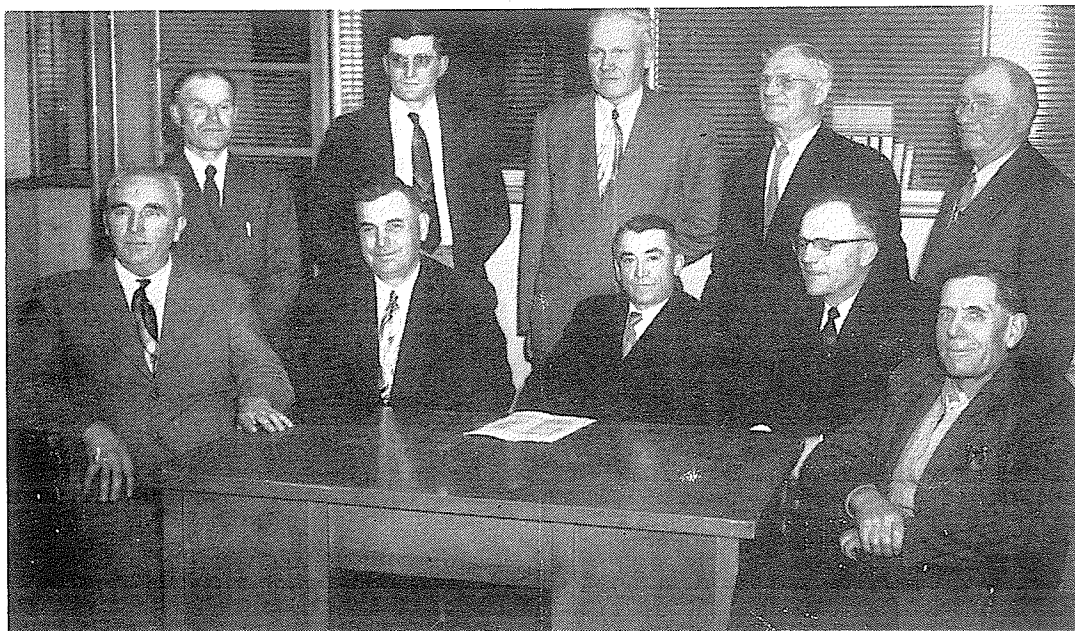
Today the citizens in the community are served by two drug stores. In August, 1955, Mr. Gordon Wiebe opened Wiebe's Rexall Drug Store at the north-west corner of Main Street and Mountain Avenue. Mr. Wiebe received his elementary and high school education in Winkler and is a graduate from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. At the Winkler Pharmacy, Mr. E. H. Mann was succeeded by Mr. Wm. Neufeld as pharmacist and proprietor in Sept., 1964. After a disastrous fire on February 11, 1949, the Winkler Pharmacy was rebuilt at the same location

on 293 - 5th Street (Main Street). For many years previously, this location was used to operate a drug business, however, none of these proprietors could serve in the dispensary with a degree in pharmacy. Some of the previous owners had been as follows: H. H. Neufeld, J. J. S. Friesen, and in March, 1928, John S. Wiebe the father of Gordon Wiebe, purchased the drug store from John Loepky. For a few years a drug store was operated by Mr. Mark Danzker on the west side of Main Street next to Mark Ki's Chinese Restaurant where the Winkler Co-op Hardware Store is located today.

### Creamery

The Winkler Co-op Creamery which had been organized in 1940 and purchased the Creamery on Railway Avenue in the area of the present Winkler Co-op Lumber Yard, had erected a new Creamery in 1943 at the south-east corner of Stanley Avenue and Main Street. An \$80,000 addition to this creamery was built as a Poultry Processing and Cold Storage Plant and officially opened on February 9, 1957, when Federal Minister of Agriculture J. G. Gardiner cut the ribbon. The produce sold by the Creamery carries "Gardenland" on its label. Other local dignitaries who assisted at the official opening of the poultry plant of The Winkler Co-operative Creamery Ltd., were Creamery President, J. J. Peters, Mayor G. W. Neufeld, and M. J. Hamm, General Manager of the Creamery. Both Mr. J. J. Peters and Mayor Neufeld dealt on the importance that the Town of Winkler and the Creamery had been able to work out an agreement which was largely responsible in instituting a vote on Winkler's sewerage system and the passing of the by-law so that the sewerage system was laid in time to allow the plant to open. Because of an apparent over-production of poultry in Canada, the poultry plant of the Creamery ceased operations in 1961. Since many farmers decreased their livestock and bought milk from the Creamery instead of delivering it to the creamery, the members of the Board of Directors found it increasingly difficult to operate at a profit and in May, 1969, the Manitoba Dairy & Poultry Co-operative Ltd., took over ownership of the creamery.

Dave's Cafe on Mountain Avenue just east of Gladstone's Shopping Centre operated by Mr. Dave Friesen and later known as Bank Cafe, was completely remodelled by Bill and Ruby Bueckert and officially opened for business on Wednesday, February 13, 1957, as The Hi-Spot Cafe. Mr. Fred Rietze who purchased this property and renovated and built an extension to it, operated it as a bowling alley until it was destroyed by fire in 1961. The building at the north-east corner of Main street and Stanley Avenue erected by Winkler Motors in 1950, was remodelled and in part of this building local gourmets have been served by the waitresses of Harvest Inn. The Green Lantern at 367 Main Street, now known as the Midtown Restaurant and operated by Cornie & Jake Blatz has also been inviting the public for coffee breaks and meals for the last twenty-five years. During the last years caterers have been establishing restaurants to the north of town, such as the restaurant at the Triangle Oasis Motel on Highways 14 and 32, as well as Rainbow Drive Inn and Dairy Princess Drive Inn near the junction of Park Street and Highway 14. Rainbow Drive Inn has now been moved to Main



**Winkler Co-operative Creamery Ltd., 1955, Board of Directors: (Seated, left to right) J. Suderman; W. C. Enns, vice-president; J. J. Peters, president; E. Giesbrecht, secretary; J. P. Thiessen. Standing: W. Hildebrand, J. Peters G. Brown, O. R. Gruener, J. C. Warkentin.**

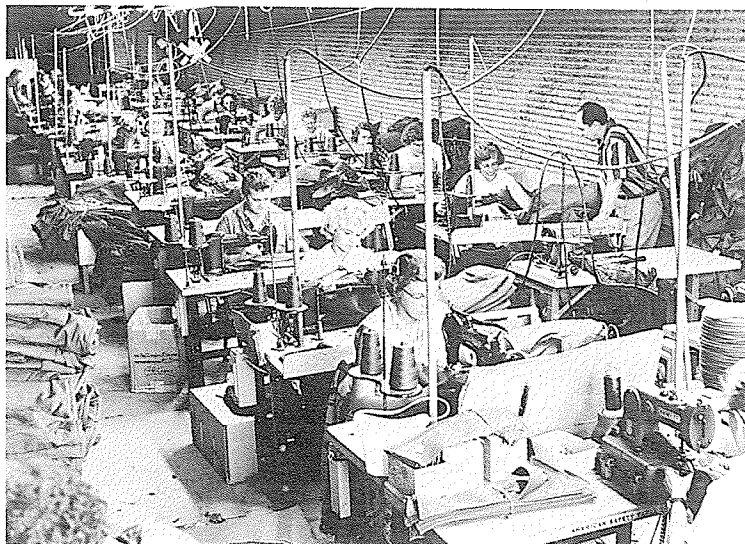
Street North, while Dairy Princess on PTH No. 14 is changed to D J's Drive Inn. When Mark Ki and his brother Yeelee Mark left town, a Chinese Restaurant was opened at the north-east corner of Main Street and Mountain Avenue. However, this building was demolished when Mr. Peter Penner built a new Butcher Shop on this location and the Town & Country Restaurant adjoining it to the north. This building, as well as P. T. Friesen's Book Store, People's Furniture (owned by Jake Sawatzky), and Gladstone's I.G.A. Food Market, was destroyed in the Great Winkler Fire on March 8, 1961.

### **Winkler Apparel Limited**

A fore-runner of the rapid industrial development in Winkler, was the building of the Winkler Manufacturing Co. garment plant on the east side of 2nd Street. In 1960 the Board of Directors of The Winkler Development Company Limited instructed its secretary, Mr. J. F. Peters, to solicit buyers for the sale of \$10.00 shares and \$100.00 debentures to provide the necessary funds for building the garment factory. The local Company had signed an agreement with the Canadian Garment (1959) Limited to erect a 7,000 square-foot building. Because of the success of this venture, the Winkler Manufacturing Company and The Winkler Industrial Development Company announced in December, 1962, that the size of the garment factory would be doubled. The announcement came as a result of a decision by the Winkler Manufacturing Company and their parent company, Canadian Garments Limited, to set up a fully integrated operation in Winkler. Mr. Hans Stolpman, manager and production engineer in the Winkler plant stated that there were 97 employees, but in the new plant set-up there would be a total of 135 employees. Consequently, on December 17, 1962, Mr. Henry H. Janzen, the presi-

dent of The Winkler Development Company Limited turned the sod and Mr. E. G. Elias, contractor, started to bore holes for concrete piers for the \$25,000 addition to the Winkler Garment Factory at 367 - 2nd Street. Other local officials who attended the sod turning ceremony included Gordon Wiebe, secretary-treasurer of the Winkler Development Company Limited, and Mr. J. E. Kroeker, president of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce. The new addition to the garment plant was completed in 1963. However, three years later it became necessary because of the volume of business to continue the expansion and thus in 1966 another addition was made to the local factory. It was just before this period of expansion that Mr. Ralph King was appointed manager of the Winkler Garment Factory. Today, clothing manufactured by Winkler Apparel and bearing the label "Cee Gee" can be found on the racks of many of our Canadian departmental stores such as Eaton's, Simpson-Sears, Hudson's Bay, and at J. C. Penney as well as Macy's in the United States.

In 1900, John B. Dyck and Jacob A. Kroeker started a business at 308 Main Street. This store has been renovated and enlarged several times since then. In 1910 Joseph Nitikman, Isaac Sirluck, and Aaron J. Nitikman purchased this store. Since then it has carried on the merchandise business and served the community under the following signs: The J. Nitikman Company; The Nitikman - Sirluck Company; Nitikman, Sirluck & Safeer; The I. Sirluck Company; and from 1944 to 1973 as Sirluck & Janzen Department Store Limited. Mr. Henry Janzen who had previously been clerking for the I. Sirluck Company, was joined by his sons Henry and Bill in a partnership with Mr. Sirluck, and since March, 1973, the two brothers and two sons operate the store as Janzen's Department Store Limited.



### Mr. Ralph King — Garment Industry Manager

Mr. Ralph King was born at Barnesville, Ohio, where he attended the Barnesville Elementary and High Schools. Later he enrolled for a series of courses at Ohio State University, the Pratt Institute in New York, and at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. On April 30, 1960, he was married to Miss Louise Guenette. Early in life he appears to have been introduced to the garment industry since from the age of ten to twenty-one he worked in his father's tailor shop, except for a brief stint as a newspaper pressman. Although Mr. King had been employed as a consultant from 1950 to 1956, he came to reside in Canada in 1960.

During World War II Mr. King was employed as an engineer and designer in an experimental laboratory for Wright Field at Dayton, Ohio. He was assigned to teach the needle trades to manufacturers engaged in the production of war materials. After the war he accepted a position as designer and engineer with a large New York firm. In 1959 he made his first contact with the Winkler Garment Factory and subsequently was appointed to the managerial office with a staff of 120 employees on the payroll. Besides acting as manager of the Winkler Garment Factory, Mr. King is also the production manager of Miami Fashions Limited and of Gemini Outerwear Limited at Morden, as well as advisor for Ojibway Fashion at the Roseau Indian Reserve and Fort Fashions at the Fort Alexander Indian Reserve.

In spite of his tight schedule with these garment plants, Mr. King is in great demand from coast to coast as an after dinner speaker. Apart from addressing Manitoba audiences at conventions and on T.V., he has recently had speaking engagements in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, Dryden, Toronto, and Halifax. Mr. King is a member of the New York Catholic Speakers' Guild, serves as a director of the Manitoba Society for Crippled Children, and acts as business advisor for the local Valley Rehabilitation Center. He is also a former director of the Manitoba Hospital Association and Board member of the Morden and District General Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. King reside at Morden.

Winkler  
Apparel



Winkler Apparel Limited. Demonstrating  
"Cee Gee" winter parkas.

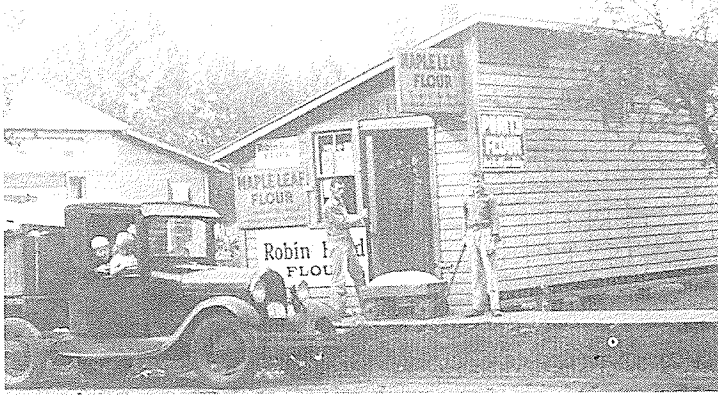
On November 30, 1972, Mr. Ralph King severed relations with Winkler Apparel after recent management and ownership changes in the garment factories operating in the Pembina Triangle.

The new management team of Winkler Apparel Limited is made up of the following: Gene Barbee, Production Advisor; Cornie H. Thiessen, Plant Manager; and Ron Miller, Plant Foreman. The firm is making plans to build a new plant on a three-acre site located in the new industrial park immediately south of town. The Cee-Gee brand name of the local garment plant has become known throughout world markets.

### D. D. Epp & Sons

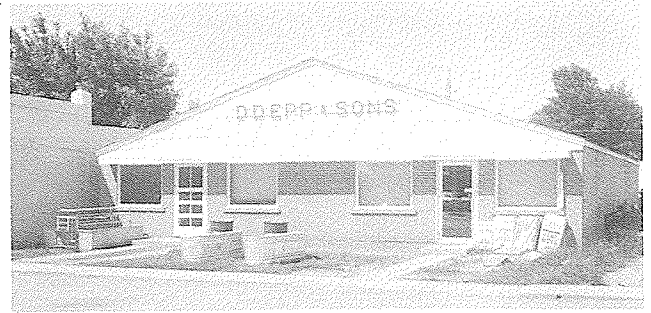
Mr. David D. Epp immigrated to Canada from Russia in May, 1926. He was born November 12, 1892, at Nova Slobotka in the Ukraine. After his arrival in Manitoba he attended the M. C. I. at Gretna for a while but came to Winkler later that same year. Here he found employment as a farm laborer. However, he was soon engaged as a clerk for the I. Sirluck Company and then by J. B. Dyck & Son. Mr. Epp died at Winkler on August 19, 1960.

The Flour and Feed business started on July 26, 1938, by D. D. Epp & Sons had a very modest beginning, for 17¢ was the net profit for the first day's business. From a small shack which occupied 360 square feet, the business has expanded to the present facilities which cover over 8000 sq. ft. of space at two locations, namely 244 Main Street, and the warehouse at the south-west corner of Third Street and South Railway. Today, Alex and John Epp operate the D. D. Epp & Sons flour and feed service. Both have been active in local municipal affairs; John as mayor, and Alex as school trustee.



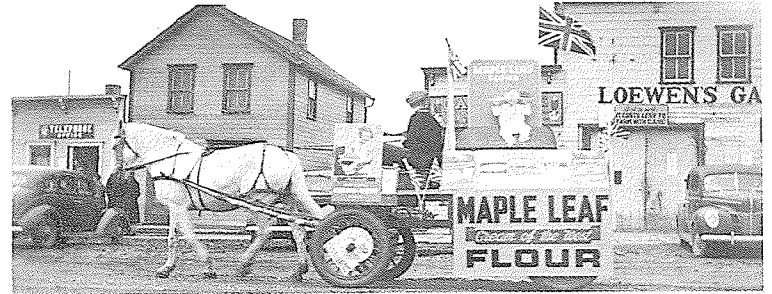
1938

D. D. Epp & Sons Flour Dealers



D. D. Epp & Sons

1945



### Dry Cleaning

The first dry cleaning plant to open its doors in Winkler is Hooqe Cleaners. This business firm was started as a family project in 1948 by the late J. B. Hooqe. A building, 28 by 36 feet, was erected at 646 Mountain Avenue and a small boiler, two steam presses, a silk finishing press, and a small dry cleaning washer and dryer were installed. Soon the premises were much too small and in 1951 they were enlarged to hold two more presses, as well as an adjusto-form and a large steam engine boiler. Added to this, the Sanitone Cleaning process was started and the Simpsons-Sears order office was opened.

In 1959 Jake Guenther accepted the position as manager of Hooqe Cleaners, and in 1962 he purchased the business. The plant was then improved further by providing three-hour shirt service, a sheet ironer to serve hospitals, motels and hotels, and in 1969 the laundromat was enlarged by installing six new washers and two dryers.

At the present time Hooqe Cleaners employs ten people and serves seventy southern Manitoba towns and communities from an area east of the Red River at Emerson to as far west as Melita. Most of the agents that provide the three-day service are located in towns on Provincial Trunk Highways No.'s 3, 23, and 2.

### Hatchery

A chicken Hatchery was established at Winkler in 1945 by Mr. Jack J. Funk. Prior to moving into the town of Winkler, he had a breeder flock of chickens and a hatchery on the farm one mile to the north. The hatchery was erected at the south-west corner of Second Street and South Railway Avenue, but later the business known as Funk's Electric Hatchery was opened at 232 Main Street. In 1964 the business was sold to Mr. Ben H. Loewen who had been one of the employees and the name changed to Winkler Hatchery. Before the building and lot were sold to the Winkler Credit Union in 1972, it had a running capacity of approximately 50,000 eggs, hatched about 120,000 chicks annually, and supplied an area as far west as the Saskatchewan border.



Ben Loewen and customer.

## Winkler Express Lines

A commercial trucking firm was started in Winkler in 1932. In 1939, Mr. John H. K. Dyck bought out the shareholders and took over the firm as Dyck's Transfer. Then in 1965 a further change of ownership occurred when Mr. Percy Enns purchased the transfer business. Winkler Express Lines now operate four tractor trailers, one tandem truck, and three small delivery vehicles. The trucking business now serves the town of Winkler, and the area of Stanley Municipality south to the U. S. boundary since 1967 when Stanley Transfer was purchased by the firm. It offers daily express and livestock service to and from Winnipeg. When the terminal and offices on Main Street were vacated, the firm moved to new quarters on Centennial Street in Winkler's Industrial Park. In April, 1973, Mr. R. D. Epp purchased 51% of the shares of Winkler Express Lines.

## CO-OP

The story of Winkler Co-op Service (1959) Ltd. since its inception in 1942, portrays much courage and vision by the founders of the organization.<sup>10</sup>

The first meeting to consider the organization of a Co-op Store was held in the Calder School on Feb. 9th, 1942, with the teacher, Mr. J. D. Adrian, as chairman. At this meeting a provisional Board of 7 men was elected to investigate further the possibilities of organizing a general store on a co-operative basis.

Elected to this Board were the following: J. G. Brown, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Sam Wonnick, A. J. Friesen, W. G. Toews, H. D. Fehr and H. W. Wiebe. This provisional Board met on February 23 to elect Mr. W. G. Toews as president and Mr. A. J. Friesen as secretary.

The Board undertook to negotiate with Mr. C. H. Grunau for the purchase of his store. Mr. Grunau declared himself willing to sell his building for \$6,000 and the equipment for \$2,000.

At the next special meeting July 31, 1942, a decision as to when to take over the business was to be made. The first Board of Directors was here elected in H. W. Wiebe, J. G. Brown, John R. Wiebe, J. H. P. Reimer, C. C. Warkentin, A. J. Friesen (Morden), with Dr. C. W. Wiebe and G. J. Rempel as associate directors.

This Board was authorized to complete negotiations with Mr. Grunau and to go into business as soon as possible.

Mr. J. F. Peters and Mr. H. H. Janzen were hired as joint managers of Winkler Co-op Service.

The financial statement presented to the shareholders early in 1944, after 17 months of operation revealed that sales had amounted to \$190,000 with a gross margin of 19.82%. Expenses were less than 10% leaving a savings of almost 10%.

The year 1949 was probably the most difficult in the history of the association, for on June 20, 1949, fire completely destroyed the building, fixtures, and stock owned by the members of the Co-operative. The Board met at 8:00 a.m. the following Tuesday morning, June 21, 1949, and decided to call a shareholders meeting for July 2. The purpose of the meeting was to receive direction from the members, and to have a temporary building (28 x 40)

erected on the parking lot at once. A further meeting that same evening awarded the contract to erect a temporary store to Mr. P. L. Reimer of Blumstein.

The special shareholders meeting on July 2, 1949, voted in favour of erecting a new building to serve the needs of its members. Although there was a drop in sales the year of the fire, sales were back to normal the following year. In 1959 the decision to purchase the Stanley Produce building on Main Street, two doors south of the Co-op Store, was made. This building was to house the Hardware department in order to relieve the overcrowded conditions in the main building. The Hardware building was enlarged in 1960, only a year after it was purchased.

The increasing pressure for floor space is obvious when we note that in the ten-year period from 1954-64, sales increased threefold from \$223,000 to \$667,000. By 1962 over-crowding again reached the point where plans were drawn up to close the back lane and extend the building westward from 364 Main Street. Then in 1964 plans were changed and the property then known as Monarch Lumber Yard, was purchased where on June 10, 1965, a new modern \$145,000 shopping centre was opened at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Main Street. The Board of directors of Winkler Co-op Service that had supervised the building of the new Centre was composed of the following: B. D. Enns, president; Arthur Warkentin, vice-president; G. G. Siemens, secretary; O. R. Gruener; Frank L. Enns; John W. Trinke; John J. Peters; Frank Thiessen; and Jacob J. Hamm.

Sales have increased steadily and the total volume since inception had reached 8 million dollars by 1970; savings were over \$400,000 and cash returned to the members over \$200,000. The annual payroll having a total of 28 employees, now exceeds \$118,000 annually. The services that the Winkler Co-op Store now offers to its 2,300 members and to the community, include groceries, produce, meats, dry-goods, shoes, hardware and furniture. The present manager, Mr. H. W. Bergen, was engaged by the store on July 10, 1948.

In 1969, the two Boards, Winkler Co-op Service and Stanley Consumers Co-operative, decided to place both organizations under one management, to provide for better and more economical operations.

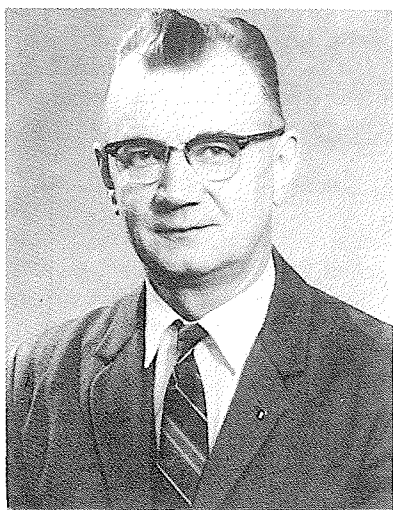
Stanley Consumers which was incorporated in 1941, has seen a continuous growth as sales from 1941 to 1956 totalled \$2,175,459.00, to an annual sales volume now exceeding \$1,000,000. At the present time they employ 25 people and have an annual payroll of \$111,170. Their present membership stands at 1170, offering services in bulk fuels, garage, farm implements, fertilizers and lumber and building supplies.





June 10, 1965, official opening of Co-op Shopping Centre.

1965, Board of Directors of Winkler Co-op Service. Left to right: J. W. Trinke; O. R. Gruener; B. D. Enns, president; J. J. Peters; A. Warkentin, vice-president; F. Thiessen; J. J. Hamm; F. L. Enns; G. G. Siemens, secretary.



H. W. Bergen, Manager of  
Winkler Co-op Service  
since 1948.



CO-OP



## Gladstone's Shopping Centre



Gladstone's is a name known to this community since 1914 when Mr. Harry Gladstone came to Winkler and started a shoe repair shop. This was the launching pad for the Gladstone family toward a successful business career.

Mr. Gladstone who was born in Russia in 1893, came to Canada in 1913 and found employment in a sheet metal factory in Winnipeg before coming to Winkler in 1914. After a few years, he and his brother opened a store on the east side of Main Street south of the Winkler Lumber Yard and near Loewen's Hardware Store and Neufeld's Harness Shop. Later, Mr. Gladstone also operated a 1000-acre farm and when he retired and moved to Winnipeg in 1946, son Max who already owned a small business, took charge of the local store. Mr. Harry Gladstone who could neither read nor write, died in Winnipeg on December 29, 1962. Had he been able to read and write it is very unlikely that he would have immigrated to Canada and even less likely that he would have amassed a fortune.

Mr. Max Gladstone who was born at Winkler on September 29, 1914, moved to Winnipeg in 1951 in order to supervise his business firms which he had established in various Manitoba centres. In 1930 after finishing school, Max began to work in his father's store and except for a number of years when he served in the armed forces has been actively involved in the local business. Together with Jake F. Peters, he started out as a peddler who went into the country with a model-T-Ford to carry on barter trade which netted them eggs, horsehair, hides, gopher tails, as well as metals like steel, copper and brass, and possibly some promissory notes. During the years when Max was away overseas, his brothers Joe and Lawrence successfully managed the store.

As the challenge of providing better quality merchandise increased, Mr. Max Gladstone saw the need of expansion and he formed partnerships with Winnipeg firms. They are now operating Stylerite Department Stores Limited in the following Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario towns: Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Portage La Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, Swan River, Winkler, Winnipeg, Melfort, and Dryden.

The \$300,000 Gladstone Shopping Centre at Winkler was officially opened in August, 1962, at the north-east corner of Mountain Avenue and Main Street. Max Gladstone is the president. Jake F. Peters, the ac-

countant, has been with the firm for 36 years. Gladstone Grocery and Hardware Limited with part owner and manager A. L. Friesen, was incorporated in 1963. The Winkler branch manager of Stylerite Department Store Limited is Jake Derksen who has served the company for 15 years. Gladstone Shopping Centre at Winkler has an area of 20,000 square feet of modern shopping space, providing under one roof a complete stock in foods, hardware, shoes and clothing.



Mr. and Mrs. Max Gladstone.



Jake F. Peters has served with Gladstone's for 36 years.

## Photography



Herman Wiens, Photographer.

Serving the area for almost half a century, Winkler Photo Studio has during these years developed in quality that is "second to none." In 1927 Mr. Herman Wiens started a studio which he sold to Mr. Jake Sawatzky in the 1940's. In 1952 the business was purchased by Mr. George G. Sawatzky who has developed the photography techniques until he has become a household word in southern Manitoba.



Mr. and Mrs. George G. Sawatzky, Winkler Photo Studio

When the Nazis laid down their arms in 1945, millions of people in Europe had been displaced through the ravages of World War II. To relieve the suffering and to help in the rehabilitation of these refugees, the Canadian government under Prime Minister MacKenzie King opened the doors for immigrants who wished to make a new beginning in Canada. Mr. George Sawatzky who was born in 1919 at Nieder Chortitza, Ukraine, arrived in Canada on September 28, 1948. His wife whom he had

not seen for 24 years, was finally permitted to emigrate from Russia and was reunited with her husband here on June 17, 1968.

Mr. & Mrs. G. G. Sawatzky were married on September 5, 1943, at Nieder Chortitza, Ukraine, South Russia. In 1944 Mr. Sawatzky was drafted into the German army in Yugoslavia. In 1945, during the chaos of the last year of the war, he and his wife were separated when Mrs. Sawatzky was sent back to Russia where their daughter Lili was born and eventually she went to Siberia where she worked in a sewing factory and thus provided for herself and their daughter who was born some months after the Sawatzky's became separated. For years they found no trace of each other, however in 1955 through the aid of relatives, Mr. Sawatzky discovered the whereabouts of his wife in Siberia.

Before long, Mr. Sawatzky started negotiations for the release of his wife and child. With the help of a local special committee which had been organized to aid in the reunification of Mennonite families, representations were made through diplomatic channels at home and abroad. After his wife had been reunited with Mr. Sawatzky in 1968, the wheels were set in motion to have their daughter Lili with her husband and son follow them to Canada. Progress was slow at first but in 1972 when Prime Minister Trudeau visited the Soviet Union, he presented to Premier Kosygin a long list of families that had been separated and requested that they be permitted to reunite. Consequently, it was a joyful family reunion for the Sawatzky's on August 3, 1972, when a USSR jet airliner touched down at Winnipeg International Airport with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Igor Motschalov, and grandson Robert. Mr. Motschalov, an accomplished violinist who studied at the University in Novo Sibirsk, and Mrs. Motschalov who taught German literature at the high school level, immediately enrolled for English classes at Red River Community College, Winnipeg, under the Canada Manpower Training Program.

When Mr. George Sawatzky purchased the Winkler Photo Studio, it was located on the second floor of the Winkler Motors Garage at the north-east corner of Stanley Avenue and Main Street. When this building was destroyed by fire in 1958, Mr. Sawatzky erected a new Photo Studio at the present site at 285 Main Street. Winkler Photo Studio specializes in weddings, portraits and industrial photography, having won several honors on a National level for its outstanding work. Through his industry and expertise, Mr. Sawatzky has become in less than two decades one of the most successful business men of photogravure in southern Manitoba.

## Barber

Besides the Winkler Beauty Salon at 379 Main Street, there are four other barbers taking care of the versatile hair-do's of the modern male. Because of the refusal of many teenagers to visit the barber regularly, the men in this profession have recently found their incomes dwindling inversely to the length of the mop of hair seen dangling on the shoulders of many a youthful "Romeo". Mr. Jake Friesen recently opened a barber shop at 586 Main Street North in order to attract the high school business. Mr. Henry Doell has been plying

his trade down town at 318 Main Street since 1947. In 1952, Mr. Leonard Pelser joined his father, Mr. Julius Pelser, in the barber trade in the shop on Main Street just south of the Winkler Co-op Hardware Store.

Mr. Julius Pelser was born in West Germany on May 7, 1887, emigrated to Canada in 1905, and settled in Winnipeg, where he trained as barber, coming to Winkler in 1907.

After two years he left for Saskatchewan and while staying in a hotel in Goodwater, the building burnt down, and he lost all his personal belongings, and very nearly his life.

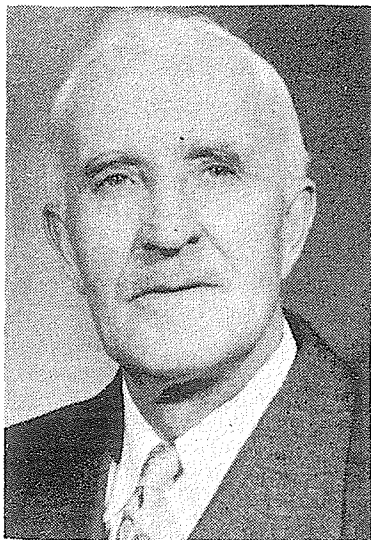
In 1913 he married Justina Leiding and settled on a homestead near Sceptre, Sask., where they experienced the rugged life of pioneers, with horse and buggy the only means of transportation.

After receiving the title for the homestead, they moved back to Winkler in 1920, where they made their home, and where he has worked as a barber for the past 52 years.

He remembers well the time during the depression years when shaves were 15¢ and haircuts 25¢ and he had a family of six children to raise on these prices.

Mr. Pelser has also served his community for a number of years as a councillor. He is still active and he says he has never felt better, and spends the greater part of the day in his barbershop cutting hair.

He is an avid gardener, and loves to be in the great outdoors with his children and grandchildren. He is a member of the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church.



Mr. Julius Pelser — Barber at Winkler, 1920-1973.

### Central Service Station

Central Service Station was first built in 1940, and operated by the late William P. Zacharias. In 1945, he sold it to Mr. J. P. Siemens and Mr. Jacob Goertzen, who also established the J. I. Case dealership. In 1952 the B.A. Oil Company erected a new service station. In 1958, the present owner, Gordon Kehler acquired the business from the late Mr. J. P. Siemens, who then retired to British Columbia.

As J. I. Case agent, Mr. Gordon Kehler was the recipient of an all-expense paid trip to Miami Beach, Florida. In 1960, he was the participating dealer when the late Mr. Peter H. Friesen of Lowe Farm won \$15,000 worth of J. I. Case machinery.

During the ten years of operations as B. A. dealer, the service station has moved from one full-time employee to four, and from a gasoline gallonage of 32,000 to 148,000. It is the only service station in the area that serves the public seven days a week.

As of January 1st, 1969, the station joined the world-wide Gulf organization. In addition to the wide range of Gulf products, it is also the outlet for small engines such as the Lawson, Briggs and Stratton, Clinton, Lawn-Boy and Kohler. Moreover, it serves as the local Bus Depot.

### Mr. J. A. Kroeker - Business Man

In 1919 General Motors of Canada Ltd, signed a contract, giving the Chevrolet franchise to Mr. J. A. Kroeker of Winkler, Manitoba - Twenty years later, Menno Kroeker and J. E. Kroeker joined the Business and it was called J. A. Kroeker and Sons. Upon the passing of J. A. Kroeker in 1945, his sons, J. E. Kroeker and Menno Kroeker took over as Kroeker Brothers. In 1957 Menno Kroeker took over as sole owner and renamed the business Kroeker Motors. This makes it over 50 years that the Kroeker Family has been associated with General Motors.

Mr. J. A. Kroeker was born in the village of Hoffnungsfeld, near Winkler, August 11, 1879, and died at his home in Winkler on July 31, 1945, after a lengthy illness, at the age of 67 years. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abram Kroeker, came to Canada from Russia in 1876 and made their home in a sod hut on the land which later became the village of Hoffnungsfeld. Here Mr. Kroeker was born. He grew up on his father's homestead, part of which was later included in the Winkler townsite. In 1906 he married Anna Nickel, at Hepburn, Sask.

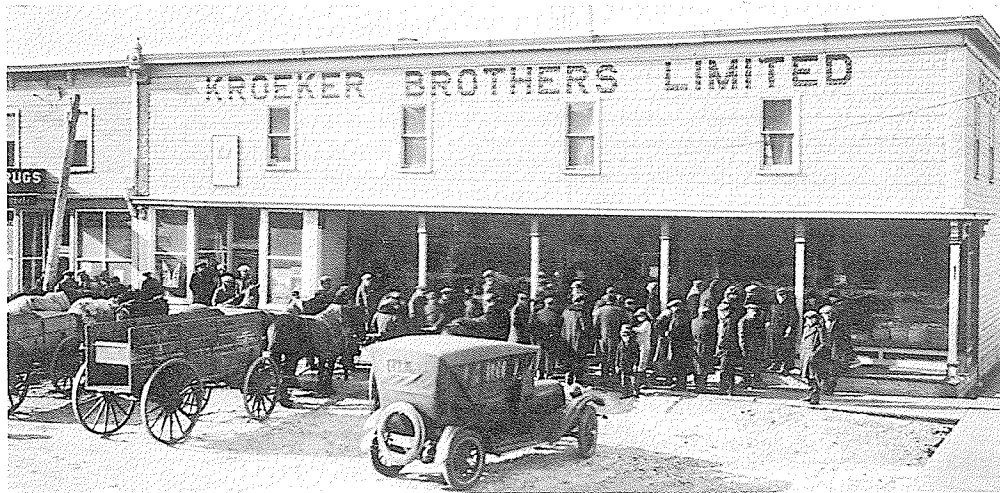
He received his education in Winkler under teacher and minister John Warkentin. In 1900 he went into business with his brother-in-law, the late John B. Dyck. As time went on his business grew to include real estate, conveyancing, automobiles and farm machinery. He also looked after his own farm.

In addition to his business enterprises, he devoted much of his time to church affairs. He joined the Mennonite Brethren church at the age of 16 and several years later was appointed choirmaster, which position he held for 36 years. Much of his time was also cheerfully devoted to the duties imposed upon him by the Mennonite Brethren Conference.

He participated in the founding of the Winkler Bible school, and as a member of the board of directors, was closely associated with it until it was taken over by the Manitoba Conference.

His interest in community affairs also found expression in his services as school trustee and the local representative of the Children's Aid Society. He was a member and director of the group which organized the Winkler Hospital society.

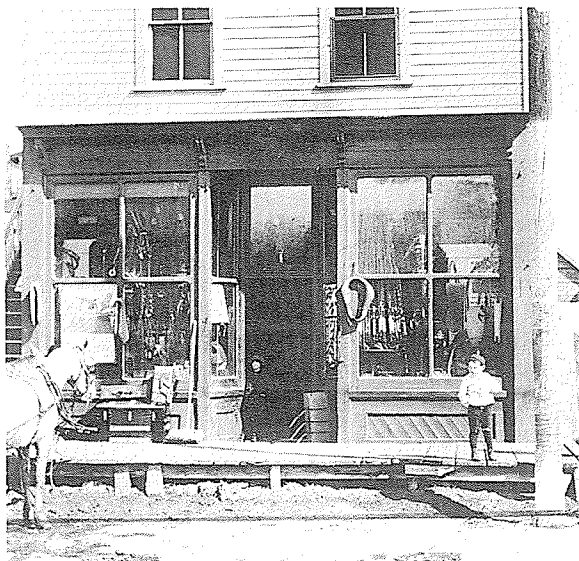




In 1924, Kroeker Brothers (J.A.K., A.A.K., and P.A.K.) were engaged in general merchandising and conducted an annual fall sale. The horses covered with blankets are tied to rails which are attached to posts. In the building with the drugs sign, Dr. C. W. Wiebe opened his first office in 1925.



Kroeker farm, 1897, located where 14th Street runs today.



J. A. Kroeker Harness Shop, 1914



Window Display



## **Friesen & Wiebe Building Supplies and Construction**

One of the bigger building supply establishments in Winkler is a relatively new organization started in April of 1968 in temporary quarters on Provincial Highway No. 32. The business grew so rapidly that in November of the same year, the owners moved to their present location, purchasing Country Lumber Yard at 570 Centennial Street. Abe Wiebe, one of the founders of Friesen and Wiebe Building Supplies Ltd., is well qualified in the building trade, having owned and operated a lumber yard and saw-mill in Paraguay, South America. Moving to Canada in 1967, he worked at a local lumber yard for a year and formed a partnership with John Friesen.

## **Prairie Cabs**

The "Prairie Cab", built on the prairie for prairie weather, has become synonymous with farming in Manitoba. Mr. P. L. Reimer, owner of the moderate sized operation, started production in 1968 after he sold the John Deere farm implement dealership in Winkler. Converting the buildings at 358 - 6th Street to a manufacturing operation, he began producing tractor and combine cabs for the prairie markets. Employing a staff of four, their production grew by leaps and bounds, with sales reaching all the corners of the Manitoba and North Dakota markets.

## **Winkler Real Estate & Insurance Ltd.**

In 1950 Mr. Fred Rietze purchased the Insurance business from D. J. Loeppky. At this time he was also a partner with his brother Harold in the Bowling and Billiard Business on Mountain Avenue west of the present site of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. He continued his bowling and billiard business until it was destroyed by fire in 1961. The insurance business was continued in the building next to the Harvest Inn, and in the same year Mr. Rietze purchased the Winkler Real Estate and Insurance business from Albert Schulz. This became his first venture in the Real Estate business. Shortly after, the Winkler Theatre building was purchased which was remodelled and he moved his business to 334 Main Street.

In 1969 he incorporated his business under Winkler Real Estate and Insurance Ltd. and is the president of the company. His son Randy has been working with him since 1968. Mr. Rietze has served on the Winkler Council for 6 years, and acted as Chairman of the Winkler Town Planning Committee. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, serving as elder, treasurer and trustee for the last 30 years. Mr. Rietze is very active in promoting Sports activities.

## **Hildebrand Agencies**

Hildebrand Agencies located at 236 Main Street is one of Winkler's newer business establishments, as only recently, Mr. Bill Hildebrand, former owner of Winkler Furniture, purchased the business from Kroeker Realty. Mr. Hildebrand has had many years of experience in

dealing with the public and has been active in community service as United Way Campaign Chairman.

## **Wiebe Funeral Homes Limited**

Wiebe's Funeral Home, with head offices located in Winkler, celebrated its 21st year of operation during Manitoba's Centennial year. Mr. Nick Wiebe, the undertaker and owner went into the funeral business in 1949, after receiving his Embalmer's License in Toronto. He came to Winkler and purchased the funeral home then owned by Frank J. Dyck. A few years later (1935) a branch was opened in Altona with his brother Hank serving as manager.

A further expansion took place in 1955, when through a partnership arrangement with the late Alex Minty, the business expanded into the town of Morden. Five years later (1960), a new modern funeral home was built in Winkler on 8th Street. Then in 1964, they purchased the Pine View Chapels in Morden, making Wiebe Funeral Homes Ltd. the largest funeral service in southern Manitoba.

## **Kroeker Seeds**

Abram A. Kroeker, formerly of Winkler and now a resident of East Kildonan, was one of six Manitobans to receive a Good Citizenship Award at the awards banquet at the Tourist and Convention Association annual convention Saturday, November 21, 1970.

The Kroeker family has been closely associated with this community for most of the past century.

In 1876 grandfather Abram Kroeker with his young wife homesteaded on the quarter section of land which later became the "West End" of Winkler. Their first homesite was at what is now No. 238 on 14th Street, north of the Salem home, and they were thus Winkler's first residents.

Ever since those pioneering days, and through the following decades which saw the building of the railroad, the establishment of a community, and the growth of this community to its present eminence the Kroekers have been a part of its agricultural scene.

In 1928, Abram Arthur Kroeker and his family began farming six miles south-east of Winkler. To solve the problems created by drouth and depression, he diversified his farming operations with a succession of new ventures: in 1931, corn growing for grain; in 1933, seed corn production; and in 1936, Western Canada's first corn-drying kiln. Also, in these and later years potatoes, forage crops, seed grain, cattle, hogs and onions were added. As time passed, the ventures and innovations which had been considered daring, proved to be sound, and many were eventually and successfully adopted by other farmers in the area.

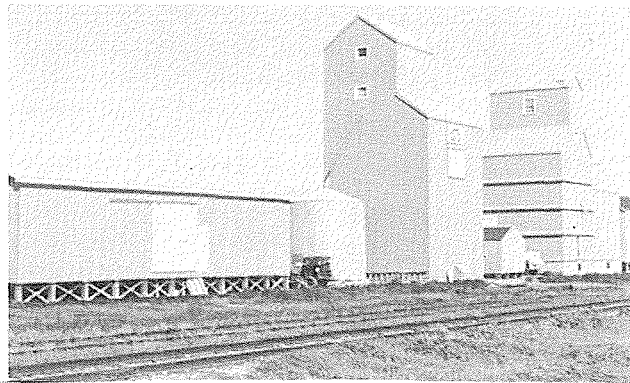
Today, two associated family companies carry on the farming and agribusiness tradition: A. A. Kroeker & Sons Ltd., operate farms in the Winkler area and are engaged in the production of table, seed and processing potatoes, onions, turnips, hogs and cattle, with branch operations (under irrigation) at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, and Outlook, Saskatchewan. Kroeker Seeds Limited serves the farming community of the area as a

distributor of chemicals (fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) and with specialty machinery for potatoes and other row crops, and also as an outlet and cleaning facility for seed grain.

Currently, in addition to numerous seasonal employees, the companies have a year-round staff of 65 at their Winkler location. Total farm production of all crops exceeds one million bushels annually, and more than 4000 head of cattle and hogs are marketed in a year.

Associated with A. A. Kroeker in these enterprises are his sons Walter, and Donald.

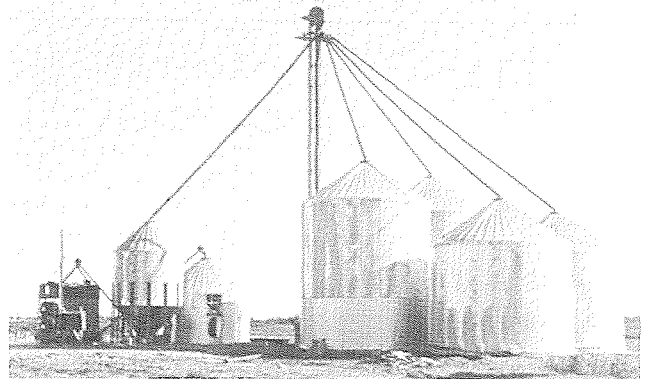
Interviewed recently, Mr. Kroeker was enthusiastic and optimistic. "Initiative and new ideas are keys to success," he said, "We have to look to the future and anticipate its demands. Where my father needed a full week to take a load of grain to Emerson with oxen, we now regularly use semi-trailer trucks to provide overnight delivery service of potatoes to Regina, Swift Current, and Saskatoon. But we have a special advantage here. After getting to know many farming areas in Canada, the United States and Europe, I am firmly convinced that the finest farming country of all is right here in a 15 mile radius of Winkler. Our only occasional deficiency is that of water, and some day, that too will be overcome with a dam on the Pembina River. Then, we will see progress beyond even our wildest dreams!"



Kroeker's built their first potato storage warehouse three miles south of Winkler on Highway 32. The potatoes grown by Kroeker & Sons in this area now are graded, bagged, and stored in the warehouse on South Railway Avenue and Highway 32. This warehouse which was erected in 1956, has since been renovated to double its original storage capacity. However, the Irish Potato Chip factory was moved to Winnipeg after having been in operation in Winkler for several years.

On Wednesday, August 18, 1971, Kroeker Seeds Farm Service Centre on Highway 32 at North Railway Avenue was officially opened when Mayor H. F. Wiebe cut the ribbon, and Walter Kroeker introduced his brother Don, General Manager of the Centre, who welcomed the guests and outlined the Sales and Service program which the firm offers to the local area. Other speakers who addressed the farmers were Jim Soutar, Lockwood's Canadian Sales Manager; Hilda Trackwell, Editor of Potato Horizons; and Abe Friesen of Friesen & Wiebe Building Supplies, contractors who erected the building.

In 1973 Kroeker Seeds Limited expanded their Farm Service operations when the CPR put a spur track onto the property east of town directly behind the Farm Service Centre. This will enable the firm to store liquid ammonia in tank cars. The development also includes a large warehouse.

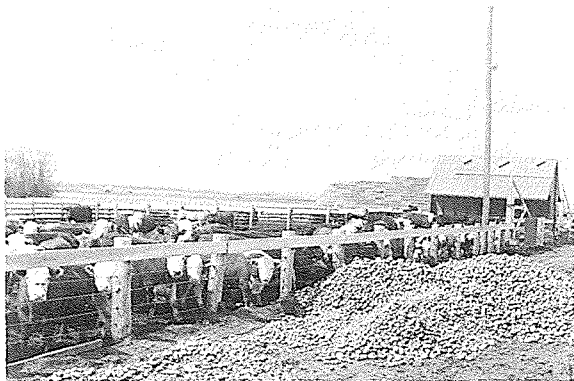


Kroeker Seeds



Mr. Don Kroeker, manager, Kroeker Farms.

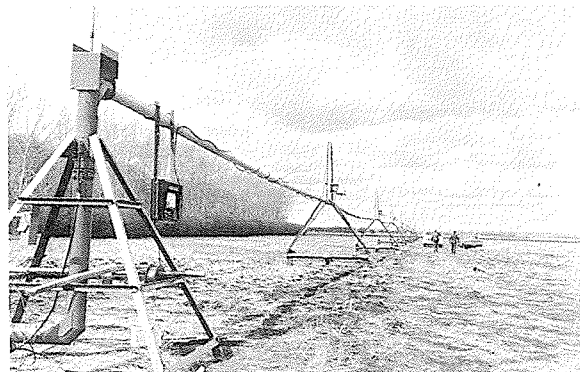




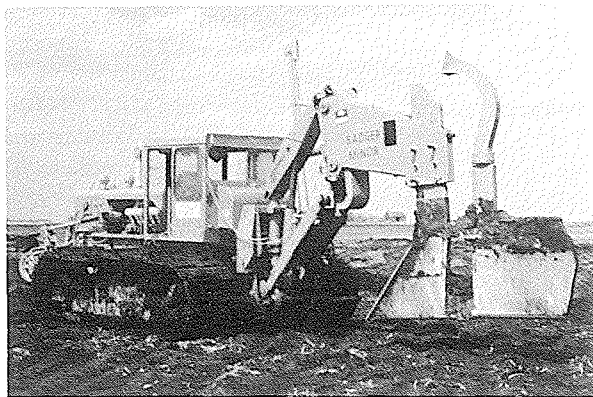
**Kroeker's Stock Farm**



**Planting potatoes at Kroeker Farms**

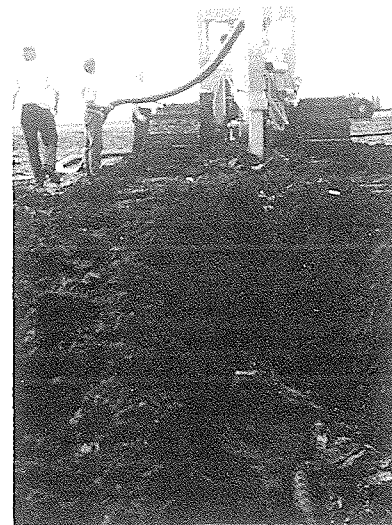


**A 1200-foot-long sprinkler irrigation pipe on wheels moves in a circular path over the field at the A. A. Kroeker & Sons Ltd. farm, 1972.**



**Penner's Dry goods**

When it comes to "Yard Goods By the Thousands," area shoppers think of Penner's Dry Goods, located at 277 Main Street in Winkler. Starting in the Village of Reinland in 1946, together with his father and brother Waldimar, Bill Penner entered the retail field as a general store operation. Expanding more and more into the dry goods section, it was decided in 1965, upon the invitation of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce, to relocate the fabric store in Winkler at their present site. Business continued to be vigorous as in 1969 a 3,000 square foot addition was made, making it the largest fabric store in Southern Manitoba.



**Trenchless underground installation of agricultural drainage system, A. A. Kroeker & Sons Ltd., 1972.**

### **Walter's Electric**

Started in 1956 by servicing household appliances at his home, Walter Hildebrand, owner of Walter's Electric, has provided the area with a thriving appliance centre. It was in April of 1957 when he first moved into the heart of Winkler's business plaza, that he located in the old Red and White warehouse. Then in 1959, he moved to the new Harvest Inn Building, at which time he started marketing records.

In August, 1963, Walter's Electric made another move to 346 Main Street. His shop now stocks over 6,000 long play and stereo records. Mr. Walter Hildebrand has been involved in community affairs and as a hobby has collected many antique clocks. After Walter Hildebrand's health began to fail in 1971, Mrs. Hildebrand continued to operate the business with the assistance of Walter Braun.



Walter's Electric. Antique clocks and Stereo Records

### **Winkler Furniture & Appliance Limited**

The firm Winkler Furniture, has been in business for many years. It was purchased in September of 1969 by Ben Guenther. Mr. Guenther has a wide range of retail experience received when he resided in Paraguay, South America. For a period of five years he exploited lumber, with the following seven years serving as sales manager for the South-West Lumber Company. In June of 1967, because of poor educational facilities for his children, Mr. Guenther decided to move back to Canada, where until a number of years ago he was employed as a yard foreman at one of Winkler's local lumber yards. He then became assistant manager of Winkler Furniture, which he purchased a year later.

Winkler Furniture has a 4,000 square-foot store, featuring a complete line of household furniture and appliances. "Home of Quality Furniture and Appliances" is a slogan well known to the area shoppers. Mr. Guenther has now moved his business to 262 Main Street.

### **Klassen Bargain Centre**

The year 1961, was the start of a small store at the corner of 7th Street and Mountain, specializing in "second hand" merchandise. As Mr. George Klassen the proprietor put it, "we remember the year 1961 as a rather dry year and it was just the ideal time to sell merchandise at lower prices".

Within a few years, Klassen's Bargain Centre relocated at 299 Main Street, the corner of Mountain Avenue and Main Street, where they at that time began marketing household furnishings of every description. Mr. Klassen apologetically admits, "that far too often they have too much merchandise on hand to give the many area shoppers the personal attention they deserve." This statement can readily be proven upon a visit to Klassen's Bargain Centre, where one witnesses merchandise of almost every kind placed on the walls and hanging on the ceiling.

At the present time Klassen's Bargain Centre's growth consists of two large furniture warehouses and general merchandise warehouses on Main Street south of Pembina Avenue, a recently established grocery store (known as K.B.C. Grocery) plus a branch consisting of one main store at Austin, Manitoba.

### **Krahn Jewellers**

Krahn Jewellers, a modern jewellery store, was started in December, 1963, at 334 Main Street in Winkler. Jim Krahn, the proprietor, started training in watch repair in 1962, taking a year and a half in retail jewellery and introductory gemology from a school in Toronto.

Mr. Krahn is active in civic affairs and sports programs as well as serving as secretary of the Menonite Berghaler Sunday School. Added to this he is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission of Winkler.

### **Town & Country Plumbing & Heating**

One of the newest service centres in Winkler is Town and Country Plumbing and Heating located at 706 Centennial Street. New, in the sense that its owners Jake Klassen and Dave Klassen have been operating the business since October of 1968. Prior to this, the plumbing and heating business was operated by Mr. P. W. Enns and his brother David W. Enns.

At the present time, they are located in a new 30 x 70 ft. shop and operating a fleet of two service trucks and employing a staff of four.

Aside from operating Town and Country Plumbing and Heating, Jake Klassen operates a Green House business known as Foothill Green House. At the present time Foothill Greenhouses occupy three buildings totaling 5,280 square feet.

## Hometown Service Limited

The official appearance of the Ford Motor Company franchise in Winkler, dates back to the year 1947, then operated under the name of Wonnick Bros. It was in November of 1955, when the business changed ownership, with four partners, John P. Hamm, John Hamm, C. D. Hamm, and Abe Derksen, taking over the operation at 428 Mountain Avenue.

Hometown Service emerged from this change-over and the business has had continuous growth as a result. A year after the take-over, Hometown Service received the complete car, truck and tractor franchise. As the business grew (especially in car-truck sales) the owners decided in 1961 to dispense with the tractor franchise because of very limited space.

In October, 1967, one of the original founders of Hometown Service, Mr. John P. Hamm passed away, which was a great loss to the business.

However, shortly thereafter, the remaining three partners purchased John P. Hamm's share from the estate and thus formed a new company known as Hometown Service Ltd.

The shareholders are operating a very active dealership not only in the Ford Car and Truck line, but also in Texaco gas and oil, and have the dealership for Firestone and Dayton tires. Hometown Service Ltd. employs seven full-time employees.

## Mr. John J. Janzen - Merchant

In discussing the conditions in the middle of the 19th century, Charles Dickens describes the poorhouses in England and how some of the boys slept under the counters in the stores where they were employed as child-labour. Fortunately, Mr. John J. Janzen who was born April 10, 1901, in the village of Nieder Chortitza, Old Colony, Zaporoschje (Alexandrowsk), in the Russian Ukraine, did not receive that kind of treatment in the beginning of the 20th century. However, his friends maintain that Mr. Janzen grew up in his father's store where he started clerking at the age of nine years. On June 24, 1923, Mr. Janzen was married to Miss Katharina Dyck and July 2, 1923, Mr. & Mrs. Janzen emigrated from Russia, arriving at Quebec City on August 1.

From January 1, 1927, to September, 1934, Mr. Janzen was employed as clerk in Sirluck's Store, and he was similarly employed by Kroeker Bros. Store from September 17, 1934 to 1937. For two years he operated a general store in partnership with Mr. C. H. Grunau before he opened his own store May 10, 1941. When Mr. Janzen ventured into the general store business, he obtained one of the first electric four-drawer cash registers that could be used on the local voltage. It had formerly been the property of Kroeker Bros. When someone at the Hudson's Bay Company in Winnipeg discovered that Mr. Janzen was in possession of this type of cash register, an agent was sent out who persuaded him to let them have it for the price of \$35.00. Miss Mary Loeppky served as his first clerk.

At first Mr. Janzen carried on his business on the east side of Main Street in a building which he had purchased from Mr. J. B. Dyck through the administrator of the Dyck Estate, Mr. A. A. Kroeker. J. B. Dyck & Son had operated a general store here until the building was leased to Mrs. Annie Geddes (nee Uhrich). This building had been occupied by the Union Bank of Canada on October 13, 1920, when it was robbed of \$19,000 in a bank hold-up. Consequently, Mr. Janzen continued to use the vault which Mr. Claude Williams had been forced to open after the thieves had failed to break its hinges. However, after the robbery the hinges had not been properly welded and Mr. Janzen always found difficulty opening the vault. Later, the door to this vault was sold to the Winkler Credit Union Society where it still serves the same purpose.

In 1943 Mr. Janzen joined the Red & White group of food stores. He continued the general store business on the east side of Main Street for a number of years. Changes in the merchandising field were already noticeable in the late forty's and early fifty's. The bartering of poultry and dairy products became a thing of the past and various changes in merchandising methods appeared. To adjust to the rapidly changing business conditions, Mr. Janzen and his two sons, Rudy and Menno, launched a new building project. A store was constructed at 324 Main Street directly across the street from the old building. This self-service food store, with related departments was opened in October, 1956. The business was continued until August of 1967, when the Janzen's decided to change the grocery to a variety store.

As the food business was serviced by a number of modern outlets in town, along with the increased costs and inflationary trends evident, the family agreed to attempt a new venture.

Within two months the whole store interior was changed into a variety store operation. The grand opening was held on Oct. 19, 1967. Thus began a new venture and direction for the Janzen family. At the beginning of 1968 Rudy and Menno Janzen purchased the variety store from their father and established a partnership.

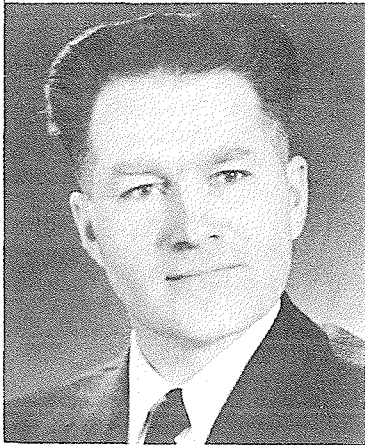


Mr. and Mrs. John J. Janzen



### **Bible Book Shop**

Another business enterprise which serves a large area surrounding the Town of Winkler was established in 1958 when Mr. A. C. Klassen with the help of his family opened the Bible Book Shop in the front room of their house at 756 Mountain Avenue. The aim is to supply Christian literature to local and area readers. After five years the service to the community had expanded greatly so that in 1963 Mr. Klassen moved his business to a new location down town at 330 Main Street. In 1971 he enlarged the premises and extended the outreach further by going into a partnership with Mr. Peter Krahn.



Mr. A. C. Klassen, Bible Book Shop

### **Bakery**

The Winkler Bakery was built by R. P. Browne in 1946 at 680 Mountain Avenue. It is now known as Dutch Bakery and the present owner is John Hildebrand. Mr. Hildebrand was engaged in the bakery as an employee in 1958. At that time two people were employed by the bakery. Today there are 12 full-time and several part-time employees engaged in baking and delivering the bake products. In 1961 Mr. John Hildebrand purchased 50% interest in the business with Mr. John F. Wiebe, and in 1970 he purchased the entire operation.

In 1967 a major expansion took place at Dutch Bakery, when 2,100 square feet of space were added to the plant, and another \$25,000 were spent on semi-automatic bakery equipment. In addition to this another giant oven was installed, which brought the capacity to 600 loaves per baking. The "Home-baked" buns are one of the major bake products. Dutch Bakery serves an area from Elm Creek east to Dominion City and Winnipeg.

### **Jack's Body Shop**

Jack Penner went into the automobile body repair business in 1963 when he started a body shop at 423 First Street North. However, his experience in auto body repair work goes back to 1942, when at the age of 14 he was employed in this line of service. Jack's Body Shop has developed a reputation for taking big as well as small dints and dents out of auto fenders and bodies.

### **Toyota**

On Thursday, October 26, 1972, Winkler Toyota Limited was officially opened for business at the former Penner Tire Centre at 416 South Railway Avenue. Participating in the ribbon cutting were Mayor H. F. Wiebe; Bob Wall, Sales Representative; Bob Renyk, Toyota Area Sales Manager; Bernie Funk, President; and Bill Brown, Manager of Winkler Toyota Limited.

### **Trailer Court**

Late in 1971, Mr. Jake Unrau began construction of the new "Dutch Mill" Trailer Court on Park Street across from the Winkler Park. The plans called for 47 large trailer lots, a service building with a laundromat and washrooms, and special lots for transient trailers.

### **Triple-E Trailers**

Triple-E Manufacturing Inc. Ltd., began commercial production of travel trailers in 1965 with a total run of 90 units. On February 5, 1966, the Triple-E Manufacturing Company plant officially opened at Winkler. The Company builds travel trailers and by 1970 production approached seven complete units per day. By the end of November, 1969, the firm had built a total of 2000 trailers. To date, the Company has a network of 35 dealers from Vancouver to Montreal. The trailers are also marketed in the mid-western United States.

Mr. Peter W. Enns, the founder of Triple-E Manufacturing Company Limited, was born June 1, 1912, on the parental farm in the Greenfarm School District four miles north-east of Winkler. His father, William F. Enns, who emigrated from Russia with his parents, homesteaded the farm which son Peter still owns. From 1935-1945, Mr. Peter W. Enns held an implement dealership at Niverville, and before going into the trailer business he operated a plumbing and heating business in Winkler. Mr. Enns is a member of a mechanically-minded family with inventive abilities. He has also been active on the building committee of the Winkler Berghaler Church, as well as in MCC related projects at home and abroad. On Dec. 20, 1936, he was married to the former Lena Buhler.

The idea of building trailers on a factory basis occurred to President P. W. Enns, some years ago as he noticed the increasing number of trailers being used by vacationers, particularly in the U.S.A. Subsequent visits to trailer producing areas across the line, convinced Mr. Enns that this is a growing market, and that the trend could be expected to develop just as strongly in Canada. With the increasing number of good quality highways to vacation areas being built in this country, and with Canadians enjoying more and more leisure time, he felt that a well built Canadian product should be able to find a place in the western Canadian market.

With the help of his two sons-in-law, Peter Elias and Phil Ens, Mr. Enns began developing his design by building a couple of prototypes of the model now in factory production. These early models were subjected to exhaustive testing and a continuing series of changes and improvements in design followed. The result of this early work is the sleek, modern, Triple-E Compact, which represents the company's bid to break into the family size trailer market.



Peter Elias      Phil Ens      P. W. Enns

The factory is situated in the Winkler Industrial Park area at the northern edge of the town. The trailer manufacturing operation occupies about 22,000 sq. ft. of space, including the show-room display at the front of the building. The manufacturing process for trailers is ideally suited to the use of an assembly line, and the Triple-E management has taken full advantage of this situation. At any given time there are 14 vehicles in varying stages of completion on the line and the finished trailers roll straight out the large door at the back of the plant to a storage lot where they are parked in neat rows awaiting shipment to markets.

At the present time the Company has 55-60 employees at peak production periods. Present plans for 1971 call for the production of 1000 trailers, but the final figure will depend on market conditions.

On Aug. 21, 1969 Neonex International Ltd. of Vancouver, one of Canada's largest consumer service and transportation companies, announced the takeover of Triple-E Manufacturing Ltd. The original management stayed with Triple-E, as well as retaining ownership in Triple-E Motor Homes, a separate company which was formed for the production of "caravan-type" motor homes. Explaining the move to purchase Triple-E, James

Pattison, president of Neonex, said "we are tremendously impressed with Triple-E's growth in sales and earning over the past several years, and their excellent management staff".

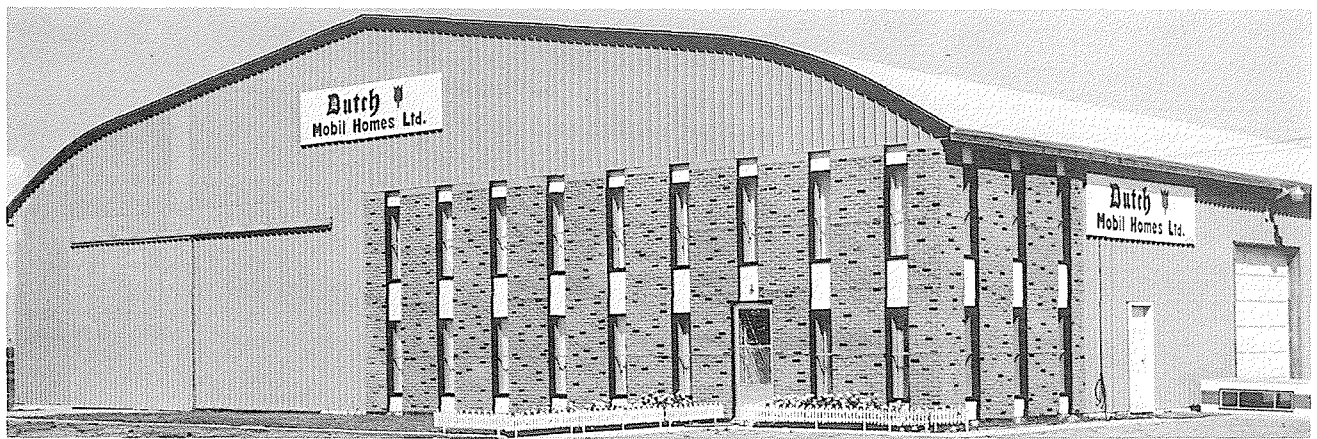
#### New Industries

August 21, 1969, was a day that will long be remembered by the industrial and business community of Winkler as the District Chamber of Commerce, the Pembina Valley Development Corporation, and the Town of Winkler joined forces in a program of symbolic sod-turning ceremonies for 12 companies establishing new industries or expanding existing firms in Winkler. Businesses involved in the sod-turning ceremonies included: Berdick Manufacturing (Manitoba) Ltd., Central Wash & Dry, Elias Sectional Homes Ltd., D. D. Epp and Sons, Pembina Manufacturing Ltd., Schmidt Manufacturing Ltd., Stanley Flying Club, Town and Country Plumbing and Heating, Triple-E Motor Homes Ltd., Tri-Star Industries Ltd., Valley Rehabilitation Centre and Winkler Feed Service Ltd.

Two other firms celebrated their official openings, namely, Dutch Mobil Homes Ltd., and Nu-Steel Industries Ltd. Further expansions were announced for both Dutch Mobil Homes Ltd., and Nu-Steel Industries Ltd., as well as for Hooze Cleaners and Southern Manitoba Potato Company.

Dignitaries participating in the ceremonies included Walter Siemens, president of the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce; Henry F. Wiebe, mayor of Winkler; Peter Burtiniak, minister of tourism and recreation for the province of Manitoba; J. E. Froese, M.L.A. for Rhineland, and Jack Bender, manager of the Pembina Valley Development Corporation. It is estimated that some 150 new jobs will be created in the community as a result of the openings and expansions announced, and that about \$800,000 will be added to the annual payroll for the town. Capital expenditure involved in the overall expansion program is estimated at more than \$1,000,000.

Berdick Manufacturing (Manitoba) Ltd. is a Calgary firm manufacturing aluminum windows, doors and accessories for mobile homes and travel trailers. The firm is opening a Manitoba branch and chose Winkler in order to be near some of the large trailer and mobile home manufacturers. The firm has constructed an 8,400-square-foot building on Roblin Blvd. and expects to employ about 20 people as production expands.



**Nu-Steel Industries Ltd.**

manager. On Saturday, July 18, 1970, the Winkler Feed Service held an open house to give its customers an opportunity to inspect and see their new \$220,000 feed mill in operation. Winkler Feed Service Limited built a modern plant at 550 Centennial Street. The new 87-foot-tall feed mill facility contains more than 2,200 square feet.

### **Dutch Mobile Homes Limited**

Dutch Mobile Homes Limited at 301 Roblin Boulevard began operations early in 1970 with 30 employees turning out a complete 14 x 68 foot mobile home per week as well as a wide range of truck campers. As business increased, Mr. Ed Elias, president of Dutch Mobile Homes, constructed a 6,000 sq. ft. addition to his 14,000 square foot plant. With the completion of the addition, he began producing a line of fourteen-foot travel trailers. Always looking for some way to make his trailers more attractive, he constructed the travel trailers with pre-moulded fiberglass front and roof. In the manufacturing process the firm used a heat vacuum applicator which applied a vinyl overlay to a wooden form. This gave a long-lasting easy to maintain rich looking finish. Ed Elias designed all the mobile homes that Dutch produced and his wife was the interior designer.

### **Excel Fiberglass Limited and Venture Industries**

However, in 1972 when Neonex Leisure Products of Vancouver acquired all the shares and assets of Dutch Mobile Homes Limited, Mr. Ed Elias organized firms for the manufacture of fiberglass and 5th wheel travel trailers. Excel Fiberglass Limited was incorporated in the



**Cutting the ribbon and unveiling a new type of fiberglass trailer at Venture Industries, April 30, 1973. Standing left to right: Eric Lansky, Mayor H. F. Wiebe, Ed Elias and Bud Boyce.**

Winkler Feed Service located on Pembina Avenue was started by David J. Schellenberg and Dave Penner in 1949, and in 1958 was sold to a local corporation of farmers headed by Dave Bueckert as president. Mr. Schellenberg remained with the firm until his retirement in 1969. In 1966, Mr. Peter R. Redekopp was appointed

fall of 1971 and erected a plant on Industrial Drive with dimensions of 40 by 160 feet in order to supply Neonex Leisure Products with fiberglass Motor Home bodies. The firm manufactures fiberglass reinforced plastics which after solidification are a stable product up to temperatures of about 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Venture Industries which is a division of Excel Fiberglass Limited, in 1972 purchased and renovated the former Winkler Cannery building on North Railway Avenue and P.T.H. 32 for the manufacture of 5th wheel travel trailers, fiberglass travel trailers, and truck camper caps. The 5th wheel trailer is connected to a hitch at the centre of a truck box, similar to a semi-trailer hitch. The officers of the firm are Ed Elias, president; Abe Penner, vice-president; and Lloyd Elias, secretary-treasurer. Other shareholders of the Company are Ervin Groening, general manager of the Excel Fiberglass plant, and Corrie Penner, plant supervisor of Venture Industries.

The official opening for Excel Fiberglass Limited and Venture Industries was held on April 30, 1973, when Mayor Henry F. Wiebe cut the ribbon and congratulated the firm for "helping people and improving the community." Besides Ed Elias, president of the Company, other dignitaries who participated at the opening and unveiling were Bud Boyce, MLA; Eric Lansky, president of the Pembina Valley Development Corporation; Dr. Gordon Trick, executive director of the Manitoba Regional Research Council; Peter Nickel, president of the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce; Herman Rempel, Canada Manpower Centre; Henry Janzen, president, Winkler Industrial Development Corporation; and Rev. P. J. Froese who led in the invocation.

#### **Beachcomber Enterprises**

On April 30, 1973, Mayor H. F. Wiebe; Bud Boyce, MLA; Henry H. Janzen, president of the Winkler Industrial Development Corporation; Eric Lansky, president, Pembina Valley Development Corporation; and president Gil Joep and vice-president Ron Lord participated in the sod-turning ceremonies on Industrial Drive for Beachcomber Enterprises, a division of Winnipeg Tool and Die Limited. In an 8,000 square foot steel structure which is being erected for them on a lease-purchase program by Winkler Industrial Development Corporation, the firm plans to assemble a new style of fiberglass travel trailer designed by Ron Lord and Gil Joep, co-owners of Beachcomber.

Recent expansions of the local trailer industry are virtually making Winkler known as "The Trailer Capital of Canada."

#### **Nu-Steel Industries Limited**

In March, 1969, when Jake Neufeld finished erecting the building that houses Nu-Steel Industries Limited, he immediately began setting up the equipment used to prefabricate metal structures. In the process, he saved himself almost \$100,000 and a two-year wait that would have resulted if he had ordered the equipment from another manufacturer. The equipment includes a combined punch press and corrugator so that a sheet of steel can have the rivet holes punched and then be cor-

rugated all in one operation. The metal used by Nu-Steel is shipped in rolls from the east to the plant at 403 Roblin Boulevard, Winkler. At present there are seven employees in the factory.

In 1969-70, Nu-Steel had building contracts for some of the new plants that were springing up in the rapid industrial development that was then taking place in the Winkler Industrial Development Park. The buildings were pre-fabbed in the factory and then shipped to the construction site ready for erection. Neufeld Construction, a company that Mr. Neufeld had operated since 1957, set up the buildings.

Today, Nu-Steel Industries Limited manufacture annually 4,000 tons of corrugated metal, including steel buildings and roof deck. Its products are sold as far west as Vancouver.

#### **Lode-Master Industries**

In 1964 Mr. Isaac Loewen started a machine shop at 369 First Street. Although it was originally known as Pembina Repair Shop, on May 1, 1972, the name was changed to Lode-Master Industries. The machine shop now occupies a combined area of 9,680 square feet and has a staff of sixteen. It offers a custom repair service for agricultural, industrial, and construction equipment.

Isaac Loewen, the founder, manufactured his first steel bulk potato boxes in 1966. He also makes a sunflower combine attachment which is sold on both sides of the Canadian — U.S. border. The machine shop has expanded until today it manufactures a wide range of equipment.

Other industries in Winkler and surrounding areas are customers of Lode-Master manufactured products. Thus steel fabrications of frames and chassis are manufactured for Neonex Mobile Homes and Motor Homes at Winkler. The following are also customers of Lode-Master Industries: Venture Industries 5th Wheel Travel Trailers, Winkler; RNR Motor Homes, St. Cloud; and TNS Travel Trailers, St. Jean.

#### **Schmidt Manufacturing**

Peter and John Schmidt launched Schmidt Manufacturing at Winkler in 1963, after operating a similar farm equipment and agricultural implement business in Morden for six years. When they began operating they concentrated on making harrow drawbars and harrow sections for high speed farming. Since then they have added steel truck grain boxes and hydraulic truck hoists to their list of manufactured implements.

The invention that has brought most renown to Schmidt Manufacturing, however, is a unique hydraulic soil sampler. It has been recognized by both the University of Manitoba and the University of Minnesota as being the best soil sampler that they have tested. Basically, the sampler is a heavy duty 12 volt motor rotating cylinder at high speed. As it bores into the ground, it removes a core for determination of the type of soil. The sampler is most useful in determining the type of fertilizer required by a particular soil for a specific crop.

In 1969 Schmidt Manufacturing completed an expansion of 4,000 square feet adjacent to the Shop at 257

North Railway Avenue and increased employment from nine to fifteen. Pete Schmidt, the owner of Schmidt Manufacturing, announced in 1970 that he had been appointed Ford tractor and machinery dealer for southern Manitoba.

### **Ensco Homes**

In August, 1969, another builders company was formed in Winkler when the Enns family organized Ensco Homes. The name "Ensco" is composed of the name Enns and the word Company. The first year this Company built one house and in 1970 they erected four homes. In 1972 the firm constructed ten low rental units. The members of the Board of Ensco Homes are Peter W. Enns, president; Andrew Enns, vice-president; Isaac W. Enns, secretary; Victor C. Enns, journeyman carpenter; and William Enns, architect.

### **Southern Manitoba Potato Company Limited**

Winkler has rapidly become known for its "potato growing" industries such as Southern Manitoba Potato Company. This industry was started in 1960 by three area farmers, Dave Bueckert, John W. Kuhl and Henry H. Kuhl. They purchased the old Schanzenfeld potato storage from A. A. Kroeker and Sons and planted 150 acres of potatoes. In 1962, an increase in acreage to 500 acres, necessitated the building of a modern storage plant in the village of Gnadenthal and in 1967 a large storage and washing complex was constructed in the town of Winkler.

This last year, the three founding shareholders of Southern Manitoba Potato Co., amalgamated their total potato and farming operation, bringing the Company's total acreage to 6000. In addition to potatoes, they grow sugar beets, cereal grain, canning crops and rape seed. Southern Manitoba Potato Co. is one of the largest contract potato growers in the Pembina Triangle. In 1969, the firm expanded its warehouse facilities at 415 North Railway Avenue to provide storage for the increase in potato acreage.

### **Tri-Star Industries Limited**

In 1969, five local Winkler business men organized Tri-Star Industries Limited which is engaged in the manufacture of a battery-operated golf cart. The officers of the firm were Walter Siemens, president; H. Dueck, vice-president; I. Dyck, vice-president; Pete Friesen, secretary; and M. Penner, treasurer. The original golf cart was built by Pete Friesen as a hobby. The cart features a special control and power regulation device which has been patented in the name of the firm.

The assembly division of the factory which was built in 1969 on Muirham Avenue in the Winkler Industrial Park, occupies 6000 sq. ft. Nu-Steel Industries had the contract for the erection of the plant. In 1970 it was announced that Tri-Star Industries Limited was again contemplating on expanding their facilities with a 12,000 sq. ft. addition.

Early in 1970, Tri-Star Industries opened a fibreglass Division to fabricate component parts for other industries in Winkler, as well as for their own requirements, as the golf-carts incorporate a fibreglass body. The firm now also manufactures a complete line of canoes and boats. In 1972, the Winkler Credit Union took over the assets of the Company and continued the manufacturing operations.

### **Spee-Dee-Mart**

On September 26, 1970, another business venture opened in Winkler at the south-east corner of Main Street and Mountain Avenue in the building formerly occupied by Klassen's Bargain Centre. The Spee-Dee-Mart serves the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from Monday through Saturday. This convenience store was organized by John E. Hildebrand, owner of Dutch Bakery, and Abe L. Friesen, manager of Gladstone's Grocery department. In 1972, Walter Penner became the manager of this store.

**Southern Manitoba Potato Co.**







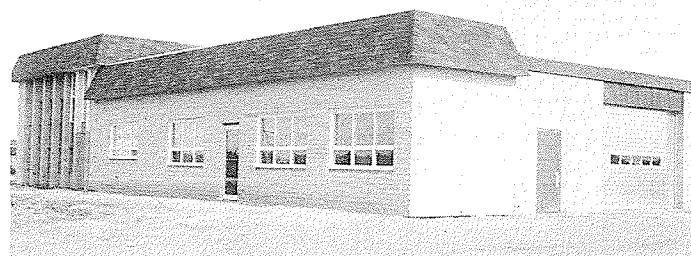
Winkler Potato Co. Ltd.

### Valley Rehab Centre

The official opening of Valley Rehab Centre was held June 28, 1970, when Dr. J. B. Morison, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, and Dr. C. W. Wiebe, honorary president Winkler C.A.M.R., joined in cutting the ribbon and thus inviting the guests to view the rehabilitation workshop sponsored by the Winkler and Morden branches of the Canadian Association for Mentally Retarded. It was organized in 1967 for developing a program of assessment, training, rehabilitation and sheltered work for retarded and socially handicapped people.

Nine acres of land were purchased west of Eden Mental Health Centre. The new workshop was built at a cost of \$100,000. A major portion of this amount came from the sale of the Winkler and Morden ARC schools. At the present time, 58 trainees are employed and there is a staff of seven members. The Retarded Schools have been integrated into the provincial public school system and are no more the responsibility of the Association for Retarded Children. This same Association has now changed its name to Canadian Association of Mentally Retarded. The Morden and Winkler Branches jointly operate the Valley Rehab Centre at 1582 Pembina Avenue West.

The operations learned by the trainees vary. They cut tires and assemble rubber mats which are distributed from New Brunswick to Vancouver Island. The Grommets that are made from the tires are used in the manufacture of travel trailers in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. In their mobile homes, Neonex Leisure Products use reinforcements cut by local trainees at Valley Rehab Centre. They also sew and turn cuffs for garments made by Gemini Outerwear in Morden, and by Cee Gee at Winkler. Flowers of Hope are packaged for the two Associations, and bolts and washers assembled for Nu-Steel Industries. Besides, the trainees are taught garden and home economics programs, as well as games and physical education.



Valley Rehab Centre

### Mr. Jacob B. Hooge

Mr. Jacob B. Hooge was born May 11, 1878, and died February 29, 1956, at Winkler. In 1907, he married Miss Maria Toews. They were engaged by the Manitoba Bergthaler Churches in 1918 as house parents for the Old Folks' Home at Gretna, Manitoba, but after about a year of service in the home they returned to Winkler. For a short time they operated a store on Main Street approximately where the Winkler Photo Studio is located today. However, they sold the general store to Messrs Jacob and Cornelius Hiebert who later moved to California where Cornie became a very successful furniture manufacturer. It appears that in the transaction with Hiebert Bros., Mr. & Mrs. Hooge procured a very large residence on Pembina Avenue between what are today Sixth and Seventh Streets. This house had originally been built by Mr. & Mrs. Abram Thiessen. As Mrs. Thiessen practised bone-setting and midwifery, she was well known as Mrs. Dr. Thiessen, "Dr. Thiessche". To take care of her in-and-out patients she required much accommodation, and hence the Thiessen's had constructed a large building for personal care of her clientele and for offices as well as for living quarters. Consequently, it is not surprising that Dr. & Mrs. G. F. Weatherhead lived in this building for a short period before selling it to Rev. P. H. Neufeld and erecting a house at the south-east corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. It was in 1919 that Mr. & Mrs. Hooge started the Bethesda Old Folks'

Home here. Soon after the Winkler Bible School was organized in 1925, the second storey rooms were occupied by students who found lodging at the home. Besides these students, there were still four senior citizens in the care of the Home when it was sold to the Manitoba M. B. Conference in 1944-45.

### The Salem Home for the Aged

Over 1800 people from this area and from many other points in Manitoba attended the outdoor dedication service held on Sunday, June 24, 1956, at the Salem Home for the Aged at 1375 Pembina Avenue, Winkler. Construction of the Home was started a year previously, with Mr. Isaac Enns as contractor. Much voluntary labor was available during the erection of the interdenominational Home. The first Board of the Salem Home for the Aged was composed of the following: Rev. J. M. Pauls, Winkler, Chairman; Henry Kuhl, Winkler; Isaac Loewen, Winkler; J. J. Wiens, Morden; J. J. Dyck, Lena; D. P. Peters, Gnadenthal; P. S. Zacharias, Reinland; John B. Braun, Altona; W. Loewen, Springstein; David Fast, Steinbach; P. M. Penner, Morden; and G. Friesen, Plum Coulee. Rev. Abram Born was engaged as house-father, and Miss Elizabeth Peters as matron.

Under sunny skies and a layout that provided seating for a thousand, a large throng of Mennonites from all over Southern Manitoba gathered to hear the Home officials, government officials and leaders of the churches dedicate the Home with speech and prayer. It stands now as a living monument to the Mennonite aged — the pioneers who helped open the west — who helped make this agricultural area of Manitoba as prosperous and diversified as it is today.

Rev. J. M. Pauls, chairman of the Salem Home board and one of the chief original advocates of the project, gave the opening address. He pointed out what a pleasure it was for him to be here for the actual dedication of a home that only one and a half years ago was in early talking stages. Rev. Pauls said, "The basic plans we wanted to consider were for a 20 bed home but many of the interested persons urged to build the home larger. We finally decided to build the project on the present scale and proceed till funds were exhausted, then eventually to finish the project as funds became available."

With the government grant for \$35,000 and the many large donations it was decided to do the whole project in one operation.

Bishop David Schulz of Altona gave the dedication address and pointed out the value to Mennonites of a government that contributed one-third of the cost, yet did not intervene in the administration of the home. Bishop Schultz stated, "We are allowed to operate the home to our own choosing. The Mennonite aged can follow their religion in this home and the selected personnel in the home makes things as they would want them."

Others addressing the audience were Mayor G. W. Neufeld, Dr. C. W. Wiebe and P. W. Enns who was on the building committee.

Bishop Johan Bueckert and Rev. J. Quiring gave the dedication prayers and brief remarks were made by Rev. P. S. Zacharias and Rev. J. F. Penner.



Salem Home for the Aged, dedicated June 24, 1956.

Former secretary-treasurer of the home, Rev. A. Born, stated that the cost of the home to date with the furnishing was \$112,475.06. With donations and grants deducted there was a balance of \$36,436.91 prior to the collection held at the dedication.

This collection brought in a further \$2,489.59 so the balance of money to be raised was just below \$34,000.00.

Hon. W. C. Miller, MLA for Rhineland and W. C. McDonald, MLA for Dufferin, represented the government. Both related to the very beneficial discussions that had been held between the government and the Salem Board and stated that many suggestions of this board had later become government policy in regards to home grants.

A tour of inspection by the large group present rounded out the dedication ceremonies. The home had a 55-bed capacity. However, today it has a 70 bed capacity as the East-Wing was added in 1958, and dedicated on July 26, 1959.

### Salem Personal Care Home

On Monday, March 20, 1972, Mr. Isaac F. Loewen, chairman of the Salem Home for the Aged, and Mr. Henry F. Wiebe, mayor of Winkler, turned the first sod to begin officially the construction of a 60-bed Personal Care Home. The \$633,000 intensive care unit is being built to the north of Salem Home on Pembina Avenue, but will have its entrance facing 15th Street. The Home is to be financed as follows: 70% through the Central Housing and Mortgage Corporation, 20% through the Manitoba Provincial Government, and 10% locally. The Home is scheduled for completion by December 31, 1972.

On Wednesday, March 7, 1973, forty-nine senior citizens, most of them intensive care patients, were moved from the Salem Home for the Aged into the new Salem Personal Care Home under the supervision of Mrs. John Epp, matron, and Lawrence Siemens, administrator. The old building will be remodelled and used exclusively for light care patients. This will reduce the number of beds in the 1956 Home from 70 to 49, since new regulations require that there be more square feet per person.

## Eden Mental Health Centre

A project that began as an idea in 1957 among Mennonite Church leaders who were headed by the late Bishop Jacob M. Pauls of the Winkler Berghthaler Church, became a reality at Winkler on June 3, 1967, when the \$715,000 Eden Mental Health Centre was officially opened. This is a community mental health centre sponsored by the Mennonite churches in Manitoba in co-operation with the Division of Mental Health Services, Department of Health and Social Services of the Province of Manitoba. The Federal and Provincial governments paid three-quarters of the cost of the project on a 50-50 basis. The Mennonite Conferences and Churches of Manitoba paid the rest and elected 36 directors to form the Board that operates the hospital. The Manitoba Department of Health assumes financial responsibility for operating the mental health clinic at the Eden Centre by providing these services on a regional basis. The Department also provides operating grants on a per diem basis.

Eden Mental Health Centre at 1400 Pembina Avenue was constructed by Peterson & Fonger Construction with Mr. Peter K. Doerksen construction foreman. The dimensions of the building are 250 by 250 feet in the form of a cross. There are 32,464 square feet of floor area and the building has an exterior finish of 4-inch thick Tyndall Stone. This was the first time that Tyndall stone was being used in Winkler. The Centre has a capacity of 50 bed facility with semi-private wards of two and four beds each and provides both in-patient and out-patient services. It also contains counselling and occupational therapy rooms, recovery, examination and treatment rooms, lounge area, cafeteria and dining hall. The treatment program includes individual and group psychotherapy, electroshock, drug treatment, recreational and occupational therapy. Follow-up services are provided by the Social Service Department that works in close co-operation with other agencies of the community.

Besides Mr. Isaac R. Dyck, chairman of the Board of Directors of Eden Mental Health Centre, the following dignitaries participated in the opening ceremonies June 3, 1967, at the Centre: Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Winkler; Dr. E. Johnson, director of Psychiatric Services for Manitoba; Howard Loewen, chairman of the Manitoba Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association; J. M. Froese, M.L.A., Rhineland; Carolyne Morrison, M.L.A., Pembina; Homer Hamilton, M.L.A., Dufferin; and George Muir, M.P. for Lisgar.



Eden Mental Health Centre, officially opened June 3, 1967.

Other community leaders who were called on to speak were the following: John Epp, Mayor of Winkler; Peter K. Doerksen, construction foreman for Peterson & Fonger Construction; Joyce Elias representing Stanley-Shackles; and Alex Epp, president, Winkler District Chamber of Commerce. Rev. Jake Harms, moderator of the General Conference Church gave the invocation which was followed by the ribbon cutting by Mr. Homer Hamilton.

The minutes of the annual meeting of Eden Mental Health Centre held on April 27, 1968, list as Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, the following: Ben Braun, Chairman; Ben L. Kroeker, Vice-Chairman; Henry Dick; J. H. Gerbrandt; Dr. H. Guenther; Dr. Paul Peters; and K. R. Barkman. Mr. Arnold Schroeder was the administrator, and Dr. Clarence Labun, psychiatrist, the Medical Director. Other part-time psychiatrists were K. E. Webster, M.D., and J. White, M.D.

## Heritage Manor

Letters Patent for the Corporation were granted on March 11, 1965, to Winkler Home for the Aged, Inc. The first project undertaken by this non-profit organization was the construction of the 14-unit Heritage Manor at the north-east corner of Mountain Avenue and 7th Street. The idea for the Home was originally conceived by the Kroeker Foundation and was jointly financed by them, the Manitoba government, and by other donations. This Home was constructed in 1965 and completed in the spring of 1966. It consists of ten single and four double units. It was built by Raymond Massey Builders Limited, Winnipeg, at a cost of \$105,000.

The dedication program of Heritage Manor was held on Friday, August 26, 1966, with Rev. Bernie Loeppky giving the invocation, and Rev. Herman Lenzmann speaking the prayer of dedication. Mrs. J. L. Dyck conducted a choir which was made up of the women residents of the Home. Among the many guests attending the dedication, there were a number of speakers who participated in the opening ceremonies. The Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Richard Bowles, cut the ribbon and Mr. A. A. Kroeker, Winnipeg, president of the Kroeker Foundation, outlined the background and the financing of the project. The Hon. J. B. Carrol, Minister of Welfare, drew attention to the progressive attitude of the Winkler community, and the importance of providing shelter and friends for people in their later years. "The best preventive medicine ever devised," he said, "is the type of housing for the aged that you see here before you."

Messages of greetings were also brought by Mayor John Epp of Winkler; Reeve Isaac Warkentin of the rural municipality of Stanley; W. Homer Hamilton, MLA for Dufferin; J. M. Froese, MLA for Rhineland; Mrs. Carolyne Morrison, MLA for Pembina; W. F. Noyes, director of elderly persons housing for Manitoba; and Boyle Schaeffer, architect.



Heritage Apartments, official opening August 26, 1970.

Heritage Manor, dedicated August 26, 1966.

### Heritage Apartments

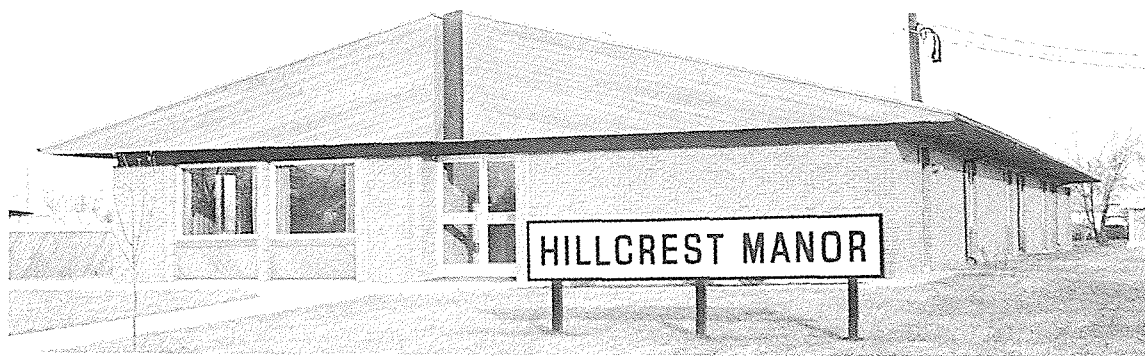
The demand for this type of housing was so great that plans were started soon after this to build additional facilities for senior citizens. The result was that on Wednesday, May 7, 1969, a sod-turning ceremony was held for a six-storey senior citizens home on the east side of 7th Street adjacent to Heritage Manor. Dignitaries participating in the sod-turning were B. F. Schaeffer, architect; Peter Doerksen, contractor; A. A. Kroeker, chairman; Henry Kuhl, vice-president; H. F. Wiebe, mayor of Winkler; W. F. Noyes, Director of Elderly and Infirm Persons Housing; Walter Siemens, president of the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce; and Rev. P. J. Froese, pastor of the Winkler Berghaler Church.

A little over a year after the sod-turning, the official opening ceremonies for the newly-constructed Heritage Apartments for senior citizens were held on Wednesday, August 26, 1970. The Board of Directors of the Winkler Home for the Aged Inc., received approval from the Municipal Board of Manitoba for a six-storey 50-unit senior citizens apartment, provided they limited the height to 60 feet. A Government variation order was required since the building was higher than Winkler planning scheme requirements. The building which is the first high-rise apartment in Winkler was designed by Boyle F. Schaeffer, architect. It features 40 single and 10 double units with 8 singles and 2 doubles on each of five floors. There is a utility room and a common sitting area with balcony on each floor. An automatic service elevator carries occupants from floor to floor. The sixth floor is a roof-top garden with a recreation area complete with kitchenette, dining facilities and a patio.

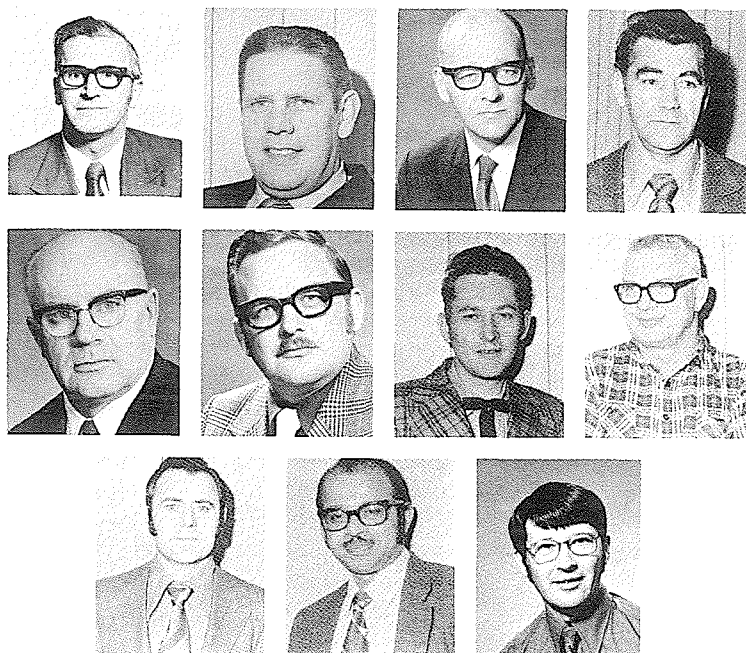
At the official opening of Heritage Centennial Apartments, mayor Henry F. Wiebe welcomed the guests and then called on Rev. William J. Peters of the Winkler E.M.B. Church for the dedicatory prayer. Mr. Wiebe then introduced the other Board members. Henry Kuhl, vice-chairman; H. F. Wiebe, secretary; and Donald and Walter Kroeker, directors. Greetings were expressed on behalf of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce by John Hildebrand; the Town of Winkler by Mayor Henry F. Wiebe, and the Province of Manitoba by W. F. Noyes. Richard S. Bowles, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, officially opened the Heritage Apartments by cutting the ribbon, and following this Mrs. Justina Wiebe sang, "Bless This House."

### Hillcrest Manor

Construction of another elderly persons' housing project in Winkler was started November 1, 1971, on the former Arena lot at 159 Main Street. Hillcrest Manor, erected under the Low Rental Housing scheme, is run by the Winkler Housing Authority under the chairmanship of Mrs. Eileen Kroeker and managed by Ken Ginter. It contains twelve units and a spacious lounge. The Manor was officially opened on Monday, September 11, 1972, when the Honourable Howard Paulley, Minister of Municipal Affairs, cut the ribbon and addressed the senior citizens. Among the local dignitaries who attended the opening ceremonies were Mayor H. F. Wiebe; J. M. Froese, M.L.A.; and George Froese, Reeve of Stanley Municipality.<sup>11</sup>



Hillcrest Manor, officially opened September 11, 1972.



1973 Chamber of Commerce Executive. Top Row (L. to R.): P. Nickel, president, J. Derksen, J. Dyck, C. H. Thiessen. Middle: P. W. Enns, W. Siemens, W. Braun, J. Neufeld. Bottom: I. Loewen, Dr. C. Jacob, N. Schmidt.

### Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce

Besides the Winkler Town Council, as well as many other far-sighted and aggressive citizens, the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce has been very influential in promoting the growth of the town as well as in attracting new industry. In 1970, the year of the Manitoba Centennial, the Board of Directors of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce (formerly known as the Winkler Board of Trade) were the following: John Hildebrand, president; A. L. Friesen, 1st vice-president; Rudy Janzen, 2nd vice-president; Walter Siemens, past-president; and Peter Nickel, secretary. Other Directors were Abe Zacharias, Alex Epp, Jake Derksen, Walter Hildebrand, R. W. Enns, and Phil R. Enns.

In 1922 local business men organized the Winkler Board of Trade, and in 1947, a plaque was struck to commemorate the 25th anniversary and to record the names of its members who had made noteworthy contributions to the local community. The plaque lists the following names: Peter Bueckert, John J. Enns, George H. Hiebert, John C. Coltart, R. G. Follette, J. A. Kroeker, J. J. S.

Friesen, A. Cohen, J. J. Loewen, I. Cohen, P. T. Friesen, J. K. Loewen, F. Derksen, A. K. Friesen, J. P. W. Penner, J. B. Dyck, I. Sirluck, J. S. Wiebe.

The name of the "Winkler Board of Trade" was changed to "Winkler Chamber of Commerce" and in 1966 it was again changed to "Winkler & District Chamber of Commerce."

It was in the post-war years of the 1950's that Winkler first blossomed out as a retail trading centre. The ambitious Chamber of Commerce labelled it the "Shopping Centre of Southern Manitoba". This aggressiveness, of course, has had repercussions in the neighbouring town to the west, and consequently when the local Chamber put up their shingle on the Highway at the Three-Mile Corner, it was too much for neighbouring business men to look at and subsequently they cooled their ire by demolishing the sign. When Main Street North was extended to Highway 14, another sign was erected nearer home just to the north of town, within easy reach of local police surveillance.





**Winkler & District Chamber of Commerce Board, 1970. Left to right: A. Zacharias, W. Siemens, Alex Epp, P. Nickel, J. Hildebrand, A. Friesen, R. Janzen, J. Derksen, W. Hildebrand.**

Coupled with the vigorous retail merchandising induced by the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce assisted by the Winkler Town Council, a unique sale was started in 1963. It is known as "Old Time Value Days" and is generally held during the latter part of August. Much of the sale promotional takes the form of a bazaar on Main Street with food concessions such as breakfast pancakes, soft drink and ice cream stands, barbecued hamburger and chicken, as well as booths featuring groceries and other general merchandise at reduced prices. The clerks in the stores down town wear old fashioned costumes and generally dress up in the garb of pioneers. An Old Time Value Days queen is elected and evening entertainment is provided. The children are taken on pony, hayrack, and merry-go-round rides. During the three or four days of the sale, local stores put up prizes and generally report large increases in sales which, of course, is not surprising when we consider that the Wednesday, August 27, 1969, issue of the local weekly newspaper, The Pembina Triangle Progress, reported that 35,000 people attended the 7th annual Old Time Value Days in Winkler.

### **Winkler Customs and Immigration Offices**

For many years the Customs and Immigration Office nearest to Winkler was at the small hamlet of Haskett, which is located about a mile north of the International Boundary between Manitoba and North Dakota. As the Great Northern Railway discontinued service between Walhalla, N. D. and Morden, Manitoba, and subsequently the two grain elevators and the few stores and lumber yard moved out of Haskett, the Customs office was moved east to the International Boundary on Highway 32. In 1967, through the efforts of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Winkler Town Council, the name of the office was changed from Haskett Customs to Winkler Customs. On Friday, July 11, 1969, Mr. E. J. Wilson, Prairie Regional Director, Regina, Saskatchewan, officially opened a new \$45,000 building to provide better service for the thousands of motorists who annually cross the International Border at the Winkler Customs and Immigration Offices.

It is of interest that in the late summer of 1875, nineteen Mennonite immigrant families from South Russia had squatted on the quarter section on which the Canadian Customs Offices are today located north of the International Boundary on Highway 32. These immigrants which included in their group Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Braun, the grandparents of the writer, trekked the forty-five miles from Emerson where they had arrived on July 14, and hastily set up their "simlins" for shelter from the blasts of the coming winter. These living quarters consisted of two to three-foot deep dug-outs with sod walls about the same height. Poplar poles were used as rafters over which alternate layers of dogwood brush and grass were placed. This was then covered with grassy sods. In the spring of 1876, all nineteen families followed Mr. David Wall to Section 6, Township 2, and Range 4, where they established a village, and possibly because someone found clover in a nearby field when they arrived there at Easter, the village was named Osterwick which in the Low German dialect means Easter vetch. By January, 1878, there were 24 families and a total of 143 people living in Osterwick.<sup>12</sup>



**Threshermen's Re-union.**



Left to Right: John Krahn, John Fehr, Peter Striemer.

#### Pembina Thresherman Museum Inc.

Another recent local organization founded in 1966 by John A. Fehr, Neuenburg, and W. E. Elias, Blumenfeld, two area farmers, has taken the form of a Threshermen's Museum. It evolved from the Threshermen's Re-Union organized by a group of farmers and has been held at some farmer's field in September so that a threshing machine could be set up and the participants could join in friendly competitions setting up a separator and tractor, pitching bundles, tying sheaves and bags of grain, etc. From the first Re-Unions, there was a historical note in these meetings and a few of the members of the group began to display items that added a museum flavour to the entire get-together. As these collections increased, it was decided in 1969 by the members of this enthusiastic group that a permanent home for these displays should be erected. The result was that a steel building 40 by 50 feet was built and officially opened Sept. 26, 1970, on Highway 3, about three-quarter mile west of the Three-Mile-Corner. The Pembina Threshermen's Reunion is a chartered non-profit organization and to raise money for support of its projects membership cards are sold. Some of its active members who have been promoting the museum were P. G. Dyck, president; I. J. Penner, treasurer; G. G. Enns, secretary; A. Hiebert, George J. Rempel; and R. P. Browne.

#### Winkler Flying Club

The expression is often heard today that we live in an affluent society. Some of this affluence is evident not only in new luxurious homes and cars, but also in modes of tourist and business travel. As more and more people are beginning to travel by air, local air-minded citizens have been buying small planes and consequently have been looking for a landing field near home. In 1966, Gordon and Alvin Wiebe prepared a landing strip and built two hangars just north of town on Highway 14. However, the existence of this airport was short-lived when the Manitoba Hydro decided in 1967 to run a new transmission line from Rosenfeld to the Three-Mile-Winkler-Corner substation and to erect the power line half a mile north of Highway 14. This power line cut across the north end of the flying field.

Subsequently, local pilots have reluctantly used the Stanley Flying Field which is located three miles northeast of Morden. There have been proposals for uniting the efforts of Morden and Winkler to develop a combined airport at the Stanley Flying Field and thus to establish a municipal or regional airport.

Other suggestions from the Winkler Flying Club have been to the effect that Winkler proceed with its own local municipal airport. Consequently, on October 8, 1970, a delegation from the Town of Winkler made up of members of the Council and interested business men attended a meeting of Stanley Council and requested the annexation by the Town of 57 acres of land to be used as a municipal airport just east of Winkler along Highway 32.



Fire Brigade 1906-1943.



Fire, Feb. 11, 1949.



Fire, March 8, 1961.



After the fire, March 8, 1961.



## Fire

In the history of Winkler, numerous fires have plagued the town from its beginnings in 1892. Some of the worst fires could not be extinguished because the wells that were to supply the water went dry. In the fire of February, 1949, seven buildings, a garage, seed plant, implement agency, woodwork shop, drug store, meat market and egg grading station were wiped out because of lack of water and high winds. Over the years, these business outlets were all replaced by fire proof buildings. On March 8, 1961, a half-million dollar fire destroyed seven downtown buildings and wiped out five business firms. At 10:30 a.m., the fire siren sounded and firemen rushed to People's Furniture on the east side of Main Street to seek out the cause for smoke in the roof of the store. Four hours later, a large part of Winkler's main business block lay in ruins when the following stores were destroyed: Gladstone's I. G. A., Gladstone's Dry Goods, People's Furniture, Town & Country Restaurant, and Penner's Meat and Groceries. The fight to halt the fire was gallant but fruitless as wells went dry and the flames, whipped up by 20 mile-an-hour winds, got out of control and cut a swath of destruction through the heart of town. When it was all over, Mayor Peter J. Kroeker looked at the debris and rubble and stated that, "Something must be done to get water to Winkler. This fire would have paid for our water system two times over. I feel with a hydrant supply the fire could have been confined to the Furniture Store."

However, by far the worst and most tragic fire occurred at Winkler when two young children died of smoke inhalation and asphyxiation as flames leaped through the one-and-a-half storey home of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Reimer at 1275 Mountain Avenue about midnight Friday, January 24, 1969. The children were three-year-old Bernice Reimer and her seven-year-old brother Robert.

Mr. & Mrs. George Penner of Kane, who were staying with the Reimer children while their parents were vacationing in Nashville, Tennessee, escaped from the burning dwelling as well as a child of the Penners, and another child of the Reimers. Linda Dueck, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dueck who were on the trip south with Mr. and Mrs. Reimer, also escaped from the burning house. The Reimers and the Duecks were contacted in Nashville early Saturday morning and they arrived back home in Winkler Monday evening.

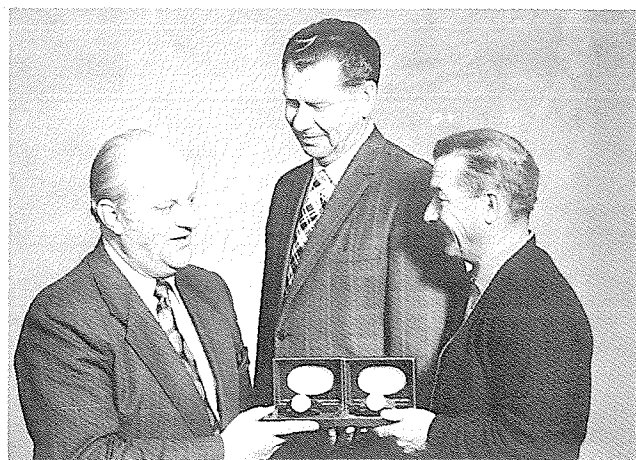
The fire was first noticed by Linda Dueck who immediately notified the Penners. Mr. Penner grabbed up the two younger children and he and his wife were followed by Linda Dueck to the neighbours who called the Winkler Volunteer Fire Brigade. The two children who suffocated had slept in an upstairs bedroom. It was thought that the fire started from an overheated furnace.

Constable Herb Klassen of the Winkler police said that the Reimer children had not been burned, and thus died after inhaling too much smoke.

The Winkler Fire Brigade received the call at 12:07 a.m. Saturday morning and had no trouble reaching the fire as the streets had been cleared following the blizzard of the two days previous. Members of the fire department were summoned by a telephone fan-out system and since

there was no siren, even people living only a block away were not aware of the tragedy until Saturday morning. Despite temperatures of about 25 degrees below zero and a strong north wind, Fire Chief Percy Enns and his firemen had no trouble getting the blaze under control.

On Saturday, March 18, 1962, another fire that resulted in loss of life occurred at the corner of First Street and Stanley Avenue in Winkler. While an employee of Shell Oil was supplying fuel from a tanker for the pumps at Dave's Service Station, the gasoline overflowed into the garage and as the men inside were mopping it up, the subsequent violent gas explosion which turned the garage into a blazing inferno resulted in the injury of seven men. Fire chief Percy Enns removed from the holocaust by ambulance Dave Derksen and his son Clifford and provided private cars to take the other injured to the local Bethel Hospital. Clifford, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Dave Derksen died in Hospital, and the following were treated for burns: Dave Derksen and his son LaVern, Jake P. Enns, and Corny, Pete, and Henry Peters. The building with its contents valued at \$15,000 was a complete loss but according to the report of the Winkler Fire Chief "could have been brought under control with a better supply of water".



Mayor H. F. Wiebe presenting gold engraved watches to Fire Chief Percy Enns and John Doell for 25 years of service in the Winkler Volunteer Fire Brigade, February 21, 1973.

Mr. Peter Wall who was severely burned in a fire at Schmidt Manufacturing, died on Wednesday, September 22, 1965. Apparently, the industrial accident was caused by a defect on an acetylene welder. Mr. Wall had been on the critical list at Grace Hospital in Winnipeg since the accident on September 2. A preliminary inquest into the death was held at Wiebe's Funeral Home by Dr. W. Colert, district coroner.

About 70 employees were without jobs in Winkler as a result of a tragic fire early Wednesday morning, March 29, 1972, which destroyed the plants of Triple-E Manufacturing Inc. Ltd., and Triple-E Motor Homes Ltd. The fire claimed the life of Mr. Henry Schellenberg, general manager and shareholder of Triple-E Motor Homes Limited. It appeared that in his effort to remove valuable records, Mr. Schellenberg was overcome by smoke when he entered the office portion of the flaming complex and his body was discovered and removed only after he could not be located on the premises.



The Triple-E Trailer manufacturing concern was operated by Neonex Leisure Products Limited that rented the building from the Winkler owners. Neonex is an international company with head offices in Vancouver, B.C. The firm purchased the travel trailer manufacturing interest in 1969 from P. W. Enns (founder), Phil Ens, Pete Elias, and the six participating shareholders who had operated the Company since its inception in 1965. With the takeover of Triple-E Manufacturing by Neonex, the nine original owners formed Triple-E Motor Homes, a new company which manufactured self-contained recreational vehicles complete with drive units.

However, by September, 1972, Neonex Leisure Products of Vancouver, had acquired all shares and assets of Triple-E Motor Homes Limited, as well as of Dutch Mobile Homes Limited and began a three-phase expansion program in Winkler. The first phase consisted of a 34,000 square-foot addition on the east side of the 47,000 square-foot building at 301 Roblin Boulevard (formerly Dutch Mobile Homes Limited) for the manufacture of travel trailers and motor homes. In September, 1972, phase two of the expansion began at the north-east corner of Centennial Street and Roblin Blvd. This building which covers 24,000 square feet will be used for the manufacture of mobile homes. Later, phase three will consist of the construction of a building at 640 Centennial Street on the former Triple-E site. The dimensions of this plant will be 160 x 85 and thus cover a total of 13,600 square feet. When this local construction is completed in 1973, Neonex will be one of the major manufacturers of recreational vehicles in Canada, and the Neonex complex at Winkler will then be the largest of its five plants, four of which are located in Canada and one in the United States. Neonex now serves the leisure markets with recreational vehicles retailing from \$650 through to \$17,000.

On August 29, 1972, Mr. James Richardson, federal minister of supply and services, announced in Ottawa that Neonex Leisure Products Limited, Winkler, would receive a \$265,859 development incentive grant under the Regional Development Incentives Act.

#### **The Fire Brigade**

Although the Winkler Town Council had already passed a by-law to the effect that all commercial and industrial buildings were to be of fire resistant material, it was with a great deal of satisfaction that Mayor Henry F. Wiebe announced an official sod-turning for a new Fire Hall. After a crowd had gathered on Wednesday, November 4, 1970, on an empty lot at the south-east corner of 4th Street and Mountain Avenue, Mayor Wiebe stated that the long awaited fire hall was another stepping stone of progress for the Town of Winkler. He thanked the Winkler Volunteer Fire Brigade for the estimated \$10,000 worth of free labour they gave the Town each year to protect its \$7,000,000 worth of buildings. He also remarked that the Fire Brigade and the Winkler Police Department did a splendid job of co-ordinating the protection of the citizens of Winkler as well as their property.

Councillor Arnold Brown, chairman of the Police and Fire Protection Committee, and Mr. Percy Enns, fire chief of the Winkler Fire Brigade, were called on to

make the official sod turning with a golden coloured spade. A new fire truck was purchased in 1970, and it arrived early next year to aid in the expansion of the equipment for the Winkler Fire Department.

On Wednesday, February 21, 1973, the Winkler Town Council hosted an appreciation dinner in honor of the members of the Winkler Volunteer Fire Department and their wives. Mayor H. F. Wiebe presented gold engraved watches to Fire Chief Percy Enns and Johnny Doell for twenty-five years of "faithful service in the Winkler Volunteer Fire Brigade". Guest speaker for the evening at the Hi-Rise Apartments was Mr. B. Mott, deputy fire commissioner of Winnipeg, and greetings were also brought by Mr. Henry Thiessen, fire inspector for southern Manitoba. Other members of the local Fire Brigade are Jake Neisteter, Abe Suderman, Ike Dyck, George Loewen, Peter J. Martens, John Wiebe, Ed Klassen, Ike Reimer, Gordon Kehler, Neil Schmidt, Isaac Dyck, Dick Unrau, Dick Fehr, John Schmidt, John Elias, Victor Krahn, Martin Penner, Peter Schmidt, Dietrich Reimer, Jim Dyck, Dennis Hiebert, Jake Goertzen, Ron Wiebe, and Bill Dyck. Fire Chief Percy Enns has served on the Winkler Volunteer Fire Brigade since October, 1946.

#### **Natural Gas**

Another happy event was the coming of natural gas to Winkler in October, 1962. The official coming of gas to Winkler was heralded by Mayor Peter J. Kroeker when he lit the gas at the Winkler regulator station to signify that gas was on stream. Others attending the gas flame ceremony were Charlie Hayward, district supervisor for Plains-Western Gas Company Limited, as well as Councillors Jake H. Loewen, Herb D. Dick, Menno A. Kroeker, and Henry Kuhl.

#### **Water**

On Friday, June 8, 1956, Winkler ratepayers placed their stamp of approval on a \$120,200 sewerage system for the town. The vote carried "FOR" the project by a 73% majority when out of the 375 ballots cast, 273 voted in favour of the system; however, only 377 out of 672 eligible ratepayers cast ballots, i.e., there was only a 56% turnout. By voting the sewerage system in at that time, the ratepayers saved on their own taxes a total of \$52,500 which was the amount the local Co-op Creamery and Bethel Hospital were to contribute for the next ten years to get sewerage into their plants. Mr. George W. Neufeld, Mayor of Winkler, stated after the favourable vote that the Town Council planned to get the actual laying of sewer lines underway later in the summer when the sub-soil water level would be lower. Benjamin Brothers received the contract to lay the sewer lines, and to construct a lift station. Excavations for a lagoon were made on the south side of the C. P. R. tracks and about a quarter mile east of Highway 32. Plans were that the sewerage system would be in operation by Christmas. To finance the project, the Winkler Town Council sold debentures which were to be repaid in 20 years at 5% interest.



Another very important milestone in the growth of Winkler was marked on Thursday, August 6, 1964, at 2 p.m., when the official opening of the waterworks system and water treatment plant took place at the treatment plant on Park Street. Mayor Peter J. Kroeker acted as chairman and special guest was the Hon. George Hutton, Minister of Agriculture and Conservation, who cut the ribbon. Other guests who participated were Reeve Isaac Warkentin, rural municipality of Stanley, and J. E. Kroeker, president of the Winkler Chamber of Commerce.

Previously, on April 10, 1964, Jake H. Loewen, waterworks superintendent, had turned on the first water connection in Winkler at the home of Mrs. Mary Letkeman, 377 Third Street who was the first applicant for water from the new system. Councillors who witnessed this inauguration were F. J. Rietze, P. L. Reimer, and Deputy Mayor Herb D. Dick.

The Manitoba Water Supply Board - a provincial government utility under the control of the minister of agriculture and conservation - has the duty of providing an adequate supply of water, and of putting it, in potable form, into the distribution lines.

For its purpose, the board selected two wells half a mile west of the treatment plant as the source of supply. The water, flowing through a natural underground aquafier, is sweet, but hard, and so is softened during the treatment process.

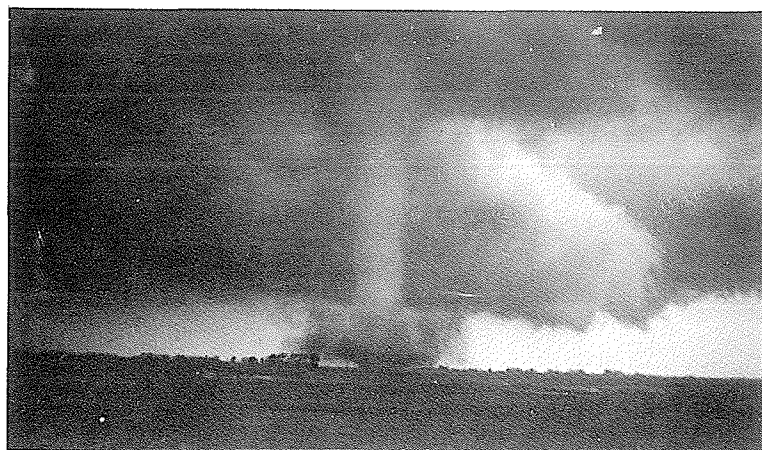
The two wells, dug and developed for about \$10,000 by International Water Supply Limited of London, Ontario, are sunk 90 feet to reach the aquafier. And surrounding the slotted screen intake at the bottom of each well is a gravel wall, put in by the well-drillers, for use as the first screening and filtering system for the water.

Underneath the "sweet water" aquafier is a band of salt water, and care is exercised to see the two remain separate. For this purpose, readings are constantly taken, and alongside each well are two "observation wells" - small 1½-inch pipes - to check on the water level in the aquafier.

At present, the wells, located nearly half a mile apart, jointly provide 100 gallons a minute, to meet the requirements of the town. But they are capable of pumping 200 gallons a minute when this is needed.<sup>13</sup>

The heart of the whole waterworks operation is the large \$190,000 treatment plant at 547 Park Street. It presently is treating the 100 gallons a minute now required, but it is designed for a normal output of 400 U. S. gallons a minute and can handle by overload up to 600 U. S. gallons per minute. The reason for this size of treatment plant is the expected heavy growth in demand over the 35-year life of the water supply contract the Board has with Winkler. The treatment plant softens and clarifies the water. It cuts the original hardness of the well water (which runs at 480 parts per million) to less than a quarter that amount. Most of the hardness comes from calcium carbonates which can cause scaling in vessels. After recarbonation by submerged combustion of natural gas to maintain the chemical balance, the water then is given a final filter and receives a carefully controlled amount of sodium fluoride. The amount of fluoridation recommended by dental authorities is one part in a million.

The water then can be pumped directly into the distribution mains at about 65 pounds per square inch pressure, or it can be pumped into the tower. The water is pre-chlorinated as a public health measure. Included in the plant is a boiler to heat the water in the elevated tank during winter. Rising 155 feet alongside the treatment plant is the massive steel water tank. It sits on mass concrete foundations, and below that are some 5,800 lineal feet of treated timber piles driven into the ground to give the structure a solid footing. Surey Construction of Winnipeg put in the \$23,000 foundation, and Horton Steel Works of Fort Erie, Ontario, erected the \$87,800 tank. Internal diameter of the tank is 43 feet, and water is stored in a 30-foot space between the 120-foot and 150-foot levels. Every foot rise in the tank represents 10,000 U. S. gallons, and when full it holds 300,000 U. S. gallons. This height of tank, when full of water, provides the same pressure (65 pounds per square inch) at the distribution mains as do the two high-pressure pumps in the treatment plant. All this construction, from wells to water tower, cost \$385,000.



The twister, a mile south of Winkler, May 23, 1933.



The tornado that struck west of Winkler on May 23, 1933. This photo was taken from Mountain Avenue and Park Street.

## Floods

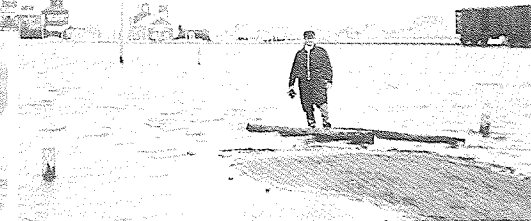


Flood, May 24, 1933.



May 24, 1933.

Flood in Winkler, April, 1916, looking north on 8th Street.



Mr. Jack Felde on a raft during the flood.

If local civic officials had planned and served industriously to bring the waterworks and a good supply of potable water into town, they worked just as tenaciously in trying to keep the waters from the annual spring run-off out of town. Practically every spring run-off and any sudden downpour of rain in summer, caused Little Hespeler Creek west of town to overflow and to flood the town. Some of the worst spring flooding occurred in 1917 and in 1966.

On Tuesday, March 22, 1966, several merchants in Winkler closed down their shops for the day when they found the street flooded and water up to their door-steps. Most of the business section was covered with two feet of water which began to run off only toward the end of the day. Shopkeepers sandbagged their store front entrances while homeowners had to contend with flooded basements and doused furnaces. A spokesman for the Emergency Measures Organization taking an active part in the evacuations and control, said that about two-thirds of the town was under water after the flood began around midnight. However, the twister and accompanying cloud-burst that passed a mile west of Winkler on May 23, 1933, resulted in the worst flooding that the old-timers in town can recall. The tornado struck late in the afternoon, and on May 24, the whole town was flooded.

After the Winkler Town Council had spent much time and effort in negotiations with the Provincial Government, excavation and construction of the Winkler Coulee By-Pass got under way in September, 1970, when La Fleche contractors moved in equipment to start the \$100,000 drainage project. The By-Pass begins on the creek at the Winkler Cemetery, passes Eden Mental Health Centre and then turns south for one mile. Here the Walkof Creek is drained into the floodway and it then turns and flows straight east for almost two miles where the Winkler Coulee By-Pass empties into the Upper Hespeler Floodway diking system which holds the waters of the Schanzenfeld Creek.

Because of the high water level in the subsoil at Winkler, local Councils have been plagued by ratepayers to repair and improve the streets. During the civic election campaign for mayor and councillors in 1971, much attention was focused on the deteriorating condition of the streets in town, and each candidate promised (if elected) to devote his energies to the paving of streets and the construction of sidewalks. To the credit of local civic officials it can be said that they kept these promises in 1972 and as a result, Mountain Avenue from First Street (Highway 32) to 15th Street, as well as several blocks of 6th and 8th Streets, were prepared for black-top. After about three feet of excavation on these streets, they were filled with Base A, sand, and Base B, clay and gravel, in preparation for the asphalt which is to cover this base in 1973. Besides, several blocks of concrete sidewalks as well as curbs on Mountain Avenue, were constructed.

### Population

Ever since incorporation in 1906, the population of Winkler has maintained a fairly steady rate of growth. Although one might not expect to find any increase during the years of the depression, the immigration from Russia in the mid 1920's accounts for a steady growth in

the ethnic Mennonite population during the next two decades. Since many of these new immigrants had a good education, they had no aversion to settling in town. When the census of the Village of Winkler was completed in December, 1953, for the purpose of incorporation with the status of a town, the count was 1642. This, of course, included only those citizens living within the limits of the village. It was estimated that there were another 360 persons living east of Highway 32 and south of Pembina Avenue who for statistical purposes were considered residents of Stanley Municipality. The streets as well as the area south of Pembina Avenue were annexed and the citizens became residents of the Town of Winkler on January 1, 1962. In 1958, it was estimated that there were a total of 712 people living in the suburbs adjoining the town.



Harold Fast, Secretary-Treasurer, Winkler.

Table Showing Growth of Population:

Year .....	1906	1916	1926	1936	1946
Population .....	530	550	970	1,036	1,160
Year .....	1953	1956	1958	1966	1972
Population .....	1,642	1,634	1,750	2,570	3,183

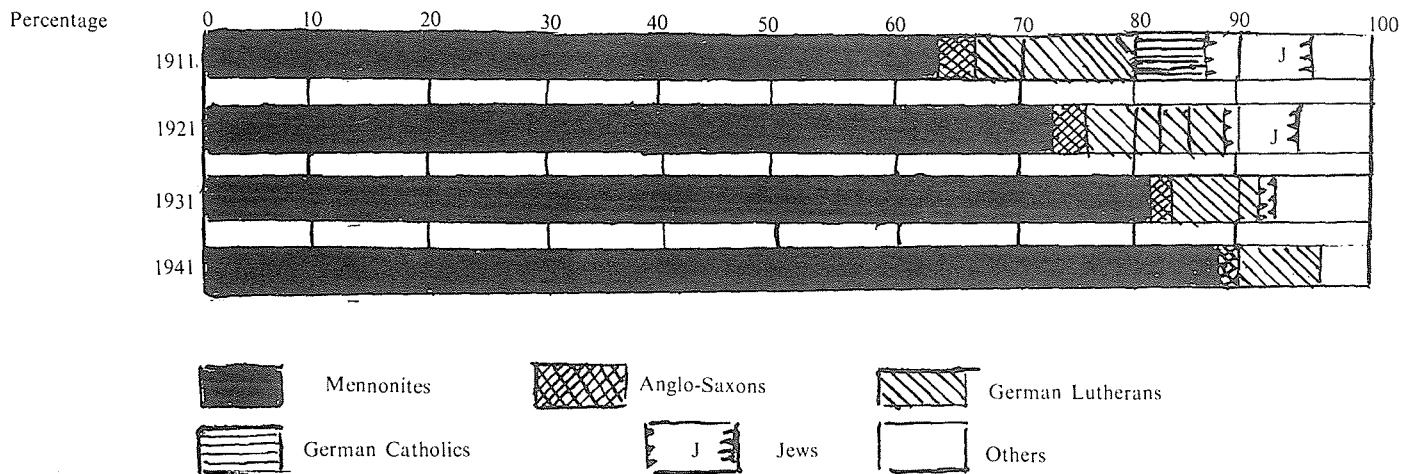
Table Showing Assessments and Taxes:

Year .....	1906	1916	1926	1936
Assessment ....	107,500	96,240	262,865	252,540
Tax Imposition	2,848	3,082	8,145	12,870
Year .....	1946	1956	1969	1972
Assessment ....	575,045	1,390,500	5,062,570	7,301,410
Tax Imposition	31,225	84,675	550,000	618,257

Table Showing Retail Trade in Winkler:

Year	Sales
1951 .....	\$ 2,767,700
1952 .....	2,762,400
1953 .....	2,890,000
1954 .....	2,691,600
1955 .....	2,770,800
1956 .....	3,281,400
1957 .....	3,200,000
1967 .....	4,900,000
1972 .....	15,500,000

### Ethnic Composition of Winkler, 1911-1941<sup>3</sup>



**Printers and Publishers**

Shortly after 1900, Mr. Henry H. Neufeld started a newspaper business known as the "Volkzeitung Publishing Company of Winkler" and began publishing a paper in the German language called "Die Volkzeitung". Later he also operated a drug store at the same location where the Winkler Pharmacy stands today. In 1922 Mr. Neufeld moved to Winnipeg where for many more years he continued as a job printer. His son Peter Neufeld is still following his father in the same occupation in Fresno, California. Mr. Henry H. Neufeld who was also engaged in the patent medicine mail order business by selling such drugs as "Schlagwasser", etc., later moved to Chilliwack, B. C., where he died on June 23, 1947.

In 1921, Mr. Peter T. Friesen came to Winkler from Steinbach. He leased the printing equipment from Mr. H. H. Neufeld and moved it into a building near the south-east corner of Mountain Avenue and Main Street. Mr. Friesen operated the printery there for a short while and at the time when Mr. Neufeld sold out his drug store,

Mr. P. T. Friesen bought his stock of school supplies, office stationery, and musical instruments. He then opened the first bookstore in Winkler and continued the printery as well in the north-east corner of the old Winkler Lumber Co. building. Shortly after this, Mr. H. H. Neufeld sold the printing equipment which Mr. Friesen had formerly leased, to a firm in Winnipeg. Mr. Friesen carried on the Bookstore in a lean-to beside Mitchell's General Store, later moving into the Union Traders Building and in 1940 he moved to the location on Main Street where Gladstone's Shopping Centre now stands.

In 1924, Mr. K. H. Neufeld came to Winkler and in the fall of that year started a printery in a back room of J. H. Hiebert's General Store which was located where the MacLeod's Store now stands. In 1926, Mr. Neufeld moved to the location on Main Street where Sawatzky's Furniture Store was later in business. From there he moved the printery still farther north in 1929 to where the Green Lantern Cafe is situated at present. Here Mr. Neufeld's brother-in-law, Mr. J. K. Sawatzky, joined him and they added a general store to their business. This business was sold in 1931 and Mr. Neufeld moved the printery to the J. G. Wiens & Son premises where he rented a room. Then in 1933 he moved again to Main Street where the Winkler Theatre was later located. This building was formerly used by Mr. J. K. Loewen for his garage business. In 1935, Mr. Neufeld purchased a building and moved it onto the lot where the Municipal Office stands today. By this time Mr. Neufeld was thoroughly tired of moving and in 1937 he purchased a lot on the east side of Main Street and moved his building onto it. Mr. Neufeld claimed that his printing press was pulled down Main Street so often in those days that it was as common as Ford cars.

Until 1945 Mr. Neufeld had done chiefly job printing, but in that year he started printing "The Winkler Flyer" the first English weekly newspaper in Winkler. He did not have a linotype and consequently had all his news and reading matter for every issue set up in Winnipeg and then printed it on a Gordon Job Press here in town. In 1946, Mr. Neufeld purchased a linotype from



the Winnipeg Free Press and did his own type setting here. In the same year he purchased a Campbell Newspaper Press.

Also in 1946, Mr. P. T. Friesen and son Harvey, started a job printing plant in the back of their bookstore. The printing department prospered so that by 1949 the shop had installed three presses (one automatic) along with various other modern equipment.



**Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Friesen celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 25, 1972. A printer by trade, Mr. Friesen came to Winkler in 1921.**

For a time then, there was one printing and publishing plant and one commercial printing plant in Winkler. In the fall of 1949, Mr. George Derksen, Jr., of Steinbach started a second newspaper, "The Winkler Leader" which he printed in a room at the back of Friesen's Bookstore. In the same year Pembina Publishers Ltd. purchased the "Winkler Flyer" from Mr. K. H. Neufeld and renamed it the "Winkler Progress."

In September, 1950, P. T. Friesen & Son took over the Winkler Leader and purchased the "Winkler Progress" from Pembina Publishers. The two papers were amalgamated under "The Winkler Progress" and that newspaper then served the community as the Pembina Triangle Progress. The addition of more modern equipment now provides this community with one of the best weekly newspapers in Manitoba. The firm also carries on a complete line of commercial printing.

The Winkler Progress in its issue of April 22, 1953, listed seventy business firms and seven industries which were operating in Winkler. The Winkler Chamber of Commerce has been advertising the town as the "Shopping Centre of Southern Manitoba". A number of signs bearing this slogan were put up at strategic points to catch the eyes of passing motorists. One of these signs at the Three Mile Corner has twice been demolished. Evidently, some envious neighbouring business man could not appreciate that kind of advertising and cooled off his spleen by tearing down the billboard. Of course, this is only indicative of the quiet competition that is always going on between small country towns.

Pembina Printing Limited which now does all its newspaper and job printing in the Morden shop is a family business the history of which goes back three generations of printers to the turn of the century when Jacob S. Friesen opened a printing shop in his dwelling at Kleefeld near Steinbach, Manitoba. It was here that the founder of Pembina Printing Limited, Peter T. Friesen,

the son of Jacob S. Friesen, got his start in the printing trade at the age of 19. When the community of Giroux developed, Jacob S. Friesen was encouraged to move there and began publishing a newspaper in 1915. Soon after this, the neighboring village of Steinbach had grown sufficiently that it warranted moving his business again. At Steinbach he changed the name of his German language newspaper from "Der Volks-Bote" to "Die Steinbach Post". The paper was sold in 1923 to Arnold B. Dyck, author of many Low German books. A few years later Dyck sold out to George S. Derksen and the Derksen family still operates the business today. In 1919, P. T. Friesen ventured forth on his own, working in a weekly newspaper printing shop in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and in 1921 he came to Winkler.

Under the management of Harvey Friesen, the son of Peter T. Friesen, the firm has kept on expanding so that in 1959 they purchased the Morden Times. In 1962 a large new centralized plant was built at Morden. In 1967 the firm converted to the newer "off-set" method of printing and in 1969 installed a modern high speed newspaper press. At present the firm has a staff of thirteen employees and publishes three newspapers, as well as numerous community flyers and contract prints newspapers for localities up to one hundred miles distant.

This year the new press will produce about seven million impressions of full size newspaper pages. A complete new photo-offset department was installed with the press and in 1970 the Company added a new computer photo setting machine to handle their increasing volume of type-setting. In 1971, Pembina Printing marked their 50th anniversary of service to this community. P. T. Friesen, founder of Pembina Printing Limited, was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Manitoba Weekly Newspapers Association at their annual convention in Winnipeg in December, 1969.



**Mr. Harvey Friesen, publisher of "The Pembina Times"**

Mr. Harvey Friesen, president of Pembina Printing Limited, announced on January 1, 1972, that the two weekly newspapers published by the company at the Morden plant would be merged into one regional



publication, The Pembina Times. However, the branch office at Winkler was maintained. Published in two sections, the paper retained the identity of the areas formerly served. Thus the subscribers of the Morden Times as well as those reading the Pembina Triangle Progress now receive both of these former publications as The Pembina Times.

On June 25, 1971, Pembina Printing Limited in Winkler moved to a new location at the corner of Main Street North and Industrial Drive. It is located in the same building as Pembina Leisure Products which was officially opened the week before the local office of the firm was moved to 507 Main Street North.



Margaret Janzen, Mrs. Evelyn Janzen and Mrs. Susan Penner all dolled up for Old Time Value Days.



Old Time Value Days Celebration at Winkler.



Mrs. John Loeppky and Mary.



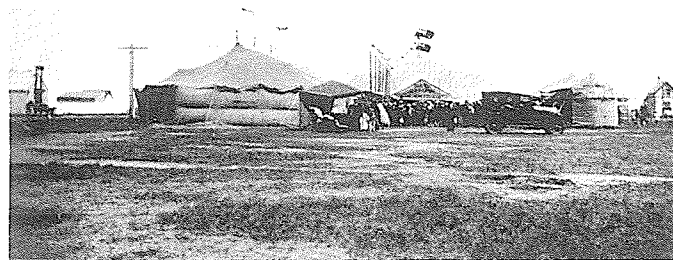
Winter Fashions in the 1920's. Left to right: Annie Siemens, Elizabeth Siemens, Mary Siemens.



Left to Right: Mrs. Tillie Miller (nee Graefer), Wm. G. Graefer, Theresa Schiminowsky, Lizzie Mein, Unknown, Mrs. Bertha Miller (Graefer). About 1915.



When the circus came to town.



March 3, 1966, Mr. P. P. Redekop does not know where to start after the blizzard.



Dyck - Kroeker Family, 1932

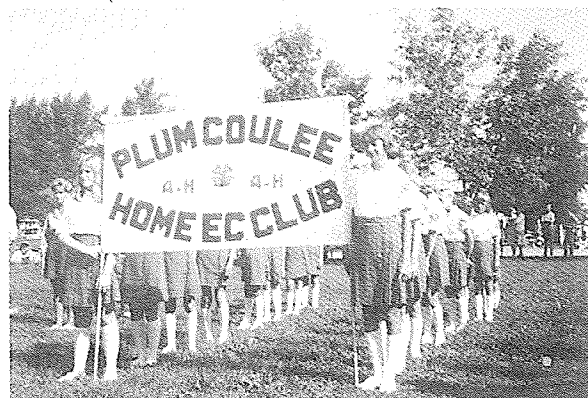




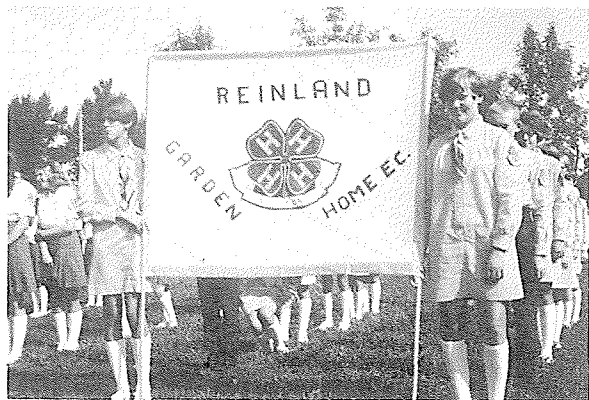
This picture, taken in the showroom of Kroeker Brothers' Garage, shows a group of Winkler citizens preparing the gasoline ration books in February, 1943. Gas for farm trucks and cars was available only with ration books permitting not more than 3,000 miles of travelling within a year under the War-time Industrial Transit Plan. Shown around the far left table, left to right are Nick Neufeld, Mrs. Bill Friesen, Mrs. I. R. Dyck, next not known. Next row: Mrs. Nick Neufeld, Mrs. George I. Brown (formerly Mrs. J. S. Wiebe), I. R. Dyck, Gloria Kroeker (Mrs. Don Dyck), J. E. Kroeker, Rudy Mehmel, Albert Kroeker, Mrs. J. E. Kroeker, Mrs. Justina Wiebe, Luella Kroeker (Mrs. Ted Loney), C. H. Grunau, J. A. Kroeker, N. A. Rudiak. In the foreground: Menno Kroeker, C. J. Funk, John S. Wiebe, Bill Friesen, next unknown, Emily Ginter (Mrs. Peter Dyck), Katherine Wiebe, Tina Warkentin, Nettie Wiebe, Leona Friesen (Mrs. Schmidt), Pat Warkentin, and Katie Penner (Mrs. Peter Peters).



1972.



Stanley Agricultural Society, Winkler



4-H'ers at Stanley Agricultural Fair



Stanley Agricultural Society Annual Fair, 1947

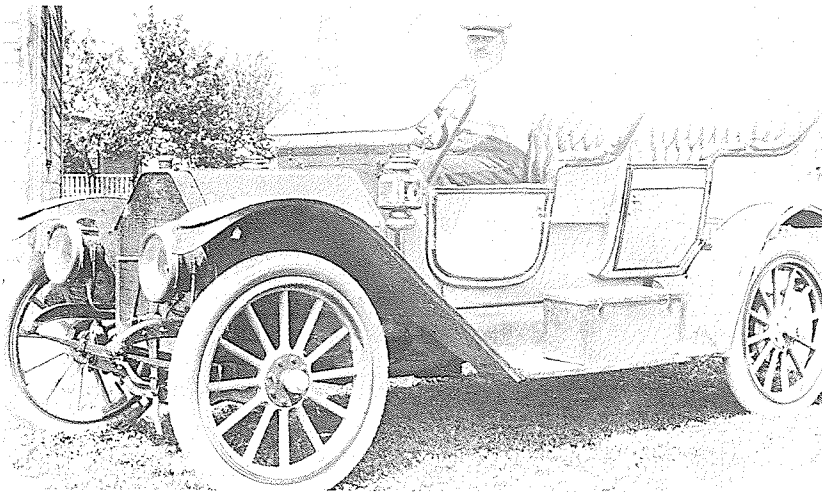


The whip had to be long to reach the horses in front of the binder

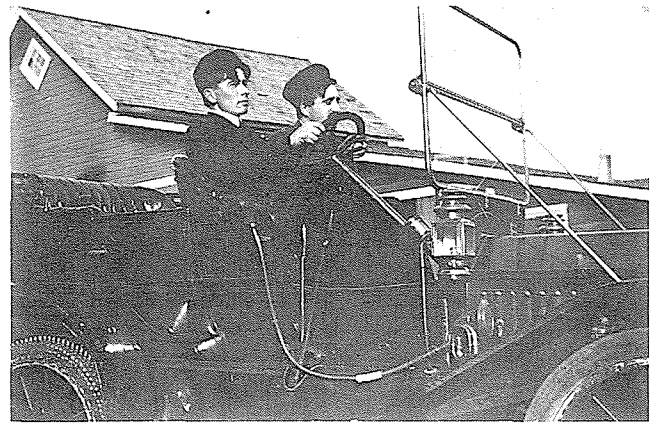


1896; note the separator has no straw blower  
Mr. J. J. Loewen, dealer





Wm. Miller at the steering wheel of the McLaughlin



Abram Hiebert and Jacob G. Loewen



The first Municipal Hall, 1906.



The Municipal Hall, 1956.

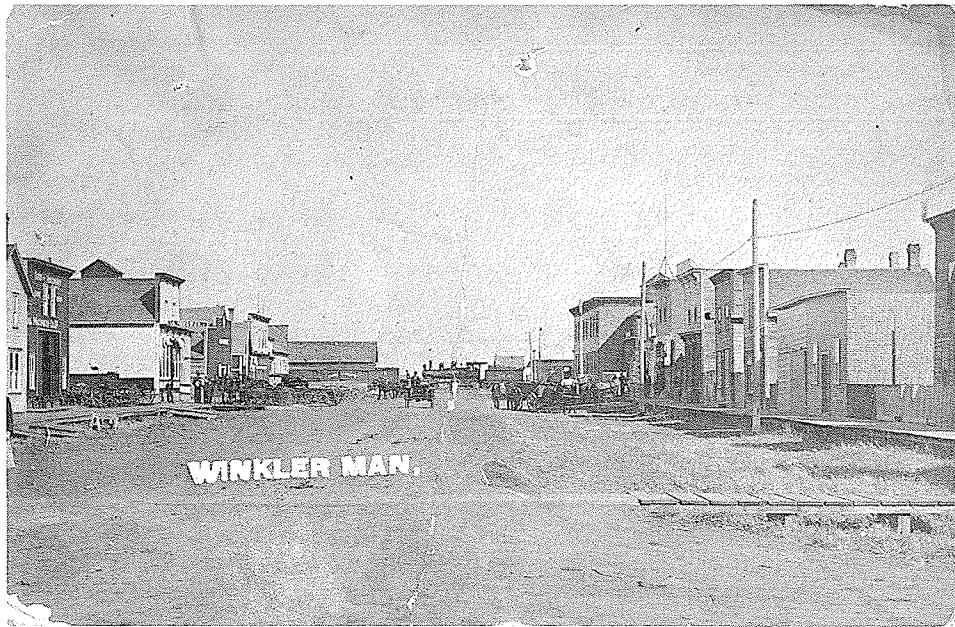


Winkler Clinic and Post Office, 1943





May 7, 1945, service held to commemorate the end of World War II. In front, Mr. John N. Wiebe. Speakers: (left to right) Mr. Isaacs, lawyer; H. S. Friesen; Peter Brown, principal; Rev. G. D. Pries; and inspector Dalton.



Main Street looking north, 1915.



Winkler

## The Village Council

The village of Winkler was incorporated in 1906. The council met for its first session in Rietze's Hall on May 9, 1906 and was made up of the following councillors: Dr. Nelson G. Cooper (Mayor), Frank E. Rietze, Fred Penner, D. Klassen, William Graefer, and Peter H. Neufeld (Secretary-Treasurer). At the council Meeting on May 19, 1906, a resolution was passed offering \$275 to Dyck & Kroeker for the lot and building at the north-west corner of Main Street & Mountain Avenue. On June 16, 1906, the regular meeting of the village council was held at the office of Dr. Cooper. At this session of the council, councillor Klassen made a motion which councillor Penner seconded to the effect "that the council adjourns to the municipal office at once and resume business." This motion carried, and the council adjourned to the municipal office at the corner of Main & Mountain where all succeeding meetings were held until the year 1946, when a municipal office and fire hall was built directly half a block west of the first site.

### Excerpts from the Minute Books of the Council

The following is the first entry in the Minute Book of the first Council of the Village of Winkler:

"Minutes of the Council of the Village of Winkler at their first meeting, held in the Ritze's Hall on the 9th day of May, 1906.

1. Moved by David Klassen, Councillor, seconded by Councillor Wil. Graefer that Peter H. Neufeld be appointed to the office for Secretary-Treasurer of the village of Winkler for the year 1906 at a salary of One Hundred Dollars per annum and that a by-law be passed to that effect. Carried.

2. It was moved by Councilor Frank Ritze, seconded by Councilor Fred Penner that Nelson G. Cooper M.D. be appointed Health Officer for the village of Winkler for the year 1906, without a salary and that a by-law be passed to that effect. Carried.

3. It was moved by Councilor Frank E. Ritze, seconded by Fred Penner that the new Sec.-Treas. be instructed to write the Sec.-Treas. of the Municipality of Stanley asking him to make up statement of all moneys due Winkler on taxes paid, also to include with this statement of account of all assets and liabilities of all the money received and spent from and for the Village of Winkler in the past year. Carried.

4. It was moved by Councillor Frank E. Ritze, seconded by Councilor Fred Penner that Alexander McLeod of the town of Morden be appointed Solicitor for the Village of Winkler for the year 1906, at a salary of Fifty Dollars per annum and that a by-law be passed to that effect. Carried.

5. Councilors Fred Penner and Frank E. Ritze to act as committee to look for a suitable place for Municipal Office and Fire Hall, and to render a report at the next meeting of the council. Carried.

6. It was moved by councilor Frank E. Ritze, seconded by Councilor Fred Penner that David Klassen Councilor be appointed to attend to the repairing of the sidewalks. Carried.

7. It was moved by Councilor David Klassen, seconded by Councilor Wil. Graefer that the next council shall meet on the 19th day of May 1906 at 8 O'clock P.M. in Dr. Coopers Office and that the council adjourns. Carried.

Gerhard Wiebe

Returning Officer

Nelson G. Cooper."<sup>14</sup>

There were evidently many revealing motions of interest passed by the first councils. In 1906, the council paid \$1.50 per day for labor on the streets of the village. At one of the meetings in 1906, accounts were paid to B. Loewen; the Winkler Hardware Co.; Dyck & Kroeker; A. Nitikman; and to the Prairie Lumber Co. It would appear that the first village councils had to contend with pecuniary distress, at least as far as the coffers of the village were concerned, for in 1907, a loan was made from the Bank of Hamilton. A resolution of January 1, 1909, advised that all business places were to close at 7 P.M. By 1910, there must have been people in the community who found it hard to abide by the laws, because on February 1 of that year the council found it necessary to pass a motion to build a cell for imprisonment of transgressors. The cell was built in the south-west corner of the fire engine room which adjoined the municipal office. February 27, 1909, there was a motion before the council to place the village of Winkler back into the Municipality of Stanley.

The minutes of September 1, 1910, suggest that the councillors wanted more light on the subject, for they carried a motion which provided that two street lamps of 1000 candle power each were to be ordered. One of these was mounted at the corner of Mountain Ave. and Main St., and the other at the intersection of Sixth St. and Railway Ave. Local citizens also had an opportunity to show their patriotism when on the Coronation of George V. June 22, 1911, all business places were closed. On January 2, 1912, Mr. Henry Hiebert was given permission to use one of the street gasoline lamps at the ice rink and thus provision was made for the sports minded. A motion which carried at a council meeting on April 6, 1915, was evidently aimed at the pocket book of those mechanically minded citizens who were replacing Old Dobbin with an automobile. This motion reads: "That the automobiles of the village of Winkler be taxed this year for the amount of \$200.00 each." There were at that time fifteen automobiles in the village. However, as one evil leads to another, it was now necessary for the council to erect four warning signs of speed limits for automobiles and motorcycles.

January 7, 1919, the council decided to put two electric lights on Main Street. The current for these lights was obtained from the light plant on the east side of Main Street, approximately where Miller's Electric Shop was later located. On January 4, 1921, the council approved Mark Ki's application to open the first Chinese restaurant in Winkler. The council minutes for April 1, 1924, state "That the village council prohibits the playing of games such as baseball, football, and tennis, on any public property on Sunday." February 3, 1928, a plebiscite was held and a by-law was passed to bring in the Manitoba Hydro Electric. Votes for the by-law were 207, and against 22.

The first concrete sidewalk was built in 1931 along the east side of Block A. The depression of the dry thirties also affected local citizens for the Minutes of the village council of March, 1933, reveal that 31 families in Winkler had received relief cord-wood in that month. With an eye to beautifying the village, the council passed a building permit By-Law in 1940.

Other By-Laws of interest were passed more recently. October 22, 1942, a By-Law was drawn up providing for the closing of all stores and shops on Thursday afternoons commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon. In order to protect the health of local citizens, the council began issuing Milk Vendors' licences in 1942. A resolution passed by the town fathers on February 14, 1946, reads, "Resolved that all cattle houses in the village of Winkler or cattle of which the milk is sold or consumed in the village be required to be tested for Bang's Disease." Also for reasons of sanitation, a request on March 25, 1946, for a permit to operate a mink farm was not granted. By-Law No. 318 passed January 9, 1948, provided that "all wells which are constructed in the future for supplying drinking water, shall be provided with a waterproof casing (metal or concrete) and that existing wells shall be provided with a water-proof casing on or before Sept. 2, 1948. In 1949, Mr. I. J. Wiens was appointed inspector of dairy premises.

There is plenty of evidence that the Winkler village councils have been interested in preserving the health of the community ever since incorporation. The following three By-Laws are ample proof of this fact:

1. June 26, 1909, "Moved by Councillor Funk, seconded by Councillor Rietze, that Dr. Brown is to make a house to house visitation during the month of July, 1909, and to vaccinate all children that have not been previously vaccinated and that he may charge the parent .15¢ for each child and that 25¢ will be paid by the village for each child so vaccinated. Carried."

2. February 10, 1913, "Schiminowsky and Penner — That on account of the numerous complaints regarding the existence and the spread of diphtheria and other infectious and contagious diseases in the Municipalities of Rhineland and Stanley in the vicinity of the village of Winkler we, the council of the said village of Winkler assembled hereby recommend the appointment of a special health constable for a limited period to aid in the discovery of and suppression of said contagious diseases."

3. November 4, 1941, "Resolved that the village of Winkler bear the cost of vaccinating the children of pre-school age residing in the village of Winkler, provided that the School Board will bear the cost of vaccinating the children of school age. Carried."

On April 7, 1954, Winkler was incorporated as a town. As the incorporation as village had taken place on April 7, 1906, it was 48 years later that the required number of citizens for status as a town was exceeded. The Golden Jubilee of incorporation was celebrated in 1956. The celebrations were in the form of church services, programs, sports days, exhibitions, and a beard-growing contest. The latter having been sponsored by the Winkler Chamber of Commerce.

## Councillors of Winkler

- 1906 Frank E. Rietze, Fred Penner, David Klassen, W. Graefer
- 1907 P. M. Elias, Fred Penner, A. Nitikman W. Graefer
- 1908 F. E. Rietze, John Enns, John B. Dyck, M. J. Uhrich
- 1909 F. E. Rietze, J. J. Funk, J. Dehmke, Frank Derksen
- 1910 J. P. Penner, W. Martens, B. Loewen, Frank Derksen
- 1911 A. Graefer, A. Nitikman, B. Loewen, W. Neufeld
- 1912 J. J. Loewen, August Schimnowsky, W. Neufeld, Aron Nitikman
- 1913 J. J. Loewen, August Schimnowsky, John Loepky, J. P. Penner
- 1914 Frank Derksen, A. K. Friesen, John Loepky, J. P. Penner
- 1915 Frank Derksen, A. K. Friesen, F. E. Rietze, W. L. Esau
- 1916 G. Helmer, I. Giesbrecht, F. E. Rietze, John Loepky
- 1917 G. Helmer, Dyck, R. E. Rietze, John Loepky
- 1918 K. Nauer, W. L. Esau, F. E. Rietze, Frank Derksen
- 1919 K. Nauer, W. L. Esau, F. E. Rietze, W. Neufeld
- 1920 K. Nauer, Isaac I. Brown, F. E. Rietze, W. Neufeld
- 1921 K. Nauer, Isaac I. Brown, J. Loepky, P. B. Penner
- 1922 Henry Enns, Sam Kuhl, J. Loepky, P. B. Penner
- 1923 J. J. Enns, Jacob H. Hiebert, J. Loepky, J. P. W. Penner
- 1924 J. J. Enns, Konrad Nauer, Sam Kuhl, Peter Dyck
- 1925 J. J. Enns, Konrad Nauer, Sam Kuhl, Peter Dyck
- 1926 John L. Dyck, Konrad Nauer, F. E. Rietze, Peter Dyck
- 1927 John L. Dyck, Sam Kuhl, F. E. Rietze, Julius Pelser
- 1928 J. J. Loewen, Sam Kuhl, W. P. Zacharias, Julius Pelser
- 1929 J. J. Loewen, Sam Kuhl, W. P. Zacharias, Julius Pelser
- 1930 W. M. Enns, Sam Kuhl, W. P. Zacharias, Julius Pelser
- 1931 W. M. Enns, Sam Kuhl, W. P. Zacharias, Julius Pelser
- 1932 Frank Derksen, Sam Kuhl, W. P. Zacharias, Julius Pelser
- 1933 Frank Derksen, Henry G. Loewen, W. P. Zacharias, George W. Neufeld
- 1934 Frank Derksen, Henry G. Loewen, W. P. Zacharias, George W. Neufeld
- 1935 Frank Derksen, Henry G. Loewen, W. P. Zacharias, George W. Neufeld
- 1936 Jacob K. Loewen, Henry G. Loewen, William E. Wiebe, George W. Neufeld
- 1937 Jacob K. Loewen, Henry G. Loewen, W. P. Zacharias, Konrad Nauer
- 1938 G. W. Neufeld, Henry G. Loewen, W. E. Wiebe, Konrad Nauer
- 1939 G. W. Neufeld, Henry G. Loewen, W. E. Wiebe, J. K. Loewen

1940 G. W. Neufeld, Henry G. Loewen, Herman L. Dyck, J. K. Loewen  
 1941 G. W. Neufeld, Henry G. Loewen, Herman L. Dyck, J. K. Loewen  
 1942 G. W. Neufeld, Henry G. Loewen, Herman L. Dyck, W. P. Zacharias  
 1943 G. W. Neufeld, Peter F. Derksen, Herman L. Dyck, W. P. Zacharias  
 1944 G. W. Neufeld, J. K. Loewen, Herman L. Dyck, W. P. Zacharias  
 1945 G. W. Neufeld, W. E. Wiebe, Herman L. Dyck, Sam H. Wonnick  
 1946 A. Menno Kroeker, W. E. Wiebe, P. F. Derksen, Sam H. Wonnick  
 1947 A. Menno Kroeker, Jacob P. Siemens, P. F. Derksen, Sam H. Wonnick  
 1948 John G. Brown, Jacob P. Siemens, P. F. Derksen, Sam H. Wonnick  
 1949 John G. Brown, John J. Wiens, P. F. Derksen, Ewald A. Teske  
 1950 John G. Brown, John J. Wiens, W. M. Enns, Ewald A. Teske  
 1951 John G. Brown, Herbert D. Dick, W. M. Enns, William H. Janzen  
 1952 Dr. A. P. Warkentin, Herbert D. Dick, J. J. Wiens, William H. Janzen  
 1953 Dr. A. P. Warkentin, Menno Kroeker, J. J. Wiens, Sam H. Wonnick  
 1954 Nick R. Wiebe, J. J. Wiens, Menno Kroeker, S. H. Wonnick  
 1955 N. R. Wiebe, J. J. Wiens, William M. Enns, Herbert D. Dick  
 1956 East Ward, N. R. Wiebe and H. D. Dick; West Ward, J. J. Wiens, & W. M. Enns  
 1957 East Ward — N. R. Wiebe & H. D. Dick; West Ward — J. J. Wiens & M. Kroeker  
 1958 East Ward — N. R. Wiebe & H. D. Dick; West Ward — Henry Kuhl & M. Kroeker  
 1959 East Ward — N. R. Wiebe & H. D. Dick; West Ward — H. Kuhl & M. Kroeker  
 1960 East Ward — Jake H. Loewen & H. D. Dick; West Ward — H. Kuhl & M. Kroeker  
 1961 East Ward — J. H. Loewen & H. D. Dick; West Ward — H. Kuhl & M. Kroeker  
 1962 East Ward — J. H. Loewen & H. D. Dick; West Ward — H. Kuhl & M. Kroeker  
 1963 East Ward — J. H. Loewen & H. D. Dick; West Ward — H. Kuhl & Peter L. Reimer  
 1964 East Ward — Fred J. Rietze & H. D. Dick; West Ward — H. Kuhl & P. L. Reimer  
 1965 East Ward — F. J. Rietze & H. D. Dick; West Ward — H. Kuhl & P. L. Reimer  
 1966 East Ward — F. J. Rietze & H. D. Dick; West Ward — N. R. Wiebe & P. L. Reimer  
 1967 East Ward — F. J. Rietze & H. D. Dick; West Ward — N. R. Wiebe & Arnold Brown  
 1968 East Ward — F. J. Rietze & H. D. Dick; West Ward — N. R. Wiebe & A. Brown  
 1969 East Ward — F. J. Rietze & J. H. Dyck; West Ward — N. R. Wiebe & A. Brown  
 1970 East Ward — Harry Dueck & J. H. Dyck; West Ward — N. R. Wiebe & A. Brown

1971 East Ward — Harry Dueck, J. Harold Dyck; West Ward — N. R. Wiebe, H. H. Kuhl  
 1972 East Ward — Arnold Brown, J. H. Dyck; West Ward — Nick R. Wiebe, Henry H. Kuhl  
 1973 Arnold Brown, J. Harold Dyck, Nick R. Wiebe, Henry H. Kuhl

#### Mayors of Winkler

1906- Dr. Nelson G. Cooper  
 1907-09 John J. Loewen  
 1910- Rev. Gerhard Wiebe  
 1911-12 Jacob P. Penner  
 1913-14 Jacob J. Funk  
 1915- J. P. Penner  
 1916- J. J. Funk  
 1917-19 Peter Bueckert  
 1920-22 John Braun  
 1923- J. J. Loewen  
 1924-27 Peter Bueckert  
 1928-35 John J. Enns  
 1936-45 Peter Bueckert  
 1946-51 George W. Neufeld  
 1952-53 Menno Hooze  
 1954-59 George W. Neufeld  
 1960-65 Peter J. Kroeker  
 1966-67 John Epp  
 1968- Henry F. Wiebe

#### Secretaries of Winkler

1906-10 Peter H. Neufeld  
 1911- Joe S. Wolkof  
 1912-15 Henry H. Neufeld  
 1916- W. G. Graefer  
 1917-20 John J. Enns  
 1921-30 Peter H. Siemens  
 1931-34 Frank K. Friesen  
 1935-66 H. S. Friesen  
 1966-69 Ken R. Ginter  
 1969- Harold Fast

#### Health Officers of Winkler

1906- Dr. Nelson G. Cooper  
 1907- Dr. Scott  
 1908-09 Dr. George F. Weatherhead  
 1910- Dr. A. V. Brown and Dr. A. C. Parr  
 1911- Dr. H. McGavin  
 1912- Dr. F. B. Smyth  
 1913-16 Dr. G. F. Weatherhead  
 1917-18 Dr. F. B. Smyth  
 1919-22 Dr. G. F. Weatherhead  
 1923- Dr. Otto Uhle  
 1924- Dr. G. F. Weatherhead  
 1925- Dr. C. W. Wiebe  
 1926- Dr. G. F. Weatherhead  
 1927-46 Dr. C. W. Wiebe  
 1947-51 Dr. A. P. Warkentin  
 1952-64 Dr. Harold U. Penner  
 1965-66 Dr. B. J. Froese  
 1967-69 Dr. F. Khan  
 1970- Southern Manitoba Health Unit formed with Mr. N. R. Wiebe appointed as councillor to represent Winkler

#### Constables of Winkler

1906- Jacob Schultz  
 1907-12 August Graefer  
 1913-17 William Leiding  
 1918-22 August Graefer  
 1923- John F. Loewen  
 1924-27 Fred Hill  
 1927-67 Jack Felde  
 1958- Walter Nauer  
 1963- Herb Klassen  
 1967-69 Menno Dyck  
 1969-73 Peter Krahn  
 1973- Ernie Chuipka  
 1973- Jacob Owens



**Peter Bueckert — Mayor**

In 1902 at the age of eighteen, Mr. Peter Bueckert who was born in Alexanderthal, South Russia on December 25, 1883, came to Canada with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Bueckert. The first summer here he was employed on Abram Kroeker's farm just west of Winkler. After taking high school at Winkler and Gretna, he started teaching in the Bloomfield School District. On December 26, 1905, he was married to Maria Dyck, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Dyck, who was also a school teacher. Both Mr. & Mrs. Bueckert taught school at Lowe Farm for a few years. As the School Board was anxious to retain Mrs. Bueckert on the staff at Lowe Farm, but refused to rehire Mr. Bueckert, they moved with their family to the Greenfarm S. D. where Mr. Bueckert continued to teach until 1916. After five years of public school teaching, he began the lumber business at Winkler. To start off, he ordered one carload of lumber and after its contents were sold he had earned enough money to order two carloads. In 1918, Mr. Bueckert purchased the Beaver Lumber Yard at 361 Main Street and changed the name to Winkler Lumber Company. After his death on August 31, 1946, three of his sons, John, Peter, and Bill continued in the Lumber Yard until 1958 when the business was sold to the Beaver Lumber Company Limited. At one time Mr. Bueckert operated lumber yards in Plum Coulee, Horndean, Altona, and Carman as well as in Winkler. Before coming to Winkler he had in 1910 purchased a general store in Dalmeny, Saskatchewan.

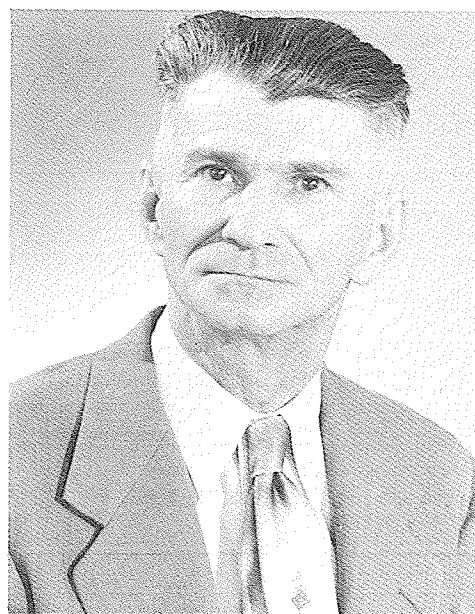
After leaving the teaching profession, Mr. Bueckert started a private lumber business and became actively involved in the public affairs of the community. He served as Mayor of Winkler for 17 years which is longer than any other local citizen has occupied the same civic office.

He held the office of mayor during the years 1917-19; 1924-27; and 1936-45. Mr. Bueckert was also a trustee of the Winkler School Board for several terms. He took an active part in politics and in 1927 he was the Liberal party standard-bearer in a three-cornered provincial election in Morden-Rhineland. Mr. J. H. Black of Morden was the Progressive candidate, but Dr. H. McGavin, Plum Coulee, was elected on the Conservative ticket.

On September 17, 1905, Mr. Bueckert was baptized and accepted into the membership of the Winkler M. B. Church. He participated in the church business meetings and applied some of his shrewd techniques here as well. On one occasion when an old church building debt of \$6000 had become a lingering sore, Mr. Bueckert arose from his seat to address the meeting and suggested that it should not be difficult for the congregation to clear up this loan. Personally, he would pay \$1000 towards liquidation of the debt, and pointing a finger to Mr. George G. Wiebe, he said, "And you can pay \$500." Before the meeting adjourned money for payment of the loan in question had been over-subscribed. Mr. Bueckert passed away at his home in Winkler on August 31, 1946.

Mrs. Bueckert, widow of the former mayor, died April 13, 1973. Mr. & Mrs. Bueckert had a family of six children, namely, John (deceased), Peter who operates the Gondola Pizza Restaurant at 2655 Portage Avenue in Winnipeg, Isaac, Mary, William, and Erna.

A grandson Billy Bueckert, the son of Mr. & Mrs. William C. Bueckert, who began water skiing on Lake Minnewasta at Morden, won the Manitoba Provincial Water Ski Championship at Selkirk on August 7, 1960, and since then has won the Canadian National Junior Jumping Water Ski Championship. Not to be outdone by his brother Bob Bueckert has been winning just as many laurels on Winnipeg's drag racing tracks. The two brothers now operate the B. & B. Motors at 463 St. Anne's Road, St. Vital.



**George W. Neufeld — Mayor**



Mr. George W. Neufeld was born in Winkler in 1901 and received his elementary and high school education in town. About 1904, his father Mr. William Neufeld went into the Deering Implement business on South Railway Avenue, and later accepted the International Harvester agency which he moved to the east side of Main Street approximately where the Winkler Photo Studio is located today.

In the year 1924, his son George W. Neufeld became the manager of this business and in 1929 he bought the Implement and Machine Shop from his father. Twenty years later in 1949, G. W. Neufeld erected a new Implement Shop at the south-west corner of Stanley Avenue and Main Street where he continued the International Harvester implement business as well as the bulk oil sales. He accepted the Prairie City Oil agency in 1932, which later became a North Star Oil outlet and today is a Shell Oil unit. Besides petroleum products, Mr. Neufeld deals in fertilizers, weed killers and farm chemicals. In 1967 Shell Canada Limited presented to him a plaque in recognition of thirty-four years of service as an agent. His business experience also involved him in the local cannery enterprise. In 1971 Mr. Neufeld sold the Implement Shop to George Klassen who renovated the building and opened business as Klassen's Bargain Centre.

Besides looking after his own business, Mr. Neufeld has for many years been actively participating in local municipal government. He has served on the Winkler Town Council for twelve years as Councillor and for another twelve years as Mayor. He held the office of Mayor during the years 1946-1951; and 1954-1959. Hence, Mr. Neufeld has the unenviable distinction of having served in the Winkler Civic Offices for a longer period of time than any other local elected official. His fellow-councillors made an appropriate gesture in January, 1952, when they presented an executive chair with an engraved silver plaque to Mr. Neufeld in honor of his public service. It seems a conundrum that as a frugal mayor he was sometimes accused of keeping an eagle eye on the taxpayer's dollar.



The J. B. Dyck Family.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Neufeld, 1945.



Official opening of the Salem Intensive Care Home, Aug. 26, 1973.

**Wilhelmina Hausknecht — Knelsen**  
**(The great-grandmother of former mayor G. W. Neufeld)**

The parents of former mayor George W. Neufeld of Winkler were both born in Russia but died in Canada. His father, Mr. William Neufeld, was born at Bergfeld on July 26, 1871, and died August 4, 1946, at Winkler. The mother, Mrs. Anna Neufeld (nee Hamm) who was a sister to Mr. Henry H. Hamm, Altona, was born at Chortitz, South Russia, August 6, 1873, and died June 11, 1951. She came to Canada with her parents who settled at Gretna, Manitoba. Wilhelmina Hausknecht was her grandmother and hence the great-grandmother to Mr. G. W. Neufeld, former mayor and businessman in Winkler who resides at 147 Main Street.

However, looking back, the family tree on Mrs. Anna Neufeld's side ends with the record of her grandmother, Wilhelmina Hausknecht. Every effort to unveil the mystery of her birth ends with the incident in her childhood when she was abducted by a band of migrant gypsies. All that Wilhelmina could recollect of her infancy was what others had told her. She had been snatched from a garden where she had been placed to play in the sun while her mother was doing her housework.

Wilhelmina was estimated to have been about two years old when she was carried away by a band of roaming gypsies and subsequently sold to the owners of a travelling circus. In their wanderings about the countryside the company was increased by the addition of a boy of Wilhelmina's age who for a few years was to share her maltreatment and sorrows. Both children were under the watchful eye of an elderly woman who was also a member of the group.

One day this old lady asked the two children to advertise the circus which was to perform in the surrounding villages of the district. Especially were they to announce that the main event would consist of a tight rope walking act high above the village street. As Wilhelmina and the young boy were walking from house to house and inviting the people to witness the performances, they came to a large farmyard which was evidently the property of a wealthy landowner. With anticipation they entered the yard but were immediately attacked by an angry dog. Their cries for help brought immediate response but only after the boy had been severely bitten. He was carried into the house, his wounds were bandaged, and he was put to bed. When he looked around, it seemed that these surroundings were familiar to him and he recalled having previously played with the toys that were visible in the sickroom.

The two refined ladies in the house who took care of the patient were naturally all agog with suspense when they realized that the boy seemingly was familiar with his surroundings and that both children had evidently been carried away by the members of this travelling circus. One of the women soon recognized the boy to be her lost son and recalled that he and his companion had been kidnapped by gypsies and sold to the owners of the travelling circus. After Wilhelmina had recovered somewhat from her fright, she expressed the fear that the owners of the circus would soon be searching for them and demand that the children be returned. To prevent this, the alarm was

immediately given to all the men in the village. When the proprietors of the travelling circus troupe actually arrived to demand the return of the two children, they were informed that the boy had found his parents. As a result the scoundrels did not attempt to retrieve the young lad, however, since nobody in the district claimed the young girl, they took her back to the circus tents, quickly loaded their equipment onto a wagon and in order to escape the police, disappeared as by magic. A kind Providence had returned the boy to his parents but the little girl had to continue with the travelling circus and for her escapade was severely punished and mistreated by the old shrew who took charge of her. Unfortunately, Wilhelmina never discovered the name of the young stripling who had found and was united with his mother.

During her experiences with the circus, Wilhelmina Hausknecht had to learn how to perform many theatrical acrobatics. One of her performances in the circus tent consisted of stacking a number of chairs and then, holding a sharp knife in each hand, she would climb onto the topmost chair and subsequently, by kicking away one chair at a time she would somersault from chair to chair until she landed on the ground. One day while performing this act, she accidentally received a cut below the chin. As a result of this accident she carried a scar directly under her chin for the rest of her life. Because her trainer thought she had been too awkward, Wilhelmina was severely punished. Later, when she told her grandsons about this incident, they invariably clenched their little fists for anger at the old wench who had dared to mistreat their grandmother in this manner.

Wilhelmina also used to tell her grandchildren of her three unsuccessful attempts to escape from her captors and of the consequential punishment which was meted out to her after each failure. However, on her fourth attempt to escape she was successful. One day the circus was to stage a performance in a Mennonite district near the village of Einlage, Russia, on the west bank of the Dnieper River where Wilhelmina escaped one morning and hid under the rocks on the river bank. At dusk she entered the village and found temporary shelter with a family by the name of Hildebrand. After she had told them her heartbreaking experiences, Wilhelmina was permitted to stay with this family for a few days.

However, it appears that this was a family of only very ordinary means that had to struggle for a livelihood and consequently Mr. Hildebrand soon contacted the Elders of the Old Colony Church at Chortitza-Rosenthal with the aim of finding a permanent home for their foundling. A medical doctor by the name of Johan Hausknecht and his wife who had no children adopted the little waif who now could have been about 14 years of age. In the home of Dr. Hausknecht the young girl grew up to womanhood and was given the name "Wilhelmina Hausknecht." She was later baptized and accepted into the fellowship of the Mennonite Church, and until her marriage in 1848 she lived with her foster parents. It was estimated that she was about 21 years of age when she married Andreas Knelsen. On June 1, 1849, she gave birth to her first child which was named Anna.

Shortly after the arrival of this baby girl, a woman who was a famous circus acrobat entered Wilhelmina's

home in the village of Rosenthal. This lady introduced herself and said that she had come to reveal some of Wilhelmina's ancestry to her. The latter at once recognized this woman to be her former circus trainer and was so frightened that she picked up her child and fled for safety to the neighbors. She feared that the visitor had come to steal her baby.

However, if Wilhelmina had not been alone in the house with her baby, or if in spite of her fright and fear of the intruder she had remained to listen to the story, possibly the mystery of her ancestry might have been solved. However, because of these circumstances the genealogy of her descent has remained an unsolved riddle to posterity.

Mrs. Wilhelmina Knelsen, nee Hausknecht, died in Russia but her first born child, Anna Knelsen, who was married to Gerhard Hamm, immigrated to Canada in June 1892 and settled at Blumenhof near Gretna, Manitoba. Two of their children, the late Mr. Henry H. Hamm, Altona, and Mrs. Anna Neufeld (nee Hamm) of Winkler were both born at Chortitz, Russia, but later became well known citizens in this area.<sup>15</sup>

In the years before 1892, the Russian government put more and more pressure on the pacifist Mennonites in order to force their sons into military service. Prior to this, the czars required all male youths to serve without pay a four-year term in the State Forestry Service at Anadol, south-east of Rosenthal village. As the pressure increased and their first-born son was to report for military duty, Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Hamm together with his brother Abram Hamm and family, decided to emigrate.

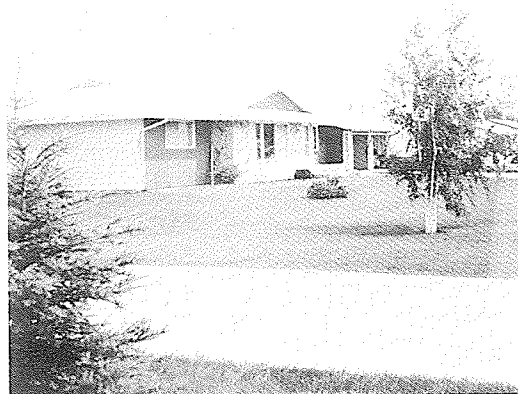
They left their village of Chortitz in South Russia and passed through Ekaterinoslaw; Warsaw, Poland; and Hamburg, Germany, where they boarded a ship to cross the North Sea to Hull, England. Here they entrained for Liverpool where on June 10, 1892, they embarked on the steamship "S. S. Dominion". After eleven days on the boat the group arrived at Quebec City and disembarked on June 21, 1892. In the evening of the same day the two families boarded the train and on the morning of June 25 arrived at Winnipeg. At 2:00 p.m. that afternoon the Hamms again boarded a CPR train to cover the final lap of their ultimate destination at Morden, Manitoba. Here they were met by Mr. Henry Unger who took them to his farm home in the village of Blumstein, four miles south-west of Winkler.

All the members of the Gerhard Hamm family with the exception of the oldest son, Gerhard, had left Russia. He had remained behind for induction to service in the Russian army. However, the medical examination revealed that young Gerhard was suffering from hernia and consequently was not accepted for military duty. While biding his time and earning money for his passage to Canada, he met Mr. Isaac Loewen and Mr. William Esau in 1895 and accompanied them on their return to America. These gentlemen who had emigrated to Canada in 1874, had prospered in twenty years so that they were enabled to pay a visit to their former home.

When Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Hamm with their family arrived at Blumstein in June, 1892, they found temporary lodging with relatives and friends. Soon all the

able-bodied members of the family were dispersed among farmers in the Winkler area where they could earn their keep. Thus Henry H. Hamm came to Friedensruh, a Mennonite village six miles south-east of the quarter section S.E. 4-3-4 where the Winkler siding was just beginning to sprout on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Here he hired out at \$7.00 a month to a farm couple with several small children, the youngest being a pair of twin babies. Henry did not mind the field work and farmyard chores, but when he was assigned to the dark "Sommerstube" to sit between two cradles and rock the twins while his employers slept, he began to wonder whether he was destined to eke out a living baby-sitting in Canada. However, later he hired out to a farmer living north-west of Winkler where his salary increased to \$15.00 per month. After serving for years as secretary-treasurer of Rhineland Municipality, Mr. Hamm became the first mayor of Altona. His sister Anna Hamm was married to William Neufeld who for years operated the International Harvester machinery business at Winkler. He was succeeded in this business by his son George W. Neufeld, former mayor of Winkler.

Gerhard Hamm, the elder, had plied his trade in Russia as a blacksmith and was looking for a location where he could again follow his chosen field of service. When attending an annual meeting of the Mennonite Collegiate Institute in 1894 at Gretna, Manitoba, he was so favourably impressed by the school facilities and the educational training offered by Rev. Henry H. Ewert who had recently arrived from Halstead, Kansas, that he decided to settle down and put up his shingle in a village near Gretna in order to practise his trade as blacksmith. Hence his children could attend the MCI in town. It had been in 1891 that the Manitoba Department of Education sent Dr. Bryce to Kansas for the purpose of securing a competent educator for this area.



Residential Area, 1973.



### John F. Loewen — Constable

Mr. John F. Loewen served as constable for the village of Winkler in 1923. He was the son of Mr. Frank Loewen who farmed in the Glencross district. In 1902 Mr. John F. Loewen was married to Miss Aganetha Peters who was born June 7, 1884, in the village of Schanzenfeld. Today, at the age of 86 years she resides alone in a small house at the south-west corner of Second Street and Mountain Avenue. A short visit to her home reveals to anyone why the Bible admonishes the members of the church not to neglect the widows.

At the time when Mr. Loewen was the constable in town, the family lived on Fourth Street in a small house that they rented from Mr. William Neufeld and that stood approximately on the site where the Hometown Service Garage is now located. On October 16, 1923, Mr. Loewen got up at seven o'clock and quietly hurried into the summer kitchen to light a fire in order to prepare a light breakfast before leaving with friends on a short trip to hunt Prairie Chickens. In his hurry, he mistook a can of gasoline for kerosene and when he poured the contents of the can onto the burning embers the resulting explosion spattered gasoline on his clothing which burst into flames. In order to extinguish the flames, Mr. Loewen dashed out of the kitchen and rolled around on the street. However, this had little effect and therefore he ran down the street to ring the town bell and thus summon the volunteer fire brigade to extinguish the flames which he evidently assumed were destroying the summer kitchen. Fortunately, the only damage to the kitchen was that the inside walls were covered with smoke and soot, but in running about a block to the belfry tower, all the clothing except for the shoes on his feet, were burned off Mr. Loewen's body. After pulling the rope and ringing the fire alarm, Mr. Loewen in great agony fled across Mountain Avenue to the residence of Dr. G. F. Weatherhead. When the doctor's wife opened the door she was so frightened that later she too became ill because of the shock. As there was no hospital in Winkler, Mr. J. A. Kroeker provided the transportation and his brother Mr. A. A. Kroeker gave physical and spiritual comfort to Mr. Loewen in the back seat of the car on the way to the Morden Hospital.

Mrs. Loewen awoke a little later because there was a noisy disturbance in their front yard. On inquiry, she was informed that her husband had just been taken to the hospital at Morden. That evening Mrs. Loewen and her two-year old son Johnny were taken to the bedside of her husband. Because of the swelling, Mr. Loewen asked his wife to open his eyes so that he could see his infant son.

At seven A.M. the next morning Mr. Loewen died and Mrs. Loewen and her family planned to hold the funeral service in the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church. However, since Mr. Loewen had served as a policeman there was considerable objection and discussion by the Church membership as to the propriety of permitting the family to conduct the funeral service in the M.B. Church. Fortunately, good will prevailed and the doors of the Church were opened for a fellow-citizen who in life had performed his duties of protecting not only the church membership but also their building.

After the funeral, the Winkler Village Council suggested to Mrs. Loewen that if she and her fourteen-year-old son Abe would continue the duties of her deceased husband and ring the town bell regularly in the morning, at noon, and in the evening until the end of the month, the Council would pay her the \$25.00 salary that was due her departed loved one. As her young son did not have the courage to ring the bell because the rope in the belfry was still covered with blood and skin from the hands of his father, Mrs. Loewen rang the town bell herself.

### Mr. Jack Felde — Constable

A local citizen who has seen much of the seamy side of life in Winkler is Mr. Jack Felde who was born December 3, 1894, at the mouth of the Volga River on the Caspian Sea in Astrakhan, Russia, where he and his father were employed by his uncle in a large brick factory. Mr. Felde's father was the pilot of a ship that delivered bricks from the factory in Astrakhan to the coastal cities on the Caspian Sea.

Because Mr. Felde was of an age that he could be called up for military training, and since he had a brother in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who paid the fare, he immigrated to Canada and arrived in Winnipeg in May, 1913. He found employment at the St. Charles Hotel, but as he was not yet a Canadian citizen he felt the war fever directed against him as a German enemy alien. His friend, Mr. Henry Thiessen, suggested that they accompany Rev. William Bestvater on his trip by C.P.R. to Winkler. Rev. Bestvater was to conduct a series of services at the Winkler M.B. Church. It was in July, 1914, that they arrived in Winkler on the morning train, and Felde and Thiessen looked for someone to take them across the International Border to the United States. Their purpose for coming to Winkler had been to slip across the boundary and to join Mr. Felde's brother in Milwaukee. They hired Mr. Isaac Giesbrecht, who operated a livery barn on the west side of Main Street, to take them by car to Walhalla. Mr. Giesbrecht owned two cars which he used in summer; in winter, of course, he hitched his horses to the sleigh to convey his passengers to near-by towns.

When they arrived in Walhalla, North Dakota, without having reported at the immigration office, Mr. Giesbrecht straightway dropped his two fares and returned home. However, it did not take the American patrol very long to catch up with the two adventurers. The police told them that he would take them back to the International Border but that Felde and Thiessen were not to come back if they wanted to stay out of jail. Fortunately, the motorcycle used by the patrol had a side car and the two renegades climbed in for a fast ride to the border where they were deposited and asked not to return. They were actually happy to be back on Canadian soil but now the trek back to Winkler had lost all glamour. As they crossed a farmer's field, the owner asked them in Low German where they were going. When they revealed to him that their destination was Winkler, he agreed to take them there for the price of \$7.00. The two young men were glad to close the deal, and were ready to go to bed when they arrived at the

Hotel in Winkler. The whole drama — from livery to Walhalla, through capture, to return — seemed like a nightmare to the two trysters.

Fortunately, or unfortunately these two young men had not followed the instructions forwarded to them by Mr. Felde's brother in Milwaukee. He had covered much the same route in crossing the border but with more success. In his case, he had nonchalantly walked across the border in a very leisurely manner, slept in haystacks, carried no knapsack, and only taken a public conveyance after he had penetrated North Dakota to a depth of fifty miles. Mr. Jack Felde in particular had felt crestfallen as it had been his brother in Wisconsin who had provided him with the ticket to come to America.

On the return to Winkler, Mr. Henry Thiessen found work on the farm of Mr. John G. Wiebe in the Edward School District. After living in Winkler for some time, Mr. Thiessen moved with his family to Saskatchewan. When Mr. Thiessen passed away, his wife who is a sister of Mr. P. K. Harder, Winkler, entered the Home for the Aged in Morden.

The morning after the episode at Walhalla, when Mr. Felde came down for breakfast he recognized the waitress as Miss Molly Helmer who had been a classmate of his in Russia. When he informed Mr. Matics, the operator of the hotel, of the acquaintance, the latter called Molly and the following conversation ensued: "Molly, do you know this boy!"

Molly replied, "No."

The reason for her not recognizing Mr. Felde was that he had now grown to manhood and since he had been employed by a Winnipeg hotel, he was now dressed in a bowler hat and neat uniform as a regular Romeo. Therefore, when he began to name the school and the teacher in their classroom in the old country, Molly burst out, "Oh, yes." Later Molly Helmer married Ed Lee who was the barber in his father's billiard hall just east of the Hotel. As a result of this tete-a-tete with Molly, Mr. Felde was hired as bartender in the local Hotel. However, with the coming of prohibition in 1916, he had to seek employment on Mr. Philip Urich's farm north of Burwalde.

On February 27, 1916, Mr. Felde married Miss Anne Penner who was the daughter of Mr. Fred Penner. Her father was a member of the first council when Winkler was incorporated as a village in 1906. He was also a dealer for the International Harvester Company. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Felde occupied a suite in the hotel which had been vacated by the owner and his family when they moved into a private house. Before coming to Canada, Mr. Matics had served as a sailor in the German navy. Besides the hotel which he kept meticulously clean he also owned a farm three miles north-west of Morden.

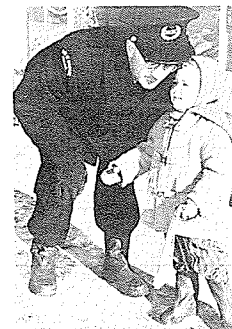
After leaving the hotel and having been employed on the farm at the going annual salary of \$500, Mr. Felde was working on the C.P.R. tracks when on February 1, 1927, he was engaged as constable and maintenance foreman by the Village of Winkler. At a wage of \$60 per month, he replaced Mr. Fred Hill whose salary had been \$45.00 per month. As the Manitoba Hydro was to be brought into Winkler in 1928 from the Three-Mile-

Corner, Mr. Hill left the employ of the Village in order to start in his own trade as electrical contractor.

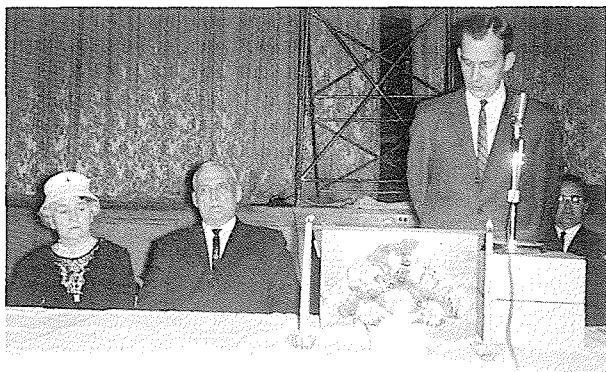
Besides his duties as constable, Mr. Felde supervised the construction and maintenance of the streets and sidewalks in town. During the years of the depression in the "dirty thirties", his experiences were varied, taxing, and nerve-wracking, especially when he had to look after the provisions for the forty families on relief in winter. Many of these families were provided with wood, and possibly some coal, as well as groceries. The month of April was the cut-off date for public relief until late in fall. During the summer months the recipients of relief were then expected to work for the town, cleaning ditches, repairing wooden sidewalks, and maintaining the streets, unless they sought other employment and repaid what they owed. Others who were able to keep the home-fires burning, found it difficult to pay their taxes. In some cases, the secretary and the constable of the town were asked to seize the property of local businessmen and taxpayers. When Mr. John Fast, who owned a local shoe repair shop (and shoe repair shops did a thriving business during the years of the depression) failed to pay \$17.00 in taxes, it was the duty of the constable to seize equipment to the value of that amount. Hence he proceeded to remove the sewing machine and the last, and did not return them until the overdue taxes were paid. Similarly, the town policeman and the secretary entered Mitchell's Store and began stacking consumer goods in lieu of the \$80.00 in taxes that were due. When the owner of the Store literally saw that the gentlemen from the city hall meant "business", he straightway paid his taxes.

On February 1, 1967, after rendering forty years of public service to the town of Winkler and witnessing its growth from a stripling to manhood, Mr. Felde retired in order to spend more time at home with his wife at 919 Mountain Avenue. Besides boarding Rev. A. Erthal, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church for some years, Mrs. Felde has served for 27 years on the Ladies' Hospital Auxiliary. Later in 1967, the Winkler Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce arranged a Jack Felde Recognition Banquet in the Winkler Elementary School Auditorium when two return railway tickets to Vancouver, B. C., were presented to Mr. & Mrs. Felde.

Today there are four men on the Winkler Police Force, namely, Walter Nauer, Herb Klassen, Ernie Chupka, and Jacob Owens. Mr. Nauer who joined the Force in 1958, is the son-in-law of Mr. & Mrs. J. Felde. The constables now have an office in the Town Hall as well as police cars and two-way radio communication at their disposal which has resulted in very efficient community service.







Mr. and Mrs. Jack Felde being congratulated by Mayor Peter Kroeker. Mr. Felde served as constable at Winkler for 40 years.

### Bethel Hospital

The need for a hospital in Winkler had already been felt for many years by Dr. C. W. Wiebe and other local citizens when in August, 1935, a provisional committee consisting of A. A. Kroeker, chairman, C. H. Grunau, secretary, J. J. Enns, J. A. Kroeker, J. B. Dyck, J. Adrian, and A. H. Unruh was elected at a general meeting of the community. Within two weeks, this committee had drawn up a constitution and another meeting was called in order to adopt this constitution and to elect the first Board of Directors. The members of this Board were J. B. Dyck, A. H. Unruh, Jacob J. Froese, Jacob P. Dyck, C. J. Funk, and A. M. Friesen.<sup>16</sup>

The Directors immediately purchased the present hospital site from the J. H. Black Estate at a price of \$1200.00. The property consisted of four acres of land and a large residence which was later renovated and used as a nurses' home.

However, on December 1, 1935, before sufficient funds had been raised to erect a new hospital, the upper storey of the J. B. Dyck residence south of the public school buildings on the west side of 8th Street, was improvised as a maternity home. This house was later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. K. Dyck. Mrs. Abram Klassen, nee Mary Hildebrand, was the first nurse to serve on the staff. She was followed by Miss Elizabeth Peters.

After donations had been solicited, plans for a new \$8000.00 hospital building were drawn up by the Board of Directors and approved by the Manitoba Department of Health. On September 27, 1936, the contractor, Mr. Frank K. Friesen, started the construction of the Hospital and by December of the same year the fifteen beds were ready for occupation and two patients were moved from the J. B. Dyck home to the new Bethel Hospital. In 1942, the south wing was added at a cost of \$10,500 and this brought the accommodation up to thirty-six beds. Voluntary labor was available to a considerable extent for both of these structures. In 1946, the \$46,000 fire-proof north wing was erected to provide modern operating rooms and other excellent facilities, as well as to bring the capacity to forty beds.

In 1955, Bethel Hospital was staffed by three medical doctors, namely, C. W. Wiebe, A. P. Warkentin, and H. U. Penner. Miss Susan Derksen, the matron was

assisted by four Registered nurses and by nine Practicals. There were ten members on the Kitchen and Laundry Staff, one sterilizer, one accountant, and one janitor to look after maintenance.

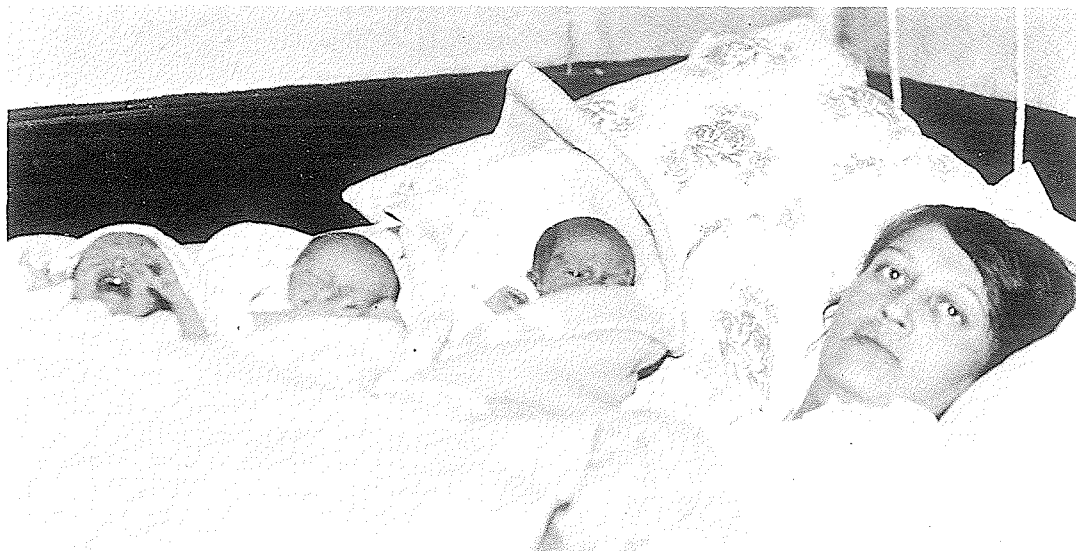
The 1949 Year Book of the Hospital was dedicated to "all those friends, churches, and organizations who have made Bethel Hospital possible." Of outstanding service has been the practical help rendered by the Bethel Hospital Auxiliary. Religious services for the patients are conducted by local church groups and ministers during the week as well as every Sunday morning. In 1955, the Board of Directors purchased the Dr. A. P. Warkentin Residence on 7th Street as a second nurses' home.

On Sunday, June 28, 1959, a \$90,000 Nurses' Residence was officially opened at 151 Sixth Street just to the north of Bethel Hospital. The many distinguished guests who participated in the dedication were introduced by Bethel Hospital chairman, Henry H. Janzen. They included the following representatives from the local and area churches: Rev. W. Deutschhausen of the Trinity Lutheran Church; Rev. J. Neudorf of the Old Colony Church; Rev. W. J. Peters, Winkler Bergthaler Church; Rev. J. H. Quiring, Winkler M. B. Church; Rev. C. B. Krahm; and Rev. F. F. Sawatzky. Other officials called on to bring greetings were Mayor G. W. Neufeld of Winkler; Reeve Dave Wall of Rhineland Municipality; W. C. Miller, Homer Hamilton, and Maurice Ridley, the three area members of the Legislature; Don Fonger, Supervisor of the A. W. Peterson Construction Company; and Kenneth Pratt of Pratt and Lindgren Architects. Matron Susan Derksen spoke on behalf of the nurses of the local Hospital. The Hon. Jack Carrol, Minister of Public Utilities, cut the ribbon and later addressed the audience as guest speaker.

After Dr. C. W. Wiebe had expressed the warm gratitude of the Hospital Board for the support received from the Provincial Government as well as from the local community, Mr. Henry Kuhl, chairman of the Winkler Hospital Area Board, stated thankfully that in spite of the fact that two previous Area Board votes had been defeated, the Bethel Hospital Society had seen fit to provide the new 30 bed Nurses' Home without resorting to taxation.

After planning for a new hospital for five years, construction of a 57-bed one million dollar hospital at Winkler officially got underway on Wednesday, January 29, 1964, when Henry Kuhl, chairman of the Hospital Board, and Dr. C. W. Wiebe, head of the medical staff, turned the first sod at a ceremony held at the building site. Rev. Jacob E. Stobbe spoke the invocation and Rev. Hermann Lenzmann gave the benediction.

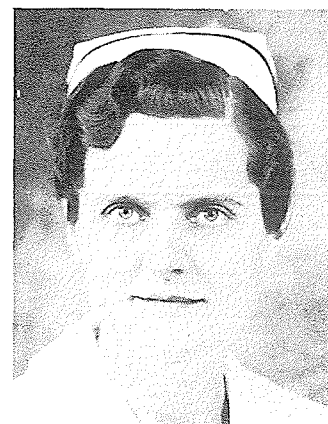
In his remarks Mr. Kuhl said, "The first hospital was planned and built in 1936 by a small group of residents and financed on a charitable basis. In May, 1962, the building and all assets were turned over to the area board called, 'Winkler Hospital District No. 23' From that small start in 1936 to the plans of the present board we have come a long way. This is an example of what can be accomplished if people work together."



Triplets born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kauenhofen, Schanzenfeld, Dec. 29, 1936, at the Winkler Hospital.



Winkler Bethel Hospital. 1936



Miss Susan Derksen, R.N., served as matron of Bethel Hospital for 22 years.



Bethel Hospital 1942

In addressing the group at the ceremony, Dr. C. W. Wiebe said, "The previous projects seem small to us now, but I can assure you, at the time they were started they seemed very formidable. We hope that 'the spirit of service' so evident in the history of the Bethel Hospital Society will not be dimmed, but that it will glow ever brighter while we care for the sick in this new hospital. On each occasion we have asked for divine guidance, protection, and blessing of our endeavour; and we hope

that this time too the Lord will build the house that we may not labour in vain."

Subsequently, the new million dollar 57-bed Bethel Hospital was officially opened on Sunday, September 19, 1965, when the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, Richard S. Bowles, Q. C., cut the ribbon. The old structures built respectively in 1936 and 1942, were demolished. However, the fire-proof north wing which had been erected in 1946, was renovated and retained as

administration offices with waiting and reception rooms. In addition to the 57 beds and administration wing, the two-storey hospital has both a minor and a major operating room, X-ray and laboratory rooms, and automatic elevators. The basement of the building houses the staff cafeteria, laundry, pharmacy and kitchen. There are about seventy employees who serve an area with a population of 10,000. The cost of building the hospital is borne by government grants, funds paid through the Manitoba Hospital Commission, and by the residents of the Winkler Hospital District who are paying 20% of the cost.

Mr. Henry Kuhl, chairman of the Bethel Hospital Board, thanked the citizens of the community for approving the money by-law which made the building of the hospital possible and he also paid tribute to Dr. C. W. Wiebe who had served the area as a medical practitioner for forty years. Greetings were brought by Gordon W. Holland, chairman of the Manitoba Hospital Commission; Mrs. Carolyn Morrison, MLA for Pembina; J. M. Froese, MLA for Rhineland; George Muir, MP for Lisgar; and H. Crewson, Associated Hospitals of Manitoba.

Dr. C. W. Wiebe, head of the medical staff, made special mention of the real pioneers of hospital service in Winkler, namely, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Dyck in whose home at 196 Eighth Street the very first maternity hospital was established. He further paid tribute to the hospital matrons who had served in the past and in particular to Miss Susan Derksen who had served with devotion for 22 years while the hospital grew from 15 to 57 beds, and who had been responsible for the care of

thousands of patients. Dr. Wiebe registered criticism of what he called "crucifying matrons". (He was referring to the Board's sudden action in relieving Miss Derksen of her duties in the new hospital.)

Other speakers at the dedication included P. J. Kroeker, Mayor of Winkler, and Homer Hamilton, MLA for Dufferin. Rev. George D. Pries gave the invocation.

At the inaugural meeting of the governing board of the Bethel Hospital held on January 22, David Bueckert was elected chairman for 1973. He represents the Town of Winkler and has been a member of the Board for several years. Mr. Bueckert replaces John W. Giesbrecht who had been chairman since January 1, 1966. Elected as vice-chairman for 1973 was David P. Penner who represents the Town of Winkler as member at large. Mr. Penner, Mr. Bueckert, and Mr. Dave W. Wiebe, Plum Coulee, finance committee chairman, form the executive committee of the Board.

Other members of the Board are Nick Wiebe and J. Harold Dyck who represent the Town of Winkler; Peter F. Goertzen and William L. Enns representing the Rural Municipality of Stanley; Ben W. Penner and Diedrich P. Peters representing the R.M. of Rhineland; and J. W. Giesbrecht who represents the R.M. of Roland.

Re-appointed to the medical staff of Bethel Hospital for one year terms were Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Dr. F. Khan, Dr. V. C. Jacob, Dr. P. Pachikara, Dr. W. T. Hoepfner, Dr. S. K. Kemkaran, visiting radiologist, and Dr. J. I. Regehr from Carman. Also re-appointed as secretary-treasurer to the Board for a one year term was Barney Wolfe, administrator.



Nurses' Residence

opened 1959



Bethel Hospital, 1946

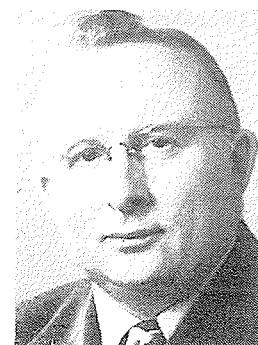


Bethel Hospital, 1965

### Music and Singing

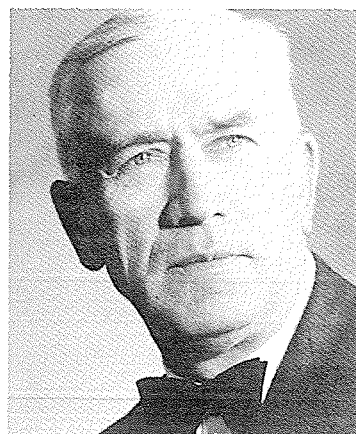
Music and singing have always been stressed in the schools and churches in Winkler and the contributions made by many dedicated musicians and singers are very evident in the religious and social life of the community. In spite of the raucous sound of pop music with its over-amplification and relentless escalation of sound produced by the screaming multi-media of radio and television when the function of the microphone is to make what is small seem great, and when contorted mouths yowling into mikes are deafening the ears to the beauty and exaltation of great classical and sacred music, as well as of great words, it is gratifying to hear many of the conductors, teachers and musicians in our community "slugging away" at the ideals established by such men as Ben Horch, Jacob P. Redekopp, J. A. Kroeker, W. J. Peters, and Dr. K. H. Neufeld, as well as by the adjudicators at the annual Musical Festival. Contributions in the area of music have also been made by local band leaders Isaac M. Miller, Jacob G. Loewen, Frank Loewen, George W. Enns, and Arnold Brown, as well as by John Konrad and Emmanuel Horch who taught the violin. In recent years, Ben Kehler has revived interest in the guitar.

In 1970, Miss Delores Hildebrand, a grade XII student at Garden Valley Collegiate, was selected as a Tour Choir. The European goodwill tour itinerary included England, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the United States and Canada. Other local students who have been selected for similar tours with the



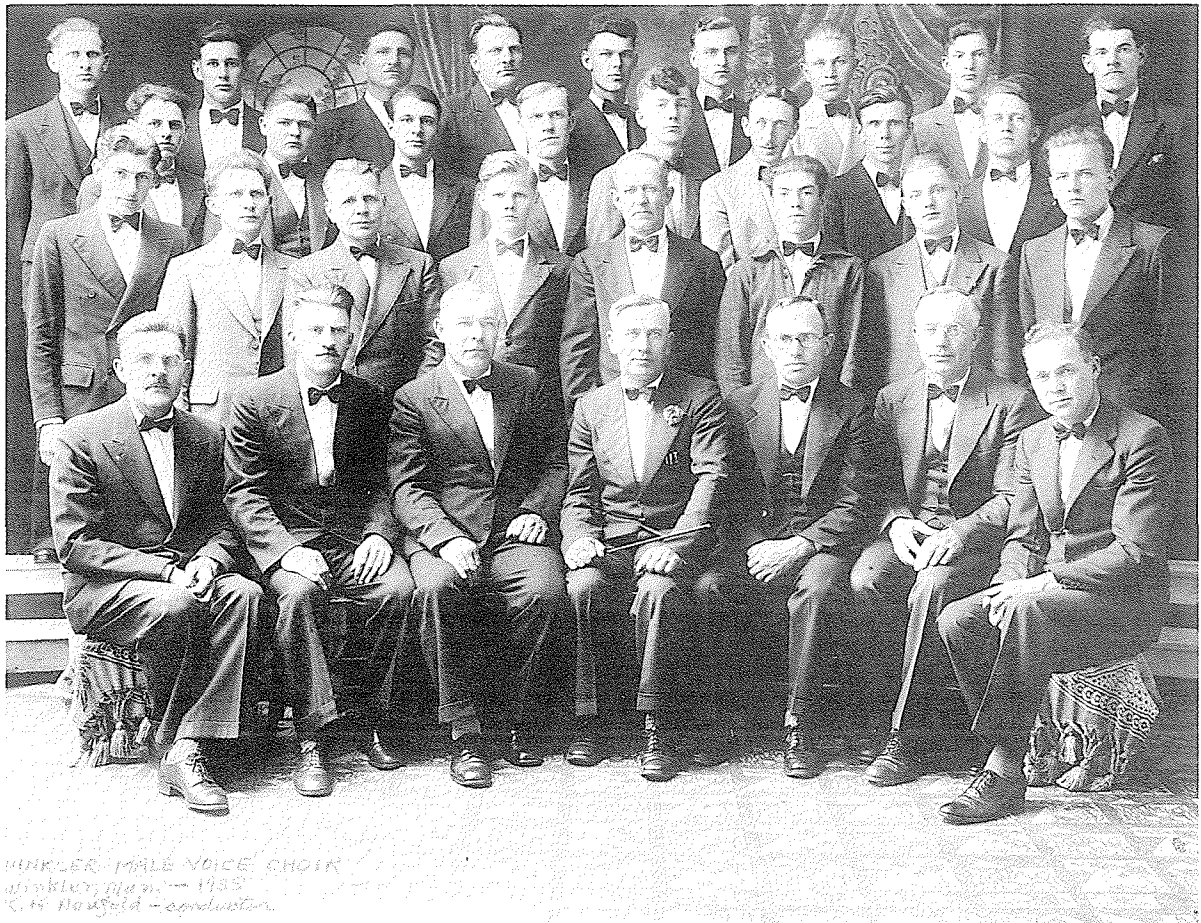
Dr. A. P. Warkentin

International Peace Garden Symphonic Band were Douglas Kuhl, Jim Wiebe, and Bill Janzen. On the occasion of the 1970 Manitoba Centennial the local church choirs united in a Centennial Thanksgiving "Saengerfest" in the Winkler Bergthaler Church with Mr. Ben Horch, C.B.C. music editor, as guest conductor. On April 3, 1956, the Winkler Philharmonic Choir under the direction of Dr. K. H. Neufeld presented "Handel's Messiah" sponsored by the Winkler Chamber of Commerce. Some of the Winkler churches held church-sponsored choir festivals when hundreds of singers from local choirs would participate in sacred numbers in song and music. The annual Southern Manitoba Music and Speech Arts Festival which dates back to October, 1932, has helped to develop talent through the schools and churches, not only in music and singing, but also in public speaking.



Dr. K. H. Neufeld, 1892-1957.





Winkler Male Voice Choir, 1938. Front row: (Left to right) P. T. Friesen, Jake Teichroeb, H. H. Janzen, Dr. K. H. Neufeld, Conductor, I. J. Dyck, Wm. M. Enns, Harry Rempel, Second row: John Wiebe, Abe Penner, J. J. Enns, Ted Enns, David Dyck, Jake Doell, Dave Bueckert, H. Voth. Third row: Henry Born, Bob Edgar, Henry Peters, Herb Dick, Bill Klassen, Ed Penner, John Funk, John Braun. Fourth row: Emil Gundrum, Bill Janzen, Fred Hill, P. T. Klassen, Bill Siemens, Rhinehard Friesen, John Peters, Jake Teichroeb, Ben Loewen.

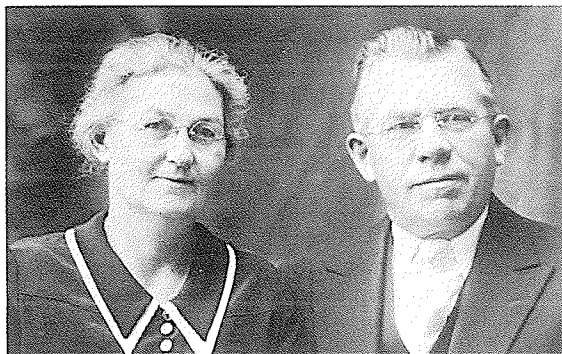


The Seven Singing Sisters of the J. M. Froese Family





The Winkler Band, 1915. Standing left to right are Jacob G. Loewen (leader), Abe Fehr, Bill Mueller, Ike Giesbrecht, Jake Penner, George Hiebert, and Jake Mueller. Sitting, left to right: Ike Penner, Joe Miller, Jake Teichroeb and Jacob E. Dyck.



Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kroeker. Mr. Kroeker was M. B. Church choir director from 1906-1942.



Dr. Reynold Siemens, Cellist



A Choir organized by the Mennonite immigrants of the 1920's. Conductors: K. H. Neufeld and G. J. Reimer sitting in front.



Mrs. Justina Wiebe, voice instructor

### Southern Manitoba Musical Festival

The history of the Southern Manitoba Musical Festival dates back to the fall of 1932. At that time it was not known as a musical festival, but rather as "Music Night" in a series of Education Week programs arranged and organized by the Winkler Teachers' Local. These programs were held in October, and because there was no suitable auditorium in town, the teachers rented the old Mennonite Brethern church auditorium.

The minutes of the Winkler Teachers' Local for November 4, 1930, contain the following entry: "At the business meeting of the Local, a Lecture Course Committee was elected consisting of John R. Walkof, Harry Rempel and Frank U. Dyck." Later, in summarizing the activities of the Local for the 1930-31 school term, the minutes for June 6, 1931, report, "Early in November, 1930, a six-day educational chautauqua or lecture course which brought prominent speakers, as well as capacity audiences to Winkler, was held. There can be little doubt that work of this kind greatly benefits everybody in the community." Since these programs were held in the church auditorium, and since the teachers were therefore not permitted to charge admission at the door, it was found necessary to sell season tickets in advance in order to pay the expenses of outside speakers.

After the Education Week programs had been organized by the Winkler Teachers' Local through the efforts of the president, John R. Walkof, more and more emphasis was placed on music and singing with the result that speakers who were specialists in these fields appeared on the programs. K. H. Neufeld had met many outstanding musicians in Winnipeg, and was able to assist the Teachers' Committee in obtaining speakers for the musical programs.

On October 17, 1932, Dr. Seelheim, German Consul in Winnipeg, spoke on "Das Deutsche Volkslied". The speaker for the 'Music Night' on October 19, 1933, was Prof. Bernard Naylor, conductor of the Winnipeg Male Voice Choir and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, who delivered an address on music and singing. Prof. Naylor also gave criticisms and

suggestions but no marks were assigned to the instrumental and vocal soloists, duets, quartets and church choirs participating in the program.

When the Winkler Teachers' Local met on April 27, 1934, a committee consisting of Tina Warkentin, Mary J. Loewen, Tienne Elias, K. H. Neufeld, John K. Friesen and Isaac H. Voth was elected to investigate the possibilities of holding a musical festival at Winkler in the fall. At a meeting of the teachers held on May 18, 1934, John R. Walkof, chairman, called on the musical festival committee to give a progress report. At a later business meeting of the Local on September 21, 1934, the dates of the Education Week and Musical Festival were set for October 11, 12, 14, 19 and 20. Consequently, the first competitive festival took place on Friday, October 19, 1934, with Roberta Wood and Bernard Naylor, two well-known Winnipeg musicians, as adjudicators. There were a total of 29 entries for the first musical competition festival. The competitors came from eight neighboring towns and villages.

At a subsequent meeting of the Winkler Teachers' Local on November 29, 1935, there was a discussion on the advisability of holding a musical festival the following spring. As a result, I. H. Voth and Nick G. Neufeld were appointed to serve on the general executive committee to consider the feasibility of such a move.

Because of difficulties in procuring a suitable auditorium, the musical committee was unable to make specific local arrangements for the meetings. However, through the relentless efforts of K. H. Neufeld a Musical Competition Festival was held at Morden on May 21 and 22, 1936. The following year, the festival was again held in Morden with the Morden Branch of the Canadian Legion as its sponsor and Ronald W. Gibson of Winnipeg as adjudicator.

By the spring of 1935, Inspector G. G. Neufeld had organized a Rural Schools Dramatic and Musical Festival. This festival was open to one and two-room schools in the municipalities of Rhineland and Stanley (east). For a number of years the competitions of this festival were held in the agricultural fair building at Altona. After several years of financial difficulties, the Rural Schools Festival amalgamated with the Southern Manitoba Musical Competition Festival which had been organized in 1936 under the following committee: K. H. Neufeld, Winkler (convener); Rhea Forder, Morden; Margaret Meckling, Gretna; and G. W. MacPherson, Morden.

From 1938 to 1943, the festival was sponsored and managed by the Winkler Male Voice Choir with K. H. Neufeld as conductor. In 1944, it was reorganized under the name of "The Southern Manitoba Musical Festival Society". A constitution was drawn up by its members and subsequently the annual competitions of the festival have been progressing very rapidly. The first officers of the newly formed society in 1944 were; president - J. J. Elias; vice-president - William Friesen; executive committee - H. H. Janzen, E. B. Loewen, P. T. Friesen; secretary-treasurer - Nic. G. Neufeld; Spoken Poetry Committee — William Friesen (convener), Olga Kehler, Mary Klassen; Music Committee — K. H. Neufeld (convener), Mrs. G. J. Siemens, Justina Enns, Nic. G. Neufeld, J. K. Brandt.

Following the reorganization, the competitions were at first held in the Bergthaler and Mennonite Brethren Church auditoriums in Winkler. However, the members of the society soon felt that there would be greater participation if the annual spring competitive sessions were conducted in three centres, namely, Altona, Morden and Winkler. With the advent of new schools in these towns auditoriums with good accommodation became available. As a result, the festival was in a position to expand and attract greater numbers of competitors and thus stimulate more public support.

The number of entries in the music and speech arts competitions steadily increased at the annual Festival. In 1934 there were 29 entries recorded. By 1944 the number had increased to 124, and the records for 1956 indicate 830 entries with approximately 1800 boys and girls participating. This ranked the local Festival, which is now held in three centres, namely Altona, Morden and Winkler, as the third largest in the province. By 1956 there were a total of 140 voice, instrumental, and speech arts classes and 29 trophies, cups and shields available for annual competition. In recent years the growth of the Festival has not been as phenomenal but it has steadily maintained this enviable position among Manitoba Musical Festivals. Tribute should be paid to all music lovers in southern Manitoba who have given unstintingly of their time and effort in organizing and promoting the Southern Manitoba Music and Speech Arts Festival which has for its aim "the improvement and development of musical and literary expression in this area." Not the least of these in recent years has been Mrs. Tina Kehler who has served on the Festival executive for many years as secretary, and from 1969 to 1972 as president. Some of the teachers who preceded her in this office have been J. F. Wiebe, D. Friesen, J. P. Redekopp, and H. H. Redekopp.

In 1972, an innovation in the form of a Festival Choral Workshop was organized by the Southern Manitoba Music & Speech Arts Festival committee under the guidance of Mr. Walter Falk. The object of the workshop is to make the festival choral activities more meaningful for the participating high school students in the area. The final program of the 1973 choral workshop was held in Winkler on April 13 when 350 students from the following collegiates were brought together for a performance of a common project: Garden Valley, Morden, and Gretna M. C. I. Mr. Henry Engbrecht, musical director at the Canadian Mennonite Bible College, Winnipeg, served as guest conductor. The local area choir directors who laid the groundwork for the workshop were Miss Marianne Driedger, Garden Valley; D. Myers, Morden; and Ben Pauls, M. C. I., Gretna.

#### **Dr. K. H. Neufeld - Conductor of Choirs**

Mr. K. H. Neufeld, B.A., B. Sc., Mus. Doc., was born December 10, 1892, at Nikolajewka, South Russia, and received his elementary, high school, college and university education in the old country before coming to Canada in 1923. He was married to Miss Susie Neufeld on September 15, 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Neufeld had a family of four children one of which died in infancy and their only son Cornie died accidentally as a teenager.

After his university training in Russia he was manager of a factory, and when Mr. Neufeld came to Canada with his family he engaged in the merchandising business and later entered the printing field. For him the printery was a necessary evil: necessary to keep body and soul together, but evil in that it kept him away from his great love — music.

During his college years, Dr. Neufeld took music lessons from Professor Max Pohl of Berlin, Germany, and as a university student he studied at the Moscow Conservatory of Music, and sang in the Moscow Opera chorus. In Canada his love for music took him far afield. He organized and conducted choirs and instrumental groups from the Niagara Peninsula to the west coast in British Columbia. It was as a tribute to his achievements in this field that the University of Saskatchewan in 1953 bestowed on him an Honorary Doctorate of Music. Dr. Neufeld had one driving motive; to raise the standard of music among Canadian Mennonites. Known as the "Wandering Conductor" for over thirty years, he promoted music and singing in hundreds of communities in Canada and the United States. With his magic baton he transformed a cultural hinterland into a singing people. Dr. Neufeld was always one of the first to realize that great inspiration comes from God and many of his greatest successes have been in the field of conducting church and mass choirs in the simple but reverent hymns of the church, as well as in many of the beautiful sacred songs, chorales, cantatas and oratorios. Much of his time was devoted to conducting and coaching choirs in the General and Mennonite Brethren conferences, as well as in many other church denominations. The constituency owes the development and growth of the Southern Manitoba Music and Speech Arts Festival to the zealous energy and prodigious promotional effort of Dr. Neufeld. Besides conducting the local high school choir for a few years, he organized the Winkler Male Voice Choir, and for 18 years (1929-47), he was the director of the Winkler Bergthaler Church Choir. He died at Winkler on January 12, 1957, at the age of 64 years.



#### **Mr. Peter W. Klassen - Appliance Repairman**

Mr. Peter "Tiny" Klassen was born July 19, 1904, on a farm near Rosenfeld, Manitoba. He received his elementary education in the Rosenheim school. In 1927 his parents Mr. and Mrs. Abram F. Klassen, moved to Winkler and the following year Peter enrolled in the local high school where he ironically was nicknamed "Tiny"

for he was the biggest student in class. On December 2, 1937, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Niebuhr and they were blessed with a family of five children. Mr. Klassen accidentally lost his life January 31, 1963, on an icy stretch of municipal road near Thornhill when the panel truck he was driving slid down a steep embankment.

Mr. Klassen had been in the radio and refrigeration repair business for many years. On July 27, 1958, he was baptized and accepted into the Winkler M.B. Church where he was in charge of the public address system. He also served on the executive committee of the Pembina Chapter of the Christian Business Men's Committee. This group of Christian laymen has members from Manitou, Morden, and Winkler represented in its organization.

"Tiny's" father, Abram F. Klassen came to Canada, with his parents in 1875. The family settled at Grunthal, Manitoba. In order to get the "home fires burning", the grandparents purchased a stove and placed it on the ground to prepare the first meal. The stove was a new gadget and quite different from anything that grandma Klassen had ever seen in the old country. Hence, when she started a fire for the first time, she placed the kindling on the ground below the stove. After a while she found that nothing "was cooking". However, when she rectified her error and placed the wood on the grates in the fire box the borscht was soon ready to be served to a hungry family.

In order to make the necessary household purchases, grandfather Johann Klassen would occasionally hitch a team of oxen to a wagon and drive to Winnipeg on a shopping trip. As there were few roads, it was a tedious journey and thus son Abram F. Klassen was asked to accompany his father. Of course, another reason for inviting son Abram to join his father on these excursions was that when the traces of the harness broke in the middle of a slough, young Abram could roll up his trousers, wade through the mire, and repair the harness. On occasion, they would also get stuck in the mud on Main Street in Winnipeg.

Except for one missing link, the Klassen family can trace their genealogy to the beginning of the 17th century.

#### The Klassen Family Tree

Bernhard Klassen, born February 6, 1633; and died March 20, 1719.

Frans Klassen, born 1708; died 1753.

Frans Klassen, born 1736 in Prussia.

Abraham Klassen, born November 28, 1778; died November 4, 1824. He moved to Schoenhorst, Russia, in 1791. On September 3, 1801, he was married to Agatha Boligen who was born September 13, 1776, in Danzig, Prussia. She died June 14, 1840.

Abraham Klassen, born December 21, 1806; died March 3, 1864. On April 9, 1833, he married Katharina Dueck who was born March 12, 1813, and died March 19, 1839. On June 7, 1840, he married Helena Hoeppner who was born November 9, 1821, and died March 6, 1853.

Johann Klassen, born March 5, 1839 in Russia, came to Canada in 1875, and died in Manitoba on October 10, 1889. In 1865 he had married Helena Friesen who was

born March 12, 1840, and died January 8, 1871. After she died, he married Katharina Wiebe on February 21, 1871. She was born October 23, 1850, and died October 29, 1910, but had also remarried.

Abram F. Klassen, born August 30, 1868, in Bergthal, Russia, came to Canada with his parents in 1875, and died April 19, 1943, at Winkler, Manitoba. On July 19, 1892, he was married by Rev. Peter Toews, Bergfeld, to Helena Wiebe. She was born April 18, 1874, and died at Winkler on December 12, 1940.

Peter W. Klassen, "Tiny", was born July 19, 1904, on the farm at Rosenfeld, Manitoba, and died accidentally January 31, 1963, near Thornhill, Manitoba. He is buried in the Winkler Cemetery. On December 2, 1937, he married Miss Elizabeth Niebuhr who had immigrated with her parents to Canada from Russia in 1926.

Richard H. Klassen who resides at Fort Garry, Manitoba, was born February 7, 1940, at Winkler. On October 22, 1966, he married Barbara Florence Paulson. Timothy Peter Klassen was born September 6, 1968, at Fort Garry, Manitoba.

#### Retired Farmers

Mr. Gerhard Rempel was born September 11, 1864, in Tpiolsky, Ukraine, Russia. He immigrated with his parents to Ontario and in 1876 they moved to Waldheim in southern Manitoba where he started out on his own farm in 1892. He had attended school for four years and had earned a salary of \$1.00 per month while plowing for Mr. Isaak Reimer. The first few years when he started farming on his own he used oxen. Mr. Rempel also served as mayor (Dorfschult) of the village of Waldheim. This village has now disintegrated.

Mr. Rempel's grandmother, Maria Hoeppner, was a sister to Johann Hoeppner who was one of two representatives in a deputation sent to Russia in the spring of 1787 by the Mennonites of Prussia in order to investigate the prospects for migration and settlement there. When Mrs. Rempel died on November 23, 1944, they had been married 50 years and 5 months. Because his eyesight was failing, Mr. Rempel retired and moved to Winkler on August 20, 1953. His daughter, Miss Susan Rempel, still occupies the house at 342 Sixth Street. This was the former residence of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gladstone. Mr. Rempel passed away on January 22, 1962.

#### Mr. Peter A. Neufeld

Mr. Peter A. Neufeld was born in January, 1881, in the state of Nebraska, U.S.A., and as a child he came with his parents to Hoffnungsfield, Manitoba. He attended school for one year and at 12 years of age he was already walking behind his father's handplow. In 1956 he claimed that farming was too easy and that young people don't learn to work. In his day people used to say that with "a little arithmetic and reading you could always get by." On his retirement, Mr. Neufeld lived in a small house on South Main Street.

### **Mr. Jacob Peters**

Mr. Jacob Peters who farmed on 27-3-4, was born July 10, 1872, in Russia, and came to Canada with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Franz Peters, in 1875. The ship which brought the family to Canada landed at Quebec City. From here they took the train to Toronto, a steamer to Duluth, and again entrained for Fargo-Moorhead. From Fargo "The International" took them down the Red River to Emerson where they disembarked and travelled with a team of oxen to Chortitz which is located five miles south-west of Winkler. In 1891, Mr. Peters took out a homestead in the Rosenbach district north of Winkler.

For the first three years Mr. Peters worked his quarter section of land with oxen. After the fields were prepared, he seeded them by hand. However, this proved to be quite inefficient as the Snow Buntings would sometimes come and pick up the seeds. On several occasions the banks of Dead Horse Creek overflowed and washed away his crops. Once grasshoppers destroyed 70 acres of barley.

Because he had become allergic to dust, Mr. Peters retired and moved to Winkler in 1945, however, he continued to be active around the yard and at the age of 84 he still prepared his own firewood for the winter. He believed in punctuality and regularity in everything whether it was sleeping, eating, or working. Mr. and Mrs. Peters had a family of fourteen children, three of whom died in infancy. Mr. Peters died on May 22, 1967.

### **Mr. Gerhard A. Elias**

Mr. Gerhard A. Elias was born in Russia on April 9, 1852, joined the church in 1874, and married Miss Maria Dueck on February 21, 1875, with Rev. Johann Wiebe officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Elias immigrated to Canada in 1876 and farmed south of Winkler until their retirement when they moved into town. Mr. Elias died August 20, 1952, at the age of 100 years, 4 months, and 10 days.

### **Mr. Cornelius Krahn**

Mr. Cornelius Krahn was born November 10, 1871, and immigrated to Canada with his parents. At the age of 21 he started out as a farmer and continued on the farm in the Greenfarm district north-east of Winkler until his retirement in 1945 when he moved to town. He used oxen for one year before switching over to horses. During the busy season on the farm, Mr. Krahn used to turn his family of fourteen children out of bed at four A.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Krahn resided at the south-west corner of Main Street and Mountain Avenue. In 1956 at the age of 85 years, Mr. Krahn still drove his own car so well that Mrs. Krahn who was 80, maintained that he was the safest driver in town and that she wouldn't care to ride with anyone else.

### **Mrs. Jacob J. Schultz**

Mrs. J. J. Schultz was born September 3, 1879, at Schoendorf in Manitoba. Before coming to Winkler in 1895, she used to do housework on the farm at a salary of \$7.00 per month. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz had a family of seven children. Her husband who predeceased Mrs. Schultz was for many years butcher and cattle buyer in and around Winkler.

## **World War II**

Although the Winkler area was settled by Mennonites who believed in nonresistance and had emigrated from Russia in order to escape military training, during the years of World War II, 1939-1945, there were 126 men and women on active service who gave their addresses as Winkler. About 108 of these had traditionally Mennonite surnames. The following eight paid the supreme sacrifice: Pte. Gordon (Cornie) Enns; Sec. Lt. Nelson Funk; Flt. Sgt. Victor Unruh; FO. Abe Hildebrand; FO. George Krahn; Pte. Ben Neufeld; Flt. Sgt. Robert Sirluck; and Pte. Henry Wiebe. Besides those on active service, there were many particularly from the surrounding districts who served in C.O. Camps.

Among the many services that were active in alleviating suffering in war torn countries, there was the Winkler Blood Donors' Clinic which was officially opened on Saturday, November 4, 1944, when 24 citizens gave donations of blood so that others might live. The Winkler and district branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society was formed in October, 1939, and has continued soliciting donations of blood from donors at intervals ever since the first official opening.

## **Notes and Anecdotes**

Thursday, November 24, 1898, was Thanksgiving Day and a public holiday.

On June 18, 1922, Rev. John Warkentin officiated at a triple wedding in the Winkler M.B. Church when the following three couples were married: Mr. and Mrs. Herb D. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dick, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Friesen. Herb and Otto Dick are brothers, and Mrs. Otto Dick is a sister to Mr. F. K. Friesen. In February, 1972, these three couples met at Phoenix, Arizona, for a reunion to observe their Golden Wedding.

In February, 1928, a Morden Bakery opened a bakeshop on the west side of Main Street in Winkler. Miss Agathe Dyck served as the local clerk.

In June, 1932, a poison mixing plant was set up in Winkler to supply poison bait for farmers to fight the grasshopper plague.

The Silver Jubilee of the reign of King George V, May 6, 1935, was observed in Winkler with a parade and sports day.

The prize list for the sixth annual Winkler Seed Grain Show, Saturday, March 21, 1936, carried 13 classes and 19 sections available for competition. The committee in charge of the Seed Fair was made up of the following members: J. J. Enns, A. A. Kroeker, and J. R. Walkof of Winkler, and W. S. Fraser, Morden.

During the June-July, 1952, polio epidemic in the Winkler area, a number of children were stricken by this dreaded disease. There were several deaths and some children were left physically disabled as a result.



Following World War I (1914-1918), the Canadian populace turned against the use of alcoholic beverages and the sale of them was greatly restricted in Manitoba after a provincial plebiscite in the early 1920's ushered in a brief period of prohibition. However, in the 1950's after World War II, the opposite trend set in when the laws were again relaxed and the sale of alcoholic beverages in hotels as well as in restaurants soon followed. On June 21, 1957, the first liquor referendum was put before the electors in the Town of Winkler. However, the referendum was defeated in no uncertain terms when only 60 ballots were cast FOR and 484 AGAINST the liberalized sale of alcoholic beverages in town. Except for the beer parlor in the local hotel, there is no outlet for the sale of liquor locally.

On October 27, 1971, the liquor referendum was put before the electors in Winkler for the second time since the relaxation of the Manitoba laws governing the sale of alcoholic beverages. The number of ballots cast FOR and AGAINST each avenue of sale voted upon, were:

Avenue of Sale	For	Against
Restaurant Beer and Wine Licence .....	360	754
Beverage Room Licence .....	355	744
Dining Room Liquor Licence .....	383	760
Cocktail Room Licence .....	362	741
Total .....	1,460	2,999

On Thursday, January 20, 1972, the second annual January Moonlight Sale was held by the merchants of Winkler. The volume of trade was fantastic.

The fourth annual Snowmobile Race was held in Winkler on Saturday, February 12, 1972, with 126 competitors from many parts of Manitoba participating.

It was at the local Ice Carnival on February 18, 1972, that the Winkler Figure Skating Club performed for the first time.

On February 18, 1972, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kehler, Winkler, received their Wings after completing examinations at Pembina Air Services flying field near Morden. Mrs. Kehler was the first local woman to receive her pilot's licence.

On July 5, 1972, the Garden Valley School Division trustee board passed the following resolution with regard to male teachers' length of hair:

- 1) That hair must be well-groomed and clean.
- 2) Length of hair is not to exceed the shirt collar in back, the ear lobes on the sides, and the eyes in front.

It was estimated by the Old Time Value Days' Committee that 50,000 people attended the tenth annual four-day sales and festivities at Winkler, August 16-19, 1972.

Mr. Walter Dick, Montreal, who is a licenced pilot, obtained his elementary and high school education at Winkler. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert D. Dick, 701 North Railway Avenue. By 1973, Walter had spent a total of 420 days of 24 hours in the air.

## The Manitoba Centennial - 1970

### WINKLER CENTENNIAL INFORMATION

December 20th/69

Dear Citizen:

You are cordially invited to attend the official ceremonies, commemorating the ushering-in of the new

year, Manitoba's 100th birthday on December the 31st, starting at 4:00 P.M. For your convenience, we have provided two (2) locations, the Winkler Elementary School Auditorium (for the adults) and the Winkler Sports Arena for the young children and teenagers. The program has been scheduled as follows:

#### AUDITORIUM:

- 4:00 P.M. Televised Program
- 4:30 P.M. Official Ceremonies, Signing of Scroll and Toast (Mayor H. F. Wiebe)
- 4:40 P.M. Short Address by a Winkler Senior Citizen
- 4:50 P.M. Cutting of Centennial Cake
- 5:00 P.M. Free Cake and Coffee

#### SPORTS ARENA:

- 4:00 P.M. Televised Program
- 4:30 P.M. Official Ceremonies and Toast (Deputy Mayor Nick Wiebe)
- 4:40 P.M. Distribution of Centennial Flags and Pins
- 4:50 P.M. Free Skating
- 5:30 P.M. Free Cake, Coffee or Drink
- 9:30 P.M. SPECIAL INTERFAITH CENTENNIAL CHURCH SERVICE AT THE MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH
- 11:45 P.M. Giant BON-FIRE at the Elementary School Grounds
- 12:00 Midnight Official 100-gun salute

As a note of interest, a special drink (non-alcoholic) has been prepared for the toast and the Centennial cake (measures seven feet across) has been made by Dutch Bakery. Also, please note that the Town of Winkler Maintenance Dept., will be picking up the Christmas trees for the bon fire, on Wednesday morning. If you wish to have your tree picked up, have it available in the morning.

Once again, let me urge you to attend this once in a life time celebration. This is a community event and your participation can only make it a "Centennial Success".

Yours very truly,  
WINKLER CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

MAYOR H. F. WIEBE  
chairman

#### The Manitoba Centennial — 1970

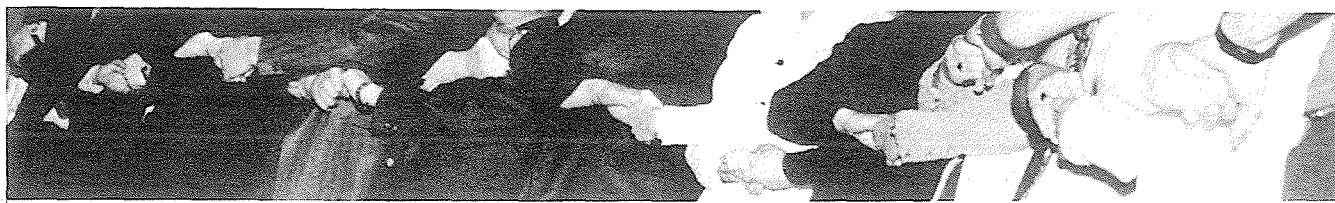
The Manitoba Centennial marking the 100th birthday of the province, was officially ushered in on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1969, at two locations in town. One celebration was held at the Winkler Sports Arena with Deputy Mayor Nick R. Wiebe and Councillor Arnold Brown in charge of the young and the young at heart while the other area of activity was centered in the Winkler Elementary School Auditorium for those not so young, with Mayor Henry F. Wiebe and Walter Siemens doing the M.C. duties. Both of the ceremonies began with the viewing of the televised Centennial Program originating in Winnipeg and produced by the Manitoba Centennial Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Maitland Steinkopf a former Winklerite whose father had operated a store here at the turn of the century. The Centennial birthday cake weighed 350 pounds and was cut by Mayor H. F. Wiebe. It had been baked by the Dutch Bakery of Winkler.

On September 14, 1970, one-hundred and twenty-two of Winkler's 213 pioneer citizens 75 years and over, were present in the Winkler Elementary School Auditorium when the Town of Winkler hosted a recognition banquet with the Winkler Centennial Corporation in charge. The oldest senior citizen present was Mr. Henry D. Penner aged 98 years to whom the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, his Honor W. J. McKeag, presented a Manitoba Centennial pin. The oldest lady present was Mrs. Katharina Zacharias who was 91 years old. Mayor H. F. Wiebe brought greetings from the citizens of Winkler to the pioneers and announced that every citizen in Winkler over 75 years of age was to receive a pioneer lapel pin from the Manitoba Centennial Corporation. After Lieutenant Governor McKeag had presented the first button to Mr. Penner, the others were presented by the Winkler Old Time Value

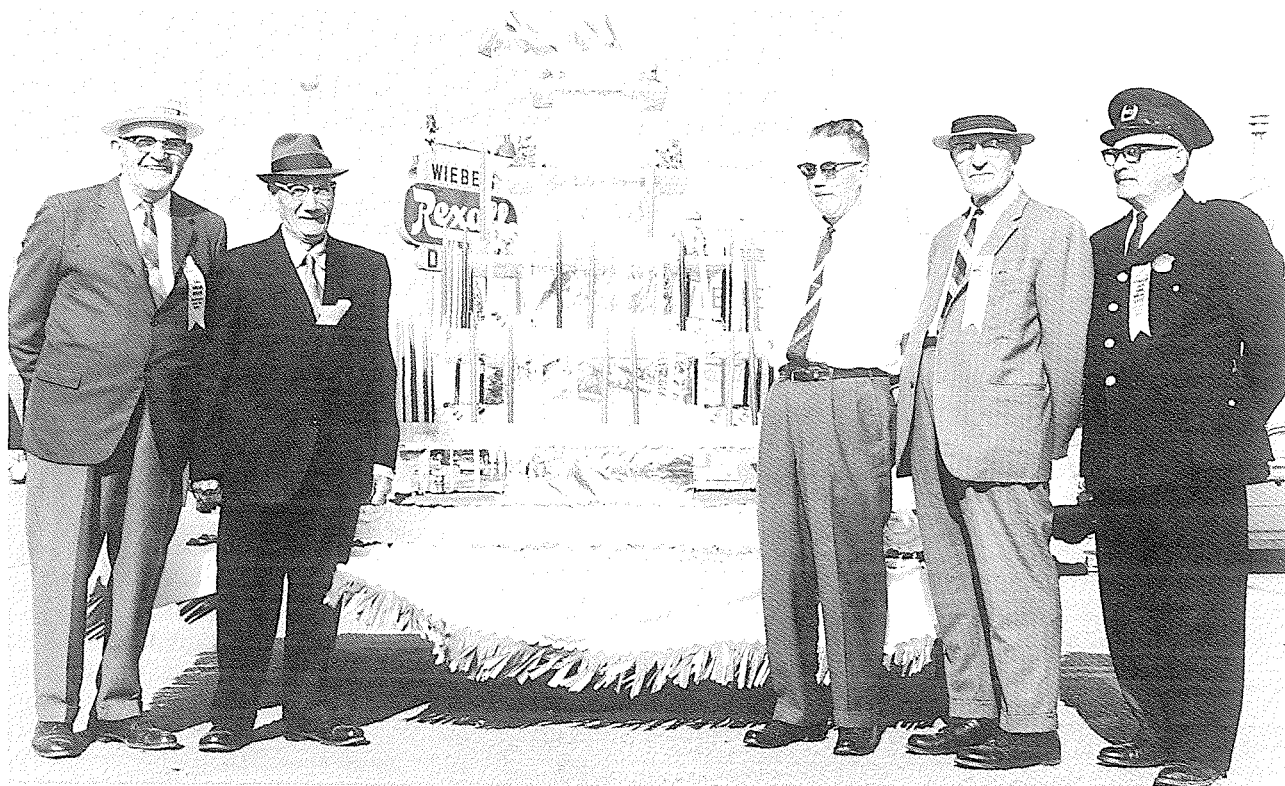
Queen and her princesses. Mr. J. M. Froese, M.L.A. for Rhineland, who represented the Manitoba Legislature, gave credit to the pioneers and said, "We have come a long way from the days of the oxen, to tractors, jets and even lunar landings."

Frank Brown interviewed John J. Braun, a grandson of Isaac Wiens who was the first owner of the quarter section of land on which the town of Winkler was later located. Mr. and Mrs. John J. Braun were married November 16, 1911. Mr. Braun recalled how their neighbour had farmed with oxen, and had sown and reaped the harvest by hand. Rev. Isaac P. F. Friesen of the E.M.M.C. made the closing remarks and spoke the closing prayer. In addressing the senior citizens, Rev. Friesen said, "We are very thankful that because of your hard work we are now living in comfort."

The close of the Manitoba Centennial celebrations, Dec. 31, 1970.



The Canadian Centennial, 1967. Left to right: P. T. Friesen, Henry G. Loewen, J. H. K. Dyck, J. Pelser, J. Felde.



The cake was baked by Dutch Bakery

# The Winkler Bible Institute

The Winkler Bible School (Peniel) was organized by Rev. Abram H. Unruh and opened its doors for the first time in October, 1925. Although always closely connected with the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church, it was, however, not founded as a denominational Bible School. The idea of the Bible School seems to have originated in the Crimea, South Russia, where the first three teachers of the Winkler Bible School, Rev. A. H. Unruh, Rev. John G. Wiens, and Mr. George J. Reimer had formerly taught at the Mennonite Theological Seminary. In the spring of 1924, the Communist government of Russia closed this Seminary and sent the students home. The teachers, having been brought before a court, were set free and decided to emigrate and to start a Bible School in Canada.

Besides Rev. A. H. Unruh who started the Winkler Bible School in 1925 with a class in the private home of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Warkentin on the west side of Sixth Street (the first house south of the Co-op Lumber Yard), there were five other men who may be regarded as co-founders of the School. Mr. G. J. Reimer joined the staff after Christmas during that first year, Rev. J. G. Wiens commenced teaching in the fall of 1926, and three local business men, namely Messrs J. A. Kroeker, J. B. Dyck, and A. A. Kroeker assisted materially by soliciting financial support. These six men who may be regarded as the founders of the Winkler Bible Institute, set the tone for the School and drafted its first constitution, dated January 24, 1928. Eventually, the School was also officially incorporated.<sup>17</sup>

In the fall of 1925, instruction began with a class of six students in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Warkentin on the west side of Sixth Street (the former George Hiebert residence). However, after New Year's instruction was given in two classes with 22 students in attendance. As the facilities for classrooms were inadequate, lots were purchased on the east side of Eighth Street from Bishop Jacob Hoepfner of the Berghaler Church, and a new building was erected and dedicated on October 24, 1926, when three ministers, namely, J. G. Wiens, Hermann Neufeld, and Dietrich Dick spoke the dedicatory prayers. The contractor was Mr. Frank K. Friesen. The following school year, 1926-27, there was an enrollment of 32, and instruction was given in German to three classes by three teachers. Special stress was laid on the training of young men for the ministry. The curriculum adopted followed closely that of the Crimean Bible School in south Russia. The Bible School year of instruction covered about five months.

Soon a need was felt for the training of Sunday School teachers in the English language. To meet this need, Mr. A. A. Kroeker joined the staff as the fourth teacher in 1929. The program of studies was now expanded to a four-year course. The resulting extended course of studies created an ever-increasing interest in the School and thus it became necessary in 1933 to enlarge its physical dimensions by adding a second storey to the building on Eighth Street. By 1938 the number of students had increased to over 100 and consequently the

building on the east side of Eighth Street was doubled in size whereby a suitable auditorium and two additional classrooms were provided.

From the very beginning Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hooge provided board and room for many male students and took a keen interest in the promotion of the local Bible School. In 1919 the Hooges had established as a private enterprise a Home for the Aged on Pembina Avenue (known as South Road Allowance) between Sixth and Seventh Streets. However, as the elderly inmates could not climb the stairs of the home, the second storey rooms were available for Bible School students. When the Winkler Bible School with its spiritual values and material possessions was transferred to the Mennonite Brethren Conference of Manitoba in 1944, the Boys' Dormitory was subsequently purchased and renovated so that as many as 35 boys found lodging in these premises.



The Hooge Bible School Dormitory. Formerly, an Old Folks Home.

To provide adequate living quarters for the girls enrolled at the Winkler Bible School it was necessary to procure houses that could be used as girls' dormitories. Therefore, in 1946, the P. H. C. Penner residence at 318 Park Street was rented and provided additional lodging for twelve girls, besides those boarding in private homes. In 1952, the Board of Directors purchased a large house which had been moved to Winkler from Treherne, Manitoba, by Mr. Goldie Dagg who operated a cinema on Main Street. This house at 185 Tenth Street was renovated and changed into a Girls' Dormitory which replaced the home on Park Street. With the coming of the affluent society after World War II, private home owners became reluctant to take in boarders and hence in 1960 the Board purchased another old house on Pembina Avenue which was known as the former Jacob Hiebert residence and which was to serve as additional dormitory space for girls.

As many of the supporting constituencies had erected new churches in recent years, and as the old Bible School building and the Dormitories did not adequately serve the needs of the staff and students, plans were initiated for a new Bible School campus on a three-acre site south of Pembina Avenue and bounded by Sixth and Seventh Streets. These plans were accepted by the Manitoba M.B. Conference in 1963. Consequently, the

ground breaking ceremony took place on March 16, 1964, and on October 4, 1964, a dedication service was held at the completion of the new Administration Building and the Women's Dormitory. The old Dormitory which was located on the same site, was used until the spring of 1968 when the new Boys' Dormitory was dedicated. This completed the Winkler Bible Institute complex at a total cost of \$248,000.

Initially, the name of the Winkler Bible School was "Peniel" which has reference to Genesis 32:26, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." This has remained the motto and has also become the insignia of the School. In 1968, the name was changed to Winkler Bible Institute. Throughout the years of its existence the primary aims of the Bible Institute have remained unchanged. They are to teach the Bible as God's Word, to encourage commitment to Christ and to live a consistent life of discipleship. In 1926, the faculty of the Winkler Bible School made plans to offer a three-year course. However, with the engagement of Mr. A. A. Kroeker as a fourth teacher in 1929, the program of studies was expanded to meet the standards of the Evangelical Teacher Training Association and thus a four-year course was offered. Two significant outgrowths of this endeavour were the assumption of responsibility for the Summer Vacation Bible Schools in 1936 under the supervision of Mr. G. D. Pries, and in 1949, on the suggestion of Mr. H. H. Redekop, the organization of the Winkler Bible Camp at Burwalde. With the addition of more members to the staff in 1939, the Bible School began to offer a five-year course. The final year of this course was especially designed to accommodate students preparing for the ministry. This final year was discontinued in 1944 with the founding of the M.B. Bible College in Winnipeg. Later, the course for the fourth year was also dropped, and in 1968 the Winkler Bible Institute accepted a two-year program of studies with junior matriculation as the prerequisite for entrance requirements.

Although the Winkler Bible Institute has been a denominational school since 1944 when private ownership was dissolved and the Institute was transferred to the Manitoba M.B. Conference, it has nevertheless, always been inter-denominational in its outreach. When the first school building was erected on Eighth Street, the lots were purchased from Bishop Jacob Hoepfner of the Bergthaler Church who resided at the north-east corner of Stanley Avenue and Eighth Street. Bishop Hoepfner was an ardent supporter of the School because he saw the need for young people to become versed in the Bible. This liaison is quite evident when we consider that Dr. A. H. Unruh, the first principal and teacher of the Winkler Bible Institute, in 1926 gave a series of evening Bible studies in the kitchen adjoining the Winkler Bergthaler Church. Later, students from other denominations enrolled in the School. In 1970, there were students in attendance representing the following denominations: Evangelical Mennonite Church, Alliance Church, General Conference, Independent Brethren, Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church, as well as Mennonite Brethren. Geographically, these students came not only from the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario, but also from the

Dutch Antilles, the Congo (Zaire), India, and the United States.

When Rev. A. H. Unruh founded the Bible School at Winkler in 1925, he began with a class of six students. As more teachers were added to the staff, the enrollment also increased sporadically until in 1952 there were 138 students in attendance. Because of the labour shortage which resulted in a period of prosperity in Canada after World War II, and because students could now afford to attend college or university with the certainty of employment after graduation, there followed a recession in the enrollment until the attendance at the Bible Institute levelled off at about 70-80 students. By 1950 when the Bible School celebrated its Silver Jubilee, 1097 students had been registered. Of these, 64 graduated from the Fifth Class, 201 from the Fourth Class, and 320 from the Third Class or with a Sunday School Diploma. Today the Winkler Bible Institute conducts a two-year course. The Institute is a member of the Evangelical Teacher Training Association. Dr. Clarence Benson, Chicago, Illinois, who represented this Association, visited the Winkler Bible Institute during the 1951-52 school term. In the Christian education material that has come from the pen of Dr. Benson there is much reference to astronomy. This is not surprising when we consider that he owned an observatory in Florida. Whereas German was the only language of instruction when the Winkler Bible Institute was founded in 1925, it has gradually been supplanted by English until in 1968 it was discontinued so that today New Testament Greek is the only foreign language course offered.

Although the academic qualifications of students attending the Winkler Bible Institute were not particularly stressed at first, there have always been regulations as to behaviour and deportment. Some of the original rules pertaining to conduct and general attitude follow:

- a) Male and female applicants irrespective of church affiliation will be accepted.
- b) Only students with a religious-oriented behavioral attitude will be admitted.
- c) Applicants should be 16 years of age.
- d) Students shall return to the boarding house not later than 10:00 p.m.
- e) As students are expected to give their undivided attention to their studies, they are not permitted to become engaged or to establish any boy-girl relationships during the school year.

It was also understood that no boy and girl would walk together on the sidewalk.

Before 1944, while the Bible Institute was privately owned, the teachers were not promised specific salaries.

The average attendance at the Winkler Bible Institute has been:

1925 to 1934 average attendance 58  
 1935 to 1944 average attendance 97  
 1945 to 1954 average attendance 103  
 1955 to 1964 average attendance 71  
 1965 to 1970 average attendance 70

In October, 1972, the enrollment increased to 105.

In 1933 the Winkler Bible School began the publication of a monthly German newspaper that had the format of a magazine and contained articles of interest

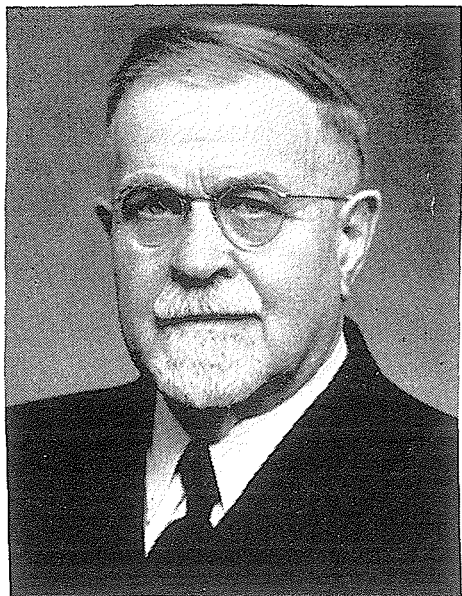
for preachers, Sunday School Teachers, Bible Schools, young people, and for the home. Mr. A. A. Kroeker and Mr. F. K. Friesen respectively served as business and circulation managers, and Rev. A. H. Unruh as editor. It was printed by the Beacon Publishers, Winkler, Manitoba. At first the paper was called "Die Antwort" (The Answer), but later the name was changed to "Der Morgenstern" (The Morning Star) and contained articles in both German and English. When the Bible School began publishing a yearbook, it was called The Morning Star.

The principals of the Winkler Bible Institute have been Dr. A. H. Unruh, 1925-44; Rev. J. G. Wiens, 1944-48; Rev. H. H. Redekop, B.A., Lic.Th., 1948-56; Dr. G. D. Huebert, 1956-59; Rev. J. H. Goossen, B.Sc., Th.B., 1959-69; Rev. H. R. Baerg, M.A., B.D., Ph.D. (candidate), 1969-

The following teachers have served for longer periods of time in the area of Bible teaching and Christian education: G. J. Reimer, A. A. Kroeker, G. D.

Pries, A. H. Redekopp, B. B. Boldt, H. Lenzmann, Miss Nettie Kroeker, G. B. Dyck, G. Enns, R. Seibel, D. K. Duerksen, J. H. Quiring, J. Hildebrandt, L. Doerksen, and J. Froese. The music teachers have been Ben Horch, Dietrich Friesen, John Boldt, Rudy Baerg, J. Howard Dyck, and Allen Andres. There have also been several vocal, organ and piano teachers who gave private lessons to students enrolled at the Bible Institute, namely, Mrs. Justina Wiebe, Mrs. Elizabeth Schultz, and Miss Doreen Klassen.

The members of the faculty in 1972 are Rev. Henry R. Baerg, M.A., B.D., Ph.D. (candidate); Rev. John H. Goossen, B.Sc., Th.B.; Mr. Erwin Penner, B.A., B.D., Th.M.; Mr. Eldon DeFehr, Th.B., B.A.; Mr. Peter Koslowsky, Performer's Degree; and Miss Mary Poetker. Mrs. Eileen Baerg is the secretary. Mrs. Minnie Wiens and Miss Katie Wiebe serve respectively as head cook and assistant cook, and Rev. A. W. Klassen is the custodian.



**Dr. Abraham H. Unruh — Theologian**  
Principal, Winkler Bible Institute, 1925-44

Rev. A. H. Unruh, teacher, theologian, and author was born April 5, 1878, in the village of Timir-Bulat, Crimea, Russia. He was the sixth child in the family. His parents were farmers but his father, Heinrich Benjamin Unruh, was also an elder of the Krimmer Mennonite Church. When Dr. Unruh was six years old, his father suddenly died of pneumonia, leaving his mother with ten children. Since it was difficult for her to provide for the family, three of the children had to leave home and live with their relatives. Rev. Unruh was consequently billeted with his uncle Cornelius Unruh, a high school teacher in the village of Orloff, Taurien. Here he spent his childhood. Later, Rev. Unruh related how the impressions in the home of his uncle, in the village school through his teacher, Isaac Ediger, in Sunday School, as well as the prayers of his mother whom he met annually, exposed him to religious influence until he embraced by faith the substitutionary suffering and death of Jesus Christ according to Romans 8:16.



The first Winkler Bible School classes, 1925-26, with Rev. A. H. Unruh as teacher in a private home on Sixth Street.

After teacher training in Perekop and Simferopol, Rev. Unruh began his teaching career at the age of 17 years in a district school at Menlertschick in the Crimea where in 1900 he was married to Katharina Toews from Spat, and it was also while he was teaching in the elementary school here that after 12 years of separation from his mother, she was invited to live with them as a member of the family. In 1903 Rev. Unruh accepted a position in the elementary school at Barwenkovo, Kharkow, where he later taught German literature in a Russian vocational school. Following this experience, he taught in a Mennonite high school.

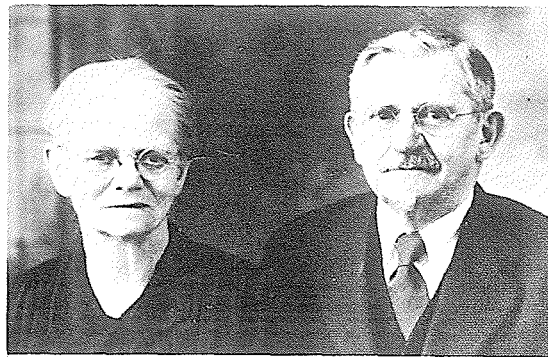
In 1904, Rev. Unruh was ordained to the ministry in the Mennonite Brethren Church. During World War I, he served as secretary for the Red Cross in Dnje-propetrowsk and in Odessa. In 1920 he began instructing in a Bible School at Tschongraw in the Crimea and for the next 40 years he was engaged in Bible teaching.



This was the first Bible Institute established by the Mennonites in Russia. His colleagues here were Rev. Johann G. Wiens, founder of the Bible School, Gerhard Reimer, Heinrich Braun, and J. Friesen.

When the local Crimean government began to exert opposition to the Bible School at Tschongraw, the school was dissolved and Rev. Unruh with his family immigrated to Canada in 1924, settling at Gretna and then in Winkler. With the assistance of a few local citizens who were interested in transmitting Bible knowledge to young people, he founded the Winkler Bible School in 1925. The first classes were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Warkentin on Sixth Street, but when Rev. Unruh was joined by two of his former colleagues with whom he had taught in the Bible School in the Crimea, a new building was erected in 1926 on Eighth Street. During the 19 years that he was principal (1925-1944), the Winkler Bible School expanded rapidly in scope and spiritual influence. In 1944 Rev. Unruh was called to an even wider field of service as president of the Mennonite Brethren Bible College in Winnipeg. After acting as president of the college for a year, he relinquished this position but remained on the staff as lecturer until 1954 when he terminated his tenure and continued as Bible conference speaker and author. In recognition of his many years of service as Bible expositor, the Canadian M.B. Conference in 1961 passed a resolution to erect the A. H. Unruh Memorial Hall and Library on the Bible College campus in Winnipeg as a fitting Ebenezer of his contribution to the Conference. His former students maintain that the old adage of the absent minded professor was also applicable to Rev. Unruh for on one occasion he was searching for his spectacles in the classroom until one student piped up, "You are carrying them on your nose."

Rev. Unruh edited a monthly paper "Die Antwort" (The answer), wrote Sunday School lessons, and became the author of six books, his major publication being "The History of the Mennonite Brethren Church". All his work was done in the German language. As his eyesight began to fail during the last years of his life, he sometimes asked the presiding minister to read the Bible text for him and Dr. Unruh would then preach the sermon based on the text. Within a span of sixty years he directly or indirectly enriched the lives of many, especially in the Mennonite constituency, through his teaching and preaching ministry. Although his humility was always evident, Rev. Unruh was a match for the best educated minds in the field of theology and Bible exposition. The reason for this was that he read and studied the leading expositors and thinkers, although he had acquired B.A. and Th.B. degrees at Tabor College, Hillsboro, and received an honorary D.D. degree from Bethel College, Newton, Kansas. Rev. Unruh was always willing to conduct Bible conferences and to preach in pulpits outside his denomination. He died at the age of eighty-three on Sunday, January 15, 1961, at Clearbrook, B.C., where he spent his last years in retirement with his wife.



Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Wiens

Rev. John G. Wiens was born in 1874 in the small village of Voronzowka near the city of Alexandrowsk, Russia. Mrs. Wiens was born in 1877. They attended the village school at Blumenfeld near Orechowo. Later, Rev. Wiens enrolled in the Mennonite High School at Orlof where Cornelius Unruh, Johann Janzen, and J. Braeuel were his teachers. In 1896, Rev. and Mrs. Wiens were married with Rev. Diedrich Janzen performing the marriage ceremony.

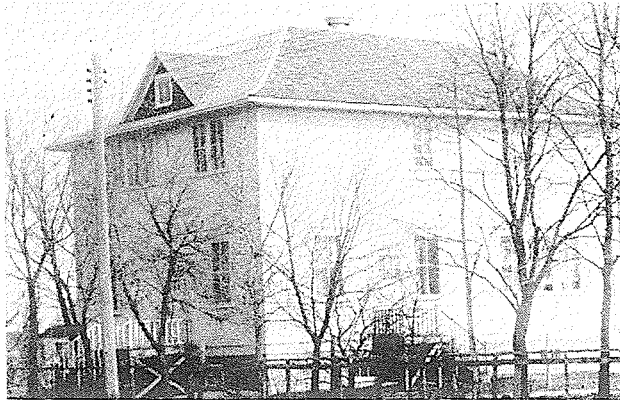
In preparation for the foreign mission field, Rev. Wiens entered a Baptist Seminary at Hamburg, Germany, in 1899. After graduation in 1903, they went to London, England, where Rev. Wiens studied the English language before returning to Russia to accept a mandate in 1904 from the M.B. Churches as foreign missionaries to India. Because of the climate and the consequential sickness of their daughter Liese who died in 1917, they returned to Russia from India in 1910. As the prevailing conditions in Russia during World War I and the Revolution did not permit them to return to India, Rev. Wiens founded a Bible School in 1918 at Tschongraw in the Crimea. While principal of the School he was soon joined on the staff by A. H. Unruh and G. J. Reimer. When the Communist government closed this Bible School and sent the students home, these three teachers decided to emigrate from Russia and to start a Bible School in Canada. Subsequently, A. H. Unruh arrived here in 1925 and founded the Bible School at Winkler where he was joined in 1926 by G. J. Reimer and J. G. Wiens. Rev. and Mrs. Wiens had two children. Their son, John J. Wiens, operated the Imperial Oil and service station at 416 South Railway Avenue in town until his death on July 4, 1958. Rev. J. G. Wiens passed to his reward January 2, 1951.



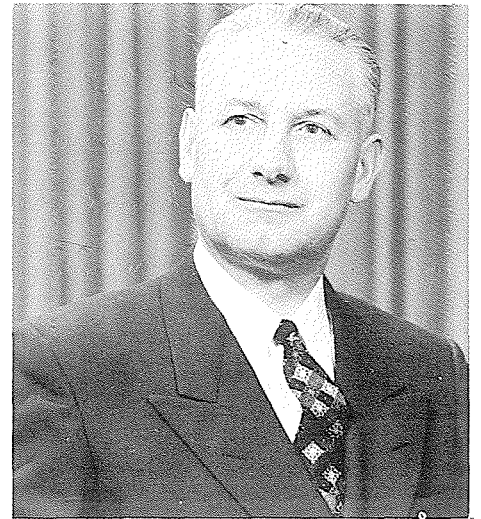
Mr. G. J. Reimer



Bible School, 1926



Bible School, 1933



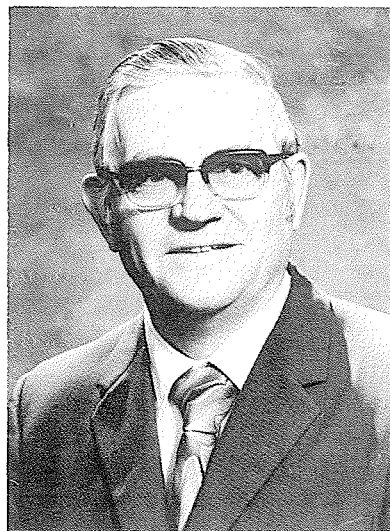
Rev. H. H. Redekop



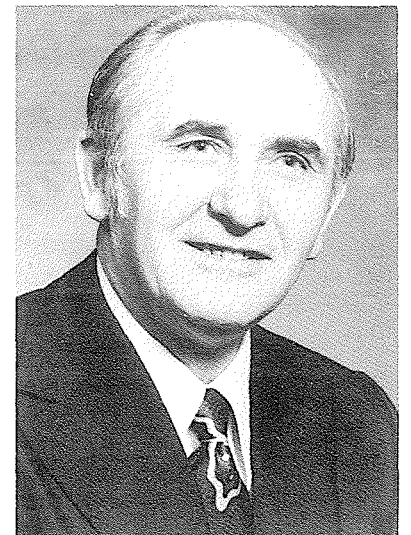
Mr. Ben Horch



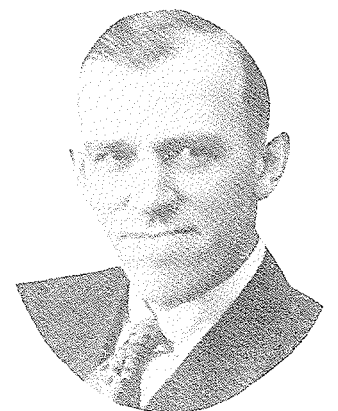
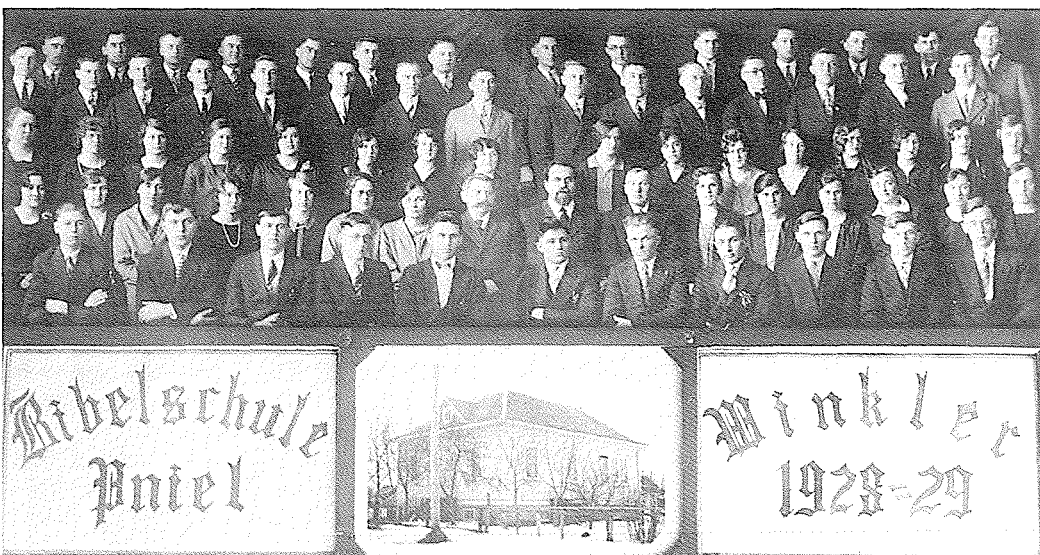
Rev. G. D. Pries



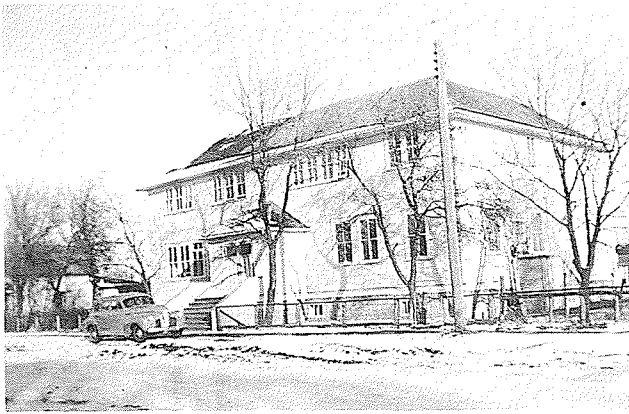
Rev. H. R. Baerg, principal of Winkler Bible Institute.



Rev. J. H. Goossen,  
on the W.B.I. faculty since 1952.



Rev. A. A. Kroeker



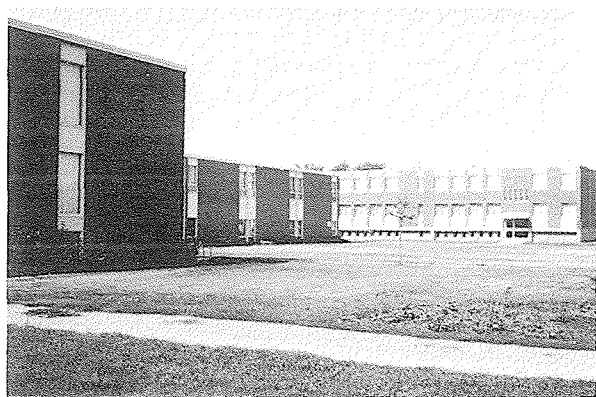
Bible School, 1938

### Teachers of the Winkler Bible School

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1925-26 Dr. A. H. Unruh</p> <p>1926-27 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer</p> <p>1927-28 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer</p> <p>1928-29 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer</p> <p>1929-30 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, Rev. A. A. Kroeker</p> <p>1930-31 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, Rev. A. A. Kroeker</p> <p>1931-32 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, Rev. A. A. Kroeker</p> <p>1932-33 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, Rev. A. A. Kroeker</p> <p>1933-34 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, Rev. A. A. Kroeker</p> <p>1934-35 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, Rev. A. A. Kroeker</p> <p>1935-36 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, Rev. A. A. Unruh, Rev. A. A. Kroeker</p> <p>1936-37 Dr. A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, Rev. G. D. Pries B.Th., Rev. A. A. Kroeker, Rev. A. H. Redekop</p> <p>1937-38 A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, Rev. G. D. Pries B.Th., Rev. A. A. Kroeker, Rev. A. H. Redekop</p> <p>1938-39 A. H. Unruh, Rev. J. G. Wiens, A. H. Redekop, Rev. A. A. Kroeker, Nettie L. Kroeker, Rev. H. H. Redekop B.A., Lic.Th.</p> <p>1939-40 A. H. Unruh, J. G. Wiens, A. A. Kroeker, A. H. Redekop, G. D. Pries, Nettie L. Kroeker</p> <p>1940-41 A. H. Unruh, J. G. Wiens, A. A. Kroeker, A. H. Redekop, G. D. Pries</p> <p>1941-42 A. H. Unruh, J. G. Wiens, A. A. Kroeker, A. H. Redekop, G. D. Pries, H. H. Redekop</p> <p>1942-43 A. H. Unruh, J. G. Wiens, A. A. Kroeker, A. H. Redekop, G. D. Pries, H. H. Redekop</p> <p>1943-44 A. H. Unruh, J. G. Wiens, A. A. Kroeker, A. H. Redekop, G. D. Pries, H. H. Redekop, Ben Horch</p> <p>1944-45 H. H. Redekop, J. G. Wiens, A. H. Redekop, G. D. Pries, Ben Horch</p> <p>1945-46 H. H. Redekop, J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, G. D. Pries</p> <p>1946-47 H. H. Redekop, J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, G. D. Pries, Dietrich Friesen</p> | <p>1947-48 H. H. Redekop, J. G. Wiens, G. J. Reimer, G. D. Pries, Dietrich Friesen</p> <p>1948-49 H. H. Redekop, G. J. Reimer, Ben Horch, G. D. Pries, George B. Dyck, George H. Enns</p> <p>1949-50 George H. Enns, J. G. Wiens, H. H. Redekop, G. D. Pries, George B. Dyck</p> <p>1950-51 John Boldt B.A., H. H. Redekop, Rev. B. B. Boldt, G. D. Pries, Rev. R. C. Seibel B.S., M.A.</p> <p>1951-52 Rev. R. C. Seibel B.S., M.A., H. H. Redekop, Rev. B. B. Boldt, G. D. Pries, John Boldt</p> <p>1952-53 Rev. H. H. Redekop, Rev. G. D. Pries, Rev. B. B. Boldt, John Goossen, B.Sc., B.Th., J. Boldt</p> <p>1953-54 H. H. Redekop, B. B. Boldt, J. Boldt, J. Goossen, Dr. G. D. Huebert</p> <p>1954-55 H. H. Redekop, B. B. Boldt, G. D. Huebert, J. Boldt, J. H. Goossen</p> <p>1955-56 H. H. Redekop, B. B. Boldt, G. D. Huebert, J. Boldt, J. H. Goossen</p> <p>1956-57 G. D. Huebert, J. Boldt, J. H. Goossen, D. K. Duerksen, B.Th., B. B. Boldt</p> <p>1957-58 G. D. Huebert, J. Boldt, J. H. Goossen, D. K. Duerksen, Rev. W. G. Baerg, Rev. J. H. Quiring, B.A., B.D.</p> <p>1958-59 G. D. Huebert, J. Boldt, J. H. Goossen, D. K. Duerksen, Rev. Jerry Hildebrand, B.Th.</p> <p>1959-60 J. H. Goossen, Rev. H. Lenzmann, J. Hildebrand, J. H. Quiring, Rudy Baerg, B.R.E., S.M.C., A.R.C.T.</p> <p>1960-61 J. H. Goossen, H. Lenzmann, J. H. Quiring, Rudy Baerg, L. Doerksen</p> <p>1961-62 J. H. Goossen, H. Lenzmann, J. H. Quiring, Leonard Doerksen, B.Th., B.A., Allan Andres</p> <p>1962-63 J. H. Goossen, G. D. Pries, M.A., B.Th., H. Lenzmann, A. M. Andres, John Froese, B.A., B.Th.</p> <p>1963-64 J. H. Goossen, G. D. Pries, H. Lenzmann, A. M. Andres, J. Froese, Leonard Doerksen, B.A., B.Th.</p> <p>1964-65 J. H. Goossen, G. D. Pries, L. Doerksen, A. M. Andres, J. Froese</p> <p>1965-66 J. H. Goossen, J. Froese, L. Doerksen, H. Lenzmann, J. Howard Dyck, B.A., A.R.C.T., A.M.M., John Unger, B.R.E., B.A., B.D., M.R.E.</p> <p>1966-67 J. H. Goossen, J. Unger, J. Howard Dyck, H. Lenzmann, J. Froese, L. Doerksen</p> <p>1967-68 J. H. Goossen, L. Doerksen, J. Froese, Harold Wiens, B.A., Don Wiebe, B.A., B.Th.</p> <p>1968-69 J. H. Goossen, Don Wiebe, J. Froese, H. Wiens, L. Doerksen</p> <p>1969-70 Rev. H. R. Baerg, M.A., B.D., J. H. Goossen, Eldon DeFehr, B.A., Th.B., Erwin Penner, B.A., B.D., Th.M., Jake Klassen</p> <p>1970-71 Rev. H. R. Baerg, Rev. J. H. Goossen, Eldon DeFehr, Erwin Penner, Peter Koslowsky</p> <p>1971-72 Rev. H. R. Baerg, Rev. J. H. Goossen, Rev. Erwin Penner, Eldon DeFehr, Miss Mary Poetker, A.R.C.T., Peter Koslowsky</p> <p>1972-73 Rev. H. R. Baerg, Rev. J. H. Goossen, Rev. Erwin Penner, Eldon DeFehr, Miss Mary Poetker, Albert Friesen, B.A., Rev. Victor Neufeld, Chester Dyck</p> |
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Winkler Bible School Staff and Classes 1932

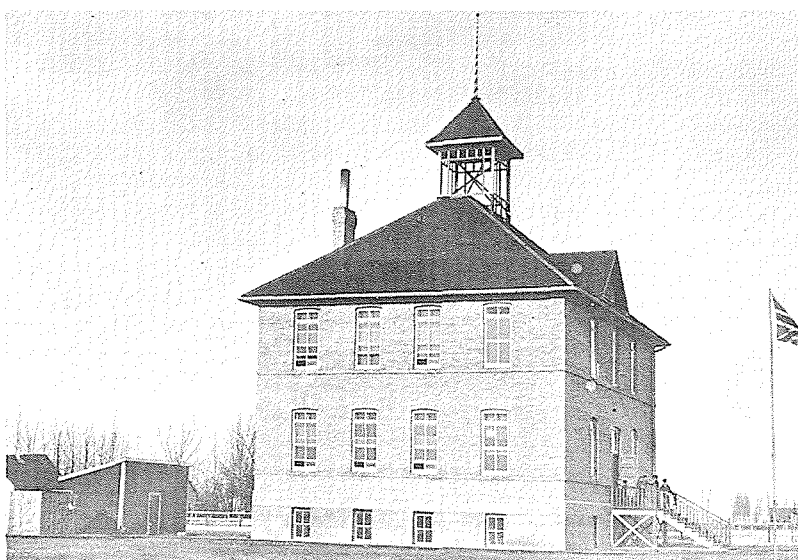


Winkler Bible Institute Campus



Mr. John Boldt

## THE WINKLER SCHOOL DISTRICT



Brick school building erected 1912, demolished 1954.



Winkler School Band, 1926



## Chapter III

### THE WINKLER SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Winkler Public School District No. 747 was formed by a Board of Arbitrators on the 22nd day of April, 1893. According to the half-yearly report for the fall term of 1893, there were 62 pupils enrolled and the first teacher was Mr. Cornelius B. Fast who had come here from Minnesota. He held an Interm Certificate.<sup>1</sup>

However, for two winters previous to that, private school classes had been held. In 1891-92, Mr. Jacob Andres taught a private school in a shed on the west side of what is today Park Street, just two houses north of the Elementary School Auditorium. This was to the west of but adjoining the Wiens quarter section which had still been under cultivation during the summer of 1891. The following winter, 1892-93, Mr. George Froese who was a son-in-law of Mr. George Harms, taught private school in a house a half mile east of Winkler at the site where the nuisance grounds are now located. Before coming to Winkler, Mr. Froese had already taught in the village school at Hoffnungsfeld.

The administration of the private schools was the responsibility of the church. Since the Mennonites had been promised religious freedom in the school as well as church, they appointed teachers and exercised supervision over all educational matters. The educational practices which had been followed in Russia were continued in Manitoba. Hence, the main objective was religious instruction and the three R's of the curriculum were used to this end. The four German textbooks that were used in the private school consisted of a primer for the beginners, the catechism for the next class, then the New Testament, and the Old Testament for the last year or two.

#### The School Buildings

The first public school building in Winkler was erected in 1893 on the lot at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street just a trifle to the south of the present Hooge Cleaners. It was a one-room school. Later it was acquired by the Bergthaler Church and moved onto the church yard to be used as a kitchen and dining room. For a number of years in the 1920's it was rented by the Winkler School Board to house an over-flow class.

By the fall term of 1894, there were 106 pupils enrolled. Therefore, it had become necessary to hire a second teacher. A second classroom was consequently temporarily opened in a house on the east side of Sixth Street. This house was situated north of the Central Service Station. At that time it was known as a municipal house because it had been moved here from Schanzenfeld where it had been used as a Municipal Office. Mr. Isaac J. Braun of Rosenbach S. D. still possess a receipt which indicates that his father, Mr. John Braun, paid his taxes in Schanzenfeld as late as 1891.

In 1899, a third teacher was added to the staff for in that year the school population rose to 131 children. To provide more room, a two storey structure was added to the first building at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. When a new school site was later obtained, this two-storey building was sold and moved to Schanzenfeld where it was used as a residence by Mr. and Mrs. G. Hildebrand.

At the ratepayers meeting on December 3, 1906, it was reported that the public school inspector had advised the hiring of a fourth teacher for the Winkler S.D. By 1912, with 150 children enrolled, and with a look to the future, the District was ready to construct a brick building on the present elementary school grounds at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Eighth Street. From 1949 to 1954, this structure was used exclusively for High School classes. It was demolished in the spring of 1954.<sup>2</sup>

With the number of names on the school registers steadily increasing, the School Board passed the following resolution on December 1, 1920: "Resolved to arrange for a fifth room and teacher for after New Year." Accordingly, on February 3, 1921, a motion, "That we rent the old school house from the Bergthaler church at \$30.00 per month to use it as a classroom," was passed. This building had been bought from the Winkler School District in 1912 and was being used as a dining room and kitchen. From 1921 to 1929, it was rented by the School District to accommodate an over-flow class. In September, 1926, instruction was given for the first time in grade XII and to accommodate this class, a summer kitchen was rented from Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Dyck who lived just to the south of the school yard on 8th Street. However, by 1928 it had become necessary to find a room for another over-flow class. As a result, the Church of God on the east side of Second Street was rented for 1928-29 to take care of the increase in the school population.

At the meeting on May 7, 1929, the School Board decided to solve the problem of over-crowding by making provision for more classrooms. Accordingly, a resolution was drawn up which stated, "That we pass By-law #1A of the Winkler School District for the purpose of borrowing \$18,000 to erect a new four-roomed school building of framed construction and that we request the Council of the Village of Winkler to accept said By-law by way of putting it to vote of the ratepayers." The building provided for in the By-law was erected that summer with Mr. Frank K. Friesen as contractor.

In order to provide more playground, the School Board in 1930 bought 60 feet frontage adjoining the school grounds on the south side together with a parcel of land to the west. In 1935, a further addition to the school site was acquired when the former Rode lot to the west was purchased.



The period of expansion in the Village of Winkler following World War II, was also reflected in the increase in the number of children attending public and high school. In 1944, the number was 304, but by 1952 it had climbed to 459. The high school student body more than doubled during the period from 1944-52. It increased from 60 to 131. As a result of this growth of school population, there was serious over-crowding of all classrooms so that by 1948 two over-flow classes were held in the M. B. Church basement. In that year a new \$90,000 school was erected between the two buildings already on the school site. The By-law to construct this third building with six classrooms, was at first defeated by the taxpayers. This structure was for a number of years the most up-to-date public building in the town of Winkler.

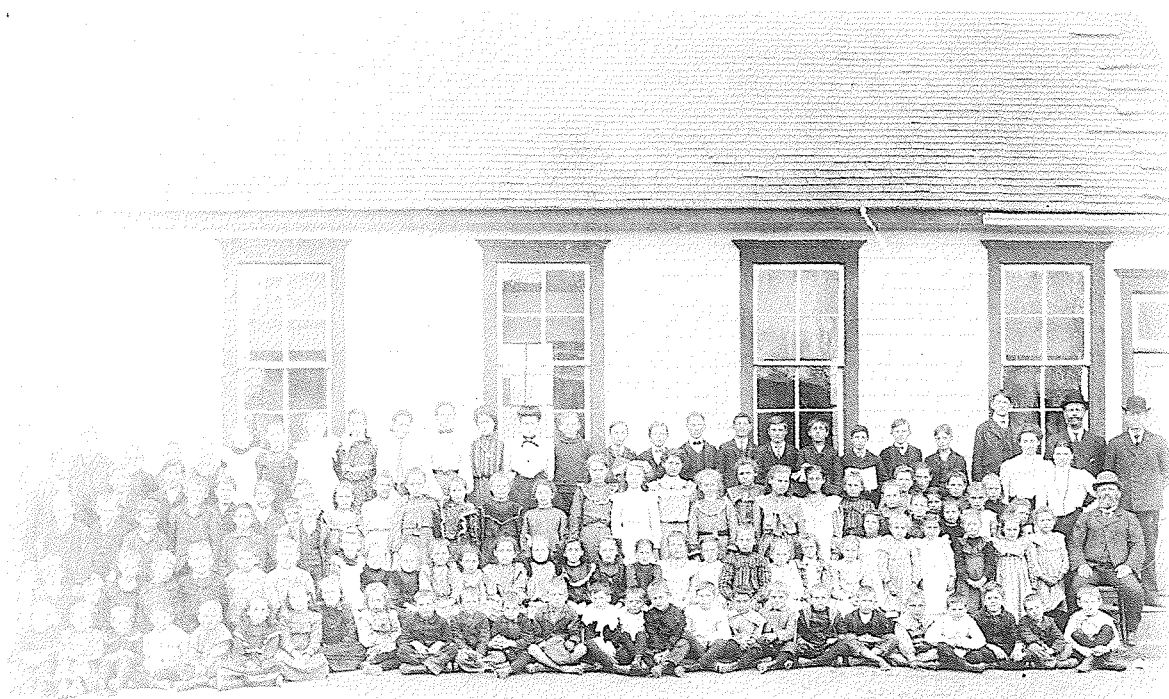
By the spring of 1953, the school population had increased to 552. Therefore, more accommodation was urgently required to take care of five over-flow classes. Consequently, on June 29, 1953, the School Board called a special meeting of the ratepayers and electors of the Winkler School District to discuss plans for a new building. The By-law which was subsequently drawn up and passed by the electors, called for a \$190,000 debenture issue for the construction of a new 14-room school and an auditorium. The official opening of this building was held in the new school auditorium on Thursday, November 4, 1954. The Hon. W. C. Miller, Minister of Education, was the guest speaker on this occasion. Later that year, the old brick building which had been erected in 1911, was demolished.



Mr. P. H. Siemens, taught at Winkler 1920-39



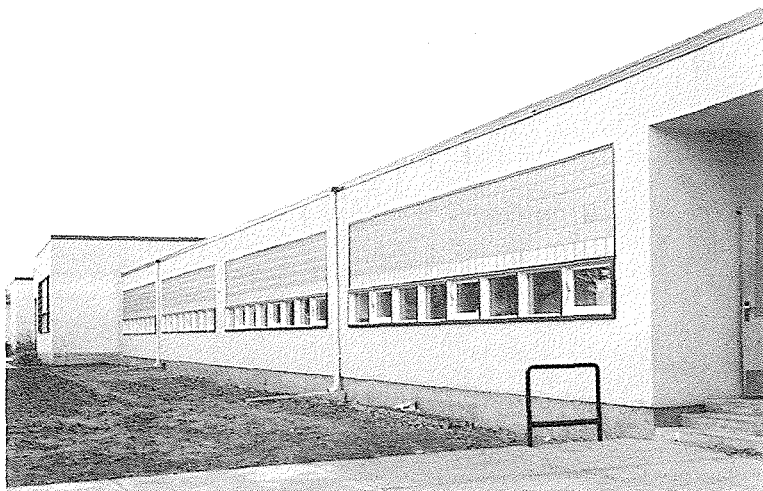
The Winkler School at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. The one-storey frame building on the left was erected in 1893, and the two-storey structure was added in 1899.



The first school erected in 1893 at the south-west corner of Mountain Avenue and Sixth Street. Seated on extreme right, Rev. Gerhard Wiebe, trustee.



Mr. J. J. Enns with his classes, 1913. Back row: (Left to right) Olga Graefer, Mary Wiebe, Susie Thiessen, Mary Giesbrecht, Mary Hiebert, Martha Bauman, Mary Friesen, Mary Rietze, Mary Leiding. Middle Row: Beth Elias, Mary Loeppky, Viola Ulrich, Helen Friesen, Helen Neufeld, Annie Warkentin, Katherine Wiebe, Mary Penner, Anne Neufeld, Susie Penner, Mary J. Loewen, Frieda Graefer, Lizzie Derksen, Mary Esau. Front row: Reinhold Ulrich, Bill Derksen, Henry Thiessen, John Bueckert, John Esau, Arthur Loeppky, Peter W. Kroeker, Jake Funk, Jake Worms, Matthew Schulz, Willie Bauman, Bill Funk, not kown, Adolph Graefer, John Leiding.



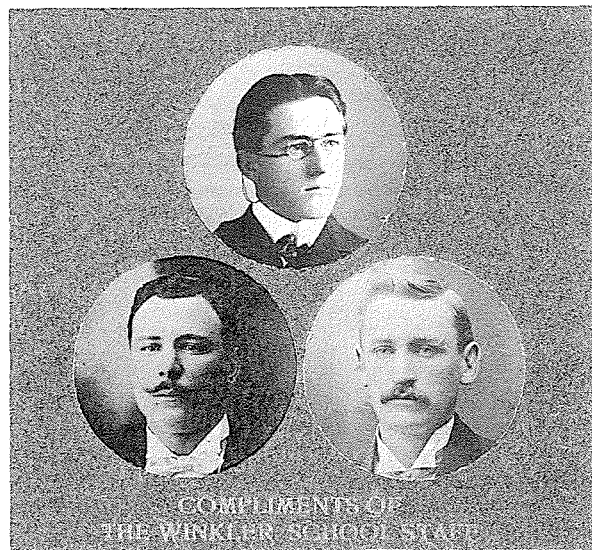
**Winkler Elementary School**

### **The School Population**

However, the most important factors of a school are not its buildings but rather the lives and minds that are developed within the four walls of the classroom. On graduating from high school, by far the greatest number of local students chose the teaching profession as a stepping stone to other fields. During the decade (1945-55) almost 50% of the grade XII graduates decided to teach the rising generation. The nursing profession also received a large share of Winkler Collegiate Institute graduates. Others have chosen medicine, engineering, agriculture, home economics, dentistry, stenography, business, industry, farming, etc.

Before 1913, any pupil at Winkler who wished to complete his High School with Grade XI, had to go to Morden. One of the first students from Winkler to attend the Morden High School at the beginning of this century was Max Steinkopf. His father, Mr. Henry Steinkopf, had started business in this area on a peddling wagon and later opened a store on Railway Avenue east of the Hotel. Max used to walk barefooted to Morden every morning in order to attend the classes there. Mr. Acheson, the station agent at Winkler at the time, said he would have been quite willing to loan him a pair of shoes but they would have been too small anyhow. After Max Steinkopf had finished High School, the family stunted in order that he could go to University. After graduation, he became a successful lawyer and owned a beautiful home on Wellington Crescent in Winnipeg. He died a millionaire.

Another local business man who found the going hard in those early days was Mr. P. H. Goertzen who owned a store on the west side of Main Street south of Mr. Bernard Loewen's store. Because Mr. Goertzen came to Winkler to operate a store and because he sent his children to the public school in Winkler, his place of business was boycotted by the members of his church who lived in the near-by villages. However, the Anglo-Saxon and the Jewish citizens in town took compassion on Mr. Goertzen and patronized his store. Eventually, however, because his customers were few, he had to leave the village and his store was taken over by Mr. Nitikman who did not have to content with the same bias.



**The Winkler School Staff, 1902: H. O. McDiarmid, Principal; Henri Graff; H. Riesen.**

Mr. W. Schram, who preceded Mr. Frank Derksen as the Massey Harris agent in Winkler, had two daughters who attended school in town here. One of these girls, Hattie, married Mr. Allan, the C.P.R. agent at Killarney, Manitoba. Ralph Allan, until recently the editor in chief of MacLean's magazine, was a son of this marriage.

Another former Winkler school boy who became a prominent western Canadian newspaper man is Mr. Jimmy Greenblatt. For 28 years he was the editor of the Swift Current Sun. His father, Mr. Isaac Greenblatt, operated a general store in Winkler. Mr. Dave Suderman who is now the Director of Public Relations for the Canadian Wheat Board, was the agricultural editor of the Family Herald until that paper folded up. Mr. P. Victor Penner received his elementary and high school education at Winkler. After graduating from the University of Manitoba, he returned to teach several years at the Winkler Collegiate. For almost 20 years Mr. Penner has been reporter and editor of the Red River Valley Echo at Altona, Manitoba. His father, Mr. H. H. Penner, was the manager of the Winkler Milling Company for 14 years.



**Mrs. Mary Klassen**

On October 24, 1952, Mrs. Mary Klassen was elected to the Winkler School Trustee Board. This was the first time in the history of the town of Winkler that a woman had been a candidate in a local civic election. Mrs. Klassen was born in Winkler and received her education here. She attended Normal School in Manitou and Winnipeg, and taught school for 15 years in the Winkler, Plum Coulee, and Gretna areas. Until her retirement a few years ago, she operated a Dress Shoppe in town.

After staying home from school for a year at the age of fourteen in order to help with the household duties, Mrs. Klassen (nee Mary Derksen) decided one day that she was returning to school to continue her education. When Mary broached the subject to her mother, the latter said, "No, you are staying home to assist me with the housework."

There were valid reasons why Mary should stay home from school and help with the domestic chores for she was the oldest in a family of eight children. However, she evidently saw it her way and replied, "Yes, I am going back to school."

Before long, both mother and daughter were in tears but finally came to terms when Mary agreed that she would do the dishes in the morning and at noon before dashing away almost a half mile to school.

Unfortunately, there were other hurdles to encounter for this young girl as she tried to quench her thirst for knowledge. Because she had to wash the dishes, Mary was invariably late for classes. Hence it became a matter of routine that on entering the classroom, the teacher made her stand in the corner. Finally when the pedagogue asked her why she was always late, he accepted her explanation and henceforth the embarrassed student could quietly take her seat without a reprimand.

Another Winkler High School graduate, Mr. Reynold Siemens the son of Mr. G. G. Siemens, and the late Mrs. Siemens, won distinction as a cellist. He began his studies of the 'cello under Mr. Ben Horsch as a member of the Winkler School Orchestra. Later, he studied with Mr. Irwin Plumm and with Mrs. J. M. Sinclair of Winnipeg and he also was a member of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He then went to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia on a Scholarship, where he studied under Mr. Leonard Rose for three years and spent three summers studying at Meadowmount, New York. Mr. Siemens is the only student ever to receive an A+ rating from Mr. Rose. Several years ago Mr. Siemens appeared on the C.B.C. "Distinguished Artists" series. In the United States he was guest soloist with many outstanding symphony orchestras and he is a member of the American Society of Ancient Instruments. He has appeared in recitals at many American Universities and Colleges. On January 10, 1955, he made his debut as professional artist in a violoncello recital in his home town at the Winkler School Auditorium to an appreciative audience. After considerable success in the musical world, Mr. Siemens went back to university and graduated with a Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is now on the staff at the University of Alberta in Edmonton as Associate Professor of English. His publication by the University of Alberta Press on "The

Wordsworth Collection Dove Cottage Papers Facsimiles" appeared on the shelves of university book stores in 1971.

Ab Douglas, grade XII class president, graduated from the Winkler Collegiate Institute in 1949. For some time he was engaged as radio announcer and broadcaster in Saskatchewan and in Manitoba. After his appointment to the C.B.C. radio and television at Toronto, he was transferred to Moscow as foreign news reporter. Mr. Douglas has become one of the outstanding foreign news analysts for the C.B.C.

When he graduated with grade XII from the Winkler Collegiate Institute in 1954, Lloyd Rietze won the Governor-Generals medal. Dave Friesen who received two gold medals from the University of Manitoba, continued his graduate studies at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and after graduating with a Ph.D., was appointed to the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Victor Peters who is a graduate of Winkler Collegiate Institute taught high school in southern Manitoba for a number of years before he accepted a position on the faculty at Moorhead State College as professor of history. He has become a well-known author in the area of history through the publication of the following books:

- 1) "All Things Common", the Hutterian Way of Life, published by the University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- 2) "Nestor Makhno", The Life of an Anarchist, published by Echo Books, Winnipeg.
- 3) "Zwei Documente", The First Emigration of Mennonites from Germany, Echo Publishers, Winnipeg.

Mrs. Peters, the former Elizabeth Dyck, who also graduated from the high school at Winkler, is a lecturer in German at the University of Manitoba.

Other students who have brought honour to their alma mater as Isbister Scholarship winners were Mrs. Lillian Pauls (nee Hooze), Dr. Ernie Redekop, Dr. Harold Dyck, and Mrs. Lorraine Neufeld (nee Brown). In 1955, Mrs. Neufeld graduated in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba with a gold medal. After the formation of Garden Valley School Division, Don Klassen received an Isbister Scholarship for this district for an average of over 80% in grade XII. Among the local students who have graduated with doctorates and have been engaged to lecture at Canadian and American universities, there are the following: Carl Braun, Lloyd Siemens, Peter Pauls, David R. Dyck, and John A. Voth.

John Friesen, the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Friesen, developed an early interest in dramatics and took leading parts in plays and musicals while he attended the Winkler High School. Later he studied drama at Moorhead State College, Minnesota, and then went on a scholarship to England where he enrolled at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. In 1972, Mr. Friesen appeared as one of the actors on the CBC TV Series, "The Whiteoaks of Jalna" which is based on Mazo de la Roche's novel.



Dr. Walter P. Dyck, the son of Mr. Isaac P. Dyck, was born in Winkler where he received his elementary and high school education. He is now the director of Gastro-intestinal Physiology Clinic in Temple, Texas, and it is here that he carries on his extension research work in the field of gastroenterology in which he has become an internationally recognized trailblazer. In the summer of 1972, Dr. Dyck lectured on this subject at the International Gastroenterology Congress in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

In years past, all students in Manitoba from grades VIII to XII had to write some final departmental examinations which were set by the High School Examination Board and administered by the provincial Department of Education through the teachers at the high schools. During the month of July, these papers were then marked centrally at the Department of Education by high school teachers and university professors. Originally, the examination papers were individually marked but more recently the trend was toward chain marking. However, the Department of Education has progressively abolished the final examinations until in June, 1970, the grade XII University Entrance candidates were the only students required to write finals for the last time to obtain a clear standing. From now on all marking and grading is done by the classroom teacher who fails or passes the students in his subjects as determined by the year's work. Hence, it is now not as feasible to determine provincial Isbister and other scholarship winners based purely on the marks of the final results.



**Dr. Ernest Sirluck — President of the University of Manitoba**

Dr. Ernest Sirluck, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Sirluck, was born in 1918 at Winkler where his father operated a general store, a large farm, and a grain elevator. Dr. Sirluck attended public and high school in Winkler. Even as a teenager in high school, his appreciation of English literature was very evident in the classroom. His teachers were much aware that he was a

voracious reader and excelled in oral and written expression. Reminiscing about his school days, Dr. Sirluck jokingly suggested that Frank Brown was possibly the only teacher on the staff at Winkler who had not applied the strap to his seat of understanding. In 1942, he was married to the former Lesley Caroline McNaught of Toronto. They have two children, Robert and Katherine. Mrs. Sirluck's recollections of Winkler go back to the first visit to her in-laws at Winkler when she was awakened in the morning by the bugle of the cowherd who was chasing the milk cows, that had just been loosed by their owners, down the streets to the common pasture outside the village.

Dr. Sirluck graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba in 1940. He then continued his studies at the University of Toronto where he received the Master of Arts degree in 1941. After overseas service with the Canadian Army during World War II, Dr. Sirluck was discharged with the rank of major. In 1948, he graduated from the University of Toronto with a Ph.D.

Dr. Sirluck lectured in English literature at the University of Chicago and in London, England. He returned to the University of Toronto in 1962 where he was appointed dean of graduate studies in 1964, and vice-president in 1969. On July 1, 1970, Dr. Sirluck's appointment as president of the University of Manitoba became effective. He is the seventh president that the University has had since it was established by an Act of the provincial legislature in 1877. Dr. Sirluck is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, has been active on many national and international organizations, and has published numerous articles, books and pamphlets. He is a leading scholar and authority on the English poet John Milton.

Some of the awards and honours conferred on Dr. Sirluck have been as follows:

- 1945- — Member of the Order of the British Empire (Military Division).
- 1953-54 — Guggenheim Fellow (year spent in British Museum).
- 1958-59 — American Council of Learned Societies Fellow (year spent in British Museum).
- 1966- — Overseas Fellow, Churchill College, Cambridge.
- 1967- — Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.
- 1968- — LL.D., Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Dr. Sirluck has held the following University appointments:

- 1946-47 — Lecturer, University College, Toronto.
- 1947-62 — University of Chicago, Department of English: 1947-53 Assistant Professor; 1953-58 Associate Professor; 1958-62 Professor.
- 1962-70 — University of Toronto: Professor of English, University College; 1962-64 Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies; 1964-69 Dean, School of Graduate Studies; 1969-70 Vice-President and Graduate Dean.
- 1970- — President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Manitoba.



He has also served on many Committees of higher learning, such as,

- 1951-52 — President, Midwest (now Newberry Library) Renaissance Conference.
- 1957- — Chairman, Section 4, Modern Language Association of America.
- 1959-65 — Founding President, Renaissance English Text Society.
- 1962-70 — Chairman, Ontario Council of Graduate Studies.
- 1963-65 — Board of Directors, Midwest Inter-Library Centre (Chicago).
- 1963-65 — Final Review Committee, Canada Council.
- 1964-71 — Editorial Board, Complete Prose Works of John Milton (Yale University Press).
- 1964-67 — Canadian Committee for Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships.
- 1965-69 — Board of Governors, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.
- 1966-69 — Policy Committee, Association of Graduate Schools (U.S.); Chairman, 1968-69.
- 1967-69 — Science Council-Canada Council Study of Research in Canadian Universities.
- 1967-69 — Member, Ontario Graduate Appraisals Committee.

As Dr. Sirluck is an authority on John Milton, the bibliography of his publications of books, monographs, articles and reviews includes a number of literary works on the poet Milton.

- 1959- — Complete Prose Works of John Milton Vol. II (New Haven: Yale University Press).
- 1967- — Paradise Lost: A Deliberate Epic (Cambridge: Heffer).
- 1965- — Patterns of Literary Criticism. General editors: McLuhan, Schoeck, and Sirluck (University of Chicago Press and University of Toronto Press).
- "Milton Revises The Faerie Queene," Modern Philology, XLVIII, 2(Nov. 1950), 90-96.
- "Eikon Basilike, Eikon Alethine, and Eikonoklastes," Modern Language Notes, LXIX, 7(Nov. 1954), 497-502.
- "Milton's Criticism of Hall's Grammar," Modern Language Notes. LXXIII (Jan. 1958), 8-9.
- "Milton's Political Thought: The First Cycle," Modern Philology, LXL (1964), 209-24.
- "Tolstoy," Canadian Forum, XXVI, 312(1947), 238.
- Alan H. Gilbert, On the Composition of Paradise Lost, Modern Philology, XLV, 4(1948), 273-75.
- C. P. Stacey, The Canadian Army, 1939-45, International Journal, Autumn 1948, 366-69.
- F. Michael Krouse, Milton's Samson and the Christian Tradition, Modern Philology, XLVIII, 1(Aug. 1950), 70-72.
- Howard Schultz, Milton and Forbidden Knowledge, Church History, XXVI, 2(June 1957), 1-4.

- Roland M. Frye, God, Man, and Satan: Patterns of Christian Thought and Life in Paradise Lost, Pilgrim's Progress, and the Great Theologians. Modern Philology, LIX (1961), 68-69.

#### Robert Edward Diemert — Engineer

Another Winkler Collegiate graduate who does not have too much competition in his field of activity, is Mr. Bob Diemert of Carman, Manitoba. Bob was a member of the 1956 grade XII graduating class and even at that time his interest in mechanics was revealed through his grades in the sciences and also through his restoration and building of jalopies. This 31-year old pilot and self-taught aircraft engineer is now devoting all his time and energy to the building and restoration of airplanes.

Mr. Diemert who operates his own 12-acre Friendship Field at Carman, arranged with the RCAF in January, 1969, to supply a Hercules aircraft to fly out a deserted and decaying Val bomber and three Zeros from the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, after Bob with the help of the natives carted the wartime relics by foot and dugout canoe from the old Japanese air base at Ballale. They were barged to Port Moresby, New Guinea, and flown out by the Canadian Forces Transport Command. Mr. Diemert's contact man in the Solomon's was Father Cyril O'Grady, a Catholic priest who serves his flock from the Mission Station Neila in the Shortland Islands.

Bob expects to complete the restoration of the Val bomber in 1971 and its destination will then be the museum. This type of bomber was used by the Japanese on Sunday, December 7, 1941, in their surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor. It was also used during World War II to harass the troops and ships as the Allied forces island-hopped in the direction of Japan in the closing phase of the war. After Mr. Diemert, the mechanical wizard, has rebuilt the Val it will be a better airplane than the original 1,300 horse-power bomber turned out by the Mitsubishi Kinsei plant in wartime Japan. The Diemert Val, restored from the original blueprints by 5,000 man-hours of work, will be powered by a 1,700 horse-power Wright Cyclone engine which was used in the Second World War by U.S. Mitchell bombers. After completion of the Val bomber, Bob plans to restore the once formidable Zero fighters.

On August 16, 1972, the Winnipeg Free Press carried the following news release from Toronto: "A Japanese Val bomber of the Second World War, only one of its kind left, landed at nearby Downsview air base one day this summer. Resurrected from a jungle airstrip, it will wind up in a Canadian Armed Forces display.

"The plane was piloted by Bob Diemert of Carman, Manitoba, with his wife Elaine as co-pilot. He salvaged the plane from an overgrown landing strip on the Island of Ballale in the northern British Solomon Islands in the South Pacific.

"It took Diemert four months to reassemble the bomber in his hangar at Carman and another month to get it a certificate of airworthiness.

"All of the plane is original except for the motor which is from an American B-25.

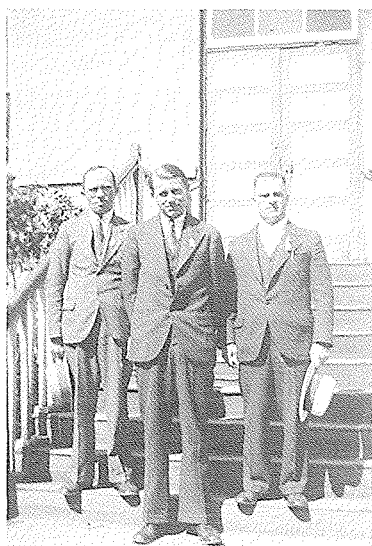
"The bomber eventually will be presented to the Ontario government for the armed forces display at Ontario Place in Toronto."



Grades 5 and 6 in 1931



Grades IX and X, 1937



The High School Staff, 1934



School Parade, 1928. Picture taken from the veranda of Stanley Hotel on South Railway Avenue. Note the five tennis courts near the CPR tracks.



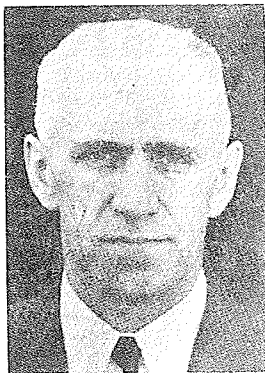
Grades IX and X in 1941



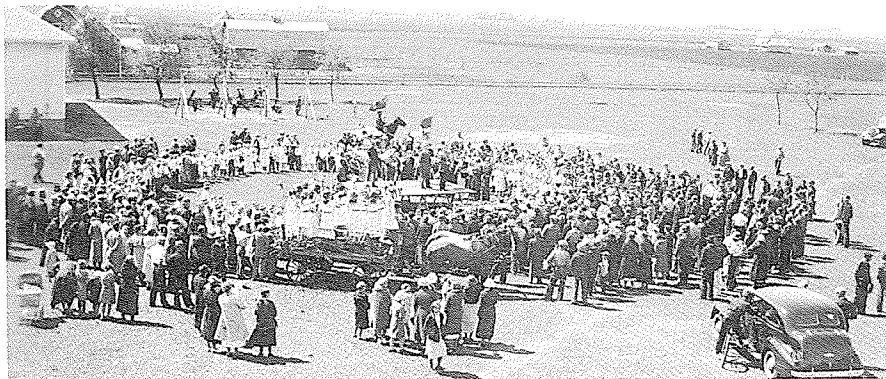
The Teachers, 1940



School parade moving south on Main Street in Winkler in 1916. Dr. Smythe is seen standing at the open door of his office and Bill Esau is standing to the left. Note W. Graefer's blacksmith shop, Graefer residence, the Altona Machinery Company Limited, post office, A. Nitikman Store, Giesbrecht's Livery Barn, Chinese Restaurant, and Kroeker Bros. Store. Mr. J. H. K. Dyck at the wheel of the Ford touring.



Dr. G. J. Siemens, Principal, 1940-44.



1937, forming a parade on the school grounds.

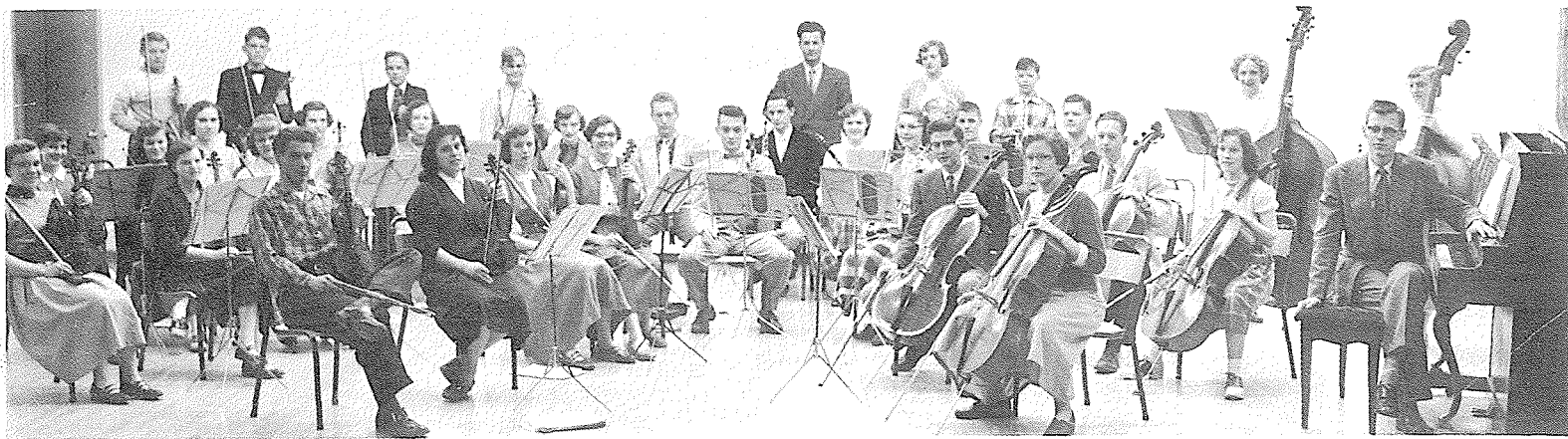


1937 parade on Main Street going south



Dr. J. Bergen, Principal, 1958-63





Winkler High School Orchestra, 1954. Conductor J. P. Redekopp in centre.



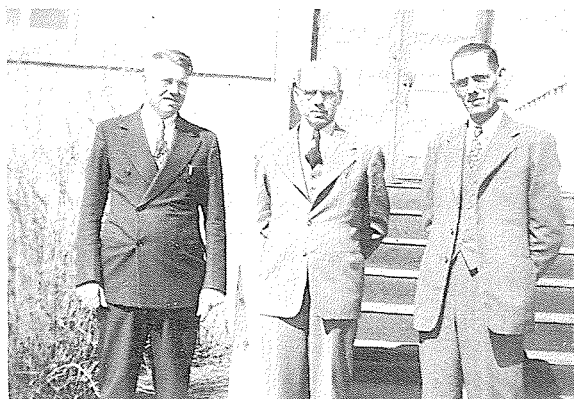
1958 Winkler Collegiate Orchestra; J. P. Redekopp, conductor.



Collegiate Choir, 1963



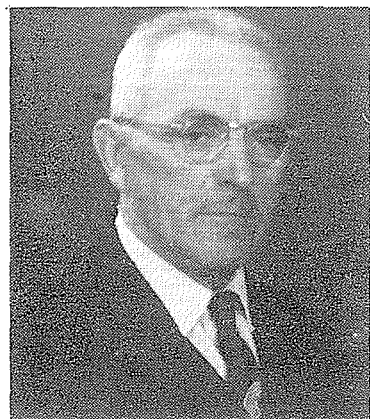
High School Orchestra, 1961.



The High School Staff, 1945



The Winkler Staff, 1941.



Mr. John H. Penner, Janitor of Schools  
1930-54



The Winkler Teaching Staff, 1948



Winkler Collegiate Staff, 1953. Left to Right: Frank Brown; Dr. David Friesen; Peter Brown, Principal (1944-58); George G. Siemens; Norma Rempel; Herb Neufeld.



**Winkler School District No. 747  
Enrolment  
(Post World War II Growth, 1943-1960)**

Elementary				Sub-
Year	Kdgn.	Res.	Non-R	Total
1943				243
1944				204
1945				230
1946				250
1947				265
1948				264
1949				281
1950				315
1951				325
1952				317
1953	45			404
1954	60			410
1955	53			438
1956	60	395	7	462
1957	58	446	2	506
1958	57	454	2	513
1959	54	463	4	521
June 1960	63	489	4	556
Sept. 19, 1960	52	494	4	550(d)

Secondary				Grand
Year	Res.	Non-R	Sub-Total	Total
1943			66	309
1944			61	265
1945			78	308
1946			100	350
1947			128	383
1948			138	402
1949			137	418
1950			131	446
1951			142	467
1952			146	463
1953			156	560
1954			171	581
1955	75	112	187	625
1956	106	122	228	690
1957	131	115	246	752
1958	129	105	234	747
1959	137	104	241	762
June 1960	134	104	238	794(b)
Sept. 19, 1960	150	113	263(c)	813

All the figures in **TOTAL** columns from 1943-1960 are taken from **NET ENROLMENT** of the annual June reports on Enrolment, Attendance, etc., that are prepared for the Dept. of Education and Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

**Breakdown by grades, Sept. 19, 1960**

Kindergarten .....	52
Grade I .....	78
Grade II .....	60
Grade III .....	64
Grade IV .....	63
Grade V .....	55
Grade VI .....	71
Grade VII .....	52
Grade VIII .....	55
Grade IX .....	71
Grade X .....	72
Grade XI .....	67
Grade XII .....	53

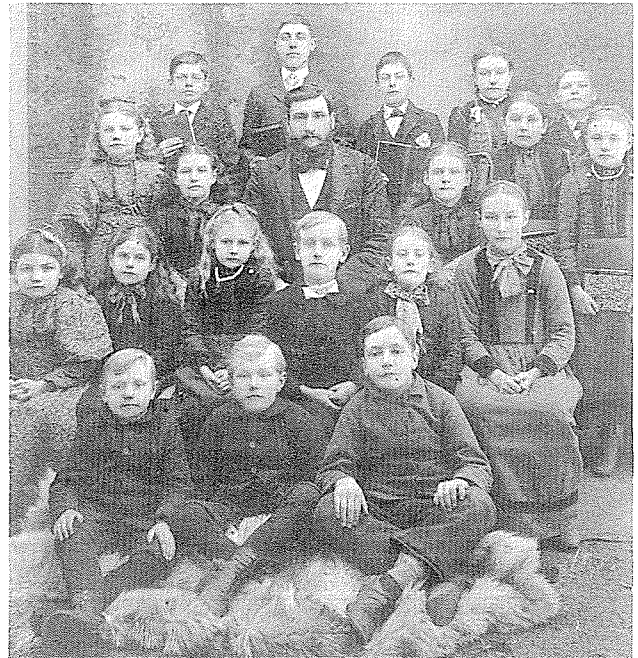
When we consider the ethnical groups that have made their homes in Winkler and have sent their children to school here, there are no very striking trends, except that the percentage of Dutch-Mennonite pupils in school has increased slightly whereas there were no children of Jewish extraction in attendance in 1952. The following are the percentages for a number of years according to racial descent:

Year	Mennonite	German	Jews	Anglo-Saxon	Dutch	Ukrainian	Chinese
1896	82%	9%	3%	6%			
1910	71%	20%	3½%	2½%	3%		
1925	82%	8%	7%	2%	½%		½%
1935	89%	5½%	3%	1½%		1%	
1952	94%	4%		1½%		½%	

**The Teachers and the Principals**

The first teacher of the Winkler School District was Mr. Cornelius B. Fast. In 1893, he received a salary of \$550 and taught on an Interm Certificate. He had come here from Minnesota, U.S.A. In fact, the first six teachers who were hired by the Winkler S.D. were brought here from Kansas or from Minnesota through the efforts of Rev. H. H. Ewert. Rev. Ewert himself had come from Kansas in 1891, in order to accept the principalship of the M.C.I. at Gretna, Manitoba. Later, he also served as public school inspector for this area.

The only lady who has served as principal of the Winkler School was Miss Margaret V. Bennett. She taught here from 1904 to 1907. From 1907 to 1912, Mr. Joe S. Wolkof acted as principal. Later, Mr. Wolkof served as minister of the Church of God at Morden. Mr. A. M. Headlam, M.A., 1912-1913, appears to have been the first principal of the Winkler School who held a university degree.



**Pupils in a Private School with Cornelius B. Fast as teacher in the village of Rosenbach, about 1892. In 1893 when Winkler S.D. No. 747 was organized, Mr. Fast became the first principal.**



**Frederick Philip Grove — Principal and Author**

In 1912, Dr. Robert Fletcher, Deputy Minister of Education for Manitoba, looked up from his desk in the Legislative Building in Winnipeg and saw a tall, lanky man with fair hair and blue eyes, clad in overalls. As Frederick Philip Grove approached the Deputy Minister, he apologized for the overalls and sought advice about employment as a teacher in Manitoba. When Dr. Fletcher discovered that the applicant knew the German language, he suggested a Mennonite School which was then vacant at Haskett near the North Dakota border. In 1913 Mr. Grove came to Winkler where he was the principal from 1913 to 1915. He taught the first grade XI class in the Winkler High School. During his last year here, Mr. Grove also instructed a class of four grade XII students in night classes. Although he knew several languages, he arranged with Mr. P. H. Neufeld who was in charge of the grades V — VIII classes, to instruct German in the high school and he as principal would then substitute for his colleague in the elementary grades. Evidently, Mr. Grove believed in discipline for on one occasion when the students were lining up outside in order to march into the school, George W. Neufeld who later served as mayor of Winkler, was not toeing-the-line and as a result the principal struck him on the head with the school bell in order to discourage any mischief on the part of a frisky pupil. However, when the pupils would kill a mouse, their principal objected violently at the destruction of life. As mice frequented the inside of the school building, Mr. Grove usually kept several oat sheaves in his classroom for these hungry creatures during the winter months. He is remembered by his former students as a "teller of tales."

Mr. Grove was born in Malmoe, Sweden, in 1872, of mixed Scotch and Swedish ancestry. There were eight daughters and one son in the family but the parents had become estranged and separated after the birth of Frederick. He attended school in various European countries, such as France, Italy, Germany and Russia, as his artistic mother led a life of travel. His young manhood was spent in extensive travel and he visited every continent. In 1890, he crossed Siberia on horseback and sleigh. Mr. Grove arrived in Canada in 1892, and here at last he made his home. The young man put his hand to whatever offered itself, even dish-washing in a Toronto restaurant, and for eighteen years drifted through the western States and Canada, working chiefly as a farm hand during the summer and fall, and then

writing in some hide-out during the winter months. Apparently, his ambition was to find a spot, preferably in the Pembina Hills in southern Manitoba where he could write his impressions of America. While waiting in the railway station at Fargo, North Dakota, he was reading "Fleurs du Mal" by Baudelaire, when a young priest from St. Boniface, Manitoba, happened to notice the French poetry and stopped to talk to Grove who told him of his ambitions. Learning of Grove's educational background, the priest suggested that he seek a position as teacher in Manitoba and gave him a letter of reference to Dr. Fletcher, Deputy Minister of Education.

While Mr. Grove was principal of the school at Winkler, he was attracted to one of the elementary teachers, Miss Catherine Wiens, whom he married in 1914 when he was forty-one years of age. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Grove rented the upper storey of Mr. John J. Loewen's Hardware Store as living quarters on the east side of Main Street where Gladstone's Shopping Center is now located. The following year when Mr. Grove was teaching mathematics at Virden, their daughter Phyllis May was born. To mend the family coffers, his wife accepted a position as teacher of a one-room school thirty-four miles north of Gladstone where he had become principal of the high school. Each week-end he drove out to see his wife and child. His first published book, "Over Prairie Trails" is a record of seven of these trips, each describing a different aspect of nature at varying seasons of the year.

Mr. Frederick Philip Grove is possibly the only ex-principal of the Winkler High School who has won national fame. He wrote his first book, "Search for America" in 1894, while working as an agricultural laborer. It was published in 1927, and in 1952 the Program of Studies for the Department of Education listed "A Search for America" by F. P. Grove as one of the novels prescribed for the Grade X Literature Course. "Our Daily Bread" is the story of his wife's family, the Lowe Farm Wienses, called Elliotts in the novel which has a setting in southern Saskatchewan.

As Grove was driving along a bush road one evening, a wild dog rushed at his horse, seized it by the nose, and hung there for a moment. The horse reared, lashed out with its feet, demolished the buggy and compelled the driver to jump for his life. At that instant something snapped in his back and the following day his legs crumpled under him and left Grove helpless for a time. As a result, he was never quite freed from the threat of invalidism.

Grove and his wife taught school at Rapid City, Manitoba, for eight years and much of his best writing was done there. Just as his prospects were improving, the Groves were steeped in sorrow when the apple of their eyes, Phyllis May, was suddenly taken from them. She was buried in the Rapid City Cemetery. When Frederick Philip Grove died in 1948, at the age of 76, he was buried, as was his wish, beside his 12-year-old daughter at Rapid City.

Mr. Grove acquired the B.A. degree in 1922 from the University of Manitoba, as an extramural student. Professor A. L. Phelps, Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, and Principal J. H. Riddell of Wesley College (now the University of Winnipeg) were impressed with his writings

and gave him their support. Because Mr. Grove wanted to devote his whole time to writing and because of deafness, 1923 was his last year in the classroom. Just before the depression came, he bought a dairy farm at Simcoe, Ontario. In 1946 the University of Manitoba conferred on Mr. Grove the degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) in absentia.

In 1962 the Library of the University of Manitoba purchased from Mrs. Grove a collection of her husband's manuscripts and unpublished writings. These are housed in the rare bookroom off the Library where they may be consulted by any one wishing to do research work on this controversial author. This bookroom also contains the original high school register which Mr. Grove kept in his classroom while he was principal at Winkler. A xeroxed copy was returned to Mr. John H. Wiebe, secretary-treasurer of the Garden Valley School Division.



**Mr. John R. Walkof — Principal**

Two brothers, Joe S. Walkof and John R. Walkof, who together devoted 82 years to teaching in the public and high schools of southern Manitoba, and who married two sisters, Agatha Klassen and Justina Klassen respectively, were the sons of Mr. and Mrs. S. Walkof who immigrated to Canada from Romania in 1886. Rev. and Mrs. Joe S. Walkof were married in 1907, and Mr. and Mrs. John R. Walkof were united in marriage at Winkler on August 29, 1909.

Mr. John Robert Walkof was born December 3, 1888, at Gretna, Manitoba, and died July 31, 1965, at the farm home he enjoyed so much in the Blumstein district. During the 56 years of their married lives, Mr. and Mrs. Walkof made their farm home into a park and sanctuary for children, relatives and friends, as well as for the song birds that find shelter there in summer and winter. At the age of twelve, Mr. Walkof moved with his parents to a farm at Wakeham, fifteen miles south of Morden, where he grew up to young manhood and learned to love and appreciate nature. The large wooded farmyard at Blumstein with the playground of teeterboards, swings and slides for children, the shady arbors for Sunday visitors, the bird houses for the feathered friends, and the many flowers which Mrs. Walkof has continued to grow inside and outside, have been a "thing of beauty and a joy for ever" to many visitors who literally experienced the sentiments expressed in one of Mr. Walkof's favourite school songs entitled, "Give Me My Flowers While I Live."

Mr. Walkof began his teaching career when he was seventeen years old and continued to teach for forty-five years. He taught in the school districts at Kronsfield, Glencross, Blumstein, Zion, Valleyfield, Plum Coulee, and Wakeham, but spent the greatest number of years in the Winkler High School as principal. He earned the Bachelor of Arts degree by attending the University of Manitoba summer schools.

Mr. Walkof was the principal with the longest tenure in the Winkler District No. 747. He served here for a period of 24 years, from 1916 to 1940. The year before Mr. Walkof came to Winkler, the enrolment had been 186 and the teaching staff numbered five. By 1940, the school population had risen to 331 and the staff to nine. The 1951 Yearbook of the Winkler Collegiate Institute was dedicated to Mr. J. R. Walkof. The dedication reads as follows: "This 1950-51 edition of the Collegian is respectfully dedicated to Mr. John R. Walkof whose progressive and indomitable spirit has for half a century contributed to the welfare of this community, not only as teacher and educator, but also as reeve and organizer.

"During his 24 years as principal of the school at Winkler, he raised the status of the one-roomed High School to that of a Collegiate Department, acted as president of the Rhineland-Stanley Teachers' Association, pioneered in Education Week, organized two Summer Schools at Winkler, a Seed Grain, and a Boys' and Girls' Fair.

"God bless you, Mr. & Mrs. John R. Walkof, and may happiness follow you throughout the years."

His former students remember Mr. Walkof as a friendly and jovial pedagogue who brought humour and wit into the classroom. However, sometimes he was unpredictable, and on one occasion when there was a knock at the door and he was called out of the classroom by a neighbour who sought his help, Mr. Walkof returned to find some of the students had not used their time to study but had been kicking over the traces of permissiveness. He straightway asked all the students who had been talking out of turn to stand, come forward, and then line up in front of the class. As over half of the class marched to the front, he gave them their choice between singing a solo or taking a strapping. In the meantime he sent one of the pupils downtown to Sirluck's Store in order to fetch a pair of overalls which the girls (they all wore skirts) who might object to singing a solo, could put on for the seat-warming exercise. Possibly, because he had only one sister and her name was Mary, the writer during this reprimand reluctantly made his debut as a soloist when he sang in recitative "Mary Had A Little Lamb". Needless to say, the overalls were returned to the local store neatly wrapped.

Mr. Walkof was also an active participator and promoter of sports, particularly baseball and soccer. In soccer, his agility and speed enabled him to manoeuvre around his opponents, while in baseball his favourite position was behind home plate. Although he had a defective heart condition, this did not prevent him from participating on the playground. However, when the bell announced the end of recess, Mr. Walkof would frequently keep his class waiting for him in the classroom while he went up to his office to sit down for a few minutes to give his heart time to catch up a few beats.

In 1941, Mr. Walkof was the Liberal candidate for this Constituency in the Manitoba provincial elections. He was opposed by Mr. Miller, Conservative, and by Mr. Stevenson, Independent. Mr. W. C. Miller was elected.

1973, Mrs. Walkof with her flowers



#### Mr. Isaac J. Dyck - Teacher

Mr. I. J. Dyck was born in Nickolaipol, Russia, on December 8, 1896. Upon completion of "Zentral Schule" at the age of 17, he attended for three years the "Real Schule" at BerdJansk. Then he studied mathematics and science at the University of Kharkov where he also took a course in mechanical engineering at the Institute of Technology.

In 1924 Mr. Dyck came to Canada and resumed his studies so that after one year at the University of Manitoba and another year at the Provincial Normal School in Winnipeg, he joined Mr. John R. Walkof, the principal, as the second teacher on the Winkler High School staff. He remained on the staff for fourteen years and in the meantime through extramural study, graduated with a B.A. in 1932. In 1941 Mr. Dyck left the teaching profession for three years to work as a research chemist in a munitions laboratory at Transcona. In 1944 he was appointed principal of the Mennonite Educational Institute at Clearbrook, B.C. Later he taught in a high school at Vancouver, and in 1970 Mr. and Mrs. Dyck toured Russia with their Camper.

#### Dr. Gerhard J. Siemens - Principal

Mr. Gerhard J. Siemens, B.Sc., M.Sc., who later graduated with a doctorate, was the principal at Winkler from 1940 to 1944. Having been employed during the summer months as a university student with a travelling Canadian Chautauqua, Mr. Siemens had become interested in dramatics and devoted his extracurricular activities to the presentation of plays and puppet shows by high school students. Dr. Siemens has become a

widely known professor and lecturer on genetics at the Universities of Toledo, Ohio, and Denver, Colorado.

As Mennonite communities traditionally looked askance at dramatic presentations of plays which they associate with the theatre that does not always appeal to the noblest emotions in man, some parents, as well as students, have on occasions objected to participation in certain operatic and dramatic performances. For this reason, Mr. Siemens usually presented a repertoire of plays that was based on school texts or on novels from English literature courses. Hence, he selected plays published by the North Western Press of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The type of scene that has continued to be somewhat offensive locally deals with whiskey and drunken brawls, smoking, blasphemy, and suggestive language. In spite of these reservations, plays like Sean O Casey's "Juno and the Paycock" have been staged. However, in 1970 a number of high school students objected to the presentation of Wilde & Eunson's "Guest In The House", and the director, Mr. Jake Pauls, finally dropped the rehearsals.

#### Mr. P. H. Siemens — Teacher

Mr. Peter H. Siemens was born March 1, 1878, at Alt Schoenwiese, South Russia, and died May 20, 1956, at the Bethel Hospital in Winkler, Manitoba. His father, Mr. Peter P. Siemens who was born April 24, 1854, and his mother, Mrs. Katharine (Goertzen) Siemens, born April 26, 1854, emigrated from Russia to Mountain Lake, Minnesota, in 1879, but several years later they moved to Manitoba and settled at Schanzenfeld where son Peter attended school together with John B. Dyck and Jacob A. Kroeker who later both became prominent business men in Winkler. Later the parents of Mr. P. H. Siemens moved to Gretna, Manitoba, where his father sold religious literature and Bibles. From here the parents moved to Walla, Washington, and then south to Dallas, Oregon. On June 18, 1905, Mr. P. H. Siemens was married to Miss Maria Sawatzky who was born December 10, 1882, and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Sawatzky of Hochstadt, a village near Altona. Rev. H. H. Ewert officiated at the wedding and read for a text, Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Mr. P. H. Siemens began his career as a teacher at the age of seventeen years. He taught for two years in private schools and forty-two years in the public schools of Manitoba. Mr. Siemens was engaged as teacher in the districts of Rosenbach, Schanzenfeld, Edenburg, Amsterdam, Altona, Lowe Farm, and from 1920 to 1939 he served on the Winkler staff where he was in charge of grades VI, VII, and VIII, and had as many as eighty pupils enrolled in his classroom register. For many years he taught the grades VII and VIII classes here. Mr. Siemens was a disciplinarian who enjoyed singing and fretwork, and making mercury barometers and thermometers with R., F., and C. readings.

Mr. Siemens took pleasure in his beautiful handwriting and from 1921 to 1930 he put it to practise as secretary for the village of Winkler. On school holidays, he used to crank up his 1920 Ford Touring,



pack his family of eight children into the car, and take them for a ride singing his favourite songs as they passed through the nearby villages. Mr. Siemens was a member of the Winkler Mennonite Bergthaler Church where he was active as Sunday School teacher and as member of the (Jugendverein) Young People's Committee.



**Mr. Peter Brown - Principal**

Mr. Peter Brown, B.S.A., B.Ed., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Braun, was born at the parental farm home on Highway 3, one mile south of the present Burwalde School. Here he completed grades I to IX with Miss Vera Strange, Mr. I. J. Warkentin, and Rev. A. A. Dick as his teachers. However, at that time the old red schoolhouse was situated across the Dead Horse Creek on the north side of the bush. At Winkler where he enrolled for grades X and XI, Mr. I. J. Warkentin and Mr. Fred Grove served respectively as principals in the one-room high school. For his grade XII, Mr. Brown went to the M.C.I. at Gretna with Rev. H. H. Ewert, Mr. A. P. Friesen, and Mr. J. E. Linscheid as instructors. In reflecting about his former pedagogues, he concludes with "I had only good teachers; they always knew more than I did."

Since Mr. Brown grew up on the farm, it was understood that every one of the nine children in the family had certain chores to perform. However, no motivation was necessary when at the age of ten his father allowed him to stay home from school for a day to fire the steam engine while they were threshing flax for a neighbor. Then, to top it all off at the end of the day, his dad rewarded him with a dollar.

In the distribution of the chores on his father's farm, Mr. Brown was assigned to the hog barn, while still attending the public school at Burwalde. With more than 100 hogs to feed slop and a large barn to clean every morning and evening, it occurred to him one day that a few more feeders would make only a very small dent in the feed supply, and surely Dad would just never notice the additional porkers. Consequently, to add to his personal interest, the youngster purchased two twenty-five pounders from a co-operative neighbor and tossed

them into a pen with others of their size. However, he had quite under-estimated his dad's powers of observation for these swine were spotted the first day. Fortunately, there were no repercussions, probably because the father appreciated the endeavours of his son to get into the hog business and at the same time to learn his first lesson in agriculture which later stood him in good stead at the Manitoba Agricultural College which is now a faculty of the University of Manitoba.

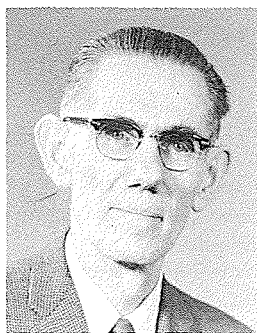
Mr. Brown devoted 44 years of his life to teaching in the following public and private schools of Manitoba: Greenfarm, Haskett, the Gretna M. C. I., the Gretna Public School, Winkler Collegiate Institute, and Viscount Alexander and St. John's High School in Winnipeg. He acted as principal of the Gretna Public School for thirteen years and of the Winkler Collegiate for fourteen years. The enrolment in the Gretna High School class increased from 14 to 46 during the thirteen years that Mr. Brown served as principal, and similarly the student body at Winkler Collegiate rose from 71 in 1944 to 234 in 1958.

Professionally, Mr. Brown served as president of the Rhineland-Stanley Teachers' Association and was an executive member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, the Altona-Gretna Teachers' Local, and the Board of Governors of the Manitoba Teachers' Endowment Fund.

Besides attending to his duties as school principal, Mr. Brown served on numerous committees and found time to put the town of Winkler on the map through his flare of writing for local and Winnipeg newspapers. He was press reporter for the Winnipeg Free Press, the Winnipeg Tribune, the Mennonite Weekly Review, the Red River Valley Echo, the Winkler Progress, and the Morden Times. Not only did he put out the first yearbooks for the M.C.I. and the Public School at Gretna, as well as for the Bethel Hospital and Winkler Collegiate, but he also contributed articles to the Mennonite Encyclopedia and Time Magazine. His public offices included service on the Gretna Village Council, the Winkler Co-op Creamery, Bethel Hospital, and chairman of the Winkler District Hospital Board.

Mr. Brown's commercial interests have involved charter membership of the Board of Directors of Co-op Vegetable Oils, of Southern Manitoba Broadcasting Company since its inception in 1957, and president of the Board of Gardenland Packers. Besides until recently, he owned and operated a 980-acre farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown are members of Bethel Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, where Mr. Brown serves on the Board of Trustees, Sunday Evening Service Committee, and as Statistician and Recording Secretary. They have a family of four children. Mr. Brown wears a Red Cross Blood Donor's button which signifies thirty donations. He is now publishing a book covering six generations (1834-1972) of the descendants of his grandparents, Jacob Braun and Maria Fast.



**Mr. George G. Siemens - Teacher**

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Siemens, the grandparents of Mr. George G. Siemens, emigrated from Russia in 1874 with the intention of taking up a homestead in Manitoba. However, when they came by steamer down the Red River as far as Emerson and saw the vast open prairies, they turned back at the International Boundary and returned to Fargo, North Dakota. After a few years as their children grew up, they decided to come to Manitoba and settle on the west reserve where they joined their kin and were able to worship in a Mennonite Church. Mr. G. G. Siemens was born March 25, 1902, at Rosenfeld where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Siemens, operated a farm. In June, 1929, he was married to Miss Tina Heinrichs in the village of Bergfeld. The two sons, Reynold and Lloyd, born to this union are lecturers in English at the Universities of Alberta and Winnipeg respectively, while the daughter Kathy is enrolled as an undergraduate student in sociology at the University of Winnipeg.

Mr. Siemens received his elementary education from grades I to IX at Rosenfeld where his father served as trustee. Some of his teachers at Rosenfeld were Miss Minnie Porte, Dr. Henry Epp, and Mr. George Wolkof. At the age of eighteen, Mr. Siemens started teaching as a permittee with grade IX standing when he was invited to take over the New Kennedy School in the middle of the school year. He also enrolled in home-study courses—and during the summer months attended a local Summer School at Altona. While teaching at Thames, he continued his studies to complete grade XI. During the years 1925-26, Mr. Siemens took professional teachers' training at the Provincial Normal School in Winnipeg. After he was engaged as teacher at Pleasant Valley he enrolled in the University of Manitoba as an extra-mural student and began to attend Summer School at the Fort Garry Campus. In 1934, he accepted the principalship of Kane Consolidated School and in 1935 Mr. Siemens graduated with the Bachelor of Arts degree. Later, he completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Education degree. From 1944 to 1967 Mr. Siemens was a member of the staff at Winkler and Garden Valley Collegiates where he taught mathematics and physics. Strangely, the trite phrase, "as father, so son", does not find application in the interests of his two teaching sons who are professors of English.

After 45½ years of teaching in the public and high schools of southern Manitoba, Mr. Siemens was honoured at a Recognition Banquet held in the Winkler Elementary School Auditorium on Monday, June 26,

1967, and sponsored by the Garden Valley School Division and Winkler School District trustee boards. The following speakers paid tribute to Mr. Siemens as a meticulous, conscientious, and well-loved teacher: Don Klassen, president of Garden Valley Collegiate Student Council; John F. Wiebe, president of Garden Valley Teachers' Local; Dr. C. W. Wiebe, long-time Winkler school trustee; Henry Neufeld, principal of Garden Valley Collegiate Institute; Abe Dyck, principal of Winkler Elementary School; Isaac R. Dyck, chairman of the Winkler School District; John Chalaturnyk, inspector of schools; Frank Brown, fellow-teacher at Garden Valley Collegiate; Ben Siemens, an older brother; and George Groening, Kane.

For a number of years Mr. Siemens served as treasurer of the Winkler Bergthaler Church. He has been a director of Winkler Co-op Service since 1945 and at the 1970 annual meeting was presented with an engraved wrist watch in recognition of 25 years of continuous service. Mr. Siemens is also a director of the Winkler Credit Union Society, and acted as secretary-treasurer of the Winkler School District from 1946 to 1971. In 1968 he was elected as trustee to the Garden Valley School Division Board. Besides teaching and serving on many boards and committees in the community, Mr. Siemens found time to look after a 550-acre farm. The students in the classroom always appreciated his well-known subtle humor which he injected into a lesson in physics, and at literary programs they enjoyed his unique strumming of the guitar.

#### **Frank Brown - Teacher**

A banquet was arranged at the Winkler Elementary School Auditorium on September 20, 1971, by the trustee boards of Winkler School District No. 747 and Garden Valley School Division No. 26, on the occasion of the retirement of Frank Brown who was born on a farm north of town, took his high school training here, continued studies in Winnipeg, and then returned to complete forty years of teaching at Winkler. The roster of after dinner speakers at the banquet included John W. Kuhl, chairman of Winkler School District; George G. Siemens, chairman of Garden Valley School Division; Henry F. Wiebe, mayor of Winkler; Nick Wiebe, councillor of the Town of Winkler; Bob Hildebrand, president of Garden Valley Student Council; Henry Neufeld, principal of Garden Valley Collegiate; Dr. C. W. Wiebe, former chairman of Winkler School Board; George Hildebrand, president of Garden Valley Teachers' Local; R. L. McIntosh, inspector of schools; John A. Janzen, principal of Winkler Elementary School; Rick Wiebe, a former student; George I. Brown, an older brother; and Rev. Ben Wiebe who spoke the invocation.

In reply, the writer expressed his appreciation for all the good wishes extended to him and suggested that possibly the good Lord, as well as the trustees, the teachers, the students and the parents had had a lot of patience with him.

## **The Trustees of Winkler School District No. 747**

Excellent service to the community has been rendered by the local citizens who have served on the Winkler School Board. The trustees of the first School Board in 1893 were Isaac Dyck, Abram Kroeker, and Peter Peters. During the years since 1893, the following trustees, as well as many others, have given unstintingly of their time: Rev. Gerhard Wiebe (10 years); J. A. Kroeker (10 years); J. J. Enns (11 years); Rev. John Warkentin (12 years); Bernhard Loewen (12 years); J. M. Elias (12 years); Herb D. Dick (13 years); and Dr. C. W. Wiebe (24 years). Mr. H. F. Wiebe served 11 years on the Winkler School Board and another 4 years on the Garden Valley Board, for a total of 15 years.

For 18 years out of the 24 years that Dr. Wiebe has served on the School Board, he has acted as chairman of the Board. He was chairman in 1929 when the primary school was built; in 1948 when the building for the elementary grades was erected; and again 1954 when another 14 classrooms and the auditorium were constructed. Dr. Wiebe has also served on the Manitoba Trustee Association, the Canadian Medical Association, and in 1932 he was elected to the Manitoba Legislature as Liberal candidate for the electoral division of Morden-Rhineland. He saw Bethel Hospital grow from infancy to manhood.

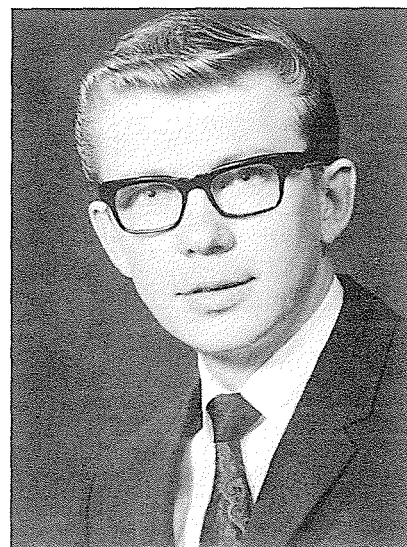
## **Growth and Activities of the School**

Music and singing have always been stressed in the Public and in the High School at Winkler. The Winkler School Orchestra, organized by Mr. Ben Horch and later directed by Mr. Jacob P. Redekop, has made a definite contribution to the enrichment of the community life. The efforts of Dr. K. H. Neufeld in helping the Winkler Teachers' Local to organize a Musical Festival in 1932, have also goaded the children on to participate in this field of study. Mrs. Elsa Redekop and many other music teachers have helped to make this a singing and a playing community. Mr. Jacob G. Loewen and Mr. Isaac M. Miller have each organized and conducted a number of brass bands.

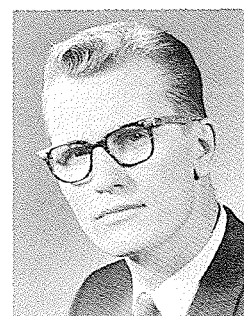
When Mr. F. P. Grove was the principal of the one-room high school at Winkler (1913-1914), he added grade XI to the classes here in town. There were four students in that first grade XI class and twenty-two pupils in the three high school grades IX, X, and XI. During the school year 1926-27, grade XII was introduced when sixteen students registered for this grade. At that time there were a total of sixty-nine pupils enrolled in the four high school grades IX, X, XI, and XII. Mr. John R. Walkof, the principal, was assisted by Mr. Isaac J. Dyck on the high school staff.

The growth of the High School has kept pace with the rest of the public school. In September, 1926, a second high school teacher was added to the staff. This was changed to a Collegiate Department with three teachers in 1928. In 1948 the high school staff was increased to four members thus raising the status of the High School to a Collegiate Institute. With the organization of a Commercial Department in 1949, it was necessary to add

a fifth teacher to the Collegiate staff. A sixth teacher was added to the Collegiate staff in Sept., 1953, and as the high school population continued to grow, it was necessary to add another member to the Collegiate staff in 1954.



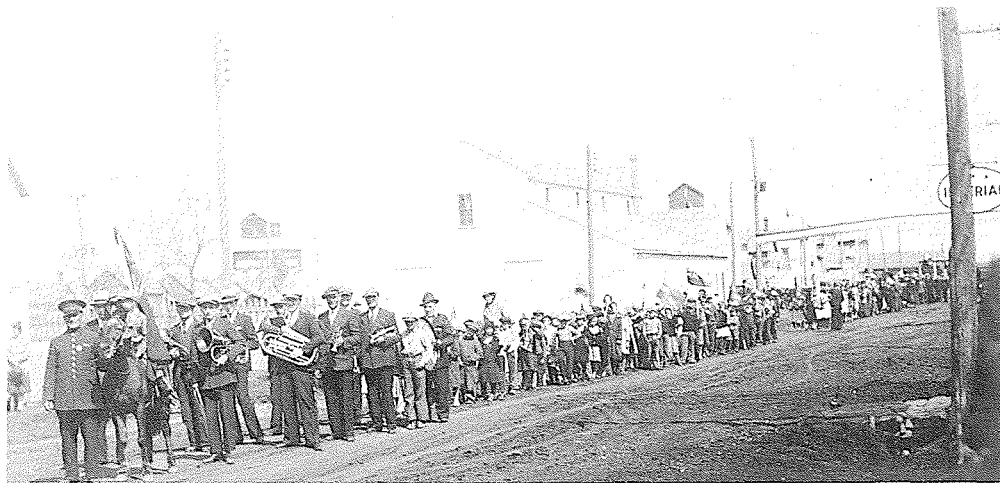
**John A. Janzen, Principal 1969-73**



**A. Dyck, Elementary Principal 1965-69**



**I. J. Warkentin, Principal 1912-13**

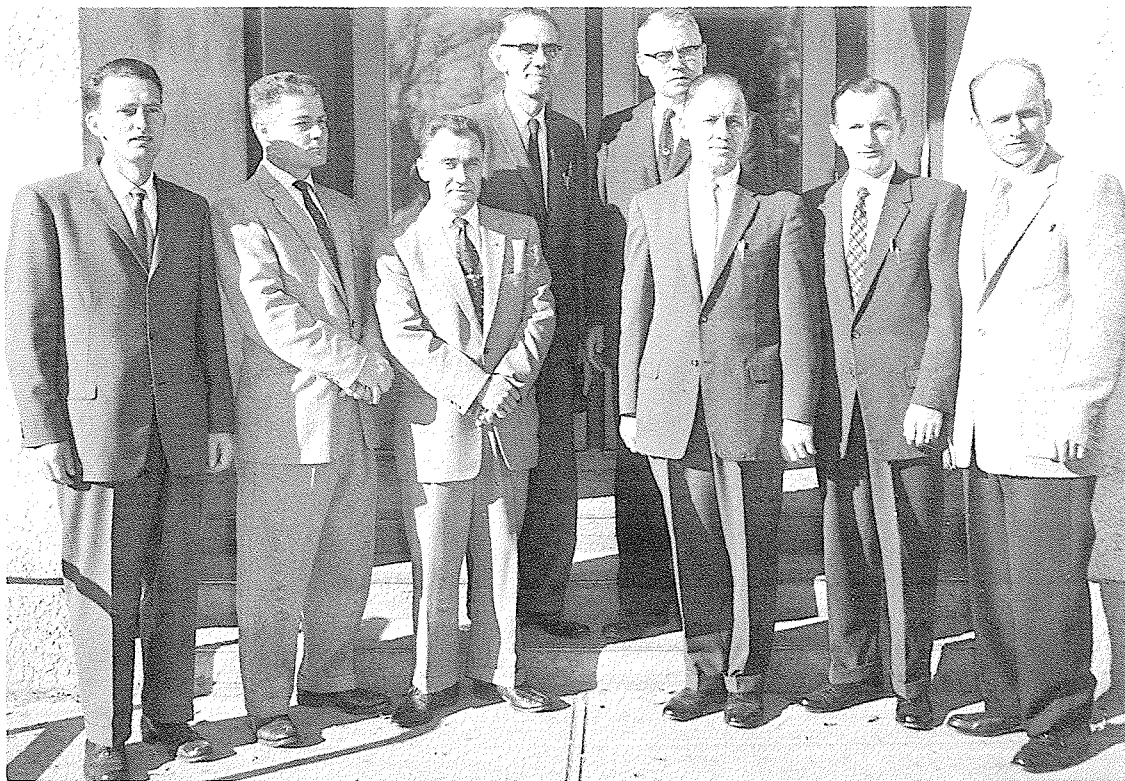


Mr. Jack Felde leading the school parade past the Monarch Lumber Yard at Main Street and Mountain Avenue. The occasion was the King George V Silver Jubilee May 6, 1935.

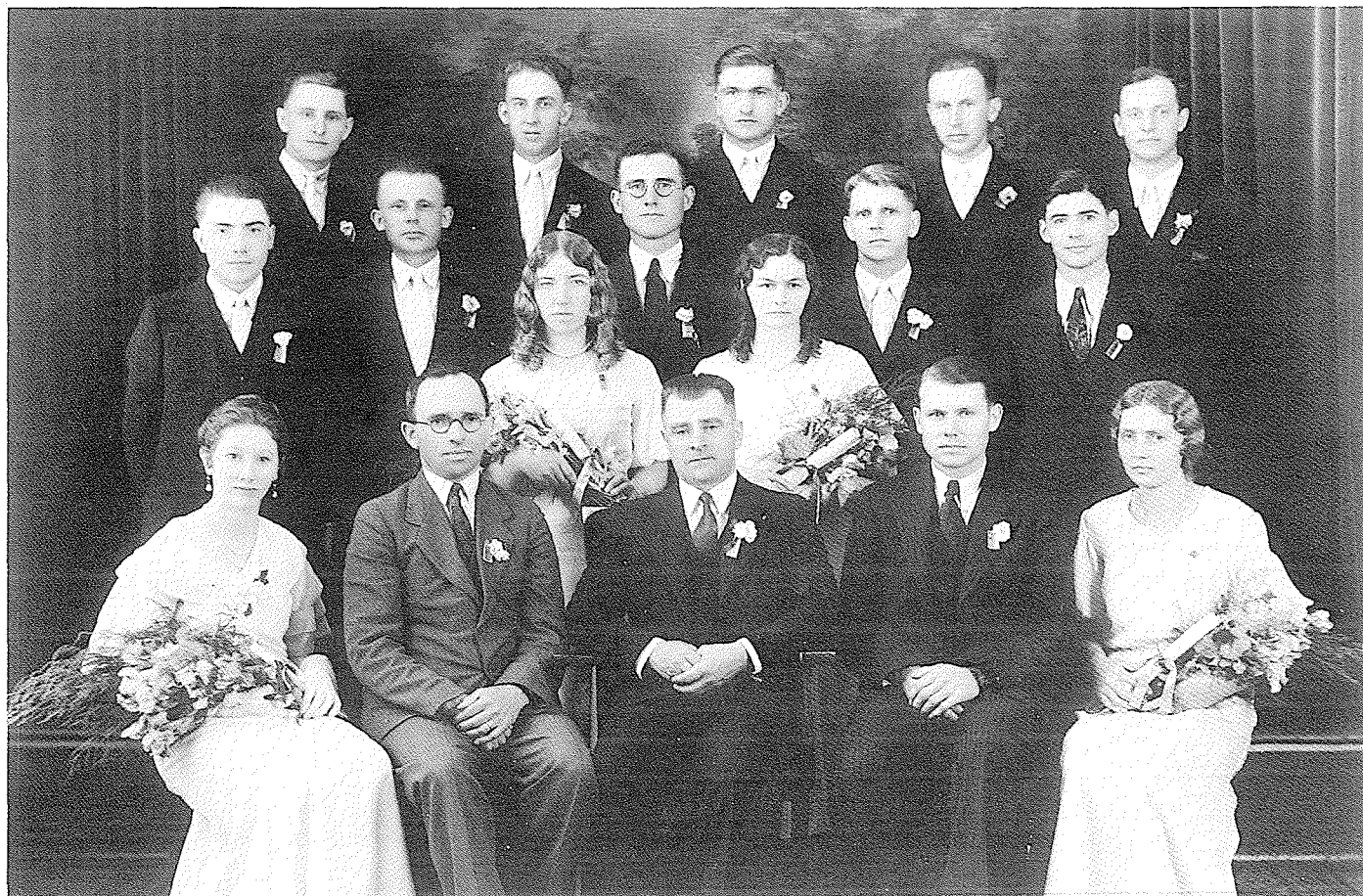


1926-27 The First Grade XII Class in Winkler. Front row: (L. to R.) M. Dyck; F. Brown; Mr. I. J. Dyck, teacher; Mr. J. R. Walkof, principal; A. Penner. Second row: T. Elias; A. Kroeker; H. Derksen; A. Neuman; M. Winters; S. Voth; N. Gladstone. Third row: P. W. Kroeker; W. Hoepfner; A. Friesen; P. H. Funk; J. Bueckert; A. Fleischman.





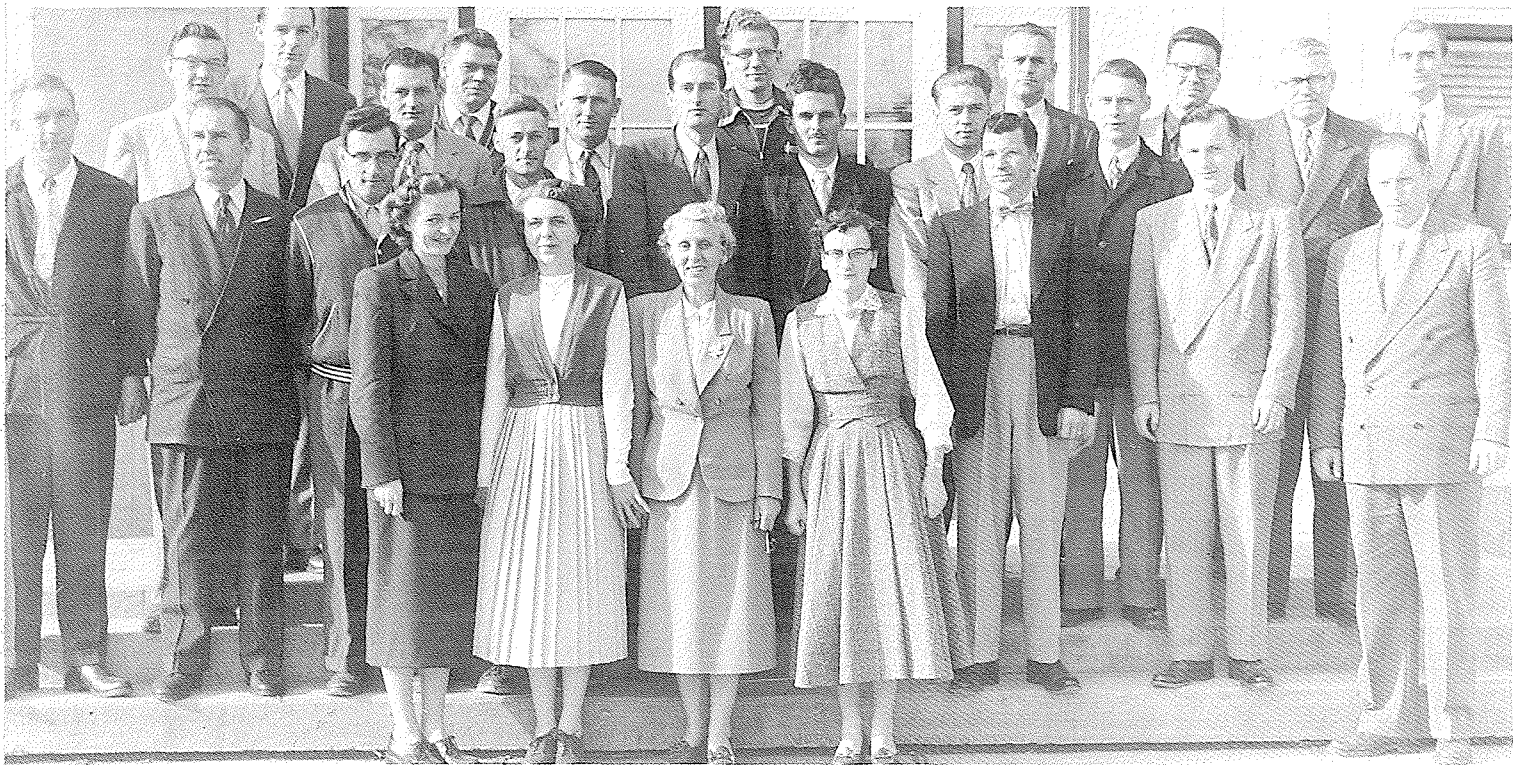
Collegiate Staff 1960. (L. to R.) D. Friesen; J. P. Redekopp; J. Bergen, Principal; G. G. Siemens; F. Brown; H. Thiessen, Vice-principal; C. Braun; J. Dyck.



Grade XII class with the staff, 1933



1933-1973. Grade XII Class Reunion after forty years. Left to Right: Mr. and Mrs. John Epp, Winnipeg; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Riediger, B.C.; Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Pries, Winkler; Mr. and Mrs. J. Wedel, Winnipeg; Mr. and Mrs. W. Brown, Morden; Mr. and Mrs. F. Brown, Winkler; Mr. and Mrs. F. Klassen, Ontario.



November, 1954, local area teachers meeting at Winkler for classes in Education with Dr. Eleanor Boyce, Faculty of Education.

## Finances

The following shows for a number of years, how much of every dollar spent on education in the Winkler School District was: (a) Paid by local taxpayers (b) Paid out for teachers' salaries.

Year	(a)	(b)
1906	89c	73c
1922	87c	78c
1932	78c	67c
1936	82c	59c
1940	73c	55c
1945	80c	63c
1950	63c	58c

Estimated or actual expenditures and grants of the Winkler School District.

Year	Total Expenditures	Teachers' Salaries	Grants
1906	\$ 2,896.97	\$ 2,095.00	\$ 327.72
1907	2,690.00		
1908	3,304.49	2,485.00	392.40
1909	2,586.84		
1910	2,501.58		
1914	4,947.83		
1918	5,395.00	3,860.00	
1919	5,810.00	4,200.00	
1920	8,920.00	6,350.00	1,950.00
1922	14,005.00	10,915.00	1,950.00
1923	9,505.00	6,400.00	
1924	8,635.00	5,950.00	
1925	7,465.00	5,000.00	1,350.00
1926	7,738.26	5,090.00	
1927	8,607.23	5,900.00	
1928	10,305.85	6,300.00	
1929	12,296.78	6,828.00	
1930	32,483.84	8,900.00	
1931	13,878.06	8,341.70	2,850.00
1932	12,450.00	8,285.00	2,850.00
1933	9,650.00	5,925.00	2,715.00
1934	9,950.00	5,980.00	2,715.00
1935	9,950.00	5,980.00	1,965.00
1936	10,600.00	6,220.00	1,930.00
1937	12,090.40	6,492.00	3,185.20
1938	12,759.01	6,832.00	3,596.28
1939	13,526.34	7,573.00	3,899.77
1940	13,819.30	7,614.00	3,754.25
1941	13,314.84	7,874.55	3,625.50
1942	13,103.69	7,863.18	3,535.90
1943	15,534.27	8,474.70	3,967.13
1944	18,424.48	11,427.00	3,780.30
1945	19,720.00	12,500.00	3,900.00
1946	23,265.00	15,350.00	4,700.00
1947	30,000.00	16,550.00	11,582.10
1948	34,720.00	23,000.00	15,841.66
1949	47,088.00	29,000.00	19,297.12
1950	49,388.00	29,000.00	17,936.49
1951	54,518.00	34,000.00	18,877.46
1952	54,678.00		

### Chairmen of the School Board of the Winkler School District No. 747

1893-1901 Not available  
 1902-1903 William Esau  
 1904- W. H. Taylor  
 1905-1906 Bernhard Loewen  
 1907-1908 William Martens  
 1909-1910 Frank E. Rietze  
 1911-1912 Not available  
 1913-1914 Jacob P. Penner

1915- Jacob A. Kroeker  
 1916-1917 Not available  
 1918- Jacob A. Kroeker  
 1919- Abram K. Friesen  
 1920- Jacob A. Kroeker  
 1921- Sam Nitikman  
 1922-1924 John J. Enns  
 1925-1926 Abram A. Kroeker  
 1927- John J. Enns  
 1928- John J. Loewen  
 1929-1940 Dr. Cornelius W. Wiebe  
 1941- John J. Enns  
 1942-1943 William M. Enns  
 1944-1945 Herbert D. Dick  
 1946- William M. Enns  
 1947- Dr. C. W. Wiebe  
 1948- Herb D. Dick  
 1949-1950 John H. K. Dyck  
 1951-1955 Dr. C. W. Wiebe  
 1956-1963 Henry F. Wiebe  
 1964-1966 Isaac R. Dyck  
 1967-1969 H. W. Bergen  
 1970-1972 John W. Kuhl

### Trustees of Winkler School District No. 747

1893 Isaac Dyck, Abraham Kroeker, Peter Peters  
 1894 Isaac Dyck, Abraham Kroeker, Johann Warkentin  
 1895 Wilhelm Peters, Abraham Kroeker, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1896 Wilhelm Peters, Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1897 Wilhelm Peters, Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1898 Jacob Wiens, Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1899 Jacob Wiens, Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1900 Jacob Wiens, Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1901 Wilhelm Esau, Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1902 Wilhelm Esau, Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin  
 1903 Wilhelm Esau, W. H. Taylor, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1904 Bernhard Loewen, W. H. Taylor, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1905 Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1906 Bernhard Loewen, Rev. J. Warkentin, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1907 William Martens, Rev. J. Warkentin, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1908 William Martens, Frank E. Rietze, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1909 John Enns, Frank E. Rietze, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1910 John Enns, Frank E. Rietze, Isaac Dyck  
 1911 John Enns, Bernhard Loewen, Isaac Dyck  
 1912 Jacob A. Kroeker, Bernhard Loewen, Isaac Dyck  
 1913 Jacob A. Kroeker, J. P. Penner, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1914 Jacob A. Kroeker, J. P. Penner, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1915 Jacob A. Kroeker, William L. Esau, Gerhard Wiebe  
 1916 Not available  
 1917 J. A. Kroeker, W. L. Esau, Abram K. Friesen  
 1918 J. A. Kroeker, W. L. Esau, Abram K. Friesen  
 1919 J. A. Kroeker, W. L. Esau, Abram K. Friesen



- 1920 J. A. Kroeker, John J. Enns, Abram K. Friesen  
 1921 Sam Nitikman, John J. Enns, Abram K. Friesen  
 1922 Sam Nitikman, John J. Enns, Henry Enns, John M. Elias, F. Derksen  
 1923 Sam Nitikman, John J. Enns, John J. Loewen, John M. Elias, F. Derksen  
 1924 Abram A. Kroeker, John J. Enns, John J. Loewen, John M. Elias, Isaac Dyck  
 1925 Abram A. Kroeker, A. K. Friesen, John J. Loewen, John M. Elias, Isaac Dyck  
 1926 Abram A. Kroeker, A. K. Friesen, John J. Loewen, John B. Dyck, J. J. Enns  
 1927 Abram A. Kroeker, A. K. Friesen, John J. Loewen, John B. Dyck, J. J. Enns  
 1928 William G. Graefer, A. K. Friesen, John J. Loewen, John B. Dyck, Peter Bueckert  
 1929 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, A. J. Toews, Frank Derksen, J. M. Elias, Peter Bueckert  
 1930 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, A. J. Toews, Frank Derksen, J. M. Elias, Peter Bueckert  
 1931 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, A. J. Toews, George J. Doell, J. M. Elias, Peter Bueckert  
 1932 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, A. J. Toews, George J. Doell, J. M. Elias, Isaac J. Wiens  
 1933 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, A. J. Toews, P. Bueckert, J. M. Elias, Isaac J. Wiens  
 1934 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, F. K. Friesen, P. Bueckert, J. M. Elias, J. A. Kroeker  
 1935 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, F. K. Friesen, W. M. Enns, J. M. Elias, J. A. Kroeker  
 1936 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, F. K. Friesen, W. M. Enns, J. M. Elias, J. A. Kroeker  
 1937 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, F. K. Friesen, Isaac J. Wiens, H. D. Dick, J. A. Kroeker  
 1938 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, John J. Wiens, Isaac J. Wiens, H. D. Dick, John J. Enns  
 1939 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, John J. Wiens, William M. Enns, H. D. Dick, John J. Enns  
 1940 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, John J. Wiens, William M. Enns, H. D. Dick, John J. Enns  
 1941 Henry H. Janzen, John J. Wiens, Peter F. Derksen, C. H. Grunau, John J. Enns  
 1942 Henry H. Janzen, W. M. Enns, Peter F. Derksen, Math. W. Miller, H. D. Dick  
 1943 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, W. M. Enns, Jacob E. Kroeker, John J. Wiens, H. D. Dick  
 1944 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, W. M. Enns, Jacob E. Kroeker, John J. Wiens, H. D. Dick  
 1945 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, W. M. Enns, Jacob E. Kroeker, Jacob F. Peters, H. D. Dick  
 1946 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, W. M. Enns, Jacob E. Kroeker, Cornelius H. Grunau, H. D. Dick  
 1947 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, W. M. Enns, Isaac G. Krahn, Cornelius H. Grunau, H. D. Dick  
 1948 Dr. C. W. Wiebe, John H. K. Dyck, Isaac G. Krahn, Max Gladstone, H. D. Dick  
 1949 Peter T. Klassen, John H. K. Dyck, Henry H. Janzen, Max Gladstone, H. D. Dick  
 1950 Peter T. Klassen, John H. K. Dyck, Henry H. Janzen, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, H. D. Dick  
 1951 Peter T. Klassen, John H. K. Dyck, Henry H. Janzen, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Peter D. Labun  
 1952 Peter T. Klassen, J. E. Kroeker, Henry H. Janzen, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Peter D. Labun  
 1953 H. F. Wiebe, J. E. Kroeker, H. S. Penner, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Mrs. M. Klassen  
 1954 H. F. Wiebe, J. E. Kroeker, H. S. Penner, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, Mrs. M. Klassen  
 1955 H. F. Wiebe, J. E. Kroeker, H. S. Penner, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, August Young  
 1956 H. F. Wiebe, H. H. Janzen, H. S. Penner, Donald Loewen, August Young  
 1957 H. F. Wiebe, H. H. Janzen, E. B. Loewen, Donald Loewen, David Penner  
 1958 H. F. Wiebe, H. H. Janzen, E. B. Loewen, P. D. Wiebe, David Penner  
 1959 H. F. Wiebe, H. H. Janzen, E. B. Loewen, P. D. Wiebe, David Penner  
 1960 H. F. Wiebe, H. H. Janzen, E. B. Loewen, P. D. Wiebe, David Penner  
 1961 H. F. Wiebe, H. H. Janzen, Dr. Harold U. Penner, P. D. Wiebe, David Penner  
 1962 H. F. Wiebe, H. H. Janzen, Dr. Harold U. Penner, P. D. Wiebe, Henry F. Hiebert  
 1963 H. F. Wiebe, Dr. H. U. Penner, I. R. Dyck, P. D. Wiebe, Henry Hiebert  
 1964 Isaac R. Dyck, Peter D. W. Wiebe, H. W. Bergen, George W. Enns, Dr. H. U. Penner, (Alex Epp)  
 1965 I. R. Dyck, Alex Epp, G. W. Enns, H. W. Bergen, P. D. Wiebe  
 1966 I. R. Dyck, John W. Kuhl, H. W. Bergen, G. W. Enns, Alex Epp  
 1967 H. W. Bergen, A. Epp, J. W. Kuhl, Peter J. Kroeker, G. W. Enns  
 1968 H. W. Bergen, A. Epp, J. W. Kuhl, G. W. Enns, Peter J. Kroeker  
 1969 H. W. Bergen, Jacob P. Wiebe, Walter Siemens, J. W. Kuhl, G. W. Enns, John Kroeker  
 1970 J. W. Kuhl, Philip R. Enns, Aron Dyck, Gordon Kehler, J. P. Wiebe, W. Siemens  
 1971 John W. Kuhl, Walter Siemens, Gordon Kehler, Philipp Ens, Aron Dyck, Jake P. Wiebe  
 1972 J. W. Kuhl, W. Siemens, G. Kehler, J. P. Wiebe, A. Dyck, P. Ens

#### Secretaries of the Winkler School District No. 747

- 1893-1894 Isaac Dyck  
 1895- Rev. John Warkentin  
 1896-1902 Bernhard Loewen  
 1903-1911 Rev. Gerhard Wiebe  
 1912- Bernhard Loewen  
 1913-1915 Rev. Gerhard Wiebe  
 1916- Not available  
 1917-1919 William L. Esau  
 1920-1930 Abram K. Friesen  
 1931- Frank K. Friesen  
 1932-1935 Cornelius H. Grunau  
 1936-1945 Harry S. Friesen  
 1946-1971 George G. Siemens  
 1971-1972 John H. Wiebe



# Principals of the Winkler School District No. 747

Year	Name	Standing	Salary
1893-1894	Cornelius B. Fast	Interim	\$ 550
1895	P. B. Krehbiel	Permit	540
1896-1898	John P. Isaac	Third Class	500-550
1899-1900	George R. Belton	Second Class	500-600
1901	J. C. Butchart	Professional IA	660
1902	H. McDiarmid, H. Learmie	B.A.	600
1903	Jas. A. McTavish	First Class	660
1904-1906	Margaret V. Bennet	IA	750-700
1907-1911	Joe S. Wolkof		725-750
1912-	A. M. Headlam	M.A.	
1913	Isaac J. Warkentin		
1914	Fred Grove		
1915	D. McLeod & W. A. Gamey		
1916-1940	John R. Walkof	B.A.	1,100-1,450
1940-1944	George J. Siemens	B.Sc., M.Sc.	1,500-1,750
1944-1958	Peter Brown	B.S.A., B.Ed.	2,000-5,850
1958-1963	John Bergen	B.Sc., M.Ed.	6,000-8,900
1964-1965	Rev. Died. Gerbrandt	B.A., B.Ed., B.R.E.	9,450-9,450
1965-1969	Abe Dyck	B.A., B.Ed.	9,780-12,981
1969-1973	John A. Janzen	B.A., B.Ed.	12,350-17,050

## Teachers of the Winkler School District No. 747

1893-94	Cornelius B. Fast	1923-24	J. F. Sawatsky, P. G. Christie, P. H. Siemens, Emma Gruenke
1894-95	Gustav R. Toews	1924-25	Anna Hamm, G. E. Penner, P. H. Siemens, Helen H. Siemens (Colman, Thompson)
1895-96	Mary Enns	1925-26	Anna Hamm, G. E. Penner, P. H. Siemens, Helen H. Siemens
1896-97	Mary Enns	1926-27	Anna Hamm, G. E. Penner, P. H. Siemens, Helen H. Siemens, I. J. Dyck, L. Cowie, Helen L. Friesen
1897-98	Agatha Isaac	1927-28	Helen L. Friesen, Elizabeth Elias, P. H. Siemens, J. H. Giesbrecht, L. Cowie
1899-1900	Henry Graff, Louis Penner	1928-29	F. L. Cowie, Elizabeth Elias, J. H. Giesbrecht, I. J. Dyck, I. Thomasson, P. H. Siemens
1901-02	Henry Graff, Jacob H. Riesen	1929-30	E. R. Elias, P. H. Siemens, Mary Loewen, J. H. Giesbrecht, I. J. Dyck, Ages Penner, Catherine Derksen
1902-03	Henry Graff, Jacob H. Riesen	1930-31	Agnes Penner, Catherine Dagg, J. H. Giesbrecht, I. J. Dyck, P. H. Siemens, Mary Loewen, E. R. Elias, B. D. Klippenstein
1903-04	Henry Graff, Henry Riesen	1931-32	P. H. Siemens, F. Brown, I. J. Dyck, E. R. Elias, L. E. Hooze, Helen Derksen, H. M. Heinrichs, J. H. Giesbrecht
1904-05	Peter H. Neufeld, Jacob F. Sawatsky	1932-33	P. H. Siemens, E. R. Elias, W. Schultz, I. J. Dyck, E. L. Siemens, Helen Derksen, Agatha Epp, F. Brown
1905-06	Peter H. Neufeld, Sara Voth	1933-34	H. Derksen, P. H. Siemens, Reinhard Friesen, E. L. Siemens, F. Brown, I. J. Dyck, Lillian Hooze, Susan Peters
1906-07	Peter H. Neufeld, D. W. Fast	1934-35	I. J. Dyck, Lillian Hooze, Susan Peters, E. L. Siemens, F. Brown, P. H. Siemens, R. Friesen, H. Derksen
1907-08	Peter H. Neufeld, Helen L. Warkentin	1935-36	P. H. Siemens, R. Friesen, H. Derksen, E. L. Siemens, F. Brown, L. E. Hooze, S. Peters, I. J. Dyck
1908-09	Peter H. Neufeld, A. K. Friesen	1936-37	R. F. Friesen, S. Peters, Johanna M. Reimer, Justina Klassen, I. J. Dyck, P. H. Siemens, H. Derksen, F. Brown
1909-10	Peter H. Neufeld, A. K. Friesen, M. Harder, G. E. Wolkof	1937-38	P. H. Siemens, H. Derksen, F. Brown, Harry Rempel, Justina Klassen, I. J. Dyck, R. Friesen, Mrs. A. V. Peters, S. Peters
1910-11	George E. Wolkof, H. L. Warkentin, P. H. Neufeld, A. K. Friesen		
1911-12	L. E. Dyck, I. J. Warkentin, Tina Striemer, P. H. Neufeld, H. L. Warkentin		
1912-13	T. Wiens, J. J. Enns, P. H. Neufeld, H. L. Warkentin		
1913-14	T. Wiens, J. J. Enns, P. H. Neufeld, H. L. Warkentin		
1914-15	J. J. Enns, H. L. Warkentin, P. H. Neufeld		
1915-16	P. H. Neufeld, J. J. Enns, Tina Enns, H. L. Warkentin		
1916-17	P. H. Neufeld, J. J. Enns, Tina Enns, H. L. Warkentin		
1917-18	Helen Hiebert, Tina Enns, J. J. Enns		
1918-19	Helen Hiebert, Helena H. Siemens, J. J. Enns		
1919-20	Helen Hiebert, Helena H. Siemens		
1920-21	H. Warkentin, M. Derksen, P. H. Siemens, M. E. Nielson		
1921-22	M. W. Alison, M. Rusenel, P. H. Siemens, S. Segal		
1922-23	M. Lamb, P. G. Christie, P. H. Siemens, Emma Gruenke		

1938-39	Kate Klassen, Mrs. A. V. Peters, F. Brown, Harry Rempel, Eva Janzen, I. J. Dyck, Annie N. Reimer, H. Derksen, P. H. Siemens, Lynda Penner		Loewen, Katie Janzen, Mrs. Charlotte Mck. Isaac, Abe Siemens, J. I. Brown, Mrs. Tina Kehler, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Elizabeth Reimer, Jacob P. Redekop.
1939-40	Annie N. Reimer, H. Derksen, Nick G. Neufeld, Lynda Penner, I. J. Dyck, S. Peters, Agatha Warkentin, F. Brown	1953-54	George G. Siemens, F. Brown, Herb V. Neufeld, N. Rempel, D. Friesen, K. Janzen, Mrs. C. Isaac, Henrietta R. Schellenberg, Evelyn Kuhl, Caroline M. Stobbe, A. Siemens, J. P. Redekop, Mrs. Helene Goertzen, E. Reimer, Mrs. T. Kehler, Mrs. Helen Friesen, Mrs. Martha Wonnick, George W. Neufeld, John I. Brown.
1940-41	Jean E. Comba, Agatha Warkentin, F. Brown, Olga Kehler, I. J. Dyck, Concordia G. Neufeld, N. G. Neufeld, Iris H. Sharpe		
1941-42	William Friesen, H. Friesen, N. G. Neufeld, F. Brown, A. Warkentin, Olga Kehler, Mrs. Erna A. Peters, Elizabeth Dyck	1954-55	G. G. Siemens, D. A. Friesen, H. V. Neufeld, F. Brown, Jake Derksen, Anne Dyck, Mrs. Gordon Kehler, Evelyn Dyck, Anne Enns, K. Janzen, E. Hildebrand, Mrs. Helen Friesen, Mrs. M. Wonnick, A. Siemens, H. Schellenberg, A. Driedger, George W. Neufeld, J. P. Redekop, J. I. Brown.
1942-43	W. Friesen, Martha H. Pokrant, F. Brown, Rudy Mehmel, N. G. Neufeld, Olga Kehler, Mrs. M. Elsie Warkentin, A. Warkentin		
1943-44	Mrs. M. Elsie Hiebert, Mrs. M. H. Wonnick, Mary W. Klassen, N. G. Neufeld, Olga Kehler, Henry Goertzen, W. Friesen, F. Brown	1955-56	G. G. Siemens, F. Brown, Jake Hiebert, Jake Doerksen, Gordon Senoff, G. W. Neufeld, Mrs. T. Kehler, E. Kuhl, Mrs. Helena Friesen, Madaline Pries, Helen Boldt, J. P. Redekop, A. Siemens, Albert Braun, Eileen Toews, Carl Braun, K. Janzen, Kristine Friesen, J. I. Brown, D. Friesen.
1944-45	Henry Goertzen, (Jake D. Pauls), F. Brown, Mrs. M. H. Wonnick, Elsa Sawatzky, Jacob G. Siemens, Anne E. Friesen, Mary E. Goertzen, George G. Siemens.		
1945-46	H. M. Friesen, Mrs. A. E. Goertzen, John I. Brown, F. Brown, George G. Siemens, Henry H. Goertzen, Jessie Dyck, Mrs. M. H. Wonnick, Lily Shaefer	1956-57	G. G. Siemens, D. A. Friesen, F. Brown, G. Senoff, A. Wieler, David Winter, Henry Konrad, Mrs. T. Kehler, Mrs. Henry Dyck, Mrs. H. Friesen, Anne Hildebrand, M. Pries, Mrs. Kristine Friesen, K. Janzen, Wm. Goertzen, George Krahn, C. Braun, G. Neufeld, A. Siemens, J. I. Brown, J. P. Redekop.
1946-47	Henry H. Goertzen, F. Brown, J. I. Brown, Mrs. M. H. Wonnick, Jacob P. Redekop, Edna Siemens, Mrs. A. E. Goertzen, Irene Janzen, G. G. Siemens		
1947-48	Edna Siemens, Mrs. A. E. Goertzen, Irene Janzen, G. G. Siemens, F. Brown, J. I. Brown, H. H. Goertzen, J. P. Redekop, Henry Wiebe	1957-58	Mary Ann Hooge, Jake Letkeman, Henry Konrad, Alvin Wieler, G. G. Siemens, F. Brown, D. Friesen, Dave Winter, Ernie A. Kroeger, Mrs. H. Friesen, Mrs. K. Friesen, K. Janzen, Anna Bergen, Mary Penner, Bill Goerzen, J. P. Redekopp, A. Siemens, J. I. Brown, Abe Dyck, C. Braun, George P. Krahn, Jake W. Dyck, Emma M. Klassen, Mrs. T. Kehler.
1948-49	G. G. Siemens, John J. Peters, J. P. Redekop, Henry Wiebe, F. Brown, J. I. Brown, Mrs. Helen Friesen, Irene Janzen, Edna Siemens, (Helen E. Peters), Mary J. Loewen, Dorothy E. Wiebe, Marion Smith.	1958-59	Dave Winter, G. G. Siemens, A. Wieler, F. Brown, J. Letkeman, Henry Thiessen, C. Braun, J. I. Brown, Mrs. Helen Loewen, Mrs. T. Kehler, Mrs. K. Friesen, Margaret Harder, M. Penner, A. Bergen, Anne Derksen, Mrs. A. Thiessen, K. Janzen, E. Klassen, Bill Goerzen, A. Dyck, A. Siemens, Jake Dyck, Ernie Kroeger, G. Krahn, J. P. Redekopp.
1949-50	G. G. Siemens, Mary J. Loewen, Henry F. Wiebe, Marion Smith, J. P. Redekop, J. I. Brown, F. Brown, Sally Schroeder, Victor Penner, Henry Thiessen, Margaret Unruh, Olga Wiebe		
1950-51	Marion Smith, Margaret Unruh, Hedy Pokrant, Victor Penner, (Mrs. Olga Penner), Helen Sawatzky, Sally Schroeder, F. Brown, (Jessie Neufeld), Tina Penner, Erdman Kroeker, J. P. Redekop, J. I. Brown, G. G. Siemens, Katie Janzen, Mrs. Mary Fehr.	1959-60	G. G. Siemens, F. Brown, H. Thiessen, C. Braun, Irene Hildebrand, D. Friesen, Menno Schulz, Mary Wolfe, Ernie A. Kroeger, Frank W. Dyck, Mrs. K. Friesen, John F. Wiebe, Henry Loewen, A. Siemens, A. Derksen, A. Dyck, Henry E. Neufeld, Emma Neufeld, M. Harder, Mrs. T. Kehler, Elda Thiessen, E. M. Klassen, K. Janzen, J. I. Brown, J. P. Redekopp.
1951-52	J. I. Brown, G. G. Siemens, Katie Janzen, Marion Smith, Abe Siemens, Helen Sawatzky, Mrs. Helen Loewen, Mrs. Charlotte Isaac, Sally Schroeder, Erdman Kroeker, Jacob P. Redekop, George H. Olfert, P. Victor Penner, F. Brown, E. L. Garland.		
1952-53	G. G. Siemens, David A. Friesen, Norma Rempel, Frank Brown, Minna Martens, Susan Martens, George H. Olfert, Mrs. H.		

- 1960-61 G. G. Siemens, F. Brown, J. F. Wiebe, J. P. Redekopp, F. W. Dyck, D. Friesen, C. Braun, J. W. Dyck, Mrs. M. Epp, Henry T. Thiessen, Mrs. Tina Dyck, M. Wolfe, A. Siemens, H. E. Neufeld, M. Schulz, Mrs. Verna Sawatzky, Mrs. Betty Neufeld, J. I. Brown, Mrs. K. Friesen, Mrs. Elda Thiessen, M. Harder, Mrs. T. Kehler, E. A. Kroeger, Mrs. Katie Brown, A. Derksen, A. Dyck, Henry Loewen.
- 1961-62 G. G. Siemens, F. Brown, J. F. Wiebe, H. T. Thiessen, F. W. Dyck, J. W. Dyck, D. Friesen, A. J. Janzen, J. P. Redekopp, M. Schulz, John A. Janzen, Mrs. Susan Hildebrand, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, M. Wolfe, Tina Thiessen, Peter L. Friesen, Anne Thiessen, A. Dyck, Mrs. Adeline A. Peters, Mrs. T. Dyck, Mrs. Helen Goertzen, Katherine Dyck, H. E. Neufeld, Mrs. T. Kehler, M. Harder, Mrs. Katie Brown.
- 1962-63 H. T. Thiessen, D. Friesen, Alan J. Janzen, Mrs. T. Kehler, F. Brown, G. G. Siemens, F. W. Dyck, T. Thiessen, P. L. Friesen, Alfred H. Kroeker, A. Dyck, M. Schulz, J. F. Wiebe, Mrs. Evelyn Dyck, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, H. Enns, M. Wolfe, Mrs. A. Peters, Mrs. E. Thiessen, H. Neufeld, A. Thiessen, J. A. Janzen, M. Harder, Mrs. K. Friesen, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Mrs. Arnold Brown.
- 1963-64 J. F. Wiebe, Frank Zacharias, Mrs. T. Kehler, A. J. Janzen, D. Friesen, John B. Wiebe, G. G. Siemens, M. Harder, P. L. Friesen, F. Brown, H. T. Thiessen, F. W. Dyck, Helen Plett, Mrs. Elda Thiessen, Mrs. Florence M. L. Wiens, Hazel Enns, Annamarie Bergen, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, Mrs. T. Kehler, Mrs. Kris Friesen, Katherine B. Dyck, Mrs. Evelyn Dyck, J. A. Janzen, Mrs. H. Goertzen, A. Dyck, A. Thiessen, John Krahn, M. Schulz, Tina Thiessen, M. Wolfe, Mrs. A. Peters, Mrs. Katie Brown, H. Loepky, A. H. Kroeker.
- 1964-65 Mrs. V. Sawatzky, M. Wolfe, Annamarie Bergen, K. B. Dyck, Mrs. Edith S. Dyck, Mrs. Mary Siemens, A. Thiessen, M. Schulz, J. Krahn, Mrs. E. Dyck, Mrs. Mary Anne Zacharias, A. Dyck, Mrs. F. M. L. Wiens, Mrs. K. Friesen, Peter H. Zacharias, Bonnie Lynn Wiebe, Rev. A. H. Kroeker, T. Thiessen, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Helen Loepky.
- 1965-66 John Kroeker, Ronald Loepky, A. Thiessen, Mrs. F. M. L. Wiens, Mrs. K. Friesen, Mrs. E. Dyck, A. H. Kroeker, Mrs. Helen Loepky, Mrs. Mary Siemens, Katherine Klassen, Mrs. B. L. Nikkel, J. A. Janzen, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, Elizabeth Poetker, Peter H. Zacharias, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Rita Klassen, Tina Thiessen, Ron Pauls, Marjorie Warkentin, Mrs. Edith S. Dyck.
- 1966-67 Mrs. M. Siemens, E. Poetker, Myrna Loewen, Mrs. H. Loepky, Ronald J. Loepky, John Krahn, Mrs. F. M. L. Wiens, Marjorie Warkentin, Janet Dyck, Rita Klassen, Nettie Loewen, Mrs. E. S. Dyck, Mrs. Kate B. Kuhl, T. Thiessen, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Katherine Klassen, Anne Thiessen, Alfred H. Kroeker, Peter Zacharias.
- 1967-68 Ted Klassen, Mrs. E. S. Dyck, Marjorie A. Warkentin, E. Poetker, Mrs. H. Goertzen, P. H. Zacharias, T. Thiessen, J. Krahn, Stan Plett, Mrs. Kate B. Kuhl, Margaret Dueck, K. Klassen, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, Mrs. Doreen Warms, Barbara Thiessen, R. J. Loepky, Judith S. Sawatzky, R. Klassen, Judith I. Penner, (Mrs. Judith I. Kasdorf), Janet Dyck, Mrs. Diana Wiens.
- 1968-69 J. A. Janzen, Mrs. Diana Wiens, Stan Plett, T. Thiessen, Herman Isaac, Mrs. Ruth Janzen, John Wiebe, M. Warkentin, Mrs. D. Warms, Esther A. Froese, Linda Peters, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, R. Klassen, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Mrs. K. B. Kuhl, K. Klassen, B. Thiessen, J. Krahn, Lois Schellenberg, Elvera Banman, Elizabeth R. Poetker, P. H. Zacharias.
- 1969-70 Mrs. K. B. Kuhl, Mrs. D. Warms, L. Peters, T. Thiessen, E. Joy Dyck, Henry Banman, Elvera Banman, E. Poetker, K. Klassen, Mrs. K. Brown, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, L. Schellenberg, Cheryl Lee Dyck, Mrs. B. Wiebe, Mrs. H. Goertzen, R. Klassen, P. H. Zacharias, J. Krahn, John Wiebe, Henry W. Hildebrand, B. Hildebrand, H. Isaac.
- 1970-71 J. Zacharias, J. Dyck, Herman Isaac, Brian Hildebrand, Dave Penner, D. Giesbrecht, Mary Driedger, Mrs. Edith Dyck, Leona Schellenberg, Mrs. Kate B. Kuhl, Gail Klassen, Katherine Klassen, H. W. Hildebrand, Elvera Banman, Linda Funk, Mrs. Verna Sawatzky, Mrs. Helen Goertzen, J. Froese, Anne M. Wiebe, Rita Klassen, Mrs. K. Brown, Mrs. D. Warms.
- 1971-72 James Schellenberg, David Penner, J. Zacharias, H. W. Hildebrand, David Hall, Brian Hildebrand, Walter Falk, Mrs. Judy Sawatzky, H. Isaac, John Olfert, Gail Klassen, Mildred Penner, Wayne Kehler, M. Driedger, Katherine Klassen, Mrs. Elvera Hamm, Mrs. Linda Klassen, Mrs. K. Brown, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, Mrs. Mary Ann Hildebrand, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Rita Klassen, Linda Isaac, Joyce Hemminger, Mrs. Kate Kuhl.
- 1972-73 J. H. Zacharias, Mrs. K. Kuhl, Rita Klassen, Joyce Hemminger, Linda Isaac, Mrs. H. Goertzen, Mrs. M. A. Hildebrand, Esther Janzen, Mrs. V. Sawatzky, Mrs. K. Brown, Mrs. Elsie Hiebert, Mrs. Linda Klassen, Katherine Klassen, W. Kehler, Mary Driedger, Mildred Penner, H. Isaac, E. Ewert, John Olfert, B. Hildebrand, Ron Loepky, J. Schellenberg, H. W. Hildebrand, Abe Dyck, David Penner, Mrs. Judy Sawatzky, Peter Dyck.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The following names which appeared on school registers in the early history of Winkler, are of interest today in that locally the Manitoba Telephone directory fails to list any of them in 1970: Moses Greenblatt, Sam Fitzsimmons, Max Steinkopf, Anna Grabinsky, Percy Taylor, Mathilda Bush, Flora Law, Richert Leverenz, Emil Schuman, Ernest Potter, Herman Burgdorf, Alma Heyden, Hedwig Parias, Bertha Muzeen, Herbert Kennedy, Gertie Haines, Henry Wilton, Lena Dodge, Charlie Schram, Teresa Stepler, George Kraemer, Frank Rychtik, Karl Jamischeski, Gertie Schneider, Clara Quittenbaum, Martha Janishesky, Edna Bieta, Garnet Peacock, Dora Hoffer, Pauline Ruff, Erna Biehler, Paulina Huf, Julius Ludwig, William Ruth, Cela Kaloff, Mary Smith, Helena Zimmermann, Claude Botting, Ralph Weyer, Wallace Kloholz, Percy Klaehn, Lizzy Miens, Julius Gess, Antonio Sustla, Frank Lange, Alma Hyten, Jacob Nuss, Willie Senz, Frank Longen, Mandis Neredy, Helena Sass, Karl Koch, Fred Gillert, H. Schramm, William Gluchow, Sam Stuchna, Mary Pobpo, Frank Buchwald, Theresa Schimnovski, Frase Mein, Emilie Gibbons, Isaac Cohn, Bertha Fleishmann, and Hary Robinovitch, etc.

## THE LEAN YEARS

About the middle of December, 1932, the Winkler School District advertised in the Winnipeg Free Press for two teachers for the elementary grades and by December 29, 1932, the Board had received about 200 applications from qualified teachers for the two vacancies on the teaching staff. In 1955, the Winkler School Board through local and Winnipeg newspapers solicited applications for five positions on the staff, and this time four months elapsed before the vacancies were filled.

During the lean thirties many measures were resorted to by School Boards in order to reduce expenditures. In order to cut down expenses during the depression years of 1932 and 1933, the school term at Winkler was opened in the middle of September and closed in the middle of June.



Mrs. Tina Kehler, the first local woman to receive her Wings and Pilot's Licence



Jake F. Peters, custodian

## Eskimos Visit Winkler School

During the first week of October, 1972, twenty-four students and two adults from Eskimo Point in the North West Territories visited the Winkler Elementary School. Eskimo Point has a population of 700, and is located on Hudson Bay 200 miles north of Churchill, Manitoba. The students were accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Gene Chovin, and Jimmy Gibbons, a native who is chairman of the Advisory Council which is the equivalent of our School Board. The cultural exchange program was made possible by a Federal Grant of \$5,000. Because the Eskimos are basically shy people, the students were billeted in homes two per family.

The excursion was a "first" from beginning to end for the students. It was their first trip to Manitoba and the first bus ride. Other "firsts" besides the visits to the industries in Winkler included the sight of an abundance of flowers, the texture of tree bark, the harvesting of sugar beets and potatoes, the handling of grain, and seeing animals like horses, cows, cats, and rabbits.

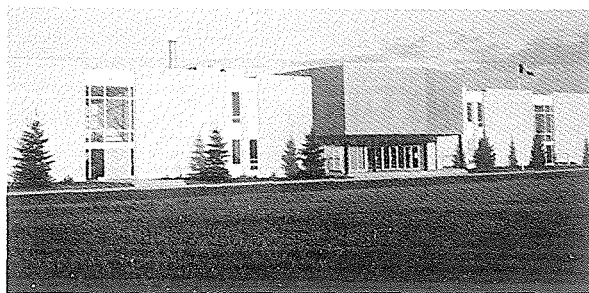
Through the viewing of slides and artifacts which they had brought from Eskimo Point, the local students were familiarized with Eskimo life and culture, and when the visitors left for home they took with them a cat, a pregnant rabbit, leaves, sugar beets, potatoes, sunflower seeds, as well as candy for their siblings.

On Wednesday, March 21, 1973, twenty-three students from the Winkler Elementary School along with two adult supervisors left on a ten-day return visit to Eskimo Point.

## Education

From 1951-57, courses in Education were conducted during the winter months by the Faculty of Education of the University of Manitoba at Winkler. Many local teachers took advantage of these courses to improve their professional standing. In 1954-55, the lecturer was Dr. Eleanor Boyce, and a group of twenty-five teachers from the surrounding schools had enrolled.

During the summers of 1925 and 1926, Mr. J. R. Walkof organized Summer Schools at Winkler for teachers who were trying to complete their academic standing with the Department of Education in order to obtain permanent teaching certificates. About twenty-five teachers enrolled for these courses. It was also through his efforts that the annual Union Picnics were held at Schanzenfeld by Winkler and surrounding school districts. After a few years they were discontinued because many pupils had been eliminated at their home districts and they were thus unable to participate.



Garden Valley Collegiate



## Garden Valley School Division No. 26

When the Manitoba Department of Education advanced a plan for dividing the whole province into larger School Divisions at the high school level, the electors overwhelmingly defeated the original plan for Garden Valley School Division on February 27, 1959. Subsequently, the second vote for this area on December 8, 1961, was also defeated when 853 electors voted FOR a larger division and 994 voted AGAINST the referendum. However, the third vote carried when on July 12, 1963, there were 1,008 votes cast FOR and only 655 AGAINST the formation of the Garden Valley School Division.

The results of the voting in the different polls were as follows:

	For	Against
Advance Polls —		
Winkler .....	24	
Plum Coulee .....	10	
Reinland .....	2	
July 12, 1963,		
Blumenfeld .....	18	171
Reinland .....	58	127
Rosenbach .....	77	29
Chortitz .....	27	44
Reinfeld .....	33	15
Plum Coulee .....	132	135
Hoffnungsort .....	42	39
Winkler (east) .....	112	24
Winkler (west) .....	347	41
Winkler (rural) .....	148	30
Total .....	1,008	665

Under the division plan, both the towns and rural tax payers support high schools and then all students have an equal opportunity to attend. The elementary schools continue under the same district boards, except that the grade IX pupils now attend a high school in the division. The opposition to the division plan stemmed from the fact that rural districts are required to pay taxes in support of the high schools and also that the district school boards feared loss of control over their schools. However, some trustees favored the plan since teachers hesitated to hire out to rural schools while vacancies in the town schools were available. Other districts found it more economical to amalgamate with a town school than to keep their own rural schools open with a low enrollment.

Following this vote, the first school trustees for the Division were elected on Friday, September 27, 1963. By January 1, 1964, the new Garden Valley Division was organized and the following trustees took office: Ward I, Isaac Warkentin; Ward II, John A. Walkof; Ward III, John H. Wiebe; and Ward IV, Henry F. Wiebe and Dr. Ben J. Froese. At the organizational meeting of the trustees, H. F. Wiebe was elected chairman; Isaac Warkentin, vice-chairman; and J. H. Wiebe, secretary-treasurer. In 1964, J. H. Wiebe resigned as trustee and assumed full-time duties as secretary-treasurer for the Division. David J. Klassen was then elected to fill the vacancy in Ward III caused by the resignation of J. H. Wiebe. In 1966, Peter D. Labun was elected as trustee to fill the vacancy created when Dr. B. J. Froese resigned in order to set up a medical practice in Winnipeg.

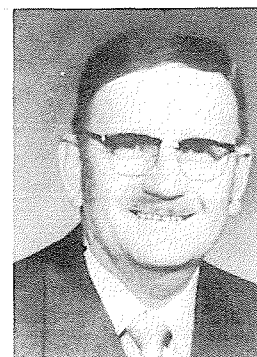
In 1964 the following School Districts with the respective trustees formed Garden Valley School Division

Birkenhead	John A. Fehr O. R. Gruener Frank Unger	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Bloomfield	L. Siemens F. F. Wiebe Jim Braun	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Blumenfeld	E. G. Elias Jacob J. Elias Peter Dyck	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Blumstein	F. W. Funk J. R. Reimer H. H. Froese	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Burwalde	Walter Brown F. L. Enns J. P. Dyck	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Chortitz	A. I. Fehr A. Thiessen J. K. Friesen	Chairman
Edward	D. E. Dyck A. J. Klassen D. H. Funk D. H. Fehr	Sec. Treas. Chairman Sec. Treas.
Ekfrid	J. J. Braun	
Gnadenenthal	Official Trustee Dave Peters Ben Schellenberg	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Greenfarm	A. Driedger J. Suderman P. J. Dyck	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Grossweide	A. Hildebrand H. C. Siemens J. T. Schroeder D. J. Schroeder	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Hamburg	J. P. Derksen George Dyck Abe A. Friesen	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Haskett	C. Wieler I. I. Buhler Frank Klassen	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Hochfeld	F. C. Reimer J. J. A. Friesen J. D. Froese	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Kleefeld	H. J. Wiebe H. V. Friesen Wm. Toews	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Kronsgart	Peter Driedger Ben Hildebrand Peter Banman John Hildebrand	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Meath	Joe Olfert J. D. Doell C. D. Doell	Chairman Sec. Treas.
New Kronsthal	D. J. Klassen Tony Wiebe W. Reimer	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Osterwick	C. Neufeld E. H. Boehlig J. J. Krahn	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Plum Coulee	Arnold Hiebert Wm. M. Enns John Wiebe Art Braun	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Reinfeld	John Enns Peter Wiebe Frank Peters P. F. Goertzen J. M. Froese	Chairman Sec. Treas.

Reinland	A. H. Enns Abe E. Ens H. J. Janzen A. A. Paetkau	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Rosenbach	C. J. Penner J. M. Peters P. P. Hildebrand D. A. Peters	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Rosengart	C. E. Thiessen David M. Fehr Isaac Pauls Wm. J. Janzen	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Rosewell	G. E. Wiebe J. D. Penner A. R. Labun	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Schanzenfeld	W. L. Enns I. L. Friesen A. I. Enns John Ginter	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Schoenwiese	H. J. Falk C. C. Thiessen Peter Dyck Fred Peters	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Winkler	I. R. Dyck G. G. Siemens H. W. Bergen P. D. Wiebe Alex Epp G. W. Enns	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Hoffnungsort	John G. Dyck C. D. Falk A. F. Janzen	Chairman Sec. Treas.
Zion	Jacob P. Dyck George P. Dyck Willie Loewen Isaac C. Dyck	Chairman Sec. Treas.



Henry Neufeld, Principal 1966-73



John F. Wiebe, Vice-principal

During the 1964-65 school year, the enrollment from each of the districts which sent high school students to the Garden Valley Collegiate at Winkler was as follows:

Birkenhead .....	2	Meath .....	5
Blumenfeld .....	10	Osterwick .....	15
Burwalde .....	7	Reinfeld .....	19
Chortitz .....	8	Rosenbach .....	7
Edward .....	4	Rosengart .....	2
Friedensruh .....	4	Rosewell .....	8
Greenfarm .....	6	Schanzenfeld .....	17
Haskett .....	8	Schoenwiese .....	6
Hochfeld .....	7	Winkler .....	179
Hoffnungsort .....	1	Zion .....	6

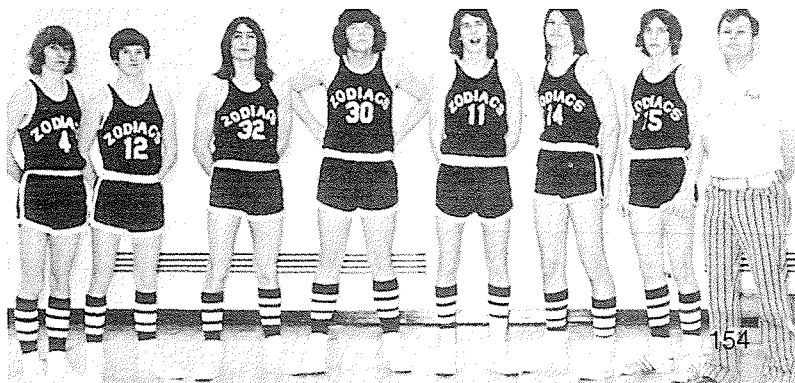
Early in 1964 negotiations were started by the Garden Valley trustees with the School Boards of Plum Coulee, Reinland, and Winkler for rental of classroom space in these respective Districts. Besides the classrooms that were available in the three high schools of the Division, three temporary huts were rented from Plum Coulee Building Supplies and another three from Country Lumber Yard at Winkler. To provide classroom space for the grade IX classes at Winkler, the old Bible School on Eighth Street was rented. The office for the secretary-treasurer and a storage room for textbooks were also located in this building.



Drama



1973 Boys' Basketball Coach: W. Busse



# Enrolment Statistics For Garden Valley Division 1963-64<sup>3</sup>

Name of School	Kindergarten	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	Total
Birkenhead		6	7	5	10	1	8	2	3	1				43
Bloomfield		1	1	3	0	1	0	1	2					9
Blumenfeld		9	7	3	4	7	6	7	4	4				51
Blumstein		1	2	1	3	2	2	1	1	2				15
Burwalde		3	4	6	4	3	1	3	3	2				29
Chortitz		11	9	10	11	17	11	8	6	5				88
Edward		1	0	4	2	2	4	2	1	1				17
Gnadenthal		10	15	7	15	6	6	9	5	4				77
Greenfarm		2	5	3	2	6	4	3	2	1				28
Grossweide		5	2	0	2	1	0	2	0					12
Hamburg		1	1	1	0	2	1	1	3					10
Haskett		5	6	12	6	7	6	6	6	5				59
Hochfeld		4	5	4	6	8	2	5	6					40
Hoffnungsort		4	0	1	2	3	3	2	0	1				16
Kleefeld		1	0	3	1	3	2	2	1	1				14
Kronsgart		2	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1				7
Meath		0	0	2	0	3	1	1	1	1				9
Neu Kronsthal		5	0	2	5	1	3	0	1	1				18
Osterwick		3	6	9	12	7	7	7	7	5				63
Plum Coulee		13	20	13	17	13	15	11	12	35	29	26	12	216
Reinfeld		9	4	6	9	9	3	7	5	5				57
Reinland		10	9	5	5	8	7	4	7	9	2			66
Rosenbach		1	4	1	1	2	2	3	1					15
Rosengart		3	6	6	4	3	8	5	7	1				43
Rosewell		0	0	1	4	0	1	4	4	1				15
Schanzenfeld		7	6	4	7	9	3	3	1					40
Winkler	44	58	57	54	67	62	56	49	61	69	81	72	47	777
Zion		5	2	8	3	2	2	2	2					26
Total	44	192	192	183	215	196	174	157	163	155	112	98	59	1,940

## Distribution of Teachers and Pupils at Plum Coulee Collegiate (1965):

Teachers	Grade Register	No. of Pupils
Mr. Henry Neufeld	Principal	
Mr. Lloyd Reitze	XII	19
Mr. Jacob Froese	XI	23
Mr. Jacob Reimer	X	24
Mr. Peter Falk	IX	33

Ninety-nine Students to Five Teachers or  $99/5 = 19.0$  Students per Teacher. (8 non-resident students)

## Distribution of Teachers and Pupils at the Winkler Collegiate:

Teachers	Grade Register	No. of Pupils
Mr. Henry Thiessen	Principal	
Mr. Frank Brown	XII	24
Mr. G. G. Siemens	XII	20
Miss Gretta Graffin	XII	12
Mr. Alan Janzen	XI	30
Mr. John B. Wiebe	XI	25
Mr. Harry Friesen	XI	32
Mr. Frank Zacharias	X	28
Mrs. Tina Kehler	X	29
Mr. Peter L. Friesen	X	28
Mr. Frank W. Dyck	IX	34
Mr. John F. Wiebe	IX	33
Mr. David V. Brown	IX	35
Mrs. Bertha Dyck	IX	35

Mr. Hank C. Mesman Physical Education  
(Nine non-resident students)

Three Hundred and Forty-five Students per Fifteen Teachers, or Twenty-three Students per Teacher.

## Summary of Both Collegiates:

Teachers on Staff	20
Operating Classrooms	17
Pupils Enrolled	444
Average Number of Pupils per Teacher	22.2

The high school classroom at Reinland was discontinued in the spring of 1964. In June 1965, Garden Valley Division had a total of 17 classrooms, 20 teachers, and 444 students enrolled in the grades IX to XII. There were 5 teachers and 99 students at Plum Coulee Collegiate, and 15 staff members and a student body of 345 at Winkler Collegiate. In 1964, two buses were required to bring in the rural students. However, some parents were paid mileage for bringing in their own pupils.

Ever since the organization of Garden Valley School Division, the problem of accommodating a rapidly growing student body progressively became more acute and difficult. To solve the problem of accommodation, a money by-law was submitted to the electors for the construction of a 56-classroom-count Collegiate. However, this money by-law was defeated on June 24, 1965, by a margin of 256 votes, when 917 electors voted AGAINST the by-law and only 661 cast their ballots FOR it. Another vote for the construction of a school building rated at 58 classroom equivalent to cost just over \$1,100,000 was held on March 31, 1966. This time a total of 1754 out of 3641 Garden Valley electors turned out at the polls voting 990 FOR and 752 AGAINST the money by-law.

## Poll by Poll results of Division By-Law Vote March 31, 1966:

Poll	For	Against
1A—Blumenfeld	49	152
1B—Reinland	41	67
1C—Gnadenthal	10	32
2A—Rosenbach	94	17
2B—Chortitz	40	62
2C—Reinfeld	26	31
3A—Plum Coulee	35	217
3B—Hoffnungsort	30	44
4E—Winkler	247	76
4W—Winkler	418	54
Totals	990	752

Although the higher school grants enhanced the formation of a division, the ratepayers defeated the first vote on the by-law for the construction of a new collegiate at Winkler because of the general antipathy to the larger division and also because of the fear of higher local taxes. Another element of opposition to the by-law entered when the thinking of the Garden Valley School Board finally resolved that the best way to take advantage of the new grants would be to increase the student body at one location. This larger enrollment in one collegiate would enable the Board to institute a program of studies that could serve especially those students who were not interested in the purely academic courses, but could benefit from vocational training. Of course, this implied that the high school at Plum Coulee would be phased out. There was one economical advantage to this move because the elementary school at Plum Coulee was also short of classroom space.

In the fall of 1966 the Manitoba Provincial Government through the Department of Youth and Education advanced another new plan which would still further increase the grant structure for the elementary and high schools in the divisions that would accept by plebiscite the Unitary School Division. Not only does it increase teacher and operating grants but it also eliminates the local school trustees and provides for the election of one central School Board that serves all the school districts in the Unitary Division. On March 10, 1967, the electors of Garden Valley School Division defeated this new plan in no uncertain terms when 543 voted FOR and 1416 voted AGAINST the plan. The results of the plebiscite indicate that rural trustees wanted to continue to operate their own school districts, parents appeared to be reluctant to send their small children to a distant elementary school.

Poll by poll results in Garden Valley School Division Unitary Vote, March 10, 1967. Referendum:

Poll No.	Location of Poll	Eligible Voters	For	Against
Advance 1			1	
Advance 2			1	3
1	Reinland	264	17	159
2	Gnadenenthal	163	12	102
3	Hochfeld	301	18	250
4	Chortitz	301	18	155
5	Winkler	434	52	96
6	Winkler	410	52	77
7	Winkler	377	107	55
8	Winkler	468	157	78
9	Edward	345	67	110
10	Hoffnungsort	256	12	135
11	Plum Coulee	371	35	196
Totals		3,760	543	1,416

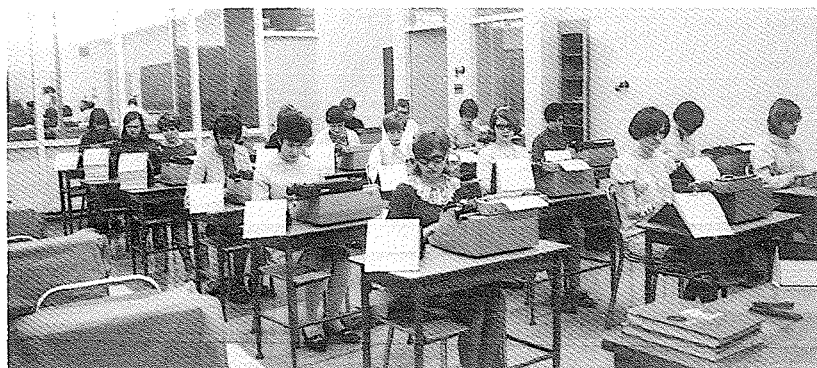
When all the high school students and staff of Garden Valley School Division were united on one campus at Winkler with Mr. Henry Neufeld as principal, September 1, 1966, another three huts were added to accommodate the 435 students. In September, 1970, Garden Valley Collegiate Institute had 537 high school and 39 Special Class students enrolled with a staff of 33 teachers. In 1964 when the division was organized the parents were paid in lieu of transportation for bringing their pupils to the high schools. By 1970, all high school and some elementary students (by special arrangement with the Boards) were bused in by a fleet of eleven buses.

Mr. L. R. Labossiere, Director of Administration for the Manitoba Department of Education, and Mr. Henry F. Wiebe, Chairman of the Garden Valley School Board, officially turned the first sod at the new Garden Valley Collegiate construction site on Main Street North at Winkler on Friday, August 19, 1966. The doors of the new Collegiate were opened for the first time to the students and staff on September 1, 1967. The official opening of Garden Valley Collegiate was held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 10, 1967. Officials participating in the opening program were Henry F. Wiebe, Chairman of Garden Valley School Board; L. R. Labossiere, Director of Administration for the Department of Education; J. M. Froese, M.L.A. for Rhineland; Henry Neufeld, Principal, Garden Valley Collegiate; Norman Reimer, Architect for Peterson & Fonger; Homer Hamilton, M.L.A. for Dufferin Constituency; and Rev. B. P. Wiebe of Plum Coulee gave the prayer of dedication.

Mr. Henry F. Wiebe who had been elected to the Winkler District School Board in 1953 and had served as chairman since 1956, became the first chairman of Garden Valley School Division in 1964. After fifteen years of continuous service as trustee from 1953 to 1967, he was elected mayor of Winkler in 1968. Mr. Henry T. Thiessen was the principal at Winkler Collegiate and Mr. Henry Neufeld at Plum Coulee Collegiate when the Garden Valley ratepayers passed the referendum for the larger School Division.

Mr. Henry Neufeld who is a grade XII graduate of the M.C.I. at Gretna, received his Teacher's Certificate in June, 1948. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1959 and with the Bachelor of Education in 1960. Mr. Neufeld started his teaching career in the Haskett School District where he also met the former Miss Jessie Janzen who later became his wife. In 1950, after two years of teaching at Haskett, he was engaged by the Plum Coulee School District as teacher and later as principal. After thirteen years of service for the Plum Coulee School District, Mr. Neufeld continued there as principal of the High School when the Division system was established. When the Plum Coulee and Winkler Collegiates were merged into Garden Valley Collegiate Institute on September 1, 1966, Mr. Neufeld was appointed as principal.

Enrollment of high school students in Garden Valley School Division No. 26 in 1965, Plum Coulee 99, Winkler 345; total: 444. Enrollment at Garden Valley Collegiate: 1967 - 480; 1968 - 491; 1969-555; 1970-576; 1971 - 531; 1972 - 554.



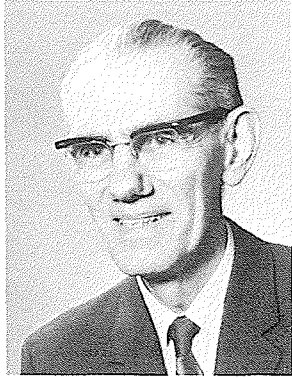
Commercial Education Complex at Garden Valley Collegiate



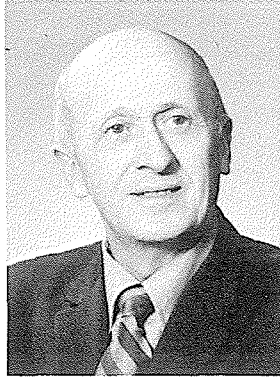
Garden Valley School Division Board, 1972.



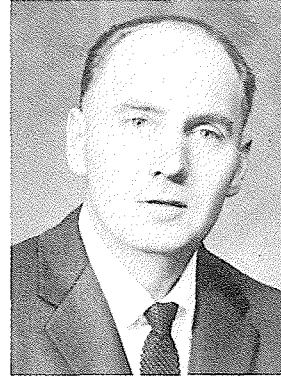
P. D. Labun



G. G. Siemens  
Vice-chairman



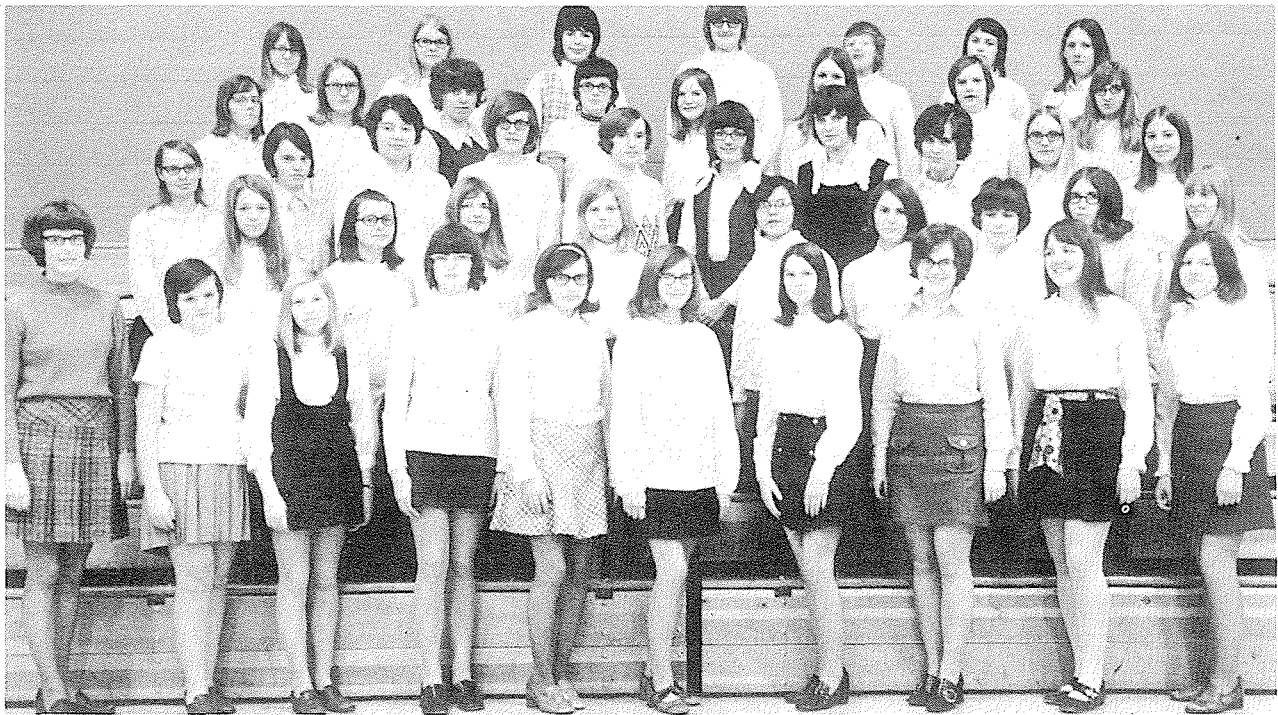
G. G. Elias  
Chairman



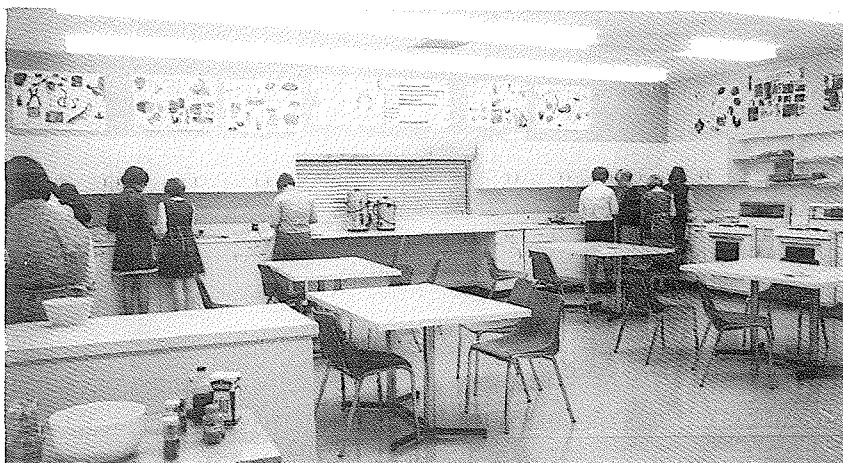
G. Froese



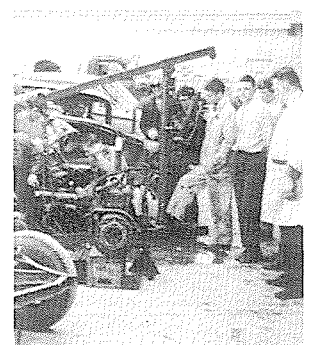
A. J. Peters



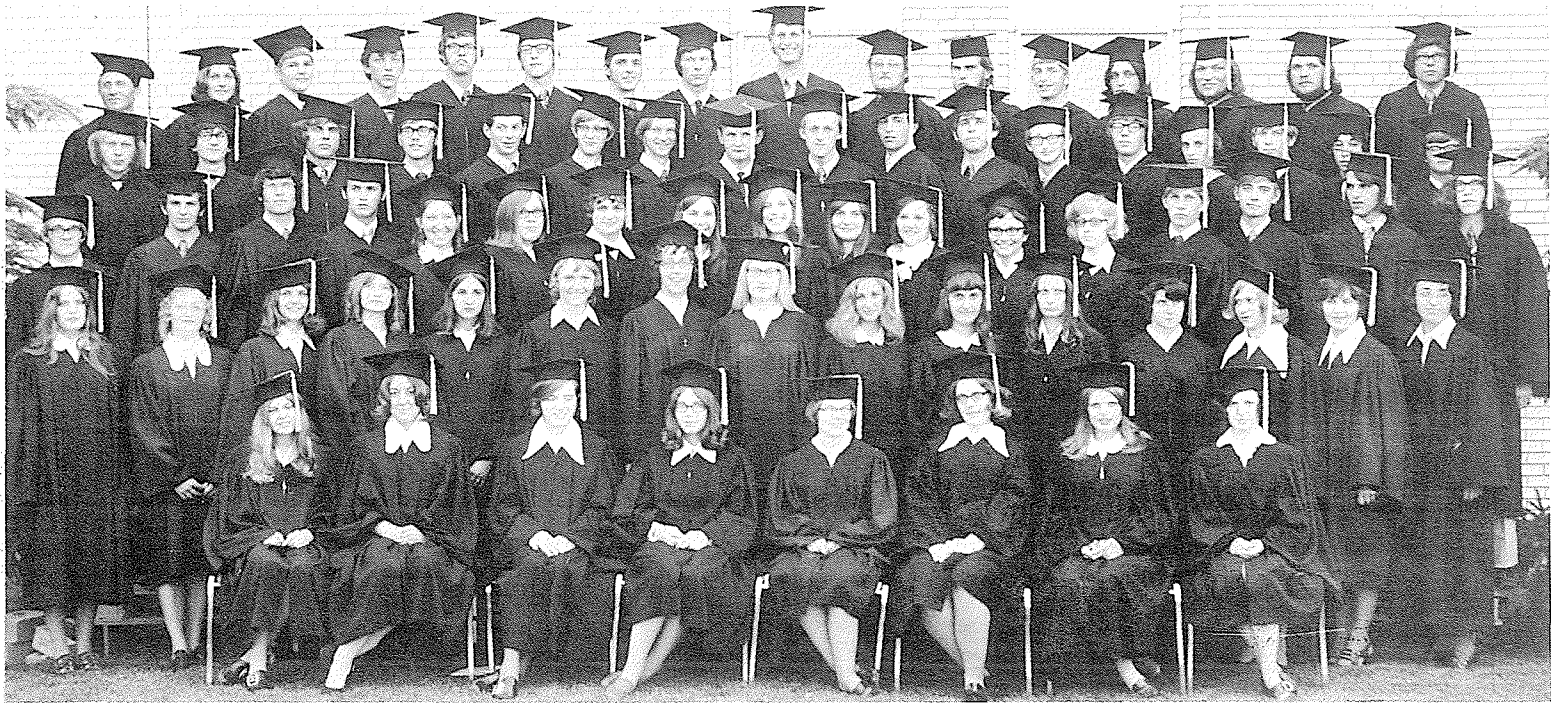
1971 Senior Girls' Choir — Directress:  
Miss M. Driedger



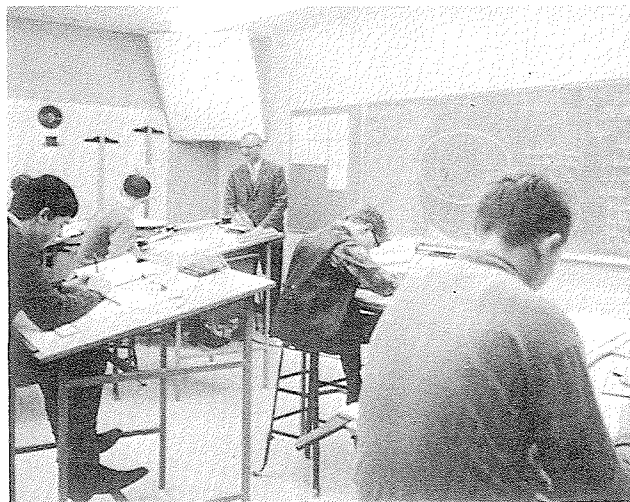
Home Ec.



Auto Shop — R. Cooney,  
Instructor

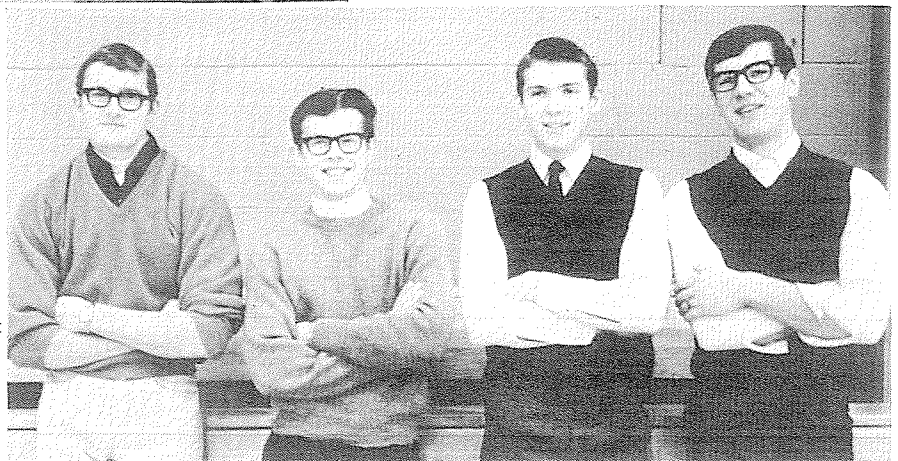


1971 G.V.C.I. Graduates



Drafting

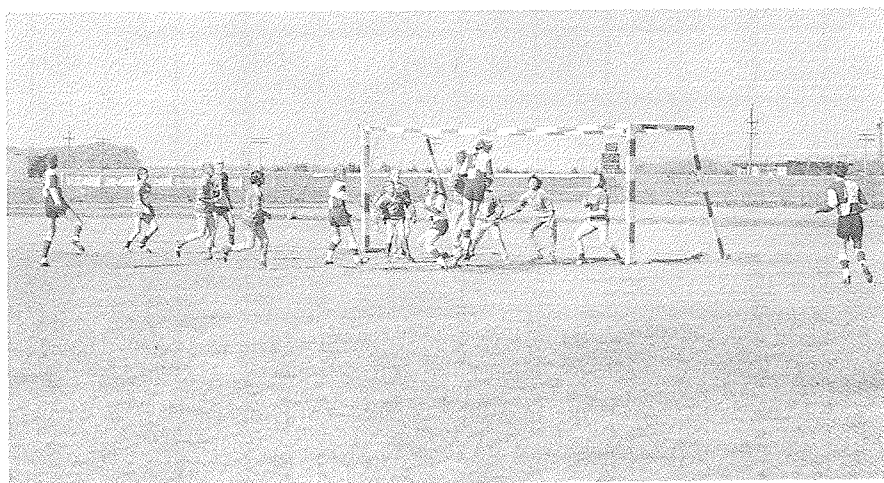
G.V.C.I. Curling Team, 1968. Barry Peters, Stuart Braun, Dan Hildebrand, Garry Toews







Provincial High School Soccer Finalists, 1968. Standing: (Left to right) Mr. Wayne Busse, coach, Ron Dyck, John Penner, George Klassen, Ernie Doerksen, Garth Jackman, Dan Hildebrand, Henry Boschman, David Stobbe. Front row: Robin Jackman, Harold Dyck, Don Funk, Barry Peters, Glenn Wiebe, Jim Hiebert, Ed Fehr.



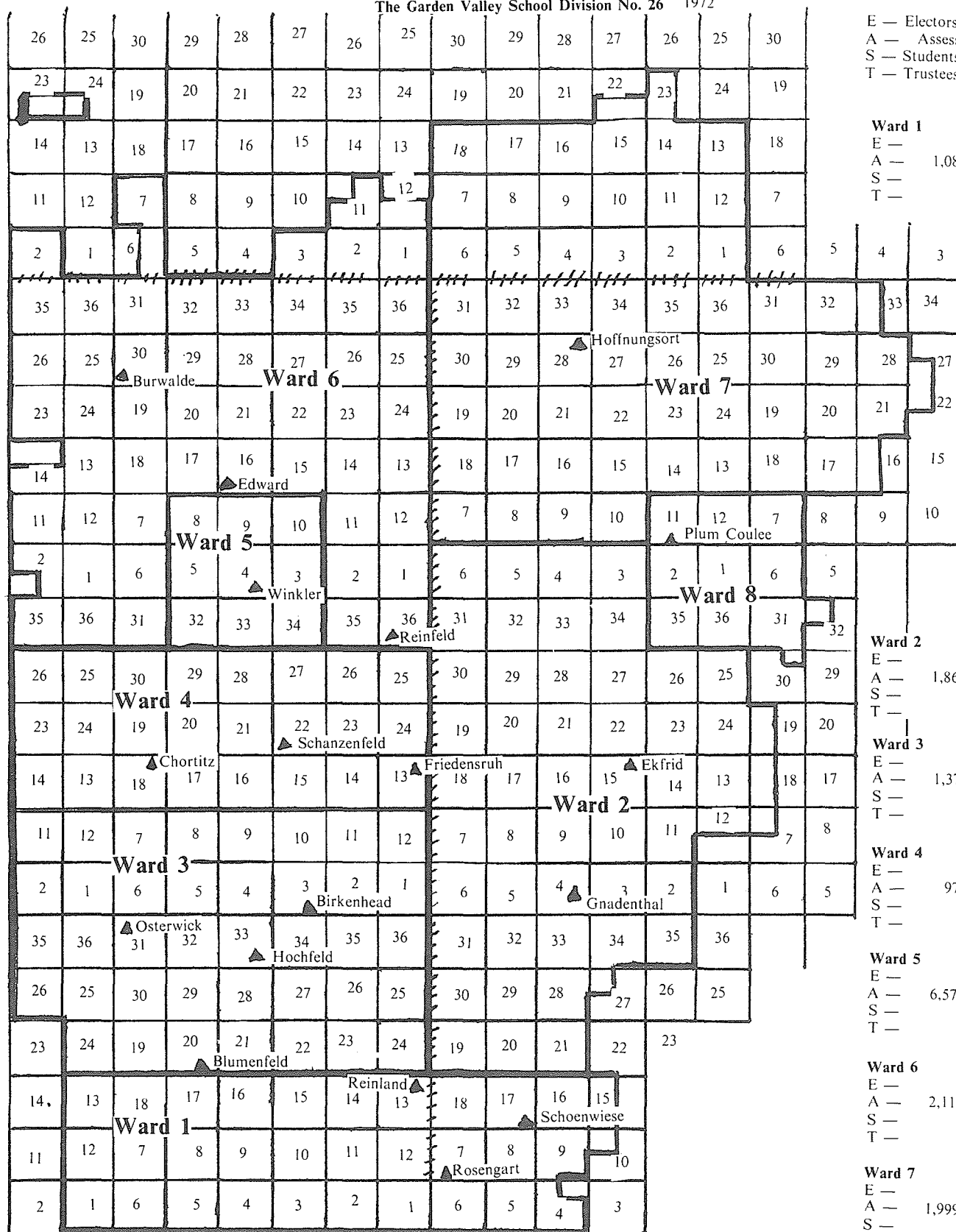
Collegiate Soccer



Zone 4 Basketball Winners

# The Garden Valley School Division No. 26 1972

E — Electors  
A — Assessment  
S — Students  
T — Trustees



**Ward 1**  
E — 317  
A — 1,087,410  
S — 125  
T — 1

**Ward 2**  
E — 273  
A — 1,869,805  
S — 144  
T — 1

**Ward 3**  
E — 454  
A — 1,373,990  
S — 192  
T — 1

**Ward 4**  
E — 326  
A — 971,150  
S — 164  
T — 1

**Ward 5**  
E — 2,429  
A — 6,571,890.  
S — 559  
T — 4

**Ward 6**  
E — 348  
A — 2,118,640.  
S — 161  
T — 1

**Ward 7**  
E — 213  
A — 1,999,184.  
S — 74  
T — 1

**Ward 8**  
E — 427  
A — 1,044,960  
S — 96  
T — 1

Total No. of Electors 4,810  
Total Assessment 17,037,029  
Total No. of Students (Elem.) 1,515  
Average No. Electors Per Trustee 437  
Total No. of Trustees 11

Comparisons Since Division System Started In 1964							
	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Grants, etc.	143,677.29	150,989.84	145,385.36	218,753.27	291,956.89	268,969.00	284,641.86
Special Levy	63,857.00	121,271.00	131,510.00	162,670.00	265,000.00	264,800.00	264,600.00
Deficit	3,287.24			2,079.55	6,253.20		
TOTAL	210,821.53	272,260.84	276,895.35	383,502.82	563,210.06	533,769.07	549,241.86
Expenditures							
Instructional	142,487.15	153,066.00	152,232.62	207,060.87	300,837.39	306,510.17	314,212.74
Other Expenditures	49,708.03	66,325.49	64,273.90	82,576.46	113,454.55	100,110.50	117,136.64
Capital	18,626.35	27,447.49	13,643.00	93,865.49	148,918.12	98,918.16	111,988.34
TOTAL Expenditures	210,821.53	246,838.98	230,149.52	383,149.52	563,210.06	505,538.83	543,337.72
Surplus		25,421.86	46,745.83			28,230.24	5,904.14
TOTAL	210,821.53	272,260.84	276,895.35	383,502.82	563,210.06	533,769.07	549,241.86
Cost Per Student							
No. of Students	438.6	440.0	432.9	456.5	518.0	535.0	553.0
Instructional	325.00	348.00	374.00	453.00	581.00	572.00	568.00
Main., Admin. and Transp.	113.00	150.00	148.00	180.00	219.00	187.00	212.00
Capital	42.00	63.00	31.00	256.00	287.00	185.00	202.51
TOTAL Cost Per Student	480.00	561.00	553.00	889.00	1,087.00	998.00	993.00
Cost Per Teacher							
No. of Teachers	18.8	20.0	18.4	20.8	29.6	31.6	31.0
Instructional	7,578.00	7,650.00	8,263.00	9,654.00	10,163.00	9,759.00	10,135.89
Main., Admin., and Transp.	2,643.00	3,316.00	3,465.00	4,450.00	3,832.00	3,168.00	3,778.60
Capital	980.00	1,372.00	741.00	4,513.00	5,031.00	3,101.00	3,612.52
TOTAL Cost Per Teacher	11,201.00	12,338.00	12,466.00	18,912.00	18,026.00	16,028.00	17,717.47
Student—Teacher Ratio							
	23.3—1	22.0—1	23.4—1	24.8—1	*17.5—1	*16.9—1	*17.8—1

\* The reduced student-teacher ratio in 1968, 1969 and 1970 is largely because of the take over of the Special Class where the count is approximately 8-10 to 1. Also, we have a reduced count in the Vocational Area because of the low enrolment in some grades.

### Winkler School for Retarded Children

The Winkler Association for Retarded Children was started with eight pupils in 1958. The first classes were held in the renovated coal bin in the basement of the frame building for the primary grades of the Winkler Elementary School. Later, the former J. B. Dyck residence at 198 Eighth Street was rented for over a year until a new school was built at 851 Pembina Avenue. In March, 1963, a class of seventeen pupils moved into the new ARC School and on Sunday, May 26, 1963, the official opening and dedication service was held when Dr. C. W. Wiebe cut the ribbon and the building was opened to the visitors. Rev. Bernie Loeppky and Rev. Jacob E. Stobbe spoke the dedicatory prayers. Other local officials who participated in the program before the ribbon cutting were Mayor P. J. Kroeker, Rev. H. Lenzmann, Rev. David Hildebrand, and J. R. Reimer who acted as chairman. Out of town dignitaries and speakers included Dr. J. Johnson, Provincial Department of Health; W. A. Friesen, President of Manitoba A.R.C.; Maitland Steinkopf, QC, MLA; Dr. H. S. Atkinson, Director of Portage School; Fordon McKenzie, Past President of Manitoba A.R.C.; George Muir, M.P.; and Howard Winkler. Since the formation of the Garden Valley School Division, the ARC School is also administered by its Trustee Board. On July 1, 1967, the Garden Valley School Division assumed responsibility for the education of retarded children up to age 12 years. Hence, it now has jurisdiction over the Association for Retarded Children as well as for the Educable Mentally Handicapped. As a gesture of continuity the letters ARC have been retained.

Trustees of Garden Valley Collegiate since the formation of a division at the high school level:

- 1964 — Isaac Warkentin (Ward I); John A. Walkof (Ward II); John H. Wiebe (Ward III); Henry F. Wiebe and Dr. Ben J. Froese (Ward IV)
- 1965 — Isaac Warkentin (Ward I); John A. Walkof (Ward II); David J. Klassen (Ward III) Henry F. Wiebe and Dr. Ben J. Froese (Ward IV)
- 1966 — Isaac Warkentin (Ward I); John A. Walkof (Ward II); David J. Klassen (Ward III); Henry F. Wiebe and Peter D. Labun (Ward IV)
- 1967 — Isaac Warkentin (Ward I); J. A. Walkof (Ward II); D. J. Klassen (Ward III); H. F. Wiebe and P. D. Labun (Ward IV)
- 1968 — George G. Elias (Ward I); John A. Walkof (Ward II); George Banman (Ward III) P. D. Labun and George G. Siemens (Ward IV)
- 1969 — G. G. Elias (Ward I); Jacob D. Penner (Ward II); G. Banman (Ward III); P. D. Labun and G. G. Siemens (Ward IV)
- 1970 — G. G. Elias (Ward I); J. D. Penner (Ward II); G. Banman (Ward III); P. D. Labun and G. G. Siemens (Ward IV)
- 1971 — G. G. Siemens, P. D. Labun, G. G. Elias, George Froese, G. Banman
- 1972 — G. G. Siemens, P. D. Labun, G. G. Elias, G. Froese, Abraham J. Peters



## Chairmen of the Garden Valley School Division Board of Trustees:

- 1964 — 1967 Henry F. Wiebe  
 1968 — 1970 Peter D. Labun  
 1971 — George G. Siemens  
 1972 — George G. Elias

Mr. G. G. Elias served on the Garden Valley School Division Board as trustee from 1968 to 1971, and as chairman of the Board in 1972. Although he finds time to participate in many community activities, he specializes in seed grains on his 800-acre farm at Haskett where Mr. Elias also operates a seed cleaning plant. He is the oldest member of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association which was organized in 1934. In 1936 Mr. Elias won the Ian McPhail Trophy for the best Four-H Club. In 1946 and again in 1950, he won the Canadian barley championship in the National Barley Contest. He has also won the second prize for barley in the Grand Championship of the National Seed Show at the Toronto Winter Fair.

Since 1964, Mr. John H. Wiebe has served as secretary-treasurer of the Division, and Mr. Jake F. Peters has been the custodian of Garden Valley Collegiate since 1967.

## Teachers of Garden Valley School Division No. 26 (Who taught at Winkler)

- 1964- David Friesen, George G. Siemens, A. J. Janzen, Frank Brown, Mrs. Tina Kehler, John F. Wiebe, Frank Zacharias, Margaret Harder, Frank W. Dyck, Peter L. Friesen, John B. Wiebe.  
 1964-65 G. G. Siemens, F. Brown, Alan J. Janzen, Mrs. T. Kehler, Greta Graffin, J. B. Wiebe, Harry Friesen, J. F. Wiebe, P. L. Friesen, Hank Mesman, Dave Brown, Mrs. Bertha Dyck, F. W. Dyck, F. Zacharias.  
 1965-66 J. F. Wiebe, G. G. Siemens, D. Brown, Mrs. T. Kehler, F. Zacharias, F. Brown, H. Mesman, J. B. Wiebe, P. L. Friesen, F. W. Dyck, Mrs. B. Dyck, H. Friesen, D. Friesen, A. J. Janzen, Margretta Graffin (Aron Sawatzky).  
 1966-67 Lloyd Rietze, J. F. Wiebe, G. G. Siemens, D. Brown, Mrs. T. Kehler, F. Zacharias, Dan W. Sawatzky, Mrs. Helen Janzen, Ed Falk, Wayne Busse, Mrs. Carole Vogt, Nick Neufeld, Pat Kolisnyk, Miss H. Letzmann, F. Brown, Henry Hiebert, Mrs. Justina Wiebe.  
 1967-68 Mrs. T. Kehler, D. Brown, J. F. Wiebe, Ed Falk, L. Rietze, W. Busse, D. Sawatzky, P. Kolisnyk, H. Hiebert, George D. Pries, Margaret Carley, Wm. Schroeder, Peter Nickel, Miss C. Johnston, Otto Funk, Robert Cooney, Jake Pauls, Abe Hildebrand, Gerhard Hildebrand, F. Brown, Harvey Kroeker, Bernie Loepky, Alfred H. Kroeker, Mrs. Anne Klassen, Mrs. Evelyn Janzen, Mrs. V. Doell.  
 1968-69 L. Rietze, D. Sawatzky, H. Hiebert, D. Brown, Mrs. T. Kehler, J. F. Wiebe, E. Falk, W. Busse, Rev. Bernie Loepky, Rev. G. D. Pries, O. Funk, Rev. W. Schroeder, A. Hildebrand, P. Nickel, R. Cooney, J. Pauls,

H. Kroeker, Miss M. Parson, Mrs. Hilda Friesen, G. Hildebrand, Wm. Braun, Mrs. Linda Enns, Wm. Wilms, Niel Janzen, Rev. Ben D. Wiebe, Mrs. O. Tesarski, G. Watson, F. Brown, and ARC — Mrs. Helen Loewen, E. Hildebrand, Mrs. Viola Doell.

1969-70 F. Brown, B.A., B.Ed.; Miss P. Barker, B.H.Ec.; W. Braun, 1st A.; D. Brown, B.A., B.Ed.; W. Busse, B.Sc. in Phys. Ed.; Larry Chornoboy, Bus. Ed. Cert.; R. Cooney, 2nd. Voc.; E. Falk, B.A.; Mrs. H. Friesen, 2nd Cl.; H. Hiebert, B.A.; O. Funk, B.A., B.Ed., M.A.; A. Hildebrand, B.Sc.; G. Hildebrand, B.A.; N. Janzen, B.A., B.Th.; H. Kroeker, B.A.; Mrs. T. Kehler, B.A. B. Ed.; Miss M. Lofgren, 1st. Interm.; B. Loepky, B.A.; P. Nickel, 1st A.; J. Pauls, B.A.; G. D. Pries, B.A., B.Ed., M.A., B.Th.; L. Rietze, B.Sc., B. Ed.; D. Sawatzky, 1st Cert.; W. Schroeder, B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed., B.Th., ARC — Mrs. H. Loewen; E. Hildebrand; Mrs. V. Doell.

1970-71 F. Brown, Miss M. E. Barker, W. Braun, D. Brown, W. Busse, R. Cooney, L. Chornoboy, Miss V. M. Doell, Miss M. Driedger, Miss A. Eyford, E. Falk, W. Falk, Mrs. H. Friesen, A. Hildebrand, G. Hildebrand, N. Janzen, J. Pauls, Mrs. T. Kehler, H. Kroeker, B. Loepky, Miss M. Lofgren, P. Nickel, G. D. Pries, L. Rietze, D. Sawatzky, W. Schroeder, B. D. Wiebe, J. F. Wiebe, F. Zacharias, Miss E. J. Hildebrand, Mrs. H. Loewen, Mrs. V. Doell, Mrs. Anne Klassen.

1971-72 J. F. Wiebe, M. Bergsgaard, Wm. Braun, D. Brown, Miss H. Buller, W. Busse, L. Chornoboy, R. Cooney, Miss V. M. Doell, Miss M. Driedger, Miss A. Eyford, Ed Falk, Walter Falk, Mrs. H. Friesen, A. Hildebrand, G. Pries, G. Hildebrand, N. Janzen, Mrs. T. Kehler, H. Kroeker, Miss P. Kroeker, L. Tonn, U. Leifer, B. Loepky, P. Nickel, Mrs. J. Patterson, L. Rietze, Dan Sawatzky, Wm. Schroeder, Mrs. O. Tesarski, B. D. Wiebe, L. Zacharias, Mrs. H. Loewen, Mrs. V. Doell, Mrs. Anne Klassen, Miss E. J. Hildebrand.

1972-73 J. F. Wiebe, D. Brown, D. Sawatzky, Miss Penny Kroeker, B. Loepky, John Krahn, L. Rietze, B. D. Wiebe, Michael Bergsgaard, Mrs. Olive Tesarski, R. Cooney, Ed Falk, Miss Virginia Doell, Wayne Busse, G. D. Pries, Miss Marianne Driedger, Harvey Kroeker, Mrs. Jill Patterson, G. Hildebrand, Mrs. Viola Doell, Mrs. Barbara Hjelte, Wm. Schroeder, Leslie Zacharias, Miss Catherine Driedger, Mrs. H. Loewen, Wm. Braun, Irwin Peters, Mrs. Tina Kehler, Larry Chornoboy, Mrs. Anne Klassen, Mrs. Florence Dyck, Peter Nickel, Abe Hildebrand.

Principals at Winkler of the Garden Valley School Division:

- 1964-66 Henry T. Thiessen, B.A., B.Ed. — \$9500 — \$10,165  
 1966-73 Henry Neufeld, B.A., B.Ed. — \$9180 — \$18575



Garden Valley School Division (Unitary) Board, 1973. Front row: (L — R) A. J. Peters; George Froese; John W. Kuhl, Chairman; Bill Brown, Vice-chairman; P. D. Labun. Standing: G. W. Enns, Ben Schellenberg, J. P. Wiebe, Abe Rempel, Bernie Elias, Dr. Feroze Khan, J. H. Wiebe, Secretary-treasurer

### Garden Valley School Division Becomes Unitary

Residents of Garden Valley School Division voted against becoming a unitary division on March 10, 1967, when a referendum was held throughout the province. At that time, 52% of the area eligible voters cast ballots and 1,416 of them opposed a unitary division while only 543 supported it. Although a number of secondary school divisions in Manitoba in 1967 had defeated the referendum, by 1972 Garden Valley was the last of the multi-district divisions to hold out against formation of a unitary school division. Most of the opposition to the new scheme came from the rural voters who maintained that there would be no reduction in taxation and they feared further disintegration of rural community life with the consequent centralization in the larger centres and dissolution of the rural school districts. The most outspoken opponent of the unitary scheme was Mr. George G. Elias, chairman of Garden Valley School Division. He was almost "a voice crying in the wilderness" of abuse and denunciation. Yet local history may some day assign to him his proper place when viewed in the perspective of time and circumstance, for on February 23, 1973, the Honourable Ed Schreyer, Premier of Manitoba, stated that, "Manitoba has gone too far in the centralization of its elementary schools."

However, since formation of a unitary division in the area would mean a very substantial increase in provincial funding because the division would then be eligible for larger government education grants and receive most of its funds from the provincial foundation grant, many ratepayers began to have second thoughts about their rejection of the government proposal advanced in 1967.

There was also evidence that parents in rural districts wanted the best education for their children and they believed this could be provided in larger centralized schools. Hence the 30 school districts that formed Garden Valley School Division in 1964, had gradually been eroded and in the process of amalgamation were reduced to 19 by 1972.

According to the Manitoba Public Schools Act, a unitary division may be formed by referendum, by petition of electors to the minister of education, and by a vote of the majority of the elementary school boards representing a majority of elementary pupils and electors. Since the electors of Garden Valley had defeated the referendum in 1967, the provincial cabinet did not allow another plebiscite on the same school question. When promoters of the unitary system solicited signatures for a petition to the Minister of Education, many electors now were willing to append their names. In the meantime, however, a third method of approach was pursued when a majority of the elementary school boards representing a majority of elementary students and electors voted to establish a unitary division. As a result, Mr. Ben Hanuschak, Minister of Education, recommended to the provincial cabinet that a unitary division be formed and in December, 1972, an Order in Council was passed which saw the last elementary school district holding out against formation of a unitary school division move into step with the rest of Manitoba on January 1, 1973.

Subsequently, the Minister of Education sent a Board of Reference to Garden Valley to hear representations with regard to establishing ward boundaries and setting the number of trustees for each

ward. The Board of Reference decided that the new unitary division should have an eleven-man trustee board and thereby adopted the proposal of the Garden Valley School Trustee Association, which had asked for seven rural trustees (one per ward), and four to represent the Winkler ward. On Friday, January 26, 1973, the following trustees were acclaimed or elected: Ward 1, Bernie Elias; Ward 2, Ben Schellenberg; Ward 3, Abe E. Rempel; Ward 4, George J. Froese; Ward 6, Jacob P. Wiebe; Ward 7, Abe J. Peters; Ward 8, Bill G. Brown; Ward 5, John W. Kuhl, Dr. Feroze Khan, Peter D. Labun, and George W. Enns. On Monday, January 29, the trustees took the oath of office and elected John W. Kuhl as chairman, and Bill G. Brown vice-chairman. John H. Wiebe continued to serve as secretary-treasurer.

To allay any lingering fears in the hearts of those who had opposed the formation of a unitary division, the chairman, John W. Kuhl, on behalf of the new Board of Garden Valley School Division, hastened to issue the following statement: "From many of the comments that have been made, we, the new board of the Garden Valley division, realize there are many fears in the hearts of parents, teachers, and students as to just how this new board will operate the schools.

"Some of you are afraid that your local schools will be closed. Others fear that the local Christmas programs and picnics will now be a thing of the past.

"We, the trustees, of the new unitary board, would like to assure you that we will make every possible effort to keep your schools in operation, and will close schools only upon request or in consultation with the local people whose children will be involved.

"Christmas programs and picnics will be supported. To us it is very important that you remain interested in and proud of your local school.

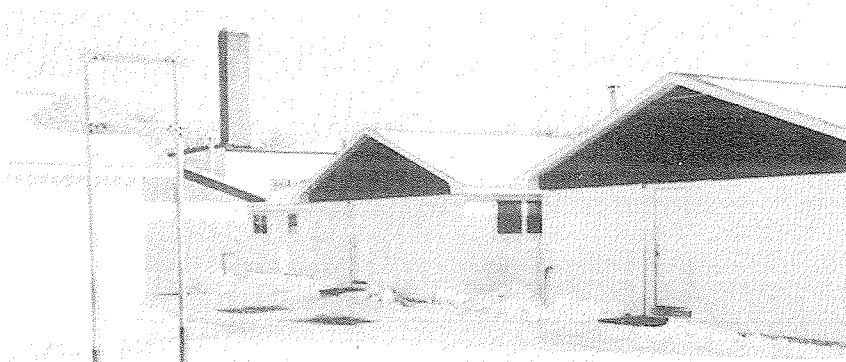
"It is our desire to improve and build up, rather than to break down. This we can do only with your help and support.

"We would ask you to be patient with us rather than to expect immediate changes and added opportunities for your children.

"We ask you to help us plan for the fall term of 1973 by which time we would have hoped to develop a good working relationship within the board, the community and a viable plan of operation for all schools involved giving at least a semblance of equal opportunity to all students of our division."



G.V.C.I. Campus 1966



## Chapter IV

### THE CHURCHES

"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow," Hebrews 13:7.

#### The Winkler Bergthaler Church

The Winkler Bergthaler Church had its beginning about 1882 to 1884 in the now defunct village of Hoffnungsfeld, one mile south-west of the present town of Winkler. It was Bishop Johann Funk who realized the urgent need of providing an education for the children and for the young people. Because of this vision and aggressive policy to provide educational facilities in order that the public schools might be staffed with local qualified teachers, about 75% of the more conservative members of the Bergthaler Church in southern Manitoba broke away and founded the Sommerfelder Church.

This schism also affected the membership at Hoffnungsfeld and as a result, a division took place in May, 1895. Subsequently, the church building was divided between the Bergthaler and the Sommerfelder members so that one-half of it was moved to Glencross where it was used by the Sommerfelder congregation and the other half to Rosenbach about a mile north of Winkler. Mr. Jacob Peters, the father of Rev. William J. Peters, was one of the carpenters who sawed the church building at Hoffnungsfeld into two sections. However, the half of the building moved to Rosenbach was completed and apparently also used by the Sommerfelder Church members until 1937 when the Rudnerweider Church (now E.M.M.C.) at Rosenbach was organized. Apparently, the half of the church building at Hoffnungsfeld allotted to the Bergthaler congregation was not moved to Winkler because the group decided to build a new church here. In any case, a new Bergthaler Church was erected in 1895 at the present site on Sixth Street and dedicated November 2, 1895. As a Mission Festival took place in Winkler on October 6, 1895, and as the Bergthaler Church conducted this service, it would appear that the building must have been practically completed by then. Until then, Mennonites had simply not considered building churches in town. This was the first church to be erected in the village of Winkler. Mr. J. B. Hooze who for many years operated a private old folks home on Pembina Avenue where the Winkler Bible Institute campus is located at present, was one of the carpenters who helped in the erection of the church. Because there was no M.B. Church in Winkler at the time, the late Mrs. J. B. Dyck had vivid recollections of her wedding day on November 10, 1895, in the spanking new Bergthaler Church. The size of the building was 50 by 28 feet and the cost to erect it amounted to \$1500 which was paid for by the central treasury of the Bergthaler Church. Compared to the prosaic Mennonite churches of that day, it was a beautiful church that departed from the traditional standard of construction in its arched windows, choir loft, pews with back-rests, high ceiling, and balcony. On November 8, 1970, the congregation celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Winkler Bergthaler Church and commemorated this victory with the publication of a Church Yearbook.

This church building was later renovated and the first public school house erected in Winkler was purchased in 1911 and moved onto the Bergthaler church yard to be used as a kitchen and dining hall for wedding receptions, to serve refreshments after funerals, as well as for other special festivities. In 1940 this school building was attached to the north-west corner of the church forming an L-shaped building to provide more accommodation.

This first building was demolished and replaced with a new \$38,000 structure after Elder David Schulz turned the sod on April 27, 1947. The new 40 by 90 foot sanctuary had a steeple, arched stained windows, and stucco finish on the outside. The pews in the balcony and on the inclined floor provided seating capacity for 700 worshippers. The basement contained Sunday School classrooms, a kitchen, and dining room.

However, as the membership increased the Winkler Bergthaler Church ventured out on another building program when on October 1, 1969, ground breaking ceremonies were held on the same lot between Sixth and Seventh Streets for the erection of an edifice that was to meet the needs of its 637 resident and non-resident members, which make it the largest congregation in Winkler. The old building was renovated and became the educational center for the Church. The Building Committee that carried through the plan and construction of the new church was made up of the following members: A. L. Friesen, Chairman; P. W. Enns, Vice Chairman; John E. Hildebrand, Secretary; Isaac W. Enns; John F. Wiebe; H. F. Wiebe; Peter Derksen; John L. Friesen; Glen Janzen; George H. Enns; and Jake Dyck.

On Sunday, June 21, 1970, the new \$158,760.00 sanctuary was dedicated when Rev. P. J. Froese, pastor of the church, and Rev. W. J. Peters, spoke the dedicatory prayers. Other members and officials who participated at the opening ceremonies were Don Fonger, contractor; A. L. Friesen, Chairman of the Building Committee; Rev. Levi Keidel, guest speaker; G. H. Enns, chairman of the Finance Committee; Rev. J. F. Pauls; Menno Janzen; Rev. H. J. Gerbrandt; and J. L. Friesen.

The new church building has a seating capacity for 1000 parishioners. It is joined to the old building by a foyer. The new structure has a balcony, carpet floor covering, stained glass windows, and the outside consists of Tyndall stone and laminated arches.

A dream and a plan found their fulfilment at the Winkler Bergthaler Church when a Christian Education Centre was dedicated to the glory of God on Sunday morning, May 7, 1972, at 9:30 a.m. The Sunday School teachers with their pupils, together with the members of the congregation, had gathered in the sanctuary for this special service.



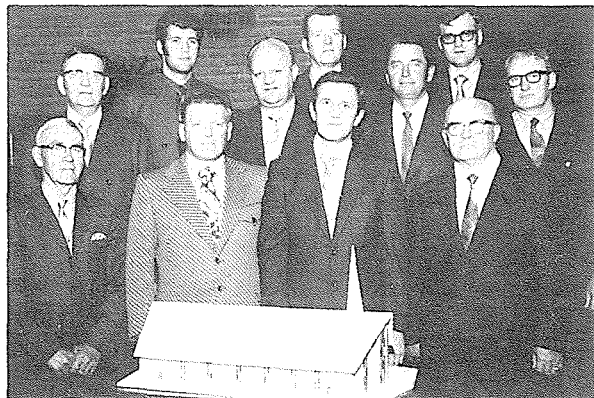
"This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it," were the words of greeting spoken by the pastor, Rev. P. J. Froese, on this memorable day. He pointed out that never before in the history of the Winkler Bergthaler Church had an education building been dedicated.

After John W. Enns, Sunday School Committee chairman, read I Kings 8:12-30 for the invocation, the girls' choir, conducted by Mrs. Marianne Hildebrand, sang Psalm 100, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Mr. John F. Wiebe, chairman of the Education Centre renovating committee, read I Corinthians 3:9-10, "For we are labourers together with God," and also expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the voluntary labor that had been received, and for the financial and prayer support to carry out the second phase of the overall building project.

Rev. P. J. Froese based his dedication message on Genesis 28:18-22, "This stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house." The pastor then led in the dedicatory responsive reading in which the congregation was asked to participate.

The ribbon cutting ceremony followed when twelve Sunday School children came onto the platform to hold the ribbon which was then cut by Mr. John F. Wiebe, Sunday School superintendent, and Rev. P. J. Froese, who then declared the Christian Education Centre open for the service of the Lord. The Centre was renovated at a cost of \$41,000 and provides accommodation in 26 classrooms for 31 classes.

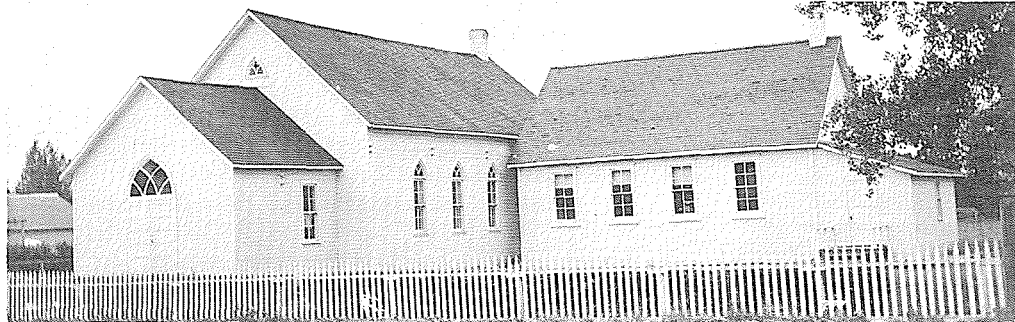


The Bergthaler Church Building Committee, 1970. Front row L. to R.: Isaac W. Enns; John E. Hildebrand, secretary; A. L. Friesen, chairman; P. W. Enns, vice-chairman. Second row: John F. Wiebe; Henry F. Wiebe; Peter Derksen; John L. Friesen. Third row: Glen Janzen; George H. Enns and Jake Dyck.

During the early years the ministers of the Bergthaler Mennonite Church were not recognized as shepherds or pastors of any one particular congregation even though they resided near their home church. The plural ministry pattern was an old deep-rooted Mennonite tradition. This was also true of the earlier ministers at Winkler. Wilhelm Harms, Franz Sawatzky, and Jacob Hoepfner were ministers of the church loosely called Bergthaler before the 1892 division. However, the Bergthaler and Sommerfelder congregations continued to use the same church building at Hoffnungsfeld until 1895, probably with alternate services. The first minister that was called in the Hoffnungsfeld-Winkler area after the division was Jacob M. Wiens. The second minister ordained in the Winkler area after the division was Henry Hildebrand. Rev. Hildebrand who was born August 12, 1866, in Chortitza, South Russia, immigrated with his parents to Canada in 1878. In 1886 he was married to Miss Helena Dyck with whom he divided his joys and sorrows for over 53 years. Rev. Hildebrand was ordained for the ministry on October 20, 1901. He was a farmer and resided in the Hildebrand's village which is located about five miles north-east of Winkler. In 1918 he became afflicted with hernia and consequently it was only on rare occasions that he could fill the pulpit on Sunday morning. Rev. Hildebrand died July 10, 1940.



Mr. W. M. Enns former Bergthaler Church Sunday School Superintendent and M.C.C. Director



The Winkler Bergthaler Church. On the left is the first church in Winkler, dedicated November 2, 1895. Here it has been renovated. To the right is the kitchen and dining hall which was purchased from the school district and moved onto the church yard. At first the kitchen stood about 60 feet from the church building.



Bergthaler Church Choir, 1929



Winkler Bergthaler  
Church Choir, 1935



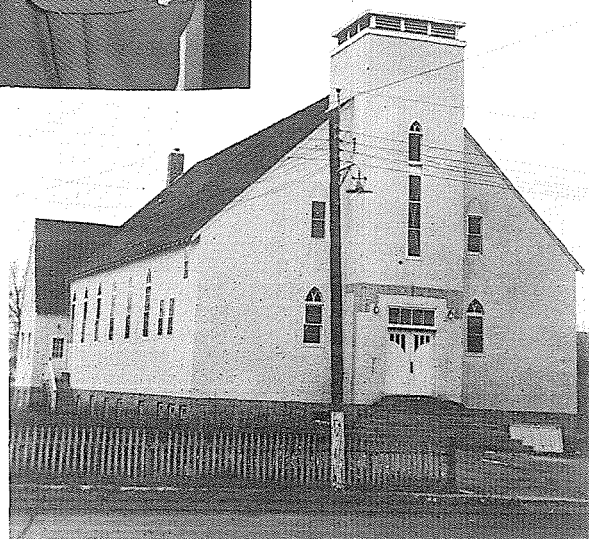
1940  
Bergthaler Church  
Choir



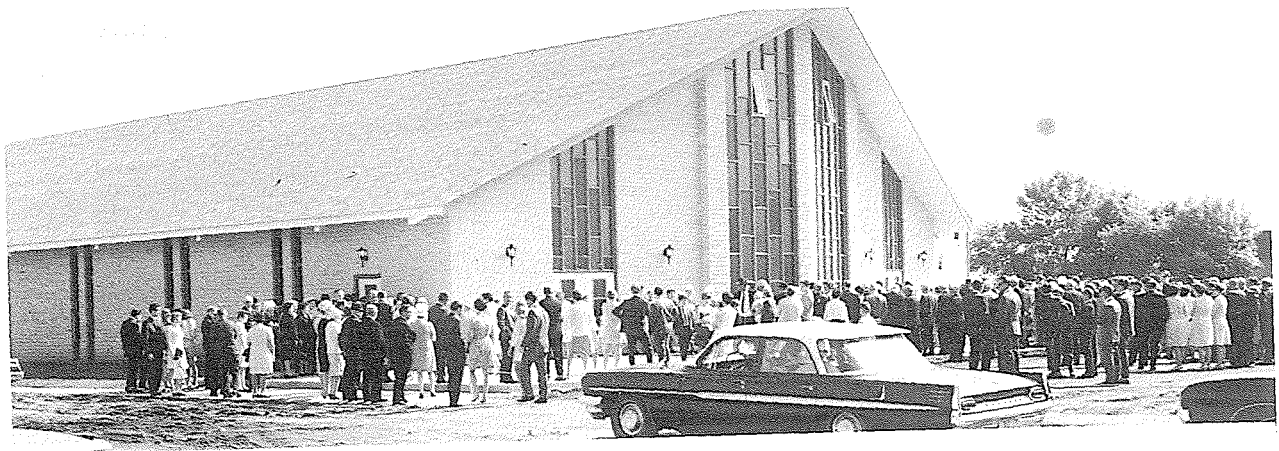
Baptismal Service at Winkler,  
1956. First row, centre: Rev. J.  
E. Stobbe, Rev. J. M. Pauls,  
Rev. W. J. Peters.



Feb. 12, 1956. (L. to R.) Rev. D. Schulz, Dr. and Mrs. C. W.  
Wiebe, Rev. J. M. Pauls. The church celebrates the doctor's  
birthday.



Erected 1947



Bergthaler Church , 1970.



Bergthaler Church Male Choir, 1970. Conductor: Ben Giesbrecht, front far right.



Bergthaler Church Choir





Sanctuary of Winkler Bergthaler Church dedicated June 21, 1970.





Winkler Bergthaler Church at left with the Education Centre at right



Bergthaler Church Sunday School Teachers, 1971. Front row: (L. to R.) Peter Pauls, treasurer; H. F. Wiebe, former superintendent; Jim Krahn, secretary; J. F. Wiebe, superintendent; Abe B. Wiebe, asst.



Pioneer Girls' Committee and Guides.

### Rev. Heinrich Born — Minister

The third minister from the Winkler area elected by the central brotherhood of the Bergthaler Church was Heinrich Born. He was born on March 16, 1881, at Wernersdorf, South Russia, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Born. In 1892 he immigrated to Canada with his parents who settled on a farm in the Roland district. On his confession of faith, he was baptized in 1901 by Elder Johann Funk and ordained for the ministry by Elder Jacob Hoepfner on October 3, 1920. In 1906 he married the former Miss Anna Krahn who was born June 28, 1888, in the Winkler area.



Rev. and Mrs. Henry Born.

Rev. and Mrs. Born lived on rented land for five years until in 1911 they purchased their own farm five miles north of Winkler which they operated until the depression years had set in and from 1932 to 1940 the family carried on farming operations at Gnadenthal. From 1940 to 1951 they lived in the village of Gnadenfeld, and then moved to Altona. Besides looking after his farm in order to earn a livelihood, Rev. Born served the Winkler Bergthaler Church, as well as other churches, for many years. To provide for the physical needs of the family was always a struggle for him, however, Mrs. Born who is the mother of thirteen children supported him faithfully and courageously. Because of economic difficulties and pecuniary distress the Born family frequently had to change their place of residence.

However, if the treasures of earth were always beyond the grasp of Rev. Born, he possessed a spiritual wealth contained in the Word of God which the world cannot duplicate. His fiery and fervent Sunday morning evangelistic sermons stirred many a drowsy parishioner out of his physical and spiritual slumbers to heart searching and rededication.

Besides Rev. Born, there are two sons and one son-in-law in the family who are ministers of the gospel. Rev. William J. Peters was ordained July 14, 1940; Rev. Abram Born, August 1, 1954; and Rev. Henry Born was ordained in B.C. One of Rev. Born's granddaughters, Mrs. Anna Schroeder, Brandon, Manitoba, is an authoress of Christian fiction. Mrs. Schroeder who is a nurse and a mother of four children has written two novels, "A year of Decision" and "The Secret of His Presence". Both books have been published by the Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

When the Mennonite immigrants of the 1920's escaped the results of the Russian Revolution and found shelter with their relatives and kin in Canada, many of them assumed leading roles and offices in the church. Because of their educational and cultural superiority, conflicts and misunderstandings would sometimes arise between the established hierarchy and the newcomers. Rev. Born also did not escape involvement in the problems of this transitional period and as a result experienced a decade of painful adjustment.

In September, 1933, Rev. Born's health began to fail and he found it increasingly difficult to preach until finally in 1946 he had to give up all speaking

engagements. His last words before his death on August 21, 1952, at Altona, are contained in the following verse of a hymn:

"Jesu Heiland meiner Seele,  
Lass an deine Brust mich flieh'n;  
Da die Wasser naeher rauschen  
Und die Wellen hoeher zieh'n."



Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Hoeppner.

Rev. Jacob Hoeppner, a great-grandson of the deputy Jacob Hoeppner of West Prussia, was born August 10, 1850, on the Island of Chortitza, Russia, where he received his education. Like his grandfather, he had an independent nature and aggressive character. His father ran the ferry across the Dnjepr River in Russia and young Jacob grew up on the ferry as a fisherman. He claimed to have learned to swim and to walk at the same time. His feat of being able to stay under water longer than was considered safe, the members of his family as well as other ferry passengers often observed with anxiety. What these passengers did not know when young Jacob slipped underneath the ferry was that he found an air pocket in which he could breath. After every one was thoroughly alarmed, he would reappear on the surface of the water. Cossacks and other ferry passengers became his friends.

At an early age, Rev. Hoeppner experienced a profound encounter with God and he remained faithful in this relationship until his death on November 16, 1936. In 1871 he was baptized and received into the Mennonite Church. Two years later, 1873, he married Miss Aganetha Dueck, and in 1876 he and his family moved to Canada. They arrived at West Lynn on July 24, and on the West Reserve July 26. His first year here he was engaged as private school teacher in the village of Hochfeld. Soon Rev. Hoeppner moved to Waldheim in the Glencross district and then to Schanzenfeld, and from here the family moved onto a farm near Winkler where they resided for 21 years, until 1919 when they finally moved into a house in town at the north-east corner of Eighth Street and Stanley Avenue. By 1914 he had already been formally asked to stop all attempts at farming so that he could devote his time exclusively to the

ministry in the Church. This would indicate that the Bergthaler Church was willing to grant him some remuneration to compensate for the income from his farm.<sup>2</sup>

In 1887 Rev. Hoeppner had been elected to the ministry at Hoffnungsfeld, and on April 14, 1903, he was ordained by Elder Johann Funk in Hochstadt as assistant Elder of the Bergthaler Church. Elder Hoeppner's home visitation, patience, kindness and love made him a most welcome guest throughout his entire parish.

Elder and Mrs. Hoeppner had a family of twelve children. Two of their sons were public school teachers in the local community. Mr. Peter Hoeppner served as choir leader, Sunday School teacher, and for twenty-nine years he taught in the public schools of southern Manitoba.

After 48 years of married life, Mrs. Hoeppner passed away on April 24, 1922, and subsequently Elder Hoeppner found a helpmate in Mrs. Heinrich Harder to whom he was joined in matrimony on January 21, 1923. However, she predeceased him on December 24, 1935. Elder Hoeppner went to his heavenly reward on November 16, 1936, at the age of 86 years. Although he was old and hard of hearing, he had continued to serve God through the Church until his death.

The funeral service for Elder Hoeppner was conducted in a large tent on the Church yard at Winkler. An indication of the love and respect for the deceased was the participation by people from all walks of life attending the service on November 19, 1936, and also by the following list of ministers of the gospel who spoke words of comfort: J. J. Siemens, David Schulz, J. N. Hoeppner, J. Bueckert, Benjamin Ewert, J. J. Hooge, D. H. Loewen, Henry Born, D. D. Klassen, W. P. Heinrichs, Jacob M. Pauls, Johan Loepky, and Isaac Hoeppner.

As is usual at Mennonite funerals, an opportunity was given the entire congregation to cast one last fleeting glance on the remains of the deceased in the casket. As the assemblage filed by the coffin, many of those present involuntarily were reminded of the stanza which Elder Hoeppner himself often quoted when he had personally conducted a funeral service, namely:

"Komm, Sterblicher, betrachte mich;  
Du lebst; ich lebt' auf Erden.  
Was du jetzt bist, das war auch ich;  
Was ich bin, wirst du werden.  
Du musst mir nach, ich ging voran;  
Ach denke nicht in deinem Wahn,  
Dass du nicht duerftest sterben."

#### Rev. Jakob J. Siemens

Jakob J. Siemens, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Jakob Siemens, was born September 17 (September 29), 1882, in Adelsheim, Jasykowo, South Russia. In 1903 he was baptized by Elder Isaac Dyck and from 1904 to 1907 he did alternative service in a Camp for Conscientious Objectors at Neuberjaner. In 1908 he was married to Miss Eva Klassen from the neighboring village of Eichenfeld who passed away in 1931. The last years before he emigrated from Russia, Rev. Siemens lived with his family in the Caucasus, and from 1914 to 1917

he did voluntary service for the Red Cross at Tiflis. On January 15, 1922, he was ordained by Elder Franz F. Enns for the ministry and he subsequently served for 35 years in the vineyard of the Lord. In 1924 Rev. Siemens and his family immigrated to Canada and arrived in Winkler on May 13 of that year.

On November 27, 1932, Rev. Siemens found another helpmate in Mrs. Maria Peters who was born May 3, 1888, the daughter of Johan and Sara Peters who lived near the Island of Chortitza in the village of Nieder-Chortitza, South Russia. Her husband John J. Peters, his father, and also his grandfather were murdered by bandits on November 5, 1919, during the Russian Revolution. Because of the revolutionary mobs who were roaming the countryside, she fled with her two young sons on a cold winter's night in December to the home of her parents. However, when she arrived her father and brother were already sick with typhoid fever and after a few days she too contracted the disease. Her father and her brother succumbed to this dreaded fever and were placed on the funeral bier side by side.

After his arrival in 1924 at Winkler, Rev. Siemens settled on a farm one-half mile east of town. To eke out a living from the soil in a new country, to adjust to the local conditions, and to serve the church membership who had lived in a Canadian cultural atmosphere for 50 years, sometimes taxed his strength and patience to the limit. In 1926 Rev. Siemens was accepted by the Winkler Bergthaler congregation as one of the newly arrived immigrant ministers. As he was a powerful speaker with deep spiritual convictions, his impact on the local church membership was soon felt. For many years he also found time to serve on the Board of Directors of the "Bethania" Home in Winnipeg. Rev. J. J. Siemens died suddenly on March 2, 1957, at his home on Eleventh Street. The funeral service was conducted by Elder David Schulz and Assistant Elder J. M. Pauls who respectively took their texts from Psalm 73:25-26, and I Chronicles 29:15.

On Sunday, May 28, 1972, Mrs. Maria Siemens was honoured with a plaque for having founded the Manitoba Women's Missions Conference of Mennonites. The presentation was made at the annual Conference sessions held in Steinbach, Manitoba. The inscription on the bronze plaque reads as follows: "Schwester Maria Siemens, der Gruenderin der Vereinigung der Missions Frauenvereine der Konferenz der Mennoniten in Manitoba, 1942-72, in dankbarer Anerkennung von der Manitoba Frauenkonferenz."

## Ministers

William J. Peters who recently moved to Winkler but has continued to operate his farm four miles north of town, was born in the Rosenbach district where his father Jacob Peters took up a homestead in 1891. On July 14, 1940, W. J. Peters and Harry S. Friesen were ordained for the ministry. Since his ordination, Rev. Peters has continued to serve the Winkler Bergthaler Church as well as the central church. He has been the typical Mennonite lay minister, firm in principles and convictions and adamant in refusing to be persuaded into becoming a salaried pastor. Whenever the local Bergthaler Church has been in need of leadership, Rev. Peters has always been willing to substitute until the next pastor arrived.

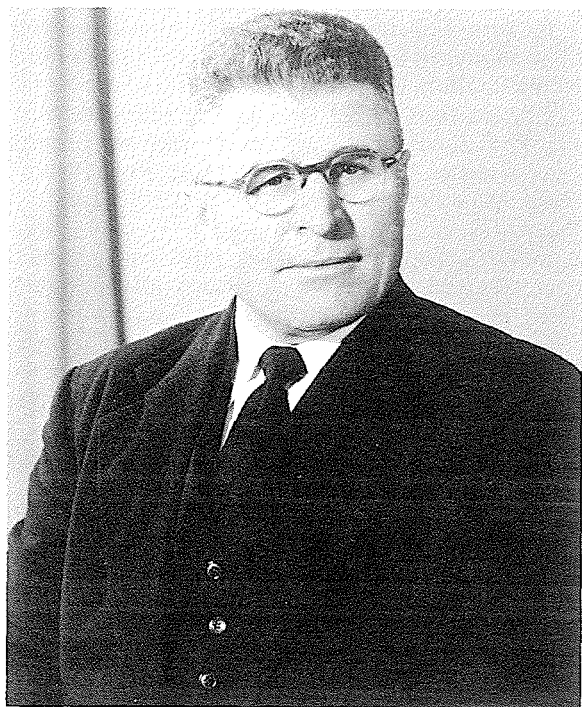
Jacob E. Stobbe and Isaak G. Krahn were elected to the ministry at the Winkler Bergthaler Church on August 29, 1948. Rev. Stobbe who was a Bethel College graduate participated energetically in the preaching ministry, the Sunday School, and in Young People's activities until his death on July 8, 1964. Rev. Krahn who had been ordained as deacon on September 10, 1944, served with sincerity behind the pulpit as leader of the congregation until he took up farming at Kane, Manitoba.

In 1964, John R. Friesen, a local high school graduate and the son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Friesen, returned from an MCC assignment in Germany to assist in the youth work at the Winkler Bergthaler Church. He was ordained on March 26, 1965, and fully remunerated for his services. However, a year later he returned to his pastoral position in Berlin, Germany, but continued his weekly "Frohe Botschaft" radio messages over station CFAM.

Two ministers of the Winkler Bergthaler Church who have recently moved to town after retiring from farming are John J. Epp and Franz Letkeman. Rev. Epp was called to the ministry on April 3, 1936, at Altona and retired to Winkler in 1967. He has the personal touch and testimony that is appreciated by the sick and lonely. Rev. Letkeman was ordained as minister of the Schoenwieser Church at Graysville in 1951. However, in 1953 he transferred to the Bergthaler Church. He moved to Winkler in 1960 and besides his preaching engagements he carries on a much appreciated visitation program.



Rev. and Mrs. J. J. Siemens.



Rev. Jacob M. Pauls, 1903-1961.

Rev. Jacob M. Pauls was born November 11, 1903, at Griegorjeneher, in the Russian Ukraine. In 1924 he was baptized by Elder Abram Unruh. On January 31, 1926, he was married to the former Miss Maria Funk and that same year they immigrated to Canada having arrived in Winkler on September 14. For many years Rev. Pauls and his family lived on a farm north-west of Morden, Manitoba.

On June 19, 1933, Rev. Pauls was ordained for the ministry and on September 2, 1951, he was ordained as assistant Elder of the Bergthaler Church. From 1951 to 1961 Rev. Pauls with his family resided in Winkler and he accepted the congregational leadership of the Church here although the family continued to depend on the farm near Morden for a livelihood.<sup>3</sup>

Rev. J. M. Pauls was a dynamic speaker who had no difficulty retaining the interest of his congregation. Although he made his closing remarks in German at a local high school Christmas program, the ears and eyes of all students were riveted to his lips as he told them of the Christmas Eve incident that occurred at his parental home in Russia. When the rooms of their house had been tidied up and decorated, the family evidently was just ready to leave for the annual Christmas Eve Sunday School program in church when, lo and behold, a beggar knocked at the door and begged for lodging for the night. Then Rev. Pauls described the qualms of conscience and frustration that found expression on his mother's face until she finally mastered the unexpected situation. After all, it was Christmas and its message of "good will toward men" should also have a practical application.

Rev. Pauls died November 20, 1961. The esteem and respect which the entire community held for him was evidenced at his funeral on November 24, when all business places in town were closed during the service and an estimated 1600 mourners who were divided between

the Bergthaler and Mennonite Brethren churches which were connected by a public address system, heard the messages delivered by four elders who paid tribute to Rev. Pauls, namely, D. D. Klassen, Paul Schaefer, J. F. Pauls, and David Schulz who read the text from II Timothy 4:7-8 as had been suggested to him by the deceased.



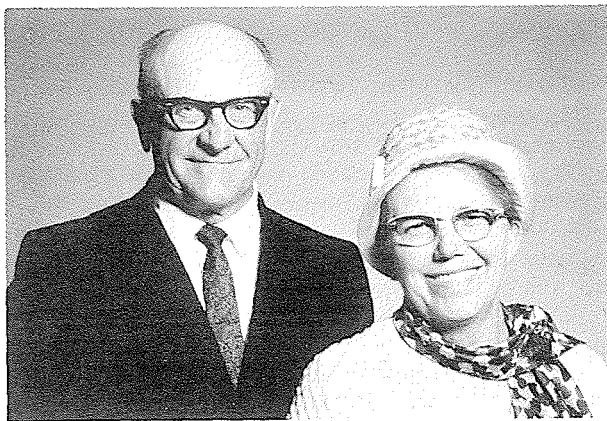
Rev. and Mrs. P. J. Froese. Rev. Froese has served as pastor of the Winkler Bergthaler Church since Sept. 1, 1967.

#### The Pastor

Since September 1, 1967, Rev. Peter J. Froese who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Froese, has served as pastor of the Winkler Bergthaler Church. He was born at Kondratjewka, in the Ukraine and came to Canada in 1926. On June 25, 1934, Rev. Froese was baptized by Bishop J. P. Klassen, and he was ordained for the ministry on October 9, 1949, by Rev. H. M. Epp.

Rev. Froese relates how on one occasion in the month of January at the age of twelve, he had been forbidden by his parents to go out. However, he could not resist the temptation to join some of his classmates who went skating and surreptitiously escaped from the house to enjoy the recreation on the smooth surface of the river ice. Unfortunately, he skated onto a patch of ice that gave way to his weight and the young culprit broke through the ice. As he screamed for help his buddies rushed to his side and pulled their drenched comrade out of the water. He quickly removed his skates and hurried home but before the young transgressor reached the house his clothes were frozen solid. As the results of the escapade were too obvious, Peter confessed to his mother what had happened. About midnight he developed a severe fever and to add to his physical pains he also felt the even greater pangs of conscience. Soon mother was at the bedside to comfort and counsel her wayward youngster who because of this episode accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Consequently, Rev. Froese claims to have been twice born in the same room of their house. His bedroom was the maternity ward where twelve years previously his mother had given him physical birth and it had now become the sanctuary where he also received his spiritual birth. This experience likely was a contributing factor for his emphasis on practical evangelism in the church.





Rev. and Mrs. William J. Peters. Rev. Peters was ordained for the ministry on July 14, 1940.



Mr. and Mrs. Isaac F. Loewen ordained for the diaconate Aug. 28, 1949.

### Building the Church

The first Sunday School convention of the Bergthaler Church was held at Hoffnungsfeld on July 2, 1893, and on October 1, of the same year a mission festival took place at the same location. Both of these festivals were instituted by Rev. H. H. Ewert, who had come from Kansas in 1891 to accept the principalship of the Mennonite Collegiate Institute at Gretna, Manitoba. An attempt was made on April 17, 1911, to hold a song festival in the Bergthaler Church at Winkler but it was not successful as some of the members objected to the introduction of this new form of service at that time. Since that date, of course, many festivities of that nature have been held here.<sup>4</sup>

The Conference of Mennonites in Canada of which the Winkler Bergthaler Church is a member, has convened in Winkler on the following dates: July, 1912; July, 1922; July, 1930; July 4-8, 1942; and July, 1970. On September 2, 1951, the 25th Jubilee Service of Rev. David Schulz as Bishop of the Bergthaler Church was celebrated in Winkler and on the same day Rev. Jacob M. Pauls was ordained as Elder.

The deacons of the Winkler Bergthaler Church have been Jacob Toews who had been elected before 1892; Jacob M. Wiens, 1895 — 1900, and Isaak B. Hildebrand, ordained January 1, 1913; Abram D. Boschman, an ordained deacon from Russia became a member of the Church in the 1920's; John S. Friesen and Isaak F. Loewen were called on August 28, 1949; Donald Loewen and John J. Siemens, September 6, 1959; John L. Friesen and Menno Janzen, November 21, 1965; and Ben Giesbrecht and Herb Hildebrand called September 14, 1969.

Rev. Jacob Hoepfner is believed to have taught Sunday School at Schanzenfeld about 1888. Superintendents who have served the local Bergthaler Church included Bernhard Loewen who was appointed in 1893 at Hoffnungsfeld; Peter J. Hoepfner, a public school teacher and the son of Elder Jacob Hoepfner; Henry Goertzen; Ben Giesbrecht; Peter M. Hoepfner; Donald Loewen; Henry F. Wiebe; and William M. Enns. It was Mr. W. M. Enns who began to introduce some English into the Bergthaler Church Sunday School as

early as the 1920's and the 1930's. Mr. Enns served as superintendent for twelve years. He was also active as M.C.C. relief agent for a period of about ten years. During this time he visited Europe, Mexico, and South America. Although Mr. Enns lived in town for many years, he operated a farm and did custom threshing in the Roland area. He died in March, 1969.

In February, 1929, the following appointments were made in the local Bergthaler Sunday School: superintendent, William M. Enns; teachers, the Misses Elizabeth Enns and Eva Siemens, Gus E. Penner, Cornelius H. Grunau, Mrs. C. W. Wiebe, John H. Giesbrecht, John Janzen, and John Krahn as substitute.

Mr. Peter B. Krehbiel who was the principal at Winkler in 1895, organized a brass band and because of this was denied membership in the Bergthaler Church. However, an organ was put into the Church about 1911 with Elizabeth Esau as the first and Susie Loewen as the second organist. Besides Mrs. Susan Penner who has been conducting a junior choir for many years, choir leaders who have served the senior church choir have been Peter J. Hoepfner, H. S. Friesen, G. G. Siemens, Henry F. Wiebe, Rev. William J. Peters, Ben Giesbrecht, William Janzen, Phil Ens, and Dr. K. H. Neufeld who was the Bergthaler Church Choir leader from 1929 to 1947.

Although the Winkler Bergthaler Church administration is guided by the Ministerial and the Church Council, there are numerous other committees that supervise certain specific areas, such as the Education Committee, Missions Committee, Service, Finance, Ushers, Senior Ladies Aid, Bethel Ladies' Aid, Ladies' Fellowship, Bethesda Ladies' Aid, Youth Committee, Church Organists and Pianists, and Pioneer Girls' Committee and Guides. The latter is a recent innovation as far as the local churches are concerned.

## The Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church

In the fall of 1884, news was received in the village of Hoffnungsfeld, one mile south-west of the town of Winkler, that an itinerant preacher by the name of Voth was coming from Bingham Lake, Minnesota, to conduct evangelistic services in this area. On December 4, 1884, Rev. Heinrich Voth, father of the late Rev. H. S. Voth, arrived at Hoffnungsfeld, Manitoba. He had been sent by the Mennonite Brethren Conference in the U.S.A. When Rev. Voth was called home to Minnesota a little later to attend the funeral of his mother, he found it difficult to take care of all his baggage because the ladies in many of the households had supplied him with an abundance of Christmas dainties which they had already baked for the approaching festive season. However a little later Rev. Heinrich Voth returned to Manitoba and for the next five years he annually visited this area once or twice a year. The United States M.B. Conference remunerated him to the amount of \$400 annually as well as providing free transportation.

As the mission efforts in Manitoba began to bear fruit, the first baptismal service was conducted on May 30, 1886, in the Dead Horse Creek at Burwalde about a quarter of a mile east of Highway No. 3, approximately where the Winkler Bible Camp is located today. The following were the first four candidates for baptism: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Banman, Burwalde, and Mr. and Mrs. John Nickel, Zion. Two weeks later, June 13, 1886, there was another service when four more converts were baptized, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Hoeppner, Mrs. Henry Hoeppner, and Mr. Peter Hoeppner. Two years later in 1888, the first Mennonite Brethren Church in Canada was organized at Burwalde.

Rev. Heinrich Voth was also confronted with open opposition in his efforts to establish a church here. On one occasion while he was conducting meetings in the school-house at Hoffnungsfeld, three men entered after the service had already begun. As there were no vacant seats at the back, Rev. Voth asked the three to come forward and occupy the chairs behind the speaker in front of the room. At the close of the service as the latecomers neared the exit, the following conversation transpired: "Why did you not take him? You were going to take him. Why didn't you?"

Then one of the group replied, "If what he says is the truth, then we are lost." Later this man turned over a new leaf and it appears that "those who came to scoff, remained to pray." The avowed object of the three men in creating the little scene and commotion had been to take Rev. Voth; drive him to the customs office at Gretna; and then send him home to Bingham Lake, Minnesota.

On another occasion when Rev. Heinrich Voth was walking through the snow from Hoffnungsfeld to the Zion district, a young man on horseback rode up beside him, snapped his whip, and began to apply it vehemently to the back of the pedestrian. However, as Rev. Voth walked on steadily and followed the admonition of our Lord, "That ye resist not evil", the mischievous young man found little satisfaction in the lashing and soon continued on his way.

As more converts were added to the church, Rev. Heinrich Voth invited Rev. Gerhard Wiebe of Ebenfeld, Russia, to come to Canada to minister to the young Mennonite Brethren Church here. Consequently, in April, 1888, Gerhard Wiebe arrived at Burwalde and took over the leadership of the M.B. Church. By this time there had been numerous discussions by the members as to the possibility of erecting a church and at a meeting of the membership in February, 1889, \$275.00 were subscribed for a church building. The first church was built in the summer of 1889. It was situated about three-quarters of a mile south and one mile east of the present Burwalde School on Highway No. 3 (i.e. just across Dead Horse Creek from the present John P. Dyck farmstead).



Rev. Heinrich Voth



Miss Helen Warkentin, first Winkler M.B. Missionary to India, 1919.

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP



Rev. Gerhard Wiebe, leader of the first Mennonite Brethren Church in Canada, 1888-95.

### Rev. Gerhard Wiebe

When Rev. Gerhard Wiebe took over the leadership of the M.B. Church at Burwalde, it had a membership of sixteen. Rev. Wiebe engaged in pioneer farming on Section 20-3-4, four miles north-west of Winkler on the banks of Dead Horse Creek. He was born in Waldorf, West Prussia, in 1847, and grew up under severe hardships. Rev. Wiebe lost his father at four, was provided for by strangers after this, and when old enough he learned such trades as baking and carpentry as an apprentice. He joined the exodus from West Prussia to Russia in 1871.

In 1898, his oldest son, G. G. Wiebe, took charge of the farm and Rev. Gerhard Wiebe opened a lumber business in the Village of Winkler. His lumber yard was located at the south-east corner of Sixth Street and Stanley Avenue, and the red brick dwelling which Rev. Wiebe built at 237 Sixth Street still stands as one of the oldest houses in Winkler today. In the Village of Winkler his industry was rewarded when his fellow citizens elected him as school trustee and also as mayor.

At the age of 65 when most people today think of retiring on pension, Gerhard Wiebe embarked on a series of activities that younger men generally consider reserved for youth. In 1912, after his second wife had passed away, he revisited the scenes of his childhood in Germany and Russia. On his return to Canada he was married a third time and in 1916 he left with his family for Littlefield, Texas, U.S.A., where he engaged in farming for another eight years. After this he lived at Hillsboro, Kansas, and at Coldwater, Texas, until in 1931, he returned to Manitoba. Rev. Wiebe passed away in 1934 while living with his oldest son, the G. G. Wiebe's, on the farm he had himself acquired in 1888. At present his great-grandson Henry W. Dyck resides on this farm.



Rev. and Mrs. David Dyck, Rev. Dyck was M.B. Church leader 1895-1906

### Rev. David Dyck

Rev. David Dyck was born in the village of Nieder Chortiz, South Russia. In his autobiography he states that "It was at 2:30 a.m. on January 25, 1846, that his dear mother pressed him as her first born to her heart." On September 1, 1867, he was married to Miss Helena Rempel at Rosenthal in Russia. In the spring of 1873 they were baptized on their confession of faith and received into the membership of the M.B. Church by Rev. Cornelius Unger. In 1876 they came to America and settled in Kansas. David Dyck was elected to the ministry in 1878 in Woodson County, Kansas. In September, 1883, he left for Rochester, N.Y., to study at the Baptist Seminary. However, these studies were interrupted after six weeks when their oldest daughter was bitten by a mad dog and he had to hurry home.

It was at the Mennonite Brethren Conference in Nebraska in 1883 that Rev. Heinrich Voth and Rev. David Dyck were delegated to visit the Mennonites of southern Manitoba. Subsequently, in the spring of 1884 they came here and found that the Holdeman and the Swedenburg churches had sent workers here also, and besides there were two Mormon missionaries active in the Mennonite colony. However, before coming to Manitoba to serve the new converts here, Rev. Dyck served congregations in Kansas and Colorado.

On July 17, 1895, Rev. David Dyck arrived at Gretna with his wife and nine children to take over the leadership of the M.B. Church at Burwalde. He had travelled about two months, making the entire trip from Cope, Colorado, with horses and wagon. When Rev. Dyck accepted the leadership at Burwalde there were 84 members in the church. During the early years of the Canadian M.B. Conference, he was frequently elected as chairman.



Rev. John Warkentin, M.B. Church leader 1906-31.

When Rev. David Dyck moved to Borden, Saskatchewan, in 1906, Rev. Johann Warkentin, who had been his assistant for ten years, became his successor. From 1906 to 1931 for a period of 25 years, Rev. Warkentin served the Winkler M.B. Church as leader. He was born September 29, 1859, in the village of Nieder Chortiz, Russia. On June 26, 1879, he arrived in Canada with his parents, Jacob and Helena (Dyck) Warkentin, who took a homestead near Kronsfield (now Haskett). He was married to Miss Sara Loewen who predeceased him on June 27, 1930. After three years as widower Rev. Warkentin married Mrs. Elizabeth Dyck (nee Hooge).<sup>5</sup>

Rev. Warkentin joined the M.B. Church in 1890, and was ordained for the ministry on October 13, 1895. For eight years he taught in a Mennonite village private school and then procured a farm to support his family. Rev. Warkentin died May 18, 1948, and was buried in the Winkler Cemetery.

Of his family of ten children, eight have been public school teachers in the province of Manitoba, with one rising to the position of school inspector. Three of them graduated from the university and one served as teacher on the M.B. Foreign Mission Field in India. One of the daughters accepted even a wider field of service when she became the wife of a minister, Rev. H. S. Voth.



Rev. and Mrs. H. S. Voth. Rev. Voth was leader of the Winkler M.B. Church, 1931-50

## Rev. Henry S. Voth

Succeeding his father-in-law, Rev. H. S. Voth served as leader of the Winkler M.B. Church from 1931 to 1950. Rev. Voth had been ordained as minister by his father on December 1, 1907, at Winkler. He was born January 28, 1878, at Bingham Lake, Minnesota. After attending public school and McPherson College, he came to Manitoba with a desire to attend the Brandon Normal School and thus to prepare for the teaching profession. However, in the meantime he also received a call from the M.B. Conference to serve as evangelist.<sup>6</sup>

As evangelist, Rev. H. S. Voth conducted campaigns in many states of the U.S. as well as in the Canadian provinces. In 1915 he held a series of evangelistic meetings from December 1 to December 22 at McClusky, N.D., and from December 31, 1915, to January 30, 1916, he conducted services at Harvey, North Dakota. For 30 years Rev. Voth was a member of the Mennonite Brethren Board of Foreign Missions. He ardently fostered the mission spirit in the church. During the 46 years of his active ministry, Rev. Voth baptized 628 converts. The names of baptismal candidates he carefully kept in his diary. Rev. Voth performed 191 marriage ceremonies and preached 5744 sermons. For many years he served as moderator at M.B. Church conferences. On October 29, 1950, in his farewell sermon as leader of the church, Rev. Voth quoted II Peter 1:2, "Gott gebe euch viel Gnade." He died October 25, 1953, at Winkler.



Rev. and Mrs. G. D. Pries

Rev. George D. Pries who had already been assistant leader since January 18, 1948, succeeded Rev. H. S. Voth as leader of the church in 1950. On May 18, 1941, Rev. G. D. Pries, Rev. A. A. Kroeker, and Rev. Abram H. Redekop were ordained for the ministry. Rev. Pries was the first pastor of the Winkler M.B. Church to receive a regular remuneration as church leader. Rev. Pries, B.A., B.Ed., M.A., B.Th., was an instructor at the Winkler Bible Institute for nineteen years, and at present is a member of the staff at Garden Valley Collegiate. He was treasurer of the Manitoba M.B. Conference for eight years and Canadian treasurer of the M.B. Foreign Mission Board from 1944 to 1954. He served the M.B. Foreign Mission Board in one capacity or another from 1932 to 1957. Rev. Pries has been a member of this church since his baptism on May 19, 1929, by Rev. Herman Neufeld, and has given unstintingly of his time to serve the church as well as the community. He was born at Pretoria, Orenburg, Russia.



In 1955, Rev. Jacob H. Quiring who served as registrar and taught religious philosophy at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Winnipeg, accepted the leadership of the local M.B. Church congregation. He has also acted as moderator of the Canadian M.B. Conference for many years. In 1963 Rev. Quiring assumed an even wider field of service by accepting the presidency of the M.B. Bible College.

While Rev. Quiring was the leader, the Wednesday night service expanded into a Mid-Week Church School in 1957 with classes for all age groups. It was also at this time that Sunday night gospel radio broadcast over station C.F.A.M., Altona, Manitoba, originated and continued for several years. Rev. Quiring served as chairman of united evangelistic campaigns conducted by the churches of southern Manitoba. Coming to Winkler from a Bible College, he realized the importance of religious instruction and nurture in the lives of young people, and particularly emphasized the teaching ministry of the church. Rev. Quiring was born at Hepburn, Saskatchewan, and baptized at Dalmeny on August 11, 1929. He was married to the former Miss Annie Enns at Kronsart, Manitoba, on June 27, 1937.

Rev. Herman Lenzmann was another graduate of the Winkler Bible Institute who returned to serve on its staff. In the fall of 1959 he moved to Winkler with his family in order to take a teaching position at his alma mater. After Rev. Lenzmann received a call from the local M.B. Church, he assumed the leadership on August 1, 1962. In July, 1937, he had been ordained in the North End Church, Winnipeg, by the Africa Missions Society. He is a member of the M.B. Foreign Missions Board. Rev. Lenzmann was born at Halbstadt, Russia, and baptized in June, 1930, at Watrous, Saskatchewan, by Rev. Peter D. Janzen.

Rev. John Mark Schmidt was born April 6, 1918, at Rosenthal, Russia, and immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1926. After his conversion at the age of seventeen, he was baptized by Rev. J. Siemens at Coaldale, Alberta. He attended the Coaldale Bible School, the Prairie Bible Institute, and from 1949-53 was enrolled at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College. Rev. Schmidt also took training at a commercial welding school and for several years was employed as a welder in the Vancouver shipyards. During World War II he volunteered for the Canadian Medical Corps. In July, 1954, he was ordained for the ministry and has served in radio broadcasting, evangelism, and rural missions. From August 1, 1968, to July 31, 1972, he served as pastor at the Winkler M.B. Church.

While Rev. Schmidt was stationed at Little Grand Rapids in northern Manitoba and served in the teaching ministry, some of the older girls at the station failed to attend school and were reported to have been seduced by a native Indian to go with him to "Trip the light fantastic toe" at a nearby dance hall. Rev. Schmidt subsequently got into his canoe and followed the merry-makers. He soon arrived at his destination and when he knocked on the door, all the noise and shouting subsided. After the door was opened, Rev. Schmidt announced that he had come to retrieve his charges and that he was not going back until he had them in his canoe. In the meantime, the girls ran out and Rev. Schmidt followed to the river

where he had left his boat. There were two trails leading down to the river and fortunately, in his haste, he took the wrong trail and when he arrived at the river and got into the canoe, he looked back and saw on the other trail two men with poles in their hands ready to attack him. Rev. Schmidt states, "It was the grace of God that saved me and made me follow the roundabout trail."

Rev. J. M. Schmidt resigned from the leadership of the Winkler M.B. Church believing that God has called him to another sphere of service. The family moved to Winnipeg where Rev. Schmidt will be executive secretary of a new venture, The Christian Art Center (Noah's Ark) of which he is the founder. Within the next year this organization is planning to locate on the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario for a ministry of evangelism to tourists and vacationers with an emphasis on God at work in creation.



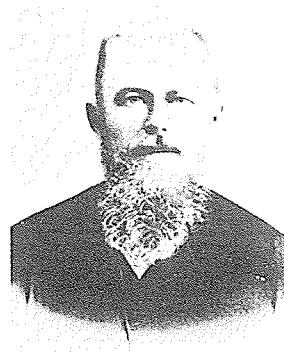
Mr. John Enns, the first deacon of the Winkler M.B. Church, 1895.



Rev. H. S. Rempel, ordained June 21, 1925.



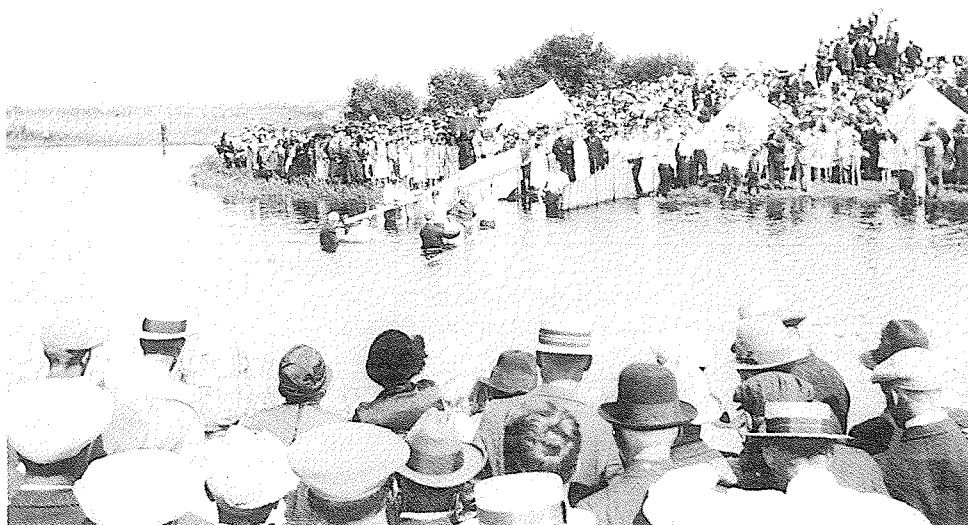
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Banman



Mr. and Mrs. John Nickel



Rev. Herman A. Neufeld



Baptism July 29, 1928. Rev. H. S. Voth and Rev. H. A. Neufeld

About 1889, the Sunday School was organized and three of the first teachers were Rev. Gerhard Wiebe, John Wiebe, and Peter Hoepfner. By 1906 there were five classes in the Sunday School with an average attendance of 45 pupils and an average collection of about forty-five cents. The late Mr. John B. Dyck was the superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty-six years and following him the superintendents were H. H. Neufeld, A. A. Kroeker, Frank K. Friesen, John J. Wiens, Frank Brown, J. P. Wiebe, Henry W. Dyck, and John M. Peters.

In the summer of 1895, Rev. David Dyck arrived here with his wife and nine children to take over the leadership of the M.B. Church at Burwalde. He had travelled about two months, making the entire trip from Cope, Colorado, with horses and wagon. Later Rev. Dyck moved to Borden, Saskatchewan.

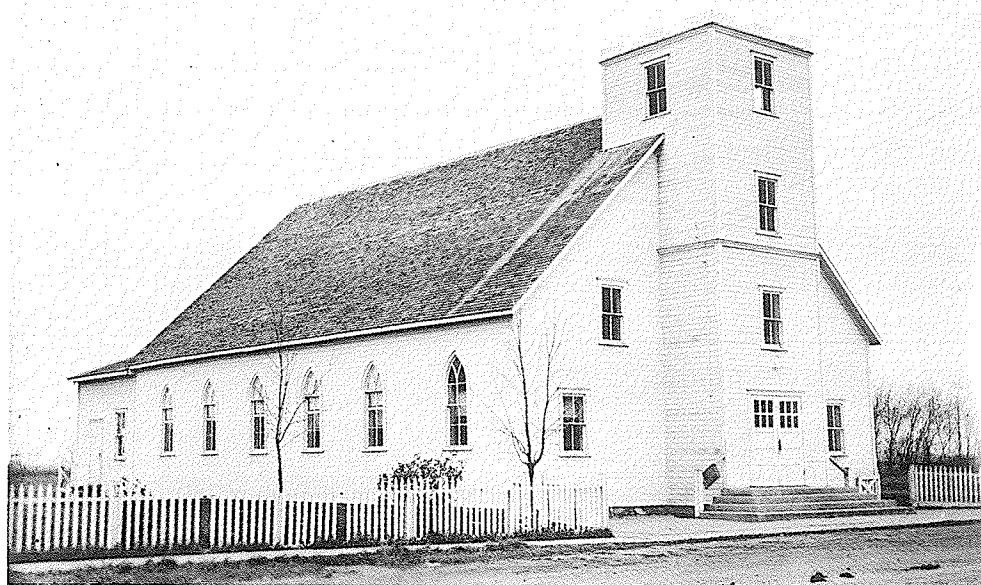
As the membership of the church grew, it was felt that the building at Burwalde was too small and not centrally located. A fairly large number of its members lived at Grossweide, a district north-east of Plum Coulee. For a while the deliberations had been to the effect that the Burwalde church should be moved to Grossweide and

that a new church be built at Winkler, but at a meeting on October 30, 1897, it was decided to move the Burwalde church building onto the Abram Kroeker farm at the north-west corner of Winkler. However, some of the members of the church thought that the new location for the church should be in the north-west corner of the Kroeker quarter section about one-half mile to the north-west of the village. Here the church was left standing on wagons for a few days before it was finally moved onto the south-east corner of the quarter where it was unloaded, much to the joy of the church members who resided in Winkler. Invariably, this reluctance to have their churches located in town can be found in the minutes of every Mennonite church register in Winkler.

Later a small church was built at Grossweide but the two congregations of Winkler and Grossweide were under one leadership for some time afterwards. However, since the Mennonite Brethren Conference of North America had been invited to Winkler for the year 1898, and since the church had proved to be inadequate, a second church was erected on the same site at the north-west corner of Winkler. This new church was dedicated on July 31, 1898. The building which had been moved here from Burwalde was then used as a dining room and kitchen until 1930.



The building on the right was the first M.B. Church in Canada. It was erected at Burwalde in 1889 and moved to town in 1897. This building was used as a kitchen and dining hall after the church building to the left was dedicated July 31, 1898. To the extreme left can be seen the horse stables. These buildings were located on the west side of Park Street. The area is now known as Parkview Drive.



Mennonite Brethren Church.



Dec. 21, 1947, dedication of the M.B. Church, Left to right: P. W. Klassen, contractor; Ministers — J. Warkentin, J. G. Wiens, H. S. Voth, G. D. Pries and H. H. Redekop.



Winkler M.B. Church Choir, 1933. Choir Leader: J. A. Kroeker; Assistant: J. M. Elias



M.B. Choir, 1963.

Senior Ladies' Sewing Circle, 1946.







Winkler M.B. Church Sunday School Teachers, 1947.



Winkler M.B. Church Sunday School Staff, 1963.



M.B. Sunday School, 1953

It was at the M.B. General Conference in October, 1898, that Rev. N. N. Hiebert of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, was accepted as the first foreign missionary of the M.B. Conference of North America. He left for the field in India in 1899. Since then, the Winkler M.B. Church has ordained for foreign fields the following missionaries: Helen Warkentin, India, 1919; Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Unruh, India, 1937; Annie E. Dyck, Colombia, 1946; Margaret Dyck, Africa, 1946; Linda Banman, Brazil, 1948; and Sara Peters, Africa, 1955. Miss Helen Harder, R.N., was ordained for the Foreign Mission Field on January 20, 1946, at Gnadenthal, Manitoba. However, when the M.B. Church at Gnadenthal was dissolved in 1954, Miss Harder transferred her membership to the Winkler M.B. Church. She left for the Shamshabad Mission Station in India on February 18, 1946, and has been serving as a medical worker until 1971. In recent years young people have gone to foreign mission fields as relief workers while a number have been serving underdeveloped states, as well as in Canadian provinces, as MCC and Missions Services workers. On August 8, 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Kroeker were commissioned for service in the Congo (Zaire), Africa.

Miss Margaret Suderman, R.N., who is now a member of the Morden M.B. Church, was converted at the age of ten, and on June 13, 1915, she was baptized and accepted as a member of the Winkler M. B. Church. After graduating from the Winnipeg General Hospital in 1928, she went to Chicago, Illinois, where she worked in the Cook County Hospital during the day and attended Moody Bible Institute in the evening. She was ordained on May 26, 1929, at Winkler by Rev. Herman Neufeld, and in June Miss Suderman left for the Foreign Mission Field in India.

Before coming to Canada, Rev. John G. Wiens had also served for several years as missionary in India. Rev. Henry S. Voth was a member of the M.B. Foreign Mission Board for 30 years, and for a number of years Rev. George D. Pries acted as its Canadian secretary. In 1948, the M.B. Conference of North America observed the Golden Jubilee year of its Foreign Missions. In that year the Winkler M.B. Church contributed \$3,375.23 to foreign missions.

In order to foster an interest in Foreign Missions and to deepen and develop the spiritual life of the church members, quarterly mission festivals (Vierteljahresfest) were begun in the early church and these meetings continued regularly until 1958. The order of these festivals or meetings was always the first Sunday in the months of March, June, September, and December. For some time these services were distributed among the M.B. Churches at Winkler, Morden, Kronsart, and Grossweide until they were discontinued a few years ago.

The first choir leader of the Winkler M.B. Church was Mr. Peter Dyck, a brother of the late John B. Dyck. Other choir leaders of the young church were Rev. J. B. Penner, Peter Klassen, and Rev. Peter H. Neufeld. From 1906-41, the late Jacob A. Kroeker served as leader of the choir. Mr. John M. Elias was the assistant choir leader for many years. The following have also been conducting the choir: Frank K. Friesen, 1941-45; Isaac H. Voth, 1945-49; George B. Dyck, 1949-50; and Jacob

P. Redekop, 1950-54. More recently, the choir leaders have been Wendelin Mann, Abe Siemens, Henry T. Thiessen, John M. Peters, Alan Janzen, Arnold Schroeder, and Peter Dyck who is the choir director at present. In 1945, Mrs. Justina Wiebe who is a voice teacher, organized a Junior Girls' Choir which has now been changed to a Junior Girls' and Boys' Choir under her direction. Under the terms of the last will and testament of the late Miss Annie E. Peters, Burwalde, a Hammond electric organ was presented to the M.B. Church here in December, 1952.

With the assistance of Rev. P. E. Penner, the Young People's Society (Jugendverein) was organized in 1901. At the first Young People's program Mrs. Peter Bueckert, widow of the late mayor Bueckert of Winkler, recited a poem, "The Crown of the Teacher". Mr. Jacob H. Riesen, a local school teacher, was very active at the first meetings of the Young People. At one of these meetings James Waltner was to deliver a sermonette which he had prepared at home but when the chairman called on him to give his message, he reached into his pocket but the only paper he could find there was a letter from his sister. Although it was called a Young People's program and was aimed especially at young people, all members of the family participated. The late Mr. John M. Elias was one of the most zealous presidents of the Young People's Society. Mr. Elias also collected vast quantities of German material suitable for Christian Young People's programs, some of which has appeared in book form under the title, "Er fuehrt uns wie die Jugend". For a number of years the late Mr. J. J. Enns was president of the Young People's Society as well as of the Young Men's Meetings. Other presidents of the M.B. Young People's Society have been Isaac J. Dyck, Frank Brown, George D. Pries, John P. Dyck, Abram C. Klassen, Peter P. Dyck, Peter H. Neufeld, D. A. K. Friesen, George G. Enns, Henry J. Penner, John Enns, Ernie Kroeger, John W. Kuhl, Neil Janzen, and Jake E. Kroeker who also organized and conducted a Junior Christian Endeavour. In 1972 Mr. Walter Braun was elected youth leader.

However, as early as 1894 a Young Men's Society (Maennerverein) had been organized and held meetings in private homes at Winkler, Blumstein, Hoffnungsfeld, and Burwalde. In 1894, the list of members included Peter Neufeld, Aron F. Peters, Heinrich Klassen, Peter P. Dyck, Jacob Banman, John B. Dyck, Jacob Penner, Peter Labun, Samuel Leiding, Kornelius Ens, Peter Kreider, Jacob A. Kroeker, Franz Golinger, William Barwick, Johann Nijkau, and John M. Dyck. By 1901 the membership had increased to 69 and a constitution was adopted which changed the name to Christian "Jugend-Verein" of Winkler. Meetings were to be held once every two weeks at 3:00 p.m. in the M.B. Church, but this was later changed to evening meetings. On March 14, 1902, the name was changed again to Christian "Jugend-Verein" of the Winkler M.B. Church. The object of the Young People's Meetings was to give young Christians an opportunity to witness through recitation, song, and speech. Until 1950, the programs were rendered in the German language, with the exception of some of the songs and the story for the children. On November 10, 1953, the leader of the

"Jugend-Verein" and his assistant were for the first time elected at the annual business meeting of the Church. Until May 2, 1956, programs were presented every second Sunday. Because of weak attendance, the meetings are now held monthly.

Since 1957 the Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting at the Winkler M.B. Church has taken the form of a Mid-Week Church School with classes for all age levels from Beginners to Adults during nine months of the year. Some of the age groups have branched into the organization of Brigade Boys and Pioneer Girls, which include gymnastic exercises as well as Bible study. Through the efforts of Rev. H. H. Redekop and Rev. G. D. Pries the Burwalde Bible Camp was organized in 1949. Although this camp is supported by a number of southern Manitoba M.B. Churches, many children from the Winkler community attend and participate in its activities during the summer months.

The former Sunday School Committee has now developed into an Education Committee with Mr. Don Kroeker as chairman. It has supervision of all activities related to the teaching ministry of the church. The membership has acquired the building on 8th Street vacated by the Winkler Bible Institute when it moved to the new campus on Pembina Avenue. This provides additional classrooms on Sunday as well as during the week, and has been dubbed "The Activity Centre." An innovation of the Church in recent years has been the election of a moderator who assists the pastor at church business meetings. Mr. John W. Kuhl has served as moderator since 1968.

The M.B. Church which had been built in 1898, was renovated and enlarged for the third time in 1930. For years, however, it was felt that the site at the north-west corner of Winkler was too far out of the village, especially for the children in winter and for the old people. It was also argued that the church could minister more effectively to the spiritual needs of the community if it were more centrally located. At special services it also proved to be too small. Because of lack of room, some of the Sunday School classes had met in the local Bible School instead of in the church. Then the late J. A. Kroeker donated the site at the north-east corner of Mountain Avenue and Eighth Street. There the present church building was erected in 1947 at a cost of \$56,332.04. On December 21, 1947, it was dedicated to the service of God. Mr. Cornelius B. Enns acted as chairman of the Building Committee and Mr. Peter W. Klassen was the contractor. The first wedding in this new church was solemnized on July 10, 1948, when Mr. George Neufeld and Miss Helene Sawatsky were united in the holy bonds of matrimony by Rev. B. B. Fast of Winnipeg. The first funeral of a member of the church which had been constructed in 1947 was held on May 23, 1948, for Rev. John Warkentin.

Besides the church leaders, there have been many ministers who have served the Winkler M.B. Church for shorter or longer periods of time. Rev. P. H. Neufeld who was a school teacher at Winkler was active as a local preacher for many years before moving away. Rev. Dietrich J. Dick came to Winkler in 1919 and ministered to the church here until 1926 when he also moved away. Rev. J. B. Penner was ordained at Winkler in 1916 and

continued to serve the local M.B. Church at intervals until his death on July 25, 1944. He was born in South Russia and came to Canada with his parents in 1892. For about 20 years he was the leader of the Kronsart M.B. Church. Rev. H. S. Rempel was ordained as a minister on June 21, 1925, and continued to serve the Winkler Church until 1929. Rev. A. A. Kroeker and his son Alfred Kroeker were both active in the ministry of the church for many years before moving to Winnipeg. John B. Wiebe who was ordained on August 18, 1958, served as minister here while on the Collegiate staff, and Rev. R. C. Seibel found time to serve the Church while engaged as teacher at the Winkler Bible School.

After the Russian Revolution in 1917, many Mennonites fled their native country when the doors for emigration opened for a while during the 1920's. This exodus from Russia contributed to the growth of the Mennonite churches in Canada. Among these immigrants there were many ministers who served in the Winkler M.B. Church before moving on to other churches. Rev. Herman A. Neufeld who arrived here with his family in 1924, was born at Torkiwka, South Russia, on June 24, 1860. He had been baptized on July 27, 1884, and ordained for the ministry June 10, 1889, by Rev. Aron Lepp. In the fall of 1906 he had been ordained as Elder by Rev. G. T. Regehr. He died on September 28, 1931, after a ministry of seven years in the Winkler M.B. Church where he endeared himself as a friend and shepherd of all the constituents.

Rev. Daniel Braun was active in the Church here during the first half of the thirties. Dr. A. H. Unruh and Rev. J. G. Wiens taught in the Winkler Bible School and ministered to many congregations in the community on Sunday. Rev. A. H. Redekop who taught at the Winkler Bible School from 1936 to 1943, was the son-in-law of Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Unruh. Rev. B. B. Boldt and Rev. H. H. Redekop were also engaged as teachers at the local Bible School. Rev. Redekop served as principal of the School from 1948 to 1956. Rev. H. P. Harder had been ordained on June 24, 1924, at Tiegenhagen, Russia. On November 1, 1925, he arrived in Canada with his family and took up farming at Gnadenthal where he also was the leader of the M.B. Church. When this church dissolved in 1954, Rev. Harder transferred to Winkler where he was the assistant leader from 1956 to 1962.

Formerly the deacons of the Winkler M.B. Church were ordained for an indefinite period of service, however, on January 16, 1972, the following four couples were commissioned to the diaconal ministry for a five-year period: Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Penner, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Niel Janzen, and Mr. and Mrs. John A. Janzen.

Rev. Abram W. Klassen who retired from farming, moved to town in 1962. Other ordained ministers who are serving the Winkler M.B. Church today are H. R. Baerg, G. D. Pries, John Goossen, Jacob Dueck, William Schroeder and Erwin Penner who was ordained at Winkler on September 19, 1971.

The first deacon of the Winkler M.B. Church appears to have been Mr. John Enns who was born December 11, 1857, and died March 1, 1929. He was baptized in 1894 and in 1895 the church called him to serve as deacon. He was ordained for this office in 1897.

Because there was no hospital in Winkler at that time, Mr. Enns spent many a night at the bedside of the sick. Other deacons have been Jacob Rempel, Frank F. Peters, J. M. Elias, J. B. Dyck, P. H. C. Penner and Peter P. Redekop. Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Redekopp, 267-8th Street, Winkler, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on October 8, 1972. They had been married October 7, 1907, in the village of Gnadenthal, Russia, and came to Canada in August, 1923, settling in Gnadenthal, Manitoba, where Mr. Redekopp was ordained in 1951 as deacon of the Mennonite Brethren Church.

At present the senior deacons are Henry Kuhl, Frank E. Peters, George P. Dyck, Jacob P. Wiebe and Ben D. Enns. Formerly the deacons of the Winkler M.B. Church were ordained for life or for an indefinite period of service, however, on January 16, 1972, the following four couples were commissioned to the diaconal ministry for a five-year period: Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Penner, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Janzen, and Mr. and Mrs. Neil Janzen. The latter left in September, 1972, for Calcutta, India, to serve in the MCC office with the Mission/Services Board.

Except for the adult senior Bible class, all the Sunday School classes are now taught in English. There is also a Wednesday night prayer group, a senior ladies sewing circle, as well as a half hour Sunday morning service conducted in the German language. This gradual change from German to English in most of the services has been a controversial subject of discussion at many of the annual meetings of the Winkler M.B. Church. At a business meeting in 1968 with 147 members present, a resolution to change the Sunday morning worship format of a German as well as an English sermon at the same service, was defeated 93 to 43. However, when a group of members maintained they would then organize to form an English M.B. Church in town, the motion was rescinded and the German service was subsequently arranged for 9:30 A.M., followed by the Sunday School classes at 10:00 o'clock and the English service at 11:00 A.M. Because many young people continue their studies or find employment in Winnipeg, the membership of the church has been fluctuating between 350 to 375 during the last decade.

When the Kronsart Mennonite Brethren Church decided to dissolve its membership on December 31, 1972, twenty-seven of its members transferred to the Winkler M.B. Church on May 6, 1973. The church building at Kronsart became the property of the Manitoba M.B. Conference and subsequently plans have been formulated to move the building onto the campus of the Winkler Bible Institute.

The great commission of Jesus to his disciples was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them," Matthew 28:19. Until 1947 the Winkler M.B. Church baptized converts in waters and creeks in the surrounding area. Since then most baptismal services have been held in the church with immersion in the baptistry. The largest baptism was held on August 29, 1928, in a creek two miles west of Winkler when there were 58 candidates immersed by two ministers, namely, Rev. Herman A. Neufeld and Rev. H. S. Voth. This baptismal service followed closely on the heels of an evangelistic campaign

conducted in June of that year by Rev. Frank J. Wiens, returned missionary from China.

Concern for the missions program of the church and a desire to "set her house in order," prompted Miss Annie Brown in 1972 to approach the Board of Trustees of the M.B. General Conference to determine how her assets could best be utilized to further the Lord's kingdom. Consequently, she transferred 393 acres of land, estimated to be worth \$75,000, to the conference so that funds could be used to further the work of the Board of Missions/Services. According to the arrangements for the gift, she will receive a modest income for life while the rest of the earnings go directly to the Board. Some years ago Miss Brown donated \$40,000 for an Education Endowment Fund at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Winnipeg.

On December 24, 1925, a Christmas tree was set up for the first time as part of the decorations for the Sunday School Christmas Eve service in the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church. However, for some years following this innovation the tree was dismantled and removed immediately following the program so that when the senior members entered the church for the morning service on Christmas Day, December 25, there was no trace of a tree.

In the history of the Winkler M.B. Church it was not until the 1960's that women who were members of the church were given the ballot at business sessions. Formerly, they sometimes attended these meetings but did not participate in the discussions or elections. Even today, some of them refuse to accept the franchise in the church.



1963 M.B. Church Deacons. (L. to R.) Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Dyck, Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Redekop, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Wiebe, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kuhl, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Peters.





**Senior Ladies' Sewing Circle 1963. Back Row (L. to R.): Mrs. A. P. Dyck, Mrs. Herb Dick, Miss Mary Loewen, Mrs. Geo. Rempel, Mrs. G. I. Brown, Mrs. C. Thiessen, Mrs. H. Lenzmann, Mrs. G. Enns, Mrs. A. J. Suderman, Mrs. P. Klassen, Miss Anne Enns, Mrs. J. J. Peters, Mrs. J. H. K. Dyck. Middle: Mrs. J. E. Kroeker, Mrs. D. Wiebe, Mrs. G. D. Pries, Mrs. J. P. Dyck, Mrs. H. H. Penner, Mrs. P. Kliewer, Mrs. Jac. P. Dyck, Mrs. J. L. Dyck, Mrs. A. J. Banman, Mrs. A. P. Enns, Mrs. D. J. Schellenberg, Mrs. J. Olfert, Mrs. Lena Heide. front: Mrs. P. Bueckert, Miss Margaret Loewen, Miss Anna Banman, Mrs. P. Redekop, Mrs. G. Brown, Mrs. H. Warkentin, Mrs. D. A. Dyck, Mrs. A. Friesen.**



**In 1902 the derby was in style. Children: Henry Kuhl and Peter Rempel. Front row (left to right): George Brown, Sam Kuhl, John Trinke, J. Elias, Sam Leiding, Ben Bueckert, Frank P. Dyck, Second row: H. Siemens, S. Grunwald, B. Enns, Peter Dyck, J. P. Dyck, Benard Enns, Back row: John J. Trinke, G. G. Wiebe, name unknown, J. Suderman, H. Fast, J. Banman, P. Banman, H. Hildebrand, H. S. Voth, J. A. Kroeker, Isaac Brown, John Warkentin**

the church was celebrated on July 27, 1941, on the farm of Peter Kuhl, Sr. On September 22, 1949, Rev. Erthal was released by Trinity Lutheran to accept a call to Southey, Saskatchewan.

After the resignation of Pastor Erthal, the Rev. L. W. Koehler of the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, was requested to fill the vacancy on a bi-monthly basis. After two years, candidate P. G. Hensel, St. Louis, Missouri, was installed by Rev. Koehler on September 23, 1951. During Pastor Hensel's term of service here a Bible class and Choir were organized, and in 1952, he subscribed to the pension plan of the Synod. However, in September, 1953, Pastor Hensel resigned from the ministry at Winkler.

District President Koehler again served during the ensuing vacancy with the assistance of his vicars, until Rev. Wm. Deutschhausen was called from Churchbridge, Saskatchewan. The installation of Rev. Deutschhausen with Rev. Koehler officiating took place on November 21, 1954. To provide him with a residence, a property directly across the street from the church was purchased for \$3,500. The property comprised two lots and an old house which constantly required repairs and thus became a source of agitation between the pastor and his congregation.

When the Morden United Church was razed, the church bell was offered to the Winkler Lutheran Church. Mr. Valentine Winkler had originally donated the bell, which was accordingly inscribed with the particulars of the donation, to the Morden Church. Consequently, Trinity Lutheran Church in Winkler accepted the bell which was lowered and moved by Mr. H. Dick and Mr. Fred Hill. The Manitoba Power Commission offered the use of a crane and raised it into the steeple. A special service of dedication was observed on September 1, 1957, with Dr. L. W. Koehler performing the rite.

Another expansion at Trinity Lutheran took place in November, 1959, when the church building was moved from the west side of the street to the east side onto the lot just to the north of the parsonage. This move enabled the church to build a basement for the Sunday School as well as a sacristy and kitchen. The moving of the church across Eighth Street was so smooth that the bell in the tower did not even let out a tinkle. In the summer of 1960 a set of used chancel furniture was obtained by Mr. H. Dick and Pastor Deutschhausen from St. John's Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

In May, 1961, Rev. Deutschhausen accepted a call to Hankinson, North Dakota, and the new Circuit Counsellor, the Rev. L. A. Koehler of Portage la Prairie was contacted to fill the vacancy. His service began on the first Sunday in June, and thereafter involved an average of 70 trips per year to Winkler. Services were held regularly on Sunday evenings and included the inauguration of monthly communion services. The services in German were subsequently discontinued, and the custom of the men sitting on one side with the women on the other and the men attending communion first, were also changed.

Many changes and improvements were undertaken by the Lutheran congregation in the 1960's, such as a church sign including a flood light on a time clock, Sunday School divider curtains, and the installation of a

parking lot and curb. New equipment was added in the form of a Gestetner, a film strip projector, record player, a baptismal bowl and ewer, and kitchen equipment. The Bible Class was revived in 1962, Vacation Bible School started in 1963, and the Ladies' Aid was assimilated by the organization of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. In August, 1964, the church procured another parsonage when the William H. Janzen residence on the west side of Eight Street, immediately south of the lot on which the church had originally stood, was purchased. That same year the congregation was also incorporated.

In February, 1966, the Zion congregation of Morden met with the Trinity members of Winkler and established a formal agreement to form a Lutheran parish of the Missouri Synod to be served by one pastor. On the anniversary of the Feast of the Holy Trinity, June 5, 1966, the local Church celebrated the 65 years of the organization of the Trinity congregation and the 70 years that the gospel had been proclaimed in their midst. The services on that day were conducted by the District President, the Rev. Dr. L. W. Koehler as the guest speaker, assisted by the vacancy pastor and Circuit Councillor, the Rev. L. A. Koehler.

The statistical report on that day of thanksgiving in 1966 showed that the membership of the church was made up of 135 baptized, 94 communicant, and 9 voting members. Since the organization of the congregation 65 years ago, there had been 384 baptisms, 213 confirmations, 109 marriages, and 70 burials. The motto for the day of rejoicing was taken from I Samuel 7:12, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Installation services for the resident pastor L. A. Gabert of Brooks, Alberta, were conducted on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9, 1966, with Dr. L. W. Koehler performing the rite. However, on December 31, 1969, after three years at Winkler, Pastor Gabert followed a call to Brightview, Alberta, and the Rev. L. A. Koehler was asked by the Board of Elders to serve Trinity Lutheran again as vacancy pastor. When Rev. Koehler left, the Rev. M. R. Kentel of the Beautiful Saviour congregation in Winnipeg agreed to offer his services to the local parish, beginning October 18, 1970. It is now known as "The Church of the Lutheran Hour" radio broadcast.

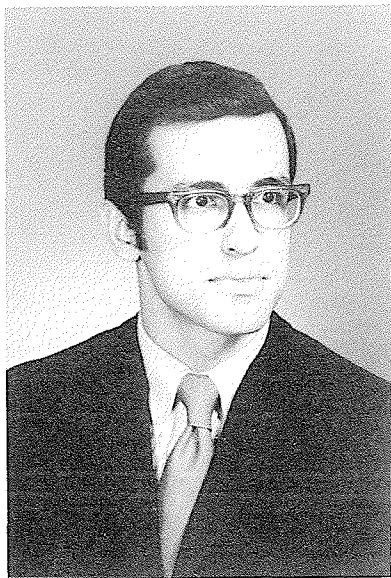
On Sunday, July 4, 1971, candidate J. A. Hill of St. Louis, Missouri, was ordained and installed as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. As Rev. Hill took up residence in Morden, the local parsonage was sold. Other members who are serving the church as elected officers in 1972 are the following: Menno Ketler, president; Lloyd Rietze, Sunday School superintendent; Mrs. Garry Jackman, Mrs. Viola Doell, organists; Jake Doell, Fred Rietze, Henry Doell, Jack Penner, trustees; and Hugo Mantey, Garry Jackman, Wilfred Nauer, elders.



Lutheran Confirmation Class, May 12, 1929. Sitting (Left to right): Jacob Bluhm, Mrs. J. B. Peters (nee Kuhl), Pastor A. Erthal, Phyllis Loewen, Fred Rietze, Standing: Art Ulrich, H. Demke, Wilfred Nauer, Miss Kuhl, Bertha Wonnick, Minnie Rietze, Emma Ulrich.



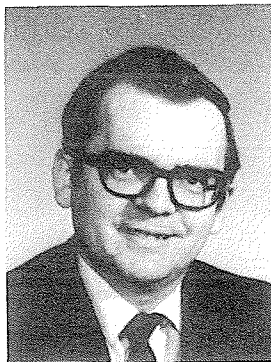
Lutheran Ladies' Aid, 1935. Front: Mrs. Sam Wonnick, Mrs. Norma Nauer, Mrs. Art Ulrich, Mrs. Ella Warkentin. Standing: (Left to right) Mrs. Jack Felde, Mrs. Herman Wonnick, Mrs. Otto Gruener, Mrs. Tillie Miller, Mrs. Bill Rietze, Mrs. F. E. Rietze, Mrs. Albert Ulrich, Mrs. Bertha Nauer, Mrs. Conrad Nauer, Mrs. Bertha Miller, Mrs. Mary Perreau and Mrs. Alfred Moore.



**Rev. J. A. Hill, pastor of the local Lutheran Church.**



**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**



**Mr. Lloyd Rietze, superintendent of Winkler Lutheran Sunday School.**

### **The Jewish Synagogue**

It the early history of Winkler, the Jewish congregation met in private homes. For many years the place of assembly was the house at the north-east corner of Mountain Avenue and Main Street where Gladstone's Shopping Centre is now located. At that time the house was owned by Mr. A. Nitikman. The local members of the Jewish congregation could not organize a synagogue until there were thirteen members over thirteen years of age.

About 1923, a small house on the east side of Sixth Street, north of the present Central Service Station, was purchased and converted into a Synagogue. By the end of the 30's this Synagogue had dissolved as most of its members moved to Winnipeg. In 1914 the Zionist Movement started and Mr. Isaac Sirluck, as local representative, registered over thirty members in Winkler.

The following are some of the Rabbis who served at Winkler: Ratner, Maslowsky, Wilder, Goldstein, Beckman, and Goldberg. Mr. Alen Nitikman was succeeded by Mr. Isaac Sirluck as Palnes (President) of the Jewish Synagogue here. For the special holidays, as the Jewish New Year, etc., a Chasen was called out from Winnipeg to sing prayers. Chief Rabbi Kahanovich of Winnipeg officiated at a number of services. Rabbi Daen was here to take part in the community services held in the Winkler M.B. Church, May 12, 1937, on the occasion of the Coronation of George VI as King of England.



## The Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church

A schism occurred in the Sommerfelder Church in 1936 when on November 17 at an organizational meeting in the village of Rudnerweide a motion was passed to elect an elder who would head the new church. This election of Elder W. H. Falk took place in the church at Rudnerweide on January 8, 1937. The ordination of Rev. Falk as Elder of the new congregation followed on February 4, that same year, and the name of the young church was to be Rudnerweider Mennonite Church. In 1959, the name was changed to Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church.<sup>8</sup>

When the Bergthaler Church building at the village of Hoffnungsfeld was divided between two congregations, one-half of it was moved to Glencross and the other half to Rosenbach about a mile north of Winkler. The late Mr. Jacob Peters, father of Rev. W. J. Peters, was one of the carpenters who sawed the church building at Hoffnungsfeld in two. The half of the church that was moved to Rosenbach village was completed, and used by the Sommerfelder Church until 1937 when the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church at Rosenbach was organized. In 1942 the church building at Rosenbach was moved into Winkler onto a lot on the west side of Third Street about one-half a block north of Pembina Avenue. This building was replaced by a new church erected in 1953 at 186 Third Street.

There were about twenty members attending when the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church was organized in Rosenbach. The first ministers were the late Rev. Gerhard J. Froese and Rev. Isaac P. F. Friesen who for many years served the E.M.M.C. congregation at Winkler as leader. For a number of years Rev. A. M. Friesen was the leader of the church. He had been ordained for the ministry on October 3, 1943. Other ministers who have been active in the Church here are David Hildebrand, Jerry Hildebrand, David Funk, and Frank Zacharias. Rev. Ben D. Wiebe, B.A., Th.B., who has been on the Garden Valley Collegiate Institute staff since September 1, 1968, was ordained in July, 1965, and has served as leader of the Winkler E.M.M.C. since March 23, 1969.

Rev. Gerhard J. Froese who was born at Schoenfeld near Winkler on August 29, 1901, grew up on the parental farm in the village of Reinfeld two miles east of town. Here he spent his childhood and youth and attended the village private school where the Bible constituted the main text book and reader. On June 12, 1923, he was baptized by Elder Peter Toews and accepted into the membership of the Sommerfelder Church. This was followed by his ordination for the ministry on November 15, 1931. When Rev. Isaac P. Friesen of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, was conducting evangelistic services in the village of Reinfeld, in 1934, Rev. Froese experienced a thorough revival so that when the Rudnerweider Church was organized in 1936, he became one of its most zealous ministers.

The life of Rev. Froese was suddenly snuffed out in a railway accident at Horndean, Manitoba, on December 5, 1947. It was while he was a passenger in a car driven by his son that they approached the railroad crossing just ahead of the train on the C.P.R. tracks. When Rev.

Froese feared a collision, he opened the front door of the automobile and jumped out and landed right on the tracks before the oncoming train. None of the other passengers were injured as the car cleared the tracks before the train struck. Two of his sons, Rev. Jake Froese, Winnipeg, and Rev. John G. Froese, Altona, have followed their father into the E.M.M.C. ministry.

A close associate of Rev. Gerhard J. Froese, was Rev. I. P. F. Friesen who grew up in the same village and was a childhood friend and comrade of the former. Rev. Friesen was ordained for the ministry on June 23, 1937, and was an ardent witness in the young Church. For almost twenty years he was the leader of the Winkler E.M.M.C. However, he operated a farm two miles north of town in order to support his family.

The zeal of the two youthful converts, Rev. Froese and Rev. Friesen, took them to the Mennonite villages of Saskatchewan on several occasions where their witness bore much fruit. Their most effective work was done at Hague, Hochfeld, and Chortiz in Northern Saskatchewan. As a result of their evangelistic services, churches were established and God's children were edified. Rev. I. P. F. Friesen has also been conducting revival meetings in Mexico and in British Honduras.

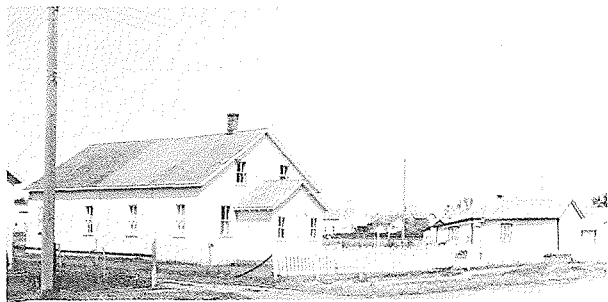
The Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church has also fostered the spirit of missions at home and abroad and the local members who have gone out as missionaries include Mr. and Mrs. Bert Brown. They have been serving with the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission at Weagamow Lake, Ontario, as well as in other areas. When Bert was a high school student at Winkler Collegiate he walked a distance of four and one-half miles to school every day, or a total of nine miles on a return trip. This outdoor exercise together with his love for nature has prepared him well for the life of a northern missionary.

Rev. Jerry Hildebrand, who was ordained in 1955, and Mrs. Hildebrand who are members of the Winkler E.M.M.C., are serving under the West Indies Mission at Sao Leopoldo, Brazil. Before leaving for the foreign mission field, Rev. Hildebrand taught in public school, as well as at the Winkler Bible Institute while on furlough. Together with their family, the Hildebrands are now serving their third term in the sub-continent.

Another couple with their family, Rev. and Mrs. Frank Zacharias, have served in Paraguay, and are now stationed in British Honduras. Before leaving for South America, Rev. Zacharias was a member of the teaching staff at Garden Valley Collegiate Institute in Winkler. Mrs. Zacharias was formerly employed as a public school teacher.

The Sunday School was organized at Rosenbach under the direction of Rev. A. M. Friesen. Miss Tina Dyck, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Dyck, was the first Sunday School teacher. Because of the difficulties experienced with the introduction of the Sunday School and the Young People's Meetings at Rosenbach, these two organizations were not introduced immediately after the Church had been moved to Winkler. However, through the efforts of Frank Krahn, J. W. Harder, and Frank Rempel, these two arms of the Church were soon

revived and by 1952, the Sunday School had an enrollment of 114. Today there is also a program during the week for Pioneer Girls and Brigade Boys. Some of the Sunday School superintendents have been Frank Rempel, Jerry Hildebrand, Dave Brown, Walter Peters, Abe Hildebrand, and Ben D. Wiebe. The first choir director was Mr. Isaac J. Brown. Other choir leaders have been C. J. Peters, Henry Giesbrecht, Jake Derksen, and Abe Giesbrecht. Evangelical Mennonite Mission conferences have convened in Winkler on July 4, 1960; June 29-30, 1964; and June 29-July 1, 1969. In 1972 Niel Schmidt is the Sunday School superintendent, and Dave Brown and Henry W. Hildebrand serve as deacons.



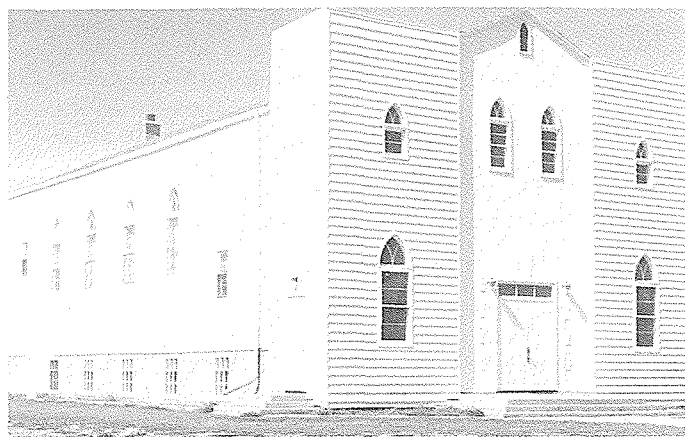
In 1942 the church at Rosenbach was moved to Winkler



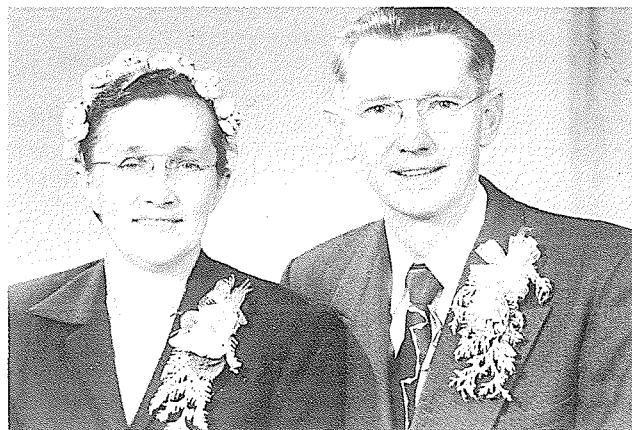
March 21, 1954, ordination at the E.M.M. Church. Left to Right: Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Hildebrand, Mr. and Mrs. David Hildebrand.



Rev. Ben D. Wiebe, pastor of the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church.



The Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church.



Rev. and Mrs. I. P. F. Friesen. Rev. Friesen was ordained for the ministry June 23, 1937. For almost twenty years he was the leader of the E.M.M.C. congregation at Winkler.



Mr. and Mrs. Isaac J. Brown, January 1, 1973, Golden Wedding. Mr. Brown served as song leader of the E.M.M. Church for many years and the membership presented a plaque of recognition for 31 years of service.

## The Sommerfelder Church

The Sommerfelder congregation was organized in Winkler in 1938. That summer, a new church was constructed at the south-west corner of Stanley Avenue and Highway 32. In 1955, an addition was made to the church so that the building had the form of an "L". However, in 1964 a new church with electric lights and a public address system was erected on the same church yard on Stanley Avenue but facing Second Street. The church building has no arched windows. There is no resident minister in charge but the following ministers have changed off for the Sunday services: Isbrand Friesen, Jacob Friesen, Isaac Friesen, P. M. Friesen, G. Loewen, John Rempel, J. Bergen, and J. A. Unrau. Rev. John A. Friesen is the ordained bishop.

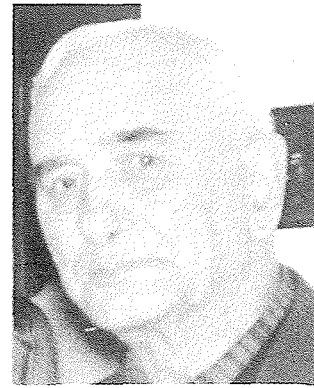
About 350 members of the Sommerfelder Church now attend the services on Sunday morning at Winkler. While the morning worship service is conducted for adults there are Sunday School classes meeting in the basement of the church. About 200 children are enrolled in the Sunday School of which Mr. Peter Nickel is the superintendent. The church also has a group of men who change off in leading the singing at all services. As there is no choir and as the hymn books contain no notes, the cantor announces the number of the song and starts the chant with the assistance of the other cantors until the congregation joins in the singing. Peter Olfert, Peter Bueckert, George Derksen, Abe Wiebe, Abe Hamm, Jacob Fehr, and George Hamm have been serving as cantors (Vorsaenger).

Mr. H. B. Dueck is serving as an ordained deacon of the Sommerfelder Church and the Church Committee is made up of Isaac Penner, A. V. Neufeld, and Henry Giesbrecht. During the winter months the church sometimes also has evening services. The language used at the worship is Platt Deutsch, High German, with an occasional English message by request at a funeral or wedding. There is no exchange of rings during the marriage ceremony.

Communion services are conducted twice a year, while baptismal rites are held once a year at Pentecost and performed by the bishop who sprinkles the candidates. Once a month there is a missions collection taken in church. No organs or pianos are used in the Church, however, there is no objection to members using musical instruments at home.



The Sommerfelder Church.



Rev. J. A. Unrau

Rev. Jacob A. Unrau of Rosenfeld, a well-known southern Manitoba minister of the Sommerfelder Church for 35 years, died December 19, 1972. He was born March 2, 1891, at Neuanlage near Gretna, the son of Albert and Margareta (Schellenberg) Unrau, and attended school at Neuberghthal. From 1908 to 1919 he taught in Mennonite private schools. During the years from 1918 to 1952, Rev. Unrau was engaged as a farmer in the Rosenheim district. On April 10, 1913, he married Anna Kehler of Sommerfeld who predeceased him February 10, 1952. In May of the same year he was married to Tina Penner of the Kleefeld district. During this time they made their home in Rosenheim, moving to Winkler in 1952, and then to Rosenfeld the following year, where he resided until his death. Rev. Unrau was baptized June 4, 1911, by Bishop Abram Doerksen of the Sommerfelder Church and ordained for the ministry on March 30, 1937.

## The Church of God

In the spring of 1924, the Church of God was organized in Winkler. The old Kronsfield School building was purchased and moved onto a lot on the east side of Second Street almost half a block south of South Railway Avenue. After two years, this structure which had been used as a church, was sold by public auction. It was purchased by the Meath School District and changed back to a public school house. Mr. Cornelius Winters was the leader of the Church of God at Winkler. He was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Joe S. Wolkof.

## The Jehovah Witness

With the beginning of the 20's of this century, a group of Jehovah Witness was organized at Winkler. From 1921 to 1923, they rented a house on the east side of Third Street where the regular meetings were held. Later, occasional meetings were conducted in the Winkler Theatre. The most active members were Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bueckert.

### **The Presbyterian Services**

After the C.P.R. station had been erected at Winkler in 1898, the first English church services were held in the waiting room of the station. Dr. David Stuart who was born at Morden and entered theology as his calling conducted the first English service here. However, later he studied medicine and for many years he was the superintendent of the Ninette Sanatorium.

Rev. R. M. Croll was the Presbyterian minister at Winkler. He solemnized the first marriage in the station at Winkler when he united in marriage Miss Racy Porkorney with Mr. Archie Fraser. Mrs. Croll taught a Sunday School class in the station and half the students were Jewish children.

Dr. McKay, who was succeeded in his medical practice at Winkler by Dr. Nelson G. Cooper, also ministered to the local English speaking congregation.

### **The Reinlaender Church**

In 1958, another Mennonite congregation that had hesitated to move into town built a new church at the south-east corner of Pembina Avenue and Third Street. Today this congregation has about 300 members and its bishop is Rev. P. A. Rempel. A large percentage of its members live on farms in the surrounding districts. There is no resident minister in charge of the congregation but the preachers at large of the Reinlaender denomination take turns in filling the pulpit of the local church.

The Reinlaender Church is not wired for electricity and hence there are no evening services. There are no arched windows in the church building, and to take care of the Sunday School classes which meet simultaneously with the adults during the morning worship service, there is an adjoining building that serves as dining room, kitchen, and Sunday School classroom. The superintendent of the Sunday School is Frank Thiessen who is assisted by four teachers, namely, Jacob Martens, Isaac Martens, David Reimer, and Jacob Wiebe.

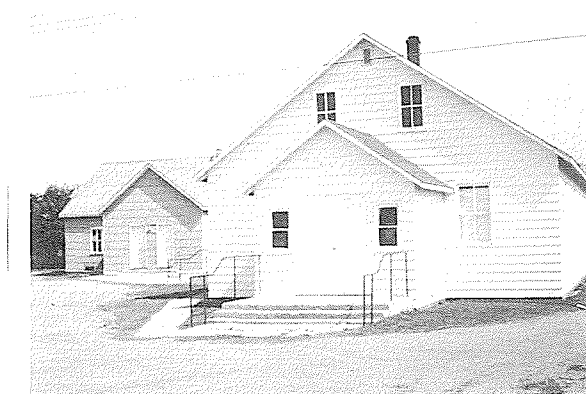
Although the members are permitted to play musical instruments at home, there is no piano, no organ, and no choir in church. Therefore, the following three men have been elected as cantors (Vorsaenger): Abram Thiessen, David Penner, and Frank Driedger. As their hymn book does not contain any notes, it is the responsibility of the cantors to take turns in beginning the hymn and also announcing the number of the song to the congregation.

The language used in church by the ministers in preaching the sermon is Low-German (Platt Deutsch), or High German. The preachers are dressed in black and do not wear a tie with their dark shirts. Many of the older parishioners, particularly the women are also dressed in black. The bride does not wear a white gown at her wedding and no bridesmaid or best man attends the bridal couple in church during the wedding ceremony. There is no exchange of rings while the marriage rites are performed by the minister in charge.

No collections are held in church, generally, except in a case of death where the parishioner or the bereaved family is without financial means to pay the undertaker for the funeral expenses. In most cases, the deceased is

placed in a coffin that is open from head to toe when the cover is removed. These coffins are built locally.

Candidates who apply to the church for baptism, have to attend church regularly for several months and memorize the answers to a series of questions from the Mennonite catechism. On each Sunday before Pentecost the candidates are required to answer orally a series of questions based on a particular section of the catechism. The actual baptismal rite is performed by the bishop as he sprinkles each candidate.



**The Reinlaender Church**

### **Grace Mennonite Church**

Grace Mennonite Church had its beginning in response to an ever-increasing need for English services in the community. Early in 1961, a group which had been meeting for prayer and discussion in various homes, gathered for the first time for a public worship in the old Bible School (now the M.B. Activity Centre) on Eighth Street. The attendance of 50 to 100 worshippers met here for Sunday School and for morning service. Soon it was apparent that the group which had organized as an independent Mennonite Church, would be in need of its own church building.

Mr. W. C. Enns donated a plot of land on the south side of Pembina Avenue and Mr. I. W. Enns was engaged as contractor to erect a new House of Worship. Mr. P. W. Enns contracted to supply the heating unit and Mr. Donald Loewen did the electrical wiring. About 800 hours of voluntary labour were put into the construction of a \$26,000 building. The church building of laminated arch construction measures 37 by 73 feet and has a full basement which is used for Sunday School classrooms and as dining room.

The new structure of modern design had started September 26, and on Sunday, December 16, 1962, the dedication service of the new Grace Mennonite Church at Winkler was held. Grace Mennonite is a member of the Conference of Mennonites in Canada. After the dedicatory prayer, Rev. Bernie Loepky, pastor of the young church read the opening Scripture and welcomed the large congregation that filled the sanctuary to capacity. Mr. Andrew Enns, Chairman of the Building Committee, said that the members of the Church looked back thankfully at the past few weeks and months of prayer and planning. In his report he said, "In August of



last summer our membership met to discuss the question of a place to worship. On September 26 the excavation was made and on October 4, 1962, the actual construction of our new building began."

What began in 1961 as a church with 32 registered members has since grown to more than 125 with Rev. Bernie Loeppky, B.A., a teacher on the staff of Garden Valley Collegiate, as pastor. Rev. Loeppky who was ordained for the ministry on July 9, 1962, has also been active in the Winkler Ministerial Association and has served his congregation without any remuneration. The deacons of Grace Mennonite Church are Andrew Enns and Dennis Driedger. Mr. Lloyd Siemens is the choir leader.

Donald Loewen, Herman Isaac, and Andrew Enns have served as superintendents of the Sunday School. Manfred Enns is the superintendent at present. He is assisted by the following staff of teachers: Dennis Driedger, Mrs. Agnes Dyck, Norman Braun, Harold Fast, Mrs. Abe Hildebrand, Anne Enns, Mrs. Bernie Loeppky, Marvin Enns, Jake Dyck, Dorothy Nickel, and Judy Peters. To supplement the Sunday School, there is a week-day program of instruction in The Wayfarers and Boys' League.

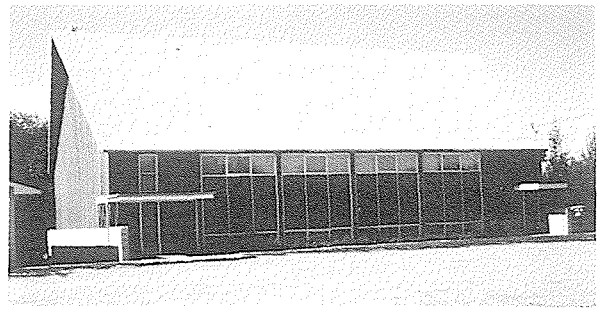
On Sunday, September 19, 1972, the installation service of Rev. John Krahn as pastor of Grace Mennonite Church at Winkler was conducted by the outgoing pastor, Rev. Bernie Loeppky. Rev. Krahn was ordained for the ministry in May, 1959, and began to serve the local church on September 1, 1972.



Rev. John Krahn, pastor, Grace Mennonite Church.



Rev. Bernie Loeppky, pastor of Grace Mennonite Church, 1961- 72.



Grace Mennonite Church, dedicated Dec. 16, 1962.

### Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

The Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church was organized in Winkler in 1961. At first the services were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Toews on Highway 14, and then a building was rented on the north side of Pembina Avenue near Third Street where the worshippers continued to meet for another two years with Mr. Harry Wiebe as lay leader.

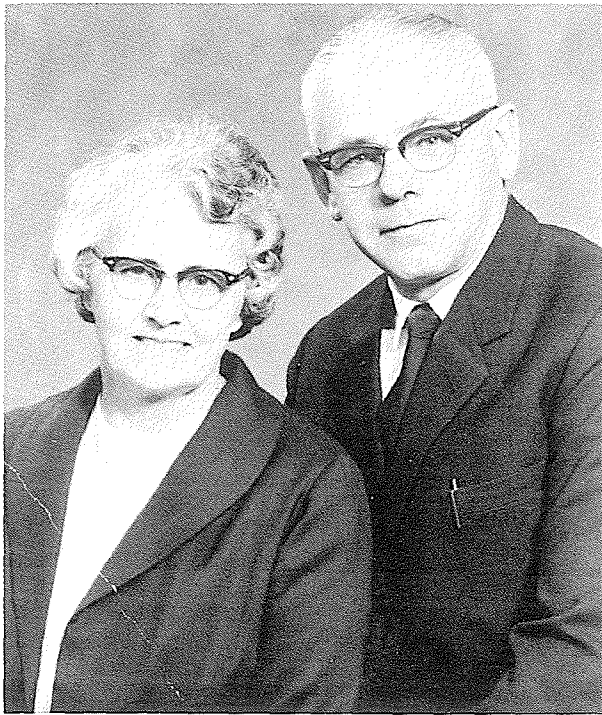
In 1964 a new church building with an adjoining parsonage was erected on the east side of Third Street South and that same year Rev. Ed H. Epp came to Winkler to serve as pastor. Rev. Epp arrived here in the fall of 1964 and continued to serve until 1967. The present pastor, Rev. William J. Peters, has been the leader of the Winkler E.M.B. Church since November, 1968. He was ordained for the ministry in August, 1951, by the Bruderthaler Church at Langham, Saskatchewan. He was born at Langham, and is a graduate of Tabor Bible Institute, Dalmeny, Saskatchewan.

Attendance at the Sunday morning worship service numbers about forty parishioners. At present Mrs. Herman Heide is the Sunday School superintendent, however, John Toews, Peter Toews, and Bob Britton have also served in this area. The Sunday School teachers are Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Peters, Mrs. Herman Heide, Mrs. Cornie Dyck, Mrs. Bob R. Groening, and Mrs. A. G. Kirk. In 1971 Mr. Bob Britton served as assistant pastor as well as Sunday School superintendent.

The late George Toews served as deacon and his son Ben Toews is the secretary-treasurer. The pianists at the E.M.B. Church are Mrs. Ed Toews, Anne Toews, and Mrs. Bob Groening. Candidates for membership are baptized by immersion, however, if the convert asks for sprinkling, this mode of baptism is also practised.



Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church built in 1964.



**Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Peters**  
Rev. Peters is pastor of E.M.B. Church



**Bishop Jacob J. Froese**

All the early Mennonite church denominations were reluctant to organize congregations or to erect churches in town. Later, Mennonites invaded railroad towns founded by non-Mennonites. Except for the Old Colony Mennonite Church denomination, this aversion to move into railway towns has practically vanished. However, even today there is no Old Colony Mennonite Church building in Winkler, although some of its members now reside in town.

Bishop Jacob J. Froese who was the leader for many years of the Old Colony Mennonite Church congregations in this area, operated a large farm at Reinfeld, two miles east of Winkler. Of course, he received no stipend from the church treasury for his services. Rev. Froese was born November 13, 1885, in the village of Reinland. On confession of faith in Jesus

Christ as Savior, he was baptized June 12, 1905, by Bishop Peter Wiebe in the village of Chortitz and received into the fellowship of the Old Colony Mennonite Church. Rev. Froese was ordained for the ministry on June 28, 1936, and as bishop November 14, 1937, by Bishop Johan Loeppky of Osler, Saskatchewan. He delivered his last sermon on January 6, 1968, and during his years of service in the ministry, he preached a total of 1727 sermons and conducted the last rites at 200 funerals. Besides officiating at 94 marriages, Rev. Froese baptized 655 baptismal candidates and accepted them into the membership of the Old Colony Mennonite Church. In 1935, he also served as a member of the first Board of Directors of the Bethel Hospital at Winkler.

On July 15, 1906, Rev. Froese was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with the former Miss Margaretha Enns. The marriage was blessed with fifteen children as well as one foster daughter. He was predeceased by ten of their children.

Although it is not likely that Rev. Froese ever cast a ballot in an election, two of his sons are serving in a political capacity. Besides operating a 1000-acre farm, George Froese has been a member of the Garden Valley School Division Trustee Board since 1971, and has served as councillor and reeve of Stanley Municipality since 1966. Jake Froese owns a 900-acre farm and has been active as president of the Winkler Credit Union from 1950-70, as school trustee of the Reinfeld District from 1944-72, as president of the Mennonite School Trustee Association for five years, and since 1959 he has been re-elected to the Manitoba Legislature in four provincial elections as the Social Credit candidate for Rhineland.

#### **Winkler Revival Center (The Mission Hall)**

In 1954 a Mission congregation was organized in Winkler. Rev. Abram M. Friesen moved a building onto the lot at the north-west corner of Second Street and Stanley Avenue where he became the leader for a number of years until he moved with his family to Winnipeg. He had been ordained for the ministry in the Rudnerweider Church in 1944. For some time the services were conducted on Sunday evening. There were also regular Sunday morning worship services and Sunday School classes. For some years, the late Mr. Ed Heppner was an ardent supporter of the Mission Hall services. As Mr. Heppner was a graduate of the Winkler Bible Institute, he frequently preached the sermon at the Mission. When the Winkler E.M.B. Church was organized in 1961, the attendance at the Mission Hall declined and finally the building was sold and moved into the country. However, the United Church building which had been standing vacant on Highway 3 near Carman, was donated to the group and moved onto a lot on the north side of Victoria Avenue on the east side of town.

In 1971, some of the members who had attended the services in the Mission reorganized under the leadership of Bishop Terry Miller and formed a non-denominational church now known as the Winkler Revival Center.

## Interdenominational Services

During the last two decades many of the Winkler and surrounding area churches have united in interdenominational evangelistic campaigns which have been conducted in the churches, school auditoriums, arenas, and tents. The purpose of these has been to give people an opportunity to make a spiritual beginning or to get right with God. Consequently, there has been through the years much positive evangelical preaching from the pulpits of the local churches. Possibly, a forerunner of the interdenominational evangelistic meetings of the Winkler churches started in 1934 when Rev. Isaac P. Friesen, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, began a series of services in the Winkler Bergthaler Church. After revival fires broke out the meetings quickly assumed an inter-denominational flavour and were transferred to the Winkler M.B. Church because at that time it had more seating accommodation. Of late these united services have been called "Southern Manitoba Crusade for Christ", and some of the evangelists who have conducted campaigns here were the following: Rev. Peter Wiebe, Indiana (1956) Rev. George R. Brunk, Virginia (1957); Janz Brothers, Germany (1960); Rev. J. J. Toews, Winnipeg (1961); and Rev. Vernon D. Duerksen, South Dakota (1968). The American Association for Jewish Evangelism has also conducted several series of services in town here in which the local congregations irrespective of denominations have participated. In 1970, Rev. Wes Aarum conducted evangelistic services in the Winkler M.B. Church which had been organized and supported by the Winkler Ministerial Association and consequently there was participation by most of the local churches. In 1971, Rev. Alf Rees conducted evangelistic services in the Winkler Bergthaler Church with participation by other local churches. In 1973 the local churches again united through the Winkler Ministerial for an evangelistic thrust in the community by joining in Key '73.

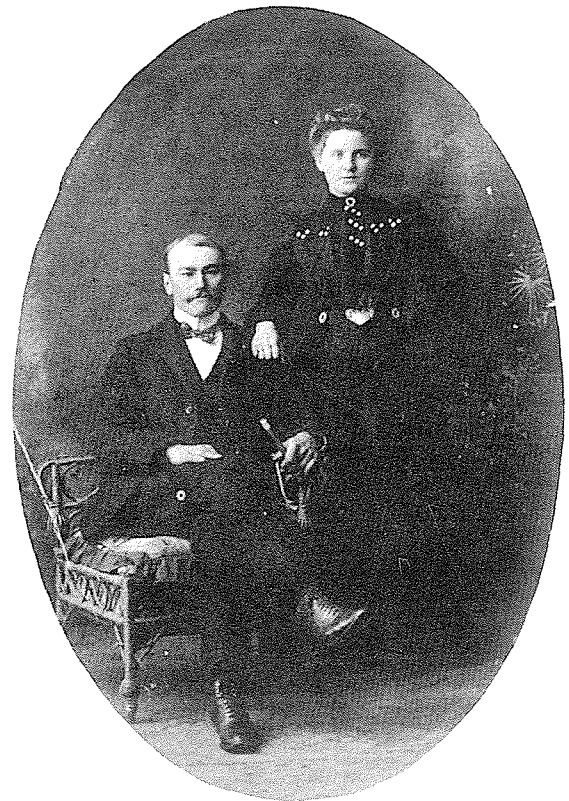
On June 8, 9, 10, 1925, a Bible Conference was held in the Winkler M.B. Church when speakers from the Bergthaler and Brethren churches participated. Ministers and speakers whose names appeared on the program were Rev. Johann Warkentin, Winkler; Rev. P. H. Neufeld, Altona; Rev. H. H. Ewert, Gretna; Rev. Henry Born, Winkler; Rev. A. H. Unruh, Winkler; Mr. Gustav Penner, Winkler; Rev. Jacob B. Penner, Kronsart; Rev. Benjamin Ewert, Winnipeg; Rev. C. C. Bergmann, Morden; Rev. David Schulz, Altona; Rev. Michael Klassen, Mr. Abram Peters, Arnaud; Rev. Benjamin Janz, Steinbach; Rev. J. Siemens, Winkler; Rev. Jacob Hoepfner, Winkler; and Rev. Herman A. Neufeld, Winkler.

As the Mennonite church congregations usually kept an "Armen Kasse" (Treasury to help the poor), they were reluctant to have their needy members apply for money from public funds. However, during the years of the depression of the 1930's the churches were unable to supply all the demands for assistance and as a result many sought relief from municipal councils under the Dominion-Provincial grant system. Today, the members of the Mennonite churches have no hesitation in accepting Federal government Old Age pensions as well as Provincial Medical and Hospital Services.

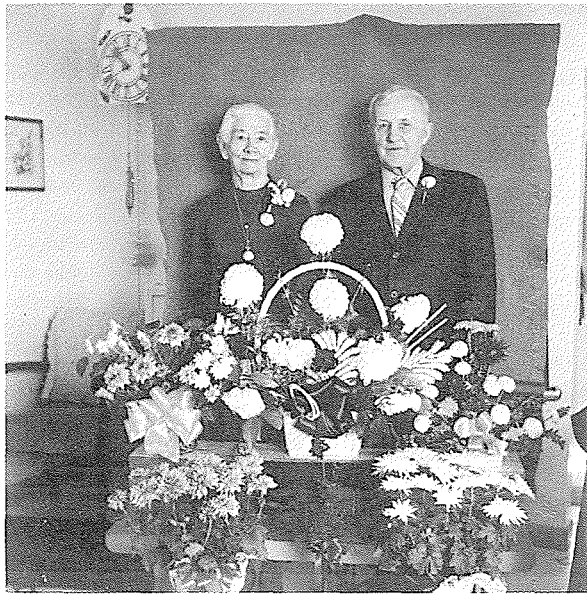
## Wedding Ceremonies

In some of the local Mennonite churches there used to be Sunday morning weddings. After the regular Sunday morning worship service, the minister in charge would deliver a short wedding sermon which was then followed by the marriage ceremony. However, since it was traditional that men and women did not sit together in the same pews, it was also consistent with tradition that the bride and groom did not sit together until two chairs had been placed in front of the altar to be occupied by the bridal couple and the marriage ceremony began.

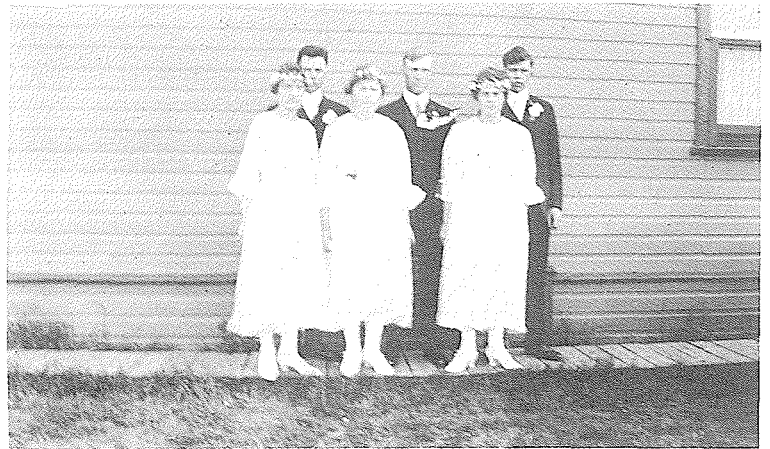
Later, Sunday afternoon weddings became popular, but it was not until the 1930's that evening marriages were solemnized. Of course, it is only in recent years that the exchange of rings, the signing of the register as part of the service, the elaborate ceremonies with large numbers of attendants, and the father giving his daughter in marriage, have been introduced to Mennonite congregations. Although wedding gowns, similar to those worn by other Canadian brides became the general attire in many Mennonite churches somewhat earlier, all these innovations were usually referred to as "English weddings."



Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Hoepfner observed their 65th Wedding Anniversary, July 26, 1970.



Mr. and Mrs. John J. Braun , their Diamond Wedding, November 16, 1971.



On June 18, 1922, Rev. John Warkentin officiated at a triple wedding ceremony in the Winkler M.B. Church. In February, 1972, the three couples (Left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Herb D. Dick, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Friesen met at Phoenix, Arizona, for a reunion to observe their Golden Wedding.



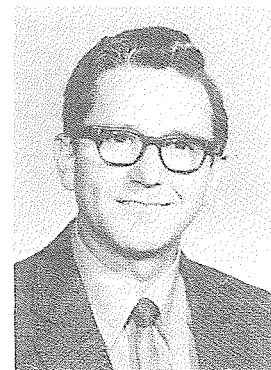
Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Kroeker



April 1, 1973, Miss M. Catherine Hildebrand and Mr. G. Ken Kehler



1964



An Essay on the Historical Background  
of the Churches of Winkler  
Presented at the Inter-Church Centennial Thanksgiving  
Service  
September 20, 1970, by Wm. Schroeder

"In a very real sense a number of the prominent churches of Winkler today are older than the town itself.



For one thing, Winkler was established as a C.P.R. siding only in 1892, some 17 years after the first Mennonites settled in the surrounding community. Several churches were already organized outside of the town, and as members settled in the growing railway town, congregations either moved their meeting houses into Winkler or else erected new ones there. As a matter of fact, some church leaders had resisted the founding of a Mennonite town and had warned Isaak Wiens, original owner of the townsite, not to have anything to do with the establishment of a railway station. The traditional Mennonite social, cultural, and religious way of life was based on the ideal of agrarian rural isolation and resisted the threat of encroachment of "the world". But the growing settlement needed the railway. Mr. Wiens solved the dilemma by trading farms with Mr. Valentine Winkler, a non-Mennonite from Morden, who then allowed the C.P.R. to open a station, named "Winkler" after him. Even after Winkler was established, there was considerable reluctance on the part of several churches to locate in town.

"However, the real roots of the Mennonite churches of Winkler go much deeper than merely to the pioneer settlement of the West Reserve. In 1525, during the time of the Reformation in Europe, a number of the members of the Swiss Reformed Church in Zurich, Switzerland, broke with their leader, Ulrich Zwingli. Zwingli, though he had left the Roman Catholic Church, still combined the church and state. All citizens were to belong to the church of the rulers. The civil and military powers of the state were used to enforce church regulations. Some of the more radical reformers, like Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, and Philip Blaurock, demanded the separation of church and state, insisting that the individual must be free to follow his own conscience. They also rejected child baptism as unbiblical and re-baptized believers upon confession of their personal faith in Jesus as Saviour. Hence they got the name "Anabaptists", (re-baptizers). Believers' baptism, separation of church and state, and the doctrine of non-resistance characterized the first Anabaptists as they tried to recapture the New Testament ideal of the church.

"Despite severe persecution the movement spread extensively in Switzerland and South Germany. Shortly afterward Anabaptism took root in Holland and north Germany. As most of the Swiss leaders were martyred, the leadership of the movement passed more into the hands of the Dutch ex-priest Menno Simons, from whom the name "Mennonite" is derived. During the 16th and 17th centuries many thousands of Mennonites died for their faith.

"It was my privilege, in 1967, to visit such places as the great Zurich Grossmunster Church from which the original Anabaptists withdrew; the spot where the first baptism took place; the Limmat River where Felix Manz, the first Mennonite martyr, was drowned; a mountain cave where early Mennonites held secret worship services; and the Dutch village of Witmarsum where Menno Simons worked for a while and where a monument was erected some years ago.

"Many of today's so-called "Old Mennonites" of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ontario are descended from the Swiss-South German branch of Anabaptism. Some

of the Dutch and North-Germans later migrated to Prussia, (today part of East Germany and Poland). After 1789 many moved on to southern Russia from where large numbers migrated to Canada in the 1870's, 1920's, and after World War II. Others went to South America. The earliest settlers in the Winkler-Altona area came from the Russian Mennonite settlements of Berghthal and Fuerstenland, both of which were daughter-colonies of the first Mennonite colony in Russia, Chortitza, often referred to as the "Old Colony".

"By this time the Russian Mennonites were no longer merely a religious group or church. For generations they had lived in closed, isolated communities with their own schools, local government, and, in part, economic system. Missionary activity had declined; no new blood was added. They had become a distinct cultural or ethnic group with their own dialect. Their religious distinctives were deeply interwoven with strong social and cultural traditions. The church still dominated a Mennonite's life, but it had become somewhat of a "Volkskirche", often with little emphasis on a vital personal relationship to Jesus Christ. External conformity was stressed. Baptism became almost automatic upon reaching adulthood. The radical reformers of 1525 had changed into arch-conservatives. A typical Mennonite was willing to migrate to preserve his "faith" for his children, without realizing that what he was so zealously perpetuating was as much a social traditional way of life as a religion.

"The pioneers of this community were of two different churches simply because they had come from two different geographical areas in Russia. But their differences soon widened. The Fuerstenlaenders were more conservative and gradually came to be called "Alt-Kolonier". The Berghthaler were more ready to accept changes and to adapt to the Canadian way of life. The Alt-Kolonier, for example, resisted more strongly the government's attempt to organize rural municipalities. They kept their own "Oberschulze" and Schultebott" who levied taxes and organized public works alongside of the legally elected reeve and councillors. Originally the villages operated on the open-field system; a farmer did not necessarily live on the quarter section for which he had legal title. The land around the village was parcelled out in strips to individual farmers and there was a common pasture. This system broke down as some of the more individualistic Berghthaler left the community organization and moved out on their own land. As a result, the whole way of life changed drastically. The Alt-Kolonier ministers strongly opposed this change and also the inroads of the public school. In some communities where there were enough Berghthaler they voted to organize government schools, paid for by taxes levied on all property owners, including Alt-Kolonier, who, however, supported their own church school, as they could do until a new law came out in 1916-17. Some people today tend to smile at this fear of worldliness and the English language, but let us remember, the real issue was the Old-Colony belief that the education of their children was the duty of the church and not the state. That philosophy had been common in many countries of Europe in the 19th century.

"But the issue of education also split the Bergthaler themselves. When their elder (bishop), Johann Funk, co-operated with the government in establishing a private high school and normal school at Greta to train Mennonite teachers, the majority of his own church broke away in 1890 to form the Sommerfelder Church, named after the village where its first elder, Abraham Doerksen, lived. This event differed from the usual Mennonite church split rather than a reform group going out under a new name, it was the remaining majority that took the new name. In effect though, the small Bergthaler group was a new church, leading in educational, religious, and social reforms. It was the beginning of today's Bergthaler Churches.

"The Bergthaler Church today has about 20 congregations. The one in Winkler had its beginnings in the now defunct village of Hoffnungsfeld, a mile southwest of town. In 1895, soon after the Bergthaler-Sommerfelder division, the Bergthaler group built the first church in Winkler, on Sixth Street. It was replaced with a new building in 1947, and as we are all aware, the sanctuary in which we are now sitting was dedicated last June. Early resident ministers included Frank Sawatzky, William Harms, and Jacob Hoepfner, bishop of the whole Bergthaler Church. A history of the Bergthaler denomination by Henry Gerbrandt is currently in the process of publication. The Bergthaler Church began the Manitoba Pioneer Mission among Indians. The church is a member of the Canadian Conference of Mennonites whose convention took place here this summer.

"When the provincial government finally enforced attendance at English public schools during the 1920's, the majority of the Alt-Kolonier migrated to Mexico and many Sommerfelder to Paraguay. After about 80 families of Alt Kolonier had returned to Manitoba, they reorganized in 1936 under the leadership of the late Elder J. J. Froese. They have no church building in Winkler itself; local members worship in Reinfeld or Chortitz.

"The Sommerfelder Church organized a local congregation in Winkler in 1938. In the late 1950's a conservative element in the Sommerfelder Church, who could not go along with growing reforming trends, withdrew to form the Reinlaender Mennonite Church, which has a building on Pembina Avenue.

"The Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church had its beginnings when in 1884 two itinerant preachers, David Dyck and Henry Voth, were sent out by the Mennonite Brethren Churches of the U.S.A. to do mission work in Manitoba. For the next five years Voth returned repeatedly for series of services in various homes, especially in Hoffnungsfeld and Burwalde. Apparently in the existing churches of the time there was insufficient emphasis on the need for a personal conversion experience. Voth's personal evangelism was particularly effective with persons who lived in fear of eternal damnation but were told that one cannot be sure of salvation in this life. Voth suffered considerable persecution including physical violence. There were two baptismal services in 1886, and in 1888 the first M.B. Church was organized at Burwalde. Voth invited Gerhard Wiebe to come from Russia to take over the leadership of the church. The church was moved to the north west corner of Winkler in 1897. By this time daughter churches existed at Kronsart and Grossweide.

By 1905 membership in Winkler had grown to 225. A son of the founder, the late H. S. Voth, was pastor from 1931-50. The present sanctuary on Mountain Avenue was erected in 1947.

"The M.B. Church departed more radically from traditional Mennonite church practices and pioneered numerous cultural changes. This trend was accelerated by the arrival of the Russian Mennonites in the 1920's. The Bible Institute was established in 1925. The Winkler M.B. Church has been prominent in the Manitoba, Canadian, and North American Conferences. A number of foreign missionaries have gone out from Winkler.

"It is noteworthy that the re-formed Bergthaler Church and the Mennonite Brethren originally came out of the earlier churches at roughly the same time. It might be interesting to research their early relationship, but I have not yet had time to do so.

"The Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church, formerly Rudnerweider, separated from the Sommerfelder denomination in 1936-37. A strong revival in 1934 under the preaching of I. P. Friesen of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, had hastened the polarization of the orthodox and evangelical wings of the Sommerfelder Church. Four young ministers introduced various innovations in their church activities and 1200 members sided with them. The organization took place at Rudnerweide and the first bishop was W. H. Falk. The church has numerous local congregations. The Winkler church began when the Rosenbach church building was moved to town in 1942. A new building was erected in 1953. In 1959 the local Rudnerweide groups became largely autonomous and organized into the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference. The conference does extensive mission work.

"The Grace Mennonite Church on Pembina Avenue was formed in 1961 when a number of members withdrew from the local Bergthaler Church and began conducting their worship services in English. This opened the door more effectively for non-German speaking residents of the community. In recent years several other churches have greatly expanded their use of the English language. The Grace Church is also a member of the General Conference of Mennonites in Canada.

"The Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church on Third Street South was organized in 1961. There previously had been a mission group meeting under the leadership of A. M. Friesen since 1954. When he left, the group invited the EMB Conference to come in, and the congregation has joined that conference as a member-church.

"German speaking Lutherans have lived in Winkler since its early years. Already in the 1890's they conducted services in homes, and in 1901 organized as a church. For some years they met in the school building until their first church was erected in 1917. The present membership is about 100; the church is a member of the Missouri Synod.

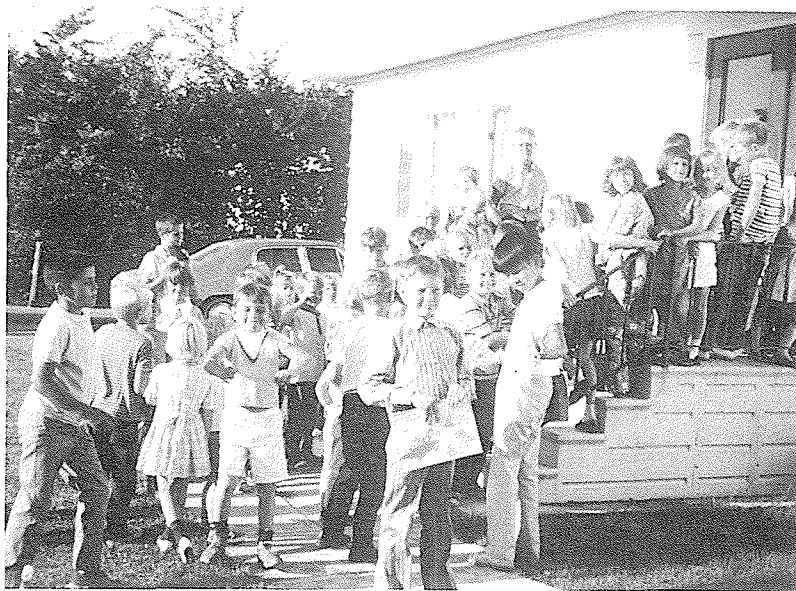
"At various times other denominations have had temporary congregations in Winkler. These include Prebyterians, Church of God, Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals, a Jewish Synagogue, and unaffiliated mission groups. The Jewish Synagogue was in operation during the 1920's and 30's on the east side of Sixth Street, north of Mountain Avenue.

"Some general comments may be in order. The salient feature of Mennonite church history is the recurring divisions and redivisions. In at least one case even the church building was sawn in two. This tendency has often been cited as a violation of the unity of the body of Christ. Much of this history of division is indeed a reproach. All too often it was mere tradition and culture that the churches were fighting over in the name of religious faith. But there are positive aspects. In some cases it was genuine revival and renewed evangelistic zeal that created new channels and led the way, resulting in something of a counter-reformation in the parent church. Gradually and sometimes unconsciously churches learned from each other. Granted, imitation was sometimes motivated by rivalry.

"Today there seems to be a fair degree of tolerance, even if active co-operation is limited. In some churches co-operation is limited by policy; in other cases we are just too busy in our own churches. Inter-church evangelistic campaigns have fostered unity, as well as expanded and strengthened individual churches.

"A most serious indictment of most Mennonite churches is the almost total absence of names that are not of Mennonite origin, ethnically. We are still too clannish and exclusive. Our missionary effectiveness is hampered if people who accept the faith are expected also to adopt a culture. I am not disparaging the Mennonite cultural heritage; in fact, I greatly appreciate it. But our faith is in Jesus Christ and the Word of God, not in tradition. God does not speak only Low German

"Mennonites are changing fast. Whether we like it or not, the typical Mennonite way of life is bound to decline even more rapidly with the coming of age of the first generation to have grown up under the full impact of the modern media of communication. Many young people are forced to leave the community for study and employment in the cities. There is reaction to the formalism and institutionalism of our churches. But there is more ground for optimism for the future of the faith than for the future of the Mennonite culture. I think the biblical way of salvation through personal faith in Jesus Christ is taught more clearly in more churches of Winkler today than a generation ago, even though too few Christians take personal evangelism seriously. In the world at large, the teaching of peace and non-violence, long peculiar to Mennonites, is gaining wide acceptance. (I am not claiming the credit for the Mennonites). Last winter's revival especially among the young people of our community demonstrated their great potential for the kingdom of God. What we need now, in my opinion, is a revival among us middle-aged church members. May God grant it and expand the cause of Christ in Winkler!"



EMB Church Daily Vacation Bible School, 1971.



Winkler E.M.B. Church cycloton, 1971



Official opening of Winkler Credit Union, Aug. 24, 1973.<sup>9</sup>





last summer our membership met to discuss the question of a place to worship. On September 26 the excavation was made and on October 4, 1962, the actual construction of our new building began."

What began in 1961 as a church with 32 registered members has since grown to more than 125 with Rev. Bernie Loeppky, B.A., a teacher on the staff of Garden Valley Collegiate, as pastor. Rev. Loeppky who was ordained for the ministry on July 9, 1962, has also been active in the Winkler Ministerial Association and has served his congregation without any remuneration. The deacons of Grace Mennonite Church are Andrew Enns and Dennis Driedger. Mr. Lloyd Siemens is the choir leader.

Donald Loewen, Herman Isaac, and Andrew Enns have served as superintendents of the Sunday School. Manfred Enns is the superintendent at present. He is assisted by the following staff of teachers: Dennis Driedger, Mrs. Agnes Dyck, Norman Braun, Harold Fast, Mrs. Abe Hildebrand, Anne Enns, Mrs. Bernie Loeppky, Marvin Enns, Jake Dyck, Dorothy Nickel, and Judy Peters. To supplement the Sunday School, there is a week-day program of instruction in The Wayfarers and Boys' League.

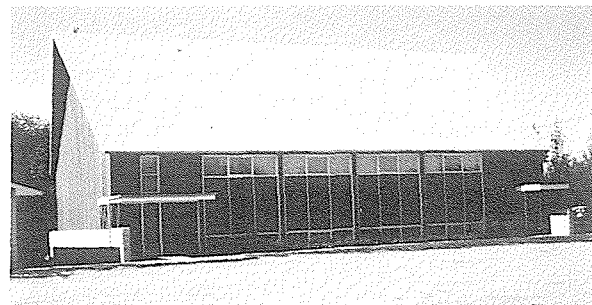
On Sunday, September 19, 1972, the installation service of Rev. John Krahn as pastor of Grace Mennonite Church at Winkler was conducted by the outgoing pastor, Rev. Bernie Loeppky. Rev. Krahn was ordained for the ministry in May, 1959, and began to serve the local church on September 1, 1972.



Rev. John Krahn, pastor, Grace Mennonite Church.



Rev. Bernie Loeppky, pastor of Grace Mennonite Church, 1961- 72.



Grace Mennonite Church, dedicated Dec. 16, 1962.

### Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

The Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church was organized in Winkler in 1961. At first the services were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Toews on Highway 14, and then a building was rented on the north side of Pembina Avenue near Third Street where the worshippers continued to meet for another two years with Mr. Harry Wiebe as lay leader.

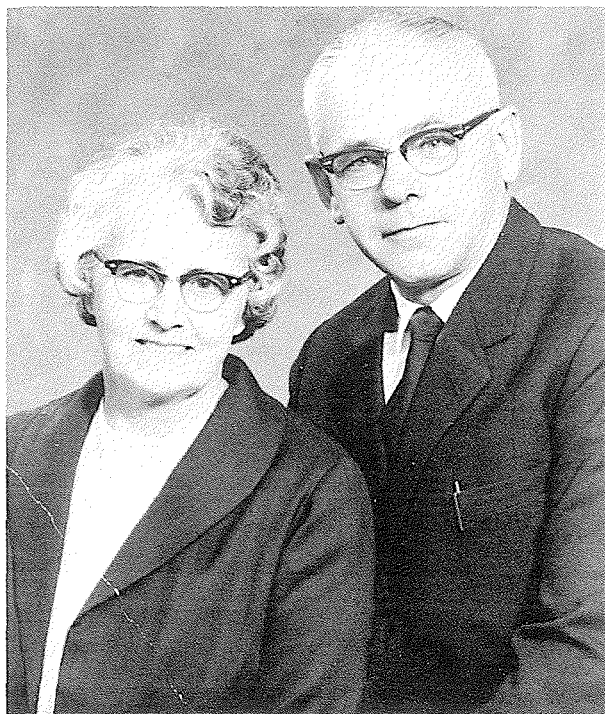
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Attendance at the Sunday morning worship service numbers about forty parishioners. At present Mrs. Herman Heide is the Sunday School superintendent, however, John Toews, Peter Toews, and Bob Britton have also served in this area. The Sunday School teachers are Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Peters, Mrs. Herman Heide, Mrs. Cornie Dyck, Mrs. Bob R. Groening, and Mrs. A. G. Kirk. In 1971 Mr. Bob Britton served as assistant pastor as well as Sunday School superintendent.

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Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church built in 1964.



**Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Peters**  
Rev. Peters is pastor of E.M.B. Church



### **Bishop Jacob J. Froese**

All the early Mennonite church denominations were reluctant to organize congregations or to erect churches in town. Later, Mennonites invaded railroad towns founded by non-Mennonites. Except for the Old Colony Mennonite Church denomination, this aversion to move into railway towns has practically vanished. However, even today there is no Old Colony Mennonite Church building in Winkler, although some of its members now reside in town.

Bishop Jacob J. Froese who was the leader for many years of the Old Colony Mennonite Church congregations in this area, operated a large farm at Reinfeld, two miles east of Winkler. Of course, he received no stipend from the church treasury for his services. Rev. Froese was born November 13, 1885, in the village of Reinland. On confession of faith in Jesus

Christ as Savior, he was baptized June 12, 1905, by Bishop Peter Wiebe in the village of Chortitz and received into the fellowship of the Old Colony Mennonite Church. Rev. Froese was ordained for the ministry on June 28, 1936, and as bishop November 14, 1937, by Bishop Johan Loeppky of Osler, Saskatchewan. He delivered his last sermon on January 6, 1968, and during his years of service in the ministry, he preached a total of 1727 sermons and conducted the last rites at 200 funerals. Besides officiating at 94 marriages, Rev. Froese baptized 655 baptismal candidates and accepted them into the membership of the Old Colony Mennonite Church. In 1935, he also served as a member of the first Board of Directors of the Bethel Hospital at Winkler.

On July 15, 1906, Rev. Froese was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with the former Miss Margaretha Enns. The marriage was blessed with fifteen children as well as one foster daughter. He was predeceased by ten of their children.

Although it is not likely that Rev. Froese ever cast a ballot in an election, two of his sons are serving in a political capacity. Besides operating a 1000-acre farm, George Froese has been a member of the Garden Valley School Division Trustee Board since 1971, and has served as councillor and reeve of Stanley Municipality since 1966. Jake Froese owns a 900-acre farm and has been active as president of the Winkler Credit Union from 1950-70, as school trustee of the Reinfeld District from 1944-72, as president of the Mennonite School Trustee Association for five years, and since 1959 he has been re-elected to the Manitoba Legislature in four provincial elections as the Social Credit candidate for Rhineland.

### **Winkler Revival Center (The Mission Hall)**

In 1954 a Mission congregation was organized in Winkler. Rev. Abram M. Friesen moved a building onto the lot at the north-west corner of Second Street and Stanley Avenue where he became the leader for a number of years until he moved with his family to Winnipeg. He had been ordained for the ministry in the Rudnerweider Church in 1944. For some time the services were conducted on Sunday evening. There were also regular Sunday morning worship services and Sunday School classes. For some years, the late Mr. Ed Heppner was an ardent supporter of the Mission Hall services. As Mr. Heppner was a graduate of the Winkler Bible Institute, he frequently preached the sermon at the Mission. When the Winkler E.M.B. Church was organized in 1961, the attendance at the Mission Hall declined and finally the building was sold and moved into the country. However, the United Church building which had been standing vacant on Highway 3 near Carman, was donated to the group and moved onto a lot on the north side of Victoria Avenue on the east side of town.

In 1971, some of the members who had attended the services in the Mission reorganized under the leadership of Bishop Terry Miller and formed a non-denominational church now known as the Winkler Revival Center.

## Interdenominational Services

During the last two decades many of the Winkler and surrounding area churches have united in interdenominational evangelistic campaigns which have been conducted in the churches, school auditoriums, arenas, and tents. The purpose of these has been to give people an opportunity to make a spiritual beginning or to get right with God. Consequently, there has been through the years much positive evangelical preaching from the pulpits of the local churches. Possibly, a forerunner of the interdenominational evangelistic meetings of the Winkler churches started in 1934 when Rev. Isaac P. Friesen, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, began a series of services in the Winkler Bergthaler Church. After revival fires broke out the meetings quickly assumed an inter-denominational flavour and were transferred to the Winkler M.B. Church because at that time it had more seating accommodation. Of late these united services have been called "Southern Manitoba Crusade for Christ", and some of the evangelists who have conducted campaigns here were the following: Rev. Peter Wiebe, Indiana (1956) Rev. George R. Brunk, Virginia (1957); Janz Brothers, Germany (1960); Rev. J. J. Toews, Winnipeg (1961); and Rev. Vernon D. Duerksen, South Dakota (1968). The American Association for Jewish Evangelism has also conducted several series of services in town here in which the local congregations irrespective of denominations have participated. In 1970, Rev. Wes Aarum conducted evangelistic services in the Winkler M.B. Church which had been organized and supported by the Winkler Ministerial Association and consequently there was participation by most of the local churches. In 1971, Rev. Alf Rees conducted evangelistic services in the Winkler Bergthaler Church with participation by other local churches. In 1973 the local churches again united through the Winkler Ministerial for an evangelistic thrust in the community by joining in Key '73.

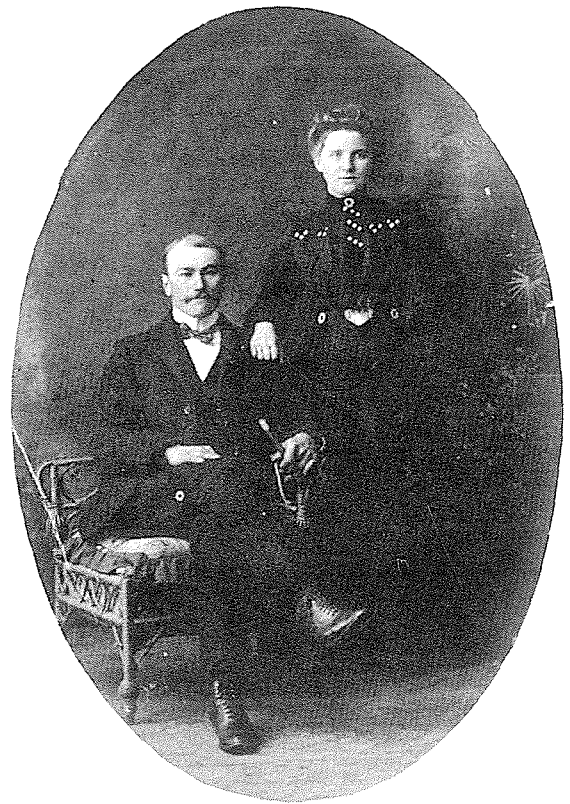
On June 8, 9, 10, 1925, a Bible Conference was held in the Winkler M.B. Church when speakers from the Bergthaler and Brethren churches participated. Ministers and speakers whose names appeared on the program were Rev. Johann Warkentin, Winkler; Rev. P. H. Neufeld, Altona; Rev. H. H. Ewert, Gretna; Rev. Henry Born, Winkler; Rev. A. H. Unruh, Winkler; Mr. Gustav Penner, Winkler; Rev. Jacob B. Penner, Kronsart; Rev. Benjamin Ewert, Winnipeg; Rev. C. C. Bergmann, Morden; Rev. David Schulz, Altona; Rev. Michael Klassen, Mr. Abram Peters, Arnaud; Rev. Benjamin Janz, Steinbach; Rev. J. Siemens, Winkler; Rev. Jacob Hoeppner, Winkler; and Rev. Herman A. Neufeld, Winkler.

As the Mennonite church congregations usually kept an "Armen Kasse" (Treasury to help the poor), they were reluctant to have their needy members apply for money from public funds. However, during the years of the depression of the 1930's the churches were unable to supply all the demands for assistance and as a result many sought relief from municipal councils under the Dominion-Provincial grant system. Today, the members of the Mennonite churches have no hesitation in accepting Federal government Old Age pensions as well as Provincial Medical and Hospital Services.

## Wedding Ceremonies

In some of the local Mennonite churches there used to be Sunday morning weddings. After the regular Sunday morning worship service, the minister in charge would deliver a short wedding sermon which was then followed by the marriage ceremony. However, since it was traditional that men and women did not sit together in the same pews, it was also consistent with tradition that the bride and groom did not sit together until two chairs had been placed in front of the altar to be occupied by the bridal couple and the marriage ceremony began.

Later, Sunday afternoon weddings became popular, but it was not until the 1930's that evening marriages were solemnized. Of course, it is only in recent years that the exchange of rings, the signing of the register as part of the service, the elaborate ceremonies with large numbers of attendants, and the father giving his daughter in marriage, have been introduced to Mennonite congregations. Although wedding gowns, similar to those worn by other Canadian brides became the general attire in many Mennonite churches somewhat earlier, all these innovations were usually referred to as "English weddings."



Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Hoeppner observed their 65th Wedding Anniversary, July 26, 1970.



Mr. and Mrs. John J. Braun , their Diamond Wedding, November 16, 1971.



On June 18, 1922, Rev. John Warkentin officiated at a triple wedding ceremony in the Winkler M.B. Church. In February, 1972, the three couples (Left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Otto Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Herb D. Dick, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Friesen met at Phoenix, Arizona, for a reunion to observe their Golden Wedding.



Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Kroeker



April 1, 1973, Miss M. Catherine Hildebrand and Mr. G. Ken Kehler



1964



An Essay on the Historical Background  
of the Churches of Winkler  
Presented at the Inter-Church Centennial Thanksgiving  
Service  
September 20, 1970, by Wm. Schroeder

"In a very real sense a number of the prominent churches of Winkler today are older than the town itself.



For one thing, Winkler was established as a C.P.R. siding only in 1892, some 17 years after the first Mennonites settled in the surrounding community. Several churches were already organized outside of the town, and as members settled in the growing railway town, congregations either moved their meeting houses into Winkler or else erected new ones there. As a matter of fact, some church leaders had resisted the founding of a Mennonite town and had warned Isaak Wiens, original owner of the townsite, not to have anything to do with the establishment of a railway station. The traditional Mennonite social, cultural, and religious way of life was based on the ideal of agrarian rural isolation and resisted the threat of encroachment of "the world". But the growing settlement needed the railway. Mr. Wiens solved the dilemma by trading farms with Mr. Valentine Winkler, a non-Mennonite from Morden, who then allowed the C.P.R. to open a station, named "Winkler" after him. Even after Winkler was established, there was considerable reluctance on the part of several churches to locate in town.

"However, the real roots of the Mennonite churches of Winkler go much deeper than merely to the pioneer settlement of the West Reserve. In 1525, during the time of the Reformation in Europe, a number of the members of the Swiss Reformed Church in Zurich, Switzerland, broke with their leader, Ulrich Zwingli. Zwingli, though he had left the Roman Catholic Church, still combined the church and state. All citizens were to belong to the church of the rulers. The civil and military powers of the state were used to enforce church regulations. Some of the more radical reformers, like Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, and Philip Blaurock, demanded the separation of church and state, insisting that the individual must be free to follow his own conscience. They also rejected child baptism as unbiblical and re-baptized believers upon confession of their personal faith in Jesus as Saviour. Hence they got the name "Anabaptists", (re-baptizers). Believers' baptism, separation of church and state, and the doctrine of non-resistance characterized the first Anabaptists as they tried to recapture the New Testament ideal of the church.

"Despite severe persecution the movement spread extensively in Switzerland and South Germany. Shortly afterward Anabaptism took root in Holland and north Germany. As most of the Swiss leaders were martyred, the leadership of the movement passed more into the hands of the Dutch ex-priest Menno Simons, from whom the name "Mennonite" is derived. During the 16th and 17th centuries many thousands of Mennonites died for their faith.

"It was my privilege, in 1967, to visit such places as the great Zurich Grossmunster Church from which the original Anabaptists withdrew; the spot where the first baptism took place; the Limmat River where Felix Manz, the first Mennonite martyr, was drowned; a mountain cave where early Mennonites held secret worship services; and the Dutch village of Witmarsum where Menno Simons worked for a while and where a monument was erected some years ago.

"Many of today's so-called "Old Mennonites" of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ontario are descended from the Swiss-South German branch of Anabaptism. Some

of the Dutch and North-Germans later migrated to Prussia, (today part of East Germany and Poland). After 1789 many moved on to southern Russia from where large numbers migrated to Canada in the 1870's, 1920's, and after World War II. Others went to South America. The earliest settlers in the Winkler-Altona area came from the Russian Mennonite settlements of Bergthal and Fuerstenland, both of which were daughter-colonies of the first Mennonite colony in Russia, Chortitza, often referred to as the "Old Colony".

"By this time the Russian Mennonites were no longer merely a religious group or church. For generations they had lived in closed, isolated communities with their own schools, local government, and, in part, economic system. Missionary activity had declined; no new blood was added. They had become a distinct cultural or ethnic group with their own dialect. Their religious distinctives were deeply interwoven with strong social and cultural traditions. The church still dominated a Mennonite's life, but it had become somewhat of a "Volkskirche", often with little emphasis on a vital personal relationship to Jesus Christ. External conformity was stressed. Baptism became almost automatic upon reaching adulthood. The radical reformers of 1525 had changed into arch-conservatives. A typical Mennonite was willing to migrate to preserve his "faith" for his children, without realizing that what he was so zealously perpetuating was as much a social traditional way of life as a religion.

"The pioneers of this community were of two different churches simply because they had come from two different geographical areas in Russia. But their differences soon widened. The Fuerstenlaenders were more conservative and gradually came to be called "Alt-Kolonier". The Bergthaler were more ready to accept changes and to adapt to the Canadian way of life. The Alt-Kolonier, for example, resisted more strongly the government's attempt to organize rural municipalities. They kept their own "Oberschulze" and Schultebott" who levied taxes and organized public works alongside of the legally elected reeve and councillors. Originally the villages operated on the open-field system; a farmer did not necessarily live on the quarter section for which he had legal title. The land around the village was parcelled out in strips to individual farmers and there was a common pasture. This system broke down as some of the more individualistic Bergthaler left the community organization and moved out on their own land. As a result, the whole way of life changed drastically. The Alt-Kolonier ministers strongly opposed this change and also the inroads of the public school. In some communities where there were enough Bergthaler they voted to organize government schools, paid for by taxes levied on all property owners, including Alt-Kolonier, who, however, supported their own church school, as they could do until a new law came out in 1916-17. Some people today tend to smile at this fear of worldliness and the English language, but let us remember, the real issue was the Old-Colony belief that the education of their children was the duty of the church and not the state. That philosophy had been common in many countries of Europe in the 19th century.

"But the issue of education also split the Bergthaler themselves. When their elder (bishop), Johann Funk, co-operated with the government in establishing a private high school and normal school at Greta to train Mennonite teachers, the majority of his own church broke away in 1890 to form the Sommerfelder Church, named after the village where its first elder, Abraham Doerksen, lived. This event differed from the usual Mennonite church split rather than a reform group going out under a new name, it was the remaining majority that took the new name. In effect though, the small Bergthaler group was a new church, leading in educational, religious, and social reforms. It was the beginning of today's Bergthaler Churches.

"The Bergthaler Church today has about 20 congregations. The one in Winkler had its beginnings in the now defunct village of Hoffnungsfeld, a mile southwest of town. In 1895, soon after the Bergthaler-Sommerfelder division, the Bergthaler group built the first church in Winkler, on Sixth Street. It was replaced with a new building in 1947, and as we are all aware, the sanctuary in which we are now sitting was dedicated last June. Early resident ministers included Frank Sawatzky, William Harms, and Jacob Hoepfner, bishop of the whole Bergthaler Church. A history of the Bergthaler denomination by Henry Gerbrandt is currently in the process of publication. The Bergthaler Church began the Manitoba Pioneer Mission among Indians. The church is a member of the Canadian Conference of Mennonites whose convention took place here this summer.

"When the provincial government finally enforced attendance at English public schools during the 1920's, the majority of the Alt-Kolonier migrated to Mexico and many Sommerfelder to Paraguay. After about 80 families of Alt Kolonier had returned to Manitoba, they reorganized in 1936 under the leadership of the late Elder J. J. Froese. They have no church building in Winkler itself; local members worship in Reinfeld or Chortitz.

"The Sommerfelder Church organized a local congregation in Winkler in 1938. In the late 1950's a conservative element in the Sommerfelder Church, who could not go along with growing reforming trends, withdrew to form the Reinlaender Mennonite Church, which has a building on Pembina Avenue.

"The Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church had its beginnings when in 1884 two itinerant preachers, David Dyck and Henry Voth, were sent out by the Mennonite Brethren Churches of the U.S.A. to do mission work in Manitoba. For the next five years Voth returned repeatedly for series of services in various homes, especially in Hoffnungsfeld and Burwalde. Apparently in the existing churches of the time there was insufficient emphasis on the need for a personal conversion experience. Voth's personal evangelism was particularly effective with persons who lived in fear of eternal damnation but were told that one cannot be sure of salvation in this life. Voth suffered considerable persecution including physical violence. There were two baptismal services in 1886, and in 1888 the first M.B. Church was organized at Burwalde. Voth invited Gerhard Wiebe to come from Russia to take over the leadership of the church. The church was moved to the north west corner of Winkler in 1897. By this time daughter churches existed at Kronsgrat and Grossweide.

By 1905 membership in Winkler had grown to 225. A son of the founder, the late H. S. Voth, was pastor from 1931-50. The present sanctuary on Mountain Avenue was erected in 1947.

"The M.B. Church departed more radically from traditional Mennonite church practices and pioneered numerous cultural changes. This trend was accelerated by the arrival of the Russian Mennonites in the 1920's. The Bible Institute was established in 1925. The Winkler M.B. Church has been prominent in the Manitoba, Canadian, and North American Conferences. A number of foreign missionaries have gone out from Winkler.

"It is noteworthy that the re-formed Bergthaler Church and the Mennonite Brethren originally came out of the earlier churches at roughly the same time. It might be interesting to research their early relationship, but I have not yet had time to do so.

"The Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church, formerly Rudnerweider, separated from the Sommerfelder denomination in 1936-37. A strong revival in 1934 under the preaching of I. P. Friesen of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, had hastened the polarization of the orthodox and evangelical wings of the Sommerfelder Church. Four young ministers introduced various innovations in their church activities and 1200 members sided with them. The organization took place at Rudnerweide and the first bishop was W. H. Falk. The church has numerous local congregations. The Winkler church began when the Rosenbach church building was moved to town in 1942. A new building was erected in 1953. In 1959 the local Rudnerweide groups became largely autonomous and organized into the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference. The conference does extensive mission work.

"The Grace Mennonite Church on Pembina Avenue was formed in 1961 when a number of members withdrew from the local Bergthaler Church and began conducting their worship services in English. This opened the door more effectively for non-German speaking residents of the community. In recent years several other churches have greatly expanded their use of the English language. The Grace Church is also a member of the General Conference of Mennonites in Canada.

"The Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church on Third Street South was organized in 1961. There previously had been a mission group meeting under the leadership of A. M. Friesen since 1954. When he left, the group invited the EMB Conference to come in, and the congregation has joined that conference as a member-church.

"German speaking Lutherans have lived in Winkler since its early years. Already in the 1890's they conducted services in homes, and in 1901 organized as a church. For some years they met in the school building until their first church was erected in 1917. The present membership is about 100; the church is a member of the Missouri Synod.

"At various times other denominations have had temporary congregations in Winkler. These include Prebyterians, Church of God, Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals, a Jewish Synagogue, and unaffiliated mission groups. The Jewish Synagogue was in operation during the 1920's and 30's on the east side of Sixth Street, north of Mountain Avenue.

"Some general comments may be in order. The salient feature of Mennonite church history is the recurring divisions and redivisions. In at least one case even the church building was sawn in two. This tendency has often been cited as a violation of the unity of the body of Christ. Much of this history of division is indeed a reproach. All too often it was mere tradition and culture that the churches were fighting over in the name of religious faith. But there are positive aspects. In some cases it was genuine revival and renewed evangelistic zeal that created new channels and led the way, resulting in something of a counter-reformation in the parent church. Gradually and sometimes unconsciously churches learned from each other. Granted, imitation was sometimes motivated by rivalry.

"Today there seems to be a fair degree of tolerance, even if active co-operation is limited. In some churches co-operation is limited by policy; in other cases we are just too busy in our own churches. Inter-church evangelistic campaigns have fostered unity, as well as expanded and strengthened individual churches.

"A most serious indictment of most Mennonite churches is the almost total absence of names that are not of Mennonite origin, ethnically. We are still too clannish and exclusive. Our missionary effectiveness is hampered if people who accept the faith are expected also to adopt a culture. I am not disparaging the Mennonite cultural heritage; in fact, I greatly appreciate it. But our faith is in Jesus Christ and the Word of God, not in tradition. God does not speak only Low German

"Mennonites are changing fast. Whether we like it or not, the typical Mennonite way of life is bound to decline even more rapidly with the coming of age of the first generation to have grown up under the full impact of the modern media of communication. Many young people are forced to leave the community for study and employment in the cities. There is reaction to the formalism and institutionalism of our churches. But there is more ground for optimism for the future of the faith than for the future of the Mennonite culture. I think the biblical way of salvation through personal faith in Jesus Christ is taught more clearly in more churches of Winkler today than a generation ago, even though too few Christians take personal evangelism seriously. In the world at large, the teaching of peace and non-violence, long peculiar to Mennonites, is gaining wide acceptance. (I am not claiming the credit for the Mennonites). Last winter's revival especially among the young people of our community demonstrated their great potential for the kingdom of God. What we need now, in my opinion, is a revival among us middle-aged church members. May God grant it and expand the cause of Christ in Winkler!"



EMB Church Daily Vacation Bible School, 1971.



Winkler E.M.B. Church cycloton, 1971



Official opening of Winkler Credit Union, Aug. 24, 1973.<sup>9</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

### CHAPTER I

1. The Story of the Mennonites, Dr. C. Henry Smith
2. Manitoba Milestones, Mrs. Margaret McWilliams
3. Grandfather Wiens' Diary, Miss Nettie Kroeker
4. The Wiens Family Register, Irvin Kroeker
5. Mennonite Reserve, 1898, Otto Gaube
6. Rhineland Municipality Diamond Jubilee, H. H. Hamm
7. In Search of Utopia, Dr. E. K. Francis
8. Reeves of Stanley Municipality, Mrs. Ruth Winkler
9. Map of the Municipality of Stanley, Department of Transportation, Province of Manitoba
10. The Romance of the Canadian Pacific Railway, R. G. Macbeth

### CHAPTER II

1. Letter, April 2, 1952, J. W. Maunder, Public Relations Officer, CPR
2. Land Titles Office, Morden, Manitoba
3. In Search of Utopia, Dr. E. K. Francis
4. Letter, Mr. H. W. Winkler, January 8, 1952
5. Winnipeg Tribune
6. The Winnipeg Free Press
7. Thirty-Third Annual Report, Winkler Credit Union Limited
8. The Winkler Progress
9. The Winkler Progress
10. Winkler 1970, Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce
11. The Pembina Times
12. The Brauns of Osterwick, Peter Brown
13. The Winkler Progress
14. Minutes of the Winkler Town Council, 1906
15. Family Historical Notes, H. H. Hamm
16. Bethel Hospital Yearbook, 1949
17. The Morning Star, Winkler Bible School Yearbook, 1950

### CHAPTER III

1. Letter, M. G. Wawrykow, Assistant Administrative Officer, Manitoba Department of Education
2. Winkler School District, Minutes
3. Garden Valley School Division, Minutes

### CHAPTER IV

1. The Berghaler Church Paper, Sept. 1951
2. Adventure in Faith, H. J. Gerbrandt
3. Letter, April 2, 1952, Rev. Benjamin Ewert
4. Adventure in Faith, H. J. Gerbrandt
5. The Mennonite Brethren Church, J. H. Lohrenz
6. Who's Who Among the Mennonites, Warkentin & Gingerich
7. The Winkler Lutheran Church, Rev. L. A. Koehler
8. Die Entstehung der Rudnerweider Gemeinde 1936, J. D. Adrian
9. The Red River Valley Echo