



2000

***KANE — The Spirit Lives On***

A history of the Kane and Rose Farm area in conjunction with the  
closing of the Kane Community Centre.

2000

Compiled by

The Book Committee:

Dora Hildebrand (chair), Ralph Groening and Audrey D. Friesen

The Reunion Committee:

Ralph Groening (chair), Barry & Audrey Friesen,  
George and Mary Penner, Norman & Elva Blatz  
and Hank & Dora Hildebrand

The Cairn Committee:

Barry Friesen (chair) and Ralph Groening

Printed by:

Country Graphics, Rosenort, Manitoba, Canada

ISBN #1-896257-29-1

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mennonite Heritage Centre — Winnipeg  
Provincial Archives — Winnipeg  
National Archives — Ottawa  
Provincial Land Titles — Morden  
R.M. of Morris  
N.M. Paterson Company  
Morris Museum  
*Jacob & Aganetha Blatz* (book)  
*Abram & Agatha Toews* (book)  
*Barns of Western Canada* (book)  
*Precious Memories* by William Cutlip (book)  
*Cornelius W. Wiebe* (book)  
*Living Gold* by Evelyn Mullen (R.M. of Roland book)  
*Furrows in the Valley* (R.M. of Morris book)  
Chris & Merle Block (cover design)

A special thank you to all people who submitted information and treasured pictures for this book. It is the personal details that make the difference!

On behalf of the people of Kane, both past and present, we acknowledge and thank Dora Hildebrand for the endless hours and effort in publishing *Kane — The Spirit Lives on*. Dora was the driving force behind this book and had the daunting task of meeting deadlines. Thank you for making *Kane — The Spirit Lives On* a keepsake to ensure that the spirit of Kane does indeed live on.

Special thanks also go to Audrey D. Friesen who was our official proof reader and spent countless hours reading the manuscripts and making corrections. The 'teacher' was always present in her work!

We are also grateful to Ralph Groening, who as a councillor served well as our liaison between the Reunion Committee and the R.M. of Morris.



*The Reunion Committee - 2000*  
*Ralph Groening (chair), George & Mary Penner, Barry & Audrey Friesen,*  
*Hank & Dora Hildebrand, Norman & Elva Blatz*



*Kane, Manitoba*

***THE SPIRIT LIVES ON . . .***

<b><i>. . . IN OUR HISTORY</i></b> .....	<b>7</b>
Early History of Kane and Rose Farm	
A Convenient Barn	
How did Kane get its name?	
Early Kane Reflections	
<b><i>. . . IN OUR EDUCATION</i></b> .....	<b>19</b>
Woodvale School #350	
Queen Centre School #1219	
Kane Consolidated School #2006	
Kane School Register	
Memories from the Teachers	
<b><i>. . . IN OUR FAITH</i></b> .....	<b>99</b>
The Meeting Place	
Kane Christian Youth Society	
Kane Bergthaler Church	
Kane Mission Sisters	
<b><i>. . . IN LIFE AROUND US</i></b> .....	<b>121</b>
Halunkendarp	
Kane Community Centre	
4-H Clubs	
Reunions	
Kane Friends	
Disasters	
Sports	
<b><i>. . . IN OUR ROOTS</i></b> .....	<b>163</b>
<b><i>. . . IN OUR LIVELIHOOD</i></b> .....	<b>315</b>
The Railway	
A Long Walk with the CNR	
The Station	
The First Elevator	
The Second Elevator	
Business in Kane	
Kane Agri Services	
The Agriculture Album	
<b><i>. . . IN TROUBLED TIMES</i></b> .....	<b>349</b>
World War II	
A Close Call	
The C. O.'s Story	
C. O. Reunion	
At the Home Front	
Prisoners of War	
The Coming of the Japanese	
<b><i>. . . IN THE HEARTS OF ROSE FARM</i></b> .....	<b>359</b>
The Pioneers of Rose Farm	
Rose Farm School District #1577	
Rose Farm High School	
Rose Farm EMMC	

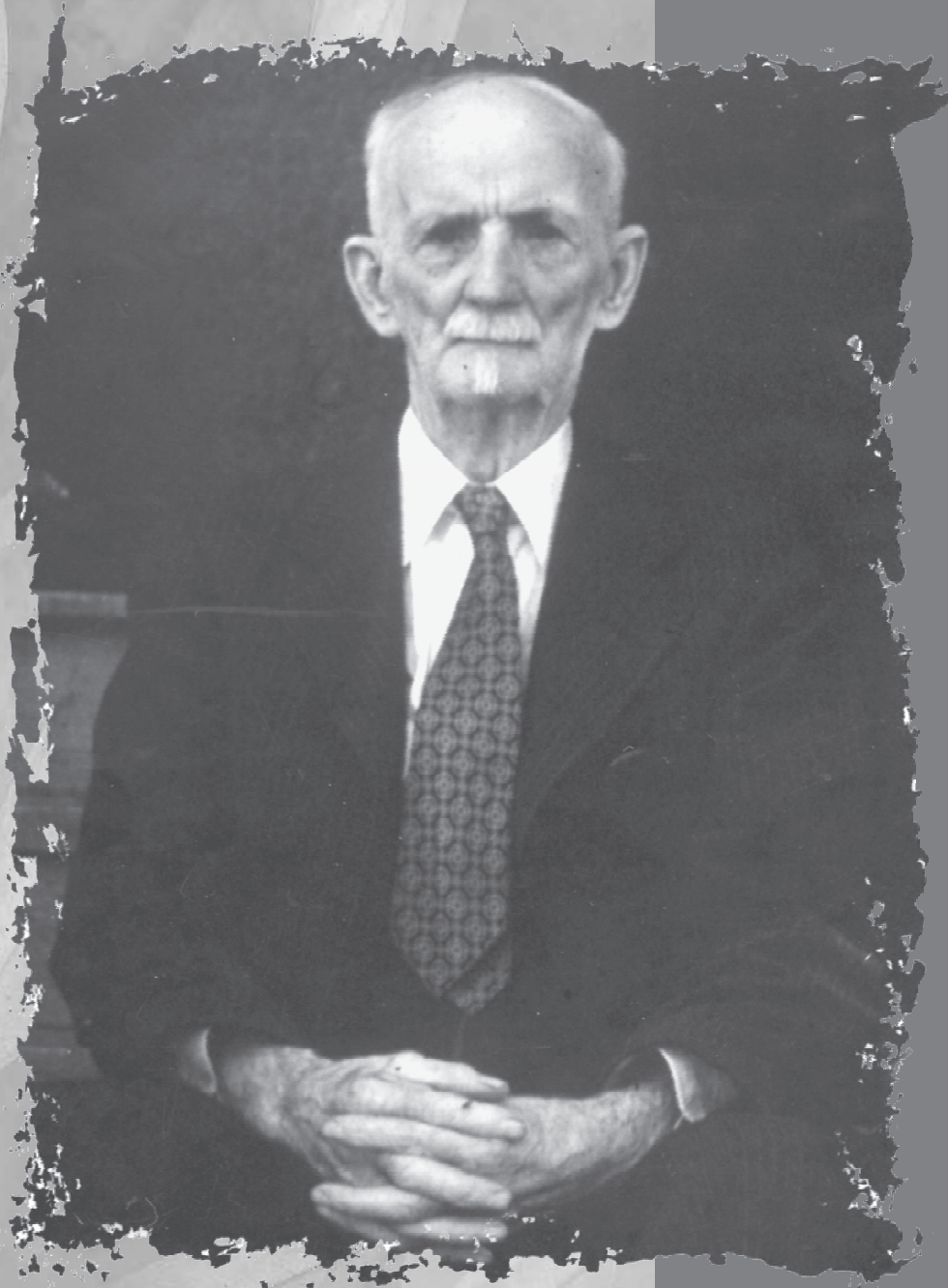
**JOHN H. KANE**  
*Founder of Kane*

John Henry Kane, an American business man and land broker from Odell, Illinois, began to purchase newly drained land in the Kane area in 1906. The first grain storage facilities were built at the railroad siding by Kane in order to transfer local production to market. Kane anticipated a business opportunity due to the increased demand for high quality Manitoba wheat at the conclusion of World War I. John Kane's long term goal was to promote the sale of his farmland to American immigrant farmers. He built a model farm one mile north of St. Jean, Manitoba in 1918 to provide these novice farmers with the opportunity to practise the skills to farm heavy clay soils in southern Manitoba.

John Henry Kane was born in Braidwood, Illinois on March 25, 1861. He was a grain buyer in Illinois before moving to Manitoba, Canada, with his wife, Elizabeth Ann (McGreevy) Kane. John Kane died on December 26, 1951 at the age of 90.

*The*

*he spirit  
lives on...*



*...in our  
history*

## EARLY HISTORY of KANE and ROSE FARM *by Ralph Groening*

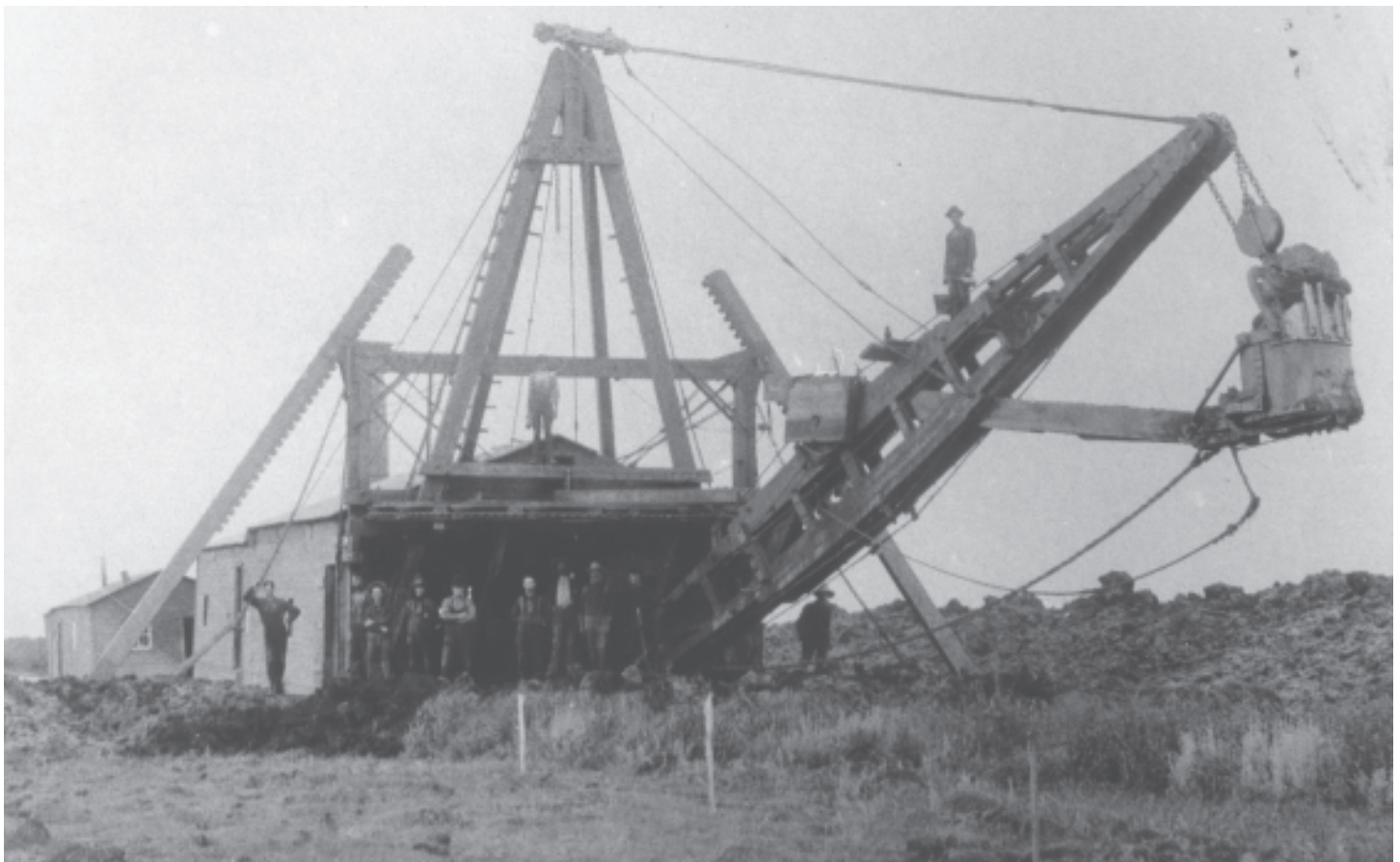
The development of Kane, the village and the district has always been limited by the ability of authorities and farmers to drain excess water off the land. Although the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Company built the railroad in 1889, significant settlement of the area happened much later.

All prairie land from Myrtle east was identified variously as the Boyne, Great or Big Marsh area. Run-off waters from the Pembina Hills drained east through the Shannon Creek, Tobacco Creek, and Boyne River until the land levelled out and waters accumulated to create the marshland. A Manitoba Free Press correspondent wrote in 1889, that after leaving Lowe's Farm the train travelled through the Great Marsh until arriving in the Myrtle and Roland area.

The Better Terms Act passed in 1885 by the Federal Government provided the impetus needed to begin drainage of the Marsh. All lands designated as 'swamp' were owned by the Federal Government up to this point. The new Act allowed the province to take ownership of all the swampland drained and made arable. Over two million acres were transferred to the province because of the Act. The sale of this land generated considerable dollars for the province and encouraged additional settlement. The

Tobacco Creek drain was begun in 1901-1902, and the Shannon Creek drain in 1903-1904. This early drain work was done with a floating dredge powered by steam. Winter work opportunities stockpiling wood to fuel the engines was an additional bonus for new settlers in these areas.

Prior to this drain work only the higher pieces of land had any farming potential. Therefore only land south of the present #23 Highway was homesteaded. The first homestead in the Kane School District was NE 27-4-2W in 1880-81, by John B. C. Lowe, a nephew of John Lowe the founder of Lowe Farm. The Rose Farm project on section 17-4-2W began at the same time. Large buildings were constructed to accommodate the farm manager and workers. However the Rose Farm agricultural enterprise failed as did Lowe Farm's, and by the late 1880's the lands involved in these projects were being offered for sale to individual homesteaders. Section 28 was unsuccessfully homesteaded in the late 1880's by W. Shanks, G. Whelan and Jim Bonser. R. Farell claimed NW 18-4-2W, but did not complete his obligations. Most other homestead activity took place in the Rose Farm area. Jim Sarvis set up a claim on SW 6-4-2W. Jim Brooks homesteaded NW 6-4-2W, Simon Brooks NE 6-4-2W, and Frank and Tom McLean NE 18-4-2W in 1891-92. S. Arkell claimed SW 20-4-2W, but sold to Ted Service in the early 1890's. By 1901, seventeen homestead



*The floating dredge that dug the Tobacco Creek drain, 1902 (three miles north of the #23 Highway).*

APPROVED BY THE MANITOBA TAX COMMISSION. FORM No. 1

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS 1926

Name of Municipality

THE WESTERN MUNICIPAL NEWS, WINNIPEG—48944 1925

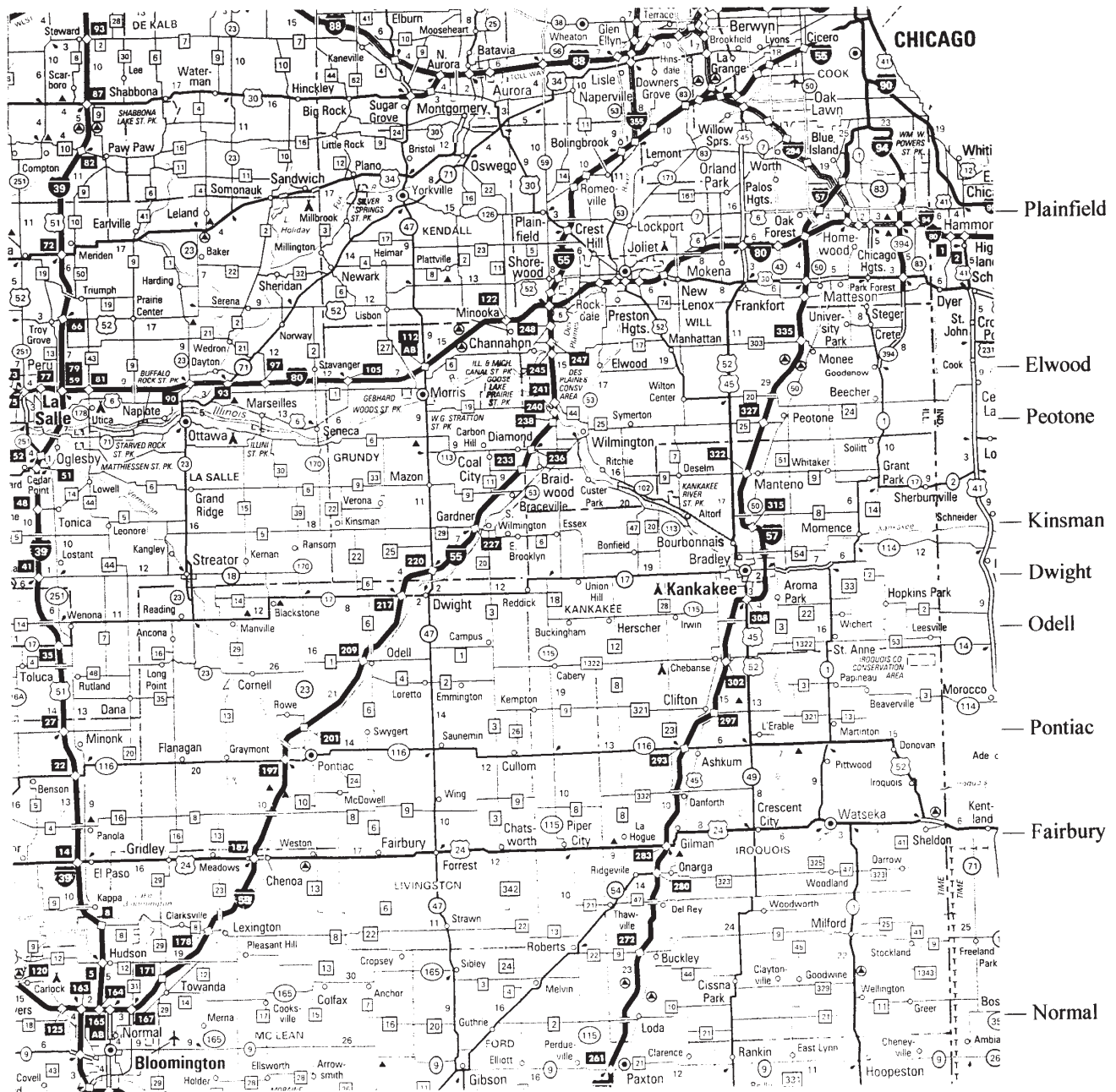
NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS ASSESSED, ETC.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

NAME	OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	OWNER	TENANT	OCCUPANT	RESIDENT OWNER'S CONNECTION	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT	PART OF PARISH LOT OR SECTION	LOT OR SECTION
Powell Rosa		Atlanta Ill	x					x	W $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Mullen Geo et al	Farmer	Kane Man	x					x	All	5
Mullen Laura wife	wife	" "				x	x			
Davidson J B	Farmer	" "	x					x	E $\frac{1}{2}$	6
Cowen Jos		" "		x			x			
Cowen Agnes	wife	" "					x	x		
Cowen Wm	Farmer	" "	x					x		
Cowen Jean	wife	" "					x	x		
Gorby Louis		Malissa Iowa	x					x	Rt 36 & NW	6
Gorby Ernest		" "	x					x		
Gorby Mary E		" "	x					x		
Higgins Co Ltd	Merchant	Kane Man	x					x		360x
Kane Consolidated School										Rt 6
Petersen N M	Elevator	Winnipeg							on S N R Rt of Way	
Canadian Elevator Co		" "							on S N R Rt of Way	
North Star Oil Co		" "							on S N R Rt of Way	
Wilken L G	Farmer	Kane Man	x					x	E $\frac{1}{2}$	7
Kelleher W L Killalea W B		Massville Ill	x					x	W $\frac{1}{2}$	7
Handlow Jos W	Farmer	Kane Man	x					x		
Handlow Mary	wife	" "					x	x		
Klahn George		Sumberry Iowa	x					x	S E	8
Olsen Emil	Farmer	Kane Man	x					x		
Wilken L G		" "	x					x	S W	8
Mow Farm Lands Ass'n		Winnipeg	x					x	N W	8
McQuade J H	Farmer	Kane	x					x	R E	8
McQuade Florence		Pekin Ill	x					x	S E	9
Gurney Edward B		" "	x					x		
Gurney J B	Farmer	Kane	x					x		
Lindle Clarence		Malissa Iowa	x					x	S W	9
Olsen Emil	Farmer	Kane	x					x		

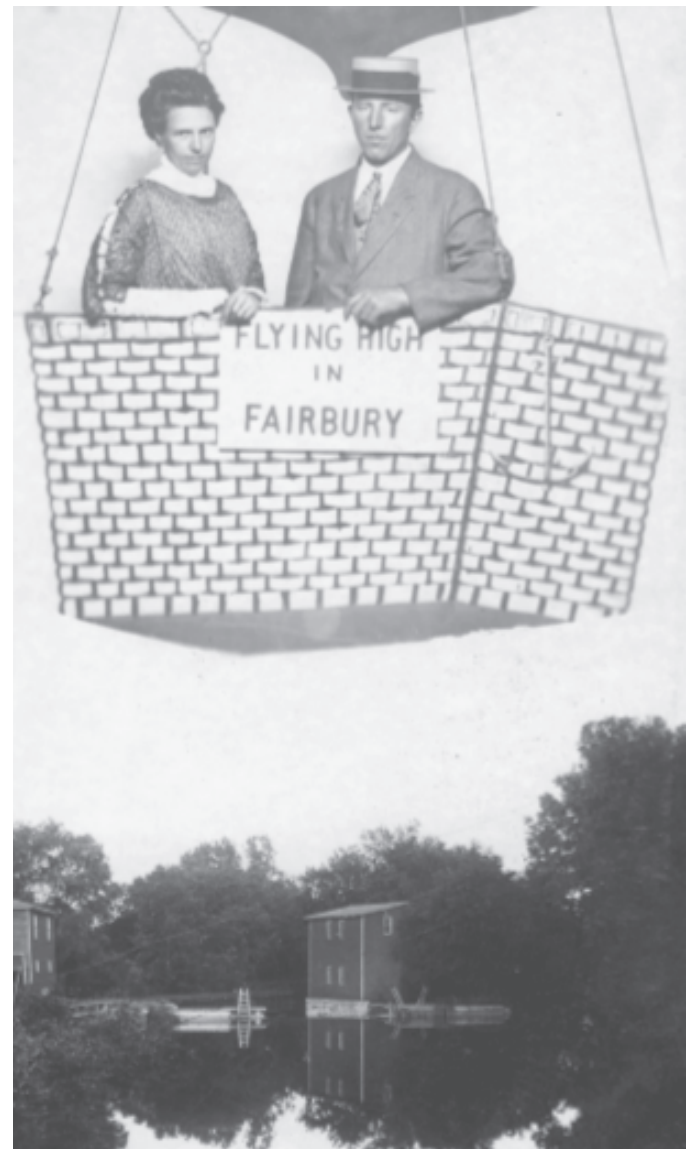
Land and property owners of Kane settlers in the R.M. of Morris, in 1926.

## ILLINOIS - Home of John H. Kane



Fairbury, Ill.

Mr. Marcus Johnson  
 Lowe Farm,  
 Manitoba,  
 Canada.



*These postcards belonged to Marcus M. Johnson and date back to 1908-1912. They are addressed to 'Lowe Farm' because Kane was without a post office at that time. Mark Johnson came from Fairbury, Illinois and settled on 19-5-2W.*

claims had been submitted to the province, all in township 4-2W. By 1894, six families were living in the Rose Farm District with a total of 430 acres in crop cultivation. The first Mennonite families were Isaac Dueck on SW 7-4-2W and Diedrich Reimer on S 17-4-2W. By 1898 an influx of additional Mennonite families moving north from the West Reserve in search of cheap land added to the population. These early settlers included Jacob and Daniel Blatz, Peter Funk, B. Neufeld, Abram Groening, F. J. DeFehr, Cornelious Enns, D. K. Harder, J. Martens, C. Epp, Derk Boldt, and families. About 800 acres south of Kane were seeded in 1898.

Settlement in other areas of the Kane School District was more limited. To the west Thomas Kirk had purchased the west half of 36-4-3W in 1884. John Pfrimmer settled on 14-5-3W in 1899. Township 5-2W appeared much less attractive to settlement.

About one-third of the land in township 5-2W was owned by the province at the turn of the century. This land was reclaimed swampland and was not considered particularly attractive. In 1901, only one person lived on 5-2W. John Hoffman, a bachelor, lived on SE 25-5-2W. George Davidson purchased 5-5-2W and 6-5-2W in 1903, and began working the land the following year. Jim Miller who came to Manitoba from Ontario with G. Davidson settled on SE 6-5-2W in 1905. George Miller bought 5-5-2W in 1912 and established a farm site. This farm was sold to Frank G. Blatz in 1943, and is today owned by Frank Blatz Jr. These were the earliest settlements in 5-2W. South of the present Kane was slowly being settled as well. By 1899 all of 30-4-2W had been settled. R. Margetson of Myrtle owned the NW, Klaus Heide of Lowe Farm NE, John Dyck of Lowe Farm SW, and Peter Geworski of Lowe Farm owned SE quarter of 30-4-2W. No one however lived on either SW of 6-5-2W or all of 31-4-2W, the present site of Kane. By 1901 Scott and Harry Pierce of Myrtle lived on NE 31-4-2W and John Dyck had purchased the south half of 31-4-2W.

Land speculation played a major part in the further development of the Kane and to a lesser extent the Rose Farm area. The province of Manitoba fueled this speculation by actively promoting the newly drained swamplands to new immigrants in Ontario and the United States. Economics of wheat and flax production also played a role in the developing real estate boom. By 1904, the price of wheat had increased about 25% to \$1 a bushel. The Canadian Paint Company built a special warehouse in Lowe Farm to handle the flax production more effectively.

On September 17, 1904, Mr. M. Collins, a banker from Peotone, Illinois and Louis M. Arnold stayed at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Lowe Farm to investigate the potential of the land they owned in the area southwest of town. They proposed to construct buildings on their properties to add to their attractiveness. The impact of these investors and speculators played a major role in the development of agricultural land north of the (Mennonite) West Reserve and south of Winnipeg. Of particular interest was the role of Illinois investors and real estate agents

in the development of the Kane community. By 1909, almost 20% of all land in the Rural Municipality of Morris was owned by people from Illinois. Most of these people came from communities southwest of Chicago including towns like Pontiac, Odell, Peotone, and Fairbury.

One of these investors was a businessman called John Henry Kane of Kinsman, Illinois. Kane ran a grain elevator in Kinsman and later assembled farm equipment for the John Deere Company. In 1896, Kane moved to Odell to sell real estate. In 1907, Kane moved to Pontiac, Illinois, a larger town ten miles south of Odell. John Kane bought NW 7-5-2W and SW 9-4-2W in the Kane, Manitoba area in January of 1906. Patrick Kane, John's brother, bought NW 12-4-2W and SW 13-4-2W. Most of Kane's land investments were in townships 6-1 and 2W, south of Sperling, Manitoba. This newly drained land was cheaper and offered greater profit potential. John Kane also worked in partnership with a fellow Pontiac farmer and investor Joseph Grundler. Grundler set up a farm site on section 10-6-2W and used this farm to promote the potential of Manitoba farmland to Illinois farmers. Many Illinois families from the Odell, Pontiac, Dwight, Plainfield, and Fairbury area southwest of Chicago immigrated to Sperling. Many of these Illinois families still live and farm at Sperling. The Ribordy, Wurmnest, Gehring and Rance families are representative of this immigration.

John H. Kane also decided to establish a farm site in Manitoba to promote the benefits of immigration. Kane established a farm one mile north of St. Jean in 1912. The Kane family was of the Roman Catholic faith and the location close to a Catholic community was no accident. In 1918, Kane spent \$10,000 to build a new state of the art three level barn with its own electrical generating plant. The barn was considered the largest in Manitoba at the time and is listed in "Barns of Western Canada" because of its style and quality. A new house was also constructed. Young Illinois men, who would or could purchase land from John Kane, were hired to work on the farm for the summer as training for their potential immigration to Manitoba. Kane owned land in the R.M. of Morris and surrounding area from 1906 until 1923-24. During that time Kane owned from 2000 to 3000 acres at any one time. Some of the land owned by John Kane had originally been the property of John Lowe and had been made available at a very reasonable price.

John Kane managed the St. Jean farm using local hired help. Kane's son-in-law, James Jobst, was responsible for the hog enterprise on the farm. In his free time James Jobst played baseball for the Morris team that won the Southern Manitoba Baseball Championship in 1921.

The price of wheat dropped from \$1.80 a bushel in 1920 to 90¢ a bushel in 1921. By 1923 wheat was selling for 60¢ a bushel. This reality plus devastating hailstorms and significant problems with crop disease spelled the end of John H. Kane's Manitoba farm and real estate career. In 1923 John H. Kane and family returned to Pontiac, Illinois. The banks took over the Kane enterprises in Mani-

toba.

Ed McDermott, brother-in-law to John Kane, also farmed and invested in Manitoba farmland. McDermott and a son farmed in Manitoba until the 1930's. Ed McDermott owned the NW 3-5-2W in the Kane School District, for a time.

The real estate and related immigration boom that began in 1904-05 continued until World War I. The price of wheat which contributed to the boom stabilized between 75¢ to \$1.00 a bushel from 1904 until 1914. The war impacted food production worldwide and the price of wheat jumped from \$1.25 in 1916 to \$2.00 in 1917, peaking at \$2.40 in 1919. Land which had been selling for \$10 to \$20 an acre up to 1915, doubled in price. William Deutschman who immigrated from Elwood, Illinois in 1918 paid \$40.00 an acre for the west half of 3-5-2W. James Handlon, a Chicago policeman, settled on SW 7-5-2W in 1918. The Cutlip family also from Illinois, bought the NW of 32-4-2W in 1919 hoping to take advantage of these economical opportunities. The Schnebly family settled the NW 8-5-2W in 1916.

John Kane was not the only real estate agent to have influence in Kane. The Crouch brothers from Fairbury, Illinois, a small farm community twelve miles south of Odell, bought NW 9-5-2W in 1907. The four Crouch brothers, Chester, Alvin, Elmer, and Carol had considerable influence in the communities of Kane and Lowe Farm. They followed the style set by John Kane and Joseph Grundler by setting up a model farm to emphasize the profitability of farming in Manitoba. The farm was located on 29-4-2W. The Crouch family lived on NW 29-4-2W for eight years before the land was sold to the Hurt family, relatives of the Crouch's. The Hurts lived in the Kane community until 1928. The Crouch brothers also had influence in the immigration of Mark Johnson, also from Fairbury, to settle SE 19-5-2W in 1919. This farm was purchased by Hank and Dora Hildebrand in 1959. The Crouch brothers had taken over the provincial immigration office in Iowa, and promoting Manitoba agriculture established three branch offices in the state of Illinois. The John Andresen and Fred Fredricksen families were part of this last major American immigration into Manitoba.

Demand for wheat also created a demand for services. The Kane siding had been used by farmers to load their cars up to this point. In 1918, the Interior Elevator Company, soon to be the N. M. Paterson Company, built an elevator at Kane. Thomas Kirk and his associate Woodfield Fitz-Henry built a general store in Kane in 1918. Kirk also owned a general store in Myrtle. The store was purchased in 1925 by the A. F. Higgins Company. Higgins, an early settler in the Roland area, owned stores in Morris, Carman, Winnipeg, and later Neepawa. Higgins moved to Winnipeg in 1915. The Higgins store in Roland unfortunately burned in 1924. The manager of this store, William Hill, took over the control of the Kane Store, but unfortunately in 1926, this store also burned. The second elevator in Kane was built in 1919 by the Canadian Consoli-

dated Company, later United Grain Growers. In 1920 a two-room school was built in Kane and the Kane Consolidated School Division #2006 was formed. The Queen Centre School located first on 29-4-2W and later on NW 20-4-2W served the community from 1903 to 1920. In 1920 Woodfield Fitz-Henry was appointed as Kane's first postmaster. By 1923, the North Star Oil Company had located fuel tanks in Kane in anticipation of farm mechanization. Kane was officially a community.

### A CONVENIENT BARN

*from the Morris Herald*

*(Morris, Manitoba, May 16, 1918)*



*This barn was built by John H. Kane north of St. Jean, Manitoba in 1918. It still stands today.*

*John H. Kane is erecting a barn on his farm that promises to be one of the best and most convenient in the Morris district. It is of the basement type; has a cement wall of 8 feet, with 20 foot posts on top. The main part is 40 feet by 90 feet with an annex 28 feet by 60 feet. There will be water in every stall for the stock. The building will be three stories and an elevator will convey all grains and other fodder from basement to the bins at the top. A chopper will be installed in the basement and the grain to be chopped will be handled by the elevators. There is in the basement a bored well, which furnishes an abundant supply of hard water. Soft water tanks will be installed as well, so that both hard and soft water will always be on top. The water system will be connected with the house so as to make a sufficient supply there.*

*In the basement wing will also be installed a weighing scales. There will be accommodation for 36 head of cattle and brood pens for 28 sows. In the basement annex will be a milk house, a meat house, a work shop, a wash room besides a complete electrical plant operated by a gas*

*engine that will supply the barn with electric light. Light will also be supplied to the house from the same source. In planning this barn nothing that would add to its' convenience appears to have been overlooked. When completed the barn will well repay a visit by those who are interested in modern conveniences on the farm and especially by any who contemplate making any changes in their farm buildings.*

(A Red Cross dance was held in the new barn of J. H. Kane, 1 mile north of Ste. Jean, 5 miles south of Morris, on the Jefferson Highway on Thursday, July 18th, 1918. The music was by the Winnipeg Grenadiers' Orchestra. The admission for the gentlemen was \$1.00. Sponsors were the Ste. Jean Baptiste Overseas Club.)

## HOW DID KANE GET ITS NAME?

*by Ralph Groening*

James Miller arrived in Manitoba in 1903 and farmed 31-4-2W. The will of the community at the time was to name the railroad siding, located on NW 31-4-2W, *Miller*. The railway however indicated that the name 'Miller' was already in use. Therefore the name *Kane* was chosen. Various theories have been presented regarding the origin of the name. The book 'Place Names of Manitoba' suggests that Kane was named after a Robert Kane, a local landowner and real estate agent. There is however no record of any person by the name of Robert Kane having owned land anywhere in the area during the time from 1900 to 1920. Only two people by the name of Kane owned land in the area during this time period. These two gentlemen were Patrick and John H. Kane, brothers from Odell, Illinois. John H. Kane quickly bought out his brother and expanded his landholdings. Kane hired managers to operate the farms he owned. Grain storage facilities were built along the rail siding in Kane. While no official record has been found to indicate when the siding was first listed as *Kane* we can assume it to be between 1910, John Kane's first real expansion in the area, and the construction of the first elevator in Kane in 1918.

Discussions with the Kane family in Illinois and Michigan substantiate that opinion. The Kane family legend was that a community near the Kane farm in Manitoba was named after their grandfather and great-grandfather. Mrs. Katie (Kane) Jobst, only daughter of John Henry Kane, visited the community in 1977, and had her picture taken beside the 'Kane' highway sign outside the village.

Jack W. Jobst of Michigan, great-grandson of John H. Kane, has this to say about the founder of our town:

"I remember John H., who died when I was ten. I remember him as a gaunt man, usually sitting in a rocker with a breadboard on his lap, playing solitaire. For Christmas one year, someone gave him a new pack of cards. In an old photo he looks quite a bit taller than most of his relatives, but he was probably of moderate height, say 5' 9" or so.



*John H. Kane's only daughter Katie Jobst and her son Jim, 1918.*



*The Morris Baseball Club of 1921 with their mascot, young Jim Jobst (top center) and his father Jim Jobst (left center). The senior Jim Jobst was the son-in-law to John H. Kane.*



*The Kane family. John H. Kane is first from the left in the middle row and his wife Elizabeth (McGreevy) Kane is second from the left in the first row.*



*Katie (Kane) Jobst and her son Joe and grandson John, visit Kane, Manitoba in May of 1977. (Three generations of the Kane family.)*



*John H. Kane (l) and his brother Tim.*

"He was a friendly, easy-going man. My father knew him well because John H. lived with his daughter for the last ten years of his life or so. He lived in a house in Pontiac filled with kids (my father is one of eight), and he was kind. John H. had some math skills, apparently (these would have been useful in his real estate business dealings), for he helped his grandchildren do their math homework, according to my father.

"I recall an anecdote about John H. When the boyfriends came over to pick up their dates, that is, when my aunts were in high school, John H. would always call to them as they came in the door, 'She's not ready yet. Come over here in the living room. We have time for a hand of rummy.'"

From an audio tape recorded back in 1978, Jack W. Jobst relates some of his grandmother Kate's (John H. Kane's daughter) conversation. "She mentioned that one year her father bought a brand new motorcar for the trip, against his wife's wishes, and then took her, Kate, with him out in the country as he practiced his driving skills for the trip. She mentioned the crank used to start the vehicle, and how the newfangled motorcars often scared the horses into the ditches on either side of the road. 'He was a good driver,' she said. 'He learned quickly.'

"The family took tents with them to sleep in for the trip up from Illinois. They would stop at the farmhouse for permission to sleep on the owner's land. One night the rain came down in torrents, and the lady who owned the land came out to their tent and invited them inside because the weather was so bad, but they remained outside."

John Henry Kane was born in Braidwood, (near Joliet) Illinois on March 25, 1861. He married Elizabeth Ann McGreevy (1862-1948) and the couple had four children, two of whom survived to adulthood: John Timothy Kane, and Catherine (Kate) Lauretta Kane Jobst. John H. Kane died in Pontiac, Illinois on December 26, 1951, at age 90.

## EARLY KANE REFLECTIONS

*by Ed H. Groening*

My earliest memory of some of the Kane people was related to the Queen Centre School District No. 1219. This school, together with several other small schools, later formed the Kane Consolidated School. The reason why the Queen Centre School seemed of interest to me was that my father, Henry A. Groening, was one of three trustees and secretary treasurer. Another trustee was my favoured uncle, Abram A. Groening. A third trustee was Peter Funk, a neighbour and uncle by marriage. I personally did not go to that school, but five of my older siblings did, and therefore, there were firsthand reports.

The school had a reputation for having exemplary teachers. It was founded in 1902, but records prior to 1915 apparently are not available. According to the 1915 register, the teacher was Anna Nickel, a very fashionable lady. An ex-student described her appearance precisely. There were twenty-four students in the first four grades. Names such as Groening, Penner, Dyck, Funk and Crouch are listed. The 1918 school register lists a reduced number of students, for the reason that some students had transferred to another school. The 1918 list had two Crouch boys and one Ruth Schnebly.

The first Queen Centre School, earlier called Cork, was actually on the Crouch section 29-4-2W, one half mile south of the Crouch yard, where Abram Toews later lived. The second Queen Centre School was built one half mile south on the NW corner of section 20-4-2W, where Darrell Penners now live. Other teachers of the school, given in the records, are Henry W. Wiebe, J. G. Neufeld, C. W. Wiebe, brother to Henry and Maria Loewen.

At home, we heard a lot about the Crouches. They came to Manitoba from the United States. Like many of the Americans, they were highly aggressive people, who came to Canada with the intention of improving their lot. The Crouches were instrumental in bringing many of the American families to Kane and other areas of Manitoba. Of course, in the Kane District were other families from Eastern Canada and The British Isles, but the American classmates were of special interest in Kane School.

There is a story about the Crouches that survived. The Crouch boys came to the Queen Centre School with horse and buggy. On one occasion, their horse, which was very lively, made the corner too fast and stepped on the edge of a steel culvert, badly injuring a leg. The horse was losing blood. The young school teacher applied a tourniquet to the horse's leg until a vet was brought out to stitch up the cut, thus saving the life of the horse. That young teacher later became the well-known Dr. C. W. Wiebe. My older brother was an eyewitness to the fact.

The Crouch's land bordered on some of our acreage. Some members of our family remember how the Crouches broke the land with a steam engine and a plow with many bottoms. Those who could afford it used steam engines or large internal combustion engines to do the soil breaking. The largest plow I have seen illustrated had fifty-five bottoms, pulled by three international Mogol trac-

tors. Oil tractors were coming into use at about that time.

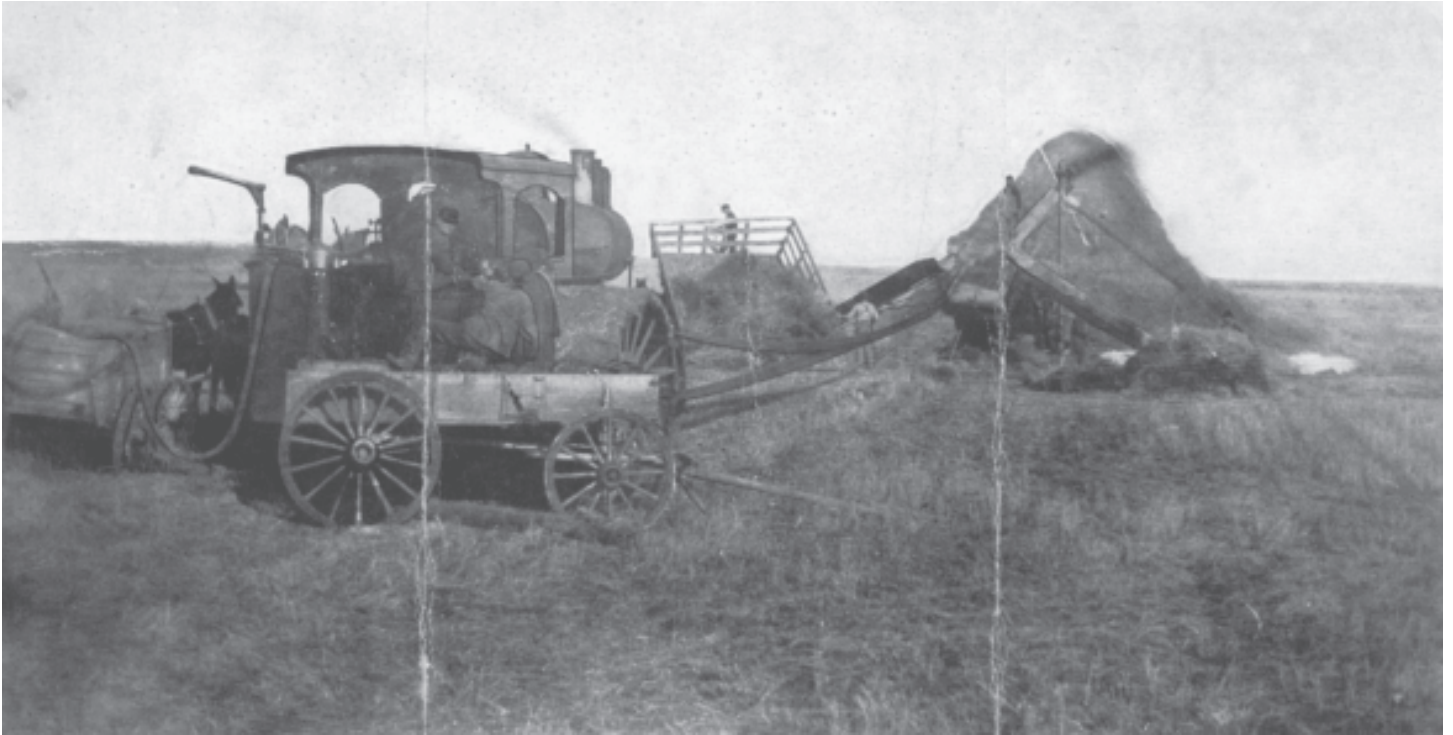
A number of the American families from down south did not stay in the Kane area, but moved back. By the time the Kane Consolidated School started in 1920-1921, the Crouches were no longer there. A family by the name of Hurt, a relative of the Crouches, took over the farm. Several of the families were related to the Crouches.

A family by the name of Cutlip lived across the road to the east of the present Norman Blatz's place. I remember seeing the low bungalow type dwelling when we passed by in the school van. There were two Cutlip boys and a girl in school. One of the boys, I recall, was a fun loving chap. The Cutlips apparently left an established farm in order to acquire a larger acreage here for their family. They worked hard and conscientiously and successfully at first, but had crop failures for some years and returned to Illinois. There was no lack of effort on their part for not succeeding. Their farm was right in the path of the spring flood and drainage was not what it is today. One of the Cutlip boys later became a preacher.

Not all farmers had steamers or big tractors to do the plowing, etc. One enthusiastic farmer claimed that the small Fordson tractor was the thing to use. Once you have the Fordson rev'd up and you keep your foot off the clutch pedal, you can get a lot of plowing done, he claimed. Apparently, the early Fordson tractors were regulated by a gas lever.

There was a farmer living four miles east of Kane, where Henry Penners later lived. His name was Gurney and he was one of the first trustees of the Kane School. He had a mind like Thomas Edison and invented a governor for the little Fordson tractor. This was just what the farmer needed who wanted to keep his foot off the clutch and keep moving. Gurney also moved away. Whether he made a fortune with his invention or not, I can not tell. Later, people living on the Gurney yard said there were model governors lying around.

There are a number of other families that could be mentioned but I will only mention one more which was of special interest to many of us. It was the Handlon family. James Handlon Jr. was a classmate through to grade nine. Paul Schnebly and Kenneth Hurt were also classmates through some of the grades. What was of particular interest to many of us were the stories of Chicago. Mr. Handlon Sr. had been a policeman in that notably one time western frontier city for some ten years. He had experienced all kinds of things on the streets of Chicago. Mr. Handlon too, was one of the early trustees of Kane School. Newspapers, presumably out of Chicago, were brought to school. Also, on the library shelf, was a Montgomery Ward and Company mail order catalogue, more illustrative than Canada's Eaton's catalogue. The comic section of the Saturday paper was passed around at recess time. Some of the adventure stories of my American school chums must certainly have originated in the Mississippi Valley by Mark Twain himself. If Charles Dickens represented the English interest, Mark Twain represented the American counterpart.



*Chester Crouch threshing with his Avery. Walter is in the cab. Note the mules on the water tank and the dump racks.*



*Elmer Crouch (and his bull dog) with his Case engine, the roller and then two drills seeding wheat.*



*Kane, Manitoba*

*The spirit  
lives on...*



*...in our  
education*

**WOODVALE SCHOOL S. D. #350****(section 2-5-3)****August 30, 1905****from the Manitoba Archives**

*In the matter of the petition of Alex Cook and others praying for the formation of a Union School District composed of parts of the rural municipalities of Stanley and Dufferin, and consisting of the following lands; -*

*sections: 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36, Tp. 4, R. 3 W*

*sections: 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, Tp. 5, R. 3 W*

*To the clerks of the rural municipalities of Stanley and Dufferin; -*

*The arbitrators appointed under the provisions of sections 105 and 106 of the Public Schools Act, have the honor to report; -*

1. That they have examined the petitions presented by the ratepayers of the territory in question, and this they have fully considered and examined the question involved in this petition, and have decided to grant the same, and that the previously mentioned lands, namely sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36, Tp. 4, R. 3 west and 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12, Tp. 5, R. 3 west be and are hereby formed into a Union School District.

2. That the board of arbitrators adjust and determine the rights, claims and liabilities of the above newly formed school district and Myrtle school district respectively, as follows:

That the school taxes due for 1905, and the municipal grant due for 1905, for and in respect to those lands detached from the Myrtle school district, namely sections 27 and 34, Tp. 4, R. 3 west and sections 3 and 10, Tp. 5, R. 3 west and which are to form part of the previously mentioned newly formed school district are to be collected by and shall remain the absolute property of the Myrtle school district.

3. That the previously mentioned newly formed school district shall not be liable for any of the liabilities, debenture indebtedness, or any debt whatsoever incurred or due by the school district of Myrtle, but all such debts, liabilities and debenture indebtedness shall be paid by the said school district of Myrtle.

4. That the school house and furniture in the same, situate in the school district of Myrtle, and all monies, goods, and property, belonging now to the school district of Myrtle, be and remain absolute the property of the said school district of Myrtle.

5. That the said determination of the arbitrator and the formation of the said Union School District take effect immediately.

6. That the costs of this arbitration shall be apportioned as follows; -

The municipality of Stanley shall pay Insp. W.J. Crans \$6.50, and Mr. Geo. Parkinson \$3.50.

The municipality of Dufferin shall pay Insp. A. L. Young, \$14.05.

Dated at Roland, Manitoba, this 30th day of August, 1905.

Signed: A. L. Young  
W. J. Crans  
George Parkinson

*In the matter of the petition of Alex. Cook and others praying for the formation of a Union School District composed of parts of the rural municipalities of Stanley and Dufferin, and consisting of the following lands:*

*Sections, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36, Tp. 4, R. 3 west.*

*" 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12, Tp. 5, R. 3 west.*

*To the clerks of the rural municipalities of Stanley and Dufferin;*

*The arbitrators appointed under the provisions of sections 105 and 106 of the Public Schools Act, have the honor to report;*

1. That they have examined the petitions presented by the ratepayers of the territory in question, and this they have fully considered and examined the question involved in this petition, and have decided to grant the same, and that the previously mentioned lands, namely sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36, Tp. 4, R. 3 west and 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12, Tp. 5, R. 3 west be and are hereby formed into a Union School District.

2. That the board of arbitrators adjust and determine the rights, claims and liabilities of the above newly formed school district and Myrtle school district respectively, as follows:

That the school taxes due for 1905, and the municipal grant due for 1905, for and in respect to those lands detached from the Myrtle school district, namely sections 27 and 34, Tp. 4, R. 3 west and sections 3 and 10, Tp. 5, R. 3 west and which are to form part of the previously mentioned newly formed school district are to be collected by and shall remain the absolute property of the Myrtle school district.

3. That the previously mentioned newly formed school district shall not be liable for any of the liabilities, debentures indebtedness, or any debt whatsoever incurred or due by the school district of Myrtle, but all such debts, liabilities and debentures indebtedness shall be paid by the said school district of Myrtle.

4. That the school house and furniture in the same, situate in the school district of Myrtle, and all monies goods and property belonging now to the school district of Myrtle, be and remain the absolute property of the said school district of Myrtle.

5. That the said determination of the school district and the formation of the said Union School District take effect immediately.

6. That the costs of this celebration shall be apportioned as follows:

The municipality of Stanley shall pay J. W. J. Green \$6.50, and Mrs. Geo. Parham \$3.00.

The municipality of Dufferin shall pay J. A. L. Young, \$14.05.

Dated at Roland, Manitoba, this 30th day of August, 1905.

Signed { A. L. Young,  
W. J. Horvath,  
George Parham.

## WOODVALE SCHOOL S. D. #350

(sec. 2-5-3)

October 18, 1905

from Living Gold



Woodvale School on Section 2-5-3W.

By-law of the school trustees of the "School District of Woodvale", No. 350 for the purpose of borrowing the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500.00) and of issuing debentures therefor. The credit of the school district, for the purpose of erecting and furnishing a school building for Woodvale District.

Meeting of the S. D. of Woodvale assembled at the village of Myrtle in the Municipality of Dufferin, in the province of Manitoba, A. D. October 18, 1905.

John Anderson — chairman.

Wilford T. Harrison — Sec.-Treas.

Teachers — Mr. Lamb lived at Henry Currans, Flora Hennan, Miss Alice Campbell, Edith Coates, Anderson, Hubert Bond, Lena.



Woodvale School (later UGG house in Kane) just before dismantling in 1996.

September 20th, 1917 Myrtle School re-opened with Miss Edith Martin and Miss Winnie Cameron of Roland in charge. The attendance at Myrtle is slightly augmented by the pupils of Woodvale School, which has not been re-opened as the trustees were unable to secure the services of a teacher.

## QUEEN CENTRE SCHOOL

by E. H. Groening

Information on the Queen Centre School has been difficult to collect. Most of the people involved are no longer around and many records with the Department of Education only go back as far as 1915. Some of the material used in this report is from the Provincial School Records and some is from older people who were involved in the history of the school. Since much of the latter is of oral source, it may be subject to correction.

The Queen Centre School District No. 1219 was formed November 29, 1902 by by-law No. 126 of the Municipality of Morris, according to the Provincial School Records as supplied by courtesy of Ali Lebtog, one of the administrators. The school was located on the western side of Section 29-4-2W. In about 1911, it was moved to the north-west corner of Section 20-4-2W.

No records are available of the first decade. However, most of the names of the teachers and the years they taught,

have been recovered for the last half of the school's duration. A new school was built in 1917 or about on the same school grounds, by a well-known carpenter of the time, Herman Zehrvoel, and the old school was converted to a teacherage.



*Queen Centre School - 1920.*

*Pictured Walter and Ed Groening, Clairmont and Ivan Crouch, Herman Dyck, Dora and Mary Groening, Annie Dueck.*

In the school year, 1911-12, Isaac Dyck was teacher. The next two years the teacher was Gerhard G. Wiebe. In 1914-15, Anna Nickel, a young lady from Rosenfeld taught. Miss Nickel is remembered as a fine teacher by some of her former students. She later married a certain Henry Friesen. Mary Loewen, a cousin of Mrs. Diedrich Heppner of Lowe Farm, was teacher in 1915-16. In 1916-17, Cornelius W. Wiebe, a prospective medical student, was teacher. C. W. Wiebe later became chief physician and surgeon in the Winkler community for more than fifty years. In 1917-18, Henry Wiebe, after all these years, is still remembered by some of his students as an excellent teacher. No records are on hand for the last few years for reasons obvious in the following paragraph.

Some of the family names in attendance as recalled by former pupils are: Dyck, Penner, Funk, Groening, Crouch and perhaps Schnelby and Hurt. The school was located on the northern edge of the West Reserve for Mennonite settlers. In the early school years, there likely were a number of other non-Mennonite family names on the register.

In 1918, some families in the community ventured on a project which was short-lived. The motives involved relate to the long time custom of school control by Mennonites, the Federal privileges granted and the Provincial Rights of the B.N.A. Act of 1867, on which further comments space does not allow. Nevertheless, the same carpenter who shortly before had built the Queen Centre School was hired to build a private school only one-and-a-half miles east of Queen Centre on section 21-4-2 W.

The first teacher was Isaac Epp. The next teacher was

David Schulz, a young scholar of the time. Schulz proved to be a strict disciplinarian with strong leadership abilities. He later became Bishop of a number of churches in southern Manitoba, a position he held for some forty consecutive years. Another teacher and perhaps the last was Marie Wiens, from a well-known Lowe Farm family. She later became a nurse and is presently residing in Winnipeg. This private school rivalled Queen Centre for pupil count and may in part have been the cause of the discontinuation of both schools. This structure of 1917 was destroyed by the owner in the mid-seventies after it had served as a granary for many years.

On August 5, 1919, the Queen Centre School District and the private school were consolidated with portions of Neufeld No. 1580, Bloomfield No. 793, Kronsweide No. 1030, and the Woodvale No. 1350 by an Award of Arbitrators to form the Kane Consolidated School District No. 2006. This marked the end of one-roomed schools in the western part of the Municipality of Morris. Some nine hundred one-roomed schools in the province retained their existence for another forty years, until the implementation of Unitary Division in 1959.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF JAS. I. MILLER AND TWENTY FIVE OTHERS  
praying for the formation of a  
consolidated union school district  
at Kane, Manitoba.

To the Department of Education, and  
To the Councils of Roland and Morris Municipalities:-

Sirs:-

We your arbitrators appointed under the provisions of section 123 of the Public Schools Act of Manitoba, met at Myrtle on Friday, August 1st, 1919, and after hearing all interested in the petition, decided and determined to award as follows:-

1. That the following lands be included in a consolidated school district of Kane, viz.,  
All of secs 19 to 22, inclusive situated in Twp. 4, Range 2 west.  
" " " 27 to 34 " " " " " 4 " 2 " "  
" " " 3 to 10 " " " " " 5 " 2 " "  
" " " 15 to 17 " " " " " 5 " 2 " "  
The east  $\frac{1}{2}$  sec. 18 " " " " " 5 " 2 " "  
All of secs. 24, 25, and 36 " " " " " 4 " 3 " "  
All " " 1 and 12 " " " " " 5 " 3 " "
2. That the following lands be and hereby are detached from the respective school districts indicated.  
From Queen Centre all its lands excepting the west  $\frac{1}{2}$  of sec. 18 in Township 5, Range 2 west.  
From Neufeld sections 10, 15, and 16 in Twp. 5, Range 2 west.  
From Kronsweide, secs. 22, and 27, in Twp. 4, Range 2 west.  
From Bloomfield, sec. 24 Twp. 4, Range 3 west.  
From Woodvale, secs. 25, and 26 in Twp. 4, Range 3 west, and also secs. 1, and 12 in Twp. 5, Range 3 west.

3. That the expenses of this arbitration be paid as follows:-  
Morris municipality to pay the secretary of this board the sum of \$34.40, and Roland to pay Mr A. Allison, the sum of \$9.00.

4. That this be taken as the award and that it take effect upon the approval of the Department of Education.

Signed at Myrtle, Man, this  
First day of August, 1919.

Corbett Locke,  
Alvin Chisholm,  
R. Goulet, Arbitrators  
Andw. Allison,  
W.C. Hartley

Certified to be a correct copy of the award.

Carman, Man. Aug. 5th 1919.

Sec. Arbitrators.

Secs. 17 and 18 -Twp 5, R 2 West, formerly belonged to Queen Centre.

## KANE CONSOLIDATED S.D. NO. 2006

by E. H. Groening



*Kane Consolidated School built in 1920.*

Prior to the formation of the Kane Consolidated S.D., there were at least two one-room public schools in the area, not including Rose Farm which in the early years of the Unitary Division was annexed to the Kane area. One of the one-roomed public schools was in the hamlet of Kane. The other was Queen Centre, located one mile east and two miles south of Kane. Queen Centre School was actually replaced by a second school on the same location shortly before the formation of the consolidated area. In addition, there was a small private school which was in operation for a short time.

There were two schools built during the time of consolidation. The first was built in 1920, which was replaced in 1957 with a four-roomed school. The original school of 1920, was opened in September of that same year with only about thirteen pupils. The Mennonite names began to appear in the school records in the spring of 1921. It was constructed of brick and lumber, with a roof of metal shingles. It had two classrooms on the main floor, science and supply room, plus a number of anterooms. Half the basement was auditorium with fairly large windows, panelled and plastered walls and ceiling, with a hardwood floor. The rest of the basement was partitioned off into smaller rooms such as furnace, fuel supply, water, and various other utility rooms.

The auditorium was used for recreation such as socials, programs, or concerts. On rainy days and in the winter, pupils were allowed to play games in the basement. Physical drills were given in the auditorium, as required on the program of studies. Later in the 1930's, the auditorium was partitioned into classrooms for high school, and a woodwork room for lack of room elsewhere.

Pupils coming from the south of Kane were largely from Mennonite families, and made up 2/3 of the pupil count. The others were of Scottish, Irish, English, and American descent. United, they were recognized as English. The multicultural background in the early years called for some adjustment, particularly on the part of the Mennonites who were used to a more separate lifestyle.

The early teachers were largely English, but seldom if ever showed any partiality. Except for small minorities on either side, the majority of pupils soon mixed fairly well.

Transportation...all the pupils in the district, which was roughly 35 square miles, were brought in by five or six vans. Later when Rose Farm was added, there were as many as nine vans. In the early days, vans were horse drawn. Some of the larger van routes were up to seven miles or more depending on how much back and forth they had to travel to pick up the children. In winter, some pupils left at dawn, and returned at dusk, as some vans would be on the road for three hours or more per day, depending on the weather. In winter on stormy days, the van drivers showed great qualities of faithfulness. Sometimes they froze their faces sticking out their heads in a blizzard to keep to the trail; in all the years of consolidation, no serious accident occurred.

Once on a field day, a runaway team on a van circled around the school yard among the crowd of children and adults on full gallop. A man from the crowd, at the risk of his life, sprang to the bridles, and dragged the horses to a stop.

The schoolhouse was also the place where many social events took place. There were literary programs, musical concerts, dramas and debates which were always well attended. One time after the Chicago World Fair, a Manitoba teacher showed his own film to a large audience.

The Christmas concerts were always big events. A month or more of preparation went into the plays and other items. A few days before Christmas, the whole community and a number of visitors besides, came out to see the performance. There was never enough room for the crowd. Once a year there was a Field Day in Carman, Elm Creek or Roland, which was attended by thousands of people (an estimated number was 5,000). There were parades, flags, and cheers from the many schools participating. The schools competed in baseball and other activities. The stories and some of the competition sound like legends of old. Another of the yearly events was the end of the year school picnic. This was attended by young and old - everyone participating in the races, ball games, and of course the socializing that went with it, made it a very important part of the school year.

In the 50's, a number of plans were proposed at annual meetings to renovate the old school by building an addition to it, but a by-law to that effect was defeated. Eventually, favour was granted for a new school by the voters and the Minister of Education. In 1957, a new four-classroom school was built with debentures for seven years, and reserve fund, plus a newly acquired government grant. The old brick structure was dismantled the following year.





*The new Kane School in 1959.*



*The former Kane Community Centre (and school) in 1999.*



*The former Kane school yard in 1999, when it became a hobby ranch for owners Henry and Tina Klassen.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1920-21

**TEACHERS:** Rose Barnes (September - January)  
James R. Simms (February - April)  
C. W. Wiebe (May-June)

**TRUSTEES:** James Handlon (chairman)  
Lorne C. Wilkin (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Gurney  
Mr. George Miller

### STUDENTS:

Grade I: Byllie Furstenau, James Handlon, Vera Olson, Paul Schnebly, Kenneth Hurt, Mayna Olson, Mary Penner, Anna Funk, Marie Dyck, Howard Brummie, Bernard Penner, Cornelius Enns, David Penner.

Grade II: Theodore Cranew, Gladys Hodge, John Penner, Greta Groening, Nora Groening,

Willie Unrau, Eddie Groening, Susie Wiebe, Henry Penner, Randall Groening, Cornelius Wiebe, Carrie Groening, Mary Groening.

Grade III: Leona Cranew, Dean Cutlip, Ruth Brummie, Marie Hildebrandt, Sarah Funk, Henry Unrau, Lena Dyck, David H. Penner, Abe Dyck.

Grade V: David Blatz, Ruth Schnebly.

Grade VII: Bert Olson.

Grade VIII: William Cutlip, Noel Olson.

Grade IX: Eldon Simms.

Grade X: Beatrice Balutude.

The records show that the students often were in more than one grade during the year. They also attended a month and then were absent for a few months.

## A PARADE OF VANS



*School's out! Vans of the 20's.*



*Jim Cowie and his van in the 30's.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1921-22**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Blanche H. Molloy  
(September - December)  
C. S. Daintry (January - July)  
Room II: J. R. H. Simms  
(September - December)  
Bernice M. Daintrey  
(January - July)

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Anderson (chairman)  
Mr. Gurney  
Mr. James Handlon  
Mr. George Miller  
Mr. Lorne Wilkin (secretary/treasurer)

**STUDENTS:**  
Grade I: Laura Cutlip, James Handlon, Kenneth Hurt, Greta Groening, Susie Wiebe, Howard Brummie, Mary Dyck, Randall Groening, Willie Unrau, Annie Funk, Eddie Groening, John Penner, William Cowie, Phyllis Hergesheimer, John H. Penner, Gertrude Giesbrecht, Eddie Wiebe, Nora Groening, Mary Penner, Cornelius Enns, Emmie Groening.

Grade II: Paul Schnebly, Mary Groening, Carrie Groening, David Penner, Henry Penner, Bernard Penner.

Grade III: Theodore Cranen, Abe Dyck, Mary Hildebrand, Henry Unrau, Sarah Funk, David H. Penner.

Grade IV: Ruth Brummie, Lena Groening, David Unrau, Frank Groening, Bernard Funk, John Hildebrandt, Abram Groening, Leona Cranen, Dora Wiebe, Lena Dyck, Dean Cutlip, Henry Unrau.

Grade V: Walter Groening, Theodore Groening, Bernard Penner, Dora Wiebe.

Grade VI: Hazel Hurt, Estol Hurt, Beatrice Baltitude, Ruth Schnebly, Tina Wiebe, Edward Groening, Dora Groening, Lena Funk, Peter Funk.

Grade VII: David Blatz, Bernard Penner, Abram Groening.

Grade VIII: Frederick Kirk, Clifford Kirk.

Grade IX: Eldon Simms.

School closed last week of January and all of February owing to illness - mumps.



*The vans in the 40's were sporting 'opera' windows and spoke wheels.*



*The snowshoes are on for winter.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1922-23

**TEACHERS:** Room I: A. M. Laine  
Room II: Chas. F. Laine

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. James Handlon (chairman)  
Mr. Lorne Wilkin (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. George Miller  
Mr. Thomas Kirk

### STUDENTS:

Grade I: Eddie Wiebe, Julia Giesbrecht, Phyllis Hergesheimer, Willie Cowie, Emmie Groening, Nora Groening, Detray Groening, Ernie Burr, Dorothy Miller, Paul Hergesheimer, Mary Handlon, Mary Dyck, Mary Unrau, Lena Groening, Clara Dyck, Tina Penner, Bernard Hamm, Lorraine Burr, Abram Esau.

Grade II: Randall Groening, Eddie Groening, James Handlon, Lena Esau, John Penner.

Grade III: Howard Brummie, Susie Wiebe, Paul Schnebly, William Unrau, Greta Groening, Annie Funk, Kenneth Hurt, Carrie Groening.

Grade IV: Marie Groening, Henry Unrau, Henry Esau, Helen Dyck, Abram Dyck, David Penner, Nellie Tinski.

Grade V: Ruth Brummie, Theodore Cranen, David Unrau, Lena Groening, Bernard Funk, Frank Groening.

Grade VI: Leona Cranen, Barbara Miller, Dora Wiebe, Theodore Groening, Walter Groening, Jacob Groening.

Grade VIII: Tina Wiebe, Isabelle Kirk, Ruth Schnebly, Hazel Hurt, Estelle Hurt, Edward Groening, Bernard Penner, Abram Groening, Dora Groening, Nora Funk, Peter Funk.



*The Frank G. Blatz kids (Anne, Frank, Jake) home from school.*



*Alex White and bis crew.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1923-24**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: A. M. Laine  
Room II: Chas. F. Laine

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Thomas Kirk (chairman)  
Mr. Lorne Wilkin (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. James Handlon  
Mr. O. Anderson  
Mr. George Miller

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Lorraine Burr, Paul Hergesheimer, Marvine Brummie, Netta Friesen, Peter Friesen, Lena Groening, Detray Groening, Clara Dyck, Bernard Hamm, George Hamm, Abe Esau, Joyce McQuade, Herman Moore, David Giesbrecht.

Grade II: Tena Penner, Dorothy Moore, Clarence Moore, Julia Giesbrecht, Phyllis Hergesheimer, Willie Cowie, Ernie Burr, Eddie Wiebe, Nora Groening, Emmie Groening, Mary Handlon, Mary Unrau.

Grade III: Lena Esau, John Penner, James Handlon, Randall Groening.

Grade IV: Susie Wiebe, Eddie Groening, Greta Groening, Annie Funk, Willie Unrau, Paul Schnebly, Kenneth Hurt.

Grade V: Mary Groening, Carrie Groening, Henry Esau, Henry Unrau, David Penner, Helen Dyck, Lena Groening, Bernard Funk, David Unrau, Frank Groening.

Grade VI: Ruth Brummie, Walter Groening, Theodore Groening.

Grade VII: Barbara Miller, Dora Wiebe, Edward Groening, Jacob Groening.

Grade IX: Ruth Schnebly, Estelle Hurt, Isabelle Kirk, Hazel Hurt, Howard Burr.



*Henry Kebler in style with his van in the 50's.*



*Henry Doell picking up Wilma and Don Schellenberg.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1924-25

**TEACHERS:** Room II: C. G. Williamson

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. O. Anderson (chairman)  
Mr. L. C. Wilkin (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. T. Kirk  
Mr. H. B. Wiebe  
Mr. J. Handlon

### STUDENTS:

(There are no records available for Grades I-IV)

Grade V: Kenneth Hurt, Susie Wiebe, Annie Funk, Carrie Groening, Greta Groening, Eddie Groening, Willie Unrau, Mary Groening, Henry Unrau, Henry Esau, David Unrau, Elizabeth Chapman.

Grade VI: Bernard Funk, Theodore Groening, Frank Groening, David Unrau, Jeannie Lumsden, Alice Anderson.

Grade VIII: Nora Funk, Peter Funk, Lena Funk, Percy Rooke.

Grade IX: Isabelle Kirk, Estelle Hurt, Hazel Hurt.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. S. H. McQuade
2. H. B. Wiebe
3. Wm. Gortzen
4. Peter P. Funk



*Ben Wiebe 'unloading' at the Dan Penner home.*



*A. J. Wiebe and his truck van in the 60's, with the Groenings, Thiessens and Borns.*



*Jake Born's van in 1959. Tom Kirk, Harold Krabn, Judy Neufeld, Margaret Born, Gina Neufeld, Donna Kirk, Mary-Ann Krabn.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1925-26

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Blanche H. Molloy  
Room II: Mary J. Parkins

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. T. Kirk (chairman)  
Mr. L. C. Wilkin (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. H. B. Wiebe  
Mr. O. Anderson  
Mr. J. Handlon

### STUDENTS:

Grade IA: Lena Groening, Robert Lumsden, Bernard Groening, George Groening, Elvera Groening, Abe Thiessen, Susie Thiessen, George Hamm.

Grade IB: Annie Shlothauer, Anna Schapansky, Tina Thiessen, Jacob Penner, Mavis Webster, Martha Geswein, Gladys Chapman, David Froese.

Grade IC: Emma Shlothauer, Margaret Esau, Olive Moore, Ellen Groening.

Grade IIA: Joyce McQuade, Irene Walsh, Herman Moore, Detray Groening, Willie Froese.

Grade IIB: Bernard Hamm, Calvin Moore, Netta Unrau, Abe Esau, Stanley Crouch.

Grade III: Margaret Lumsden, Tina Penner, Eddie Wiebe.

Grade IV: Margaret Walsh, Mary Handlon, Dorothy Moore, Clarence Moore, Nora Groening, Emmie Groening, Mary Unrau.

Grade V: James Handlon, Randall Groening, John Penner, Kenneth Hurt, Lena Esau, Dorothy Chapman, Lena Froese.

Grade VI: Mary Parkins, Winifred Parkins, Greta Groening, Annie Funk, Susie Wiebe, Carrie Groening, Eddie Groening, Willie Unrau, Mary Groening, Henry Unrau, David Penner, Henry Esau, Elizabeth Chapman.

Grade VII: Jean Lumsden, Alice Anderson, David Unrau.

Grade VIII: Jacob Groening, Walter Groening, Irene Webster, Bernard Penner.

Grade IX: Celista Anderson, Valerie Anderson, Peter Funk.

Grade X: Isabelle Kirk, Hazel Hurt, Estelle Hurt.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. S. H. McQuade
2. H. B. Wiebe
3. Jake Groening
4. P. Flanigan



*Peter H. Penner with the ever popular 'panel' van.*



*A scramble for the van at 4 o'clock.*



*Jake Wiebe and his 'puddle jumper' van picking up Chris Dyck.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1926-27**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Norma Miller  
Room II: Mary J. Parkins

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. T. Kirk (chairman)  
Mr. L. C. Wilkin (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. O. Anderson  
Mr. J. Handlon  
Mr. H. B. Wiebe

**STUDENTS:**

Beginners: Cameron Kirk, Mary Hamm, Alice Moore, Herman Groening, Dorothy Cousins, Johnny Funk, Gertrude Hildebrandt, David Giesbrecht, Emma Shlothauer, Annie Schlothauer.

Grade I: Helen Hudson, Tina Thiessen, Olive Moore, Annie Schapansky, Helen Groening, Eddie Groening, Eddie Unrau, Jake Penner, Margaret Esau, George Hamm, Abe Thiessen.

Grade II: Robert Lumsden, Bernard Groening, Susie Thiessen, Elvera Groening, Stanley Crouch.

Grade III: Calvin Moore, George Groening, Beryl Cates, Bernard Hamm, Abe Esau, Netta Unrau, Herman Moore, Irene Hamm, Irene Walsh, Joyce McQuade, Cyrie Fitzgibbon, Detray Groening, Everett Cates.

Grade IV: Margaret Lumsden, Lena Penner, Gertrude Giesbrecht, Lizzie Hiebert.

Grade V: Mary Handlon, Margaret Walsh, Dorothy Moore, Nora Groening, Emmie Groening, Clarence Moore, Lena Esau, Mary Unrau.

Grade VI: Bethel Cates, James Handlon, Randall Groening, John Penner, Cora McDougal, Kenneth Hurt, Mary Hildebrandt.

Grade VII: Greta Groening, Willie Unrau, Mary Groening, David Penner.

Grade VIII: Winifred Parkins, Mary Parkins, Annie Funk, Eddie Groening, Jeannie Lumsden, Alice Anderson.

Grade X: Hazel Hurt, Estelle Hurt, Isabelle Kirk.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. S. H. McQuade
2. J. Lumsden - A. Dyck
3. Jake Groening
4. P. Penner



*A relic of the past! 1979.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1927-28**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: F. Alywin Anderson  
Room II: Melvin T. Woods

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. A. M. Anderson (chairman)  
Mr. Joe White  
Mr. T. Kirk  
Mr. J. Handlon  
Mr. David Unrau  
Mr. C. E. Walsh (secretary/treasurer)

**STUDENTS:**

**Beginners:** Mary Warkentine, Clara Groening, Dora Giesbrecht, Herman Groening, Margaret Harder, Diedrich Klassen, Alex White, Frank White, Jake Hildebrand, Mary Janzen, Dave Groening, John Funk, Frances Tindle.

**Grade I:** Cameron Kirk, Alice Moore, Lena Groening, Annie Schapansky, Lizzie Kehler, Willie Hiebert, Dave Giesbrecht, Tina Thiessen, Peter Harder, Ray Cates, Gertrude Hildebrand, Helen Groening.

**Grade II:** Margaret Esau, Olive Moore, Eddie Unrau, Jake Penner, George Groening, Abe Thiessen, Mary Harder, Abe Klassen, Holm Janzen.

**Grade III:** Beryl Cates, Bernard Groening, Susie Thiessen, Lena Klassen, Elvera Groening.

**Grade IV:** Joyce McQuade, Irene Walsh, Everett Cates, Herman Moore, Calvin Moore, Nettie Unrau, Abe Esau, Detray Groening, John Klassen, Tina Harder.

**Grade V:** Tina Penner, Gertie Giesbrecht, John Wiens, Lena Kehler.

**Grade VI:** Dorothy Moore, Marge Walsh, Clarence Moore, Mary Unrau, John Penner, Nora Groening, Emmie Groening, Henry Esau, John Kehler.

**Grade VII:** Randall Groening, Bethel Cates, Willie Unrau.

**Grade VIII:** Greta Groening, Dave Penner.

**Grade IX:** Alice Anderson.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. S. H. McQuade
2. J. Esau
3. A. Anderson
4. H. Anderson
5. E. Cates

The Kane School was closed for the month of September 1928, due to an epidemic of Infantile Paralysis.



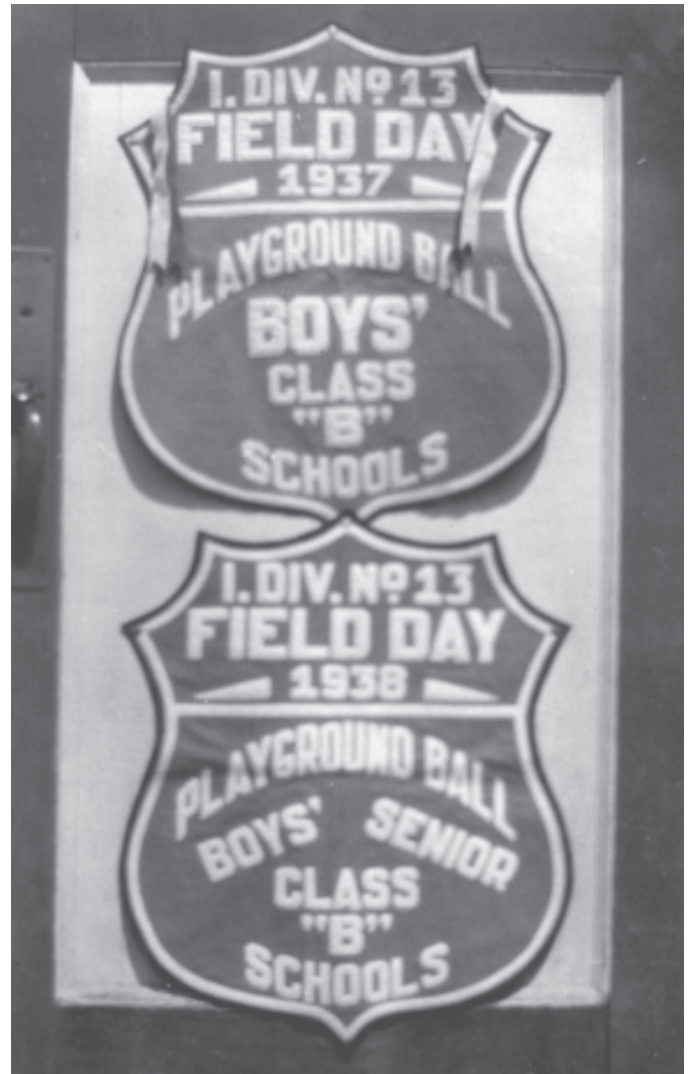
*Hockey in the 30's. Tommy White, Cornelius (Neil) Thiessen, Harold Penner, Alex White, Cameron Hyde.*



*The Kane Rascals! Cameron Hyde, H. Suderman, Dave Groening, Alex White, Henry Thiessen, Bill Toews, Frank White, Walter Toews, Tom White.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1928-29

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: F. Alywin Anderson Room II: Melvin T. Woods
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. Thomas Kirk (chairman) Mr. Chas. E. Walsh (secretary/treasurer) Mr. Joe White Mr. James Handlon Mr. David Unrau Mr. Oliver Anderson
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Beginners:	Tillie Groening, Martha Cowie, Jake Unrau, Annie Harder, Detray Hildebrand.
Grade I:	Dave Groening, Alex White, Frank White, Dora Giesbrecht, Clara Groening, Herman Groening, Margaret Harder, Liddie Groening, Annie Thiessen, Jake Hildebrandt, Mary Warkentin, John Funk.
Grade II:	Lena Groening, Annie Schapansky, Dave Giesbrecht, Tena Thiessen, Peter Harder, Gertrude Hildebrand, Helen Groening, Olive Anderson, Willie Hiebert, Cameron Kirk, Ray Cates.
Grade III:	Jake Penner, George Groening, Margaret Esau, Mary Harder, Violet Cowie, Olive Moore.
Grade IV:	Beryl Cates, Bernard Groening, Susie Thiessen, Elvera Groening, Abe Thiessen, Eddie Unrau.
Grade V:	Irene Walsh, Joyce McQuade, Nettie Unrau, Calvin Moore, Detray Groening, Everett Cates, Gertie Giesbrecht, Frank Kehler, Abe Esau.
Grade VI:	Tina Penner, Emmie Groening, John Wiens.
Grade VIII:	Marge Walsh, Dorothy Moore, James Handlon, Mary Handlon, Theodore Groening, Bernard Funk, Carrie Groening, John Penner.
Grade IX:	Bethel Cates, Walter Groening, Annie Funk.
<b>VAN DRIVERS:</b>	
	1. Abe Dick 2. J. Hildebrand 3. J. White 4. T. W. Kirk 5. M. Johnston



*Kane Champs at Carman, 1937 and 1938.*

There are no registration records for the school year, 1929-30.

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1930-31

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Sarah Sawatsky Room II: Margaret Toews
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	no record
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Beginners:	Cameron Hyde, Tommie White, Jake Harder, Ida Thiessen, Mary Thiessen, Johnnie Unrau.
Grade I:	Ervin Groening, Billie Funk, Rosie Groening, Alma Giesbrecht, Frank Giesbrecht, Tena Banman, Henry Thiessen.
Grade II:	Martha Cowie, Lora Hiebert, Tilly Groening, Dave Hiebert, Annie Harder, Harold Penner, Abe Banman.
Grade III:	Annie Thiessen, Clara Groening, Liddie Groening, Dave Groening, Herman Groening, Jake Unrau, Dora Giesbrecht, Margaret Harder, Alex White, Frank White.
Grade IV:	Jacob Hiebert, Tina Thiessen, Ellen Groening, Martha Geswein, Annie Schapansky, Peter Harder, Dave Giesbrecht, Edna Penner.
Grade V:	Ray Cates, Anna Hiebert, William Hiebert, John Hiebert, Willie Hiebert, Lena Groening, George Groening, Violet Cowie.
Grade VI:	Cameron Kirk, John Penner, Jake Penner, Eddie Unrau, Elvera Groening, Susie Thiessen, Bernard Groening, Abe Thiessen, Beryl Cates.
Grade VII:	Nettie Unrau, Nora Groening, Detray Groening.
Grade VIII:	Randall Groening, Walter Penner.
Grade IX:	Marie Handlon, Hugo Penner, Annie Funk, Bernard Funk, Theodore Groening.
Grade X:	James Handlon.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Mr. Heide
2. Mr. Funk
3. Mr. Cowie
4. Mr. Hildebrand
5. Mr. Kirk



*Mr. George Siemens with his two boys; Reynold and Lloyd, 1937.*



*Kane School Picnic, 1938.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1931-32

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Gertrude Hooge  
Room II: Margaret Toews

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. A. Groening (chairman)  
Mrs. L. D. Bruce (secretary/treasurer)  
Mrs. John Toews  
Mr. T. Kirk

### STUDENTS:

**Beginners:** Margaret White, Gladys Fredricksen, Margie Penner, Lizzie Thiessen, Tina Hiebert, Jackie Johnson, John Unrau, Lizzie Neufeld.

**Grade I:** Sadie Penner, Norman Groening, Lizzie Thiessen, Jim Bruce, Tom White, Cameron Hyde, John Unrau, Jake Harder, Lena Klassen, Ida Thiessen.

**Grade II:** Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen, Elma Hiebert, Rosie Groening, Tena Banman, Abe Banman, Frank Giesbrecht, Billy Funk, Annie Fehr, Jake Neufeld.

**Grade III:** Martha Cowie, Lora Hiebert, Tillie Groening, Harold Penner, Dave Hiebert, Annie Harder, George Neufeld.

**Grade IV:** Harold Penner, Dave Hiebert, John Klassen, Annie Thiessen, Clara Groening, Liddie Groening, Dave Groening, Jake Unrau, Alex White, Frank White, Margaret Harder, Herman Groening, Dora Giesbrecht, Katy Neufeld.

**Grade V:** Tina Thiessen, Ellen Groening, Jake Hiebert, Peter Harder, Ray Cates, Dave Giesbrecht, Don Cates.

**Grade VI:** George Groening, John Hiebert, William Hiebert, Willie Hiebert, Jake Penner, Lena Groening, Edna Penner, Cornie Banman, Mary Dobrowelski, Violet Cowie.

**Grade VII:** John Penner, Cornie Hiebert, Eddie Unrau, Elvera Groening, Cameron Kirk, Beryl Cates, Abe Thiessen.

**Grade VIII:** Nora Groening, Detray Groening, Everett Cates, John Dyck, John Penner.

**Grade IX:** Emmie Groening, Walter Penner.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. J. E. Hiebert
2. W. Hiebert
3. A. Thiessen
4. C. Kirk
5. J. Cowie



*Evelyn Russell's Beginner's Class in 1939.  
Mary Suderman, Annie Blatz, Jessie Giesbrecht, Lenora Hyde,  
Wilma Toews, Orvan Penner, Johnny Penner.*



*Off to see the King and Queen in J. J. Toews' Diamond T,  
May, 1939. Frank White, Harold Penner, Abe Banman.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1932-33****TEACHERS:** Room II: J. H. Giesbrecht**TRUSTEES:** Mr. A. Groening  
Mr. T. Kirk  
Mrs. L. D. Bruce (secretary/treasurer)**STUDENTS:** There are no records of grades I-IV.

Grade V: Annie Thiessen, Dorothy Giesbrecht, Margaret Harder, Clara Groening, Liddie Groening, Harold Penner, Herman Groening, Jake Unrau, David Groening, Alex White, David Hiebert, David Thiessen, Frank White.

Grade VI: Violet Cowie, Ellen Groening, Ray Cates, Jake Hiebert, Tina Thiessen, David Brown, Cornie Thiessen.

Grade VII: Edna Penner, George Groening, John Hiebert, Lena Groening, Willie Hiebert, Jake Penner.

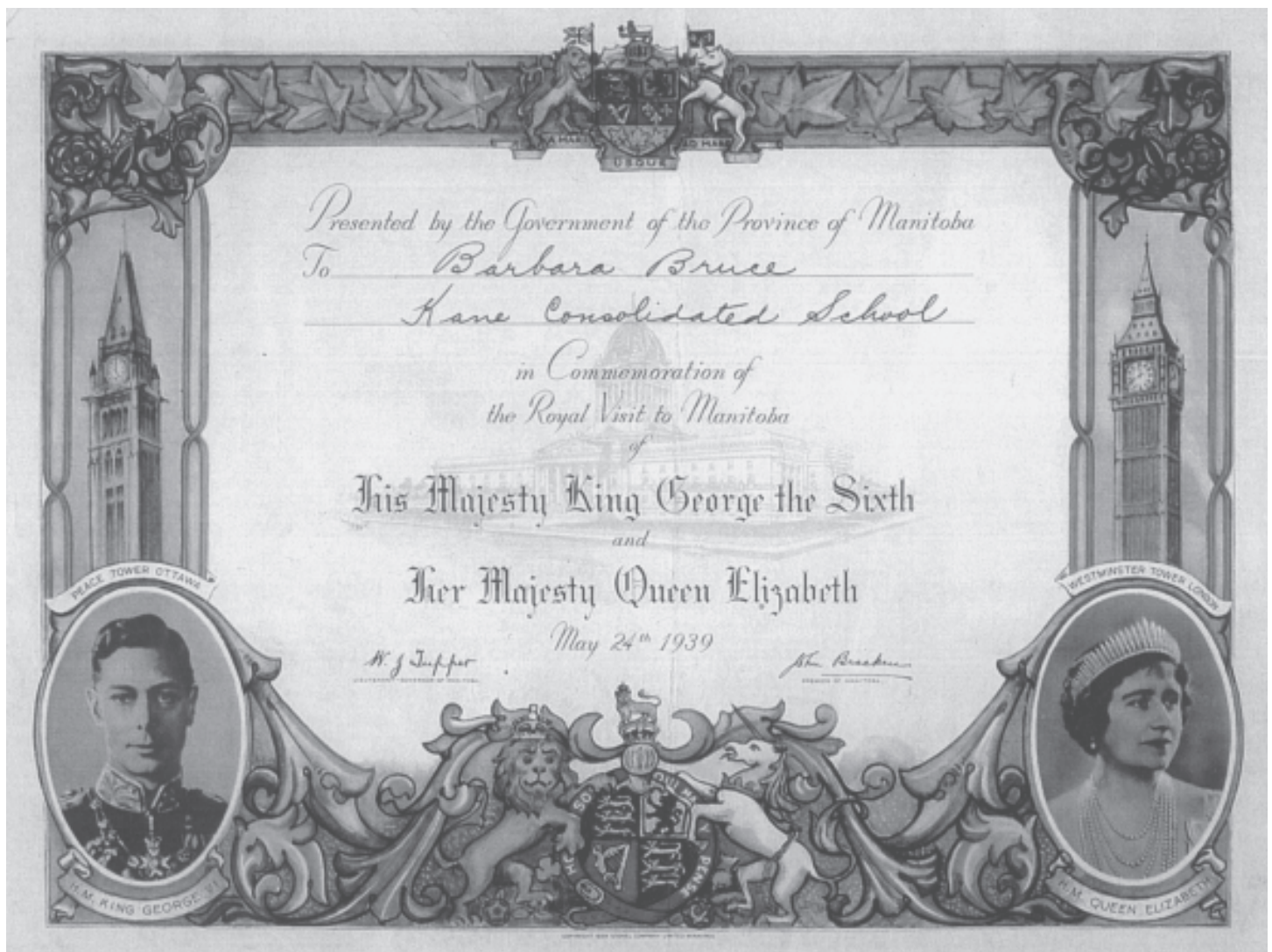
Grade VIII: Cameron Kirk, Eddie Unrau, John Penner, Beryl Cates, Elvera Groening, Abram Thiessen.

Grade IX: Cornie Hiebert.

Grade X: Emmie Groening, Walter Penner, Hugo Penner, Eddie Groening.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Mr. Banman
2. Mr. Cowie
3. Mr. Hiebert
4. Mr. Penner
5. Mr. Thiessen

*The Royal Visit, May, 1939.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1933-34**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Mabel M. Anderson  
Room II: J. H. Giesbrecht

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. J. B. Davidson (chairman)  
Mrs. L. D. Bruce (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. A. A. Groening  
Mr. P. F. Penner  
Mr. T. W. Kirk  
Mr. Abe Hyde

**STUDENTS:**

**Beginners:** Cleona Hyde, Lizzie Penner, Sadie Thiessen, Jacob Bergen, Hilda Giesbrecht.

**Grade I:** Barbara Bruce, Lillie White, Ivy Giesbrecht, Mary Banman, Margie Penner, John Unrau, Jake Unrau, Verna Rempel, Norman Groening, Susie Bergen, Jake Coombe, Mary Hiebert, Gertrude Harder.

**Grade II:** Margaret White, Gladys Fredricksen, Tina Hiebert, Sadie Penner, Lizzie Thiessen, Herman Bitz, Ida Thiessen.

**Grade III:** Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Jim Bruce, Pete Thiessen, Mary Thiessen, John Unrau, Jake Harder, Willie Rempel.

**Grade IV:** Ervin Groening, Elma Hiebert, Frank Giesbrecht, Tina Banman, Rosie Groening, Henry Thiessen, Abe Banman, Tina Bergen, Florence Rempel.

**Grade V:** Martha Cowie, Tillie Groening, Lora Hiebert, Annie Harder, Herman Groening.

**Grade VI:** Annie Thiessen, Liddy Groening, Clara Groening, Jake Unrau, Harold Penner, Alex White, David Hiebert, David Groening, Margaret Harder, David Thiessen, Dorothy Giesbrecht, Henry Bergen, Frank White.

**Grade VII:** Ray Cates, Tina Thiessen, Ellen Groening, Jake Hiebert, Bernard Groening.

**Grade VIII:** Jake Penner, Edna Penner, Willie Hiebert, Cornie Banman, George Groening, John Hiebert.

**Grade IX:** Cameron Kirk, John Penner, Elvera Groening, Beryl Cates, Nora Groening, Abram Thiessen, Randall Groening.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Cornelius Banman
2. James Cowie
3. Gustave E. Penner
4. William Reimer
5. Abram Thiessen



*Kane school body in May, 1939 with Principal Mr. G. G. Siemens (top left) and Miss Evelyn Jack (top right).*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1934-35

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Mabel M. Anderson  
Room II: G. G. Siemens

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. J. B. Davidson (chairman)  
Mr. G. Penner (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. P. E. Penner  
Mr. A. Hyde  
Mr. A. Groening

### STUDENTS:

**Beginners:** Rosalie Thiessen, Jean White, Agnes Bergen, John Hiebert, Eddie Banman, Arthur Toews, Annie Unrau.

**Grade I:** Cleona Hyde, Lizzie Penner, Sadie Thiessen, Jacob Bergen, Hilda Giesbrecht, Gertrude Harder, Henry Harder, Edna Hiebert.

**Grade II:** Lillie White, Mary Banman, Margie Penner, Ida Thiessen, Susie Bergen, John Unrau, Jake Unrau, Norman Groening, Verna Rempel, Barbara Bruce.

**Grade III:** Margaret White, Gladys Fredricksen, Tina Hiebert, Sadie Penner, Lizzie Thiessen, Herman Bitz.

**Grade IV:** Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Pete Thiessen, John Unrau, Mary Thiessen, Jake Harder, Willie Rempel, Jim Bruce.

**Grade V:** Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen, Tina Bergen, Elma Hiebert, Lena Banman, Rosie Groening, Florence Rempel, Frank Giesbrecht, Abe Banman.

**Grade VI:** Tillie Groening, Martha Cowie, Lora Hiebert, Annie Harder, Herman Groening.

**Grade VII:** Frank White, Alex White, Jake Unrau, Harold Penner, Annie Thiessen, Clara Groening, Liddie Groening, Ray Cates, David Thiessen, Dave Groening, David Hiebert, Dorothy Giesbrecht.

**Grade VIII:** Ellen Groening.

**Grade IX:** Edna Penner, Willie Hiebert, Jake Penner, John Wiebe, Cornelius Banman.

**Grade X:** John Penner, Cameron Kirk, Elvera Groening, Beryl Cates.

School was closed for one week in January of 1935 due to Diphtheria.  
Several hundred trees were planted in 1935.



*Miss Tina Warkentine with her grade 3&4 class in 1942, at the Kane Store.*



*Hockey in 1945-46 with coach Dick Hean (Sr.) standing by net, Dick Hean (Jr.) in goal, Tom Hean, John Penner and Willie Klassen in front row.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1935-36

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Mabel M. Anderson Room II: G. G. Siemens
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. J. B. Davidson (chairman) Mr. G. E. Penner (secretary/treasurer) Mr. F. F. Thiessen Mr. A. A. Groening Mr. A. H. Penner
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Beginners:	Abraham Dyck, Jacob Dyck, Harry Price, Rosalie Thiessen, Lena Unrau, Bernard Harder, Peter Hildebrand, Fern Simpson, Jim Simpson, Gene Simpson.
Grade I:	Marion Bruce, Arthur Toews, Agnes Bergen, Arthur Groening, Annie Unrau, Jean White, Eddie Banman, John Hiebert, Gertrude Harder, Henry Harder.
Grade II:	Cleona Hyde, Sadie Thiessen, Jake Bergen, Hilda Giesbrecht, Gertrude Harder, Ida Thiessen, Lizzie Penner.
Grade III:	Barbara Bruce, Lillie White, Marjorie Penner, Mary Banman, Susie Bergen, Norman Groening, Jake Unrau, John Unrau.
Grade IV:	Margaret White, Gladys Fredricksen, Sadie Penner, Lizzie Thiessen, Tina Hiebert, Jake Harder, Herman Bitz.
Grade V:	Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Mary Thiessen, Jim Bruce, Pete Thiessen, John Unrau, Diedrich Heppner.
Grade VI:	Lena Banman, Rosie Groening, Elma Hiebert, Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen, Frank Giesbrecht.
Grade VII:	Tina Bergen, Martha Cowie, Lora Hiebert, Tillie Groening, Cornie Thiessen.
Grade VIII:	Dave Groening, Frank White, Alex White, Jake Unrau, Harold Penner, Annie Thiessen, Liddie Groening, Clara Groening, Nettie Heppner, David Hiebert.
Grade IX:	Ellen Groening, George Groening.
Grade X:	Edna Penner, Jake Penner, Cornie Banman, Willie Hiebert.
<b>VAN DRIVERS:</b>	
	1. David P. Hildebrand 2. C. P. Banman 3. George J. Harder 4. P. H. Penner 5. John P. Unrau



*Here we come! Annie Blatz (top) and Susie Doell in the late 40's.*



*Grades 5-8, February 14, 1946.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1936-37**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Mabel M. Anderson  
Room II: G. G. Siemens

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. J. J. Toews (chairman)  
Mr. G. E. Penner  
(secretary/treasurer - first term)  
Mr. G. G. Siemens  
(secretary/treasurer - second term)  
Mr. F. F. Thiessen  
Mr. P. F. Penner  
Mr. A. H. Penner

**STUDENTS:**

**Beginners:** Herman Dyck, Raymond Penner, John Reimer, June Toews, Agatha Bergen, Abe Harder.

**Grade I:** Harry Price, Peter Hildebrand, Ben Thiessen, Rosalie Thiessen, Lena Unrau, Jim Simpson, Bernard Harder, Fern Simpson.

**Grade II:** Junior: Gene Simpson, Jacob Dyck, Abraham Dyck, Henry Harder, Eddie Banman, Art Groening.  
Senior: Gertrude Harder, Arthur Toews, Lizzie Penner, Agnes Bergen, Marion Bruce, Jean White, John Hiebert, Annie Unrau.

**Grade III:** Cleona Hyde, Sadie Thiessen, Jake Bergen, Ida Thiessen, Hilda Giesbrecht.

**Grade IV:** Mary Banman, Susie Bergen, Norman Groening, John Unrau, Barbara Bruce, Lillie White, Marjorie Penner, Jake Unrau.

**Grade V:** Tina Hiebert, Gladys Fredricksen, Mary Thiessen, Lizzie Thiessen, Sadie Penner, Jake Harder, Herman Bitz, Margaret White, Barbara Bruce.

**Grade VI:** Diedrich Heppner, Jim Bruce, Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Pete Thiessen, John Unrau.

**Grade VII:** Rosie Groening, Elma Hiebert, Lora Hiebert, Tillie Groening, Ervin Groening, Frank Giesbrecht, Tina Banman, Henry Thiessen.

**Grade VIII:** Lena Groening, Martha Cowie, Alex White, Cornie Thiessen.

**Grade IX:** Annie Thiessen, Liddie Groening, Frank White, Harold Penner, Andrew Heinrichs, George Groening.

**Grade X:** Ellen Groening.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. A. V. Thiessen
2. John G. Harder
3. A. J. Hyde
4. Peter Heppner

"It was moved that the school children be taken to Carman on June 30, 1937, on Toew's and Hiebert's trucks and that each child be given 15 cents for spending money." - from the secretary's minutes.



*Grade 5. Abe Schellenberg, Abe Suderman, Dick Hean.  
Gertie Schellenberg, Justina Enns, Tina Klassen,  
Esther Suderman, February, 1947.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1937-38

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Evelyn Jack  
Room II: G. G. Siemens

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. G. E. Penner (chairman)  
Mr. G. G. Siemens (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. F. Thiessen  
Mr. P. F. Penner  
Mr. A. H. Penner  
Mr. Abe Groening

### STUDENTS:

**Beginners:** Henry Giesbrecht, Bert Banman, Otto Thiessen, Edna Reimer, Peter Schellenberg.

**Grade I:** Herman Dyck, John Reimer, June Toews, Abe Harder, Raymond Penner, Agatha Bergen, Rennie Siemens, Marilyn Toews, Bernard Harder.

**Grade II:** Rosalie Thiessen, Ben Thiessen, Helen Dueck, Jacob Dyck, Henry Harder, Edward Banman, Arthur Groening.

**Grade III:** Abram Dyck, Gertrude Harder, Elizabeth Penner, Arthur Toews, Agnes Bergen, Marion Bruce, Jean White, John Hiebert.

**Grade IV:** Cleona Hyde, Sadie Thiessen, Hilda Giesbrecht, Jacob Bergen, Ida Thiessen.

**Grade V:** Lillie White, Norman Groening, Marjorie Penner, Mary Banman, Susan Bergen.

**Grade VI:** Eva Dueck, Barbara Bruce, Tina Hiebert, Gladys Fredricksen, Marie Thiessen, Lizzie Thiessen, Sadie Penner, Margaret White, Herman Bitz, Jake Harder.

**Grade VII:** Diedrich Heppner, Jim Bruce, Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Pete Thiessen, John Unrau, Rosie Groening, Elma Hiebert, Tina Banman, Billy Toews.

**Grade VIII:** Frank Giesbrecht, Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen, Tillie Groening, Lora Hiebert, Pete Thiessen.

**Grade IX:** Martha Cowie, Alex White, Cornelius Thiessen, Walter Toews.

**Grade X:** Harold Penner, Frank White, Liddie Groening, Elda Toews.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Jacob S. Dyck
2. Cornie Banman
3. William N. Harder
4. Peter H. Penner
5. Walter G. Penner



*Grade 6. Donald Fredricksen, Willie Klassen, James Reimer, Tom Hean, Jake Neufeld. Lena Harder, Rosie Wiebe, Dora Blatz, Annie Bergen, February, 1947.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1938-39

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Evelyn Jack  
Room II: G. G. Siemens

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. G. E. Penner (chairman)  
Mr. G. G. Siemens (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. P. F. Penner  
Mr. F. F. Thiessen  
Mr. A. G. Toews  
Mr. A. A. Groening

### STUDENTS:

**Beginners:** Jessie Giesbrecht, Leonora Hyde, Mary Suderman, Annie Blatz, Wilma Toews, Orvan Penner.

**Grade I:** Otto Thiessen, Henry Giesbrecht, Edna Reimer, Peter Schellenberg, Bert Banman.

**Grade II:** Frank Blatz, Marilyn Toews, Herman Dyck, Reynold Siemens, Abe Harder, June Toews, Raymond Penner, Agatha Bergen, John Reimer, Harry Price, Bernard Harder, Annie Suderman.

**Grade III:** Rosilie Thiessen, Jacob Dyck, Henry Harder, Edward Banman, Ben Thiessen.

**Grade IV:** Elizabeth Penner, Marion Bruce, Agnes Bergen, John Hiebert, Art Groening, Jean White, Abram Dyck, Arthur Toews, Gertrude Harder.

**Grade V:** Cleona Hyde, Jacob Bergen, Sadie Thiessen, Hilda Giesbrecht, Ida Thiessen, Marjorie Penner.

**Grade VI:** Lillie White, Norman Groening, Mary Banman, Jacob Blatz.

**Grade VII:** Barbara Bruce, Tina Hiebert, Gladys Fredricksen, Marie Thiessen, Margaret White, Lizzie Thiessen.

**Grade VIII:** Diedrich Heppner, Jim Bruce, Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Bill Toews, Rosie Groening, Barney Groening, Henry Blatz.

**Grade IX:** Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen, Lora Hiebert.

**Grade X:** Martha Cowie, Alex White, Cornelius Thiessen, Walter Toews, Liddie Groening.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Jacob S. Dyck
2. C. P. Banman
3. William N. Harder
4. D. J. Janzen
5. Walter G. Penner

On June 18, 1939, the students made a trip to Winnipeg to see the Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.



*Grades 7&8. Alvin Harder, John Neufeld, Abe Reimer. Tina Reimer, Mary Suderman, Wilma Toews, Leonora Hyde, Annie Blatz, Nettie Enns, Susie Doell. February, 1947.*



*Harry Thiessen (sitting), Tom Hean, Al Harder, James Reimer. February, 1947.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1939-40**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Evelyn Russell  
Room II: Jean Sinclair  
Room III: G. G. Siemens

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. A. Hyde (chairman)  
Mr. G. E. Penner (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Thiessen  
Mr. A. Groening

**STUDENTS:**

**Beginners:** Arthur Braun, Katherine Reimer, Abe Reimer, Abe Schellenberg, Eldred Roylance Wycke.

**Grade I:** Annie Blatz, Leonora Hyde, Orvan Penner, Wilma Toews, Mary Suderman, John Penner.

**Grade II:** Jessie Giesbrecht, Bert Banman, Henry Giesbrecht, Edna Reimer, Peter Schellenberg, Otto Thiessen, Abe Harder, Bernard Harder.

**Grade III:** Frank Blatz, Agatha Bergen, Herman Dyck, Raymond Penner, Harry Price, Reynold Siemens, June Toews, Marilyn Toews, John Reimer, Annie Suderman, Mary Penner.

**Grade IV:** Jacob Dyck, Ben Thiessen, Edward Banman, Henry Harder, Elizabeth Braun.

**Grade V:** Agnes Bergen, Abram Dyck, Art Groening, Elizabeth Penner, Hilda Giesbrecht, John Hiebert, Arthur Toews, Jean White, Annie Penner, Nettie Penner, Evelyn Enns.

**Grade VI:** Cleona Hyde, Marjorie Penner, Jake Bergen, Annie Braun.

**Grade VII:** Norman Groening, Lillie White.

**Grade VIII:** Gladys Fredricksen, Margaret White, Lena Banman.

**Grade IX:** Rosie Groening, Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Pete Thiessen, Detray Groening, Diedrich Heppner.

**Grade X:** Lora Hiebert, Ervin Groening.

**Grade XI:** Liddie Groening, Elda Toews, John Braun, Walter Toews, Harold Penner, Frank White, Eddie Groening, Cornelius Thiessen, Reta Humbert, Edna Penner.

**Grade XII:** Ellen Groening.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Ed Price
2. C. P. Banman
3. William N. Harder
4. A. J. Hyde
5. Anton Heppner



*Mr. Jake Bergen taught grades 5-8 in 1946-47.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1940-41

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Miss Rose Evelyn Russell Room II: Mr. George G. Siemens
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. Abe J. Hyde (chairman) Mr. Leonard U. Penner (secretary/treasurer) Mr. Frank G. Blatz Mr. Abram A. Groening Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Thiessen
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Beginners:	Annie Bergen, Dora Blatz, Justina Enns, Donald Fredricksen, Susie Giesbrecht, Dorothy Harder, James Reimer, Gerty Schellenberg, Lloyd Siemens, Abe Suderman, Arthur Wiebe.
Grade I:	Arthur Braun, Abe Reimer, Tena Reimer, Abe Schellenberg, Jake Dyck, Willie Klassen, Orvan Penner.
Grade II:	Annie Blatz, Leonora Hyde, Johnnie Penner, Esther Schellenberg, Mary Suderman, Wilma Toews, Helen Enns, Nettie Enns.
Grade III:	Henry Giesbrecht, Jessie Giesbrecht, Edna Reimer, Peter Schellenberg, Otto Thiessen.
Grade IV:	Henry Enns, Agatha Bergen, Frank Blatz, Herman Dyck, Mary Penner, Raymond

Penner, John Reimer, Reynold Siemens, Annie Suderman, June Toews, Marilyn Toews, Harry Boese.

Grade V:	Eva Braun, Erdman Braun, Lizzie Braun, Jacob Dyck, Evelyn Enns, Lizzie Penner, Nettie Penner, Benny Thiessen.
Grade VI:	John Hiebert, Hilda Giesbrecht, Manuel Schellenberg, Abram Dyck, Arthur Toews, Jean White, Agnes Bergen, Annie Penner, Arthur Groening, Arthur Boese.
Grade VII:	Alvan Schellenberg, Annie Braun, Cleona Hyde, Jake Blatz, Jake Bergen, Lily Boese.
Grade VIII:	Lillie White, Norman Groening.
Grade IX:	Gladys Fredricksen, Margaret White, Pete Braun.
Grade X:	Thomas White, Cameron Hyde.
Grade XI:	Ervin Groening, Walter Toews, Lora Hiebert.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. J .S. Dyck
2. I. F. Giesbrecht
3. D. F. Wiebe
4. Peter P. Unrau
5. P. H. Penner



*Kane School.*



*Miss Tina Penner with her grades 5-8 in 1949.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1941-42

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Tina V. Warkentine  
Room II: Miss Mary J. Loewen  
Room III: Mr. George G. Siemens

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Abe Suderman (chairman)  
Mr. Frank G. Blatz (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. Thiessen  
Mr. Abram A. Groening

**STUDENTS:**

**Beginners:** Tina Harder, Mary Enns, Tina Klassen, Esther Suderman, Mildred Toews, Margaret Penner, Nettie Schapansky, Edna Braun, Johnny Boese, Edward Dyck, Dick Hean.

**Grade I:** Gertie Schellenberg, Dorothy Harder, Justina Enns, Dora Blatz, Susie Giesbrecht, Annie Bergen, Abe Suderman, James Reimer, Tommy Hean, Donald Fredricksen, Lloyd Siemens, Arthur Wiebe.

**Grade II:** Tena Reimer, Abe Reimer, Arthur Braun, Abe Schellenberg, Orvan Penner, Willie Klassen.

**Grade III:** Leonora Hyde, Helen Enns, Mary Suderman, Nettie Enns, Esther Schellenberg, Wilma Toews, Annie Blatz, Johnny Penner, Jake Dyck.

**Grade IV:** Edna Reimer, Jessie Giesbrecht, Henry Enns, Otto Thiessen, Peter Schellenberg, Henry Giesbrecht.

**Grade V:** Agatha Bergen, Frank Blatz, Harry Boese, Lizzie Braun, Herman Dyck, Mary Penner, Raymond Penner, John Reimer, Rennie Siemens, Annie Suderman, June Toews, Marilyn Toews, Showichi Ito.

**Grade VI:** Eva Braun, Eddie Braun, Jake Dyck, Evelyn Enns, Nettie Penner, Benny Thiessen.

**Grade VII:** Agnes Bergen, Arthur Boese, Abe Dyck, Hilda Giesbrecht, John Hiebert, Arthur Groening, Manuel Schellenberg, Arthur Toews, Jean White.

**Grade VIII:** Jake Blatz, Lily Boese, Annie Braun, Cleona Hyde, Alvan Schellenberg.

**Grade IX:** Evelyn Wiebe, Elaine Hean, Lillie White, Norman Groening, Henry Blatz.

**Grade X:** Gladys Fredricksen, Margaret White, Mary Braun, Detray Groening.

**Grade XI:** Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Lora Hiebert.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Arnold Hiebert
2. A. J. Hyde
3. P. P. Harder
4. J. W. Penner
5. W. F. Penner



*Kane Gals! Wilma, Mary, Susie, Leonora and Annie at the skating shack on the schoolyard in the late 40's.*



*Kane Gals — fifty years later! Wilma (Toews) Taylor, Mary (Suderman) Dyck, Susie (Doell) Winther, Lenore (Hyde) Greening, Anne (Blatz) Wiebe, Tina (Reimer) Loewen at the Lowe Farm Centennial in 1999.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1942-43**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Tina V. Warkentine  
Room II: Miss Helen J. Penner  
Room III: Mr. George G. Siemens

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Abe Suderman (chairman)  
Mr. Frank G. Blatz (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Peter U. Braun  
Mr. Frank F. Thiessen  
Mr. Isaac Wiebe

**STUDENTS:**

Beginners: Norman Blatz, Peter Penner, Stanley Harder, Aubrey Groening, Billy Schapansky, Johnny Martens, Joe Reimer, Helen Reimer.

Grade I: Gertie Schellenberg, Tina Harder, Mary Enns, Tina Klassen, Esther Suderman, Margaret Penner, Nettie Schapansky, Edna Braun, Johnny Boese, Dick Hean, Arthur Wiebe, Abe Suderman, Mildred Toews.

Grade II: Dorothy Harder, Justina Enns, Dora Blatz, Susie Giesbrecht, Annie Bergen, Lloyd Siemens, James Reimer, Tommy Hean, Donald Fredricksen, Abe Schellenberg.

Grade III: Willie Klassen, Orvan Penner, Arthur Braun, Nettie Enns, Alvin Harder.

Grade IV: Tena Reimer, Leonora Hyde, Helen Enns, Mary Suderman, Esther Schellenberg, Wilma Toews, Annie Blatz, Johnnie Penner, Abe Reimer.

Grade V: Henry Enns, Jessie Giesbrecht, Henry Giesbrecht, Edna Reimer, Peter Schellenberg, Otto Thiessen.

Grade VI: Agatha Bergen, Frank Blatz, Harry Boese, Lizzie Braun, Schowichi Ito, Mary Penner, Raymond Penner, John Reimer, June Toews, Rennie Siemens, Annie Suderman, Marilyn Toews.

Grade VII: Eva Braun, Benny Thiessen.

Grade VIII: Arthur Boese, Arthur Groening, Manuel Schellenberg, Arthur Toews, Jean White, John Hiebert.

Grade IX: Annie Braun, Lillie Boese, Alvan Schellenberg, Cleona Hyde.

Grade X: Elaine Hean, Lillie White, Norman Groening, Henry Blatz.

Grade XI: Gladys Fredricksen, Margaret White.

Grade XII: Harold Penner.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Alex White
2. A. G. Toews
3. G. G. Harder
4. P. F. Penner
5. F. G. Blatz



*The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, June 2, 1953.*



*Fun in the snow in the 50's.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1943-44

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Miss Tina V. Warkentine Room II: Mr. Rufus J. Schellenberg Room III: Mr. George G. Siemens
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. Abe Suderman (chairman) Mr. Frank G. Blatz (secretary/treasurer) Mr. Peter U. Braun Mr. Frank F. Thiessen Mr. Isaac Wiebe
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Beginners:	Winna Hiebert, Shirley Braun, Janice Hyde, Frieda Dueck, Verna Penner, Mary Klassen, Carrie Derksen, Shirley Born, Jerry Toews, Verna Schroeder, Laurie Born, Billy Penner, Donald Harder.
Grade I:	Norman Blatz, Aubrey Groening, Stanley Harder, Johnny Martens, Peter Penner, Joe Reimer, Helen Reimer, Mary Enns.
Grade II:	Margaret Penner, Justina Enns, Edna Braun, Tina Klassen, Mildred Toews, Tina Harder, Esther Suderman, Gertie Schellenberg, Nettie Schapansky, Arthur Wiebe, Abe Suderman, Dick Hean, Johnny Boese, Menno Dueck.
Grade III:	Susie Giesbrecht, Dorothy Harder, Annie Bergen, Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, Tom Hean, Lloyd Siemens, James Reimer, Abe Schellenberg, Orvan Penner.
Grade IV:	Nettie Enns, Helen Enns, Alvin Harder, Arthur Braun, Willie Klassen, Johnny Born.
Grade V:	Annie Blatz, Henry Enns, Leonora Hyde, John Penner, Abe Reimer, Esther Schellenberg, Peter Schellenberg, Mary Suderman, Wilma Toews, Tena Reimer.
Grade VI:	Henry Giesbrecht, Jessie Giesbrecht, Raymond Penner, Otto Thiessen, Edna Reimer.
Grade VII:	Agatha Bergen, Frank Blatz, Harry Boese, Elizabeth Braun, Mary Penner, John Reimer, Reynold Siemens, Annie Suderman, June Toews, Marilyn Toews.
Grade VIII:	Eva Braun, Benny Thiessen.
Grade IX:	Arthur Boese, Manuel Schellenberg, Arthur Toews, Jean White, Jake Blatz.
Grade X:	Lillie Boese, Annie Braun, Alvan Schellenberg, Cleona Hyde.
Grade XI:	Elaine Hean, Lillie White.

## VAN DRIVER:

1. D. Friesen
2. J. J. Klassen
3. Bill Dyck
4. P. H. Penner
5. F. G. Blatz



*Leonard Born, James Penner, Dick Toews, Edwin Thiessen, Larry Born, Elva Born, Annette Harder.*



*Frank Groening family, Martha Kebler and the Martin Heppner family having lunch at the school picnic.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1944-45

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Mr. Rufus J. Schellenberg  
Room II: Mr. Nicolai G. Neufeld

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman)  
Mr. Gustave E. Penner (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Abe Suderman  
Mr. Isaac Wiebe  
Mr. Peter U. Braun

### STUDENTS:

**Grade I:** Laurie Borne, Shirley Born, Shirley Braun, Frieda Dueck, Caroline Derksen, Winna Hiebert, Janice Hyde, Mary Klassen, Johnny Martens, Billy Penner, Verna Penner, Verna Schroeder, Jerry Toews, Johnny Harder, Donald Harder, Aubrey Groening.

**Grade II:** Norman Blatz, Mary Enns, Stanley Harder, Loretta Neufeld, Peter Penner, Helen Reimer, Joe Reimer, Willie Harder.

**Grade III:** Edna Braun, Menno Dueck, Justina Enns, Tina Harder, Dick Hean, Tina Klassen, Gertie Schellenberg, Abe Suderman, Esther Suderman, Mildred Toews, Arthur Wiebe.

**Grade IV:** Annie Bergen, Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, Tom Hean, Dorothy Harder, Orvan Penner, James Reimer, Abe Schellenberg, Lena Harder, Jake Neufeld, Rosie Wiebe.

**Grade V:** Peter Schellenberg, Arthur Braun, Alvin Harder, Willie Klassen, Nettie Enns, Helen Enns.

**Grade VI:** Peter Schellenberg, John Penner, Annie Blatz, Wilma Toews, Leonora Hyde, Abe Reimer, Esther Schellenberg, Tena Reimer, John Neufeld, Henry Enns, Mary Suderman.

**Grade VII:** Otto Thiessen, Eva Thiessen, Raymond Penner, Edna Reimer.

**Grade VIII:** Marilyn Toews, June Toews, Frank Blatz, Mary Penner, Betty Braun, Agatha Bergen, Annie Suderman, John Reimer.

**Grade IX:** Benny Thiessen, Eva Braun.

**Grade X:** Jean White, Arthur Toews, Manuel Schellenberg.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. John J. Klassen
2. Henry J. Kehler
3. G. G. Harder
4. P. H. Penner
5. Peter Heppner



*Grade XI graduation, 1953. Gertrude Schellenberg, Esther Suderman, Albert Groening.*



*Grades 1-4 in 1956.*



*Miss Susan Peters and the grades 1-4 in 1956-57.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1945-46**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Hilda Lohrenz  
 Room II: Mrs. Marion E. Hiebert  
 Room III: Mr. Nicolai G. Neufeld

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman)  
 Mr. Gustave E. Penner (secretary/treasurer)  
 Mr. Abe Suderman  
 Mr. Peter U. Braun  
 Mr. Jake Born

**STUDENTS:**

**Beginners:** James Penner, Tina Harder, Heather Schellenberg, Erdmann Derksen, Larry Born, Margaret Neufeld, Nettie Kehler, Dick Toews, Walter Born, Leonard Neufeld, Johnny Harder, Dorothy Friesen, Edwin Thiessen, Annie Harder.

**Grade I:** Dorothy Wiebe, Margaret Reimer, Hilda Harder, Linda Neufeld, Leona Derksen, Shirley Born.

**Grade II:** Janice Hyde, Verna Schroeder, Verna Penner, Shirley Braun, Mary Klassen, Wilma Hiebert, Billy Penner, Jerry Toews, Caroline Derksen, Johnny Harder.

**Grade III:** Mary Enns, Peter Penner, Stanley Harder, Loretta Neufeld, Helen Reimer, Norman Blatz, Joe Reimer, Willy Harder, Gorden Mohr.

**Grade IV:** Tina Klassen, Gertie Schellenberg, Esther Suderman, Edna Braun, Justina Enns, Dick Hean, Abe Suderman, Mildred Toews.

**Grade V:** Annie Bergen, Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, Lena Harder, Tom Hean, Willie Klassen, Jake Neufeld, Orvan Penner, James Reimer, Abe Schellenberg, Rosie Wiebe.

**Grade VI:** Arthur Braun, Helen Enns, Nettie Enns, Alvin Harder.

**Grade VII:** Annie Blatz, Leonora Hyde, Johnny Penner, Abe Reimer, Tena Reimer, Mary Suderman, Esther Schellenberg, Wilma Toews, John Neufeld, Henry Enns, Peter Schellenberg.

**Grade VIII:** Edna Reimer, Otto Thiessen.

**Grade IX:** Betty Braun, Mary Penner, June Toews, Frank Blatz, John Reimer.

**Grade X:** Betty Wiebe, Annie Epp, Eva Braun, Ben Thiessen.

**Grade XI:** Cleona Hyde, Jean White, Arthur Toews.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake I. Brown
2. Henry J. Kehler
3. William N. Harder
4. J. J. Klassen
5. Walter G. Penner



*Kane School Picnic, 1956.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1946-47**

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Miss Mary Duerksen Room II: Miss Ella Klassen Room III: Mr. Henry Friesen
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman) Mr. Abe Suderman (secretary/treasurer) Mr. Peter U. Braun Mr. Gustave E. Penner Mr. Jake Born
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Beginners:	Reta Friesen, Alvin Penner, Johnny Klassen Walter Thiessen, Ernie Born.
Grade I:	Larry Born, Eddie Derksen, Dorothy Friesen, Annie Harder, Johnny Harder, Tina Harder, Nettie Kehler, James Penner, Dick Toews, Heather Schellenberg, Edwin Thiessen, Leonard Neufeld, Walter Born, Johnny Unrau, Elva Born.
Grade II:	Leona Derksen, Hilda Harder, Margaret Reimer, Johnny Thiessen, Linda Neufeld, Shirley Born, Peter Unrau, Leonard Born.
Grade III:	Caroline Derksen, Bernie Friesen, Janice Hyde, Billy Penner, Verna Penner, Verna Schroeder, Jerry Toews, Mary Klassen, Harry Thiessen, Johnny Harder.
Grade IV:	Norman Blatz, Mary Enns, Wilfred Friesen, Stanley Harder, Willie Harder, Peter Penner, Helen Reimer, Joe Reimer, Mary Unrau.
Grade V:	Abe Suderman, Abe Schellenberg, Dickie Hean, Justina Enns, Esther Suderman, Gertie Schellenberg, Mildred Toews, Tina Klassen.
Grade VI:	Annie Bergen, Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, James Reimer, Lena Harder, Rosie Wiebe, Tom Hean, Willie Klassen, Jake Neufeld.
Grade VII:	Alvin Harder, Nettie Enns.
Grade VIII:	Annie Blatz, Abe Reimer, Johnny Penner, Mary Suderman, Susie Doell, Tena Reimer, Wilma Toews, Leonora Hyde, John Neufeld.
Grade IX:	Edna Reimer, Annie Suderman, Otto Thiessen.
Grade X:	June Toews, Mary Penner, John Reimer, Frank Blatz.
Grade XI:	Eva Braun, Ben Thiessen.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

- 1 Frank Thiessen
2. Henry J. Kehler
3. William N. Harder
4. Walter A. Toews
5. Alex J. White

*Girl's Baseball Team, 1957.**Grade VIII, 1959.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1947-48

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Mrs. Helen Penner  
Room II: Mr. Jacob Bergen  
Room III: Mr. John S. Schellenberg

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman)  
Mr. Abe Suderman (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Peter U. Braun  
Mr. Gustave E. Penner  
Mr. Jake Born

### STUDENTS:

**Beginners:** Gorden Dyck, Kenneth Giesbrecht, Abie Harder, Evelyn Heppner, Martha Kehler, Alice Penner, Hazel Schellenberg, Betty Schroeder.

**Grade I:** Ernie Born, Walter Born, Harold Klassen, Johnny Klassen, Alvin Penner, Walter Thiessen, Irene Suderman, Melvin Smeland.

**Grade II:** Elva Born, Larry Born, Eddie Derksen, Dorothy Friesen, Johnny Harder, Annie Harder, Nettie Kehler, Leonard Neufeld, James Penner, Dickie Toews, Edwin Thiessen, Johnny Unrau.

**Grade III:** Shirley Born, Leonard Born, Leona Derksen, Andy Klassen, Linda Neufeld, Billy Penner, Margaret Reimer, Johnny Thiessen, Peter Unrau.

**Grade IV:** Evelyn Born, Caroline Derksen, Janice Hyde, Mary Klassen, Verna Penner, Verna Schroeder, Jerry Toews, Harry Thiessen.

**Grade V:** Norman Blatz, Mary Enns, Stanley Harder, Peter Penner, Helen Reimer, Joe Reimer, Mary Unrau.

**Grade VI:** Justina Enns, Dick Hean, Tina Klassen, Abe Suderman, Esther Suderman, Gertie Schellenberg, Mildred Toews, Abe Schellenberg.

**Grade VII:** Annie Bergen, Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, Tom Hean, James Reimer, Rosie Wiebe, Jake Neufeld, Willie Klassen.

**Grade VIII:** Johnny Born, Alvin Harder.

**Grade IX:** Annie Blatz, Susan Doell, Leonora Hyde, John Neufeld, Abe Reimer, Tena Reimer, Mary Suderman, Wilma Toews.

**Grade X:** Edna Reimer, Otto Thiessen.

**Grade XI:** Frank Blatz, John Reimer, June Toews.

### VAN DRIVERS:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Frank Thiessen | 4. P. H. Penner |
| 2. George Born    | 5. Alex White   |
| 3. Henry H. Doell |                 |



*Gordon, Jean and Marion Dyck, 1957.*



*Miss Evelyn Harder and the grades 1-4, 1958.*



*Kane girls, grades 5&6, 1959. Back row: Phyllis Groening, Linda Heppner, Dianne Penner, Elma Kehler, Judy Neufeld, Joan Braun. Front row: Sharon Friesen, Margaret Born, Anita Groening, Gina Neufeld, Sally Born.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1948-49

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Miss Irene Koop Room II: Miss Tina Penner Room III: Mr. John S. Schellenberg
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman) Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer) Mr. Peter U. Braun Mr. Jake Born Mr. Eddie H. Groening Mr. Peter H. Friesen
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Beginners:	Rosie Harder, Wilma Schellenberg, Glenna Braun, Nettie Thiessen, Arthur Thiessen, Jakie Klassen, Billy Toews, Edwin Martens, Kenny Fredricksen.
Grade I:	Martha Kehler, Hazel Schellenberg, Alice Penner, Kenneth Giesbrecht, Walter Thiessen, Evelyn Heppner, Betty Schroeder, Gorden Dyck, Abie Harder, Frances Penner.
Grade II:	Ernie Born, Walter Born, Alvin Penner, Eddy Derksen, Harvey Carroll, Nettie Kehler, Irene Suderman.
Grade III:	Larry Born, Annie Harder, Johnny Harder, James Penner, Edwin Thiessen, Dickie Toews, Elva Born, Leonard Born.
Grade IV:	Shirley Born, Leona Derksen, Billy Penner, Johnny Thiessen, Caroline Derksen.
Grade V:	Evelyn Born, Janice Hyde, Jerry Toews, Norman Blatz, Margaret Reimer, Verna Penner, Verna Schroeder, Harry Thiessen.
Grade VI:	Stanley Harder, Peter Penner, Helen Reimer, Joe Reimer.
Grade VII:	Gertie Schellenberg, Abe Suderman, Esther Suderman, Mildred Toews, Margaret Penner.
Grade VIII:	Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, James Reimer, Rosie Wiebe.
Grade IX:	John Born, Alvin Harder.
Grade X:	Annie Blatz, Susie Doell, Leonora Hyde, Abe Reimer, Mary Suderman, Wilma Toews, Arthur Wiebe.
Grade XI:	Edna Reimer, Otto Thiessen.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Abe Toews
2. George Born
3. William Dyck
4. Henry H. Doell
5. William Reimer



*Kane boys, grades 5&6, 1959. Back row: Bert Friesen, Vernon Brown, Jake Kehler, Don Schellenberg, Harold Krabn, Sidney Thiessen. Front row: Menno Wiebe, Ron Epp, Grant Thiessen, Keith Born, Dennis Brown.*



*Grade 7, 1959. Back: Kathy Braun, Myra Thiessen, Margaret Dueck, Jean Dyck, Dianne Bergman. Front: Jack Heppner, Tom Kirk, Ralph Groening, Edward Wiebe.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1949-50**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Marion Wiebe  
 Room II: Mr. Erdman I. Kroeker  
 Room III: Mr. John S. Schellenberg

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman)  
 Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
 Mr. Peter Harder  
 Mr. Abe Suderman  
 Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
 Mr. Jacob C. Reimer

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Glenna Braun, Kenny Fredricksen, Rosie Harder, Martha Kehler, Jakie Klassen, Edwin Martens, Wilma Schellenberg, Arthur Thiessen, Nettie Thiessen, Billy Toews, Helen Harder, Nettie Dyck.

Grade II: Gorden Dyck, Kenneth Giesbrecht, Abie Harder, Evelyn Heppner, Alice Penner, Hazel Schellenberg, Betty Schroeder, Walter Thiessen, David Harder, Jacob Harder, Tina Harder.

Grade III: Ernie Born, Walter Born, Eddie Derksen, Alvin Penner, Nettie Kehler, Irene Suderman, Hilda Harder, Danny Thiessen.

Grade IV: Elva Born, Larry Born, Leonard Born, Annie Harder, Johnny Harder, James Penner, Edwin Thiessen, Dick Toews, Annie Harder (Annette).

Grade V: Shirley Born, Caroline Derksen, Leona Derksen, Billy Penner, Johnny Thiessen, Dale Dueck.

Grade VI: Evelyn Born, Norman Blatz, Janice Hyde, Peter Penner, Verna Penner, Margaret Reimer, Verna Schroeder, Harry Thiessen, Jerry Toews, Annie Wiebe, Elsie Friesen.

Grade VII: Stanley Harder, Helen Reimer, Joe Reimer, Maureen Dueck.

Grade VIII: Gertie Schellenberg, Abe Suderman, Esther Suderman, Mildred Toews.

Grade IX: Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, James Reimer, Rose Wiebe, George Wiebe.

Grade X: John Born, Alvin Harder, Irene Wiebe.

Grade XI: Anne Blatz, Susan Doell, Arnold Groening, Arthur Wiebe, John Wiebe, Wilma Toews.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Abe Toews
2. William N. Harder
3. H. J. Kehler
4. Henry H. Doell
5. William Reimer



*Grades 5&6 Woodwork Class, 1959.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1950-51

- TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Marion Wiebe  
Room II: Mr. Myron White  
(did not complete year)  
Mrs. Tina Wartkentin  
(completed year)  
Room III: Mr. John Warkentin
- TRUSTEES:** Mr. Eddie H. Groening (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Frank G. Blatz  
Mr. Frank Groening  
Mr. Abe Suderman  
Mr. Jac C. Reimer
- STUDENTS:**
- Grade I: Viola Born, Emmy Derksen, Janet Handlon, Jim Heppner, Jackie Kehler, Donna Kirk, Beulah Toews.
- Grade II: Glenna Braun, Ken Fredricksen, Margaret Groening, Rosie Harder, Martha Kehler, Jackie Klassen, Wilma Schellenberg, Arthur Toews, Nettie Thiessen, Walter Thiessen, Billy Toews, Margie Marynick, Nettie Dyck Edwin Martins.
- Grade III: Gordon Dyck, Ken Giesbrecht, Evelyn Heppner, Alice Penner.
- Grade IV: Ernie Born, Walter Born, Eddie Derksen, Nettie Kehler, Alvin Penner, Irene Suderman, Danny Thiessen, Howard Thiessen.
- Grade V: Elva Born, Larry Born, Leonard Born, Edwin Thiessen, Richard Toews.
- Grade VI: Shirley Born, Caroline Derksen, Leona Derksen, Billy Penner.
- Grade VII: Norman Blatz, Evelyn Born, Janice Hyde, Verna Penner, Peter Penner, Margaret Reimer, Jerry Toews.
- Grade VIII: Esther Thiessen, Joe Reimer, Stanley Harder.
- Grade IX: Gertrude Schellenberg, Mildred Toews, Albert Groening, Edwin Groening.
- Grade X: James Reimer, Jane Penner, Dora Blatz, Donald Fredricksen, Elmer Gerbrandt.
- Grade XI: Alvin Harder, Susan Doell, Irene Wiebe, Leonora Hyde, Marion Hildebrand.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. C.H. Dyck
2. P. P. Martens
3. P. H. Penner
4. Henry H. Doell
5. William Reimer



*Grade XI Graduation Class, 1959. Mr. John Suderman, Evelyn Heppner, Alice Penner, Bob Bracken.*



*Kane won an interschool baseball tournament.*



*Kane School 1960 grades 5-8 Girls Hockey Team.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1951-52

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Marion Wiebe  
Room II: Mr. Jack A. Sawatzky  
Room III: Mr. J. Irving Warkentin

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Frank Groening  
Mr. Jac C. Reimer  
Mr. Eddie H. Groening

### STUDENTS:

Grade I: Menno Derksen, Jean Dyck, June Groening, Sheila Johnston, Elma Kehler, Ernie Reimer, Judy Suderman, Larry Thiessen, David Penner.

Grade II: Viola Born, Emmy Derksen, Janet Handlon, Jim Heppner, Jackie Kehler, Donna Kirk, Beulah Toews.

Grade III: Henry Dueck, Nettie Dyck, Ken Fredricksen, Rosie Harder, Martha Kehler, Jackie Klassen, David Krahn, Mary-Ann Krahn, Wilma Schellenberg, Arthur Thiessen, Walter Thiessen, Billy Toews.

Grade IV: Gordon Dyck, Ken Giesbrecht, Evelyn Heppner, Alice Penner, Frances Penner.

Grade V: Ernest Born, Walter Born, Eddie Derksen, Eddie Kehler, Alvin Penner, James Penner, Irene Suderman, Danny Thiessen, Howard Thiessen.

Grade VI: Elva Born, Larry Born, Leonard Born, Edwin Thiessen, Richard Toews.

Grade VII: Shirley Born, Caroline Derksen, Leona Derksen, Billy Penner.

Grade VIII: Norman Blatz, Evelyn Born, Janice Hyde, Verna Penner, Peter Penner, Margaret Reimer, Jerry Toews.

Grade IX: Esther Thiessen, Joe Reimer, Stanley Harder.

Grade X: Margaret Penner, Gertrude Schellenberg, Mildred Toews, Esther Suderman, Albert Groening, Abe Suderman.

Grade XI: James Reimer, Jane Penner, Dora Blatz.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Ben Wiebe
2. William Harder
3. H. J. Kehler
4. Henry H. Doell
5. William Reimer
6. Walter Toews



*Kane School 1960 grades 5-8 Boys Hockey Team.*



*Grades 1-4, 1960.*



*Grades 5-8, 1960-61.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1952-53**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Joyce M. Dyck  
 Room II: Mr. Jack A. Sawatzky  
 Room III: Mr. J. Irving Warkentin

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Frank G. Blatz (chairman)  
 Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
 Mr. Jac Epp  
 Mr. Jac C. Reimer  
 Mr. Jake Thiessen  
 Mr. Frank Groening

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Katherine Brown, Vernon Braun, Margaret Dyck, Ralph Groening, Jackie Heppner, Don Schellenberg, Myra Thiessen, Sidney Thiessen, Rita Toews, Edward Wiebe, Tom Kirk, Susannah Banman, Agatha Banman.

Grade II: Menno Derksen, Jeannie Dyck, June Groening, Sheila Johnston, Elma Kehler, Ernie Reimer, Judy Suderman, Larry Thiessen.

Grade III: Viola Born, Emmy Derksen, Janet Handlon, Jim Heppner, Jackie Kehler, Donna Kirk, Beulah Toews.

Grade IV: Henry Dueck, Ken Fredricksen, Rosie Harder, Martha Kehler, Jackie Klassen, David Krahn, Mary-Ann Krahn, Wilma Schellenberg, Arthur Thiessen, Walter Thiessen, Billy Toews.

Grade V: Gordon Dyck, Ken Giesbrecht, Evelyn Heppner, Alice Penner.

Grade VI: Ernest Born, Walter Born, Eddie Derksen, Nettie Kehler, Alvin Penner, James Penner, Danny Thiessen, Howard Thiessen.

Grade VII: Elva Born, Larry Born, Leonard Born, Billy Penner, Edwin Thiessen, Richard Toews.

Grade VIII: Shirley Born, Caroline Derksen, Leona Derksen.

Grade IX: Evelyn Born, Margaret Reimer, Hilda Bergman, Margaret Bergman, Verna Penner, Janice Hyde, Jerry Toews, Abe Penner, Randall Heinrichs.

Grade X: Stanley Harder, Joe Reimer, Edwin Groening, Esther Thiessen.

Grade XI: Gertrude Schellenberg, Esther Suderman, Albert Groening.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Ben Wiebe
2. William N. Harder
3. H. J. Kehler
4. Henry H. Doell
5. William Reimer
6. Walter A. Toews



*Grade 8, 1960.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1953-54

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Mrs. E. Joan Suderman  
(Sept.-Jan.)  
Miss C. N. Stobbe (Jan.-June)  
Room II: Mr. John Suderman  
Room III: Mr. John Irving Warkentin

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Thiessen (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Jac Epp  
Mr. Jac C. Reimer  
Mr. Frank G. Blatz  
Mr. Abe Suderman

### STUDENTS:

Grade I: Keith Born, Dennis Brown, Ron Epp, Grant Thiessen, Bert Friesen, Gerald Groening, Billy Johnston, Harold Krahn, Judy Neufeld.

Grade II: Agatha Banman, Catherine Braun, Vernon Brown, Margaret Dyck, Ralph Groening, Jackie Heppner, Tom Kirk, Don Schellenberg, Myra Thiessen, Sidney Thiessen, Rita Toews, Edward Wiebe.

Grade III: Susannah Banman, Menno Derksen, Jean Dyck, Ernie Friesen, June Groening, Sheila Johnston, Elma Kehler, Ernie Reimer, Judy Suderman, Earl Dyck, Larry Thiessen.

Grade IV: Viola Born, Emmy Derksen, Janet Handlon, Jimmy Heppner, Jackie Kehler, Donna Kirk, Beulah Toews, Billy Thiessen.

Grade V: Wilma Schellenberg, Mary-Ann Krahn, Martha Kehler, Walter Thiessen, David Krahn, Henry Dyck, Jake Klassen, Arthur Thiessen, Ken Fredricksen, Bill Toews, Robert Dyck.

Grade VI: Evelyn Heppner, Alice Penner, Ken Giesbrecht, Gordon Dyck, Marilyn Thiessen.

Grade VII: Dan Thiessen, James Penner, Howard Thiessen, Eddie Derksen, Alvin Penner, Nettie Kehler, Ernest Born, Walter Born, Larry Dyck.

Grade VIII: Edwin Thiessen, Larry Born, Richard Toews, Dorothy Friesen, Elva Born, Leonard Born, Billy Penner.

Grade IX: Caroline Derksen, Leona Derksen, Shirley Born, Norman Blatz.

Grade X: Evelyn Born, Margaret Reimer, Janice Hyde, Verna Penner, Jerry Toews.

Grade XI: Mildred Toews, Esther Thiessen, Joe Reimer.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Ben Wiebe
2. William N. Harder
3. H. J. Kehler
4. Henry H. Doell
5. William Harder
6. D. Thiessen



*Grade XII Graduation Class, 1960. John Hildebrand, Evelyn Heppner, George Braun. Evelyn was the only one (in the history of the Kane School) to attend school in Kane for twelve years.*



*Operetta - "Cinderella", October, 1961.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1954-55**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Helen Duerkson  
 Room II: Mr. John Suderman  
 Room III: Mr. Otto D. Funk

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Thiessen (chairman)  
 Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
 Mr. Jac Epp  
 Mr. Abe Suderman  
 Mr. Peter H. Friesen  
 Mr. Jac C. Reimer

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Margaret Born, Sally Born, Joan Braun, Sharon Friesen, Helen Friesen, Anita Groening, Linda Heppner, Georgina Neufeld, Dianna Penner, Menno Wiebe, Phyllis Groening, Tina Friesen, Abe Friesen.

Grade II: Keith Born, Dennis Brown, Vernon Brown, Ronald Epp, Albert Friesen, Billy Johnston, Harold Krahn, Judy Neufeld, Don Schellenberg, Sidney Thiessen, Grant Thiessen.

Grade III: Katherine Braun, Margaret Dueck, Ralph Groening, Martin Heppner, Tom Kirk, Myra Thiessen, Edward Wiebe.

Grade IV: Earl Dyck, Jean Dyck, Ernie Friesen, June Groening, Sheila Johnston, Elma Kehler, Jackie Kehler, Ernie Reimer, Larry Thiessen, Judy Suderman.

Grade V: Jim Heppner, Donna Kirk, Janet Handlon, Viola Born, Martha Kehler, Walter Thiessen.

Grade VI: Bill Toews, Ken Fredricksen, Arthur Thiessen, Robert Dyck, Wilma Schellenberg, Mary-Ann Krahn, David Krahn, Jake Klassen, Henry Dueck.

Grade VII: Alice Penner, Evelyn Heppner, Dan Thiessen, Ken Giesbrecht, Gordon Dyck, Walter Born.

Grade VIII: James Penner, Larry Dyck, Ernest Born, Howard Thiessen.

Grade IX: Richard Toews, Edwin Thiessen, Elva Born, Dorothy Friesen, Larry Born, Leonard Born.

Grade X: George Neufeld, Shirley Born.

Grade XI: Margaret Reimer, Gerald Toews, John Krahn, Esther Suderman, Elmer Groening.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Ben Wiebe
2. Abe C. Born
3. H. J. Kehler
4. Jake Born
5. William Reimer
6. D. Thiessen

**ROOM II's TRIP TO WINNIPEG**

On Wednesday, June 14, 1961, Room II took off to Winnipeg where we had an appointment for eight o'clock at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (C.N.I.B.). First we went to see how they made brooms. While going through it, one blind person remarked to his friend, "Sounds like we got visitors". We then went in to see the women sewing dresses. Some of them could see a bit. Other companies employ people in the C.N.I.B. to do work for them. The next place we went was to the place where the older people who do not wish to learn a trade, live. Before we entered, we encountered with a blind person who had lost his tobacco. After finding it for him, which he appreciated very much, we were shown the lounge, their rooms, the auditorium, and part of an encyclopedia in Braille. Our leader was completely blind. In fact he had plastic eyes.

Canada Bread was the next place. Here we saw the process of making bread. That dough, ugh, it didn't look much like the dough our mothers make. We were all thankful to get out of there and eat our dinner.

The slums on Jarvis Street were next and they truly can be called slums.

At one o'clock we were at the Coca Cola factory. They were changing over from the ten ounce to the six ounce bottle. Meanwhile we saw the film "The Wonderful World". We saw how they made the signs, cleaned the bottles, mixed the drinks, and the bottles that had a chip or couldn't get them clean, were sent to be crushed and away to Alberta where they could use about one third of it. We all got some souvenirs.

Now we had to be good because we were in the Police Station. We went through the building, cell and all. In the end one group was still looking at the court room and the other group had a look at the police's revolver which costs about seventy-eight dollars.

We are all very grateful to our drivers who made the trip possible.

— by Harold Krahn

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1955-56

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Miss Susan Peters Room II: Mr. John Suderman Room III: Mr. Otto D. Funk
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. Abe Suderman (chairman) Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer) Mr. Dave Thiessen Mr. Jac Epp Mr. Eddie Groening Mr. Peter H. Friesen
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Grade I:	Gladys Groening, Joyce Groening, Lucy Groening, Irma Heppner, Dorothy Kehler, Georgia Penner, Mary Ann Reimer, Bob Thiessen.
Grade II:	Margaret Born, Sally Born, Joan Braun, Sharon Friesen, Anita Groening, Phyllis Groening, Linda Heppner, Georgina Neufeld, Dianna Penner, Menno Wiebe.
Grade III:	Keith Born, Dennis Brown, Vernon Brown, Ronald Epp, Albert Friesen, Gerald Groening, Billy Johnston, Harold Krahn, Judy Neufeld, Donald Schellenberg, Grant Thiessen, Sidney Thiessen.
Grade IV:	Katherine Braun, Margaret Dueck, Ralph Groening, Jackie Heppner, Elma Kehler, Thomas Kirk, Myra Thiessen, Edward Wiebe.
Grade V:	Earl Dyck, Judy Suderman, Sheila Johnston, Ernie Friesen, Larry Thiessen, Jean Dyck, Jake Kehler, Ernie Reimer, June Groening.
Grade VI:	Jim Heppner, Donna Kirk, Janet Handlon, Martha Kehler, Walter Thiessen.
Grade VII:	Bill Toews, Ken Fredricksen, Arthur Thiessen, Robert Dyck, Wilma Schellenberg, Mary-Ann Krahn, David Krahn, Jake Klassen, Henry Dueck.
Grade VIII:	Alice Penner, Evelyn Heppner, Dan Thiessen, Gordon Dyck, Alvin Penner, Ken Giesbrecht.
Grade IX:	Howard Thiessen, James Penner, Larry Dyck.
Grade X:	Richard Toews, Edwin Thiessen, Elva Born, Dorothy Friesen, Larry Born.
Grade XI:	Verna Penner, Janice Hyde, Elmer Groening, Elma Heinrichs.

## VAN DRIVERS:

1. Ben Wiebe
2. Walt Fredricksen
3. H. J. Kehler
4. Jake Born
5. Abe Suderman
6. William Reimer



*Kane School, grade 6, 1960-61.*



*Kane School, grade 7, 1960-61.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1956-57**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Susan Peters  
Room II: Mr. John Suderman  
Room III: Mr. Gerhard Janzen

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Abe Suderman (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Dave Thiessen  
Mr. Jake Thiessen  
Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
Mr. Peter H. Friesen

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Eugene Braun, Brian Derksen, Esther Dueck, Richard Handlon, Shirley Klassen, Roy Suderman.

Grade II: Gladys Groening, Joyce Groening, Lucy Groening, Irma Heppner, Dorothy Kehler, Georgia Penner, Mary Ann Reimer, Bob Friesen.

Grade III: Margaret Born, Sally Born, Joan Braun, Sharon Friesen, Anita Groening, Phyllis Groening, Linda Heppner, Georgina Neufeld, Dianna Penner, Menno Wiebe.

Grade IV: Keith Born, Dennis Brown, Vernon Brown, Ronald Epp, Albert Friesen, Gerald Groening, Harold Krahn, Judy Neufeld, Don Schellenberg, Grant Thiessen, Sidney Thiessen.

Grade V: Jack Heppner, Tom Kirk, Ralph Groening, Elma Kehler, Myra Thiessen, Edward Wiebe, Margaret Dueck, Katherine Braun, Jake Kehler, Deanna Bergman.

Grade VI: Earl Dyck, Judy Suderman, Ernie Friesen, Larry Thiessen, Ernie Reimer, June Groening, Walter Thiessen, Robert Bayek, Jean Dyck.

Grade VII: Jim Heppner, Donna Kirk, Janet Handlon, Martha Kehler.

Grade VIII: Bill Toews, Ken Fredricksen, Arthur Thiessen, Robert Dyck, Wilma Schellenberg, Mary-Ann Krahn, David Krahn, Jake Klassen, Henry Dueck, Sharon Bergman.

Grade IX: Alice Penner, Evelyn Heppner, Ken Giesbrecht, Betty Janzen, Bob Bracken, Gordon Dyck.

Grade X: Howard Thiessen, James Penner, Larry Dyck.

Grade XI: Edwin Thiessen, Elva Born, Dorothy Friesen, Larry Born, Richard Toews.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake I. Brown
2. Dave Thiessen
3. P. H. Penner
4. Jake Born
5. William Reimer
6. Henry H. Doell



*Kane School, grade 8, 1960-61.*



*Kane School, 1961-62.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1957-58

<b>TEACHERS:</b>	Room I: Miss Norma Spalding Room II: Mr. John Suderman Room III: Mr. Gerhard Janzen
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mr. Dave Thiessen (chairman) Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer) Mr. Peter Dueck Mr. Eddie H. Groening Mr. Jake Thiessen Mr. Peter H. Friesen
<b>STUDENTS:</b>	
Grade I:	Stanley Born, Lynda Dyck, Roger Groening, Lynne Penner, Josey Thiessen, Reg Wiebe.
Grade II:	Eugene Braun, Brian Derksen, Esther Dueck, Richard Handlon, Shirley Klassen, Roy Suderman.
Grade III:	Gladys Groening, Joyce Groening, Lucy Groening, Irma Heppner, Dorothy Kehler, Georgia Penner, Robert Thiessen.
Grade IV:	Margaret Born, Sally Born, Joan Braun, Sharon Friesen, Anita Groening, Phyllis Groening, Linda Heppner, Georgina Neufeld, Dianna Penner, Menno Wiebe.
Grade V:	Gerald Groening, Dennis Brown, Sidney Thiessen, Donald Schellenberg, Ronald Epp, Judy Neufeld, Vernon Brown, Harold Krahn, Keith Born, Albert Friesen, Grant Thiessen.
Grade VI:	Edward Wiebe, Tom Kirk, Jack Heppner, Jean Dyck, Katherine Braun, Jake Kehler, Elma Kehler, Margaret Dueck, Deanna Bergman, Ralph Groening, Myra Thiessen.
Grade VII:	Robert Groening, June Groening, Larry Thiessen, Judy Suderman, Ernie Friesen, Earl Dyck, Martha Kehler.
Grade VIII:	Jim Heppner, Donna Kirk, Janet Handlon.
Grade IX:	Bill Toews, Ken Fredricksen, Arthur Thiessen, Bob Dyck, Wilma Schellenberg, Mary-Ann Krahn, David Krahn, Jake Klassen, Henry Dueck, Sharon Bergman.
Grade X:	Alice Penner, Evelyn Heppner, Kenny Giesbrecht, Betty Janzen, Bob Bracken, Gordon Dyck.
Grade XI:	Howard Thiessen, James Penner, Larry Dyck, Edwin Thiessen, Joyce Schellenberg.

## VAN DRIVERS:

1. Ben Wiebe
2. Isaac G. Krahn
3. P. H. Penner
4. Jake Born
5. Henry H. Doell
6. A. H. Penner



*Room I, 1961-62, with Miss Pat Giesbrecht.*



*Grade 1, 1961-62.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1958-59

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Evelyn Harder  
Room II: Mr. Bill Braun  
Room III: Mr. John Suderman

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Dave Thiessen (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Dan Penner  
Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
Mr. Abe Suderman

### STUDENTS:

Grade I: Terry Blatz, Wilma Blatz, Stanley Born, Harold Brown, Reg Derksen, Marion Dyck, Bradley Groening, Sandra Groening, Larry Heppner, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen, Irene Wiebe.

Grade II: Lynda Dyck, Roger Groening, Lynne Penner, Josey Thiessen, Reg Wiebe, Roy Suderman.

Grade III: Eugene Braun, Brian Derksen, Esther Dueck, Richard Handlon.

Grade IV: Gladys Groening, Joyce Groening, Lucy Groening, Irma Heppner, Dorothy Kehler, Georgia Penner, Robert Thiessen.

Grade V: Margaret Born, Sally Born, Joan Braun, Sharon Friesen, Anita Groening, Gerald Groening, Phyllis Groening, Linda Heppner, Georgina Neufeld, Dianna Penner, Menno Wiebe.

Grade VI: Keith Born, Dennis Brown, Vernon Brown, Ronald Epp, Albert Friesen, Elma Kehler, Jake Kehler, Harold Krahn, Judy Neufeld, Donald Schellenberg, Grant Thiessen, Sidney Thiessen.

Grade VII: Deanna Bergman, Katherine Braun, Jean Dyck, Margaret Dueck, Jack Heppner, Ralph Groening, Robert Groening, Tom Kirk, Myra Thiessen, Edward Wiebe.

Grade VIII: Earl Dyck, Ernie Friesen, June Groening, Judy Suderman, Larry Thiessen.

Grade IX: James Heppner, Donna Kirk.

Grade X: Wilma Schellenberg, Robert Dyck, Kenneth Fredricksen, Mary-Ann Krahn, Sharon Bergman, Henry Dueck.

Grade XI: Evelyn Heppner, Alice Penner, Robert Bracken, Gorden Dyck.

### VAN DRIVERS:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Ben Wiebe    | 4. J. H. Epp      |
| 2. A. J. Wiebe  | 5. Henry H. Doell |
| 3. P. H. Penner | 6. Jake Born      |



*Grade 7, 1961-62. Robert Thiessen, Gladys Groening, Irma Heppner, Joyce Groening.*



*Sid and Vern at the Track Meet, 1962.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1959-60**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Evelyn Harder  
 Room II: Mr. Bill Braun  
 Grade 9-10: Mr. John Suderman  
 Grade 11-12 Mr. Henry Letkeman

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Eddie H. Groening (chairman)  
 Dr. Jas Cuddy (chairman)  
 Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
 Mr. L. Erb (secretary/treasurer)  
 Mr. Dan Penner  
 Mr. O. Anderson  
 Mr. Abe Suderman  
 Mr. B. J. Heinrichs  
 Mr. Dave Thiessen  
 Mr. D. T. Thiessen  
 Mr. Peter H. Friesen  
 Mr. W. J. Tinkler  
 Mr. W. A. Wilde

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Jacque Born, Arlene Braun, Edward Dyck, Lorraine Dyck, Leta Groening, Sharon Groening, Nelda Penner, Norman Wiebe.

Grade II: Terry Blatz, Wilma Blatz, Harold Brown, Stanley Born, Reg Derksen, Marion Dyck, Bradley Groening, Sandra Groening, Larry Heppner, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen, Irene Wiebe.

Grade III: Lynda Dyck, Roger Groening, Josey Thiessen, Roy Suderman, Reg Wiebe.

Grade IV: Eugene Braun, Brian Derksen, Esther Dueck, Richard Handlon.

Grade V: Robert Thiessen, Dorothy Kehler, Gladys Groening, Irma Heppner, Lucy Groening, Joyce Groening.

Grade VI: Anita Groening, Dianna Penner, Georgina Neufeld, Joan Braun, Linda Heppner, Margaret Born, Menno Wiebe, Phyllis Groening, Sally Born, Sharon Friesen, Gerald Groening.

Grade VII: Donald Schellenberg, Albert Friesen, Dennis Brown, Elma Kehler, Grant Thiessen, Harold Krahn, Judith Neufeld, Keith Born, Ronald Epp, Sidney Thiessen, Vernon Brown.

Grade VIII: Bob Groening, Deanne Bergman, Edward Wiebe, Jack Heppner, Jean Dyck, Katherine Braun, Margaret Dueck, Myra Thiessen, Ralph Groening, Tom Kirk.

Grade IX: Ernie Friesen, Earl Dyck, Dianna Groening, Katherine Heppner, Shirley Hildebrand, Judy Suderman, Larry Thiessen.

Grade X: Judith Blatz, Rose Brown, Arthur Thiessen.

Grade XI: Nora Bergman, Sharon Bergman, Maureen Blatz, Henry Dueck, Bob Dyck, Martha Dyck, Ken Giesbrecht, Margaret Groening, Tony Heppner, Ray Hildebrand, Mary-Ann Krahn, Wilma Schellenberg, Bill Toews, Lily Heinrichs, Gordon Dyck.

Grade XII: George Braun, Evelyn Heppner, John Hildebrand, Richard Toews.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Ben Wiebe
2. A. J. Wiebe
3. J. Thiessen
4. Jake Born
5. Henry H. Doell
6. D. P. Wiebe



*Miss Charlotte Enns and the grade 3 class, 1963.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1960-61**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Pat Giesbrecht  
Room II: Mr. Bill Braun  
Grade 9: Mr. John L. Doerksen  
Grade 10 Mr. Henry Letkeman

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Thiessen (chairman)  
Dr. Jas Cuddy (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. L. Erb (secretary/treasurer)  
Mr. Jake Blatz  
Mr. O. Anderson  
Mr. Peter H. Friesen  
Mr. B. J. Heinrichs  
Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
Mr. D. T. Thiessen  
Mr. W. J. Tinkler  
Mr. W. A. Wilde

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Bernice Braun, Vivian Harder, David Thiessen, Earl Reimer, Patty Wiebe, Vallery Dyck.

Grade II: Jacque Born, Arlene Braun, Harold Brown, Edward Dyck, Lorraine Dyck, Leta Groening, Sharon Groening, Mona Penner, Nelda Penner, Norman Wiebe.

Grade III: Terry Blatz, Stanley Born, Reg Derksen, Marion Dyck, Bradley Groening, Sandra Groening, Larry Heppner, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen, Irene Wiebe.

Grade IV: Lynda Dyck, Roger Groening, Lynne Penner, Josey Thiessen, Richard Suderman, Reg Wiebe, Karyn Loewen.

Grade V: Eugene Braun, Brian Derksen, Esther Dueck.

Grade VI: Gladys Groening, Joyce Groening, Lucy Groening, Irma Heppner, Dorothy Kehler, Georgia Penner, Robert Thiessen.

Grade VII: Joan Braun, Margaret Born, Sally Born, Sharon Friesen, Anita Groening, Gerald Groening, Phyllis Groening, Linda Heppner, Georgina Neufeld, Dianna Penner, Menno Wiebe, Dennis Brown, Vernon Brown, Donald Schellenberg, Sidney Thiessen.

Grade VIII: Keith Born, Ronald Epp, Albert Friesen, Harold Krahn, Judith Neufeld, Grant Thiessen.

Grade IX: Mary Ann Bergen, Dianne Bergman, Katherine Braun, Sandra Braun, Dave Derksen, Margaret Dueck, Jean Dyck, Alvin Enns, Linda Fehr, Henry Froese, Peter Gerbrandt, Margaret Giesbrecht, Ralph Groening, Robert Groening, Bill Harder, Dianna Heinrichs, John Heppner, Lois Hildebrand, Ruth Hildebrand, Delvan Hildebrand, Art Kehler, Ruth Penner, Myra Thiessen, Cornie Wiebe, Edna Wiebe, Edward Wiebe.

Grade X: Larry Brown, Earl Dyck, Ernie Friesen, Garry Friesen, Lucille Gerbrandt, Bill Ginter, Terry Gluck, June Groening, Rose Heinrichs, Katherine Heppner, Elda Hiebert, Laura Penner, Ernie Reimer, Sylvia Schroeder, Larry Thiessen, Bill Giesbrecht, Kenneth Wiebe.



*Mr. Bill Braun and the grades 5-8, 1963.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1961-62**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Pat Giesbrecht  
 Room II: Mr. Bill Braun  
 Grade 9: Mr. Robert S. Taylor

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Blatz (chairman)  
 Dr. J. A. Cuddy (chairman)  
 Mr. Peter Harder (secretary/treasurer)  
 Mr. L. E. Erb (secretary/treas.)  
 Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
 Mr. Dave Thiessen  
 Mr. Jake Thiessen  
 Mr. W. Tinkler  
 Mr. Peter H. Friesen  
 Mr. B. J. Heinrichs  
 Mr. W. A. Wilde

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: David Blatz, Ron Blatz, Milton Braun, Marvin Brown, Diane Dyck, Barry Friesen, Elva Groening, Gail Groening, Tim Groening, Carl Suderman.

Grade II: Bernice Braun, Vivian Harder, David Thiessen, Earl Reimer, Vallery Dyck.

Grade III: Jacque Born, Arlene Braun, Edward Dyck, Lorraine Dyck, Leta Groening, Nelda Penner, Norman Wiebe.

Grade IV: Terry Blatz, Harold Brown, Stanley Born, Marion Dyck, Bradley Groening, Sandra Groening, Larry Heppner, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen, Irene Wiebe.

Grade V: Josey Thiessen, Roger Groening, Richard Suderman, Karyn Loewen, Lynda Dyck.

Grade VI: Esther Dueck, Eugene Braun.

Grade VII: Irma Heppner, Gladys Groening, Joyce Groening, Bob Thiessen.

Grade VIII: Vernon Brown, Sidney Thiessen, Gerald Groening, Margaret Born, Gina Neufeld, Phyllis Groening, Joan Braun, Dennis Brown, Menno Wiebe, Linda Heppner, Sharon Friesen, Sally Born, Dianna Penner, Anita Groening, Don Schellenberg.

Grade IX: Mary Ann Bergen, Eddie Bergman, Randy Blatz, Keith Born, Terry Brown, Art Enns, Mary Epp, Ronald Epp, Willie Fehr, Bert Friesen, Judi Friesen, Larry Friesen, Paul Friesen, Henry Froese, Betty Gerbrandt, Bill Harder, Carol Heinrichs, Art Hiebert, Eugene Hildebrand, Marianne Klassen, Harold Krahn, Betty Martens, Judy Neufeld, Cornie Petkau, Anna Penner, Jim Rempel, Judy Schroeder, Evelyn Spalding, Dave Stoez, Grant Thiessen, Ruth Wiebe.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Reimer
3. F. G. Blatz
4. George J. Neufeld
5. P. H. Penner
6. D. P. Wiebe



*Art Groening (at age 34) scales the bar at the Kane School Picnic in 1963.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1962-63**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Charlotte Enns  
Room II: Mr. Bill Braun

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Peter H. Friesen (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary treasurer)  
Mr. Jake Thiessen  
Mr. Jake Blatz  
Mr. Eddie H. Groening

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Robert Born, Vernon Dyck, Charles Groening, Edward Heppner, Connie Hildebrand, Billy Penner, Carol Wiebe, Kathy Wiebe, Linda Wiebe, Gladys Suderman.

Grade II: David Blatz, Ron Blatz, Milton Braun, Diane Dyck, Barry Friesen, Elva Groening, Gail Groening, Tim Groening, Carl Suderman, Marvin Brown.

Grade III: Bernice Braun, Vivian Harder, David Thiessen, Earl Reimer, Vallery Dyck.

Grade IV: Jacque Born, Arlene Braun, Edward Dyck, Lorraine Dyck, Leta Groening, Nelda Penner, Norman Wiebe.

Grade V: Terry Blatz, Stanley Born, Harold Brown, Marion Dyck, Bradley Groening, Sandra Groening, Larry Heppner, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen, Irene Wiebe.

Grade VI: Lynda Dyck, Roger Groening, Richard Suderman, Josie Thiessen.

Grade VII: Eugene Braun, Esther Dueck.

Grade VIII: Gladys Groening, Joyce Groening, Irma Heppner, Bob Thiessen.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Reimer
3. F. D. + N. Blatz
4. George J. Neufeld
5. P. H. Penner
6. D. P. Wiebe



*Miss Joyce Wiebe and the grades 1-4, 1964-65.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1963-64

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Charlotte Enns  
Room II: Mr. Bill Braun

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Peter H. Friesen (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary treasurer)  
Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
Mr. Jake Thiessen  
Mr. Jake Blatz

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Leslie Dyck, James Kehler, Lois Friesen, Karen Groening, Pamela Brown, Maxine Blatz, Earl Braun.

Grade II: Connie Hildebrand, Kathy Wiebe, Carol Wiebe, Linda Wiebe, Gladys Suderman, Elva Groening, Robert Born, Billy Penner, Vernon Dyck, Eddie Heppner, Charles Groening.

Grade III: Ron Blatz, David Blatz, Milton Braun, Marvin Brown, Diane Dyck, Barry Friesen, Elva Groening, Tim Groening, Gail Groening, Carl Suderman.

Grade IV: Bernice Braun, Vivian Harder, David Thiessen, Earl Reimer, Vallery Dyck.

Grade V: Jacque Born, Stanley Born, Arlene Braun, Harold Brown, Edward Dyck, Marion Dyck, Lorraine Dyck, Leta Groening, Mona Penner, Nelda Penner, Norman Wiebe.

Grade VI: Terry Blatz, Bradley Groening, Sandra Groening, Larry Heppner, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen, Irene Wiebe.

Grade VII: Lynda Dyck, Roger Groening, Lynne Penner, Richard Suderman, Josie Thiessen.

Grade VIII: Eugene Braun, Esther Dueck.

### VAN DRIVERS:

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Reimer
3. P. H. Penner
4. D. P. Wiebe



*Grade VIII Graduation Class, 1965. Roger Groening, Lynn Penner, Josey Thiessen, Lynda Dyck, Richard Suderman.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1964-65**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Joyce Wiebe  
Room II: Mr. Bill Braun

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Peter H. Friesen (chairman)  
Mr. Peter Harder (secretary treasurer)  
Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
Mr. Jake Blatz  
Mr. Jake Thiessen

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Leslie Harder, Joan Blatz, Earl Braun, Patsy Suderman, Gary Dyck, Shirley Wiebe.

Grade II: Leslie Dyck, Lois Friesen, James Kehler, Pamela Brown, Karen Groening, Maxine Blatz, Donna Wiebe.

Grade III: Elva Groening, Charles Groening, Billy Penner, Vernon Dyck, Robert Born, Gladys Suderman, Audrey Wiebe, Kathy Wiebe, Linda Wiebe, Carol Wiebe, Connie Hildebrand.

Grade IV: Barry Friesen, Marvin Brown, David Blatz, Gail Groening, Timothy Groening, Milton Braun, Ronald Blatz, Diane Dyck, Carl Suderman.

Grade V: David Thiessen, Earl Reimer, Bernice Braun, Vivian Harder, Vallery Dyck.

Grade VI: Marion Dyck, Arlene Braun, Nelda Penner, Jacque Born, Leta Groening, Mona Penner, Lorraine Dyck, Norman Wiebe, Stanley Born, Edward Dyck, Harold Brown.

Grade VII: Irene Wiebe, Terry Blatz, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen, Sandra Groening, Bradley Groening.

Grade VIII: Lynne Penner, Roger Groening, Lynda Dyck, Richard Suderman, Josie Thiessen.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Reimer
3. Frank D. + Norman Blatz
4. George J. Neufeld
5. Alvin V. Penner
6. D. P. Wiebe



*Miss Joyce Wiebe and the grade 3 class, 1965.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1965-66**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Erna Peters  
 Room II: Miss Joyce Wiebe  
 Room III: Miss Janet Bock  
 Room IV: Mr. Larry Neufeld

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Blatz (chairman)  
 Mr. Pete Harder (secretary treasurer)  
 Mr. Eddie Groening  
 Mr. Art Groening  
 Mr. Jake Thiessen

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Rodney Bergman, Linda Blatz, Janet Braun, Dorothy Braun, Jerry Brown, David Dueck, Janet Dyck, Elma Gerbrandt, Lloyd Groening, Stephen Hildebrand, Curtis Penner, Glenn Reimer, Eileen Reimer.

Grade II: Joan Blatz, Earl Braun, Gary Dyck, Leslie Harder, Eugene Penner, Patsy Suderman, Shirley Wiebe.

Grade III: Linda Bergen, Maxine Blatz, Donald Brown, Pamela Brown, Ruth Dueck, Leslie Dyck, Lois Friesen, Craig Blatz, Glenda Gerbrandt, Karen Groening, James Kehler, Donald Wiebe, Linda Reimer.

Grade IV: Robert Born, Vernon Dyck, Yvonne Froese, Charles Groening, Elva Groening, Garry Hiebert, Connie Hildebrand, Billy Penner, Gladys Suderman, Audrey Wiebe,

Kathy Wiebe, Linda Wiebe, Carol Wiebe.

Grade V: Earl Bergman, David Blatz, Lorelle Blatz, Ronald Blatz, Milton Braun, Marvin Brown, Diane Dyck, Barry Friesen, Tim Groening, Lorena Gerbrandt, Gail Groening, Carl Suderman, David Reimer.

Grade VI: Bernie Bergen, John Blatz, Bernice Braun, Vallery Dyck, Edwin Gerbrandt, Vivian Harder, Earl Reimer, David Thiessen, Eddie Reimer.

Grade VII: Jacque Born, Stanley Born, Arlene Braun, Harold Brown, Brian Brown, Bruce Brown, Edward Dyck, Marion Dyck, Eldon Gerbrandt, Leta Groening, Grace Hiebert, Carol Hiebert, Mona Penner, Nelda Penner, Norman Wiebe, Lorraine Dyck.

Grade VIII: Grant Bergman, Katherine Blatz, Terry Blatz, Irene Wiebe, Bradley Groening, Sandra Groening, Patsy Penner, Eldon Thiessen.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Wiebe
3. F. D. + N. Blatz
4. G. J. Neufeld
5. Alvin V. Penner
6. D. P. Wiebe
7. Isaac C. Bergen
8. Dan G. Blatz
9. Martin Hiebert



*Lower Fort Garry school trip, 1968. Connie Hildebrand, Kathy Wiebe, Audrey Wiebe, Maxine Blatz, Gladys Suderman, Carol Wiebe, Karen Groening, Donna Wiebe, Melvin Groening (?), Robert Born, Ruth Dueck.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1966-67**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Erna Peters  
 Room II: Miss Louise Kliewer  
 Room III: Miss Janet Bock  
 Room IV: Mr. Larry Neufeld

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Blatz (chairman)  
 Mr. Pete Harder (secretary treasurer)  
 Mr. Eddie Groening  
 Mr. Jake Thiessen  
 Mr. Pete Brown

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Gloria Dueck, Ronald Hiebert, Murray Kehler, Karen Wiebe.

Grade II: Rodney Bergman, Linda Blatz, Janet Braun, Dorothy Braun, Jerry Brown, David Dueck, Janet Dyck, Elma Gerbrandt, Lloyd Groening, Stephen Hildebrand, Curtis Penner, Glenn Reimer, Shirley Wiebe.

Grade III: Joan Blatz, Earl Braun, Gary Dyck, Leslie Harder, Eugene Penner, Patsy Suderman.

Grade IV: Linda Bergen, Maxine Blatz, Craig Blatz, Donald Brown, Pamela Brown, Ruth Dueck, Leslie Dyck, Lois Friesen, Glenda Gerbrandt, Karen Groening, James Kehler, Donald Wiebe.

Grade V: Milton Braun, Robert Born, Yvonne Froese, Charles Groening, Elva Groening, Garry Hiebert, Connie Hildebrand, Gladys Suderman, Audrey Wiebe, Carol Wiebe, Kathy Wiebe, Linda Wiebe.

Grade VI: Earl Bergman, David Blatz, Lorelle Blatz, Ronald Blatz, Marvin Brown, Diane Dyck, Barry Friesen, Lorena Gerbrandt, Gail Groening, Tim Groening, Carl Suderman.

Grade VII: Bernie Bergen, John Blatz, Bernice Braun, Edwin Gerbrandt, Vivian Harder, Earl Reimer, David Thiessen.

Grade VIII: Jacque Born, Stanley Born, Arlene Braun, Harold Brown, Brian Brown, Bruce Brown, Lorraine Dyck, Marion Dyck, Edward Dyck, Eldon Gerbrandt, Leta Groening, Grace Hiebert, Carol Hiebert, Mona Penner, Norman Wiebe.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Wiebe
3. Frank D. Blatz
4. G. J. Neufeld
5. J. Thiessen
6. Alvin V. Penner
7. Isaac C. Bergen
8. Dan G. Blatz
9. Martin Hiebert



*Miss Lois Schellenberg with the grades 1-3, 1967-68. First row: Naomi Funk, Sheryl Groening, Linda Blatz, Elma Gerbrandt, Dorothy Braun, Shirley Wiebe, Lynette Groening, Karen Wiebe, Debra Suderman. Second row: Howard Brown, Murray Kehler, Leslie Braun, Elva Penner, Janet Dyck, Janice Groening, Janet Braun, Lorne Bergen, Benny Rempel. Third row: Ronald Hiebert, Curtis Penner, Rodney Bergman, David Dueck, Lloyd Groening, Jerry Brown, Stephen Hildebrand, Miss Lois Schellenberg.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1967-68**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Lois Schellenberg  
 Room II: Mr. Frank G. Kehler  
 Room III: Mr. Henry W. Funk

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Blatz (chairman)  
 Mr. Pete Harder (secretary treasurer)  
 Mr. Eddy H. Groening  
 Mr. Peter Brown  
 Mr. Cornie Bergman

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Lorne Bergen, Leslie Braun, Howard Brown, Naomi Funk, Lynette Groening, Sheryl Groening, Elva Penner, Benny Rempel, Debra Suderman.

Grade II: Ronald Hiebert, Murray Kehler, Karen Wiebe.

Grade III: Rodney Bergman, Linda Blatz, Janet Braun, Dorothy Braun, Jerry Brown, David Dueck, Janet Dyck, Elma Gerbrandt, Lloyd Groening, Janice Groening, Curtis Penner, Shirley Wiebe, Stephen Hildebrand.

Grade IV: Joan Blatz, Earl Braun, Gary Dyck, Leslie Harder, Eugene Penner, Patsy Suderman.

Grade V: Linda Bergen, Maxine Blatz, Donald Brown, Pamela Brown, Ruth Dueck, Leslie Dyck, Glenda Gerbrandt, Karen Groening, James Kehler, Donald Wiebe.

Grade VI: Robert Born, Milton Braun, Charles Groening, Elva Groening, Melvin Groening, Garry Hiebert, Connie Hildebrand, Gladys Suderman, Audrey Wiebe, Carol Wiebe, Kathy Wiebe, Linda Wiebe.

Grade VII: Earl Bergman, David Blatz, Ronald Blatz, Marvin Brown, Diane Dyck, Lorena Gerbrandt, Gail Groening, Tim Groening, Carl Suderman.

Grade VIII: Bernie Bergen, Bernice Braun, Edwin Gerbrandt, Harold Groening, Vivian Harder, David Thiessen.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Wiebe
3. Frank D. Blatz
4. G. J. Neufeld
5. J. Thiessen
6. Alvin V. Penner
7. Isaac C. Bergen
8. Howard Thiessen
9. Martin Hiebert



*Mr. Frank Kehler with the grades 4-6, 1967-68. 1st row: Donna Wiebe, Patsy Suderman, Linda Wiebe, Maxine Blatz, Kathy Wiebe, Glenda Gerbrandt, Karen Groening, Audrey Wiebe, Joanie Blatz. 2nd row: Eugene Penner, Leslie Harder, Rutbie Dueck, Pamela Brown, Carol Wiebe, Elva Groening, Linda Bergen, Connie Hildebrand, Gladys Suderman, James Kehler. 3rd row: Milton Braun, Melvin Groening, Charles Groening, Leslie Dyck, Garry Hiebert, Robert Born, Gary Dyck, Earl Braun, Donald Brown, Mr. Frank Kehler.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1968-69**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Lois Wiebe  
 Room II: Miss Gloria Penner  
 Room III: Mr. Frank G. Kehler  
 Room IV: Mr. Vernon Penner

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. Jake Blatz (chairman)  
 Mr. Pete Harder (secretary treasurer)  
 Mr. Eddie H. Groening  
 Mr. Peter I. Brown  
 Mr. Cornie Bergman

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Lisa Born, Irene Dueck, Christine Dyck, Eleanor Gerbrandt, Janelle Groening, Connie Penner, Susie Rempel, Ruth Wiebe, Sharon Wiebe.

Grade II: Lorne Bergen, Leslie Braun, Howard Brown, Lynette Groening, Sheryl Groening, Elva Penner, Benny Rempel, Debra Suderman.

Grade III: Ronald Hiebert, Murray Kehler, Karen Wiebe.

Grade IV: Rodney Bergman, Linda Blatz, Dorothy Braun, Earl Braun, Janet Braun, Jerry Brown, David Dueck, Janet Dyck, Elma Gerbrandt, Janice Groening, Lloyd Groening, Stephen Hildebrand, Curtis Penner, Shirley Wiebe.

Grade V: Joan Blatz, Gary Dyck, Leslie Harder, Eugene Penner, Patsy Suderman.

Grade VI: Linda Bergen, Maxine Blatz, Donald Brown, Pamela Brown, Ruth Dueck, Leslie Dyck, Lois Friesen, Glenda Gerbrandt, Karen Groening, James Kehler, Donald Wiebe.

Grade VII: Robert Born, Milton Braun, Charles Groening, Elva Groening, Melvin Groening, Garry Hiebert, Connie Hildebrand, Gladys Suderman, Audrey Wiebe, Carol Wiebe, Kathy Wiebe, Linda Wiebe.

Grade VIII: Earl Bergman, David Blatz, Ronald Blatz, Marvin Brown, Diane Dyck, Barry Friesen, Lorena Gerbrandt, Gail Groening, Tim Groening, Carl Suderman.

**VAN DRIVERS:**

1. Jake Born
2. J. B. Wiebe
3. Frank D. Blatz
4. George J. Neufeld
5. H. J. Thiessen
6. Alvin V. Penner
7. Isaac C. Bergen
8. Ben D. Penner
9. Martin Hiebert



*Mr. Frank Kehler and Mr. Vernon Penner  
 with the trophy winning girls.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1969-70**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Joanne Friesen  
 Room II: Miss Gloria Penner  
 Room III: Mr. Frank G. Kehler  
 Room IV: Mr. Vernon Penner

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. J. Wiebe (chairman)  
 Mr. Jake Blatz  
 Mr. A. Eidse (secretary treasurer)  
 Mr. L. Brandt  
 Mr. Peter Harder (attendance officer)  
 Mr. Tinkler

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Dulaney Blatz, Paul Dalby, Peter Grafe, Paul Groening, Cynthia Penner, Darrell Penner, Valerie Penner, Roxanne Suderman.

Grade II: Lisa Born, Irene Dueck, Christine Dyck, Eleanor Gerbrandt, Janelle Groening, Connie Penner, Susie Rempel, Ruth Wiebe, Sharon Wiebe.

Grade III: Lorne Bergen, Leslie Braun, Howard Brown, David Dalby, Lynette Groening, Sheryl Groening, Elva Penner, Benny Rempel, Debra Suderman.

Grade IV: Ronald Hiebert, Murray Kehler, Karen Wiebe.

Grade V: Rodney Bergman, Linda Blatz, Dorothy Braun, Earl Braun, Janet Braun, Jerry Brown, David Dueck, Janet Dyck, Elma Gerbrandt, Janice Groening, Lloyd Groening, Stephen Hildebrand, Curtis Penner, Shirley Wiebe.

Grade VI: Joan Blatz, Gary Dyck, Leslie Harder, Eugene Penner, Patsy Suderman.

Grade VII: Linda Bergen, Maxine Blatz, Donald Brown, Pamela Brown, Leslie Dyck, Ruth Dueck, Glenda Gerbrandt, Karen Groening, James Kehler, Donald Wiebe.

Grade VIII: Robert Born, Milton Braun, Charles Groening, Elva Groening, Melvin Groening, Garry Hiebert, Connie Hildebrand, Gladys Suderman, Audrey Wiebe, Carol Wiebe, Kathy Wiebe, Linda Wiebe.



*Mr. Vernon Penner and the grades 7&8 class of 1969-70. 1st row: Donna Wiebe, Maxine Blatz, Glenda Gerbrandt, Gladys Suderman, Linda Wiebe, Karen Groening, Audrey Wiebe. 2nd row: Mr. Vernon Penner, Connie Hildebrand, Kathy Wiebe, Pam Brown, Carol Wiebe, Elva Groening, Linda Bergen, Ruth Dueck. 3rd row: Donald Brown, Melvin Groening, Robert Born, Garry Hiebert, Les Dyck, Milt Braun, Jim Kehler.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1970-71**

**TEACHERS:** Room I: Miss Gloria Penner  
 Room II: Miss Elsie Klassen  
 Room III: Mr. Henry Kroeker  
 (September - May)  
 Mr. Frank G. Kehler (May-June)  
 Paraprofessional: Mrs. Marion Harder

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. J. Wiebe (chairman)  
 Mr. W. Tinkler  
 Mr. A. Eidse (secretary treasurer)  
 Mr. D. Manis  
 Mr. J. Blatz  
 Mr. C. Kirk  
 Mr. L. Brandt

**STUDENTS:**

Grade I: Kevin Harder, Tina Rempel  
 Grade II: Dulaney Blatz, Paul Groening, Cynthia Penner, Darrell Penner, Valerie Penner, Sharon Wiebe.

Grade III: Irene Dueck, Christine Dyck, Eleanor Gerbrandt, Connie Penner, Ruth Wiebe, Janelle Groening, Susie Rempel, Lisa Born.

Grade IV: Elva Penner, Lynette Groening, Sheryl Groening, Lorne Bergen, Leslie Braun, Howard Brown, Benny Rempel.

Grade V: Karen Wiebe, Ronnie Hiebert, Murray Kehler.

Grade VI: Rodney Bergman, Linda Blatz, Dorothy Braun, Janet Braun, Earl Braun, Jerry Brown, David Dueck, Janet Dyck, Elma Gerbrandt, Janice Groening, Stephen Hildebrand, Curtis Penner, Lloyd Groening.

Grade VII: Joan Blatz, Gary Dyck, Leslie Harder, Eugene Penner.

Grade VIII: Donna Wiebe, Pamela Brown, Linda Bergen, Glenda Gerbrandt, Maxine Blatz, Karen Groening, Ruth Dyck, Jim Kehler, Les Dyck, Donald Brown.



*Grades 1-3, 1972-73.*

*Row 1: Verna Dueck, Miss Gloria Penner, Donald Groening. Row 2: Rodney Brown, Karen Hiebert. Row 3: Bradley Wiebe, Greg Wiebe, Valerie Wiebe. Row 4: Wendy Groening, Larry Trudeau, Kevin Harder, Alan Wiebe, Connie Penner. Row 5: Karen Bergen, Roxie Penner, Chris Blatz, Deborah Wiebe.*

**REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1971-72**

**TEACHERS:** Kindergarten: Mrs. Doris Daku  
 Room I: Miss Gloria Penner  
 Room II: Mr. Robert Martens  
 Paraprofessional: Mrs. Marion Harder

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. W. Tinkler (chairman)  
 Mr. Dave Thiessen  
 Mr. A. Eidse (secretary treasurer)  
 Mr. H. Fox  
 Mr. C. Kirk  
 Mr. J. Wiebe  
 Mr. L. Brandt

**STUDENTS:**

Kindergarten: Rodney Brown, Bradley Wiebe, Valerie Wiebe, Greg Wiebe, William Dale Kehler, James Giesbrecht, Dale Dueck, Kelvin Dyck, Marvin Schmidt, Lawrence Kehler, Jacqueline Dyck, Kimberley Wiens, Tannis Hodgron, Elizabeth Rempel.

Grade I: Chris Blatz, Donald Groening, Karen Bergen, Roxie Penner, Verna Dueck, Alan Wiebe, Karen Hiebert, Connie Penner, Deborah Wiebe, Wendy Groening.

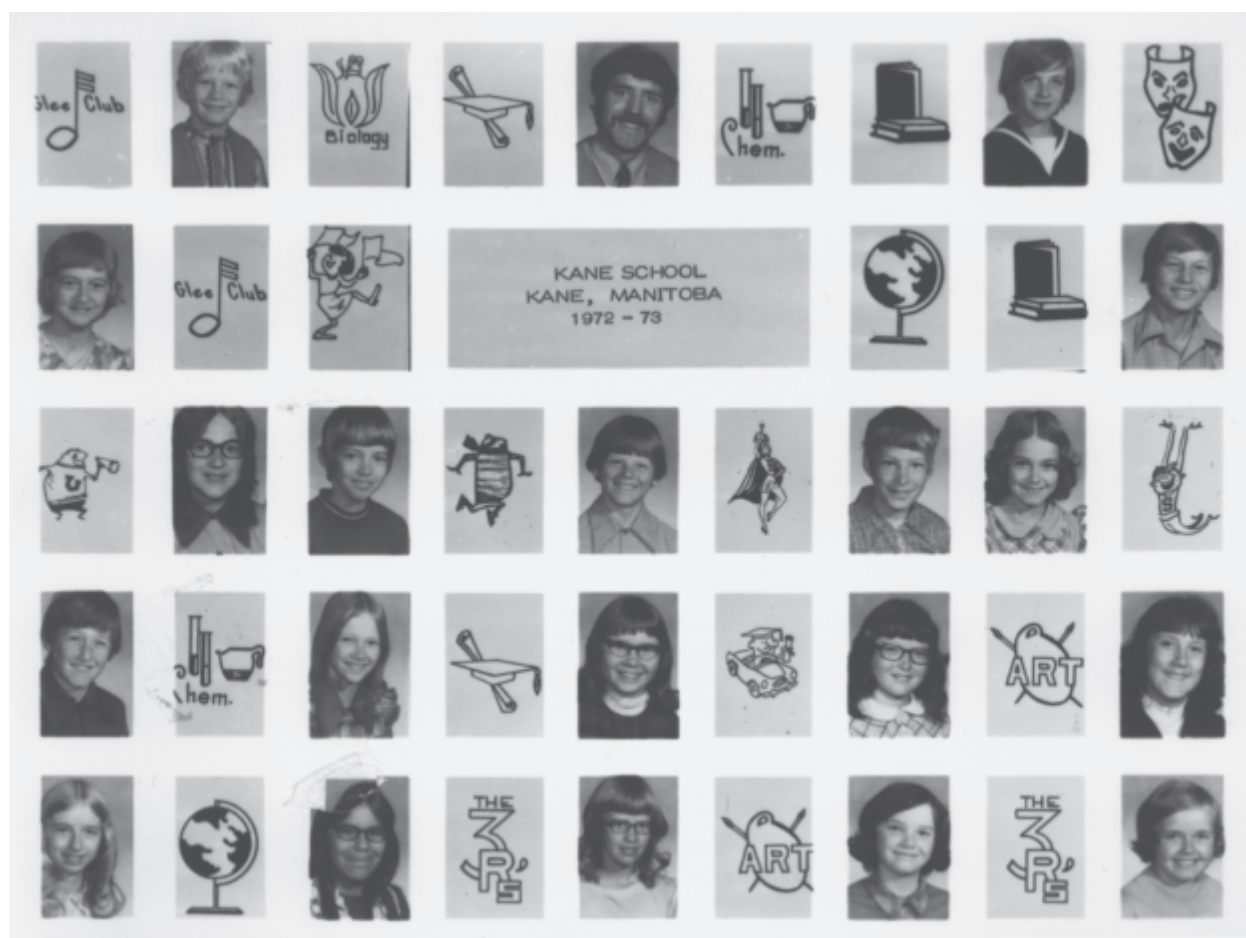
Grade II: Kevin Harder, Tina Rempel.

Grade III: Dulaney Blatz, Paul Groening, Cynthia Penner, Darrell Penner, Valerie Penner, Sharon Wiebe.

Grade IV: Irene Dueck, Christine Dyck, Eleanor Gerbrandt, Connie Penner, Ruth Wiebe, Janelle Groening, Susie Rempel, Lisa Born.

Grade V: Elva Penner, Lynette Groening, Sheryl Groening, Howard Brown, Leslie Braun, Benny Rempel, Lorne Bergen.

Grade VI: Karen Wiebe, Linda Blatz, Ronnie Hiebert, Murray Kehler.



*Grades 4-6, 1972-73.*

*Row 1: Cindy Penner, Mr. Larry Eidse, Dulaney Blatz. Row 2: Ruth Wiebe, Leslie Braun. Row 3: Lynette Groening, Paul Groening, Howard Braun, Darrell Penner, Eleanor Gerbrandt. Row 4: Lorne Bergen, Janelle Groening, Connie Penner, Irene Dueck, Elva Penner. Row 5: Sheryl Groening, Lisa Born, Sharon Wiebe, Valerie Penner, Christine Dyck.*

## REGISTRATION AT KANE SCHOOL 1972-73

**TEACHERS:** Kindergarten: Mrs. Doris Daku  
(first term)  
Miss Marilyn Goertzen (second term)  
Room I: Miss Gloria Penner  
Room II: Mr. Larry Eidse  
Paraprofessional: Mrs. Marion Harder

**TRUSTEES:** Mr. W. Tinkler  
Mr. Dave Thiessen  
Mr. A. Eidse (secretary treasurer)  
Mr. H. Fox  
Mr. C. Kirk  
Mr. E. Buhr  
Mr. L. Brandt

### STUDENTS:

Kindergarten: Herbert Dueck, Bradley Enns, Sandra Fehr, Glenn Friesen, Lori Klassen, Richard Martens, Audrey Neufeld, Charmaine

Penner, Sylvia Penner, Randal Reimer, Pamela Sawatzky, Merle Schmidt, Monica Thiessen, Kimberly Wiebe, Karen Wiebe, Barbara Martens.

Grade I: Larry Trudeau, Rodney Brown, Bradley Wiebe, Valerie Wiebe, Greg Wiebe.

Grade II: Donald Groening, Karen Bergen, Roxie Penner, Verna Dueck, Alan Wiebe, Karen Hiebert, Connie Penner, Deborah Wiebe, Chris Blatz, Wendy Groening.

Grade III: Kevin Harder.

Grade IV: Dulaney Blatz, Sharon Wiebe, Paul Groening, Lisa Born, Darrell Penner, Cindy Penner, Valerie Penner.

Grade V: Connie Penner, Janelle Groening, Lorne Bergen, Ruth Wiebe, Eleanor Gerbrandt, Irene Dueck, Christine Dyck.

Grade VI: Lynette Groening, Elva Penner, Sheryl Groening, Howard Brown, Leslie Braun.



*The Kane School Register Research Committee at the Manitoba Archives in Winnipeg. (l-r): Susan and Ernie Winthers, Hank and Dora Hildebrand, Anne and Art Wiebe, 1999.*

**CORNELIUS W. WIEBE**  
**(May and June, 1921)**  
*by David Penner*



*Cornelius W. and Helen Wiebe married on June 25, 1916.*

Dr. Cornelius W. Wiebe who passed away in July of 1999 at the age of 106, and was a long time doctor in Winkler, was my substitute teacher in the spring months of 1921. He earned his way through medical school this way.

One day he took us kids into the basement of the school and let us look at his microscope. He dissected a fly and put the parts under the microscope and showed us how big the legs and feet looked. To me, a kid of eight, the feet looked like huge suction cups. Then he said, "Just look at that! First they go outside and crawl around on the cow dung pile, and then they come in the house and crawl on the butter!" Well, that day when we got home from school, my mother had just finished churning butter, but somehow my appetite for fresh butter had disappeared.

**GEORGE G. SIEMENS**  
**(1934-1944)**  
*by Lloyd Siemens*



*Mr. George G. Siemens.*

My father, George G. Siemens, was the principal of the Kane Consolidated School from 1934-1944. In addition to his administrative duties in the three-room school, he also taught grades 9-11 and served as school janitor, heating "engineer", snow remover and occasional groundskeeper. In these last four duties he was assisted substantially (in the later years) by me and by my older brother Reynold, whom he paid the princely sum of 25 cents each per month for sweeping three classrooms daily, cleaning out the trash and performing other odd jobs. In the evening hours and during many summer months he studied towards his BA degree, both through correspondence courses (imagine doing advanced calculus by correspondence!) and at summer schools. He was also frequently invited to serve as an official "marker" of final examinations for the Department of Education.

My mother, Tina, raised her two sons and performed various social duties such as organizing sewing circles and hosting Red Cross fundraising activities in the teacherage. Together with my father, she played the guitar and the two of them frequently performed duets at teachers' socials in the Kane - Roland - Lowe Farm areas. My mother

died in 1957, and my father—after re-marriage in 1975—died in 1984. He taught in the Winkler Collegiate from 1944 until his retirement in 1967. Throughout his years in Winkler, he was active in professional societies, and in the governance of the Winkler Co-operative Society, and the Winkler Credit Union. He also served as secretary-treasurer of the Winkler School Board for over twenty years.

### **An Outstanding Teacher**

*by Arthur O. Toews*

G. G. Siemens had a long tenure at Kane School, encompassing the difficult depression and war years (1934-44).

If I remember correctly, his responsibilities were not only teaching the high school grades 9-11, and providing support for the other two teachers, but also providing the janitorial services and doing minor maintenance.

Those were fairly serious times and from a student's perspective, he had a presence that commanded respect. He usually presented a stern demeanor, but he would have those flashes of humour and I recall him reciting to the class:

*Beans, beans, the musical fruit*

*The more you eat - the more you toot!*

I do not believe that it was in the curriculum.

A softball game with a neighbouring school, usually Lowe Farm, was, of course, a big deal for us. I do not recall any details about the softball games, but taking us there and back in his Chevrolet Sedan (vintage 1920's), left me with some very distinct impressions. Watching him operate the Chevrolet had me convinced that it was a far superior car when compared with the Ford Model A.

He handled the car with extreme care. There was no such thing as rapid acceleration or heavy braking. In fact, at times, there was no braking at all. About a quarter of a mile from the destination, he would put the car in neutral and start coasting. He usually had it gauged very closely, and hardly had to use the brakes with arrival at destination.

He approached everything in a very meticulous and methodical manner. This was also evident with the wood-working class. Everything had to be neat, orderly, and carefully planned. The use of the yellow *Lepages* wood glue was a good example, and was an art form in itself. A thin coat was applied to each surface. The timing was all-important. Cautious testing (with your finger) would tell you when the glue became long fibrous threads, that was the moment of bonding the two pieces of wood together. I still use this glue, and this process is still ingrained in my mind - probably the only thing of a lasting nature that G. G. taught me.

I had the misfortune of going through high school in the same grade as two whiz kids - Jean White and Cleona Hyde. They were a close 1 - 2, and myself, "SLACKER TOEWS", a distant third.

Mr. Siemens expended little effort on us three. Left on their own Jean and Cleona progressed rapidly, and I just tried to hang in there.

There was only one instance where I believe that I had G. G. Siemens and the two girls dumbfounded. I had found no difficulty in memorizing the symbols for certain chemical elements and proceeded to rhyme them off during an oral test.

Preparing for the Christmas Concert was always a trying time for the teachers, and I do recall G. G. losing his COOL a few times.

G. G. and J. J. (my dad) collaborated to get many of us to Winnipeg for the Royal visit of the King and Queen in 1939. It is hard to believe now, but the truck box of the Diamond T accommodated a great number of students sitting on school benches. A heavy truck tarpaulin protected us from the wind and the rain. This was probably the highlight of the year for many students.

The stairs leading down to the high school classroom were quite long and steep. G. G. would be intrigued as to how guys could navigate them with barely touching a stair. With the use of the handrail, one could launch out and touch only one stair midway down before arriving at the bottom.

In many ways G. G. was quite tolerant of our behaviour (referring to us guys). For a while, we had a boxing craze. In the mornings before classes started, we would pound away on each other and then sit through the day's classes with aching jaws.

G. G. was a presence that I identified with strongly during my school years. Fortunately, G. G. and my dad were good friends, which may have saved me from a few strappings.

### **EVELYN M. A. JACK**

**(1937-1939)**

*by Evelyn (Jack) Schellenberg*

The Kane Consolidated School Board #2006, hired me - Evelyn Mary Alice Jack, age 19 years, before September opening in 1937. I taught at Kane until June 1939 - then I married on July 10th, 1939 (after two years of teaching).

I believe there were close to 48 pupils in grades "A" at that time, and 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, with school hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This was a strenuous beginning for a new Normal student (Winnipeg). My wages were \$40.00 per month and when I resigned my monthly cheque boasted \$55.00. Today's teachers are unable to believe this amount!

Mr. George G. Siemens taught grades 6-11 in the other room (east side). Mr. Siemens was my school principal, and also on the school board. Later on when I became more climatized, someone mentioned that grade 5 class should have been in Mr. Siemens' room, as his enrollment was lower. The "A" grade was a type of Kindergarten - "delicate teaching".



*Mrs. Evelyn (Jack) Schellenberg with Rhonda, 1946.*



*Mr. Bill Schellenberg with Kenneth, Rhonda and Heather, 1947.*

Our pupils, except those who lived in the town of Kane, were driven to school in vans hauled by horses. The driver received a higher pay than I did.

I lived in the upstairs of the teacherage while George and Tina Siemens, with sons Reynold and Lloydie lived below me. I used to hear Tina sing her Lloydie to sleep. The sounds came upstairs, "Put my little shoes away" lullaby - cute. At that time Mr. George Siemens had a small radio blasting out war news, etc. We had little news of how bad the times were. I was unable to afford a radio. My boyfriend Bill Schellenberg built his own "crystal radio" in his room over J. J. Toews' old store.

Myself being of United Church faith, Kane had an itinerant young student minister who held sermons on Sunday mornings in my A to grade 5 room (west side of the school). I attended faithfully. There is where I had my first close glimpse of young, blond, blue-eyed William Schellenberg who became my husband. I still remember, "Miss Jack, would you like to go to Major Bowes program held at Roland, Manitoba?" He yelled this up the teacherage upstairs. It was dark down there. Of course I said "yes" excitedly. Later on I heard this was a bet by the men in J. J.'s store to do this. Having no social life on weekends, this was a highlight. Major Bowes, a rich American, would scout the country for talented folk, singers, reciters, dancers, etc. An interesting evening out for "teach" and boyfriend.

I still remember some of the names who attended the sermons on Sundays - Davidsons, Millers, Fredricksens, Cowies, Wyches, Squires, Hydes, Whites, Dave and William Unrau, J. J. Toews and others.

Raymond, a grade one fellow, came running into the school at noon recess. Someone had thrown a snowball mixed with some sharp ice. His little nose, the fleshy part, was sliced across about one inch. I cleaned up the blood (lots) and applied a "Band-Aid" pressing the skin together. I told his father to take Raymond to the doctor - well father didn't. The little nose healed well - Raymond's father complimented me on how I had patched up his boy. These accidents went along with our job in those days when people were short on money and had no medical care either.

This Miss Jack (myself) was lucky to obtain a first teaching job, for teachers were graduating from Normal School by the dozens. Then a scarcity of conscientious teachers was realized when World War II happened, after 1940. I lost (were killed too) many male Normal School pals when they joined the forces.

This now retired teacher was born and raised on a farm at Ridgeville, Manitoba. Therefore I had environmental leanings towards these healthy interesting young students. It was difficult to cope with the wee tots who came into the room "cold" as they were completely ignorant of what went on - such a dramatic experience for them! My first "trial by fire days" passed, then the weeks, my grade ones were reading new words, the discipline was nil, and the community (a very good one), I thought, respected

me. Some of these pupils even from Mr. Siemens room still contact me. I feel happy over these phonings when these 1937-39 friends call. I also feel proud to have taught descendants of different nationalities. Our rural schools have proved to become a great Canadian institution.

As you can deduce I married into the teaching family of Jacob and Anna Schellenberg - Jacob being a pioneer teacher in southern Manitoba, William Schellenberg, a younger brother of Katherine Toews and John J's brother-in-law. We married on July 10, 1939, and went to live at Seddon's Corner (north of Beausejour, Manitoba). Bill operated a McCall Frontenac filling, repair, and oil station. One year went past and Bill joined the Royal Air Force. When the World War II finished we came back to Kane with daughter Heather Gail, five years old, and Kenneth Lyle, three years. We built our first home on a site east of the teacherage. Bill worked for John J. Toews in his garage. Heather began her first days at Kane Consolidated. After Rhonda May was born in 1946, at Winkler Hospital, wages as a mechanic looked higher to Bill - hence a move to Dauphin, Manitoba. Our home was sold to Mr. Jake Born. This house is close to Bill and Barb Toews' farm. We had sons Bruce and Ted born at Dauphin. So we were seven. We moved out to British Columbia in 1965, due to Bill's declining health. He died in 1978. I lost a great husband, friend and father to our children. His memory will live on.

Our children are all here in British Columbia. We have nine grandchildren.

Heather Gail Schellenberg Runge, a widow, is a nurse at Valeden.

Dr. Kenneth Lyle Schellenberg M.D., lives at Squamish.

Rhonda Schellenberg Williams lives at Penticton. She is an Executive Officer for Canadian Home Builders Association in South Okanagan.

Bruce Schellenberg is a professional forester at 150 Mile House.

Edward (Ted) Schellenberg is a radio broadcaster in Vancouver.

I am 81 years old (and a proud Mom), living at the coast of Tsawassen, British Columbia. I still get excited on my visits to Manitoba - to see relatives and loyal friends.

### **TINA V. WARKENTINE (1941-1944)**



*Miss Tina V. Warkentine at the school picnic, 1944.*

### **RUFUS SCHELLENBERG (1943-1945) by Rufus Schellenberg**

In August of 1943, Rufus was invited to join the teaching staff of Kane Consolidated School. Miss Tina Warkentine taught Grades I to IV and Mr. George G. Siemens, the principal, taught the high school students. The following year Mr. Nic G. Neufeld replaced Mr. Siemens. Miss Warkentine also left. Rufus became a primary teacher for Grades I to IV.

### **NICOLAI G. NEUFELD (1944-1946) by Marge (Neufeld) Neufeld**

We lived in Winkler, Manitoba, prior to moving to Kane, where my Dad, Nic G. Neufeld, taught for five years.

My family lived in Kane for two years, 1944-1946. Dad taught the higher grades and also had a violin class teaching them the fundamentals of music and sight-reading. Dad also had a choir here. I believe he also had a wood-working class with the boys. At this time Mom taught sewing, embroidery and knitting to the girls.

Loretta, my sister, took grades two and three here. I started school after Easter during our second year at Kane as a beginner, equivalent to Kindergarten now.



*Mr. Nic G. Neufeld, 1945.*

After leaving Kane our family moved to various country schools where Dad taught for a total of almost fifty years. Loretta and I were privileged having Dad as our teacher grades one to nine.

Loretta was a teacher and later married Alan Janzen. After her children were in school she was a librarian at the University of Manitoba and died in June of 1999, a year after her retirement.

Stan, born after leaving Kane, also had Dad as his teacher. Stan also became a teacher. He retired from teaching and worked several years in a print shop in Winnipeg.

I worked in a bank for several years in Winkler, Manitoba. I married Leonard Neufeld, a teacher. In 1975, we moved to British Columbia to work with Campus Crusade for Christ, which we are still involved in.

Dad died in November of 1988 and Mother (Sarah) in July of 1992.



*Mr. and Mrs. Nic Neufeld, Marjorie and Loretta, 1946.*

## **ANOTHER OUTSTANDING TEACHER**

*by Arthur O. Toews*

Nic Neufeld had a relatively short tenure (1944-1946), but it was evident from the start that he was a truly dedicated teacher and a fine man.

It was apparent to us that there was much more to teaching than getting students through a curriculum.

He put a heavy emphasis on choir work, spending many hours rehearsing with us, and at the same time showing admirable patience with us guys who were just mouthing it.

He volunteered his services and taught a number of us to play the violin. There would be group sessions in the evening, with no remuneration expected.

Three of us played a prank on Mr. Neufeld that I certainly am not proud of today. Manuel and Alvin Schellenberg and I would often arrive at school early in the morning before anyone else had arrived. His violin and bow on the piano caught our attention on this one morning. Manuel and Alvin were the *Brylcreem* kids of the school. They proceeded to run his bow through their hair. Nic would always accompany the singing of "Oh Canada" and "God Save the King" with his violin. That morning the violin emitted no sound when he ran it over the strings.

Unfortunately, we did not appreciate Nic Neufeld the way that we should have.

**HILDA LOHRENZ**  
(1945-1946)



*Miss Hilda Lohrenz, 1946.*

**ELSIE HIEBERT**  
(1945-1946)  
*by Elsie Hiebert*

I was teaching in Kane during the school term, September 1945 to June 1946, in grades 5 to 8.

Transportation was a major problem. The roads from Kane south to our farm were totally closed during the winter months. So for a few months Hilda and I roomed at the Nic Neufeld residence on the school yard. Hilda Lohrenz was teaching in grades 1-4 during this time. We met again in 1960, when Jake and I moved to Winkler and Hilda and her family also lived on 8th Street. They moved to Alberta then, and I understand Hilda passed away a few years ago.

**Memories from a student:** *I well remember how pretty and shy Mrs. Hiebert was, but her husband was not a bit shy! One winter evening the school girls were invited up to the teacherage to discuss costumes, etc. for a school function. During our time together, Mrs. Hiebert kept bouncing on the bed. At first she just moved a bit, but then she bounced higher and higher, and her face got redder and redder! After a while Mr. Hiebert crawled out from under the bed. He had paid a surprise visit to his wife and then found a hiding place when the students arrived.*



*Mrs. Elsie Hiebert.*

**ELLA KLASSEN**  
(1946-1947)  
*by Ella (Klassen) Neufeld*

Kane, 1946-1947, was the beginning of a teaching career that continued for better than thirty years. The first year was a challenge, but rated as one of the best. My colleagues, Mary Duerksen (deceased) and Henry Friesen (now living in Morden), the super trustees, Mr. Abe Suderman and Mr. Frank G. Blatz, and of course the students definitely were the attributes for making it enjoyable. As any first year teacher would attest, I learned much.

Challenges: how to curb the love affairs of Grade VII and VIII's, sports (minus the skills), parties (the disappearance of the goodies), Christmas Concert (the angel drill!) all still linger in my mind unresolved.

The incident of performing as a figure skater failed to impress the students. The girls arrived at the outdoor rink, cameras in hand, waiting for the "performance" - to realize that only with the help of a chair could I stand on skates! I finally was forgiven. (Sorry Wilma, June, Anne and Susie.)

When I hired out to teach in Blumenfeld, little did I know what lay ahead. My life changed, namely, Jake Neufeld and I met and were married in 1949. Our life was exciting, adventuresome and rich in experiences. God had plans for us; for us it meant to be obedient. Many different op-



*Jake and Ella (Klassen) Neufeld.*

portunities to serve Him - up north at Pine Dock, Jake's first year of teaching; in Ontario, Ailsa Craig Boys' Farm where we both taught; then south to Mexico as teachers and houseparents. These assignments were with MCC and COM. We also enjoyed the camp programs we were able to be involved with.

Jake and I were blessed with two daughters, Lynn, now married to Rick Voth, living in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Lynn is on staff at Columbia Bible College as an instructor. Rick owns a construction company. They have three daughters. Our second daughter, Lori, is married to Dale Dueck who is senior pastor at EMMC in Winkler. Lori is on staff at Garden Valley Collegiate. They have two daughters and a son - our only grandson. Anne Marie is our chosen daughter (a Down's Syndrome). A lovely lady. She was welcomed into our home twenty years ago and is with me today.

On June 4, 1998, Jake was called home for his eternal reward. Life, God gave us together, I'll treasure forever! To God be the honour and glory!

At present I've moved into a condominium. Some of my activities are MCC, Meals on Wheels, Christian Women's Club, Bible Study, Outreach program for women from Mexico, teaching a Sunday School adult class for mentally challenged, travelling, gardening, handicrafts, and enjoying family and friends.

## **MARY DUERKSEN** **(1946-1947)**



*Miss Ella Klassen and Miss Mary Duerksen, 1946-47.*

## **HENRY FRIESEN** **(1946-1947)**

*by Henry and Justina Friesen*

We came to Kane from the Altona area in the summer of 1946, to teach Grades IX to XI. Previous to that I had been teaching Grades I to VIII in rural schools in the Altona area.

During these twelve years of teaching in rural schools, we raised our family of four children. Wilfred was ten, Bernie eight, Reta five, and Walter three when we came to Kane. The older boys were in the primary section of the school. Reta had to wait until Easter to start her Kindergarten.

I was lucky in that the High School students were capable of learning on their own. In fact they passed their grades in all subjects with flying colors.

Besides having capable students, I remember two things in particular. The school furnace was as old as the school itself. It had big pipes leading to various rooms from the jackets surrounding the heating units. The heating unit was big enough to hold the four foot lengths of cord wood, which were fed into the furnace. The fire had to be rebuilt every morning at 6 o'clock. This meant I had to get up early to have the rooms warm before the children came to school.

The highlight of the year was a trip to the Whiteshell. It took several cars to take all the High School students. We spent several days in the area, boating, swimming and playing games.



*Mr. Henry Friesen, 1947.*



*Mrs. Helen Penner, 1948.*



*Henry and Justina Friesen.*

We enjoyed our year in Kane, taking with us memories of hard work and fun. We stayed in Kane only one year and discontinued teaching for a while to further my studies at the University.

**HELEN PENNER**  
**(1947-1948)**

**JACOB BERGEN**  
**(1947-1948)**  
*by Jacob Bergen*

I grew up on a farm at Stephenfield, Manitoba (near Carman), and came to Kane School in 1947, after my teacher training in Winnipeg. My pupils were all special and well-behaved. And I tried to be my best too because the fathers of four of my pupils were on the School Board. I have pleasant memories also of the Sunday morning services and Ed Groening's studies on "God's Plan Through The Ages". Both took place in that brick school house with the year 1920 on it. (That was five years before I was born.) It's gone now. And I miss it.



*Mr. Jacob Bergen, 1948.*



*Jacob and Lillian Bergen with their children: Philip, Lydia, Alfred, Marie and Jonathan.*

Allow me to relate an incident that could have ended in a tragedy. I was living in the upstairs of the teacherage. Principal Schellenberg lived downstairs with his family. The inside stairway led up to a hallway where I did my cooking. One evening I placed sliced raw potatoes in the frying pan, and turned on the electricity. Since raw potatoes take more time to fry than cooked ones, I thought I could quickly fetch my mail from the store post office, and find my meal ready upon my return. But I was delayed as I became involved in a conversation with someone - forgetting all about my potatoes. As I returned, the stairway and upper room were engulfed in smoke. I quickly opened all the windows and hoped that none of the smoke had penetrated into the principal's living quarters below. How thankful I was that no fire had developed. Needless to say, I never repeated this experiment again.

Another incident I recall is related to the Kane Church - in 1962 I believe. Lillian (my wife) and I, with our small children Marie (5) and Fred (4), were home from our mission field in Austria taking meetings. As I was giving my report, Marie managed to slip away from Lillian, and climb up to the balcony. From there she interrupted my talk briefly by waving down at me and saying, "Hi Daddy". Upon this the audience responded with some laughter.

Marie ('56) & Alexander Kern (Inspector for Vienna Electric Public Works), and their children Tanja and Stefan live in Vienna, Austria. Tanja and her husband Peter Schuster with daughter Diana, also live in Vienna. So Marie and Alexander Kern are grandparents, and Lillian and I are great-grandparents. Alfred ('57), a construction contractor, and Tamara, with their children Sophie and Nicole, live in Connecticut. Lydia ('61) and Robert Allen (construction contractor), with their children Heidi, Lilly and Michael, live in Rhode Island. Philip ('66) Graphic Designer, and Jennifer, with their children Philip, Brian and Jessica, live in Connecticut. Jonathan ('66) is a missionary to Austria where he is using soccer sports as a tool to reach Austrians with the Gospel.

I was born-again (John 3:3) at the age of 14 in September 1939, at The Mennonite Collegiate Institute, Gretna, Manitoba, the autumn when World War II began. After graduating from the MCI and the Winnipeg Teacher Training Institute, I taught school in Manitoba for four years. After Kane, I taught grades 5-9 at Thames South (near Horndean). It was at the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church (Rudnerweider), at the age of 23, that I surrendered my life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. And I heard God's call for service as I read a mission's magazine on Europe's unevangelized millions. After Bible Seminary in New York, ordination and marriage, my wife Lillian and I became the first North American missionaries to Vienna, Austria after World War II in 1954, which at that time was still behind the Iron Curtain in Russian occupied territory.

**JOHN S. SCHELLENBERG**  
(1947-1950)



*Mr. John S. Schellenberg, 1950.*

**TINA PENNER**  
(1948-1949)

*by Tina (Penner) Giesbrecht*

Teachers on staff at Kane in 1948-49 were Irene Koop: Grades 1-4; Tina Penner: Grades 5-8 and John Schellenberg: Grades 9-11. I had Grades 5-8. I remember them as a great group of students. One of the students had difficulty with spelling. On one Friday we had a spelling test and I almost fell off my chair when this student had almost every word correct. What happened? His dad had spent the previous evening studying spelling with him — proof that a little extra homework pays off. This student still fondly calls me “Miss Penner” whenever I meet him — thanks Norman.

The winter was very cold and we had a lot of snow. Standing on a snowbank in the center of town, we could almost touch the hydro wires. I enjoyed going to students’ homes for supper and meeting the parents. In those years we had to entertain ourselves — we had no television then and not many of us had cars. At school we had an outdoor skating rink where young people spent many evenings skating. The church also played a big role in our lives in those years. I have pleasant memories of the year 1948-49.



*Miss Tina Penner, 1949.*

**IRENE KOOP**  
(1948-1949)



*Miss Tina Penner and Miss Irene Koop, 1949.*



*Tina Penner, Lil Penner, Irene Koop, 1949.*

### **MARION WIEBE**

**(1949-1952)**

*by Marion (Wiebe) Harder*



*Miss Marion Wiebe, 1950.*

Grades 1-4 were all combined in one classroom. The classroom was filled with wooden desks, some of which were still the "doubles".

There was no gym in the school, so we would do exercises beside the desks. We could also not be too noisy, as the high school students were below us; the floors were oiled, and were very squeaky. In the winter we went outside and enjoyed activities such as sliding down hills, digging tunnels, and even throwing snowballs. There was also a skating rink on the school yard which provided

many hours of entertainment and exercise. In the summer, the activities changed to Hide-and-Go-Seek, dodge ball, and, of course, baseball.

One Pentecost, only five pupils came to school, so we tried to learn how to play volleyball. This was one of the few times that the older students were not using the net.

During the Flood of 1950, the people in the local area took in families who were forced to move because of the flood. This increased the enrollment from 34 to 49. We were bursting at the seams for a few weeks!

In those days, an invitation to a student's home for supper also included a ride in a van. In winter there was a small stove inside to keep the students warm. Although the students were used to it, this was an adventure for me.

The school was mouse infested!! During the day the mice were in hiding around the shelves where the lunch kits were placed, waiting for crumbs! In the evening, when I was correcting students' work, I would sit on a student's desk with my feet on the seat. From this vantage point I could see mice scampering across the floor. One morning, when I reached into a drawer to take out the Register, there was even a mouse in there! I closed the drawer very quickly, and asked the boys seated in the front desk if they would like to catch a mouse. They were quite willing to tackle this assignment. I do not know, nor do I care, what they did with that mouse...

### **JOHN I. WARKENTIN**

**(1950-1954)**

*by Tina Warkentin*

John I. Warkentin taught Grades IX to XI in Kane from 1950-1954. He enjoyed teaching those grades. Besides teaching, he had a good group of singers to form a school choir.

At recess he liked to play volleyball with his students. In the evening he and I would often play table tennis in school with one or two of the lower grade teachers. This was their recreation time when getting ready for the next day.

On weekends he and I would like to go for rides to the Pembina Hills - his home place was not far from these hills.

From Kane he went to teach in Altona High School from 1954 to 1961. Then in 1961 he became a Science teacher at the Teacher's College in Tuxedo. When this College was moved to the U. of M., he became a professor of Science and Teachers to be. It was due to a stroke in December, 1967, that the work he loved was cut short. He taught part time for a couple of years, but then retired completely in 1970.

In 1987, he had a massive stroke which was the last. His wish was fulfilled that he would go quickly and quietly and not suffer any longer. I found him sleeping his last sleep on the chesterfield, when I came home from a meeting on April 1st, 1987. Safe in the arms of Jesus!



*John I. Warkentin, 1950.*

**JACK SAWATZKY**  
(1951-1953)  
*by Jack Sawatzky*



*Jack and Lena Sawatzky with their family at their 50th Anniversary, 1999.*

We spent two years ('51-'53) in Kane. They were our immersion into Southern Manitoba Mennonite Culture. Our lives were enriched, and we made friends and acquaintances. Our first child was born there. I had the privilege of experiencing what good students can accomplish.

When the small high schools closed, we moved to Winnipeg to be near a university. We were challenged by church work as well as providing for our four children. They have worked in many places away from Winnipeg, and this has given us opportunity to travel in Canada, U.S.A. and Europe.

I, Jack, took early retirement and spent seven years as a volunteer at C.M.B.C., working mostly with international students. They were rich years in terms of relating to people and personal growth.

This May, 1999, Lena and I celebrated our 50th Anniversary, and had the joy of having all our children and siblings present. The future we leave in the hands of God.

**JOHN SUDERMAN**  
(1953-1960)  
**JOAN SUDERMAN**  
(September - December, 1953)  
*by John Suderman*



*Mr. John Suderman, 1958.*

*Kane* — What a place! A community that was small in size, but big in character. This was where Joan and I made a new beginning. Even though we both had taught for two years and three years and even though we had married the previous year, it seemed as if we were making a new

beginning in our careers and our life together. We married in 1952, and moved to Birkenhead, ten miles south of Winkler, where I was teaching in a one-room school and Joan started a new career as a homemaker. In the spring of 1953, we applied to teach in Kane, Joan in grades 1-4 and I grades 5-8. The rest is history. Our applications were accepted and we both began our new careers in September 1953. The principal at that time was John I. Warkentin; he taught grades 9-11. Life was great, our students were great, eager to learn, and we expected to make great strides in molding their young lives. Our status changed a little sooner than we had expected, Joan became pregnant with Gary and so she resigned at Christmas and I became the sole provider. For the next seven years Joan and I were members of the community. I taught 5-8 for five years and spent two years teaching the high school grades.

As I think back to this period in my life the memories begin to flood through my mind and I realize that many events have to be left out and I can only mention a few. Sports played an important part in school life. I can remember many of the ball games; I even remember our very first one. Our team was good, very enthusiastic, and I know that we won our share. Touch-football took up our recesses in fall, and during the winter we had our skating rink. Christmas Concerts also played an important part. The old school did not have an auditorium so we used the local church. Our talent may not have been the greatest, but we always played to a full house.

The new school was the beginning of a new era. It gave us so much more space. Besides the four classrooms, we had an office, storage space, a large open area which could be used as a large play area, an auditorium large enough for all our concerts, 4-H activities and other community functions. It also included washrooms with flush toilets. We even had an electric bell attached to the outside of the building. Pushing a button in the office announced the beginning of the school day and the end of recesses.

Life in the school was not all happiness, we also had some sad events. To me the saddest of all occurred on Friday, September 13, 1957 when David Krahn died in the school yard during a noon hour football game. This had a profound effect on all of us, both students and teachers.

The most important and interesting part of "the Kane Experience" were the students and the people of the community. All of them took us, Joan, Gary and me, into their midst and treated us as one of their own. The support that we received from the School Board and the community made our time at Kane a period in our lives that we will always remember. The people were the community. It is impossible to name individuals. The list would be much too long, and after 39 years away from Kane I would miss some of them. All were important to us and we give thanks to each and every one.

*After Kane* — In 1960 we moved to Winnipeg where Joan taught for two years and I spent that time at United College, which is now the University of Winnipeg, where I received my B.A. and B. ED. degrees. In 1962 we moved to Dauphin, where I had a teaching position in the local high school. In 1974 I became the principal of the Regional High School and retired in 1984. In 1963, our second son Keith was born. At present Gary is teaching Science in Vancouver and Keith is teaching Computer Science at Vassar College in New York State.

Joan retired in 1987 from teaching. Since retirement we remained in Dauphin where we are busy with volunteer work, travelling, skiing, curling, golfing, etc. Life has been good to us. We hope to see many of you in July, 2000.

### **EVELYN HARDER** **(1958-1960)**



*Miss Evelyn Harder, grades 1-4 teacher, 1959.*

### **NORMA SPALDING** **(1957-1958)**

*by Norma (Spalding) Hoeppner*

I taught grades 1-4 in Kane School in 1957-58. It seems to me that there were about 24 children in the classroom. We moved into the new school that year, which was a tremendous improvement, but did lack the character of the big old stone school.

It was an interesting year and I enjoyed the children very much. They were happy, carefree and responsible children - for the most part they came from solid Christian homes. The parents were supportive and encouraging of the school and the teachers. I commuted daily in a old beat-up car from Lowe Farm, where I stayed with my parents. I do recall driving in a snowstorm and wondering if I would make it - at times it was a complete whiteout.

There were several incidents that stand out in my mind and one was very sad - it was the sudden death during the lunch hour of a high school student while playing foot-

ball. That had a huge impact on the students as well as the staff.

The other was an amusing incident. Billy Graham was conducting crusades in Canada and the United States at that time, and was becoming well known. I remember one of the little girls trying to convince all of us during sharing time that George Beverly Shea had been at her house for supper the night before.

**BILL BRAUN  
(1958-1965)**

*by Bill and Jane Braun*



*Bill Braun.*

The Kane "White House", the school teachers' residence, was our first home when we married in 1959. The leaky roof (pails and bowls catching the drips or runs during rains), the rats in the north porch, the 'cash and carry' washroom downstairs, the alterations to the house to accommodate our first child, the fellowship with numerous 'Kanenites' are memories that we enjoy and will remain with us for a long time. In 1999 we saw 'this' house razed to the ground.

Although a lot of time was spent in the grades 5 to 8 classroom, the sports at recess time, evenings and weekends were also enjoyable times. We'll remember the ac-



*Bill and Jane Braun family, 1999. Back row: Ken, Lois, Jane, Pauline, Beth. Front row: Bill, Bob, Brett, Erika, Kevin. Missing: Lloyd and Cathy.*

tive Grade 7 and 8 boys who later became involved in the Lowe Farm Collegiate basketball team and eventually won the Manitoba Championship.

Our time with the Bergthaler Mennonite Church Sunday School, services, and Bible Study were also a blessing - AND a Special Thanks to Eddie and Margaret Groening for providing leadership for us and many others.

After leaving Kane in 1965, we took up residence in Winkler, Greenfarm and now back in Winkler. We became involved with the mentally challenged people in the Winkler community and that was my career until retirement in 1991. Jane spent ten years working at the local greenhouse, besides being a homemaker, wife, mother and using her green-thumb skills in providing a beautiful yard in Greenfarm.

After retirement we worked at the Winkler Senior Centre, Winkler Bergthaler Church, and since 1996 we've been connected with MCC - one year at the Winkler MCC Thrift Store, two years teaching in Seminole, Texas, and at the present time we're back at the Winkler MCC Store.

Our family in 1999 consists of two sons, two daughters, two sons-in-law, two daughters-in-law and two grandchildren; namely, Lloyd (Trucker), and his wife Cathy (Receptionist), who reside in Osterwick, south of Winkler; Pauline (Teacher) and her husband Bob Peters (Triple-E) and their son Brett, who live in Winkler; Lois (Educational Assistant) and her husband Ken Enns (Flax Straw Company) who live in Gnadenthal, south of Plum Coulee; and Kevin (Hostess Sales Representative), his wife Beth (Church Youth Co-ordinator) and their daughter Erika, who live in Winnipeg.

**HENRY LETKEMAN**  
(1959-1961)



*Mr. Henry Letkeman, 1958.*

**CHARLOTTE ENNS**  
(1962-1964)  
*by Charlotte (Enns) Penner*



*Bridal shower for Miss Charlotte Enns with pupils, Connie and Maxine, 1964.*

A teaching position, teaching grades one to four, brought me to the town of Kane. Previously my home had been in the Morris-St. Elizabeth area.

The memories I have of living and teaching in Kane, during the 1962-1964 term, remain with me as pleasant ones. The polite, shy, yet friendly faces that greeted me the first few days of the school year soon changed as we got to know one another. The shyness was exchanged for confidence. Learning was underway.

I saw and felt the community was a place where family

life was nurtured. Your children were your greatest asset. This was reflected in their behaviour. When they arrived at school, I knew you loved them. I knew you were raising them with their best interests in mind.

During my stay in Kane, I lived with the Bill Brauns in the teacherage. This was a good arrangement. They had the downstairs and I had the upstairs. This way I was on my own, but I wasn't alone in the house.

One of the trustees, Peter Harder, wrote out the cheques. I remember walking to his garage to receive them. I was so pleased to be able to put the entire cheque into savings. This was possible because I gave private piano lessons after classes. Little did I know I soon would be engaged to be married. My entire savings were used to furnish our (Udo's and mine) home. It felt so good to be able to do this.

Many a time you invited me to your homes for fellowship and delicious meals. This was a great way to get to know you in an informal setting.

Much to my surprise, one of these invitations landed up being a bridal shower for me. I treasure all my gifts, but one in particular. Each of my thirty-two students had embroidered their names in black onto white squares which their moms stitched into a beautiful pink and white quilt.

Getting married meant leaving Kane. I had grown fond of you. Teaching was something I enjoyed.

Fortunately Kane isn't that far from my Morris address. Off and on I meet some of you. This always is a pleasure.

Life has given me many rewards. Kane definitely was one of them. It was a privilege to have been a part of your community.

**JOYCE WIEBE**  
(1964-1966)  
*by Joyce (Wiebe) Falk*



*Miss Joyce Wiebe, 1964-65.*

My memories of two years teaching at Kane School are wonderful. People make the difference! The first years I taught with principal, Bill Braun, and also made my home with Bill and Jane. The second year I lived with the John Wiebes above the Kane Store. They were "parents" to Erna, Janet, and myself.

Parents invited staff for suppers and the trustees were very supportive. A community bridal shower was held for me prior to my marriage. Christmas programs were truly a community event. Above all, the students stand out in my mind. I remember missing each one so much when I left. Kane School was the beginning of my teaching career which has spanned the last thirty-five years.

My husband, Marv and I, have two daughters and one son-in-law. Tamara graduated with a Fine Arts Degree in 1996 and Treva will graduate in June from RRCC with an Early Childhood Education Diploma. We live in Altona where I am presently teaching Grade 4, and Marv is printer at Friesens.

**JANET BOCK**  
(1965-1967)  
*by Janet Bock*

The year was 1965. Eighteen years old and anxious to get on with my teaching career, I accepted a position in Kane, Manitoba. I taught a split Grades 5/6 class there for two years. We were a staff of four, and enjoyed a great working relationship. The staff in my first year there also included Erna (Peters) Dueck, Joyce (Wiebe) Falk and Larry Neufeld, who was the principal. In my second year Louise (Kliwer) Enns replaced Joyce when she left. We literally lived at the school during our off-hours because there was a small gym there and also a telephone, which we didn't have at the teacherage where I lived with Erna during my first year in Kane. I wonder if she remembers carrying out the "honey pail", and the metal bathtub. The following year I was "adopted" by Mr. and Mrs. John Wiebe and lived with them above the store. I have many fond memories of my time with them.

Some of the things I remember from my time in Kane include: Parents' days, the inspector's visits, the skating rink, the storm of '66, and the flood afterwards, church services, flagging down the bus at Jordan corner, curling in Roland, walking the tracks, going to Morris for a night out, shooting baskets in the school basement, Christmas concerts and always, community respect and support.

Teaching in Kane was a wonderful start to a career which has exceeded thirty years. In that time, I have taught in Thompson, Portage la Prairie and in Winnipeg. I have enjoyed a variety of experiences in primary, intermediate and high school settings. I have been a classroom teacher, a Special Education teacher and a Resource teacher. Currently, I am teaching Grade 5 at Meadows West School in Winnipeg and looking forward to retiring in 2-3 years.

**ERNA PETERS**  
(1965-1967)  
*by Erna (Peters) Dueck*



*Erna (Peters) and Henry Dueck family. Standing: James Dueck, Henry Dueck, Wes Dueck, Norinne (Danzinger) Dueck. Sitting: Curtis Dueck, Erna (Peters) Dueck.*

My experiences at Kane began in the spring of 1965. I had been teaching for a few years near Winkler, and then was hired to teach grades one and two at Kane. As a result of this decision, I moved to Kane in August of 1965, and lived in the smaller of the two teacherages on the east side of the yard. In 1965-1966, I shared the small house with Janet Bock, who taught grades five and six, and in 1966-1967, I lived with Louise Kliwer who taught grades three and four.

The classes were small, and I had less than twenty children in my class. I had the room facing the highway, on the southwest corner. It was a warm and sunny room, which made the atmosphere nice and cozy. The facilities were spacious and comfortable, especially for the size of the student body. The school housed grades one to eight, with each classroom having two grades.

During my stay at Kane, we experienced the worst blizzard imaginable. In the spring of 1966, on March 4, we had a blizzard that shut the community down for 2-3 days, if not longer, as it did in many parts of the southern region, including Winnipeg. Our entrance to the house was blocked, and Larry Neufeld, the principal, who lived next door, shovelled the snow from our front door. A few weeks later there were high water levels in the surrounding areas.

In June of 1967, after the end of my two year stay, I and all the teachers at Kane School left. Larry Neufeld went to teach in Brandon, Janet went to Winnipeg, Louise married Ernie Enns and moved to Winnipeg, and I married Henry Dueck (a local boy) and moved to Steinbach. I

continued to be involved in teaching.

In July of 1989, all four of us teachers showed up at Kane again, this time for a reunion. Joyce (Wiebe) Falk was there as well. She taught grades three and four, the first year I was at Kane. During our visit we also went to the local store, run by Peter Harder. During our time in 1965-67, it had been John Wiebe. It was fun to be in the store again, and recall many memories of our visits there—to pick up the mail, visit, and sometimes buy a few groceries. I have fond memories of Kane.



*Teachers, Joyce Wiebe, Janet Bock and Erna Peters enjoying the school picnic, June, 1966.*



*Former teachers, Erna (Peters) Dueck, Larry Neufeld, Janet Bock, Joyce (Wiebe) Falk, and Louise (Kliwer) Enns at the Kane Reunion, July, 1989.*

## **LARRY NEUFELD**

**(1965-1967)**

*by Larry Neufeld*



*Larry and Mary Neufeld with Chris, Jason, Kendall, Jeff and Katrina.*

Larry and Mary Neufeld came to Kane in 1965, and stayed for two years. Both Larry and Mary taught school previously in southern Manitoba; Larry for ten years and Mary for three years. Larry took on the position of teacher - principal in Kane while Mary stayed home, as they had decided to start their family. Jeff was born during their stay in Kane.

They have fond memories of their stay in Kane. Some of these memories include: Christmas concerts, ball games and in one instance getting a flat tire on Jake Born's van which was replaced by the Brown twins in no time. Another memorable event was the field trip to Kenora when the teacher and chaperones rounded up certain students at night until they were in their correct tents. They also remember the great snowstorm in March of 1966, and catching mice in the old teacherage.

When they left Kane, Larry and Mary moved to Winnipeg for one year where Larry studied at the University of Winnipeg. From there they moved to Brandon where Larry continued his teaching career. Mary worked as a teacher, a teacher assistant, and other volunteer activities. They have now retired to a comfortable condo in Winnipeg by the Red River.

Larry and Mary have four boys, all living in Winnipeg. Jeff and his wife Katrina are both actuaries at Great West Life. Kendall got his BA degree at University of Winnipeg and presently works as a TA for Winnipeg School Division. He also loves to work in his music studio. Jason got his degree in film studies at University of Manitoba and is presently a professional actor. He works at several other jobs to supplement his income. Chris is in his final year at University of Winnipeg working on his honours degree in Sociology.

**FRANK G. KEHLER**  
**(1967-1970 and June of 1971)**  
*by Frank Kehler*



*Frank G. Kehler.*

I started my teaching career in Kane in the fall of 1967. When I was offered the job, one of the trustees voiced confidence in hiring "a brand new teacher". He also listed a number of teachers who had gone on to other places and had become known as fine educators. I certainly look back with feelings of nostalgia and gratitude for the three years I spent in the Kane School. There will always be something special about "my first school".

In fall of 1967, I taught a class of 28 students in grades 4, 5, and 6. If I tried real hard, I could probably still recite my first year roll call for memory. The other teachers in the school that year were Henry Funk and Lois Schellenberg. Henry was the principal and he taught the grade 7 and 8 class. Lois was also a new teacher. She taught the grade 1, 2, and 3 class. As a first year teacher, I found the first month of teaching interminably long. On the first day it took about one hour to do all the activities I had planned for the whole day. So I gave the kids an early recess and got back to work while they played outside. I might add that during my years at Kane, I really enjoyed playing out on the playground with the kids, but for the first few weeks it seemed all that I could do was to barely

keep my head above water in planning the lessons. The kids of Kane were generally very well behaved and were quite capable of organizing themselves out on the playground without my constant attention and help. After a while, I became more organized and actually started to take time to join the kids outside during recess. I was 19 years old that fall when I started teaching, and like my students of that time, still had some growing up to do. Maybe that's why I enjoyed the playground as much as many of my students. The sheer amount of work in planning lessons for 28 kids in three grades often meant working at lessons during recesses, lunch hours, and evenings. I was at school from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on most days, and I spent at least three evenings a week from about 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. there as well.

During my second year (1968-69) at Kane, the school was a four classroom school. I was principal of the school and teaching the grade 5 and 6 class. Vern Penner, a first year teacher, was the teacher of the grade 7 and 8 class. Vern's sister Gloria, also a first year teacher, taught the grade 3 and 4 class. The grade 1 and 2 class was taught by Lois Wiebe.

During the 1969-70 school year, I was again principal of the school. Vern Penner and Gloria Penner were still on staff, but the grade 1 and 2 class was taught by Joanne Friesen (also a first year teacher). During the year we were visited, as usual, by the school inspector. When he met Joanne in the hall, he asked her where he might be able to find her teacher. We were a very young staff! We were a very inexperienced staff, but what we lacked in experience and knowledge, we made up in enthusiasm.

In the spring of 1970, I resigned my teaching position in Kane and in the fall, I was once again a student myself, as I returned to the University of Manitoba. I had expected this to be the end of my teaching experience at Kane, but in the spring of 1971, a tragedy occurred which resulted in what one might call an addendum to my Kane career. Henry Kroeker was the teacher of the grade 7 and 8 class, as well as principal of the school the year after I left. Both Henry and his wife were drowned in a canoeing accident during the Victoria Day weekend in the spring of that year. By that time, the university year was over, and I did not have a job. I called the Morris Macdonald superintendent and offered to help out for the rest of the school year. So I ended up teaching the grade 7 and 8 class for the rest of the year. The class, together with Mr. Kroeker, had been planning a big camping and educational trip to Thunder Bay. Soon the decision was made to go ahead with the excursion. The kids had built up a great relationship with Mr. Kroeker and found it difficult to suddenly have someone else involved in his place. I did not find it easy either, but in looking back, I must say that I have very positive memories of the trip. A very meaningful time of sharing occurred at Lake Nutimik. This was the lake where the accident had happened. That night we gathered in the larger of our two tents, and the kids had an opportunity to share their feelings about Mr. Kroeker and his death.

We ended the evening with a time of meditation and prayer. I'm sure that the people who were there that night would look back on the experience as a painful time, but one that was connected with healing.

My three years of teaching in Kane were a great experience. The kids were co-operative and discipline problems were mostly minor irritations. The parents were fantastic in the support they gave to the school and the teachers. I was single during those three years and must have been invited to most of my students' homes at least once for a meal. Even now when I meet some of my former Kane students or their parents, it is still very special.

In the summer of 1971, I was married to Irene Warkentin. She was also a teacher. After we were married we lived and taught in Steinbach for three years. Then we moved to Altona where I took a job teaching Mathematics and Science at W. C. Miller Collegiate. About ten years ago, Irene returned to teaching after taking a break of about 13 years to be at home while our children were growing up. We have three children who have grown-up, and are all living in Winnipeg. Presently we live on a small acreage near the town of Altona. I am still teaching at Miller, and Irene is teaching grade one in Elmwood School. We would welcome contact from former students, parents, staff and friends of the Kane School.

### **LOIS WIEBE (1968-1969)**

*by Lois (Wiebe) Toews*

In the fall of 1968, I began the first teaching assignment of my career at Kane where I was assigned to teach grades 1 and 2. The small school setting, good colleagues, and supportive community made this an excellent place to teach.

I had always looked forward to having my own classroom, and now my dream had become a reality. Although I enjoyed the children very much, I remember feeling very young (I was) and when I watched the high school students boarding the bus at the Kane School, I couldn't help feeling like I should be joining them.

The Kane community, like so many other small rural communities, was close-knit and supportive. The school and staff were an important part of this community, and for me this was especially true since I lived with John and Agatha Wiebe in their home which was the top floor of the Kane Store which they owned and operated. Agatha Wiebe was a great cook and the couple was so much fun to be with, they really made me feel at home.

Many times that year I was invited out for supper by the parents of my students who took a genuine interest in getting to know me and to accept me as part of the community. I remember these occasions as very special times and appreciated them very much.

As a first year teacher this was a very busy year for me. During the week I lived in Kane, but for the weekends I usually went to my parents' home in Plum Coulee. This

was also the year that I was dating a very special man in my life, Peter Toews, who taught at Rosenort at the time. Around Easter of that year we became engaged and began planning for a summer wedding. Again the community seemed to share my excitement. I remember the bridal shower which was planned for me (I believe it was at the home of the Borns). The children, of course, were all aware of the plans and couldn't contain their excitement or the secret, and so I knew about the shower before that day. They were all, of course, invited to the wedding in August of that year and we were pleased to see that many of the families came. This type of community involvement makes me realize how fortunate I was to begin my teaching career here.

We were married in August. In September of that year we moved to Gretna where I continued my teaching career, this time in the Gretna Public School. I taught here for several more years before we had our own family. My husband and I were blessed with three children - two girls and one boy. Presently, our oldest daughter is married and we are now the proud grandparents of their two sons. The younger two children are presently attending university.

We are still living in Gretna. My husband, Peter, retired from teaching last year and is pursuing other interests at home. Several years ago I resumed my teaching career and am presently employed as a Resource teacher at the Gretna School.

### **VERNON PENNER (1968-1970)**

*by Vernon Penner*

When I entered education there was a shortage of teachers, something that may soon repeat itself. Having applied to several divisions, I had offers in Hanover and Shilo. But Shilo seemed rather far away from home for someone as home grown as I was. Then, the superintendent in Hanover was a distant relative. Being the idealistic greenhorn that I was, I wanted to make my own mark without the help of a relative.

As a result, my older sister, Gloria, and I went out with Dad's old '53 Ford car looking for a more local placement in teaching. We decided to go west. We didn't have far to go. When we got to Lowe Farm School, everything was locked up. We drove further and ended up in Kane. I went to the school and found it to be locked up too. But we went into Wiebe's General Store to inquire about the school.

To our surprise Mr. John Wiebe told us to go to the Kane Garage where we were to ask for Mr. Pete Harder, the secretary treasurer for the Kane School District. Mr. Harder was delighted to see us in that he still needed two teachers for the fall. He made arrangements for us to meet the board the next week and both of us were hired.

As long as I have a memory I'll never forget my first day of school. When I entered the class, my new grade

seven and eight students just sat there and laughed at me. After awhile I chose to join in. When they finally stopped laughing, they told me that they had also done this to another teacher who had promptly told them to stop or he'd call the police. Apparently they liked my strategy better. And with that we started learning together.

Before Kane I had never skated in my life. I had never played organized sports. But suddenly I was immersed into baseball and hockey, especially hockey. Several fathers in the community allowed me to use their vans to drive to games. We played hockey against anyone who would give us a game. We had only twelve boys in the class, but with players like Barry Friesen, Carl Suderman, Earl Bergman, and Marvin Brown in net, we were able to win games as the rest of us learned the game. Any team that played against our team with fair reffing usually lost. We even won against the Altona 13-and-under team which had won the division. Very few of the students were involved in organized hockey with the proper equipment. I can remember the Altona team being amazed at the types of equipment we had.

Not to be out done the girls took the divisional trophy in track and field that year. Everyone helped, but Connie Hildebrand, Gladys Suderman, Maxine Blatz, and Pamela Brown really made the difference for us.

We produced several drama nights. On one of those drama nights, our Christmas program, we put on the play, "Dr. Doop and Detective Snoop", starring two of the greatest actors of all time, David and Ron Blatz. We had done some testing with dye as we needed them to look like blacks. We found out that if we mixed the school paint with half water and half Cover Girls base, that the paint would come off after the drama. All went well. It came off after the practice just like it had been planned. But, for our evening performance I made the mistake of mixing the dye after school. By the evening, unknown to me, all the Cover Girl had evaporated and the dye never came off those two for several weeks. Can you imagine them going to all their Christmas gatherings with black skin? I wonder if anyone has pictures of them. On a different night, who can forget Steve Hildebrand and his paper horse?

I still remember all those supper invitations Gloria and I received. Thanks to each one of you for making us so welcome.

As you can see, I have many special memories of Kane.

**GLORIA PENNER**  
(1968-1973)  
*by Gloria Penner*

On our way home from interviews in Roland we accidentally came upon an ad for openings in the Kane School. Well! Until that point I, like many others I've since spoken to, thought Kane only had elevators! We were just entering Kane city limits so we stopped at the Kane Garage. It so happened that the owner, Mr. Harder, was on the School Board and had a key to the school. He took us for a quick

tour and told us the date of the interviews. The rest is history.

I have many great memories of Kane, including the wonderful community involvement in school events, the friendly people and of course, the best students! In my year at university my first in-school teaching experience was in an inner city school near the Health Sciences Centre. The next was in St. Norbert with Morris the last and longest. As I "graduated" from one school to the next, I found that the quality of students improved each time. I'd thought Morris was the ultimate - that was until I taught in Kane. Kane topped everyone.

One humorous memory is of a spelling dictation in my first year, possibly my first month. I clearly dictated the word "sheet" which was followed by a scatter of giggles and snickers. Hm-m! so more clearly and a bit more sternly, and likely louder, I repeated the word. Well! The giggles and snickering was louder. By this point I was quite put out and so very clearly and almost certainly more loudly, I pronounced, "sheet!" Gales of laughter followed and suddenly the penny dropped! Red of face and desperately trying to control my own laughter, I informed the children I was speaking English and would they please spell the bed linen type of sheet! By the way, some offered to teach me Low German, but when I tried out the words on my Dad, he shook his head and said that the vocabulary wasn't very useful and wasn't quite what I thought.

My own former grade 6 teacher (and Vern's grade one teacher) Mrs. Gloria Martens was a great encouragement to me. She was also the originator and instigator of the great horse incident. She told us we could pull it off only once in a district. She told me to think of a student, likely a little boy, with a slight reputation for naughtiness. We were planning to have a spring or late winter concert. Vern and I set to work. We fashioned a horse head out of heavy cardboard, using tape, staples, string, strips of old black cloth, black paper, and probably buttons for eyes and binder twine or wool for a mane. This work was done on the sly in the evenings after school and hidden under the stage. Unfortunately we made the horse head bigger than we thought, and had quite a problem finding a halter big enough for it. Finally we were ready with head, halter and horse blanket.

The afternoon of the concert just before the children left for home by bus or van, we took aside the master of ceremonies (Marvin Brown), the two Grade 7 and 8 stage managers (I'm sorry I can't recall their names) and Steve Hildebrand. We showed them the horse head, etc., and told them our plan. Young Steve was a bit worried, but I assured him he only had to ACT like a brat, that he WASN'T one. He was to insist on showing his horse and even stamp his foot!

Over halfway through the concert we were set. With the stage managers inside the horse, Marvin was about to announce the next item, Steve appeared beside Marvin and told him he wanted to show the people his horse, "Charlie". Marvin tried to shush him and get Steve off stage,



*Gloria Penner (right) with Elsie Klassen (center), and friend, 1971.*

but according to plan, Steve stamped his foot and loudly insisted. Finally, poor long-suffering Marvin gave in (I can still see Steve's sister, Connie, covering her face in embarrassment and the horrified silence of the audience) and told Steve to go ahead and show off his horse. Steve walked over to the west side and started pulling on some rope and called, "Here horsie, Here Charlie!" But of course Charlie resisted so he told Marvin to bring him the can of oats. Finally the horse staggered onto the stage amid the howls of surprised laughter. I don't recall just how many times that horse combo circled the stage for the convulsed and possibly relieved audience. That was fun.

### **HENRY KROEKER (1970-May, 1971)**

Henry received his elementary and secondary education at Steinbach, graduating in 1965. He then attended the University of Manitoba, education faculty for one year, requiring only one more year in order to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree. After this, he took a teaching position at the Steinbach Woodlawn School for two years, at Calgary, Alberta for the next two years, and took the position of school principal at Kane in the fall of 1970.

Henry and Lynn Friesen were married at Steinbach on August 26, 1967, and had a son Michael who was two years old when they lived at Kane.

Henry and Lynn attended the Kane Bergthaler Church and mixed well with people of all ages. They bowled in the Miami, Roland, Myrtle Mixed League at Carman on Tuesday nights and enjoyed the company of Irvin and Viola Wiebe, and Elsie Klassen, a colleague from the Kane School.

Henry and Lynn, both aged 24 years, met death as the result of a canoeing mishap on the Winnipeg River near Nutimik Lake on May 24th, 1971.

Michael was adopted by his aunt and uncle, Cornel and Martha Rempel of Winnipeg. He is single and presently lives in Winnipeg and is working for the Winnipeg Post Office.



*Henry and Lynn Kroeker and son Michael, 1971.*

## LARRY EIDSE (1972-1973)



*Larry and Sandi Eidse with Allison, Derek and Kenton, 1998.*

Larry started his teaching career as the principal of the three-room Kane School. This was the last year the school was in operation. In the fall of 1973, the teachers and students were transferred to Lowe Farm.

Larry Eidse married Sandra Groening in October 1974. They live in Rosenort. Sandi works at the Rosenort Credit Union. Larry is presently principal at the Rosenort School. Children: Allison, 1976, Derek, 1979, Kenton, 1982.



Mr. Eidse seems to enjoy teasing people quite a bit, especially the students in his class. When he has decisions to make, you'd better be good that day. He likes teaching math, even though we all hate the subject. He also seems to enjoy sports.

— the students of '73

## GIRLS

Girls

Dainty light

Going to parties, falling in love

Growing up, becoming

Women.

Where are they going

Dating steady

Marriage is where some hide

To get away from the cruel world.

How long can they hide?

From something that will always find them?

Where? I plead you

Where?!

— by Elva Penner, 1973

## DINKY POEMS - 1973

Chinese map,

Hong Kong,

Avon Lady,

Ding Dong.

— by Chris

Big sacrifice,

When you,

Skate on,

Terrible ice.

— Paul

Golden eyes,

Purple ties,

All the gals,

Like the guys.

— by Connie

Play ball,

Good reason,

Kane school's,

Baseball season.

— by Cindy

King Saul,

And Paul,

Had a ball,

In a hall.

— Dulaney

High tide,

Big jump,

Your hide,

Loud thump!

— by Lynette

Good boy,

Great humour,

Very smart,

Good mark.

— Lorne

Play ball,

Find dime,

Flowers blossom

Spring-time.

— Sharon

Too long,

Can't wait,

Ding - dong,

Here's Kate.

— Darrell

Big barn,

Very smelly,

On a farm,

They make jelly.

— Irene

Young boy,

Run away,

Have joy,

Never stay.

— Janelle

Big stink,

What reason?

No smell,

Cow's reason.

— Leslie

*The spirit  
lives on...*



*...in our faith*



1937-1939, writes, "Being of United Church faith, Kane had an itinerant young student minister who held sermons on Sunday mornings in my room (west side of the school). I attended faithfully. Here is where I had my first close glimpse of young blond, blue-eyed William Schellenberg who became my husband! I still remember some of the names who attended the sermons on Sundays: Davidsons, Millers, Fredricksens, Cowies, Wyches, Squires, Hydes, Whites, Dave and William Unrau, J. J. Toews and others."

Next on the scene was Emmie Groening, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Abram A. Groening. Emmie, a Winnipeg Bible Institute student, spent a few summers in the late thirties working in the John J. Toews store in Kane. She remembers when Leonard Penner, who later joined the armed forces and became a doctor after the war, was the manager. There was no such thing as weekends off (or at least very few), let alone *long* weekends, and since young girls did not have "wheels", Emmie, a strong evangelical at heart, decided that if she could not go to church, she would bring the church to Kane.



*Emmie Groening, S.S. teacher and store clerk, late 30's.*

In 1941, when Emmie stayed at the Toews home and worked in their store for a whole year, she continued with Sunday School throughout the winter months as well. The students were somewhat irregular in attendance due to lack of transportation and frequent bad weather. Emmie kept a record of her students' progress as to attendance, memory verses, etc. Their Sunday School picnic was on June 29 of that year. Although she had been asked by the Myrtle United Church at one point if she would consider working under the United Church umbrella, she declined.



*Some of Emmie Groening's S. S. class in 1941. Standing: Margaret White, Jean White, Cleona Hyde, Gladys Fredricksen, Annie Penner and Lillie White. Sitting: Otto Thiessen, Betty Braun, Henry Giesbrecht, Annie Suderman, Reynold Siemens.*

Another lady who joined forces with Emmie was Elda Toews, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Abram G. Toews. Elda, much younger than her co-worker, recalls how "inadequate" she felt in the work and helped only because Emmie said that "it was time she did something"!

This mission work did have its results because there was at least one young student, Annie Penner (later Mrs. Harry Braun), who gave testimony to becoming a Christian at that time.

Miss Tina Warkentine, who taught the lower grades from 1941-1944, also encouraged her students to memorize Bible verses so they could go to the Canadian Sunday School Mission Camp at Gimli, Manitoba. Students would recite the verses to her, about ten at a time, until all 200 (300, and 500 in the earlier years) were committed to memory. The teacher signed the required forms and the students had ten free days at camp!

Spiritual instruction at Kane, whether in the form of sermons, Sunday School classes, Bible lessons at school, or encouragement to go to Bible camps began with the

"English" people and grew as the Mennonites moved into the area.

## KANE CHRISTIAN YOUTH SOCIETY

*by Dora Hildebrand*

The coming of Henry P. and Mrs. Schellenberg in August of 1940, an ordained Canadian Conference deacon from Saskatchewan, and grain buyer for the Paterson Elevator Company at Kane, was a real boost to the spiritual life in the community. Sunday School had now become regular (Christmas gifts signed "Kane Sunday School-1942" are still around). An Interdenominational Sunday School under the name of the Kane Christian Youth Society was formed. The available annual meeting records go from December 31, 1943 to December 31, 1948.



*Henry P. and Sarah Schellenberg, the spiritual leaders at Kane during the time of the Kane Christian Youth Society.*

The results of that first recorded annual meeting were as follows:

Supt.: H. P. Schellenberg, (A) A. J. Hyde;  
 Sec./Treas: F. G. Blatz, (A) A. J. Hyde;  
 Class #1 age 3-9: Mrs. H. P. Schellenberg  
 (A) Mrs. A. J. Hyde;

Class #2 age 9-13: Miss Tina Warkentine

(A) Miss Sara Hyde

Class #3 girls 14 & over: Mrs. Frank Braun

(A) Mr. G. G. Siemens

Class #4 boys 14 & over: Rufus Schellenberg

(A) Mr. J. J. Toews

Bible Class: Mr. H. P. Schellenberg

(A) Mr. A. J. Hyde

Pianist: Mrs. Jake E. Hiebert

(A) Miss June Toews

Program Committee for Christian Youth Meetings: Mr. Frank G. Blatz (tie), Mr. Frank G. Groening, Mrs. A. J. Hyde, Miss Gladys Fredricksen, Mrs. Frank G. Blatz (tie). If my memory serves me correctly, this committee planned the Sunday Night meetings for the whole family which would take place about once a month.

**From the December 31, 1944 minutes:** *Some discussion followed as to who should vote. It was finally decided to let anyone of 9 years or over vote. Mr. Rufus Schellenberg brought up the question about a Constitution for the Society. He favored electing or appointing a committee which would draw up a constitution for the Society and have it (the constitution) adopted or amended and if amended adopted at some general meeting. (No further mention is made in any other minutes.) The Triumphant Service Songs books were already in use.*

**From the December 31, 1945 minutes:** *The money in the Birthday Box amounted to \$13.86. A motion to send this sum to Rev. H. J. Gerbrandt in Mexico, carried. It was then moved that an equal sum, taken from the treasury, be sent to his partner Mr. Randall Groening. Carried.*

**From the January 13, 1947 minutes:** *The teachers of the various classes agreed to meet once a month to pray for the work and talk over the lessons. The Christian Youth Meeting committee were requested to take the responsibility in making the Jugendverein (Youth meetings on Sunday nights - about once a month - which were attended by the whole family) meetings more successful when items are missed.*

**From the December 31, 1947 minutes:** *Attendance-about 30-35. Mr. A. J. Hyde voiced his opinion on voting. He said, if the serving Christian likes the work, and is willing to continue the work, it should not be necessary to have a re-election for that position, but to let him or her continue in the work.*

**From the December 31, 1948 minutes:** *Discussion regarding a change in Sunday School lessons followed. The International lesson which was studied exclusively until now has been reported to lacking in presenting the whole Gospel. A. G. Toews reported on an article in the 'Christian Witness' which said that the International lessons tended to teach a social Gospel rather than an evangelical one. It was generally recommended that a new set of lessons be*

*obtained for the quarter, beginning in April. It was decided that a weekly meeting would be held on Thursdays. The program was decided upon to consist of the following: opening and remarks by the chairman; program by the Young People; Bible Class by E. H. Groening. A committee was elected to make up above mentioned program. Members of the committee elected were: Susie Bergen, Mary Penner, Ben Wiebe, Frank Blatz.*

Speakers were invited from the Winnipeg Bible Institute and various church backgrounds including the Bergthaler Mennonite Church. (I remember playing outside with the other kids when the message was in German, but there was a stop put to that pretty soon!) In addition, the Canadian Sunday School Mission (CSSM), with Miss Isaac and another lady in charge, came to the Kane School in the mid-forties and taught Daily Vacation Bible School.



*DVBS in the Kane School in the 40's, by the CSSM.*

My childhood memories of the services in the Kane School were of happy times in a family-like atmosphere. The services had a strong evangelical force, likely a result of the influence of the work of the Winnipeg Bible Institute, the CSSM, and the Mennonite heritage of the people. Missions was a strong point. The New Year's Eve annual meetings were a great hit, second only to Christmas. Imagine kids getting excited about an annual meeting! The kids were allowed to vote at an early age because it was believed that they should be able to vote for their own teachers.

The official records from 1949 to early 1951 are not available, so oral tradition will have to suffice. The growing fellowship desired to have a church building of their own and bought the Morden Herald Church and moved it to Kane in 1948, at a cost of about \$1,500. Rev. J. M. Pauls, from Morden, officiated at the dedication. Due to strong dissension within the church (mainly concerning whether the church should remain an independent work or join the larger Bergthaler Mennonite Church - this had

not been made clear to the supporters beforehand), the Kane Christian Youth Society gradually dissipated, and the building was moved to Lowe Farm in the spring of 1954 and became the Emmanuel Gospel Church.



*The former Morden Herold Church which was moved to Kane in 1948, now being moved onto the #23 Highway and to Lowe Farm as the Emmanuel Gospel Church in the spring of 1954.*

This chapter in the Christian fellowship at Kane ended on a sad note, but the Lord's spirit prevailed. The families that had attended the Kane Christian Youth Society in the Kane School came from different denominations and when the Society dissolved, they went back to their conference churches (travel was much better by this time so they were able to do that). As one lady remarked at the time, "Now we know where we belong."

## KANE BERGTHALER CHURCH

*by Dora Hildebrand*

**A NEW BEGINNING:** Records show that a group of Christians, who were of the Bergthaler Conference background and most of whom had originally belonged to the Kane Christian Youth Society, started meeting in the Kane School on April 8, 1951. They had not forgotten their dream of an organized church at Kane and this time it was well understood by the whole congregation that it would be a Bergthaler Church.

In July, 1951 a meeting was held, with Rev. Isaac Krahn as chairman, to organize a Bergthaler Church group in Kane. First item of business was election of a Church Committee, the purpose of which was to look after business matter, supervise Sunday School activities, invite visiting ministers and in general assist the church leader in all matter. The first Church Committee elected was: Abram G. Toews, Frank G. Blatz, Jake Epp, along with Rev. Isaac Krahn (Leader) and Abram Suderman (S.S. Superintendent).

The fall of 1951 had many "firsts". An Ernte Dank Fest (Thanksgiving) was held in the morning of October 14. A Children's Program, with lunch and ice cream, was organ-

ized for the afternoon of October 14 instead of a Sunday School Picnic. A weekly Bible Study on Wednesday nights began in October, and songbooks were purchased for the choir. (The first choir director was Rev. Isaac Krahn, and later Ben Giesbrecht took over those duties. Audrey Friesen also directed a Young Girl's Choir at one time. Another choir director was Jake B. Reimer.) The Lord's Supper was held in November.



*Rev. Isaac and Nettie Krahn with daughter Margaret (possibly taken when living in Goultdtown, Saskatchewan).*

At the first annual meeting on January 20, 1952, (some of the early annual meetings included a message as well as reports) Rev. Krahn mentioned that *the Communion service, the collection for the poor, the evening services by Rev. Pauls, the meeting by Mr. Lovering, were due to the efforts of the (Church) Committee. He emphasized that all our activities, choir, Bible Hour, etc., were all for one purpose, namely the upbuilding of the saints, and the glorification of the Master Jesus Christ.* It was also decided at a January, 1952 meeting that *the Board buy one share of the Springstein Camp at \$25.00. Carried.*

At the Bergthaler Church Board meeting on December 29, 1952, the following was recorded: *A long discussion regarding the language in which the services were to be conducted followed. (German songbooks were to be purchased for the choir.) Mr. Blatz expressed a fear that English was being used too much, to the exclusion of the German. Mr. Krahn repeated that if we want to have Ger-*

*man in church we must use it at home and in school. A middle course was decided upon - namely that when an English message was to be brought, a German introduction was to be made, when a German message was brought, an English introduction be made.*

During the first year and a half of operation, moneys collected were sent (after local expenses) to European Evangelistic Crusade, Slavic Mission, Tina Blatz, Mennonite Broadcast, Mennonite Pioneer Mission, Mennonite Pioneer Camp, M.C.I., Altona Bible School, City Mission (broadcast Sunday morning), Indian Boys, Children's Hospital, Leper Mission, Canadian Conference Home Mission, General Conference Mission, Bergthaler Fund for the Poor, and General Conference Fund for the Poor.

**A HOME FOR THE CHURCH:** It was decided, by raising the right hand at a Myrtle-Kane Bergthaler special meeting on October 9, 1952, that there was enough interest in the Local (designated area) for a church building.

A lot 200' X 200' on SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of 6-5-2 just north of the CNR property in Kane, had been purchased by the congregation from Rev. Krahn for \$200.00. An old church building was moved in from Edenburg, by H. Harms for \$675.00 in late 1952, and put on a basement in the summer of 1953. The total cost of moving was \$1,200. Rev. Krahn, an electrician, agreed to do the wiring.

From a special member meeting called for April 13, 1953: *The building committee had a plan partly worked out, this plan is as follows: full basement, heating system, partitioning off the basement for Sunday School classes, platform - eleven feet wide across the front with stairs out of the basement, addition on the west end sixteen by fourteen with stairs leading into church and into basement. This plan was generally accepted.*

To make and finish the basement would take \$4,500, with \$2,500 coming from the general treasury of the Bergthaler Mennonite Church. It was agreed that the balance should be collected locally by collections and offerings: *That, locally fifty dollars be donated per quarter section for owners, twenty-five dollars for renters, only as a free will offering.* More painting and renovations were done and it was well into 1955 by the time that was completed.

At first the Board had decided to hire someone to supervise the work, but to save money they tried the "Nehemiah" method. One family took on the work of painting the porch, another fixed the roof, and another hauled the gravel, etc. etc. and it worked!

From a March 1953 members meeting minutes: *It was suggested that the ladies be invited to the annual meeting since the meetings are not very well attended, but Rev. Krahn brought out the scriptural fact, that the business part of the church should be run by the Brethren. Therefore, no change has been made.* It was at the May 4, 1958, annual meeting that it was first mentioned that ladies were present - 12 men and 2 ladies.

From a special member meeting on October 5, 1954: *That we try to raise the necessary money for continuing the*

*building by a free will donation of \$10.00 per quarter section and \$5.00 for every member (carried).*

Children's services were held for a short time during the morning worship hour. One such year was 1957, but due to a shortage of children's workers, it had to be cancelled.

From an April 19, 1961 annual meeting: *Rev. Krahn reports - 'Attendance growing. Second Catechism Class in succession. Thanks for Hymn books and benches and the dedication services. For the first time a special Mission Sunday of this nature' by the new Mission Committee. The new benches had been purchased in 1960 at the cost of \$700.*

Since Rev. Isaac Krahn had resigned as the minister of the Kane Bergthaler Church at the April 13, 1962 annual meeting, it was decided at a December 20, 1962, meeting, to elect a new committee to look after the spiritual needs of the church. The Service Committee was to be responsible for speakers, also for the opening and announcements, and informing the party in charge of the opening to make the announcements. The committee was also to be in charge of paying visiting speakers from a distance. Elected were E. H. Groening (3 yrs.), J. B. Reimer (2 yrs.) and Abram Suderman (1 yr.).

Mr. Jake L. Braun was the church treasurer for many years and the banking was done at the Lowe Farm Credit Union.

Minutes from February 15, 1971: *note - The name Bergthaler is no more. The Bergthaler Church as such is no more and is now Manitoba General Conference.*

**DUES and COLLECTIONS:** The Sunday morning Church and Sunday School collections totaled \$344.40 from April 8, 1951 to December 30, 1951. The average was \$10.76, and included the special collections for Thanksgiving and choir books.

Since the church was now part of the Conference of Mennonites and the Bergthaler Conference, they had to pay their dues which were on a per member levy. In the early years, the church collectors would take collections privately. Mr. Jake Epp was the first such collector of the Kane Bergthaler Church.

At the first annual Church meeting on January 20, 1952, it is recorded that *Mr. Blatz mentioned that all collections — namely Mennonite Central Committee, Winnipeg Bible School, Bergthaler Church dues should be entered in the Kane Church group. Rev. Krahn mentioned that this system gave a more impressive figure than just the Sunday School collections.*

From the December 2, 1952 special Church member meeting: *That house to house visits be made in the Myrtle-Kane District, for the purpose of collecting money for the MCC and that four members be elected for that purpose - J. J. Thiessen, A. Suderman, Anton Dyck and F. G. Blatz were elected.*

In 1956-57, the "Steuer" (Conference levy) was \$12.32, dues for the 'Lokal' (local) were \$5.00 and the 'Blatt' (about

a 4-page paper that contained, among other information, the itinerary for the Bergthaler preachers) was 75¢ per member.

Minutes of April 19, 1961 annual meeting: *Moved by Bill Brown, seconded by J. Derksen that next year all money for church dues be taken from local offerings. Provision, however, should be allowed for special offerings for local expenses. Carried 100%. All Sunday morning offering arrangements as at present to be cancelled.*

A May 4, 1953 Board meeting states: *In regards to collections taken on special service nights, when outside missionaries or speakers take part. If the sum collected is over \$10.00 the money is to be divided - one half to the speaker or missionary and one half to the home mission. This was voted down at a later meeting.*

Announced in Church, November 15, 1953: *Altona Bible School asked for \$5.00 to help pay for benches for their service room. W. Toews suggested we have a special collection. A. Suderman suggested we give it to them out of the collection treasury (carried).*

It was decided at the Church Board meetings as to when and which bills should be paid. On March 2, 1962, .....*moved that fuel bill be paid as soon as funds permitted.*

It was mentioned at one meeting that the winter fuel bill was too high and so to conserve energy, the stove was set at 55° (this was during the week).

The amount of the church dues was determined by the number of members and it was difficult if members moved away or did not attend the church. From a February 23, 1967 meeting: *Membership list was made up at 45..... Members should be brought to the attention of being members or not being members.*

From the January 8, 1968 Church & S. S. annual meeting: *There are 40 members ..... Mr. Jake Epp read the levy per member for 1967 was \$113.75. Mr. Groening explained the church was responsible for all members enrolled. If the levy money didn't come in, the money 'short' had to come from the general fund. ( On one receipt from the conference secretary, it was noted that the church was \$1.00 short of the total levy!)*

**COMMUNION:** Communion Services (often referred to as The Lord's Supper or 'Abentmahl') were held two to three times a year with the Bishop serving the elements and a deacon assisting him. Bishops that came to Kane through the years were Rev. David Schulz, Rev. J. M. Pauls, Rev. Ernest Wiebe, Rev. D. D. Klassen and Rev. Jake F. Pauls. Sometimes the bishop brought a deacon with him to help in the service. Mr. Abe Suderman became our deacon in 1960, and when he wasn't available we got assistance from the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church. Mr. Benno Schroeder has often served Kane Church in that way.

Communion Services were special meetings and attended only by church members, so children were never present. As a result, the first time someone was to attend such a service was when he/she had become a member

and was ready to partake in the service. Personally, I felt that the new members could have been a little better prepared for the meeting. (I remember at my first Communion, the lady next to me passing the common cup looked at me and nodded, and I didn't have a clue as to what she meant. Later, after inquiring about it, I found out that it meant that all was well between us as the Bible states, that we should be at peace with God and man. I then realized that I should have nodded back!)

For this special Communion Service, the congregation usually sat in every other row (at least in our church) so that the bishop could better serve the people with the bread and wine (or juice) which the deacon had passed to him. The bread was in very little round cakes, and the bishop would break off one and place it in the white handkerchief (Kleenex used only in emergency) which the member would hold in the hand. After all had been served, and the special prayers said, the congregation would take the bread together. The wine was served from a common cup which the bishop would hand to the member. After taking the wine, the member would wipe the cup with the white handkerchief and pass it to the next person and so on down the row. The bishop would then take the cup to the next row and serve them. The deacon stood by, ready to refill the cup when needed. In our church, the ladies always sat on the right side of the church and the men on the left. Records show that there had been three Communion services in 1964 with about 25 people in attendance.

Another special part of the service was the collection, which, as records show, went to the poor. Sometimes it was sent to the Conference and sometimes used locally. The first Communion Service collection was \$40.85.

Attendance records were kept of all the members that came to the Communion services. The attending bishop's name and names of visitors (people not on our membership list) were also written down as guests.

**CATECHISM, BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP:** The baptisms were usually held in spring, shortly after the candidates had completed the Catechism classes. These classes were conducted by the local minister (they were seldom called "pastors", but ministers or preachers) during the Sunday morning services where the whole church could have the benefit, or at special evening classes. Catechism was *a brief instruction for young people from the Holy Scriptures in the form of questions and answers*. During the years of the Kane Bergthaler Church, these answers were read in English by the candidate members. A generation earlier, they would have been quoted from memory in the German language. All answers had a Bible reference and often were a direct quotation which dealt with the subjects of *The Creation, The Fall of Man, and The Redemption of Man*. The minister met with each candidate privately, and a time of testimonies followed at a Sunday morning service or a special evening service.

The baptism was conducted by the Bishop and the

"pouring" mode was used, although members baptized by other modes were accepted as members into the church. The female candidates wore black or navy dresses and the men wore dark clothes. It was a solemn occasion. After the baptism upon their confession of faith, the candidates were received into the church as members (candidates were never only baptized, but always became members of the church).

Membership was not treated lightly. It was very important. In the Kane Bergthaler Church it was only the members that were listed in the Church Family Register. When a member married a non-member (or not of the Bergthaler Conference) his/her name was removed from the membership list and the dues and levies list. A minister belonging to the Bergthaler Conference could not officiate at a wedding where the couple were not of this Conference. When inquiring about the size of a church, the question usually was, "what is your membership"?

Members of the Kane Bergthaler Church totaled 62 in 1959, then slipped down to 48 in 1961 and remained in the forties until 1968, when the total was 37. In 1972, the last full year of existence, the membership was down to 28.

Newly baptized member lists are incomplete for the early years, so oral tradition will come in again. On June 7, 1954, the following were baptized by Bishop David Schulz: Jake Blatz, Frank Blatz, Dora Blatz, Evelyn Wiebe (?), John Giesbrecht. On June 9, 1957: Norman Blatz, Dorothy Friesen, Annie Penner, Martin Penner, Jacob Penner, Martin Wiebe and Peter Wiebe. In 1959: Elva Born. In 1965: Kathy Braun, Marjory Penner, Abe Penner, George Penner, Bert Friesen, Ernie Friesen and Art Thiessen. In 1966: Judy Neufeld, Sally Born, Judy Wiebe, Gina Neufeld, Joan Braun, Mrs. Judy (Suderman) Penner, Sharon Friesen and Dorothy Penner. In 1970: Evelyn Doell and Arthur Doell. On May 31, 1972: Percy Doell. The last baptism in the Kane Bergthaler Church was on April 29, 1973: Bernice Braun, Terrance Blatz, David Blatz, Ronald Blatz, Charles Groening and Eldon Thiessen.



1957 Baptism class: Dorothy Friesen, Norman Blatz, Anne Penner, Martin Penner, Peter Wiebe, Jake Penner, Martin Wiebe, Rev. Isaac Krabn.

## Taufschein

Zur Erinnerung  
an den Tag deiner Heiligen Taufe  
und Aufnahme in die Gemeinde des Herrn



Name Dora Blatz

„Wie ihr nun angenommen habt den Herrn Christus Jesus,  
so wandelt in ihm, und seid gewurzelt und erbauet in ihm,  
und seht im Glauben, wie ihr gelehrt seid, und seid in  
demselben reichlich dankbar.“ Kol. 2: 6, 7.

Getauft zu Kane den June 7. 1954

Isaac G. Krabn  
Leiter des Unterrichts

David Schulz  
Ältester

*Baptism certificate of Dora Blatz signed by our only Pastor,  
Isaac G. Krabn and Bishop David Schulz.*



*Miss Rosella (Rosie) de Montmorency and Miss Shirley  
Whitehead from the CSSM.*

**DVBS:** The official records for the Daily Vacation Bible School taught in the Kane School or Bergthaler Church cannot be found, but annual meeting records show that there were classes in 1956, '57, '58, '59, '63, '64, '65, and 1966. The DVBS in 1964 had 74 pupils and 8 teachers (10 less than the year before) with Mrs. Dora Hildebrand as supervisor. Mr. E. H. Groening had been the supervisor for many years before that.

Some time in the sixties, a team of two ladies from the CSSM came and taught the Summer Bible School in the Bergthaler Church. “Miss Rosie” and “Miss Shirley” had a unique way of keeping the kids spellbound with their stories and chalk talks where a picture would mysteriously appear on the board as they worked and talked.



*DVBS in the Kane School in 1961. Teachers are Judy Wiebe, Nettie Giesbrecht, Esther Dueck, Mary-Ann Krabn, Judy Suderman.*

Certificate  
of  
Baptism



Bergthaler Mennonite Church

In Remembrance Of The Day  
of Baptism  
at the

Kane Mennonite Church  
(NAME OF CHURCH)

I, the undersigned certify that

CHARLES HENRY GROENING  
(NAME OF PERSON)

has received instruction in Biblical Doctrine and Discipleship, and was baptized by me, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Date: The 29th Day of April 1973

(SIGNATURE)

*Baptism certificate of Chuck Groening, April 29, 1973.*

**MISSIONS:** The Kane Bergthaler Church, since its beginning, had a Mission Conference, and they usually were in fall. Mr. A. J. Schultz, well-known deaf missionary (and storyteller), was in the church from November 5-7, 1955. Rev. J. Froese was there November 5-6, 1956 with evening services.

The Mission Committee was first introduced at the April 11, 1960 annual meeting: *The matter of a Mission Committee was brought up. Discussion. How many members? Moved by Rev. Krabn, J. Blatz seconded, that the Board try to find members willing to act on the Mission Committee and have the congregation approve it.* The Mission Committee was put in place, and J. B. Reimer reported on their work at the next annual meeting. Members serving on this Board through the years were J. B. Reimer, William Rempel, Norman Blatz, Leonard Wiebe, Bill Braun, and Abe Suderman, Jr.

A committee was formed, representing Bergthaler Churches in areas like Kane, Lowe Farm, Plum Coulee, etc., and they met with the General Conference to see

which missionaries were available for the Mission Conferences held in the fall of the year. Norman Blatz remembers well when the committee of about five met and made up the itinerary for this area. The local Board then saw to it that their missionaries had transportation and billeting. A well-known Conference missionary was Miss Anne Penner.

**CARETAKING:** From a Church Board meeting on November 23, 1953: *George Born is to get \$50.00 for looking after church stoves and sweeping since he was voted in as 'usher' while we were still having services in school, and he automatically turned to caretaker when we started services in church. The Board decided on this move, to pay him some.*

Mr. George Born was the caretaker until the end of 1956 at the wage of \$10.00 a month. The D. D. Giesbrechts also had the job, but the wage went up to \$15.00 a month, and it seemed to settle in there. Mrs. Suderman and Judy did the work for a while, and then it seemed to be passed on from one family to another with their young people taking it for a two-three month period.

**YOUNG PEOPLES:** Young People meetings (and this time for the young people only!) were introduced in the early 60's by three women of the church, namely, Dorothy Wiebe, Elva Blatz and Dora Hildebrand. Their trucker/farmer husbands assisted when possible.

Meetings that come to mind are a wiener roast followed by games in the basement at Peter Friesens, an evening of baseball, snacks, and a devotional by Hardy Kehler at the Anton Dyck farm, an evening at the Kane School when the public was invited to see their presentation of the David Livingston play and hear the Youth Choir under the direction of J. B. Reimer.

**CHURCH CLOSES???:** First mention of closing the Kane Bergthaler Church is found in the minutes of the January 11, 1967 annual meeting: *In the discussion the possibility of attending or joining other churches was (made) suggested. Some were in favor, but the majority were for maintaining the services in Kane. The people were urged to support the church by teaching in Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School, etc., so that the work could be carried on.*

The subject was brought up again at the annual Church & S. S. meeting on January 8, 1968: *...the hardest part of the church work was the Sunday School. ....maybe other churches would have more activity for the young people. It was also suggested more of the older members take part. ....we should give it over to the General Conference. This was rejected .... suggested we leave a decision until fall.*

At the meeting held on April 24, 1968, with 21 present, a feeler vote was to be taken in regards to closing the church. It was then moved that we discontinue operation of the Kane Bergthaler Church and the result was: 16 were in favour of closing, 5 not in favour of closing.

From a meeting on November 8, 1968 with 21 present: The main topic was "to close the church or to keep it open" - there had been some misgivings about the April 24 decision. Rev. Ernest Wiebe was in attendance and there was a lengthy discussion. A vote was taken by ballot and the result was 14 for keeping the church open and 5 in favour of closing. It was suggested this be brought up again at the annual meeting.

From the annual meeting of Kane Church & S. S., February 28, 1969, a Church Board report by Jake Blatz reads: *During a meeting in Lowe Farm it was said that if Kane should close its church, we were invited to come to Lowe Farm. He also said Lowe Farm would like to work together with Kane. Lowe Farm is also attempting to hire a minister and would like Kane to share in his service and support.*

From the annual meeting held January 17, 1972 with 10 present: *Mr. Groening spoke on the closing of our church. That we did not want it to slowly go down to nothing or a few. In 2 years the S. S. will be down a lot. What indication would there be to go by when it is time to close?*

From the annual meeting held January 15, 1973, with 18 present: On the discussion of the closing of our church

*- Some reasons for closing were: 1) Shortage of S. S. teachers. 2) Shortage of S. S. pupils of younger age. 3) Not enough activities for young people. Mr. John Giesbrecht again mentioned we should close with dignity and do it all together instead of slowly dropping out one by one. A vote was taken and the results were 11 votes to discontinue services, 6 votes uncertain and 1 vote to continue as we are. ....made the motion for the various committees to continue as they are until we close in spring. Carried.*

**CHURCH CLOSES:** From the LAST annual meeting of the Kane Bergthaler Church on January 15, 1973.

Chairman - Mr. E. H. Groening

Secretary - Mrs. Dorothy Wiebe

S. S. Financial Report - Norman Blatz said that *the pupil enrollment went down, but the offering was up by \$10.00.*

Mission Board Report - Norman Blatz reported *that the missionaries for our conference were applied for at the Manitoba Conference. The offering was \$244.50 for the four evenings.*

Church Board Finance Report - *Mr. J. L. Braun said that all the levies had been paid. There was an increase of \$656.01 in 1972 from 1971.*

Service Committee Report - Mr. E. H. Groening said, *We had 51 services with 30 different speakers, most of these speaking only once. Mr. Groening spoke 15 times. There were 53 Sundays, one Sunday Mr. Groening was ill and we had no service and the last Sunday of the year was stormy and there was no service.*

S. S. Report - *There were 2 classes dropped, three if we included the Adult Class which was poorly attended, if at all. There were no discipline problems. Mr. Groening added that he had the prayer that Jesus would be taught in such a way that he would be a friend and a Saviour of our children.*

Church Closing - *Some reasons for closing were: 1) Shortage of S. S. teachers. 2) Shortage of S. S. pupils of younger age. 3) Not enough activities for young people. Mr. J. Giesbrecht again mentioned we should close with dignity and do it all together instead of slowly dropping out one by one. A vote was taken and the results were 11 votes to discontinue services, 6 votes uncertain and 1 vote to continue as we are. ....made the motion for the various committees to continue as they are until we close in spring. Carried.*

Closing Prayer - Henry Hildebrand

\*\*\*\*\*

A meeting was held on March 26, 1973, (13 present) to discuss the dispersion of church contents and property.

Chairman - Mr. E. H. Groening

Secretary - Mr. Jake L. Brown

1) Library Books - *All books go back to the owners* (those who donated the books). *Christian Endeavor to look after remaining books and book case.* I believe the remaining books went as a travelling library to the Mission stations in northern Manitoba.

2) Pulpit - *All were in favor of donating it to Bishop D. D. Klassen.*

3) Benches - *The Gladstone Church was interested in them. All were in favor of selling them at a moderate price.*

4) Songbooks - *All were in favor that each family receive a 'Mennonite Hymnary', a German 'Evangeliums - Lieder 1 and 2', and a 'Triumphant Service Songs book'.*

5) Dishes & Cutlery - The Mission Sisters were to look after it.

**The Sale:** June 16, 1973 at 7 p.m.

6 stacking chairs —	36.00
piano —	250.00
furnace —	30.00
sump pump —	18.00
public address system —	12.00
1 table —	12.00
piano stool —	5.00
library case —	10.00
motto —	5.00
flowers on piano —	5.00
etc., etc.	

*Ernie Friesen was going to find out cost of transfer of land. It was decided he could have the land for the cost of transfer and closing the basement hole. - from a May 23, 1973 meeting.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School has always been a major part of the services at Kane, and although we don't have the records, it likely started on April 8, 1951, when the church came together again in the Kane School.

There was no separate Sunday School Committee, but the work was run at the Church Board level with the superintendent on the Board as well. The superintendent and assistant were elected at the Church annual meeting. The Church Board elected or appointed the Sunday School teachers, paid the Sunday School material and distributed the Sunday School collection money.

In later years the Sunday School had their own committee of two members besides the superintendent, the assistant and treasurer. These two members took care of the goody bags at Christmas, arranged the winter skating parties at the Roland rink and worked to make the picnic a good time for all. The 1952 picnic was held at the Springstein Camp at the end of summer.

The treasury department was looked after by men like J. B. Reimer, John J. Thiessen and Norman Blatz.

The 'closing' of the Sunday School was a unique situation and likely could not be done in a large church. The superintendent led in the 'opening' of the Sunday School, but the assistant took over at the close. All the Sunday



*Anne Blatz' S. S. class in the early 50's.  
?, Viola Born, Harold Dyck, Beulah Toews, ? Alice Penner, ?,  
Rosie Harder, ?, ?, Mary-Ann Krabn.*



*Junior class, 1963.  
David Blatz, Tim Groening, Earl Reimer, Wes Penner.*



*Junior class, 1963. Douglas Giesbrecht, Ron Blatz, Carl Suderman, Barry Friesen, Milton Braun.*

School classes gathered in the sanctuary after their lessons, and the small children sat up front again. Each class recited the memory verse, starting with the youngest class. (Strange, the little ones could recite the verses but the older ones often reverted to reading them.) It didn't seem to matter if the 'church people' came in during this time and listened to the scripture. There was no intermission between Sunday School and Church.

In 1958, the material used was the Standard published by the S. S. Committee of Conference of Mennonites in Canada. Material from Gospel Light Press and Faith and Life Press was used at other times as well.

The first elected superintendent was Mr. Abram Suderman in July, 1951, and Rev. Krahn took over at the first annual meeting on January 20, 1952, with Walter Toews as his assistant. On January 12, 1953, they switched roles and Walter Toews became the superintendent and Rev. Krahn the assistant. On January 11, 1954, Ed Braun took over the position of superintendent and Eddie H. Groening was the assistant. E. H. Groening became the Sunday School Superintendent on January 12, 1955, and held that position until the church closed in April of 1973. Jake B. Reimer was his assistant from January 12, 1955, to the end of 1967, and then Henry H. Hildebrand took over that position on January 8, 1968, and remained in office until the closing of the church.

From a Board and S. S. Superintendent meeting on December 14, 1953: *The S. S. Christmas program is to be held at the School on Dec. 24 at 7 o'clock. \$20.00 be allowed for packing bags, 40¢ per pupil for gifts, 46 pupils (14 years and under) on roll.*

From a Board meeting at F. G. Blatz's on January 7, 1954: *The question of having a separate S. S. Committee was discussed, it was felt that this may tend to more or less separate the Sunday School and the Church activities, therefore it was decided to leave the S. S. supervision to the Church Board and S. S. Superintendent."*

From a Church annual meeting on May 4, 1958, *Moved by J. Blatz, seconded by Mr. A. Suderman whether to have election of S. S. officers at an annual S. S. meeting. Carried.*



*Junior class, 1963. Bernice Braun and Phyllis Giesbrecht.*



*Dora Hildebrand's 1964 S. S. class.  
Earl Braun, Robert Born, Connie Hildebrand, Lois Friesen,  
Maxine Blatz, Gladys Suderman, Chuck Groening.*



*S. S. Christmas Program, 1967.*



*S. S. class of 1972. Karen Wiebe, Lonnie Wiebe, Teddy  
Giesbrecht, Leslie Braun.*



*Margaret Groening and her S. S. class, Easter, 1972. Kevin Harder, Dulaney Blatz, Paul Groening, Julie Wiebe.*

At an annual meeting of the Church and Sunday School on January 8, 1968, it was stated that the average S. S. attendance was 54.24 students.

Mr. Eddie Groening conducted a Sunday School Course for the teachers or any adults interested in the work, during the long, cold winters. Courses taught were: *Bible History Survey* in 1965, *The Books of the Bible* in 1966, *Learning to Know the Bible* in 1967, and *From Bethlehem to Olivet* in 1970.

The Sunday School often had projects going like the *Mitten Tree* or the huge *Towel Rack*. These items were on display on the platform up front and the congregation could pay for them, and usually they were part of a greater M.C.C. Project. One person very involved in this ministry was Elva Blatz.

When the church was in its 'closing' months, one Sunday School teacher mentioned that she would miss the verses said by the young children at the closing of the Sunday School.

### **THANKSGIVING and FAREWELL of the Kane Bergthaler Church April 29, 1973**

The final Sunday at the Kane Church was a busy one with a farewell and baptism in the morning and communion in the evening. Bishop D. D. Klassen from Homewood, Manitoba served at both services and was assisted by Deacon Dave (and Erna) Derksen of Carman at the communion.

Bishop Klassen opened the farewell address with a quotation from Psalm 84:1-12: *How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yea faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in thy house ever singing thy praise!*

.....



*Ed H. Groening leading the closing Service of the Kane Bergthaler Church, April 29, 1973.*



*The congregation at the Kane Bergthaler Church, April 29, 1973.*



*Hank Hildebrand leading the singing, April 29, 1973.*

*O Lord of hosts bear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! ..... For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favour and honour. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in thee!*

Rev. Klassen then went on to list some reasons for closing the church.

**1. Farm mechanization:** Vincent Harding, a Negro Mennonite minister in the U.S.A., said at the Centennial Conference of the Mennonites in that country in 1958, "Now the days of ease are ended. The storms of persecution have begun to gather around us; and they are sharply directed at young people with frightening fury. Our time of trial has not come with whips or fire or murky lakes or chopping blocks. It has assumed another form. It comes to us in the great farm mechanization that spreads over the hills and plains of our provinces like a wild and hungry fire, leaving us with no hope of making a living from the areas with amazing speed and ruthless efficiency.

"Our persecution, then, is fast upon us. These are the inexorable forces which drive us from the land into the waiting cities. These are the weapons which break down our closed communities after so many years of too easy isolation." How true this is also of our communities in Canada!

**2. Lack of support:** How we need to heed the admonition of Hebrews 10:24,25: *Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

**3. Lack of unity:** The lack of unity is not particularly modern, but is as old as the church. Our problems are not uniquely our own, but are as universal as God's people. Our solutions therefore must not be sought in our own wisdom, but in that which comes from above which according to James 3:17 is *first pure, then peaceable, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity.*

Bishop Klassen concluded with reflections of the past history of the church building and personal sentiments.

### HISTORIC KANE CHURCH CLOSES *from Mennonite Reporter*

The Kane Mennonite Church, built more than 70 years ago, was officially closed on April 29 at a unique "memorial" service combining the closing with the baptism of six young people.

The church was originally built at Edenburg, Manitoba, four miles east of Gretna, in 1902, and replaced the first Bergthaler Mennonite Church in the west reserve, built in 1883. It was moved to Kane in 1952.

Church services, however, were held in Kane before that time. In 1948 a Morden church building was bought by the group and moved to Kane. This building was later moved to Lowe Farm. Between the years 1948 and 1952 the group worshipped in a local school house.

According to D. D. Klassen, the presiding bishop at the closing, the event was a "solemn occasion". The historic building had several "firsts". It was the first Mennonite Church in Manitoba with an organized Sunday School. Here, also, apparently, the first Manitoba year-end Sylvester



*Bishop D. D. Klassen speaking at the closing service on April 29, 1973.*



*Closing Sunday of the Kane Bergthaler Church, April 29, 1973.*

Program took place in 1893. Special catechism classes, supposedly, first began in this structure.

Klassen listed the names of a number of noteworthy ministers and missionaries who had stood behind the pulpit, first in Edenburg and then in Kane. They included H. H. Ewert, Benjamin Ewert, evangelist N. F. Toews, missionary P. A. Penner, A. J. Schultz, P. P. Tschetter, Abram H. Unruh, Jacob W. Reimer, Gerhard Wiebe, Heinrich Wiebe, Johann Funk, Jacob Hoeppner, David Toews, J. J. Thiessen and many others.

According to Klassen, who himself was married in the church in 1920, and served as song-leader for a number of years, this was the church where he read his first public paper on the theme, "What is Christian Morality?" Here he also preached his first sermon 44 years ago.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

The once a month Sunday Night Meetings for the whole family were started in 1952, as part of the newly formed Bergthaler Church at Kane. The first committee was elected at the annual Church meeting on January 20, 1952, and the first members were: Mr. Jake Sawatzsky, Mary Suderman, Annie Blatz and Ed Braun.

The first meeting held in the Kane School on February 10, 1952, was a typical meeting which was to continue for many years and it was recorded as follows:

Theme: "The Second Coming of Christ"

Chairman: Mr. Jake Epp

Opening and Prayer: chairman

Scripture Reading: John Krahn

Song: Choir

Recitation: Margaret Reimer

Music: Abe Suderman

Reading: Mr. Walter Toews

Children's Story: Mrs. Dave Giesbrecht

Song & Collection: (page 151) Congregation

Collection - \$7.00

Recitation: Evelyn Wiebe

Song: Mrs. Dave Thiessen

Message: Rev. Isaac Krahn

Voluntary Items:

Reading of the Next Program:

Song: Choir

Close: Mr. Jake Sawatzsky

(Variations were introduced at times, such as: Bible questions, self-chosen item, object lesson, chalk talk, reports (Bible School), films.

The first meeting in the Bergthaler Church building at Kane was on March 8, 1953, with the theme: "The Parable of the Ten Virgins", and the message was brought by Mr. Eddie Braun.

Since our congregation was quite small, we often invited people for the special numbers (music or song), and the speakers also came from the neighbouring churches. During those first years some of the speakers were Rev. Abram Hyde, Mr. John Wiebe, Rev. J. M. Pauls, Rev. A. A. Teichroeb, Rev. C. Bolt (Morris), Rev. Ernest Wiebe, Rev. Jacob Schmidt (Altona), Mr. Eddie Groening, Rev. Jacob Stobbe (Winkler), Rev. John Froese (Horndean), Mr. Eddie Penner (Rose Farm), Mr. Walter Toews, Mr. Pete Dyck, Mr. Jake Wiebe, Rev. Henry Funk (Carman), Rev. Krahn and Ed Braun.

Missions, speakers, and missionaries supported by the collections during the early years were as follows: Leper Mission, Jake Bergens, Edwin Brants, Tina Blatz, J. M. Unrau, European Evangelical Crusade, Henry Funk, Children of Greece, Back to the Bible Broadcast, George Andreas, Assiniboine Mennonite Mission Camp, Jake Giesbrechts (India), Martha Giesbrecht (Japan), Western Tract Mission, H. W. Giesbrechts (Ontario).

The YPCE had their own annual meetings and the new committee elected at the first annual meeting (held after the regular program) of the YPCE on Feb. 8, 1953 consisted of Ed Braun, E. H. Groening, Anne Blatz and Mrs. Ed Braun. The Rose Farm group brought some music. The Committee then gave a report at the Church annual meeting.

At the 1954 annual meeting the voting age was 14 and over. It was also voted in that we should have a church library although it took a few years until it fully came into being. All through the years the library was in the care of the Young People's Christian Endeavor and the library concerns were discussed at the YPCE's annual meeting. Dorothy Wiebe served as librarian for some time.

Our last recorded program of the YPCE was on March 5, 1972 with the theme as "The Original Creation" - Genesis 1:1-27. The message was by Menno Giesbrecht and the offering went to the Union Gospel Mission Building Fund.



*Dora Hildebrandt's S.S. Class:  
Marvin Giesbrecht, Earl Braun, Maxine Blatz 1966*



*Deacon and Mrs. Abram Suderman*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE KANE BERGTHALER CHURCH

From Jan. 15, 1955 - Feb. 15, 1956

## RECEIPTS:

### MISSIONS

British & Foreign Bible Society	90.80
Evening Service	21.55
Abendmahl Collecte for the poor	29.25
Erntedank & Missionsfest	110.00
Mission Week	246.65
Rev. A. J. Schultz, Ont.	42.90
M.C.I. Dormitory, Gretna	71.50
C.M.B.C., Winnipeg	95.50
General Donations	247.07

**TOTAL 955.22**

### GENERAL ACCOUNTS MAINTENANCE

Cash on Hand Jan. 15, 1955	358.74
Morning Collections-37 Sundays	305.37
By special levy from members	169.39
Young People's Endeavour	12.26
Kane Mission Sisters	22.00
Kane School District	5.00

**TOTAL 572.76**

**GRAND TOTAL: 1527.98**  
**deficit 101.85**  
**1629.83**

### GEMEINDE STEUER FUER 1955 MYRTLE-KANE DISTRICT

64 Gleider at \$10.52 each	673.28
Kollektiert	492.10
Ausstehend	181.18
Kollektiert fuer Gemeinde Blatt	17.25

## EXPENDITURES

### MISSIONS

Mennonite Pioneer Mission	242.35
Foreign Mission	130.15
British & Foreign Bible Society	90.80
Evening Serv.-Rev. P. P. Kehler	21.55
General Conference	65.00
Abentmahl Collects for the poor	29.25
Christmas Fund Collections	17.15
M.C.C. to Mexico	10.00
Leper Mission	31.25
Young People's Organization	6.82
Elim Bible School	25.00
Home Mission	25.00
Rev. A. J. Schultz, Ont.	42.90
Miss Agatha Schellenberg	10.00
Mr. Frank Epp	3.00
Rev. John L Schmidt	34.00
Rev. J. P. Heinrichs, Rosenfeld	4.00
M.C.I. Dormitory, Gretna	71.50
C.M.B.C., Winnipeg	95.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>955.22</b>

### GENERAL ACCOUNTS MAINTENANCE

Hydro	28.57
Eavestroughs & Screens	32.01
Paints & Varnishes & Brushes	238.09
Labor	126.50
Fire Insurance	15.99
Heating	113.45
Caretaking	120.00

**TOTAL 674.61**

**GRAND TOTAL: 1629.83**

# FINAL STATEMENT OF KANE BERGTHALER CHURCH

January 1, 1973 - February, 1974

<b>Sunday School</b>			
Cash on Hand	29.41	Leper Mission	35.00
Leper Mission	35.00	Jake Bergens	43.77
Jake Bergens	43.77	John Wiebes	39.36
John Wiebes	39.36	Commission on Home Ministry	45.46
Commission on Home Ministry	45.46	Medical Program of Zaire	59.70
Medical Program of Zaire	59.70	Sunday School Outing	34.10
		1972 S. S. presents & Film	31.20
		M.C.I.	224.00
		Elim	224.00
		Elim Year Book	12.00
		Elim Peace for Youth	10.00
		Speakers	165.00
		Insurance	33.95
		Steinbach Bible School	50.00
		Hydro	32.54
		Church Plates	228.55
		Conf. of Mennonites in Can.	993.56
		Conf. of Mennonites in Man.	496.78
		C.M.B.C.	20.00
		Fuel Oil	147.59
		Stamps	1.00
		Leper Mission	35.00
		Bible Society	25.00
		Sunday School Material	77.83
		Caretaking	60.00
		M.C.C.	100.00
Cash	204.95		
Offerings	863.10		
C.M.B.C.	20.00		
Refund	10.00		
Benches	510.00		
Miscellaneous	620.00		
Building	450.00		
Church Plates	230.40		
C.U. Share and Interest	64.24		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,225.39</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,225.39</b>

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT 1972

**Sunday morning offerings:**

January .....	41.96
February .....	39.53
March .....	32.43
April .....	47.04
May .....	39.08
June .....	35.76
July .....	48.45
August .....	30.09
September .....	35.26
October .....	47.57
November .....	36.04
December .....	35.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>468.21</b>

**Donated:****Amount:**

Back to the Bible .....	41.96
Teacher Training .....	39.53
Native Children's Camp - M.P.M. ....	32.43
Leper Mission .....	47.04
Training Students - C.M.B.C. ....	39.08
Medical Mobile Clinic .....	35.76
John Wiebe Book Store .....	48.45
Local .....	30.09
Tractor for M.P.M. ....	35.26
Canadian Conference .....	47.57
War Victims M.C.C. ....	36.04
Leper Mission .....	35.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>438.12</b>

**S. S. EXPENSE:****S. S. Material**

Mar - May .....	40.34
June - Aug. ....	39.14
Sept. - Nov. ....	45.26
Dec. - Feb. ....	38.77
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>163.51</b>
<i>credit</i> .....	<b>1.16</b>
<b>Pd by Church .....</b>	<b>162.35</b>

**INCOME:**

In Treasury from 1971 .....	20.12
Local for 1972 .....	30.09
Offering at Rink .....	11.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>61.21</b>

**EXPENSE:**

Outing at Sperling Rink .....	13.00
Store Bill .....	18.80
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>31.80</b>

**In Treasure .....** 61.21

-31.80

**TOTAL: .....** 29.41

**PAID BY CHURCH:**

Easter eggs .....	4.68
Christmas bags .....	5.87
Film .....	16.20
Picnic .....	10.95
Gifts .....	15.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>72.70</b>

**STUDENT RECORD:**

Days recorded for year .....	51
Total present for year .....	1,949
Average present per Sunday .....	38.22

**TOTAL PRESENT:****TOTAL OFFERING:**

1971 - 2,174 .....	457.77
1972 - 1,949 .....	468.21

**KANE MISSION SISTERS**  
**Oct. 29, 1942 - Oct. 11, 1973**  
*by Tina Giesbrecht*

On October 15, 1942, Mrs. P. L. Harder, Mrs. David Wiebe, Mrs. P. U. Braun and Mr. John Braun met to discuss the organization of a Ladies Sewing Circle. They decided to name the group "Kane Mission Sisters". The motto for the group was to be "Lasset uns aber gutes tun und nicht muede werden" taken out of Galatians 6:9.

On October 29, 1942, the organization of "Kane Mission Sisters" took place at the home of Mrs. Peter L. Harder. There were 14 ladies present at that first meeting, they are as follows:

Mrs. P. U. Braun, Mrs. J. E. Hiebert  
 Mrs. Peter L. Harder, Miss Emmy Groening  
 Mrs. Jake Born, Mrs. H. P. Schellenberg  
 Mrs. David Wiebe, Mrs. G. G. Siemens  
 Mrs. Frank Braun, Miss Laura Hiebert  
 Mrs. Jake Epp, Mrs. Eva Schellenberg  
 Mrs. John J. Toews, Mrs. Frank G. Blatz

Elections of officers were as follows:

President - Mrs. J. E. Hiebert  
 Vice-president - Mrs. H. P. Schellenberg  
 Secretary - Mrs. G. G. Siemens

The minutes of the first meeting were written in German.

At the 2nd meeting, Mrs. Siemens, the secretary resigned. When they went to elect a new secretary, both Mrs. Frank Braun and Mrs. P. L. Harder had the same number of votes, so they decided that the secretary's job would be a joint effort.

Meetings were opened by singing 2 songs; the hostess had scripture reading and prayer. Quite often the Lord's Prayer was said in unison. At the November 26, 1942 meeting, the ladies decided that the purpose of the group was to do mission work. The best way to be successful is to work together. One person alone is unable to do this. Collections were held at meetings primarily to buy material for quilts and layettes, etc. Meetings were closed by singing another song. Meetings were held at the homes of members. The Kane Mission Sisters adopted quite an elaborate constitution. No mention is made as to who helped them make it up.

**CONSTITUTION:**

**Article 1.** The name of this organization shall be .....

**Article 2.** The aim of the organization shall be to promote knowledge of missions, to deepen interest in world evangelism and to secure systematic contributions for missions.

**Article 3.** Any woman may become a member of this society who gives evidence of living a Christian life and sub-



*Kane Mission Sisters in 1956 at Gus Penners. Back: Mary Blatz, Mrs. Gus Penner, Tina Blatz and Marion Harder.  
 Center: Mrs. Krabn, Nettie Hyde, Wilma Blatz (blond child), Vivian Harder (dark child), Mary Born.  
 Front: Nettie Giesbrecht, Susan Rempel, Agatha Neufeld.*

scribes to the rules and purpose of this organization. Membership fee of 25¢ a year to be paid by persons wishing to join.

**Article 4.** Monthly meetings are held on the ..... This society requires that the quorum consists of 2/3 average attendance. Special meetings may be held at the call of the president or executive committee. Due notice to be given.

**Article 5.** Methods of raising money or conducting meetings shall be in harmony with the principles of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of Canada.

**Article 6.** The officers of the society chosen from among the members of the said society shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

(2) Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual business meeting of the society.

(3) No one shall hold more than one major position at one time.

(4) The officers of the society constitute an executive committee which shall have power to fill vacancies in the office of the society which may occur between annual elections.

**Article 7.** The society, with the approval of the executive committee, shall elect annually committees to suit their requirements (such as Mission, relief, lunch, sick, visitation, projects).

**Article 8.** This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the society by a 2/3 vote of active members present and voting providing that the proposed amendment has been read and explained at one previous meeting of the society.

#### BY - LAWS:

1. It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all regular and special meetings of the society and of the executive meetings and to promote and supervise the general interests of the society.

2. The vice-president shall fill the place of the president in her absence or when called upon to do so.

3. The secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and shall conduct the correspondence of the society.

4. The treasurer shall have charge of all the monies contributed to the society and the distribution of the same as ordered by the society and shall keep an accurate record of the accounts.

5. All officers and committee chairmen shall make a full report of the society annually. The treasurer's report shall be subject to an auditing committee.

6. Offerings shall be received at each meeting of the society.

7. An annual report shall be made to the local church.

8. Motto (chosen by society).

The first years' ladies spent time at meetings cutting material for quilts, layettes, etc. They sewed pillow cases, sheets, diapers and baby gowns for the local hospital. The quilts were raffled or sold at the annual Mission Sale held at the end of the season.

A typical order to Eaton's or Simpson's would be as follows:

1 Cotton Batt .....	.69
1 yard Rose Satin for cushion .....	.55
1 yard Green Satin for cushion .....	.55
6 spools of thread .....	.60
8 yds of pink broadcloth at 22¢ .....	1.76
	4.15
Charges .....	.09
Total .....	\$4.24

After an order like that, there would be 6¢ left in the treasury.

The mission sale at the end of the season was the highlight of the year. The Sisters tried to make it enjoyable for everyone. The evening started with a program, followed by the auction sale and lunch.

On June 3, 1943, the first mission sale was held with Mr. H. Schellenberg as auctioneer. Their financial statement after the sale was as follows:

Money on hand .....	6.10
Proceeds from sale .....	201.95
Collection .....	33.16
Total .....	241.21

The money was dispersed as follows:

Hilfswerk (M.C.C.) .....	50.00
Milk for Britain .....	25.00
Greek Relief .....	25.00
Red Cross .....	25.00
Registration for above .....	.66
Material for hospital .....	21.05
Randall Groening - Mexico .....	15.00
John H. Schellenberg - Africa .....	15.00
Fees for above .....	2.05
Gift to Minister .....	5.00
Christmas presents to boys in	
C.O. camps .....	23.15
Material for sewing .....	24.43

Total .....	\$231.34
Left in Treasury .....	9.87

As years went by, the Kane Mission Sisters supported different projects. M.C.C. was always a top priority. They sponsored children in India through M.C.C. and donations were made to missionaries e.g. Anne Penner-India, Tina Blatz-Germany, Helen Warkentine-India, Bill Kehlers-Alaska, John Wiebe-Columbia.

Milk for Britain and Greek War Relief was on the agenda for several years as well as gifts to C.O. camps.

The Sisters canvassed the district for Children's Aid, served at auction sales and had bake sales. The big fund raiser was the annual auction sale held in late spring.

The last sale was held on April 27, 1973. The money was designated as follows:

Christmas gift - .....	5.00
(sponsored son in India)	
Christmas Bundles .....	65.00
M.C.C. Food & Clothing .....	100.00
General Conference .....	75.00
Leper Mission .....	100.00
Union Gospel Mission .....	100.00
Winkler Bible Camp .....	25.00
Assiniboine Mission Camp .....	25.00
Winkler Salem Home .....	25.00
Rev. Bill Kehler .....	50.00
Mennonite Pioneer Mission .....	25.00
Tsing Ling Mu's Education .....	60.00
(sponsored son in India)	
Tina Blatz .....	25.00
John Wiebe - Columbia, S.A. ....	25.00
Layettes .....	25.00
Speaker .....	10.00
Total .....	740.00

The final meeting of the Kane Mission Sisters was held at the home of Mrs. Margaret Groening on October 11, 1973. There were 9 members on the roll call. They were: Helen Blatz, Tina Bergman, Eva Bergman, Mary Born, Tina Giesbrecht, Margaret Groening, Betty Penner, Agatha Neufeld, Dorothy Wiebe. There were two associate members - Tina Ginter and Alice Trudeau.

During the years the Kane Mission Sisters were in operation every member had her turn at serving in some capacity on the executive. The years were productive and members have fond memories.

The above information was gleaned from records kept over the years and are now in the Mennonite Heritage Centre at the Canadian Mennonite Bible College (CMBC) in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



*Kane Mission Sisters, summer, 1973. Standing: Mary Born, Dorothy Wiebe, Betty Penner, Margaret Groening and Tina Bergman. Sitting: Alice Trudeau, Eva Bergman, Helen Blatz, Agatha Neufeld, Tina Giesbrecht.*



*Kane Sunday School*

*The spirit*

*lives on...*



*...in life  
around us*

## HALUNKENDARP

*by Margaret (Reimer) Harms*

This village of Halunkendarp, one mile east of Kane and half a mile south, was a unique place to live. It did not boast a store or any business place, it was *people*. The word "halunken" according to the Low German dictionary written by Jack Thiessen for the Hanover Historical Society, means scoundrel or rascal. We were never told why or how the "darp" (village) got this name, or who might have been responsible. That is, until the year 1999, some fifty years after its original boom! Susie (Doell) Winther relates how her father, Henry Doell, named the little settlement "Halunkendarp" to tease his brother-in-law, Dave Penner, who lived in the village. Little did he know that in a few short years he too, would become a "halunkendarpa". Mr. Doell, always a good sport, never let that bother him.

Neighbours were friendly and helpful while being respectful of each other. We also shared many things. When we herded the cows along the roadsides, it was not uncommon to have many of the other village cows with ours. Pig butchering was a time to share work, food and fellowship. Dad most frequently eviscerated the hogs and I remember Mom sewing white clothing for this job. "Pig killing" at our house meant fried chicken and lemon pie and

we woke early to the sound of Dad sharpening his special knives. Some of the friends and relatives arrived in time for breakfast.

When a neighbour would come to get his haircut, the evening usually ended with a game of checkers or crokinole by the men who were highly skilled at these games.

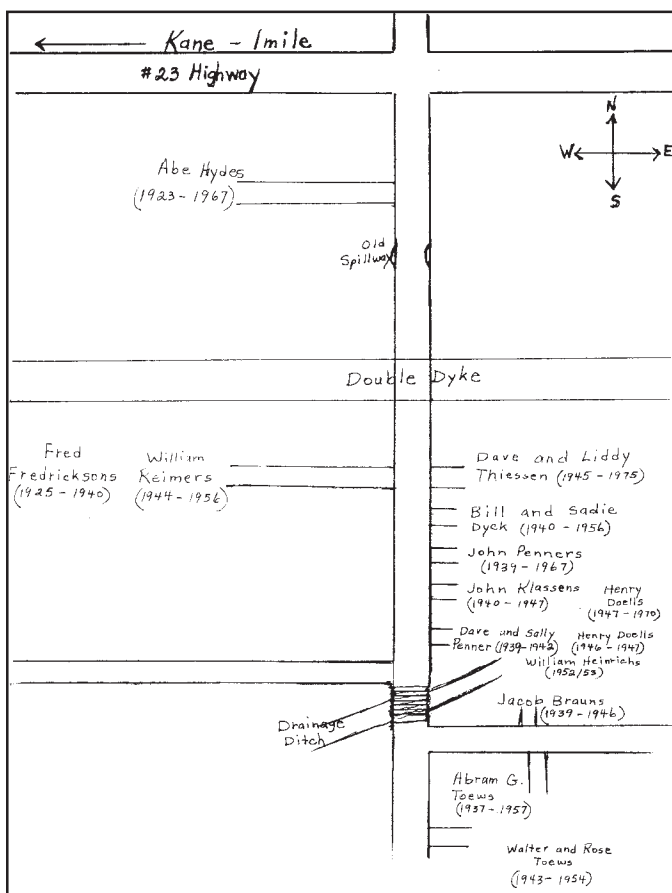
Not all the village dogs were friendly but Happy, a small dog belonging to the Henry Doells, visited often when Mr. Doell came to our place. The dog was true to his name and suited his owner.

Walter Toews or his Dad, Abram Toews, picked up many of the village children for Sunday School in Kane. The rides in summer were by car or jeep or in an army truck, with Dave Thiessen. In winter the mode of transportation was a wagon box on sled runners drawn by horses. Occasionally we had the privilege of riding in the snowplane Walter had built. Since the country roads were not ploughed after a snowfall, the sleds and cutters found the shortest way to town across fields, farmyards, up and down and around snowbanks. We sang with gusto over the rhythmic music of the sleigh bells and the jingle of the horses' harness.

When we first moved to the village, the water drainage was a large ditch running east/west, just north of the Abram Toews farmyard. Another spillway was halfway between our place and the Abe Hyde yard. In the latter 40's, larger dikes and ditches were created, the modern version being the Shannon. The ditch at the south end of the village was also deepened and widened, making it necessary for the Jacob Braun family to relocate. (They moved their house to Lowe Farm.) Now the overland flooding was confined to these passages. This usually meant that during spring run-off from the Pembina Hills, our little "Darp" was isolated from the rest of the community. At such times people of all ages spent time walking and visiting all up and down the half mile of road. There was a warm comfortable feeling to know that although we were hemmed in by water, we were amidst loving friends and neighbours.

The Abe Hyde farm was north of the village, about a third of a mile across the field from us. Since Janice was between Helen's and my age, the three of us spent a considerable amount of time visiting back and forth. Mr. Hyde was quite a tease when we were at their place. I recall one Sunday afternoon when it was time for "faspa", Janice's Dad said that he had a wonderful treat for the meal. We were all excited because he had to go outside to get it and this was wintertime. Could it be a rare ice-cream treat? Well, we were not particularly impressed when he proudly produced a liverwurst. I have to admit that I enjoy liver sausage now, but we did not appreciate it at the time. Mr. Hyde thoroughly enjoyed the trick he had played. A few years later when Abe Hyde suffered a lengthy illness, I remember my Dad helping out with their chores on a regular basis over a number of months.

My mother had a reputation in the family and in our immediate neighbourhood for her delicious buns. On



*This map shows what the village looked like  
in the 1940's and 50's.*

many a summer Saturday afternoon some of the neighbour ladies and their children would come to our home for a fropa of fresh buns and chokecherry "duchsel" (a sweet sauce into which to dip the buns). Mrs. Hyde and Janice, Liddy Thiessen with her daughters Myra and Josie, and Sadie Dyck with her children were probably the most frequent visitors for this special lunch. Later on when my first brothers-in-law came into the family, they would compete at a Sunday "fropa" to see who could eat the most buns. To the best of my knowledge the winning number at one sitting was thirteen or fourteen!

Another dear friend in the village was Mildred Toews. She had a wonderful playhouse where we spent many carefree hours playing house, school, etc. She was the youngest in her family so when her last sister got married and her parents went on vacation or an overnight visit, Mildred often asked me to sleep over at her house so she wouldn't be alone. These were special times for me. Mildred, together with her parents were the ones who first took me shopping in Winnipeg, at Eaton's, of course (Winnipek em Kjalla).

Tina and Mary Klassen were also good friends of ours. Helen and I spent countless hours visiting at each other's homes. We even ventured out on picnics nearby. When the older girls of the village began dating boys, it was of

particular interest to everyone. All eyes watched the blossoming romances and rejoiced when the wedding bells rang. New babies, personal accomplishments including graduations were all important. I remember what a big event it was when Dave Thiessen bought a new John Deere tractor and when other neighbours got new or different cars, everyone took note.

Not unlike a small town, there were differences between people in the village, but these were insignificant in comparison to all the good times we had.

Part of the village remains today, but all of the residents have changed since my parents moved. Of that older generation only a few are still alive.

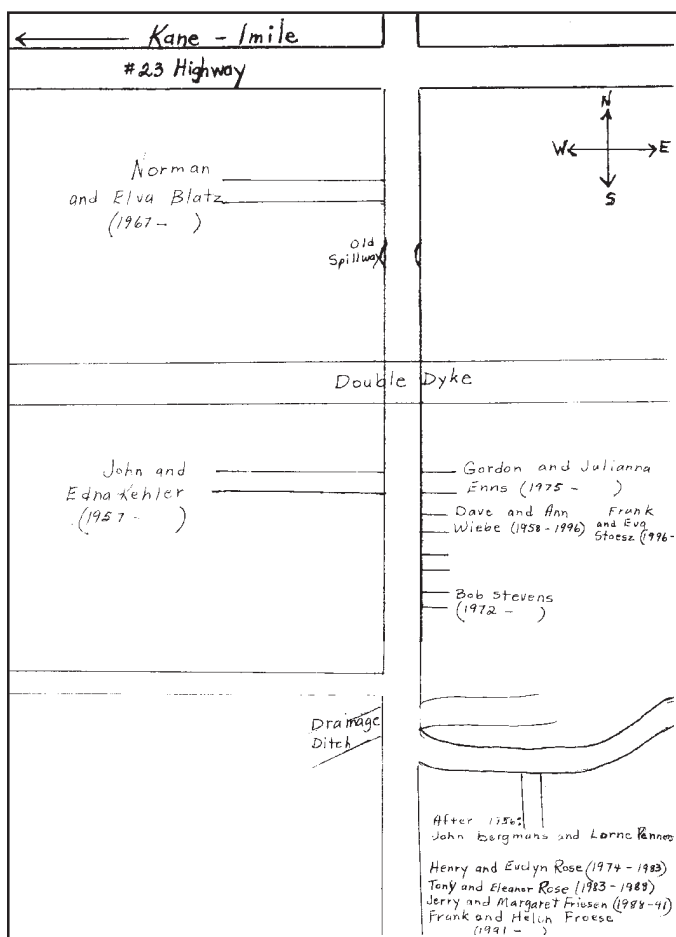
The present village has only a few families, but they still have a sense of community and arrange the odd housewarming party, wiener roast, or bring a hot meal to a sick family.

## KANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

*by Elva (Born) Blatz*

**Beginnings:** In June 1973 the Kane School was closed. Children were bussed to Lowe Farm and Morris in the new division system.

A meeting was held March 17, 1974 at the school by a group of men of the district to discuss the feasibility of buying the Kane School and grounds to be used for a community centre. Present were Cornie Bergman, Frank Blatz, Norman Blatz, Jake Born, Pete Harder, John Kehler, Alvin Penner, George Penner, Barrie Rose, Henry Rose, John J. Toews, and Irvin Wiebe, a total of twelve people. A temporary board was elected, consisting of Cornie Bergman as chairman, Irvin Wiebe as secretary, Pete Harder, Jake Blatz, and Alvin Penner. The following day the committee approached Mr. Dave Thiessen, the trustee, about the possibility of buying the Kane School for \$1.00 as other communities were doing. An open meeting was held at



*This map shows what the village looks like in the year 2000.*



*Kane "young couples" Christmas Party, 1963. On the picture you will see Leonard Wiebe, Art Groening, Jake Derksen, Tina Groening, Bill Braun, Annie Derksen, Faye Suderman, Elva Blatz, John and Tina Giesbrecht, Helen Blatz, Norman and Anne Groening, Mary Blatz.*

the school with twenty local people present. The main question was how to raise the funds to keep a centre running. The annual cost was estimated at \$1500.00. A municipal grant of about \$700.00 could be expected, the school house could be rented at approximately \$420.00 per annum, with the balance coming from rentals of the school building. The vote was 100% in favour. The name was to be the Kane Community Centre (KCC). A new board of five were elected namely, Cornie Bergman, Pete Harder, Jake Blatz, Pete Brown and Don Schellenberg. Chairman was Cornie Bergman with Pete Harder as secretary treasurer. Mr. Pete Ginter suggested we start with voluntary donations in the form of membership fees. January 1, 1975, the school was officially turned over to the Kane Community Centre.

The board planned the first events. They began with a crokinole drive on Friday, January 10, 1975. The drive for membership was made - 34 memberships were taken out at the suggestion of \$10.00 per member - \$317.00 came in. The crokinole games went well and all enjoyed the lunch. A severe snowstorm came up which was not taken seriously. The last families to go were the Jake Blatzs, Cornie Paetkaus, Hank Hildebrands and Norman Blatzs. The visibility was so bad, they all returned to the Centre to wait out the storm. Old dusty exercise mats were dragged out and used for beds. Elva Blatz was privileged to sleep on the teachers' lounge couch because her baby was due in a month. The next day the men ventured out to see about something to eat. Pete Harder opened the store and they came back with some bread and bologna. The storm continued all day. At times the trees just south of the school could not be seen. About dusk, Norman and Hank drove out with the snowmobiles they had come with to the meeting to check out the storm. About 10 p.m., Frank Blatz came to pick them up and drove them home.

Another crokinole drive was held in February. The board asked for a committee to run these evenings so a Recreation Committee was set up. They were Pete Ginter, Henry Rose, and Frank Blatz. A collection was taken at each meeting which was usually under \$20.00 with the exception of one. Lena Schellenberg showed slides of the Holy Land and this netted \$50.00.

The board was kept busy with keeping the school and the teacherage in readiness for rentals plus all the paperwork. For 1975, some accounts read as follows:

1975	Withdrawn
Jan. 16 Man. Menn. Mutual Ins. ....	\$89.42
May 9 Braun, Schmidt & Wiens .....	249.25
May 23 Kane Garage(stove oil) .....	216.23
Viola Wiebe(caretaking) .....	50.00
C. Bergman(electrical) .....	46.65
Dec. 8 Man. Menn Mutual Ins. ....	106.45

**Annual Meetings:** Annual meetings were well attended and were accompanied by some form of entertainment. The 1976 annual meeting was held in conjunction with a

chicken dinner. This netted \$124.82 and was thought to be successful. At the meeting, it was decided they must dispose of the unwanted articles, such as old desks, tools, science equipment, etc. together with an activity to bring the people out. Lowe Farm had started with the Shannon Festival and it was said it would be good to take part, but that we would still have activities for the Kane-Rose Farm area. Dora Hildebrand was elected into the Recreation Committee, joining Pete Ginter and Frank Blatz. This committee immediately went to work to plan the Kane teacher and student reunion for June 26, 1976. The auction sale would be held in conjunction with the reunion.

The board looked after the physical needs of the Centre. The staff room was made into a kitchen. A stove and fridge were donated. An opening in the wall to the north classroom allowed food to be served directly over the counter. This classroom was great for meetings, bridal showers, lunches, and rentals.

In 1979 work was done on the ball diamond and bleachers were built. Some \$80.00 was collected to help pay for the bleachers and construction was in the hands of George Penner. It was also decided to open the booth for ball games to bring in revenue for this work. Rent was to be raised from \$15 to \$25. The yard was rented for \$5.00. Later, in 1980, the rent was raised to \$40.00 for the yard and building. Couples were asked to clean the building after rentals, some of which were Norman and Elva Blatz, John and Edna Kehler, and George and Mary Penner.

Reading the minutes of the 1981 meeting, these items of interest were found. *Item #7, the practice of ball was not to be allowed in the basement. Item #8, okay to allow boys' group to practice music in Centre. Tables were not to be rented out.*

To heat the building was the greatest cost and so, in 1985, the north side was opened up into one large room and the piano brought upstairs. Later a stage was built.

After 1988, annual meetings ended up with games, pool, shuffleboard, coffee and visiting. The north windows were closed off in 1992. The government grant was in place to help with major repairs for the roof or furnace.

In 1992 an Appreciation Day was held for Pete and Marion Harder. Pete had served the Centre as secretary-treasurer for most of the years it was open. He looked after the reservations and checked the water supply and the furnace routinely.

After 1995, annual meetings were represented by about a dozen people. Many people who had grown up in the community moved away and those who moved in did not have the nostalgic connections to get involved. The furnace was becoming a real problem and fewer people were involved.

The last board in place had Ralph Groening as chairman, Steve Hildebrand as secretary, along with Norman Blatz, Barry Friesen, and Ernie Friesen.

**Social Events:** A variety of events were organized by the Recreation Committee. Several meetings a year were game nights with organized crokinole drives, ping-pong tournaments and checkers with food and visiting later. Variety night with lots of local talent was a time for fun and laughter: solos by Debbie Rose or Audrey Friesen or four year old Candice Rose in her black patent shoes, piano solos and duets, music groups sprang up like the Groening brothers singing blue grass, Irvin Wiebe would play the spoons or washboard as his daughters Audrey and Donalda played accordions. Can you picture John Kehler reciting in Low German, a long poem on "The First Driving Lesson", or Marion Harder dressed as Mr. Levinski reading "A Jewish Wedding"? Short skits done by young and old alike were also a hit. Dulaney Blatz and Paul Groening, aged 10-12 years at the time, were very interesting. Even the youth rendered skits with some actors being Steve Hildebrand, Linda Blatz, Janet Braun, Curt Penner, and David Dueck.



*Hillbilly Night in Kane, 1975. Doug Reddekop, Gordon Dyck, Wayne Penner and 6 year old Rob Dyck singing "Dirty Ol' Farmer".*



*Hee-haw skits by Paul Groening and Dulaney Blatz.*



*Blue Grass music by the Groening Brothers: Ralph, Paul and Chuck.*

Entertainment was frequently brought in and invitations were given to outlying areas and to those retired elsewhere. Some of the groups included Cornie Kehler and the Country Airmen, the Funk family from Grunthal, New Way Singers of Altona, Peter Kauenhoffen with his daughter, just to name a few. One guest we always enjoyed was Ernie Hiebert who could imitate Wilf Carter so well with a rendition of "The Little Shirt My Mama Made For Me". Other performers included Orlando Sukkau of "Stoneground", Hank Hildebrand and a group of young guitarists, and a group called Kane Musicians. Jake Goertzen, music teacher at Lowe Farm, came out with his class of band students. The band students also performed as solos and duet items over the years.

Other entertainment included slides of vacations or community events. Slides and pictures were brought in fall after the '76 Reunion. Lawrence Dyck showed movies of baseball games.

The biggest event was the Sodbuster Night, held in March, 1977. The Kane people turned actors and presented "Morje well wie Schwien schlachte" (tomorrow we want to kill pigs). The setting for the play was on an "average" Mennonite farm near Kane and the family was busy getting ready to butcher pigs. Historically, it took place at a time when there were only two kinds of people in the area - the Mennonites and the "English", and the play's humor seemed so real because most of the characters were just playing themselves. The actors were Hank Hildebrand, Cornie Paetkau, Elva Blatz, and Betty Penner as the children; Pete and Katie Ginter as the parents; Irvin Wiebe as the Rawleigh salesman; visitors were Jake Born, Don Schellenberg, Tina Giesbrecht, and "English" Henry Rose. This skit was written and directed by Dora Hildebrand.

Two other short skits were presented as well. Pie and coffee was then served. This program ran for two nights and total income was \$437.55.

The farewell gifts were presented at the social events.

Notices of events were handed out by the van drivers and also could be picked up at the Kane Store.



*"Morje well wie Schwien schlachte" play. Telling stories are Jake Schellenberg, Jake Born and Pete Ginter, 1977.*



*Grandma (Katie Ginter) with granddaughters (Betty Penner and Elva Blatz) in the play.*

**Fall Suppers:** Our first suppers were chicken dinners, and in the early years were held in spring. On March 17, 1978, the first smorg was served. There was turkey, ham, meatballs, a variety of salads, and many other foods set out on long tables. Over 225 people enjoyed the meal. Smorgs were held for many years. In 1985, it was decided that when asked to bring food for the supper, the cost should be taken from the ticket sales. Until that time almost everything was donated except the meat, and everyone paid their ticket. Ticket prices were \$3.50 for adults, 12 and under \$2.00 or \$4.00 at the door. The price gradually increased to \$6.00. A few years perogies were requested and

the last recorded supper was held April 15, 1994 and consisted of sausage and meatballs, baked potatoes, vegetables and salads. The suppers concluded with a program. This was all included in the ticket. These suppers were good fund-raisers to keep the Centre open. It was also a time of working together and enjoying the benefits of the results.

**Showers & Farewells:** In 1977 it was decided at an annual meeting to appoint two ladies to organize showers for the girls from our community. Tammy Dyck and Betty Penner were the first committee members. Notices were sent out and money collected for a combined gift which was often flatware or china. The china was bought in Winkler at a 30% discount. A shower for Connie Hildebrand was held in 1974, organized by her aunt, Elva Blatz. The school provided a large space and around 40 ladies were present. Ladies were invited from the district and the Emmanuel Church. Connie's life passed before her in a fashion parade; models wearing her little dresses and outfits from childhood to growing old with Gerry Caines. Another shower for Vivian Harder (Brown) was held in spring of 1976. The ladies made a scrapbook of her life out of magazine pictures.



*Connie Hildebrand's life passed before her in a fashion parade at her shower, 1975.*

The first shower planned by the Social Committee was held for Debbie Rose. A well attended couples shower was held for Eva Bergman in September of 1979. Crokinole, of course, was the entertainment for the evening since Eva was our main champion over the years. It was also a time to get to know her fiancé, Mr. Dave Friesen, from Plum Coulee. A Braun mixer was her gift, seeing she loved baking. Another shower that stands out was for Audrey Wiebe. The ball team put on a skit about "The long courtship of Audrey and Barry". Part of the skit revealed Audrey and Barry playing Yahtzee with Audrey shaking a ring out of the cup. In April of 1977, a shower for the Frank D. Blatz family, whose house had burnt down, was held with another planned evening. The last showers held were for Valerie Wiebe and Clara Kehler. These were the last of the girls to go to the Kane School.



*(Couples) Bridal shower for Eva Bergman and Dave Friesen, 1979.*



*Tammy Dyck, Karen Wiebe, Darlene Bergman, Bev Penner, Doreen Hyde, Hilda Martens and Evelyn Rose doing the Angel version of Barry Friesen and Audrey Wiebe's courtship, 1983.*

This committee also looked after farewells and gifts. In 1977 alone, farewell gifts were given to the Jake Born, Abe Penner, Jake I. Brown, John J. Toews and Jake Blatz families. By 1980, George Neufelds, Ron Brauns, Alice Trudeau, Mrs. Justina Friesen, Mrs. Abe Wiebe, Martin Hieberts, Peter Duecks, and Dave and Irma Friesen had all moved out of the area. Pete Ginter's moved in 1981. Anne Wiebe and Viola Wiebe were in charge of showers for many years.

**Float:** In 1978 the Shannon Festival Committee asked for a float from the KCC. Elva Blatz was in charge with lots of help and ideas being offered by Tammy Dyck, Viola Wiebe and Dora Hildebrand. The float depicted life at the Centre, the booth built by George Penner, ball players, the crokinole games, and the variety nights. It won first prize in the non-commercial event. The float was again used in 1979.



*Jake and Tena Born on the Kane float at the Shannon Parade in Lowe Farm, 1979.*

**Wiener Roasts:** Ball games were played all summer. At one point we had two men's teams and one ladies', plus, for a few years, the school girls also played. After seeding and spraying, Kane "A" played Kane "B", followed by a wiener roast. Everyone brought their own hot dogs and fixings, and spent the evening around a huge bonfire after a long day's work. The booth was open for pop and coffee. This was a great evening to catch up on what the neighbours were doing. The cheering at the game was often quite mixed, picking the plays of the evening to cheer for instead of the team. This became an annual event with the ladies' team, the Kane Angels, playing Kane "A" or the old-timers. Some years later the team you played for depended on which side of the track you lived on. It was always a good time for all and a refreshing break. This was the only planned summer event from May to November.

**Kane Campground:** Picnic tables were left under the trees and occasionally people would stop in their travels to eat their lunch on the grounds.

One day in September a young man pulled in on his bicycle and pitched his tent. He was from England and for the past two years had travelled in many countries of the world and was spending an overnight stop at Kane.

During the "flood of the century" in 1997, the military pitched their tents on the old school grounds to set up their radio communication base.

**Rentals:** The first ten years or so the KCC was rented frequently. At Christmas, family gatherings were held here. In summer, many family reunions were held. Birthday parties such as Ad Murner's 80th and Anne Hildebrand's 70th were celebrated here. Many anniversaries celebrated at the KCC included John and Edna Kehler's 25th, Ed H. and Margaret Groening's 40th and William Reimer's 50th. The last anniversary held was the 40th for Irvin and Vi Wiebe in 1994.



*Irvin and Vi Wiebe's 40th Anniversary  
in the Kane Community Centre, October, 1994.*

In spring of 1982, the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church burned down and the congregation rented the Centre until their building was rebuilt at the end of the year.

Courses were given at the Centre. An agriculture course was taught by Murray Enns for farmers in this southern Manitoba area during the winter months. A short refrigeration course was also offered. The ladies enjoyed a Wok Cookery course taught by a home economist. This course was followed by a dinner out with their husbands at a Chinese restaurant. A cake decorating course was taught by Mrs. Annie Dyck of Lowe Farm.



*A Wok Cookery class in the KCC, 1982.  
(l-r): Tina Wieler, Jackie Hodgson,  
Dora Hildebrand, Edna Kebler.*

Business meetings were also held here. The UGG annual meetings were held as well as other agriculture and chemical meetings. Kane Agri, run by Lawrence and Tammy Dyck, held frequent meetings, some of which included luncheons or hot meals. The Centre was also used for 4-H meetings. The Red River Snowmobile Club had their meetings in these facilities in the '70's. Sunday School picnics were enjoyed on the KCC grounds.

The teacherage was first rented out to Ken Rempel in 1975 at \$30.00 a month. In 1977, it was rented to H. Penner, Frank Blatz (whose house burned down lived here for the summer until his new home was built), and E. Carrier. In 1979, Jake Goertzen rented it while he taught at Lowe Farm. In 1980, the rent increased to \$40.00 (because of the clean-up). It is now in the process of being torn down.



*Jim Hildebrand and volunteer working on the skating rink at  
Kane, December, 1983.*

**Heart & Stroke Foundation:** In 1982, Helen Thiessen announced that she would be collecting for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Assistance was needed for canvassing in the Kane area; Dora Hildebrand took the job of recruiting canvassers for twelve years, and now Barry Friesen is carrying on. Kane has always donated well, and Barry says our top year was when about \$1,200.00 was donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

**Final Years:** After 1995, interest waned. It was difficult to get enough people interested in organizing an activity. At the 1997 annual meeting a motion was made to look into closing down the Centre. The Board looked into possibilities and the following year it was decided to sell the Centre. It was sold with the stipulation that a cairn could be set up at the flagpole, and that the owner would maintain this area.

The last open meeting was held December 7, 1998. The disbursements of the last monies were as follows: to-

wards a fire truck at Lowe Farm-\$10,000; \$5,000 towards the ball diamond at the Lowe Farm Park; a cairn at KCC-\$4,000; Rose Farm School District sign \$500; Kane History Book Fund-\$5,000 (the History Book Fund would also receive any money left over from the KCC account). Present at the meeting were chairman Ralph Groening, secretary Steve Hildebrand, Board members Norman Blatz and Barry Friesen. Others at the meeting were Corey Penner, Frank Blatz, Cornie Dyck, John Kehler, Bill Toews, Lucy Hildebrand, Dora Hildebrand, Hank Hildebrand, George Penner and Art Hiebert.

Those of the community that went to school here and were willing to get involved in the events of the Centre were saddened by the closure. Unfortunately, change is inevitable. It is exciting to know however, that the memories collected in this book will celebrate not only the Kane Community Centre, but the entire community: the people and the events that have made it what it is, a rural area dear to the hearts of many.

**KANE 4-H**  
**“Learn to do by Doing”**  
*by Viola Wiebe and*  
*Audrey (Wiebe) Friesen*

**4-H Pledge:**

*My head to clearer thinking,  
 My heart to greater loyalty,  
 My hands to larger service,  
 My health to better living,  
 For my club, my community,  
 and my country.*

Kane had a 4-H Club for two years from 1957-1959. According to Mrs. Agatha Neufeld, Mrs. Helen Penner and Mrs. Nettie Giesbrecht were the main push behind this program coming to Kane, each taking her turn serving as local leader for one year. The club was first named the Shamrocks and changed to Kane Nimble Fingers the second year. Mary Ann Krahn served as president of the club for both years. There were nineteen 4-H members the first year and the same number the second year including ten repeats. The 4-H Club met Friday afternoons at 2:45 p.m. Agatha Neufeld said the members made an apron, a needle book and lots of samples as well as learned to crochet and knit. They also had an Achievement Day and marched in uniforms at a rally. The program ended due to declining number of interested members.

In the 60's, the Department of Education funded a Home Economics program in the Lowe Farm public school system. Apparently Kane did not qualify for the same program so Elva Blatz and Dora Hildebrand researched the 4-

H program, as requested by the local trustees, and liked the way it was set up - especially the guidance it provided for the leaders. They met several times with the Home Economist Yvonne Archambault and Kane once again had 4-H in the fall of 1969.

The Kane Nimbofingers began as a clothing club and later added self-determined projects, a Red Cross Youth course called *Care in the Home* (consisting of Home Nursing, Baby Care and First Aid was jointly taught by Mrs. Agnes Dueck and Mrs. Joan Loewen), handicrafts, woodworking and Power Tobogganing to its repertoire. There were twenty-six members and four leaders in 1969, peaking to thirty-five members and eight leaders in 1971 and ending with eighteen members and six leaders in 1973.

The Kane 4-H Nimbofingers marched to victory in the 4-H Parade at the Morris Stampede in 1971. Viola Wiebe's uniform (white shirt, Manitoba tartan skirt and tie) is on display at the Roland 4-H Museum. A must see! In the fall of that year, the club changed its name to Kane Kadets and the following year became the Kane Kadets Kombined Klub. Achievement Days and 4-H Rallies at Morris Stampede and Carman Fair were highlights as far as our 4-H careers went. We marched, modelled, demonstrated, competed and performed to the very best of our ability. Who could forget the famous (or is it infamous) “Everything is Beautiful” theme for one special Achievement Day?

Every year, the Kane 4-H Club chose a charity to help out. Some of these included: raffling a radio with proceeds used for thirty-seven sewing kits sent to Vietnam, a Walk-a-thon with proceeds going to the making of twenty-eight MCC Health Kits, and collecting stamps for the Leprosy Mission.

The Kane 4-H Club provided a whirlwind social life for its quiet, sheltered rural members. A few of these activities included: a pretend shopping spree at the Gladstone Mall in Winkler, a summer outing to St. Malo Beach, a cruise on the Red River Rouge, Ice Capades, a Variety Night with special entertainment by the Silvertones, a Family Day at Stephenfield, a Winnipeg Jets game, tobogganing at Miami and our very own sponsored Hillbilly Night. No wonder we organized a social, lunch, reporter, scrapbook and program committee the first meeting of every year. Like all community events in Kane, the main focus of 4-H (besides learning invaluable skills) was to meet with friends and build memories.

**4-H Grace:**

*We thank thee, Lord  
 For blessing great  
 On this our fair land.  
 Teach us to serve  
 Thee joyfully with Head,  
 Heart, Health and Hands.*



### 1957-1958 — Shamrocks

President: Mary-Ann Krahn  
 Vice-President: Janet Handlon  
 Secretary: Sharon Bergman  
 Local Leader: Helen Penner  
 Assistant Leader: Nettie Giesbrecht

*The Shamrocks 4-H Club at Kane, 1957-1958. In random order: Martha Kebler; Sharon Bergman, Wilma Schellenberg, Janet Handlon, Donna Kirk, Evelyn Heppner, Elma Kebler, Deanna Bergman, Jean Dyck, Judy Suderman, Myra Thiessen, Margaret Dueck, Judy Neufeld, Katherine Braun, June Groening, Mary-Ann Krahn, Alice Penner, Joyce Schellenberg, Betty Janzen.*



### 1958-1959 — Kane Nimble Fingers

President: Mary-Ann Krahn  
 Vice-President: Judy Suderman  
 Secretary: Evelyn Heppner  
 Treasurer: Evelyn Heppner  
 News Reporter: Myra Thiessen  
 Local Leader: Nettie Giesbrecht  
 Assistant Leader: Agatha Neufeld

*Kane Nimble Fingers 4-H Club 1958-1959. First row: Sally Born, Gina Neufeld, Margaret Born, Sharon Friesen. Second row: Phyllis Groening, Diana Penner, Joan Braun, Linda Heppner, Anita Groening. Third row: Jean Dyck, Myra Thiessen, Elma Kebler, Judy Neufeld, Judy Suderman. Fourth row: June Groening, Mary-Ann Krahn, Mrs. Agatha Neufeld, Evelyn Heppner, Margaret Dueck.*



*Kane Nimble Fingers 4-H Club, 1958-1959.*



*Kane Nimbofingers 4-H Club Achievement Day, 1969-1970.*



*Home Nursing Class of the Kane Nimbofingers 4-H Club, 1971-72. In random order: Linda Bergen, Pam Brown, Vivian Harder, Audrey Wiebe, Donna Wiebe, Linda Wiebe, Connie Hildebrand, Maxine Blatz, Ruth Dueck, Glenda Gerbrandt, Lorena Gerbrandt, Gail Groening, Carol Wiebe, Diane Dyck, Elva Groening with Joan (Braun) Loewen and Agnes Dueck as instructors.*

### **1969-1970 — Kane Nimbofingers**

President: Connie Hildebrand  
 Vice-President: Linda Bergen  
 Secretary: Audrey Wiebe  
 Treasurer: Gladys Suderman  
 Local Leader: Dora Hildebrand (Clothing B)  
 Leader: Elva Blatz (Clothing A)  
 Leader: Susan Bergen (Clothing A)  
 Leader: Faye Suderman (Clothing B)  
 Leader: Viola Wiebe (Clothing B)

### **1970-1971 — Kane Nimbofingers**

President: Ruth Dueck  
 Vice-President: Maxine Blatz  
 Secretary: Vivian Harder  
 Treasurer: Donna Wiebe  
 Local Leader: Dora Hildebrand (Clothing C)  
 Leader: Marion Harder (Clothing A)  
 Leader: Susan Bergen (Clothing B)  
 Leader: Agatha Gerbrandt (Clothing B)  
 Leader: Betty Wiebe (Clothing C)  
 Leader: Justina Dyck (Clothing C)  
 Leader: Helen Blatz (Clothing C)  
 Leader: Viola Wiebe (Clothing C)

#### **Awards:**

Camp: Connie Hildebrand & Audrey Wiebe  
 Parade Champions at Morris Rally

### **1971-1972 — Kane Kadets**

President: Pamela Brown  
 Vice-President: Karen Groening  
 Secretary: Glenda Gerbrandt  
 Treasurer: Lorena Gerbrandt  
 News Reporter: Donna Wiebe  
 Local Leader: Marion Harder (Clothing B)  
 (Handicrafts A & B)  
 Leader: Susan Bergen (Clothing A)  
 Leader: Susan Penner (Clothing C)  
 Leader: Viola Wiebe (Clothing D)  
 (Self-Determined)

Leader: Elva Blatz (Clothing D)  
 Leader: Betty Wiebe (Clothing D)  
 Leader: Agnes Dueck (Home Nursing)  
 Leader: Betty Penner (Self-Determined)  
 Junior Leader: Bernie Bergen

#### **Awards:**

Camp: Linda Bergen and Donna Wiebe  
 Dress Review Queen: Connie Hildebrand  
 Parade: Reserve Champions at Morris Rally



*Kane Kadets Kombined Klub, 1972-1973.*



*Dulaney Blatz (l) won second prize with his knife holder at the Morris Rally, 1973.*

### **1972-1973 — Kane Kadets Kombined**

President: Audrey Wiebe

Vice-President: Linda Bergen

Secretary: Connie Hildebrand

Treasurer: Maxine Blatz

News Reporter: Linda Bergen

Local Leader: Viola Wiebe (Clothing D)

Leader: Betty Wiebe (Clothing A)

Leader: Susan Bergen (Clothing E)

Leader: Betty Penner (Handicrafts B)

Leader: Frank D. Blatz (Woodwork A)

#### **Awards:**

Camp: Pamela Brown and Maxine Blatz

Toronto Conference: Connie Hildebrand

Wisconsin Exchange: Linda Bergen

Tex Made: Maxine Blatz

Youth Leadership Week: Audrey Wiebe

Safety Conference - Edmonton: Viola Wiebe

Morris Lions Club: Senior Demonstration "Pillow Talk" - Linda Bergen & Pam Brown

### **1973-1974 — Kane Kadets Kombined**

President: Joan Blatz

Vice-President: Linda Blatz

Secretary: Karen Wiebe

Treasurer: Steve Hildebrand

News Reporter: Pamela Brown

Local Leader: Viola Wiebe

Leader: Betty Penner (Handicrafts C)

Leader: Susan Bergen (Self-Determined)

Leader: Frank D. Blatz (Woodworking B)

Leader: Norman Blatz (Power Toboggan)

Leader: Hank Hildebrand (P. Tobog., Trails)

Leader: Jake Blatz (Power Toboggan, Films)



*Power Toboggan display, 1973-1974.*

*Awards:*

Youth Leadership Week: Maxine Blatz and Pamela Brown

5-Year Leadership: Susan Bergen

5-Year Leadership: Viola Wiebe

5-Year Leadership: Jake Blatz

5-Year Member: Linda Bergen

5-Year Member: Joan Blatz

5-Year Member: Linda Blatz

5-Year Member: Maxine Blatz

5-Year Member: Pamela Brown

5-Year Member: Connie Hildebrand

5-Year Member: Audrey Wiebe



*Vi Wiebe receives her 5-year leadership award from Resby Coutts, 1974.*

## KANE HOMECOMING PICNIC

**June 26, 1976**

*by Pete and Marion Harder*

In 1976, the Social Committee for the Kane Community Centre, consisting of members Pete Ginter, Frank D. Blatz and Dora Hildebrand, was in the process of planning a reunion for the last Saturday in June. At the same time, the Community Centre board members, Jake Blatz (chairman), Pete Harder (secretary/treasurer), Cornie Bergman, Don Schellenberg, and George Penner, decided to have a sale to dispose of surplus equipment, books, etc., that had been left in the school after its closure. It was decided to combine the two planned activities, and thus the idea for the Kane Homecoming Picnic, on June 26, originated.

Registration for the Homecoming Picnic began at 10:00 a.m., with a total of 600 people signing the guest book. Several rooms in the Community Centre were set aside for displays, as a request had been made earlier for guests

to bring along their "memories". The result was an exhibition of photos: weddings, families, farms, ball teams, and, of course, school days. Also on display were articles, such as quilts and pillowcases, handmade by the former ladies' group, the Kane Mission Sisters. In another room, an MCC gift display was set up, with proceeds going toward MCC. The numerous displays were the center of attention for much of the day, as guests revived old memories and friendships, pretended they still looked the same, laughed, and yes, even shed a few tears...

At approximately 10:30 a.m., the people were invited to move outside, and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. First of all, there were races for all who were interested in getting some exercise. These included, of course, the traditional running and sack races. After lunch, a variety of ball games were organized: married ladies vs. unmarried ladies; men, sixty and over vs. boys, thirteen and under.



*The Hyde family enjoying lunch at the Kane 1976 Reunion. (l-r): Russ and Lenore Greening, Cleona and Tom White, Cameron Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Hyde.*

After all the strenuous exercise, everyone was ready to relax in the cool auditorium, and listen to the short program which had been prepared. The emcee, Walter Toews, extended a formal welcome to all the guests. This was followed by a time of praise by Eddie H. Groening. Numerous people received honourable mention during the program:

*Youngest baby...Linda (Heppner) Giesbrecht's baby*

*Oldest resident of Kane...John J. Toews*

*Oldest ex-resident of Kane...Olga Braun (Jacob)*

*Guest from greatest distance...Cameron Hyde (Vancouver Island)*

*Largest family present...William Reimers*

*First student of Kane School...David Penner (1921)*

*Van driver with most years experience...Jake Born (17 years)*

*Trustee with most years in office...Eddie H. Groening (17 years)*

*Teacher with most years in Kane...George G. Siemens (10 years)*

Mr. George G. Siemens reminisced about his years in Kane, requesting assistance from some of his former students. Dora Hildebrand then took time to explain the process involved in the compilation of a summary of the information in the Kane School registers from 1920-1973. Closing remarks for the program were made by Rev. Isaac Krahn.



*Mr. G. G. Siemens and Mr. Ed H. Groening discussing 'Kane Politics' at the '76 Reunion.*

The committee, consisting of Viola Wiebe, Katie Ginter, Dorothy Wiebe, Elva Blatz, and Dora Hildebrand, responsible for compiling the history found in the school registers, went to the Morris-Macdonald School Division Office in Morris to collect the information. Since they were not allowed to remove the registers from the Division Office, there was a considerable amount of "on location" work. Les Harder did most of the typing (on stencils) for the booklets, and then also had the honour of selling them at the picnic for \$2.25 each. The sale of the booklets resulted in a profit of \$215.47!



*Les Harder selling the Kane School Register Book at the Reunion.*

During the day, a few souvenir plates, with a picture of the original consolidated school on them, were also sold. Unfortunately, some of them were slightly blemished, an indication that they were survivors of the Kane Garage fire.

After supper, the White Elephant Sale, one of the original reasons for having the Homecoming Picnic, began. John Kehler presided as auctioneer, keeping things moving at a lively pace. The items sold included: desks, a sewing machine, blackboards, bulletin boards, a flag pole, etc. The total profit from the sale was \$343.75.

A refreshment booth was open all day, offering a variety of items for those who were experiencing hunger pangs. Some of the items sold were:

<i>Drinks</i> .....	20¢	<i>Coffee</i> .....	15¢
<i>Hot dogs</i> .....	35¢	<i>Pie</i> .....	35¢
<i>Sloppy Joes</i> .....	40¢	<i>Popsicles</i> .....	20¢
<i>Ice-cream</i> .....	20¢		

Hank Hildebrand and Pete Ginter were in charge of coordinating the workers for the booth. Their volunteers included: Katie Ginter; Lizzie Schellenberg; Eva Bergman; Irvin, Viola, Audrey, Donna and Karen Wiebe; Ron Braun; Connie and Gerry Caines; Vivian and Bruce Brown; Barry Friesen; Ernie Freisen; Linda Blatz; Joan Blatz; Cornie and Tina Bergman. The profit recorded at the end of the day was \$434.36.



*School friends. Back row: Joan (Braun) Loewen, Sally (Born) Nickel, Sharon (Friesen) Friesen, Margaret (Born) Friesen. Front row: Anita (Groening) Shackelford, Linda (Heppner) Giesbrecht, Diane (Penner) Enns, Judy (Neufeld) Froese.*

In true traditional style, the Kane Homecoming Picnic ended with another exciting ball game: Kane A vs. Kane B. There must have been a wiener roast!!



*John and Agatha Wiebe (center) enjoying the evening ball game at the Reunion.*

## KANE SCHOOL REUNION

**July 8, 1989**

*by Elva (Penner) Dyck*

Planning the Kane School Reunion, held July 8th, 1989, began June, 1988. The Reunion Committee consisted of five old school friends - Vivian (Harder) Brown, Gail (Groening) Dykstra, Audrey (Wiebe) Friesen, Lynette (Groening) Beaudry and myself, Elva (Penner) Dyck. We had a great time sharing school memories while planning the reunion. Lots of laughing was always guaranteed at our meetings! The reunion included students starting Grade 1 in 1958 up until the school's closure in 1973, as well as teachers present during this time. Of an estimated 300 eligible to attend, 179 students, teachers, and their families arrived. Guests from as far as Alberta attended, as well as many Kane/Lowe Farm residents.



*Former classmates and teachers meet at the 1989 Reunion. Back row: David Blatz, Marvin Brown, Janet Bock, Vernon Penner. Front row: Gail Groening, Diane Dyck, Carl Suderman, Barry Friesen, Ron Blatz, Earl Bergman.*

Saturday morning dawned wet and overcast. Our fears were being realized, it seemed - the sky stayed dark. Registration began at 1:00 p.m. We ignored the clouds and greeted old friends and teachers. It was exciting to see how everyone had changed over the years. Because it started to rain again, we extended registration and informal reminiscing. Outdoor activity didn't look promising! Vivian Brown gave the opening welcome and then introduced our very capable and humorous M.C. - Les Dyck. Door prizes, donated by local merchants, were given away throughout the day. Les had an interesting "icebreaker" game and then came the formal group reminiscing. We were encouraged by all who shared. Topics of interest to all included remembering how special Christmas seemed with pageants, choirs, pulling slips, etc., the skating shack with its famous heating stove, van rides, spankings, childhood "crushes" and various childhood pranks. At 3:00 p.m. the magician arrived to present a magic show for the children.

Then the sun appeared! We gathered outside for class pictures together with those who were brave enough to pose after time and gravity had changed our once "youthful forms"! The sun continued to shine and the Reunion Committee smiled! Baseball anyone? Earl Bergman and Barry Friesen organized the sports which were thoroughly enjoyed by all who played. The Kane Community Booth run by Hank and Dora Hildebrand, and Lawrence and Tammy Dyck was open all day providing cold drinks and snack foods.

In the meantime, the bonfires were lit for an old-fashioned wiener roast. Ruth Dueck led the group in a round song Grace - what a beautiful sound everyone made together! More informal reminiscing and catching up took place during supper. After supper the day slowly came to a close just as the rain again began to fall.

The closeness and warmth we felt as children when we attended our small country school was certainly present on July 8th as well. My memories of Kane School are of happy, wonderful growing-up years and it was those happy times we shared together that day.

## 1992 KANE REUNION

**(Pete's Day)**

*by Les Harder*

From time to time, when people unfamiliar with my hometown ask about it, the conversation generally follows the same pattern.

*Where did you grow up?*

Kane.

*Where's that?*

About halfway between Morris and Roland. (At this point in time the person usually pretends that they know where Morris and Roland are.)

*How many people live there?*

Nineteen, when I last counted.



*A cheerful greeting at the Registration desk:  
Helen Klassen, Margaret Harms, Gloria Penner.*



*Friends are forever: Linda Heppner, Margaret Born, Diane Penner, Joan Braun, Anita Groening.*



*Mr. Ed H. Groening with the morning devotional and a bit of  
Kane Church history.*



*Face painting for the kids by Karen Wiebe.*



*Great fellowship at the noon meal: Joan Suderman, Bill Braun, John Suderman, Jane Braun.*



*Mr. Elton Weaver chatting with a younger generation.*



*Assembling for the Appreciation Hour in honour of Pete and Marion Harder.*



*Pete and Marion Harder received a plaque full of memories of Kane in the form of pictures, from the community.*



*Les Harder captivates the audience with his memories of Dad and Kane.*



*A chat over supper: Earl Bergman, Tim Groening, Barry Friesen, Earl Braun, Ron Blatz.*



*A skit in the old Kane Store. Dave Wiebe eating a banana, Tyler Friesen next to him, Irvin and Vi Wiebe, Corey Penner, Barry Friesen, George Penner.*



*Pete Harder helping with the clean-up the day after his big party.*

I don't remember exactly when it was that I figured out that there were nineteen people living in town, but it must have been sometime between 1958, when I arrived, and 1976, when I moved to the Big City. However, it was because I had the number nineteen in my head, that I was surprised at the number of people who came to the Kane Reunion, held on June 29, 1992.

Based on my unofficial count of the guest book from that day, there were at least 434 people who felt that there was an important connection between themselves, Kane and Pete Harder.

Looking at the list of people, it is obvious that while they may be connected to Kane and my father, their connection came at different times and during different generations. Of course, this is understandable given that my father had been a part of Kane for fifty years, and Kane itself had been around longer than that.

Until this day in 1992, we, his kids, had never spent much time thinking about the important role Dad played in the community. Vivian, Kevin and myself did at times jokingly refer to him as the Mayor of Kane, but usually that was as much formal recognition of his importance as we could muster.

When we were told of the plans to have a Kane reunion, we were happy enough, until we were also told that we three kids were supposed to put on a "skit" as part of the entertainment. I think it is safe to say that none of us have ever had a strong desire to be on stage.

During the weeks leading up to the reunion there were a number of meetings and phone calls between the three of us, trying to come up with a skit. It was probably during the first such meeting that we decided that a skit really wasn't going to work. But we did have fun trying to remember stories from the past.

All of us had spent significant portions of our youth either hanging around the Kane Garage and then later working in the Kane Store and Dry Goods Emporium. When thinking back to those days it seemed like we came up with more humorous stories about other members of the community than we did about Dad. Unfortunately, the point of the reunion was to reflect on Dad's role in the community, and not to "roast" the rest of the residents of Kane.

In the end my brother and sister were "gracious" enough to give me the honour of telling a few stories to people who attended the reunion. At least I think they told me it was an honour.

The reunion was almost eight years ago, so my memory of what was said that day is getting somewhat hazy. Fortunately a video was made of that day, which helped refresh some of the details. Apparently it was a cool, sunny day. It was also windy that day, because every time I appear on the tape, my hair is a mess.

The final result of our planning meetings was that I got on stage and told a few stories about Dad, the family, and the community. I sat on the same chair that I had sat on for so many hours while working in the Store. Occasionally it looks like my knees are shaking, but I am sure it is just the wind, and not my nerves.

In the end, the stories that we kids had come up with really related to less than half of the years that Dad had been part of Kane. It was left up to people much, much older than myself to fill in more details of the early years.

Some of the details were filled in by Jerry Toews, son of J. J. Toews. Jerry was living outside of Canada at the time of the reunion, but he wrote a letter which was read to the crowd by his younger brother Bill. Jerry's letter starts like this...

*Dear Pete,*

*Although I was only four years old at the time, I still remember accompanying Dad and Mom Toews and brother Dick, age two, on a drive late one afternoon to Winkler in our black '39 Dodge coach. It had to be sometime in June, 1942. In a house somewhere on the edge of Winkler town we were treated to coffee, buns and "Schnetje" by the Harder family. Dad carried out some negotiations with Mr. Harder Sr. and we then started back to Kane before sundown, accompanied by Mr. Harder's son, Pete, who was probably about 16 or 17 years of age. Dick and I rode in the back seat with Pete and stared at him. He seemed to be squeaky clean and didn't talk very much. By our expressions, he might have guessed our thoughts which were probably along the line of "Now how long is this guy going to last?" We got home around dark - home being J.J. Toews General Store, Garage and What Not.*

*Well, Pete stayed and stayed and stayed. As well as taking responsibility for the fuel and farm implements part of the business, he ran the post office and did much of the work in the general - about fourteen hours a day, six days a week. If he was lucky, he might have been able to break off for the weekend early Saturday afternoon - about 4 o'clock. The going wage was about fifty to sixty-five dollars a month at the time.*

*As well as all this Pete became our older brother. We Toews boys were brats a large part of the time. Pete used to put up with us up to a certain point - then look out. His use of disciplinary measures was rare, but when he did use them we knew it was well deserved. I now think of Pete when I shave in front of the mirror in the morning and make note that one ear lobe seems to be slightly longer than the other. He also cured me of the habit of thumping older people in the stomach at a time when I'd grown a bit too big for this to be kindly accepted. Pete always stuck to principle and I remember more than one person who learned the hard way not to try to push Pete when they knew very well Pete was right on an issue.*

Jerry Toews was obviously one of the first people to meet Dad when he first arrived in Kane. It was left up to Hank Hildebrand to provide some detail on the next years. Hank's approach was to use music. If you know the tune to the song "North to Alaska", feel free to sing along, using Hank's words, reproduced below.

### **NORTH TO KANE**

North to the Town of Kane,  
go north the move is on.

1. Young Peter left that Winkler town  
in the year of '42.  
No money in his pocket,  
but a High School Diploma so new,  
He went to work for John J. Toews,  
in a garage so far away,  
Who ever thought he'd stay there,  
to this, this very day.

He was hired as a 'Parts Man'  
in the John Deere Garage you see,  
But it didn't take him very long,  
a North Star man to be,  
He did the books for the local school  
and got involved some more,  
With a teacher that came from Myrtle,  
who taught grade one to four.

2. Peter turned to Marion  
with a gold ring in his hand.  
Said, "Marion you're a lookin'  
at a lonely, lonely man,  
I'd trade all the Knacksoot  
that grows in this land so tall,  
For you to be my loving wife  
and live with me in the Kane Mall."

Marion looked at Peter,  
as solemn as she could be,  
"Peter, you're my Darlin',  
but you know I'm a strong M. B."  
He said it doesn't matter,  
We'll go where you want to go,  
So they got married in '52,  
and life was all aglow.

3. Fifty years have come and gone, things  
haven't changed much you know.  
Pete walks across the school yard,  
not too fast and not too slow,  
In the summer it's the woodticks,  
in the winter the furnace in school,  
He says it pays to fix it,  
that was John J's first rule.

This eighteen year old Winkler lad,  
is now a Grandpa too,  
There's lots of snow on the mountain,  
but remember this is '92.  
We call this a Kane Reunion,  
this special anniversary date,  
Pete's first fifty years of service,  
we came here to celebrate.

Where tall wheat fields are waving,  
two elevators standing,  
North to the Town of Kane,  
go north the move is on.

With the history lessons completed, the final events of this day were a few presentations that were made to Dad from a number of business and community people. I recall that the first presentation was from Shell. We kids found this presentation to be quite an eye-opener because for years we had been told that the "Shell" on the sign above the Kane Garage was actually the Harder family crest. Suddenly we were faced with the realization that the "Shell" represented something else.

The community made two presentations. The first was a plaque displaying a number of black and white pictures of Dad and the town of Kane over the past fifty years. If you look at the pictures carefully, you can see that Dad has hardly changed since he was in his twenties. Of course if you were to compare the picture of him then with a black and white photograph of him now, the most obvious change is that his hair seems to have jumped from the black part of the picture to the white part.

The second community presentation was a book containing the signatures and comments of most of the people who attended this reunion as well such things as Jerry Toews' letter and Hank Hildebrand's song. This book has served the purpose of preserving many memories of the reunion and also provided the basis for this article.

After the reunion in 1992, our parents published a thank you note in the local paper. In case you missed it, I'll take this opportunity on behalf of the rest of the family to thank the people of Kane, both past and present, for showing us that Dad's years of service to the community were special, and appreciated.

### ***KANE FRIENDS***



*A picnic in the Morris Park, 1939. Back row: Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, Edna and Roy Wyche with Roy's mother, Mrs. Bennett (Mrs. Miller's mother), Emma Fredricksen, Florence Fredricksen, Alex White, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Davidson, Russel Wyche (Roy's brother), ?, Fred Fredricksen. Middle row: Jean White, Mrs. White, John Gunn (Davidson's hired man), Katie Guzda (Fredricksen's hired girl), Gladys Fredricksen, Violet Cowie, Lillie White, Margaret White, ?, Joe White, Bill Unrau (Fredricksen's hired man). Front row: Cyril Wyche, Donald Fredricksen, Eldred Wyche, Tom White.*



*The men at the picnic in the Morris Park in 1939.*



*Mary and Tina Banman, Rosa Bitz, Bert, Ed, and Abe Banman.*



*Ain't we cute? Cam and Gladys.*



*Martha Cowie, Gladys and Donald Fredricksen, late thirties.*



*(l-r): Herman Schellenberg, ?, Walter Penner, Bill Schellenberg, ?.*



*Friends at the school picnic: Tina (George) Siemens, Margaret Groening, Helena (Gus) Penner, Mary (Frank) Blatz, Sarah (Henry P.) Schellenberg. (These ladies also belonged to the Kane Mission Sisters.)*



*Leonora Hyde, June and Wilma Toews, Janice Hyde (in front).*



*Liddy Groening, Cleona and Cameron Hyde, Rosie Groening, 1941.*



*Displaying the new straw bats. Frank White on far left, Tom Hean on far right on porch.*



*Back row: Violet Cowie, Tom and Frank White.  
Front row: Margaret and Jean White,  
Gladys Fredricksen, Lillie White, 1942*



*Susie Giesbrecht, Edna Reimer, Tena Reimer, Jessie Giesbrecht.*



*Lillie White, Lloyd Siemens, Margaret White, Henry Blatz,  
Elaine Hean, Manuel Schellenberg.*



*The Hean boys (center two) and Siemens boys  
(far l and r) with Jerry Toews (in truckbox) playing  
on Toews' old Nash truck.*



*Dickie Hean, Donald Fredricksen, Tommy Hean.*



*A cool dude rode into town one day.  
He eyed the crowd, then announced, I'm C.J.*



*Larry Born's Birthday Party, 1951. (L-r): Dick Toews, Ernie Born, James Penner, Gordon Dyck, Walter Born, Leonard Born, Larry Born, Norman Blatz, Elva Born, Irene Suderman, Rosie Harder, Margaret Born with her doll.*



*Horse friends: Trina, Shelly and Angie Brown, and Rhonda Thiessen getting ready to ride at the Shannon Festival Parade, 1987.*



*Neighbours. Garry Suderman, Wayne Penner, Brian Derksen, Vivian Harder, Reginald Derksen, Frommer girl. Kids in wagon unknown, 1959.*



*In March of 1992, the Kane community surprised Dave Wiebe with a Farewell and Appreciation Party for the many years of community service and work at the Kane Garage and Store. Wife Anne joined Dave in cutting the special cake.*



*The many well-wishers gathered in the Kane Store, March, 1992.*



*WOW!*

## DISASTERS



*Spring flood at the Jacob E. Hiebert farm in Kane in late 30's.*



*Peter Penner's car and tractor.*



*Alvin and Manuel Schellenberg on the flood waters, 1944.*



*Flood time at the Abe Suderman's in 1950.*



*Building the #23 Highway through Kane, 1959.*



*Mae Lack, cook for the construction crew, with Margaret and Jacque Born. The crew lived on Jake Born's yard during the construction of Highway #23.*



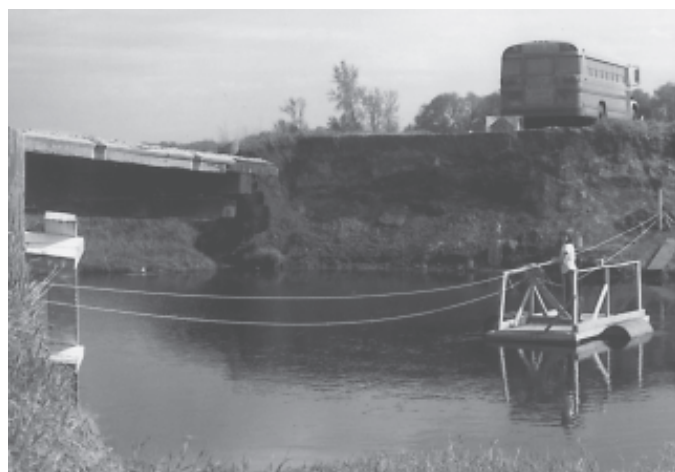
*Kane teacherage after a March blizzard, 1966.*



*Chris Blatz in the Tobacco Creek  
(at Hank Hildebrand's) after the 1969 flood.*



*Hank and Dora Hildebrand's farm in the 1974 flood.*



*Monica Thiessen testing out the shuttle for school bus when  
bridge was washed out across the North Shannon (between  
Kebler and Blatz farms), 1974.*



*Chris (Blatz) Block welcomes you to  
the 1997 storm and flood!*



*A common sight in 1997. Sandbagging at Gordon and Julie Enns.*



*Passing the sandbags was not a game. West side of Norman Blatz's home.*



*Flood at Helen Dyck's home.*



*Lisa Febr's house behind the snowbank.*



*This tunnel leads to Hank and Dora Hildebrand's home.*



*Bill Toews has some work cut out for him!*



*Councillor Ralph Groening came home to this.*



*Hauling grain to the elevator at floodtime at Barry and Audrey Friesen's place.*



*Bridge collapsed on the Shannon, south of Ralph's.*



*The military set up a radio communication base at Kane during the 1997 flood.*



*Harley and Nolie Hildebrand chat with military in their truck at Kane, 1997.*



*The N. M. Paterson fire in August, 1947.*





*The Peter H. Friesen house burns at Kane, February, 1948.*



*Fire destroys the Jake Febr Store. (Hiebert's Store), June, 1953. Picture taken from the Toews' Store.*



*The Febr Store in 1953.*



*The former Gus Penner house goes up in flames, 1977.*

## SPORTS IN KANE

1960-2000

*by Ralph Groening*

Sports were a major part of life in Kane School in the 1950's. The older boys were heroes. Howard Thiessen, James Penner, Larry and Bob Dyck, Dickie Toews, and others performed for us in football and fastball games. Not that they necessarily realized this attitude on our part, but they nevertheless had a significant influence on our view of the importance of games. Every moment of recess was dedicated to these games. Recess was king! Football was played until November or until the weather determined a change to soccer. Sometimes we were fortunate to have an ice rink in winter and we then played hockey. The years we didn't have ice, we played soccer in winter. Spring would find us searching the yard for a small spot of dry ground to play 'catch'. Then when enough dry ground appeared we would play softball. The school year would close with a picnic. The final event of the day was usually a softball game between the adult males and the school boys.

The highlights of the school athletic year were the games played against neighbouring schools. The fiercest rivalry was of course against Lowe Farm. These games were major events in our lives and the outcome of the game mattered more than anything else in the world. We also played against Rose Farm, Myrtle, and occasionally Melba School.

In 1958-59, Peter H. Friesen, with the help of Bill Braun and George Born, organized a minor baseball program in Kane. This was our first athletic venture outside of the immediate community. We travelled to Carman, Winkler, Plum Coulee, and Morden to play games against teams with uniforms, unlimited supplies of bats and balls, and too often it seemed superior talent. These games were great fun and became an important part of our sports life.

In early 1961, Ralph Groening, Tom Kirk, and Ed Wiebe, with the encouragement and guidance of Bill Toews, played senior baseball for the Plum Coulee team. Bill had already played for Plum Coulee the previous year. The next four years we went to many baseball games, usually in John Toews' green Corvair.

Then all of us boys left the community to continue our education and find jobs out there in the real world. Through family we would hear stories of the exploits of the new generation of Kane athletes. Hockey became a major sport. The Rose Farm boys, Bruce and Brian Brown, and Bernie, Cornie, and Menno Bergen gained a reputation for their skills. Barry Friesen and Earl Bergman were also acknowledged for their hockey and baseball skills. One legendary game of this time period took place in 1968. Vernon Penner took a team of young Kane hockey players led by Barry Friesen into Altona and surprised a very talented and confident team by a score of 3-1. Barry

later went on to play senior hockey for the Altona Maroons and gained immediate credibility when he acknowledged being an important part of that 1968 'parka' uniformed Kane hockey team.

In 1976, Bill Toews and Ralph Groening through coincidence moved back to Kane to work the family farms. The Kane School had closed in 1973, but sports continued in Kane. Irvin Wiebe, Glenn Phillips, Lawrence Dyck and Gordon Dyck had started a men's fastball league. Teams from Lowe Farm, Myrtle, Roland, Morris formed the nucleus for the league.

Kane fastball teams performed proudly for the many local fans for the next fifteen years. This was Kane's final moment of sports glory. For a number of years Kane had two senior fastball teams playing in the league and a women's fastball team playing in a league with Carman, Lowe Farm, and Roland. Ball games were a community event. Farmers would take a break from their work to watch the local talent perform and socialize with their neighbours. This was a time when we all, players and fans alike, felt proud to be 'from' Kane.

Just to note a few highlights from this period. The Kane Pirates won the July Starbuck Fastball two years in a row defeating a number of Winnipeg teams in the process. Part of the fun of winning this event was describing to the many people that asked the location of Kane, and in particular emphasizing the fact we were a village of some 25 people. On defeating Elm Creek in a final game at Elm Creek in 1984; those of us at the game will not easily forget Curt Penner's long drive to right field to win that crucial game for coach Irvin Wiebe and the rest of the team.

Perhaps the community highlight from this time period would be the league fastball finals between the Kane Pirates and the Lowe Farm Astros. Hundreds of people would attend these games. Community pride was fierce and the competition intense. This was an event that mattered more than anything, for that short period of time. Reputations developed and our local Kane loyalty was strengthened. These games were probably the last events that really gave the Kane people a sense of identity.

It is perhaps ironic that in the late 1980's, after both the Lowe Farm and Kane teams were short of ball players, the two communities joined forces under the name Kane-Lowe Farm Blues. This team played in the South Eastern Fastball League for a number of years winning the championship in 1988.

Dulaney Blatz, Corey and Kelly Penner, and Herb Dueck organized the Kane Cardinals in the late 1980's. This proved to be the last organized sports team in Kane. Eventually interest dropped off and this team too was forced to quit. The reasons for the demise of sports and community in Kane are typical of what has happened in rural western Canada. Larger farms translates into fewer people.



*Lowe Farm/Kane Blues are the Steinbach Tournament "B" Champs. Although Lowe Farm and Kane managed to win some games together; things were not always amicable as demonstrated in the picture. Back row: Harold Dyck, Brian Brown, Curt Penner, Gary Dyck, Ralph Groening, Barrie Rose, Dennis Rempel. Front row: Rick Rempel, Barry Friesen, Jerry Brown, Earl Bergman, Ron Braun, Kelly Penner, 1986.*



*Hank Hildebrand sporting the original white cotton with black trim uniform of the Kane Fastball Club. Menno Bergen is posing as back catcher; 1970.*

<u>1969</u>			
<u>INCOME</u>			
Mistle Tournament	1st		\$15.00
Roland Tournament	1st		\$15.00
TOTAL			\$30.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
3ellars -	2 1st @ \$2.50 - 2 1st @ \$1.75 - tax		9.87
BY INCOME			
TOTAL -			9.87
By Jan with			Balance on hand - \$20.13

<u>1970</u>			
<u>SEPERATE ACCT-ON</u>		<u>UNIFORMS</u>	
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>RECEIVED</u>	
1	LEN WIEBE	✓	16.00
2	IRVIN WIEBE	✓	16.00
3	JOHN HENNER	✓	16.00
4	HANK HILDEBRAND	✓	16.00
5	NORMAN BLAZE	✓	16.00
6	ERNIE FRIESEN	✓	16.00
7	ALLEN WIEBE	✓	16.00
8	PETE DYCK	✓	16.00
9	MENNA BERGEN	✓	16.54
10	CERNIE BERGEN	✓	16.00
11	BERNIE BERGEN	✓	16.34
12	STAN BERN	✓	16.84
		80.68	
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             Paid full           </div>	
<u>Expenses</u>			
June 9, 70	Naval Sportsman Club on acct	\$50.00	
June 30, 70	"	acct 46848.46	
		17845	PA

*Kane's early records of baseball.*

## KANE RAIDERS HOCKEY TEAM

1991/1992 - 1995/1996

*by Dulaney Blatz and Ralph Groening*

As far back as most people remember Kane could always put together enough skaters to make a hockey team. They would usually rent the Roland Rink and play exhibition games or scrimmage.

During the winter of 1990-1991, the guys started playing hockey in Plum Coulee. A new indoor rink had been built that summer in Plum Coulee. In 1991-1992, Kane played in a house league in Plum Coulee.

In 1992-1993, they bought red jerseys and called themselves the Kane Raiders. In these early years, Herb Dueck, Jeff Blatz, Don Brown and Eldon Dueck helped organize the hockey team in Kane. They had good teams and were competitive from 1992/1993 to 1994/1995.

The ages of players ranged from late teenagers to near pensioners. It was good exercise and a lot of fun. The league had no body contact or slap shot rules. Only two players not including the goalie, could be under the age of 25. Soon the league got younger and faster. The Kane Raiders discontinued playing after the 1995/1996 season.

## KANE MEN'S FASTBALL HISTORY

1969-1985 & 1987-1991

*by Dulaney Blatz and Ralph Groening*

### Original Kane Team 1969-1983

(took the name of Blazers in 1972-1975)

(used the name Kane A's or Kane A from 1976-1981)

(went back to the Blazers in 1982 & 1983)

1970 Champions of Red River Fastball League

1974 finished first place in Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League

### Kane Pirates 1976-1985

1984 Champions

1979 & 1983 finished first place in P.V.M.F.L.

### Kane Cardinals 1987-1991

1988 & 1989 Champs of Border Valley Men's Fastball League

1988, 1989 & 1990 finished first place in B.V.M.F.L.

### Red River Valley Men's Fastball League

Champs

1970 Kane

1971 Lowe Farm

1972 Dominion City

1973 Emerson

### Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League

Champs: — first place in league standings:

1974—Lowe Farm Astros—Kane Blazers

1975—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1976—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1977—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1978—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1979—Lowe Farm Astros—Kane Pirates

1980—Lowe Farm Astros—Morris Ratz

1981—Morris Ratz—Morris Ratz

1982—Morris Ratz—Morris Ratz

1983—Morris Ratz—Kane Pirates

1984—Kane Pirates—Elm Creek Astros

1985—Lowe Farm Astros—L. F. Astros

### Border Valley Men's Fastball League

Champs:— first place in league standing:

1987—Thames Tigers—Thames Tigers

(2nd-Kane Cardinals)

1988—Kane Cardinals—Kane Cardinals

1989—Kane Cardinals—Kane Cardinals

1990—Rosenfeld/Schoenthal—Kane C.

1969—played league games but no play-offs

1991—Kane played a series of exhibition games and tournament games

In 1969, regular season fastball started in Kane. Up until this time, exhibition games between neighbouring towns were played at the ball diamond in Kane. This diamond was located in the northeast corner of the school yard. We can recall a second (portable) backstop being used by younger grades in school at the southeast corner of the school yard. It was located by the car garage of the teacher's house.

The Red River Valley Men's Fastball League originally consisted of teams and coordinators from Roland - Glenn Philips, Myrtle - L. S. Dyck, Morden - Cornie Kehler, Lowe Farm - Gordon Dyck and Kane - Irvin Wiebe.

In June of 1970, twelve uniforms were purchased from Harval Sportswear Ltd. on Main Street in Winnipeg. These were the original uniforms of the Kane Fastball Club. They were white with black trim, a number on the back and KANE printed across the front of a button front shirt. The pants were white with a black stripe down the side of the leg worn with black socks. They were made of cotton, and cost \$16.54 each.

That summer Kane put on a tournament on August 8th. Morris took first prize of \$15.00, Homewood took second prize of \$10.00 and Lowe Farm took third prize of \$5.00. After expenses, the ball club made about \$70.00 and provided the community with some great entertainment. Tournaments were to have been set up for 1977 and 1979 in conjunction with the recreation committee but never materialized. A picnic was put on June 28 of 1971 and \$150.62 was earned.

In 1970, the league started play-offs for the first time. A trophy (donated by the Lowe Farm Credit Union) was given to the champions. The Kane Fastball Club were the champions that first year. After the 1970 season, the Morden team left the league.

In 1972, on April 20th, a vote was put forth by the players to have a nickname for the club. Nominations at this meeting were: 1. Blazers 2. Cardinals 3. Mohawks with Blazers winning the majority of the votes. Blazers was considered the team name until 1979, when two teams were formed in Kane. In 1971, the Red River League expanded east to Dominion City, Letellier, Emerson, St. Jean and Morris. For two years, the league had an east and west division.

After the 1973 season, Myrtle amalgamated with Roland. Roland, Lowe Farm and Kane pulled out of the Red River League and formed a new league called the Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League. They then added teams from Carman, Rosenort and Miami. These teams were not mainstays throughout the 70's but added size and closeness in travel for the league. In 1974, the league added a first place trophy. Kane won this trophy as the Blazers in 1974 and the Pirates in 1979 and 1983.

At the 1975 annual meeting, we made the motion to try and get the league to use rubber cleats. At the league meeting this motion was turned down in favour of steel cleats. On April 2nd of 1976 at the annual pre-season meeting in Kane, it was moved that two teams would play out of Kane: a senior team and a junior team. The teams would remain under one management, but have its own coach and captain.

Manager for the first year was Norman Blatz and assistant manager was Lawrence Dyck. Coach for the junior team was Barrie Rose and Irvin Wiebe was voted assistant coach. Four players (Barrie Rose, Earl Bergman, Barry Friesen and Milton Braun) left the senior team to play on the junior team. It was casually talked about at this meeting that once players reached the age of 25, they would return to the senior club. The senior team postponed voting on coach and captain until all the players were together. The Kane A team and Kane B team were entered into the league in 1976.

At the start of the season, the Kane B team were called the Kane Pirates and the Kane A team were called the Kane A's or sometimes the Kane A team. This name would officially change back to Kane Blazers in 1982.

It should be recognized that after the 1981 season, many of the old Kane A players quit playing fastball in Kane. Jim Hildebrand and Cornie Paetkau stayed on and Barrie Rose, from the Pirates, became coach and helped with catching duties. Barrie Rose was the only player to play on all four Kane ball clubs (original team 74-75, Pirates 76-81 & 83-85, Blazers 82 and Cardinals 87 & 88).

New uniforms were purchased once again from Harval Sportswear Ltd. These were the gray shirts with black trim and black pants. They replaced the old International Inn white and blue pinstripes of the mid to late 70's.

This team was made up of mostly younger players from the Kane and Lowe Farm area. This was the 80's: farms were increasing in size and farmers were decreasing. Less opportunity to farm, getting good jobs elsewhere was the logical thing to do, so ball players left the community.

The team folded after the 1983 season due to lack of players.

For eight years, Kane provided the Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League with two teams: the Kane Pirates 1976-1983 and Kane A's 1976-1981 and Kane Blazers 1982-83. Unfortunately, we could not get any official record of first year play between these two teams.

Every year the Kane Community Centre put on a wiener roast for a July game that pitted the two Kane teams against each other. This was a main community event and a good crowd was always on hand.



*Kane A's. Back row: Cornie Bergen, Dave Dueck, Lawrence Dyck, Ron Braun, George Penner, Ernie Friesen. Front row: Jim Hildebrand, Hank Hildebrand, Allen Wiebe, Marvin Hyde, 1976.*



*Pirate coach Irvin Wiebe in a rare serene moment during a play-off game between Lowe Farm and Kane. Note the usual overwhelming fan support - hard to find a parking spot in Kane on game night, 1979.*

## Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League



ALL GAMES  
START 7:30 SHARP

1984  
SCHEDULE

TUES. MAY 22 ..... Elm Creek at Tavern  
Lowe Farm at Pirates  
WED. MAY 23 ..... Ratz at Pirates  
THURS. MAY 24 ..... Elm Creek at Lowe Farm  
FRI. MAY 25 ..... Tavern at Ratz  
MON. MAY 28 ..... Ratz at Elm Creek  
Pirates at Tavern  
WED. MAY 30 ..... Lowe Farm at Ratz  
THURS. MAY 31 ..... Pirates at Elm Creek  
FRI. JUNE 1 ..... Tavern at Lowe Farm

### Rosters & League Fees Due

MON. JUNE 4 ..... Pirates at Ratz  
Tavern at Elm Creek  
WED. JUNE 6 ..... Pirates at Lowe Farm  
Ratz at Tavern  
FRI. JUNE 8 ..... Lowe Farm at Elm Creek  
MON. JUNE 11 ..... Tavern at Pirates  
Elm Creek at Ratz  
WED. JUNE 13 ..... Ratz at Lowe Farm  
THUR. JUNE 14 ..... Elm Creek at Pirates  
FRI. JUNE 15 ..... Lowe Farm at Tavern  
MON. JUNE 18 ..... Ratz at Pirates  
Elm Creek at Tavern  
WED. JUNE 20 ..... Lowe Farm at Pirates  
Tavern at Ratz  
FRI. JUNE 22 ..... Elm Creek at Lowe Farm  
MON. JUNE 25 ..... Pirates at Tavern  
Ratz at Elm Creek  
WED. JUNE 27 ..... Lowe Farm at Ratz  
THUR. JUNE 28 ..... Pirates at Elm Creek  
FRI. JUNE 29 ..... Tavern at Lowe Farm  
TUES. JULY 3 ..... Pirates at Lowe Farm  
Tavern at Elm Creek  
WED. JULY 4 ..... Ratz at Tavern  
THUR. JULY 5 ..... Lowe Farm at Elm Creek  
FRI. JULY 6 ..... Pirates at Ratz  
MON. JULY 9 ..... Elm Creek at Ratz  
Tavern at Pirates  
WED. JULY 11 ..... Ratz at Lowe Farm  
THUR. JULY 12 ..... Elm Creek at Pirates  
FRI. JULY 13 ..... Lowe Farm at Tavern

PLAYOFF 4th Place at 1st Place  
3rd Place at 2nd Place

Playoff - 4th Place at 1st Place  
3rd Place at 2nd Place

### PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Series "A" 1st Place VS 4th Place  
July 18th, 19th and 23rd if necessary

Series "B" 2nd Place VS 3rd Place  
July 18th, 19th and 23rd

### FINALS

STARTING AT TOP FINISHER  
IN LEAGUE PLAY  
July 26th, 28th and 30th  
Aug. 1st and 3rd if necessary

ALL STAR GAME AUGUST 5th  
AT 2:30 P.M. AT MORRIS

### CONTACT MEN

MORRIS RATZ *Don Third* ..... 746-2562  
MORRIS TAVERN *Don Hildebrand* .. Res. 746-6591  
Bus. 746-8967  
LOWE FARM ASTROS *Ray Braun* .. Res. 746-8063  
Bus. 746-8766  
KANE PIRATES *Irvin Wiebe* ..... Res. 343-2257  
Bus. 343-2202  
ELM CREEK *Wayne Knutson* ..... Res. 745-3684  
Bus. 745-2241

COMMISSIONER *Doug Phillips* ..... 343-2209

Home Teams please report scores to:

CFAM ..... 324-6464 - Collect  
CISV ..... 325-9506 - Collect  
or 822-4446 - Collect

**K KANE**  
FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL CO. LTD.

Phone 343-2136

**Simplot Fertilizers**



For Your Shell Farm Lubricants  
and Bulk Fuels See:

**Pete Harder**  
Kane, Manitoba  
Phone 343-2484

See  
**IRVIN WIEBE**  
for your Crop Hail Insurance  
Needs . . . Good Rates

**PHONE: 343-2202**

Kane A's (7) vs. Pirates (5), June 2nd, 1977  
 WP Cornie Bergen LP Barry Friesen  
 Kane A's (10) vs. Pirates (3), June 20, 1977  
 WP Allen Wiebe LP ?  
 Kane A's (7) vs. Pirates (7), July 15, 1977

Pirates (12) vs. Kane A's (6), June 3, 1978  
 WP Barry Friesen LP Cornie Bergen  
 Kane A's (3) vs. Pirates (2), June 14, 1978  
 WP Cornie Bergen LP?  
 Pirates (7) vs. Kane A's (5), July 4, 1978  
 WP? LP Allen Wiebe

As the Pirate team gained experience and jelled as a team, they quickly improved. Their lineup cards were stacked with power hitters, solid defense and great pitching. Combined with old baseball tactics of "bunting runners over" and "hit and run" baseball by head coach Irvin Wiebe, helped the Pirates take the first place trophy in 1979. The Pirates were one of the elite teams in the league. Although, in 1979 at the Shannon Festival, the Kane A's would beat the Pirates in the championship game.

During the eighties, the Pirates would be the dominant team in Kane. In spring of 1981, the Pirates held a work day on the Kane ball diamond along with a few of the Kane A's. A new 25' backstop with metal poles was set up: bleachers repaired and painted directly behind foul line fencing down the first and third baselines: loads of dirt were trucked in and levelled in the outfield: a scoreboard was erected behind third base: sand was put down over the entire infield to take away the bad bounces: a home run fence was erected in the outfield for a couple of years. Down the left and right field lines it was 215' (league minimum) and 240' to straightway center field. This was made of snow fencing. Right field always was a little soupy after rains and a sidewalk ran across deep left field into the left center power alley. The players benches remained the same, a 24' railway plank and three cinder blocks.

The Pirates would go on to win big money at tournaments in Altona, Plum Coulee, Morden, Morris, and St. Jean among others. Probably the best one was in Starbuck beating the Chalet Jets of Winnipeg in the finals. The Pirates came in first in the league again in 1983. In 1984, the Pirates won the league championship over a strong team from Elm Creek.



*Tony Rose celebrating yet another home run, 1982.*



*Kane Pirates won Pembina Valley Men's Fastball Championship at Elm Creek. Back row: Ron Friesen, Curt Penner, Ralph Groening, Brian Brown, Tony Rose, Tim Groening, Rod Bergman, Dennis Rempel, Kelly Penner; Irvin Wiebe (coach). Front row: Dave Dueck, Brad Wiebe, Barry Friesen, Barrie Rose, Earl Bergman, Kevin Harder, Don Rempel, 1984.*

An interesting note as of the real start to this Pirate team was in the Shannon Basin Tournament of 1975. The Lowe Farm 16 and under hardball team (comprised of Kane & Lowe Farm boys) entered the tournament. Coached by Mrs. Evelyn Rose, they picked up Gordon Dyck from Rosenort to pitch for them. He pitched orthodox as by now the league mostly had windmill pitchers. These young boys went all the way to the finals, but lost to the Kane Blazers. The nucleus of this team is what made the Kane Pirates.

After the league disbanded in 1985, there was no men's ball in 1986 in Kane. In 1987, another team was formed in Kane. The Kane Cardinals would play in the Border Valley Fastball League from 1987-1991. Original players

for that team were Corey and Kelly Penner, Dulaney Blatz, Herb Dueck, Al Wiebe, Ray Braun, Howard Brown, Steve Hildebrand, Eldon Dueck, Don Groening and player coach Barrie Rose.

The Kane Cardinals would take second place in their first year of league play. They would lose the championship in the final game to the Thames Tigers in the last inning. In 1988, the Cardinals put on a tournament in Kane where they lost the final game to the Horndean Hawks. It was a good Saturday tournament, but temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit kept a lot of people indoors at home. That year the Cardinals won "B" side in Plum Coulee, "A" side in Altona and did well at an intermediate B tourney in Notre Dame taking third place out of sixteen teams. To finish a good year of ball, they took first place in their league and brought a championship back to Kane.

The next year, 1989, they took first place and won the championship again, their second in three years. In 1990, the Kane Cardinals took first place in the Border Valley Fastball League for the third year in a row. Just a few days before the semifinal play-off game, our shortstop Kelly Penner passed away in a golf accident in Roland.



*Kane Cardinals are the Altona Sunflower Festival "A" Champs. Back row: Barrie Rose, Tony Rose, Herb Dueck, Kelly Penner, Eldon Dueck, Chris Martens. Front row: Barry Friesen, Don Groening, Bill Toews, Corey Penner, Dulaney Blatz, 1989.*

Kelly was a good ball player and helped organize the Kane Cardinals. Often being contact man, taking care of the upkeep of the diamond or equipment manager, he always did his part to help the team on or off the field.

Before the start of the semifinal game against the Horndean Hawks, we had agreed as a team to discontinue playing into the finals if we won the game. The game was decided by one run in the top of the seventh inning. Horndean won in a close low scoring game. The Kane players wore a black band on their left sleeve in honour of Kelly.

In 1991, the Kane Cardinals played exhibition games against teams in the Border Valley League. They also got

involved with a number of tournaments in Southern Manitoba. They did not play in a scheduled season of sorts. In a July tournament in St. Jean, the Kane Cardinals barrelled their way to the "A" side finals. Losing the game in the final inning, they packed their bats into the bat bag for the last time. 1991 was the last year men's fastball was played in Kane.

In spring of 1993, the Kane Cardinal Fastball Club started the Kelvin Penner Memorial Athletic Award. Every year a trophy and \$25.00 cheque is awarded to a grade 8 student at the Lowe Farm School. This award is based on the student's helpfulness to other players on their team, good sportsmanship and using 100% of their ability and talents to help their team win at any sport that they are involved in. This student must also carry above class average grades in academics. They must also be respectful to their classmates, teachers and parents. Every year this award is awarded by a Cardinal player or coach. In 1998, the Kane Cardinal Fastball Club donated \$1000.00 to the Lowe Farm School to purchase a pitching machine for the community's students, some of which came from Kane. The pitching machine helps develop young hitters and brings more fun to their practices.

In the early years, the umpires were from Kane or neighbouring communities. This was a little awkward but it worked. Sometimes umpires were not arranged before the game and had to be summoned from the crowd. Here is a list of some of the umpires who umpired in Kane: P. J. Friesen, Jack Siemens, Dick Toews, Cornie Bergman, Herb Andreson, Don Pfrimmer, Doug Reid, John Kehler.

These umpires were not always paid or paid very little. Later years, professional umpires were brought in and made things better for the game. To all the umpires behind the plate and doing bases at Kane, the ball players thank you for umpiring our games. We couldn't have played without you.

It should be said that a special thanks be given to Irvin Wiebe who brought Men's fastball to Kane in the late 60's. He helped the credibility of the P.V.M.F.L. and helped Kane to expand to two teams. Also to Dulaney Blatz who brought Men's fastball back to Kane in '87 with the Cardinals.

There was also a great help in coaching from Barrie Rose, Ralph Groening, Barry Friesen, Bill Toews, Cornie Bergen, Jim Hildebrand, Cornie Paetkau and Irvin Wiebe who coached more games, by far, than anyone else in Kane. There was a lot of help off the field too. Team managers, secretary/treasurers and contact men organized and re-organized rained out games, tournaments, and exhibition games. A fun job in the days when Roland exchange was on a party line. You could tell on game night the importance of fastball to the players. They came earlier than necessary to the ball park to help with team duties like dragging the infield, setting up bases and bringing equipment to the bench. They also gave an extra effort by joining the grass cutting crews. The diamond and outfield grass was always in great shape for game time and the big crowds that came to watch in Kane.

A very special thanks to the Kane Community Centre for keeping the booth open during and after games. A Coke never tasted better than after a Kane win against Lowe Farm! And another special thanks to all the fans who sat through the cold and the heat, fended off thousands of mosquitoes and braved the wood ticks in the trees when getting foul balls and encouraged umpires to make all close plays in favour of the Kane teams. They generously gave when "the hat was passed around".

We loved to play ball in Kane and were proud to play ball for Kane. Thanks to everyone who supported Men's and Women's fastball for 23 years in Kane.

### **KANE PIRATES**

*by Audrey D. Friesen*

A very descriptive article on baseball in Kane has been written by two players, and this leaves me free to eliminate details and share a few memories that I have accumulated about the Kane Pirates.

Irvin Wiebe (my dad) loved coaching the Pirates and would extol the virtues of all the players to a not always interested family at the supper table. Dad loved baseball statistics and would stay up well into the night, transferring the records from the latest game. I would always hear if the scorekeeping had lacked important information.

Many have marvelled over home runs hit by Tony Rose. Did any really hit the "P" on the Paterson elevator? In the days before the home run fence, Tony hit a fly ball well into the parking lot, close to the mud scrapper. A player from the Morris Ratz caught the fly ball, however David Dueck was still able to score from second base. Wow!

Everyone enjoyed the rivalry between the Pirates and the A's. When the two Kane teams played, spectators could be heard making comments like these: that's my neighbour, that's my son, that's my nephew. The annual community wiener roast that followed was always well attended. You could buy sunflower seeds during the game from Pete and Katie Ginter who cheerfully managed the booth.

1981 is remembered for two events. This is the year the Kane ball field sported a new backstop and a sturdy steel fence. It is also the year that the all nine positions could be filled from the Pirates and A's at the All Star game.

July 18, 1982, the Pirates won a two day tournament at Starbuck. Twenty-four teams were entered and the Pirates defeated the Chalet Jets from Winnipeg in the final game. In 1983, the Pirates also won the Plum Coulee Fastball Tournament, defeating the Diamond Steelers from Neuenberg 6-3. But the victory most mentioned is the league championship of 1984. It was the fifth game of the series and Elm Creek was winning 6-1 in the bottom of the 5th. The Pirates scored two runs in the 6th. Then in the 7th inning came the shot heard around southern Manitoba. Curt Penner whipped out a triple to tie the game. The Pirates scored nine runs in the extra inning to capture the trophy, winning 15-6. Brian Brown and Barrie Rose pitched and caught all eight innings. Barrie Rose led

the team in prayer on the mound and the spectators lit and waved cake sparklers after the game. A proud Kane moment!

Barrie Rose shares this memory that he says happened quite often. When catching for a tournament, the umpire would frequently ask where the team was from. Barrie would reply - Kane. The next question was usually - How big is it? Oh, 16-18 people. The umpire would be impressed that Kane had "a" ball team and Barrie would have his comeback ready. Actually, we have three - two mens and a ladies.

The Pirates that I remember always played hard, wanted to win and did Kane proud by being gracious in victory and defeat.

### **KANE CANARIES/ANGELS**

*by Audrey D. Friesen and a team effort*

After much deliberation, it is estimated that the Kane Canaries Ladies Fastball Team made its debut in 1973, give or take a year. We began with makeup games against teams from Myrtle, Roland, Miami and Rosenort. A couple of years later, the Pembina Valley Ladies Fastball League was formed. I believe the first year consisted of teams from Homewood, Roland, Carman, Miami and Kane. Later on in the early 80's, the league became the Hwy. 23 Girl's Fastball League with teams representing larger centres such as Morris, Carman and Rosenort. The ladies from the small town of Kane prevailed and played on.

Irvin Wiebe was the first fearless leader to take on the job of coaching a Kane ladies team. The challenge of coaching his wife and three daughters proved a daunting task and he smartly left to take on other challenges. Barrie Rose, Bill Toews, Ralph Groening, Evelyn Rose and Herb Martens were the other leaders of strong character to face the challenges that came with the role of coach.

We like to remember ourselves as being highly successful, often coming in first in league play and winning league championships: 1978 (under the tutelage of Barrie Rose), 1980 (Ralph was given the honour of coaching this well-rounded team). The 1980 championship seems to stand out in most of our memories. Whether this is because we battled Carman A with our strong desire to win or because this is the year we invested in new uniforms is still under discussion. The Canaries traded in their bright yellow T-shirts for blue and gold uniforms, championship jackets and a new name - Angels.

In order to keep ladies baseball alive in Kane, players were welcome from far and wide and encouraged to bring a friend along to the game (just in case). It didn't really matter if opposing teams showed up or not as we always had enough spectators to make up a game if need be. Many a time I remember driving through pouring rain, carrying on because I knew it was always sunny in Kane. As Vivian Brown reminisced, the great conversations going back and forth from Starbuck were half the fun. She also remembers the early years of driving with me in my green



*Kane Canaries Ladies Fastball Team won the Pembina Valley Ladies Fastball League championship. Back row: Coach Ralph Groening, Doreen Hyde, Darlene Bergman, Lori McLaughlin, Dorothy Braun, Deb Penner, Marlene Enns. Front row: Barb Toews, Karen Wiebe, Audrey Wiebe, Audrey Friesen.*

excuse for a car that came with a warning - DON'T WEAR WHITE! Our first baseball ritual before the game was to dust our eyelashes. I also remember many ladies crowding into my car during a deluge in the middle of a game only to be dripped on by dirty water from the windshield. How I miss that car!

Lois Johnson from Starbuck added a spark to the Kane team for a number of years. She shares this memory. She stopped at Syl's in Carman where she knew she'd find the Kane Angels after a ball game. Lois had not participated in the game because her mother had passed away. Her presence caused an awkward, silent moment until Vija gave Lois a big hug that broke the ice. This brief moment is one Lois often revisits.

Barrie Rose has another Lois Johnson memory. He remembers Lois being offended by a coaching maneuver, having a group of Canaries explain to him why he had to apologize and then made to apologize to Lois. Barrie still sounds a bit confused about the whole thing. You gotta love women's baseball!

The Kane Canaries/Angels weren't only known for their baseball abilities. They were also available for anniversaries and showers and could do a 'resounding' rendition of "Take me out to the Ball Game". Windups to Rainbow Stage and Stage West were highlights but the real highlight of every season was the camaraderie shared.

I would love to mention all the players who dedicated time and spirit to the Canaries/Angels teams but have been cautioned to withhold. It was a blast! Only later could

I appreciate the sacrifice made by mothers who had a strong desire to keep baseball going in Kane during a very hectic farming season. An extra heartfelt appreciation to these players. What can you say about the dedication and commitment given by the coaches - thank you. I'm sure many cringed at the call for an umpire and yet there were always those special members of the community that answered the call. You know who you are! Spectators add flavour to any game, and in this, Kane ball teams had quantity and quality.



*The Kane Angels wind up the 1981 season at Stage West. Back row: Karen Wiebe, Audrey Wiebe, Ralph Groening, Tim Groening. Front row: Eleanor Rose, Barb Toews, Vivian Brown, Audrey Friesen, Deb Penner, Marlene Enns.*



*Henry Schellenberg in his Plum Coulee ball uniform, 1948.*



*Myrtle's Bantam "A" team are possessors of the Rusco Window Co. trophy, emblematic of league honours for 1957. Back row: Manager Henry Rempel, Wayne Allison, Gordon Dyck, Don Rempel, Art Thiessen. Front row: Bob Bracken, Bill Toews, Don Patterson, Murray Sloan, Tommy Kirk, Ken Fredricksen.*



*Kane Rockets: (l-r) James Penner, Len Born, Ernie Born, Eddie Derksen, Ken Giesbrecht, Larry Born, Gordon Dyck, Walter Born.*



*Provincial High School Curling Championship in Winnipeg. Brian Wiebe (skip), Ernie Friesen (third), Bert Friesen (second) Keith Born (lead), of Kane, 1965.*



*Provincial High School Basketball Tournament Champs in Brandon, 1965. Back row: Hardy Kehler (coach), Art Wiebe, Harold Dyck, Earl Dyck, Eugene Hildebrandt, Bert Friesen, Paul Friesen. Front row: Larry Gluck, Ralph Groening, Ed Wiebe, Menno Wiebe.*



*The Kane/Lowe Farm Red River Ramblers Snowmobile Club was active during the 1970's. Most of the riding was along the ditches, the Red River and the Pembina Hills.*



*Kane/Lowe Farm Hockey Team, 1981. Back row: Larry Gluck, Tony Rose, Brian Brown, Barrie Rose, Les Dyck, Dennis Rempel, Jerry Brown, Richard Rempel. Front row: Norman Blatz, Rick Giesbrecht, Hank Hildebrand, Cornie Paetkau, Larry Klassen, Howard Brown.*



*Kane/Lowe Farm captured the Morden Linament Hockey League trophy when they defeated the Plum Coulee Pirates 7-3, in 1982. Back row: Earl Braun, Rick Rempel, Milton Braun, Larry Gluck, Gary Dyck, Tony Rose, Brian Brown, Dennis Rempel, Les Dyck, Norman Blatz. Front row: Ken Reimer, Rodney Bergman, Howard Brown, Cornie Paetkau, Barrie Rose, Barry Friesen (coach), Rick Giesbrecht, Hank Hildebrand.*

*The spirit  
lives on...*



*...in our  
roots*

**PETER & MARIA BERGMAN  
FRANK & HELEN BERGMAN**

*by Hilda (Bergman) Hiebert*



*This house was built by  
Peter Bergman in 1920*

Peter and Maria Bergman (our grandparents) lived on a farm in the Rose Farm District, four miles south and half a mile east of Kane (SW 18-4-2W). Grandpa built a large, modern home for his family in 1920. They raised five children, Mary, Frank, Edna, Bill and Jim. Many happy times were enjoyed at Grandma and Grandpa's house. Grandpa passed away in 1942 while saying the closing prayer at a service in the Rose Farm Church. Grandma remarried and eventually sold the farm and retired to Plum Coulee until her death in 1969.

Frank continued to farm in the Kane/Rose Farm area together with his wife Helen. Edna (Unrau) and her family farmed in the Myrtle area for many years but the rest of the family left the community to make their living elsewhere.

Frank and Helen had a family of four daughters, Margaret, Hilda, Irma and Nora, and one son, Ed. We were active in both the Rose Farm School and Church. Although our family was more closely involved in the Rose Farm community, our post office was Kane and business was conducted in town on a regular basis. Margaret and Hilda attended Kane High School in the 1952/53 school year but returned to Rose Farm in the Fall of '53 when the Rose Farm High School was opened.

We have many fond memories of our childhood days. Events such as family gatherings, a trip to Winnipeg, or a picnic at Seven Sisters Falls, were highlights. As we grew

up we left the farm, one by one, to find employment and eventually Mom and Dad took up seasonal employment in Winnipeg and worked the farm in the summer. After a number of years of part-time farming, they sold the farm and took up permanent residence in Winnipeg. Dad passed away in the fall of 1993. We miss him, but are thankful for the many things he taught us and the good example he was to us. We remember well his willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Mom now lives in Bethel Place, a Seniors' apartment building in Winnipeg. At the present time the family all reside in Winnipeg with the exception of Nora and her husband who live in Calgary, and one grandson who lives in Toronto.

We thank God for our parents and grandparents and the faith and values they passed on to us.

**JACOB & AGANETHA (Giesbrecht) BLATZ**  
*by Dora (Blatz) Hildebrand*

My grandparents, Jacob and Aganetha Blatz, were married on July 9, 1891, at Neuhoffnung (New Hope), near Gretna, Manitoba and moved to Rose Farm (NW 9-4-2W) in 1896.

In the same year Grandpa made available; one acre for a school, and one acre for a cemetery, on the northeast corner of the home quarter. Grandpa Blatz served on the school board for many years.

A large two-story house was built in 1919, and the Blatz family enjoyed many gatherings there, including their Golden Anniversary in 1941.

In 1928 Grandpa lost his left leg from above the knee due to blood poisoning, and so most of the grandchildren remember him only with crutches. Grandpa loved to entertain us kids, and I remember him telling us that his cat could talk! He held the cat in his arms and asked, "Have you caught any mice today?" The feline would answer with a prompt *meow*. Then he asked if she had a fight with a dog today? A vigorous shaking of the head was a certain negative answer. We thought Grandpa and his cat were very smart. Years later we found out that a pinch on the tail would bring out the *meow*, and a gentle blowing into the ear brought about a shaking of the head. We loved our Grandpa.

Grandma was of a less gentle nature and was known for her scoldings and complainings. But we all knew that her bark was worse than her bite. One day when Grandma had been on the farm for a sleep over, she complained about her teeth all through breakfast, and was still muttering when Dad helped her into the car. At that point, Mother came out to the car, and laughingly handed over the much more comfortable lower dentures, and retrieved her own! We loved our Grandma too!

Grandpa and Grandma Blatz retired to Lowe Farm (now #15 on Fourth Street West), in 1939, but my single uncles stayed on the farm. They now had a very small house; two rooms on the main floor with a lean-to, and



*Jacob and Aganetha Blatz on their 50th Anniversary at Rose Farm, 1941.*

*Jacob Blatz's home built in 1919 at Rose Farm.*

one room and a storage room upstairs. They worshipped in the Bergthaler Church in Lowe Farm.

An old custom was held to spread oats on grandparents on New Year's morning by grandchildren. Grandpa encouraged my brother Norman to do this for him. Grandma wanted no part of it, and agreed to it as long as she was not in bed. Norman stayed overnight and in the morning Grandma woke him up and then Norman sprinkled the oats on Grandpa.

Terry Blatz, son of Jac and Helen Blatz, grandson of Frank G. and Mary Blatz, was the 19th great grandchild of Jacob and Aganetha Blatz and the first male great grandchild by the name of "Blatz".

Grandpa passed away on June 24, 1947, and Grandma on March 9, 1953. They were both buried in the Rose Farm Cemetery that he had looked after for so many years (his son Dan took over the job after Grandpa, and now grandson Frank D. Blatz is on a committee of two that organize its care).

Their children include: Jacob (1892-1918) remained single and was training for the dentistry in Toronto at his passing; Agnes (1893-1981) lost her first husband John Dyck in 1918, and then married Peter Rempel. They farmed at Lowe Farm; Daniel (December, 1894-January, 1895); Helen (1896-1971) married John N. Dyck and they farmed at Lowe Farm and Rivers; Frank (1897-1980) married Maria Dueck and farmed at Horndean, Kane, and retired to Plum Coulee; Peter (1898) stillborn; Mary (1900-1963) remained single and was a Registered Nurse at Winkler, Altona and Ninette Sanitarium; John (1902-1907) died of diphtheria; Susan (1903-1968) married Abram Dueck and they lived at Horndean and Fort Garry; Anna (1905) stillborn; Andrew (1906-1991) married Justina Toews and they farmed at Homewood, then at Killarney and had years of construction while living at Morden; Daniel (November, 1907-February, 1908); Daniel (1909-1990) married Edna Loeppky and they farmed at Rose Farm and Graysville; Abram (1911-1995) married Tina Klassen and they farmed at Kane, then

moved to Winnipeg; Tina (1912) remained single and served as a missionary in Germany, and is now retired in Abbotsford; Eva (1916) married Henry Braun. They farmed at Sperling and Kane, then moved to British Columbia where she still resides.

### **FRANK G. & MARY (Dueck) BLATZ** *by Dora (Blatz) Hildebrand*



*Frank and Mary Blatz family in the mid 40's.  
Annie, Jake, Mary (Mom), Dora, Henry, Frank (Dad), Frank,  
and Norman in front.*

It was in October of 1938, that Mom and Dad made their move to Kane from Horndean, with their six children. Dad was at our former home preparing another load, the older two brothers were on the trail on horseback bringing the cattle, and Mother, the maid, and us young'ens were in this new strange place, way up north behind the dyke. We weren't afraid until we saw Mother

nail the door shut! Then we knew we were on the wild frontier! The next morning the sun was shining, Dad came with another load of goods, the boys came with the cattle, we were a family again, and our new life at Kane had begun.

We farmed at this place (SE of 26-4-3W), 3½ miles southwest of Kane for five years. (This property had been purchased from the Dominion Bank of Canada. A previous owner had been Mr. John Miller who had lost the property to bankers Mr. Bailey and Mr. Tannahill from Toronto.) We attended services at the Bloomfield School during the first years, as Kane didn't have any regular organized services at that time.

In November of 1943, our family moved to the George Miller farm, 1½ miles east of Kane. Dad purchased the whole section of 5-5-2W for \$35.00 per acre. Now we had a big house with three porches, and a very big barn built in eastern style, as Mr. Miller had come from Ontario. The barn was built with main beams notched and dowelled. There was a driveway leading to the hayloft, and the tractors with hayracks would drive up and unload the hay which was held in slings. The barn was destroyed by fire in 1956, and the insurance company paid Dad \$4,440. Replacement value was about \$12,000, but all agreed that timbers like that would be hard to find.

Mom and Dad were very active in the community and church; Mother was on the executive of the Mission Sisters and Dad served on the Church Board for most of their years at Kane. He was also a school trustee for many years at Kane.

Mom lived for her family and her idea of a perfect family was to have seven kids. That way a different offspring could come home each day of the week! She was a great hostess, and graciously welcomed all the guests that Dad invited.



*Frank G. and Mary Blatz farm in the 40's.*



*The Blatz family in 1998. (l-r): Dora and Hank Hildebrand, Norman and Elva Blatz, Jack and Helen Blatz, Frank and Elaine Blatz, Anne and Art Wiebe.*

Dad loved the farm, and enjoyed seeing things grow. He grew registered Selkirk wheat, had it cleaned at Plum Coulee, and shipped it to the States for many years. He planted two long rows of evergreens from the yard to the highway. He kept the yard well groomed at a time when "things were done the hard way".

Together, our parents taught us many things; such as perseverance on the job, dedication to God and the church, good money management, the love for stories, books, and people. Although we were born and raised during the Great Depression and World War II, we never felt deprived of the good things in life.

Our parents left the farm in 1964, and retired to Plum Coulee where they joined, and were active in the Bergthaler Church. They made many friends, and spent time visiting and taxiing the "old people" around. Mother passed away in September of 1978. Dad stayed in Plum Coulee for another year, then spent one year in an apartment in Altona, and passed away in December of 1980.

Our parents raised six children: Henry remained single, farmed at Kane and Myrtle, and passed away in April of 1988. Jake and wife Helen (Boehlig) farmed at Kane, and retired to Morden. Frank and wife Elaine (Robinson) farm the "home

place" at Kane. Anne and husband Art Wiebe, are retired at Blumenort after years of teaching for Art, and employment at the Kindale Workshop for Anne. Dora and husband Henry (Hank) Hildebrand farm at Kane. Norman and wife Elva (Born) farm at Kane.

### **JAC & HELEN (Boehlig) BLATZ** *by Jac and Helen Blatz*



*Helen and Jac Blatz with (l-r) Maxine, Terry and Ron in 1957.*

I, Jac, was born in Horndean, July 18, 1926, and moved to Kane in 1938 when Dad sold our Horndean farm to Mr. George Siemens. He was teaching at Kane School at the time. The Kane farm was occupied and likely worked by the Caminsky family.

When we moved to Kane, Henry and I had to herd the cattle all the way from Horndean to Kane on horseback. When we got closer to Rose Farm, Uncle Dan Blatz joined us to help. We herded them all the way to Rose Farm to my Grandparents Blatz's place, stayed the night there and had to milk the cows while there. We took them the rest of the way in the morning. The Caminsky farm we'd bought was SE 26-4-3W.

Dad was driving a John Deere model "D" tractor on rubber. He was one of the first to have a tractor on rubber. So Mom, the younger kids and Margaret Wiebe (Viebe Greta) stayed alone for the first night. She had helped us move. It was way out in the wilderness and scary. Seeing the door had no lock, they took a knife and stuck it between the door and frame or trim board, hoping no one would break in.

Betty Braun stayed at our place, while she went to school at Kane.

We went to school by van. One day in winter we tipped seven times. John Penner was our van driver at that time.

In 1943, Dad bought the Miller farm for \$20,000, a whole section of land, 5-5-2W. They moved there without making any legal papers, doing that later. I (Jac) went to

the Miller farm first and started plowing there, staying at Miller's for the night.

We sold our Caminsky farm to George and Agatha Neufeld.

I bought my first motorcycle, a Harley Davidson, in 1945.

In 1947, Henry and I, with cousins John and Jake Dyck, rented a half section of land at Gladstone. That same year we bought a combine from Frank Groening. Henry and Tom White bought a truck and then we all went to Kansas, South Dakota and North Dakota, USA, to help harvest. Abram J. Wiebe and son Tommy and Bill Reimer went too. We got back in time to help Dad harvest, and later went to Gladstone to harvest our flax.

I got married in 1951, to Helen Boehlig in the Winkler M.B. Church. It was a beautiful, sunny day for October 7. We went to the Black Hills for our honeymoon, using Dad's new car, a 1951 Meteor.

We lived and worked in Winnipeg the first winter. We rented a small apartment, with a small kitchen and bed-sitting room for \$35.00 a month. In spring we moved out to the farm we'd bought from Cornie Dyck's. It was two miles east and two miles north of Kane on SW 16-5-2W. Here we also had a small home, 18 feet by 22 feet; two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. It was heated with a warm morning coal burning stove, and on very cold days, we kept all the doors closed so we could get the kitchen warm enough to survive. We had no running water, and the first summer we used dugout water to wash clothes, dishes, etc. and got drinking water from Mom and Dad's place. We got a cistern after the first year, but it was only usable in summer. In winter we had a barrel close to the stove to melt ice or snow and that was our water supply.

All three of our children were born while in this house: Terrance Wayne Jacob - July 26, 1952; Ronald Dale Ernest - June 3, 1955; Maxine Anne Marie - June 12, 1957. When Maxine was a baby we had a new house built by Arnold Hiebert of Plum Coulee, and had it moved to our yard.

The house was 24 by 40, and with the foundation, it cost us \$4,200.00. Carpets and light fixtures were extra. After seven years, we had a basement put under the house and also built a porch over the back door. We lived there for 25 years.

I was active on the school board at Kane Consolidated and later Morris MacDonald for about eleven years. I was also on the board of the Kane Berghthaler Church and the Kane Community Centre.

We built a chicken barn in 1969, a 12,000 bird laying barn. In 1970 we bought a half section of land from the Billy Deutschman estate, which was right across the road from our yard. (Paid \$20,000 for it.) Later, we sold our farm to the Hiessingers (a German couple) in 1976. We then moved to Morden on October 7, 1976, exactly on our 25th anniversary, and are still in Morden in 1999.

Terry is married to Sheryl Mintenko, and they live in Charleswood, Winnipeg. They have two boys, Michael James Jacob - October 7, 1984 and Mark Daniel Gerald -



*Jac and Helen Blatz farm at Kane.*



*Jac and Helen Blatz and family, Christmas, 1998. Standing: Ron and Chris Blatz, Jeff and Maxine Kuryk, Karlee, Kristi and Brandon, Sheryl and Terry Blatz. Michael and Mark are sitting up front.*

January 8, 1987. Terry works for Pitney Bowes as a Customer Service Technician. He has been there for 26 years, ever since he graduated from Red River College. Sheryl works part-time at Beaver Lodge Elementary School. Terry's an avid curler and has curled about 23 years. His team consists of Eldon Thiessen of Kane and Stan Friesen from Sewell. Cousin David Blatz has been with them for four years because one of the players moved out of town. They won the Club Championship this year. Their Claim to Fame was beating Jeff Stoughton when they played against him.

Ron is married to Chris Dyck and they live in Elmwood area in Winnipeg. They have two girls and one boy: Karlee Bonita - September 7, 1980; Kristi Noelle - June 24, 1982 and Brendan Matthew - August 9, 1984. Ron manages the Discovery Centre on Silver and Hampton in St. James. He has 160 kids, ages two to twelve, and employs 28 staff members. Chris does some computer work from her

home. The Discovery Centre is the second largest in Manitoba and the most unique one in Canada. It is open eighteen hours a day, six days a week. Karlee finished her first year of university this year.

Maxine is married to Jeffrey Kuryk. They live in St. Albert, Alberta. She presently works as a Clinical Social Worker in Alberta Hospital in a turning point program. Maxine works with young offenders ages twelve to eighteen. Her husband Jeff is a physiologist and works for Alberta Mental Health board in a clinic. Maxine has run three marathons. Her first marathon was a gift to herself for her 40th birthday. They enjoy travelling, skiing and scuba diving. Her hobbies include gardening, sculpturing and water colour painting.

**Terry's memories:** The thing that sticks with me the most about growing up in Kane in the 50's and 60's, (gee, that makes me feel old!) and what I tell my city friends the most, is the safe, secure environment we grew up in. The kids I went to school with were mostly the kids I went to church with. Not only did I never get into a fight in school, I can't even remember seeing a fight in school. It really was a great place to grow up, and I am proud to have come from Kane.

Some highlights I recall and maybe some you will too:

—riding my tricycle to visit Irene Wiebe three-quarter mile away (while Dad kept a close eye on me!).

—riding on Mr. Jake Wiebe's bus to school and getting Cuban Lunch bars as a treat periodically. Once we even went part way by horse and stoneboat!

—Kane School field day at the end of every school year when we got to ride our bicycles to school!

—going to Kane Store for a drink and chocolate bar out of that special glass cabinet where the bars were kept! Remember the Fat Emma's and Pie Face? Yum, yum, Good!

—riding our go-cart down the back road to visit Grampa and Gramma Blatz's. What a special place that was for a kid; swings, garden, playhouse, apples, berries, and lots of trees to play in. Plus two aunts and uncles living on the same yard!

—Uncle Hank Hildebrand leading the chorus singing, before Sunday School at Kane Church.

—my first jobs; caretaking the church with Stan Born and Roger Groening. And who can forget unloading fertilizer from the grain cars for George Born at the UGG Elevator (sure earned

your money doing that!)

—Christmas concerts at school with Christmas bags afterwards. Boy did we look forward to that!

—getting my ear pulled by Mr. Braun for not listening in class. This was the biggest trouble I ever got into except for the time in grade one where all the grade one's were playing follow the leader through the puddles on the school yard in spring (against the rules!) and I happened to be the leader when we got caught! Of course everyone else in school was watching when Mr. Braun called us in. Option: one week detention at lunch time, or a strapping. We all took the week.

—the annual Capture The Flag Game. What fun that was.

—Family get-togethers at Grandparents Blatz's (well the kids called them family get-togethers, the adults sometimes called them Pig Slaughtering Bees!)

—at 15+ years riding all over the countryside with piles of other guys on our motorcycles (only once did we actually end up in a PILE!) Boy, what fun times we had with those bikes.

—Rose Farm School closing and their kids coming to Kane. Boy, did that make an improvement to our ball team.

—riding motorcycle with Ed Dyck to visit Irene Wiebe. Often Irene was away with her boyfriend, so we would stay and visit with her parents.

—visiting (sleepover once or twice a year!) at Brad Groening's house (Art & Tina). What a great old farm house and orchard.

—Kane Garage, John Deere days, those wonderful donuts all us school kids got to have and the film. What a treat.

#### **Maxine writes:** *I remember ....*

...having the opportunity to make extra money by cleaning the church. On occasion I would be visited by Roger Groening, who would entertain me with philosophical conversation as I worked.

... the church was always left unlocked, even after it was no longer in use. At times my friend Gerry and I would go in and play piano and sing on the top of our lungs. No performance anxiety and no critics.

...the old oily wooden counter at Kane General Store. We received 25 cents allowance which went a long way - with a small coke at seven cents (two cents return on a bottle) and small chocolate bars for five cents. (I remember when there were cent signs on typewriters.)

..."schwien schlachting" at Grandma's was always fun. The men worked, the women cooked up a storm, and the kids played. A great time spent with all my cousins.

...being towed to school in a covered wagon behind a tractor when it was too muddy for the van. ...years of 4-H; learning to sew at the hands of experts, giving speeches, going to fairs, learning snowmobile safety on an awesome snowmobile course, all thanks to our parents who volunteered.

...my early church memories include my Aunt Dora's flannel board; new dresses for Easter Sunday; Uncle Hank leading us in chorus singing, and playing guitar and har-

monica; getting caught giggling in church; boys sitting on one side and girls on the other, with only strangers daring to challenge the seating plan, drawing stares from the locals. In fact all strangers drew stares.

...grade one. Miss Enns was my teacher, and there were four grades in my classroom which included two of my cousins and my brother (he reported everything I did to Mom). All of the girls in grade 1 through 4 would play together at times, with the older girls taking on leadership roles. One spring Vivian, Vallery, Gail and Bernice had us playing school every recess, complete with little work booklets they had made. I'm surprised they didn't all turn out to be teachers.

...the peg boards in grade one, (with four grades in a classroom, you had to entertain yourself when you completed your work). The first one done their work got the plastic pegs, everyone else was left to play with wooden pegs or plasticine.

...grade 3 when Rose Farm School consolidated with Kane. We went from two rooms to four and had about ten kids per grade.

...the scary flush toilets, and even scarier - telling the principal the toilet was flooded - which seemed to happen often.

...visits by Mr. Whitely, the School Inspector. We greeted him with hands tucked behind our backs, greeting him in unison with, "Good morning, Mr. Whitely." We were nervous and wondered whether we made the mark, never fully aware he was there to assess our teacher. I remember being very disappointed when first meeting him, as he did not have the white suit and hair I had imagined.

...skipping every lunch at school with friends, (that's with a skipping rope not truancy). There were only three boys in my grade to get all the attention from seven or eight girls.

...the Gestetner, the sound, the smell, enough said, I'm old.

...playing baseball with the Kane Canaries. I was bad, really bad, but still had the opportunity to play. The benefits of being raised in a small town.

...trying to play basketball in a gym with eight foot ceilings, and four concrete pillars strategically placed to be in your way. It's amazing no one suffered permanent brain damage.

...the Kane Family Picnics held at the end of each school year. Everyone got 5 cents per race, or more if you won, and there were lots of races; wheelbarrow races, three-legged races, sack races, etc. Moms got to race each other in the nail hammering event, and I remember Uncle Hank doing great head first high jumps. The concession eagerly took our hard earned money, and all the girls sported candy necklaces.

...the 60's hit Kane. . . and perhaps the first and only strike, a one woman strike. Upon discovering my father was paying the neighbour more to gather eggs than he was paying me, I protested with strike slogans written all over my white rubber boots. My father patiently tolerated my pro-

test, and eventually gave in.

...These are only some of the very fond memories I have of growing up in Kane. As the years go by, I more greatly appreciate the benefits of growing up in a small rural community surrounded by family and friends. I still consider Kane my home.

### FRANK D. BLATZ STORY

*by Frank and Elaine Blatz*

In a winter in which Frank's Dad recorded as being "hard and long with much snow," Frank was born on February 17, 1930, to Frank and Mary Blatz on the family farm one mile east and three-quarter mile south of Horndean. He was the third child in a family of six.

Because the school was too full, Frank was unable to start his schooling at six years of age. He attended school in Horndean for two months before the family moved to the Kane area. However, in this short time Frank experienced the sting of the teacher's ruler across his hands for copying someone else's work, art work at that!

In 1938, the family moved to a 480 acre farm south of Kane which Frank's Dad purchased for \$9000.00. Early memories on this farm include "an awful lot of snow with high snowbanks and big spring floods". Although the Blatz farm did not flood, there were many days when they could not go to Kane because there was no bridge, only a spillway.

In some of these years Fred Gluck helped combine in harvest time before Frank's Dad purchased a Clipper combine. This combine served them well, for in one year it took off seven quarters.

The Miller farm (5-5-2W) located 1.5 miles east of Kane was bought in 1943, and it is on this property that Frank and his wife Elaine still reside.



*Frank and Mary Blatz with  
(l-r) Joan, Linda and David in 1966.*

In reminiscing about childhood fun on the farm, Frank recalls the hours spent playing in the big hayloft, pulling each other up on the hay sling to a height of about 30 feet. Skating was a prime source of winter fun. Henry Blatz and Alex White often made an ice rink at school or at the Blatz or Pete Friesen farms.

Tales of school life at Kane often include episodes with the van. In the winter the van was placed on a sleigh. On one particularly bad day it tipped seven times. This ride generated both laughter and tears, depending upon one's love of adventure! Vans and school buses continued to be an integral part of Frank's life for he spent numerous years at being a van or bus driver.



*The Frank and Elaine Blatz farm.*

Frank's career in farming began early in his life. He worked for and with his Dad before buying his first quarter of land south of Kane. Later this land was sold and he purchased part of the home section from his father.

On September 26, 1954, Frank married Mary Heinrichs. He met Mary when she worked for John Toews who operated the Kane Store. During the first months of their marriage, the young couple resided in Winnipeg, working at the Hilton Box Factory and the Municipal Hospitals respectively. Their first house was purchased from Dave Hildebrand for under \$1000.00 and it was moved to the home place. A few years later a larger house was bought and moved to another location on the property. In the spring of 1967, the family moved into the original house that was on the farm.

David is the first child born to Frank and Mary. He has studied and received undergraduate degrees from Canadian Mennonite Bible College and the University of Manitoba. David holds a Certified General Accountant designation. In 1978 he married Judith Epp. She teaches music in the Hanover School Division. David and Judy have three sons: Matthew, Gregory and Kenton. They make their home in Winnipeg.

A daughter, Diana Lynne died in 1957 at age eleven months.

The second daughter Joan is an ordained minister in the General Conference Mennonite Church. After receiving her undergraduate degrees at Canadian Mennonite Bible College and the University of Manitoba, Joan pursued further studies, and received a Masters degree from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries in Elkhart, Indiana. After studying and being employed in the United States for several years, Joan returned to Manitoba. She currently works and resides in Winnipeg.

Linda, the youngest daughter, received a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Manitoba. She married Sandy Chodak and they have one son, Danon.



*Frank and Elaine Blatz and family, 1998. Back row: Greg, David, Frank, Matthew. Front row: Kenton, Judy, Elaine, Linda with Danon, Joan.*

Linda and Danon live in Winkler and she is employed by the Garden Valley School Division.

A second son, Lloyd died in infancy in 1960.

Two other sons, twin boys Larry and Garry, died shortly after their birth in 1961.

The Blatz family home known as the "big house", was destroyed in a fire on April 11, 1977. Ernie and Barry Friesen were passing through Kane when they heard Frank call the fire department. They arrived immediately to aid Frank in removing as much furniture as they could from the main floor. A new house was built during that summer with Gordon Enns hired as the contractor. This was the third major fire that occurred on this farm, for a large barn and a smaller barn had been destroyed when the farm still belonged to Frank's parents.

In 1994, Frank married Elaine Robinson. She worked as a school counsellor and teacher in the Fort Garry School Division before resigning in 1997. Frank and Elaine continue to work and live on the farm at Kane.

The threads of laughter and tears are often closely woven throughout the fabric of life. Such is so in this story, our story, but within our hearts we truly affirm that God has been and is with us.

## **NORMAN & ELVA (Born) BLATZ**

*by Elva (Born) Blatz*

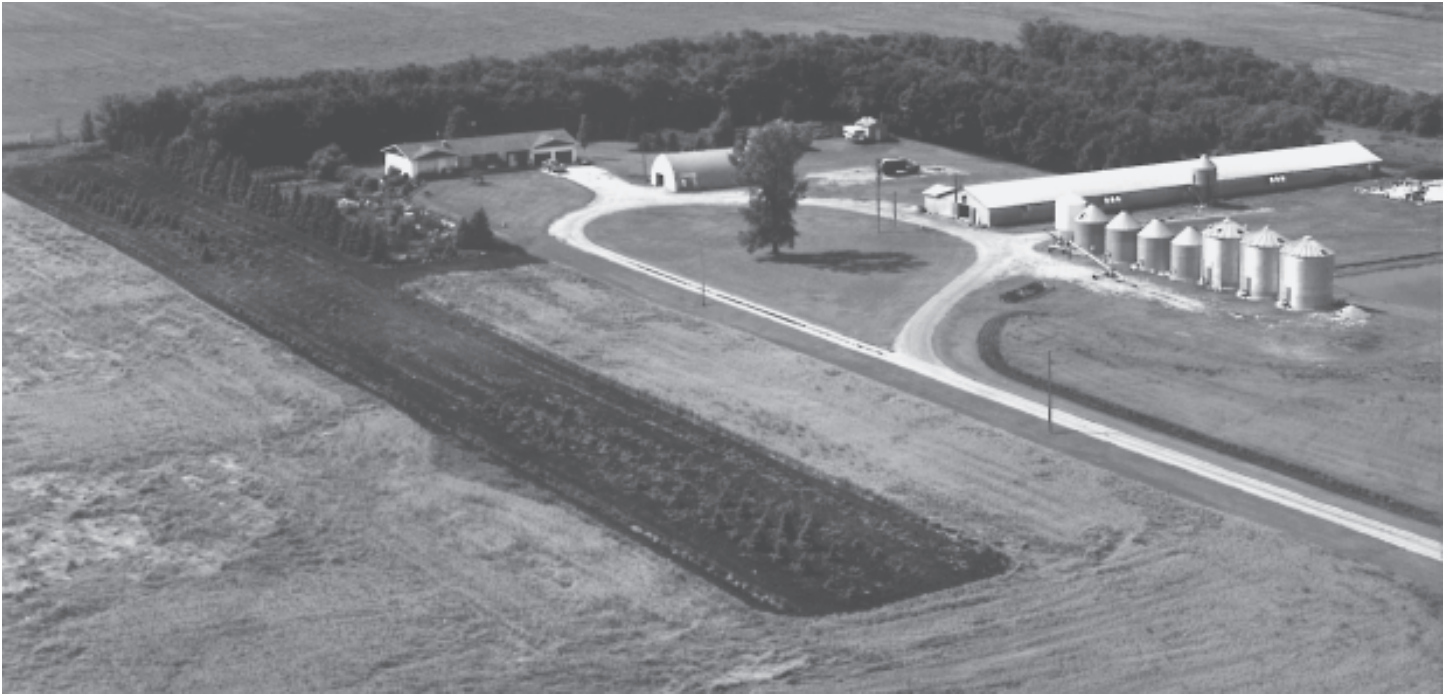


*Elva and Norman Blatz, 1998.*

Norman Blatz moved to Kane with his parents in 1938, at the age of two, and received all his education at Kane. He bought his first quarter of land from his father, Frank G. Blatz, in 1955 (the northeast quarter of section 5-5-2W of his father's home section). Norman farmed with his brother Frank, and his father, until his parents retired to Plum Coulee in 1964.

Norman and Frank bought their first tractor together in 1957, a "44" Special Massey. They still farm together, and they still have the tractor.

Elva Born began grade one in Sperling and finished her last week in Kane in 1947, and continued her education in Kane. In 1960 Norman Blatz married Elva Born of Kane, and in fall of 1964, when his parents retired, the



*Norman and Elva Blatz farm, 1994.*

couple moved into the home place. In 1966, Norman purchased a quarter section (NE 31-4-2W) from A. J. Hyde, and moved there in May, 1967.

There was always a need to "supplement the farm" income. In 1966, Norman and Frank bought a new combine and truck, and went south custom harvesting. Together with one other combining unit belonging to brothers Henry and Jake, Norman and Elva, their two small children, and brother Henry, took three units as far south as Kansas, and then moved north until their own harvest was ready. Elva did the cooking for the gang and at times travelled forty miles to deliver meals. The second year they took three combines and seven men. In Kansas and South Dakota the trailers were set up on farm yards. Friendships were made and visits are still made to these farms. The second generation now comes to visit them in Canada.

Norman drove a school bus from 1968 to 1972. Winters found Norman driving transport; six years for Atomic Transfer and six years for Reimer Express until 1970. A pullet barn was then built to house 10,000 birds on a floor operation and in 1974 cages were put in to hold 24,000 birds. The barn income took the place of the trucking, but trucking was still part of some winter months even until the early 1980's. In 1999 the barn quota was transferred to the Willowridge Poultry Farm near New Bothwell (Jant Zied).

In the '70's and '80's the family found time for sports. Baseball became a big part of the summer. Norman played for the Kane A's for many years and wore number "9". He was good at running bases. Elva was playing for the Kane Canaries, so this meant baseball about four nights a week. At times the children also played ball, and Dulaney played

hardball for Lowe Farm. Trying to juggle all these games wasn't always easy. One year Chris played with a girls team coached by Evelyn Rose and games were scheduled by Chris and Elva. In 1980 (we were building our house) Chris played hardball with the Lowe Farm 16 and under, and ran for Shannon Queen contest. Busy times enjoyed by all!

Hockey kept them busy in the winter. In the late '70's a Kane-Lowe Farm team, the Kings, played hockey in Morden, and won the cup against Plum Coulee in 1978. Later in the '90's Norman was able to play defense with son Jeff, and son Dulaney in goal, while playing in a Plum Coulee league. This was a special time for him.

They enjoyed the Kane Community Centre, and have taken part in the many activities with seldom missing an event. They have done some travelling, having travelled to the southern States, across Canada, and to work in Panama and Venezuela for missions, and to Europe. Norman and Elva have been active in the Bergthaler Church at Kane, and now in the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm. The Sunday School and Youth work have been a challenge. Norman was also on the Church Building Committee after the fire of 1982, and held the position of deacon for some years.

The couple have four children. Dulaney and wife Vicky farm two miles north and one mile east of the home place on the land which had belonged to his Uncle Jake Blatz. Besides grain farming with Norman and his Uncle Frank, they raise cattle. They have four children, Michael, Miranda, Jesse, and Jackson.

Christine married Merle Block. They live in Morden, and own and operate a sign painting business called

Checker Signs. They have two boys, Reece and Lane.

Jeffrey worked for CFAM radio for six years. After a two year agriculture diploma course, he took a job with Tiger Industries in Calgary.

Melanie married Nathan Bartel, and they live one mile south of Kane. Nathan is farming and works for a farmer. They have one son, Tobias.



*Norman and Elva Blatz and family, 1998. Back row: Michael, Vicky and Dulaney Blatz, Jeff Blatz, Chris and Meryl Block, Melanie and Nathan Bartel. Norman with Jackson, and Elva with Tobias. Sitting in front: Jesse, Reece, Lane.*

**Elva's Memories:** As children the only summer job available was picking mustard for Frank G. Blatz. Kool Aid or ice water in ten pound syrup pails awaited us after the long walks across the fields. We got picked up and brought home. It was a break in the long summer, gave us some spending money, and also a chance to see some other children.

We lived next to the store. Very often I was sent for a pound of coffee or some other item or two. The store was open evenings, but I was seldom allowed to go in the evenings. We could see who came to town and sometimes some of the girls would drop by to see us. One such time Esther Thiessen dropped by and told us the tragic news of Irene Suderman's death, a good friend of mine who died of polio.

I remember an event in high school when Mr. Funk was the teacher. In winter the cistern, which was in the basement of the school, would freeze over and the school did not have water. Jerry Toews was asked to get onto the cistern to try get the water to flow up the pump. Seeing the teacher left the room, his brother Dick was going to take advantage and act up until Jerry fell in. Dick turned white as a sheet and hurried to help his brother. All ended well with Jerry wearing the principal's clothes the rest of the day.

My first Sunday services I attended were in the Kane School. There were lots of youth and young married couples. Then for some time we attended the little grey church on the east side of town. Here were lots of children and the singing was exuberant. Then the Berghaler Church was moved to town and we went there. We had a backyard path to the church. Here I remember Sunday School with Walter Toews and Eddie Groening as teachers. I received my first Bible from Walter Toews. This was where Norman and I were baptized by Bishop David Schulz. Rev. I. G. Krahn was the preacher. My sister Evelyn married Wilfred Wiebe in this church. One funeral was held here for Frank and Mary's daughter, Diana, and one twenty-fifth wedding anniversary for the Jake L. Braun's.

The elevator was mostly out of bounds for me except for an occasional visit to Dad, or to bring him a sandwich. But once he did take me up on the lift.

### **DULANEY & VICKY (Zacharias) BLATZ** *by Dulaney Blatz*



*Dulaney and Vicky Blatz with (l-r) Miranda, Jackson, Michael, Jesse, 1998.*

The first two years of my life I lived with my parents Norman and Elva Blatz on my grandparent's (Frank G. and Mary Blatz) farm, one and a half miles east of Kane. We lived in an 18'x24' house on the south side of Grandma's garden. By the time I could walk I had a beaten path through Grandma's garden to her door. When my grandparents moved to Plum Coulee, we moved into the big house for two years. This was on SW 5-5-2W and the yard was built up after George Miller bought it in 1912. For the first thirty years this section was operated as a grain farm and had one of the finest Shorthorn cattle herds in southern Manitoba.

In 1967 we moved to NE 31-4-2W which people referred to as the 'Hyde farm'. It had a small house, 24'x26' with a 6'x10' porch. And I remember some bags of seed grain being stored in one of the bedrooms when we moved in. I lived here with my parents, brother and sisters until 1985. Then I moved to Lowe Farm briefly and then to the old Wiebe farm on SW 3-5-2W, three and a quarter miles east of Kane.

I spent most of my growing up years in Kane during the 60's and 70's. I would often go to town with Dad to the elevator and see Grandpa (George Born). Sometimes Mom would take me with her to the store "to get groceries". You could still get your mail from behind the far end of the counter back then too! Dad bought his John Deere parts and Shell gas and fuel at the Kane Garage. Often some kids would be around to play with or Dave Wiebe would push me around the showroom on a riding mower. The garage always smelled oily. The big tractors in these days were the 4020 John Deere and 95 John Deere combines. One time someone wrote 4U2P on the bathroom door. Kevin and I thought it was funny, but he said his Dad didn't like that. If my Uncle Henry was at the garage, he was always good for a little six and a half ounce Coke. All you had to tell him was, "I wouldn't be so dry if I had a dime."

I recall going to Pete Ginters one day with Mom and my sister Christine. I think we went to get eggs. Christine was about three and I was five. She wanted to sit up front by the door when we left. So reluctantly I let her. As we took off, her door wasn't closed and she opened it to try and close it all the way. Instead she fell out of the car on the driveway. She didn't get hurt much and when she quit crying, I told her she should sit in back next time where it was safe, and I would sit by the door.

In the winter of 1967-68, I recall going to the Kane skating rink one Sunday afternoon. I was four and Dad pulled me around on my new bob skates. A lot of people were skating and visiting at the edge of the rink. Every year Pete Harder flooded a fairly large area in the left/center field of the ball field. This way kids could skate at every recess too. Sometimes we had 2x6's on the ends to stop the pucks. One winter in the 1980's, I helped a few other guys from town make a rink for the community kids. Later years Kevin Harder, Al and Brad Wiebe and I skated on the pond north of the store. One week it snowed so

much it buried our goal net we were using from the school, and we couldn't find it. Next summer Pete Harder hired a diver to fish it out. Mr. Harder always said to come into the store if we got cold or tired. We did, and we bought a lot of cokes and chips to help rest up and keep warm too!

In the fall of 1969, I started Grade 1 in Kane School. There was no Kindergarten at the time. My principal was in his early twenties and my teacher a nineteen year old from Smith Spur (four miles east of Lowe Farm). Everyone liked Miss Joanne Friesen in the Grade 1 and 2 class. I thought school was a lot of fun and you could fool around in class. Miss Friesen didn't figure so and made me stand in the corner three times my first day in school. Kane School was the best. They didn't give homework, we had lots of recesses, and lots of fighting. The best fights (most serious) were behind the skating shack. One time in spring, Paul Groening and I were playing in the sandbox (which was just a sand pit where the old school used to be). We played all noon hour and never noticed the bell ring. Finally ten minutes before last recess we went into the school to see where everyone went. Realizing classes were in progress we slipped into our seats without Gloria Penner even noticing. We had a two and a half hour recess, ten minutes of mathematics, and twenty minutes of recess again, then one hour of Art class. What an easy day!

The two greatest events non-school related that happened to me in school was that every year a great event called John Deere day came to the Kane Garage. School was let out for the afternoon and we all went over to the garage to watch a film, have some juice and doughnuts. It was so tidy in the back of the garage you'd hardly recognize it. The other really great event was on September 28, of 1972. That afternoon our principal Larry Eidse rolled the big 20" black and white TV into our Grade 4 to 6 classroom to watch the historic final game of the Canada/Russia Series. It was great to be a Canadian that day. The next spring someone broke into our school and stole that TV among other miscellaneous items. That was the first time I ever heard of a crime in Kane.

In the spring of 1973 we had a lot of water and one night the water froze so much that the next morning I could skate from my home on NE 31-4-2W all the way across the fields to the fertilizer shed at Kane.

In school we played a lot of soccer, baseball, football, track and field and hockey. One time we played Lowe Farm Grade 4 boys in football. We tied 6-6 and had mostly girls playing the front line. There was a Grade 5 and 6 hockey tournament in Morris McDonald School Division. One game was played outdoors in Lowe Farm. Lowe Farm beat Kane 7-1. We didn't have enough boys in grade 5 and 6, so girls played and I got to play even though I was in Grade 4. In that particular game Elva Penner was our goalie. In the tournament Howard Brown played goal and Lorne Bergen scored all of our goals. We lost 12-1 to Morris, but beat Rosenort 2-1. After the game Mr. C. W. Loewen, the superintendent came to our dressing room and congratu-

lated our little school on beating Rosenort, a much larger school. Larry Eidse, from Rosenort, was our coach and principal.

In the summer we could go to the fertilizer shed on the south side of the tracks. There we would play in the rafters and watch the bigger boys unload bags of fertilizer. Riding my bike to Kane, I could usually find two or three glass pop bottles in the ditch. You got two cents for the big bottles and one cent for the little bottles. Two bits bought a big Coke and a bag of chips in 1972.

When I was thirteen or so, Kevin Harder and I built a fort in the top of an old shed behind the spot where the garage was. (This building was originally built as an ice house.) It still stands today as a chicken house. We would sleep up there for night. One night, Paul Groening came with us. We had balloons and filled them with water, got up on the store balcony and bombed cars as they drove through Kane at night. Not knowing where these water bombs came from, people soon gave up looking, and drove off. After a while we got bored and went to the elevators. At that time the office of the Paterson elevator was attached to the elevator by a catwalk. Being dark, we would hide under the catwalk and the first grain truck that came out of the elevator we bombed. The brake light lit up, tires ground against the gravel, and the driver jumped out yelling and our feet started running. We quickly zig-zagged between the elevators and annexes and took off for the oil shed. On the east side of the platform was a trapdoor. You could have a good hiding place under the platform around all the pipes. When things quieted down and the farmer's truck left, we went back to our fort. When we got there we saw Alan and Brad Wiebe throwing stones on top of our fort hoping we would open the door to see what was going on. They would then soak us with a water bomb. So we snuck up behind them and bombed them good. They went home wet. When Irvin came home from the elevator and found his boys wet from water bombing, he figured they bombed the farmer's truck. Al and Brad had a lot of explaining to do that night.

We had 4-H in Kane and I took woodworking and snowmobile. The Kane Kadets Kombined Klub marched in the Morris Stampede, took a trip to Winnipeg to see Karen Magnason and the Ice Capades skate. We had regular snowmobile riding evenings and had a special course set up in the school yard. We had to show good handling ability of our machine to pass. I drove my dad's 1970 Arlberg. Jake Blatz and Irvin Wiebe were the judges.

I attended many years of Sunday School at the Kane Bergthaler Church. My teachers were my mother, Elva Blatz, Dorothy Wiebe, Mrs. John Thiessen, and Mrs. E. H. Groening. Mrs. Groening mostly taught me and if she couldn't make it one of her children taught the class. In fact I remember every one of her children teaching the class at one time or another except Paul. He was in the class.

Since the closure of the Kane School we've used the building as a Community Centre until the late 90's. I've

participated in various skits and plays that were put on, on entertainment nights. I played on baseball teams; Kane A's 1979-1981 and Kane Blazers 1982-1983.

In the summer of 1986, the Pembina Valley Fastball League had folded. This was the first year in many that there would be no men's fastball in Kane. In 1987, I organized a team with some friends, Kelly and Corey Penner and Herb Dueck. This team was called the Kane Cardinals and played for five years in the Boarder Valley Fastball League. Our first year in the league we lost in the final game of the championship series by one run. The next two years we brought championships to Kane. Our fourth year we earned the right to go to the Championship Series. We declined to continue playing due to the loss and untimely death of our short-stop, Kelly Penner. The Kane Cardinals folded at the end of 1991. In 1988 I helped organize a small, but fun Fastball tourney in Kane. There have been many enjoyable highlights on the old ball diamond in Kane. We always had a good rivalry with Lowe Farm.

I have lived in the Kane community most of my adult life. After high school I worked one summer (1981) for my Dad and Uncle Frank D. Blatz. In the fall of '81, I worked on the Paterson construction crew in Kane. We built the east elevator and added a new driveway and office. It was the second last wooden elevator built in Manitoba. Culross, Manitoba, elevator was the last one built by the Paterson Elevator Company. In the spring of 1982, I started farming with my dad and uncle. I rented the NE quarter of 11-5-3W. This land was broken in the early 1900's by a man named "Shanty Jack" Loree who resided in the SW corner of that quarter. In December of 1988, I bought the east eighty acres of SE 8-5-2W. Originally the west eighty was a Hudson Bay Trading Company quarter. In 1948, my uncles Henry and Jake bought this quarter. In 1991 my Dad bought my eighty acres when I purchased the SW quarter of 16-5-2W from Walter Reichert of Niverville. This was my Uncle Jake Blatz's yard and farm from 1951-1976. I still own and farm it to this writing and my brother Jeff now owns the eighty acres on section eight.

On October 19, 1996, I married Vicky Zacharias of Carman. People would know her grandfather Jacob W. Zacharias of Roland. He was the Rawleighs and Watkins man and sold the products in the Kane area in the 50's and 60's. Her grandmother was born at the northeast corner of NW 8-4-2W - exactly one mile west of the Rose Farm Cemetery. We have four children: Michael, Miranda, Jesse, and Jackson. Our children go to the school in Lowe Farm and attend Sunday School and Church at the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church.

In 1992 I started into the cattle business with the purchase of feeder steers. In December of '95 Vicky and I bought our first eleven bred heifers from George Penner for \$900.00 each. On February 15th of 1996 we had our first calving season and have shifted the focus of our cattle operation to cow/calf pairs. We pasture our herd on our home quarter and do very well converting grain land to



*Dulaney and son Jesse feeding the cattle, December, 1999.*

pasture. We still grain farm a section of land and calve out 40 cows in February and March. Vicky takes care of a lot of the calving activities while I'm working away from home in winter. When not too busy, Vicky enjoys working with her horses, or going out antique hunting.

Mike has been a big help during our July haying season. Capable of most of the field work, he is also very mechanically inclined.

Miranda enjoys working with crafts and writing songs. She gets involved with most school sports and excels at baseball and soccer.

Jesse enjoys all sports, especially hockey.

Jackson likes to press the buttons of the T V "clicker" and cause mischief. He is a very happy little boy.

We enjoy spending time together as a family. On summer Sundays we have wiener roasts and play baseball. Winter evenings are spent around the kitchen table playing board games or doing a little reading.

### **DANIEL G. & EDNA (Loeppky) BLATZ**

*by Maureen (Blatz) Hiebert and  
Judy (Blatz) Thiessen*

Our Dad, Daniel G. Blatz was born on March 20, 1909, to Jacob and Aganetha (Giesbrecht) Blatz on the family farm in the rural district of Rose Farm. Grandma and Grandpa Blatz homesteaded the NW quarter of 9-4-2W in the Morris Municipality in 1896. Dad got his elementary education at the Rose Farm School and in the winter of 1937-38 attended the University of Manitoba to take a Diploma Course in Agriculture. Dad and his brother Abe started off farming on their own by renting their parents farm in 1935. Dad purchased the farm in 1937. Grandma and Grandpa remained on the farm until 1939, when they purchased a house in Lowe Farm and moved into town.

Dad was an innovative, progressive farmer. He was one of the first to own a rubber tired tractor in the community, to seed special crops like sunflowers and corn,



*Edna and Dan Blatz, 1942.*

and to have caragana windrows. Dad was also involved in farm organizations such as the Farmer's Union, the local Co-op and 4-H Clubs. A much anticipated event each summer was our trip to Carman Fair with the 4-H Club. Dad tried to involve his family as much as possible by taking us to some meetings at the Co-op Hall. I remember some great sing-alongs we had there.

In 1941, Dad married our mom, Edna (Loeppky) from Horndean. Mom was born on August 20, 1915 in the village of Altona. She got her education at New Kennedy School and later moved to Horndean where her parents owned and operated a general store. From the time Mom finished school until her marriage to Dad, she helped her parents at the store and being the oldest in the family assisted with raising her younger siblings.

Life continued to be busy for Mom and Dad as their family grew. They had eight children who were all born at the Altona Hospital with Dr. S. S. Toni as our family physician. Times were not easy when there were few conveniences and many mouths to feed. I remember when the hydro came to our home in 1947, and they were able to purchase a fridge and Grandpa Loeppky gave Mom an electric washing machine. Growing up on a mixed farm gave us all a good opportunity to develop some great work ethics.

Some of our early memories are of a very closely knit church and school. Maureen and Judy started their education in the old Rose Farm School and in 1950 a new school was built where we as well as Randy and Sharon received the rest of our elementary education. In 1959 the High School closed and we went to Kane School. For the first time in our lives we had to be bused to school instead of walking that quarter mile down the road. It was a very wet fall and our bus driver, Mr. Frank Bergman, had to park his panel truck and haul us the six miles to school with a tractor and trailer. Kathy, John, Lori and Craig started off at Rose Farm and in 1965 when the school consolidation took place, they attended the Kane School.

We have many good memories of the years at Rose Farm School. The Red Cross sales were a highlight. We worked hard all winter doing crafts, handwork, woodwork, etc., and in spring the community packed into the small school for the annual event. Another highlight of the school year was the Christmas program. This always took place at the Rose Farm Church where there was more space. Every year we would make the trek to the church to practice our program and then on the final night we would perform for our parents. Our final practice was always at the home of Mrs. Bergman, a widowed shut-in lady in the community.

Our family always attended the Rose Farm Church. When we were very young the neighbours picked us up to go to Sunday School. As we grew older we attended Young People's meetings and sang in the choir. We learned a lot about music, singing in the choir under the direction of Mr. Ed Penner. Cantatas were a regular part of Easter services and many were the trips we made to churches to perform the well practiced pieces of music. Our church had a very active youth group and large choir. Even after we were older and away from home we made a special effort to get home to be at choir practice on Friday nights. Many special memories were made around the activities at the little country church. On Christmas Eve the choir would go caroling and sometimes walk down long snow blocked lanes to reach the homes. We had a Missionary Conference every fall where the church was packed each night and all day Sunday, with a special Thanksgiving meal at noon on Sunday.

Mom and Dad farmed at Rose Farm until 1967, when they sold the farm to Leonard Penner of Plum Coulee and purchased a farm in the Graysville area. They continued to farm there until 1978, when they sold the farm to Randy and moved into the village of Graysville.

In 1988, Dad's health began to fail and in the fall of that year he was hospitalized with congestive heart failure and was not expected to live. Dad pulled through and went on to write the "Jacob and Aganetha Blatz family history book" which was published in the summer of 1989. On November 13, 1990, Dad passed away at the Carman Hospital after he suffered a severe heart attack. Mom continued to live in Graysville until the spring of 1991, and then moved to an apartment in Carman. In 1993, she moved

to Boyne Lodge where she presently resides.

The Dan Blatz family: Maureen was born on August 21, 1942. After high school she worked for a year and then attended Winkler Bible School for two years, graduating in 1965. This was one of the goals she had set as a young girl for herself. In 1966 she entered nurse's training and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1967. Except for a few short breaks she has worked in the profession ever since. The last 24 years have been spent at Central Park Lodge in Winnipeg where she still works part time.

In 1977, she married Pete Hiebert, a widower with three sons and at that time Pete adopted her daughter Cheryl, who was born in 1968. All four children are married and each has two children. Allen and wife Darlene live in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where Al is a carpet layer and Darlene works at a bank. Their two children are Rachelle (19), and Jenna (15). Gerald and wife Gwen live in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, where Gerry works for AT Plastics and Gwen works in accounting. Their two children are Gregory (8), and Lisa (6). Bob and wife Karen live in Winnipeg where Bob works in maintenance for the Winnipeg School Division #1. Karen works at Walmart. They have two sons Roger (16) and Bobby (12). Cheryl and husband Will Papageorgiou live in Toronto where Will is in industrial refrigeration and Cheryl works at Home Depot. They have two children, Nicholas (11) and Jamie (7).

Pete Hiebert has been retired since 1990, and enjoys his hobby antique cars. He has restored a 1923 Ford Touring and a 1928 Model A Ford which they love to ride around in. In her spare time Maureen enjoys crocheting, sewing, gardening, reading and genealogy research.

Judy was born on August 19, 1943.....see Howard Thiessen story.

Randy was born on July 29, 1947. Randy and his wife Marlyne reside in Grande Prairie, Alberta where Randy works as an oil field consultant and does some farming as well. Marlyne works in their home and spends a lot of time with their grandchildren. Randy has two children; Vanessa who lives in Grande Prairie, has two daughters, Taylor and Tessa; and Chad who lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Sharon was born on September 25, 1948.....see Jacob Thiessen family.

Kathy was born on April 11, 1951. She married Roy Webster on May 9, 1987. They reside in Carman where Kathy owns and operates "Kathy's Fabrics". Kathy enjoys sewing, baking and singing. Roy is semi-retired and a self-employed mechanic and heavy equipment operator at the age of 80.

John was born on September 1, 1954. On September 16, 1978 John married Cheryl Middleton. They lived and worked in Lamont, Alberta, for several years, then in 1988 moved back to the St. Daniel School District near Graysville. John works as the Plant Operator for Pioneer Grain at Mollard Siding and Cheryl works as an LPN at the St. Claude PCH. They have three children; Christopher, Jared, and

Kari who all attend school at Carman.

Lorelle was born on January 21, 1956. Lori works at Morinville, Alberta for the Sturgeon County as a clerk for the transportation department. Her hobbies are sewing, baking and hunting. She lives with Wilf Mahoney and his two sons, Ryan and Jarrod, in Bon Accord, Alberta. Wilf is a Security Shift Leader for Morguard Investments in Edmonton, Alberta.

Craig was born December 12, 1957. He trained as a heavy crane operator, worked in Ft. McMurray for several years, then moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1989 Craig married Donelda MacDonald of Cape Breton Island. He still works in construction as a heavy crane operator and Donelda is a Social Worker. They reside in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.



*Edna Blatz and family: Back row: Maureen, Craig, Lori, Kathy, Randy. Front row: Sharon, Judy, John, Edna (Mom).*

### **ABE & KATHERINE (Klassen) BLATZ** *by Dora (Blatz) Hildebrand*



*Abe and Tina Blatz family, 1984.  
Back row: David, Wilma, Peggy, Melvin.  
Front row: Abe, Trisha, Kimberly, Amanda, Tina.*

Abe Blatz was born in 1911 to Jacob and Aganetha Blatz at Rose Farm, Manitoba (NW-9-4-2W). He received his early education at the Rose Farm School and later attended the Rhineland Institute of Agriculture in Altona.

In 1935 Abe and his brother Dan rented the family farm for the first time. It was also the year of the rust and the grain would hardly run down the spout. They had about sixty acres of wheat, but threshed only two loads of bundles and burnt the rest. The year 1936 was dry and the wheat did only 6-7 bushels an acre. In 1937 they hit the jack pot! It was a very good year as their area didn't have any grasshoppers. Their Dad (my Grandpa Blatz) said in all his years of farming, the farm had not produced as much grain. The rye yielded about 45 bushels per acre at \$1.03 per bushel; spring wheat yielded about 35 bushels per acre at \$1.11 per bushel; barley yielded about 45 bushels per acre at 55¢ per bushel; and oats yielded about 50 bushels per acre at 45¢ per bushel. Their fifteen acres of corn went 50 bushels per acre for a total of 750 bushels — all hand picked!

In 1937, Abe and Dan purchased a quarter at Kane (NE 24-4-3W), and Abe worked the farm from 1937 until 1943 when he volunteered for the Canadian Army. (His sister Eva and husband Henry Braun worked the land from 1944-1951.) After the war Abe returned to Canada and to farming. He also worked for the Lowe Farm Co-op from 1946 to 1951.

Abe Blatz married Katherine (Tina) Klassen of Lowe Farm in May of 1951. The wedding took place in the Lowe Farm Co-op Hall. Abe and Tina Blatz moved to their farm at Kane and two children were born to them; Wilma in 1953 and Melvin in 1955. Wilma attended the Kane School.

The Blatz family sold the farm in 1961, lived in Lowe Farm during the winter and moved to Winnipeg in 1962. Life on the farm had not been easy, "but it seems whenever the family sits around the kitchen table and remembers the good times they had shared, the funniest stories seemed to happen on the farm". Abe worked for the Versatile Manufacturing company from 1962 until 1976. Abe Blatz passed away in 1995.

Presently Wilma and husband David Kropla live in Ajax, Ontario. They have three daughters; Trisha, Kimberly and Amanda. Melvin and wife Peggy Ann (Berger) live in Innisfail, Alberta with son Brendon. Tina Blatz lives in her apartment in Fort Richmond (Winnipeg).

### **JACOB & OLGA BOESE** *by Lilly Boese*

Our parents, Jacob and Olga Boese, with six children, moved to Kane from Arnaud in 1941. We lived on a farm between two dykes, north of Kane. Lillie, Arthur, Harry, and later John (grade I) attended Kane School.

We usually walked three miles, caught the van at the Wiebe's farm, and had a ride another three miles to school. One cold winter we missed the van, and walked six miles! When Lillie sat down in her desk, she was embarrassed



*Jacob and Olga Boese family in 1955.*

*Back row: Arthur and wife Margaret, Olga and Jacob (Mom and Dad), Lillie, Harry. Front row: John, Victor, Philip (Art's son), Helen, Ken, Richard, David.*

because she could not stop shaking, due to hypothermia. We enjoyed school at Kane, and made many friends.

Mr. George Siemens was a favourite teacher. His history classes were especially interesting. He also taught us how to write an essay. Lillie was later able to teach her brother and her cousin how to write an essay in one lesson, using the "Siemens method". They were then able to pass their departmental exams.

In 1944, the family moved back to Arnaud. In 1950 they moved to Elm Creek, and later the parents moved to a retirement farm at Poplar Point. In 1975, the parents moved to Winnipeg. Jacob passed away in 1990, Olga in 1992, and son Richard in 1995.

Lillie was a teacher for 35 years, and now resides in Winnipeg.

Arthur became an American, served in Korea for two years, got an engineering degree, and worked for NASA. Arthur has two children, and four grandchildren. Arthur and his wife, Cindy, now reside in Sun City West, Arizona.

Harry was a chartered accountant. He retired from the audit department of Canada Life in Toronto. He and his wife, Janet, have two grown children. They have a retirement home in Brooklin, Ontario.

John worked in food services and sales. He and his wife, Rita, now live in Sun Lakes, Arizona.

David retired from the Land Titles office. He and his wife, Karin, have two children, and four grandchildren. They live in Winnipeg.

Victor left farming, was a mechanic, and owned a garage, and now works with computers. Victor and his wife, Hertha, have three sons, and five grandsons. Vic and Hertha live in Virgil, Ontario.

Helen has a physics degree, and works at the Tom Baker Cancer Clinic in Calgary.

Ken is an engineer. He and his wife, Gay, spent eight years in Lesotha, Africa, organizing the building of schools,

and starting a furniture factory. They now live in Steinbach, Manitoba, where Ken built a Canadian Guiderail Factory for an American firm. They have three children.

## **GEORGE & MARY (Unrau) BORN** *by Elva (Born) Blatz*



*Mary and George Born, 1979.*

George Born married Mary Unrau in June, 1946, and they lived in the Sperling area for one year. This marriage brought together his family of four children, who had been living with the grandparents, and aunts and uncles, after their mother passed away. They moved into the Kane area on section 3-5-2W, then owned by Henry Penner, now the home of Barry and Elva Dyck, daughter of Henry Penner. George took on a van route for the Kane Consolidated School District. He worked for Frank G. Blatz in the summer of 1947, while Blatz's sons went to the States to combine. He also worked for Peter Klassen, who rented the back of the Kane Garage. He did this between van times. George and Mary had four more children together.

In February, 1949, George became elevator agent for Canadian Consolidated (CC) in Kane, after Vern Carroll. That year, all grain at Kane, 170,000 bushels of it, was moved from the farms through both elevators in the fall, and they stood empty until the next growing season. George did not always come home for the night, or sometimes came for just a few hours, because he would load cars at night and do the bookwork. In 1950, the Wheat Board began the quota system, and grain buying became a year round business. In 1959, the agency was sold to United Grain Growers (UGG). Art Selley was the superintendent for CC, and was demoted to grain buyer in Roland when UGG took over. Mr. Wilcox, the first superintendent for UGG, always stayed for lunch at the Borns.

The house on the west side of town had been the Woodvale School on section 2-5-3W, and moved to town by Jim Miller as a store. It was later sold to Canadian Consolidated for a company house. It was in this house that the Borns had electricity for the first time! This was their

home until 1963, when George and Mary bought their own home on the east side of town, which they sold to the company on his retirement in 1974. George was grain buyer at Kane for 26 years.

Mary took down the grain prices twice a day all those years. Canadian Consolidated would have a gift of thanks for her every Christmas for this service. She also cooked for the gang who built the east annex in 1957. That was a big undertaking with a family of seven children.

They retired to Summerland Apartments in Winnipeg. George passed away in March of 1988. In 1995, Mary moved to Bethel Place, having lived at Summerland for twenty years.

Johnny married Dorothy Laidlaw. He worked for Foster Wheeler Chemical Construction in the United States. They moved across the country eighteen times in nineteen years. They have four children: Randy, Donna (who is deaf), Tracy, and John. Johnny passed away in 1991. Dorothy lives at Lockport, Illinois.

Evelyn is retired and lives in Winnipeg. She has three children: Susan, Ramona and Scott.

Leonard passed away accidentally in September, 1960 at the age of 21.

Elva married Norman Blatz of Kane, and they farm near Kane. They have four children: Dulaney, Christine, Jeffrey, and Melanie.

Keith is married to Vicky Motkaluk. He spent twenty years with the Credit Union, and was robbed twice at gun-point. They live in Swan River where he is a bookkeeper for Hadiken Concrete. He has one son Adam.

Sally married Robert Nickel and they live in Winnipeg. Sally works for Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), and Robert works in public relations for the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies. They have one daughter, Stephanie.

Stanley married Fernilee McCurry and they live near Lockport, Manitoba. He works in autobody for McPhillips Lincoln Mercury, and Fernilee owns a business as physiotherapist in Selkirk, namely, Interlake Physio Clinic. They have two girls; Kaitlin and Tanika.



*Children of George and Mary Born, 1988. Back row: Robert, Stan, Butch, John. Front row: Sally, Elva, Evelyn.*

Robert lives in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. He is a draftsman.

**Keith's (Butch) memories:** There are many great memories I have of living in Kane, but the ones I love most are the simple ones involving the community during the fifties.

John Deere Day at Toews Garage: half day off school, a movie, with lots of John Deere equipment in it, and all the free donuts and drinks you could hold. That's living!

The Toews General Store: oiled wooden floors, a counter with stools, watching Eaton's Santa Claus Day Parade from Toronto on the only TV in town, Crokinole and Checkers Tournaments.

The old school: four grades to a room, double desks, getting the basement ready for the Christmas concert, saw-horses and grain doors for a stage, lots of practices, everybody included, the whole town and area turn out for the show, exchanging names for gifts - wondering who had yours, Christmas bag of goodies - peanuts, candies and an orange.

Sunday afternoons when the young people would all meet at the school yard and start a game of baseball or football: all ages, all sizes, everybody played, could be twenty to a side, nobody serious about winning, great action and better fun.

School year-end picnics and Track and Field events: a concession stand, novelty races - three legged race, sack race and so on, youngsters with Brownie cameras, baseball games, end with a big bonfire and wiener roast.

The outdoor skating rink: learning skating technique, pick-up hockey at 25 below Fahrenheit, the wood stove in the shack to warm you up, that special smell of wood smoke and sweaty socks.

The trees surrounding the school yard: great for climbing, playing cowboys and Indians or cops and robbers.

The big pond behind the store and garage; made for toboggans.

The blizzards when all we could do was stay inside and do jigsaw puzzles or read a book.

The excitement of the transfer coming with the Simpson's Sears or Eaton's parcels, getting books from the University of Manitoba Lending Library, watching the trains come through.

The Church Picnic: another great community event full of games, food and singing choruses.

Listening to our elders telling stories in Low German. Laugh until our sides ached.

Fond memories of the fifties in Kane. We were richly blessed.

### **JACOB & TENA (Penner) BORN** *by Jacque (Born) Eidse*

Jacob was born October 16, 1914, in the Rosenbach School District and grew up at Bloomfield. He started farming north of Kane in 1936, when he rented a quarter sec-



*Jake and Tena Born in their 'healthy' years at Kane.*

tion. He worked for his brother-in-law, Dave Hildebrand and used his machinery to work the land.

In 1937, he became engaged to Tena Penner (born October 13, 1913) of Rose Farm. Her father, Henry P. Penner bought a quarter section three miles north of Kane at \$2,500.00 and sold it to Jake for \$500.00. When a bachelor living in a house on the property heard that he'd have to move before the winter, he fainted. Jake and Tena felt sorry for him and changed their wedding date from October to April. Their first home was that same 12'X20' two room house with stairs on the outside leading to a small storage space.

Jake and Tena started out with mixed farming, raising cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys. The first litter of pigs all died, except two which were bottle-fed because the sow was sick. When the turkeys hatched, they managed to raise eighteen for market in the fall. Jake kept two turkey hens and one gobbler over the winter to start the flock in spring. One stormy night the old barn toppled over with the turkeys in it. That incident ended the turkey business.

May 16, 1940, a tiny four and a half pound premature baby named Lawrence Ivan Henry (Larry) was born to Jake and Tena. He was born in the home of an elderly nurse in Carman, assisted by a doctor. The doctor warned Jake and Tena that the baby must be woken every few hours or he might stay asleep and pass away. A new 14'x20' addition was built to their home and a new roof.

In 1943 Jake rededicated his Christian life to the Lord as a result of a Crusade held at Kane School with speakers Ed Erickson, Mr. Parschauer, and Ken Robins. Later, while out on the field, Jake shared his experience with Dave Hildebrand who explained things further. They prayed together. Later that year, while harvesting together at the Born farm, Dave died as the result of a tragic combine accident.

Tena gave birth to another premature baby boy, David Kenneth in 1944. His lungs were not developed. He only

lived nine hours. Tena's father built a tiny coffin and her mother decorated the little coffin with pretty leaves and flowers. Baby David was buried at the Rose Farm Cemetery where Jake purchased a family plot.

Three more babies were miscarried at different stages and were buried near a set of trees by the pond at the home place. Although the farm yard is no longer there, one lone tree still stands as a memorial on what is now Hank Hildebrand's land (Dave Hildebrand's son).

Later in the 1940's, Jake and Tena sold the farm and moved just west of Kane, where they farmed one and a half sections.

As told by Jake Born to daughter Jacque:

"In 1946, on June 2, I went to make a fire in the coal stove in the brooder house. It was 11 o'clock in the evening, after getting home from mother-in-law's birthday party. I made the fire, then went to milk the cows. Then I went back to check on the fire, but it had gone out. Just then I noticed a can of antifreeze (alcohol) standing nearby. I poured a little on the fire and it started to burn, but then the can exploded as I held it between my feet and the liquid poured onto my pant leg, which then burst into flames. I ran to the house. My wife saw me coming and ran for a blanket. I tried to wipe the fire out with my hands, but my hands burned too. Tena came with the blanket and wrapped it around the fire. Six year old Larry and Tina Schroeder (Tena's cousin and housekeeper) ran to Kane and got the elevator man, who took me to the hospital.

"I was in Carman Hospital four or five weeks. The wound didn't heal because of the antifreeze. The doctor contemplated amputating my leg, then he stopped coming to see me. One day I saw the doctor in the hall. I went to him, hopping on one leg, and told him, 'I'm going to Winnipeg Hospital tomorrow.' The doctor said I should wait until he could make arrangements for the transfer. My sister Annie Hildebrand (Dave's widow) drove me to Winnipeg although she was timid about driving.

"In Winnipeg, the doctor took me to the operating room and removed the burned flesh. I had no calf. Then they sliced skin from my back and grafted it to my leg. My back hurt more than my leg. I was there four and a half weeks.

"The doctor gave me a cane and said I'd never be able to straighten my leg. Every day I walked to Kane with Larry. After awhile my leg straightened out nicely and never bothered me again!"

Jake and Tena had applied for adoption; however before any adoption came through, Tena gave birth to a healthy, full term, baby girl on February 10, 1948. Margaret Evelyn Joyce was born. Tena stayed in a midwife's home in Altona next to the hospital in the last month of pregnancy to assure the baby's safe arrival.

Then on May 23, 1953, Rose Marie Jacqueline was born in Morris Hospital, yet another premature baby.

In 1958, Jake and Tena moved a half mile east of Kane to the old Fredricksen farm, formerly Davidson's. The most



*Skin taken from Jake Born's back to graft onto his burned right leg, 1946.*

land he farmed was one and a half sections. At this farm was a huge old barn where the children spent many fun times swinging on the gigantic ropes that extended from the ceiling in the hayloft.

During one of the early years of the Morris Stampede a cowboy from Calgary put up his horse in this barn. Margaret and Jacque had the privilege of riding the beautiful horse.

The same year that Jake and Tena moved to the Fredricksen farm, they started fostering children. The whole family found it too difficult when the little ones were adopted and taken from them. So in July of 1962, they welcomed Lisa Anne Christine, at one month old, born June 22, and adopted her.

Jake and Tena loved farming and country living. They took pride in making the yard beautiful. A highlight for Jake was the purchase of a 4010 John Deere tractor! He was a real John Deere man at heart. He also enjoyed his seventeen years as a school van driver. He always picked out special gifts for the passengers at Christmas.

In 1963, Jake had the barn dismantled and built a new machine shed. Then in 1967, they sold the house and built a lovely bungalow.

Jake and Tena were very hospitable, entertaining many friends, relatives and missionaries in their home as well as going out to visit.

Although they attended church in Kronsart, they also went to evening services at Kane Church. The whole family enjoyed the big event of the Mission Sisters Auction Sale at Kane School once a year. Jake loved bidding on items in support of missions and each one in our family got to take something home.

It was a new experience for Jake when he was asked to act the role of himself in a Low German play performed at Kane School. Of course, he was the local story and joke teller.

After farming at Kane for 38 years Jake sold the farm in 1974. Jake and Tena chose to retire in Lowe Farm. There they attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church and were very involved. Jake continued to work at Kane as a hired hand for Lawrence Dyck for three more years.

In 1987, Jake and Tena moved to an apartment in Morris where they continued being the hospitable, outgoing people they had always been, although they were limited by failing health.

Jake passed away on July 10, 1994. They were married 56 years. Tena now lives in the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris.

**Larry's memories:** My Dad had a pond dug, 160 feet by 65 feet, and 12 feet deep, and built a diving board on one side. Many of my school friends came swimming in summer.

In winter we played hockey on the school yard ice rink, and often before we could play hockey we would have to clear the snow off the ice — temperature down to -30°. We had very little equipment. If you were lucky you had shin pads. Helmets were unheard of, even for goal keepers, resulting in many injuries, but the game went on.

I remember my parents giving me 25¢ on Fridays for my school lunch which I would eat at the Toews country store. My lunch consisted of a hot dog (15¢) and drink (10¢).

I think in 1949 or 1950, the Toews store bought a black and white TV, and many of us gathered around it and watched boxing.

One day while in High School, a few of us guys had lunch at the Toews General Store, and were ready to go back for classes when Pete Harder asked us to carry a new indoor toilet back with us. We were delighted! Knowing that our teacher ate his lunch while looking out of his dining room window keeping an eye on his students, we had a plan. Two of us would carry the toilet while the rest of the guys would form a wall so the teacher could not see what was going on, but just enough to raise his suspicions that a prank was taking place. We followed through with the plan taking the toilet into the school and placing it right above the appropriate hole and cubical. Shortly thereafter the teacher arrived looking very suspicious. We of course looked very innocent. He looked around and could find nothing wrong, so called the class to order. All through class he had a hard time concentrating as he kept

on watching each of us for a hint of what was going on. At recess he did another complete search in the hall and washroom, but could see nothing out of place or damaged. Finally before day's end, he was forced to ask what the wall of people had been hiding. We told him the truth to his embarrassment, and the joyous laughter of the class.



*Jake Born with nephew and friend, Hank Hildebrand, enjoying a guitar picking session, 1989.*

**Margaret's memories:** My roots began in Kane and I have very fond memories of my time spent there. My special memories of community relate to "family" events, at the school.

My first fond memory is of a Christmas program in the old school building. The whole community tried to squeeze into one classroom for the performance. The special one I remember, all nine girls in my grade performed on "stage" in the brand new pajamas created by our mothers.

My saddest memory during that time is of the day David Krahn collapsed at school and died. It was extra hard for our family as we were dear friends.

In the new school again Christmas programs were a highlight! Even with a big auditorium, the place was packed to capacity, with people sitting out toward the stairwell. Here we performed Christmas plays and even the operetta *Cinderella*, of which I played a part. Sally Born was Cinderella and Harold Krahn was Prince Charming. I was one of the townspeople. We all got to wear fancy gowns rented from Winnipeg. Movie night was also a big event, with movies, such as *Lorna Doone*, *Les Miserables*, and *Tale of Two Cities*.

The big Mission Sisters auction was also looked forward to with great anticipation. Our dad would really get excited and bid lavishly.

The school picnics were absolutely tops! Even though I was lousy at sports, I entered every event, as did most others, because we got a nickel for each event entered. The best performer got 15¢ and second best got 10¢. Those were awesome rewards, as chocolate bars and ice cream drumsticks were only 10¢! It was a super family event;

some families brought along a noon picnic lunch and others, like our family, bought hot dogs and pop! A super treat!

My father started to drive school "bus" when I started school. Drivers used either their own car or half ton with a homemade unit built over the back with two benches. Some also had the old version of van with two benches. When it was the rainy season, the country roads were only passable by tractor and the old black hearse-like wooden buggy. When Highway #23 was being rebuilt in 1959, it rained so much that only Model T's or the above mentioned buggies or cars like my dad's '39 auto could manage the deep ruts. (My sister Jacque, being in grade 1 that year, decided I, her ten year old sister should carry her to school. The gumbo was so bad that we had several inches of it stuck to the bottom of our boots.)

Our father eventually had a big orange Chevy, I believe, a fifteen seater, four-speed van as his prize bus! I, at age seventeen, even drove bus for him a few times. He drove school bus for seventeen years with pride and joy.

Jacque and I were spoiled by our bus driver, Frank Blatz. When it was muddy, Frank would pull right up to the steps of the house and let us jump out of the van without getting muddy!

John Deere Day was also a big hit. They served the freshest and best doughnuts I have ever tasted! They also had door prizes, of which our Dad usually won one. Occasionally we were let out of school early to watch the comedy movie that was shown at the Kane Garage during this event.

Our parents were very hospitable and had company any given day of the week. We would come home from school to find a full fasma being served to friends. Our Mom would often do laundry between ten p.m. and midnight as the number of visitors just didn't allow time during the day!

I left Kane for my first job when I was 17. I worked one summer in Salem Home in Winkler, followed by a year of Bible School there. This was followed by one and a half years as a Nurses Aide in Morris Hospital. In 1968, I took my LPN course at St. Boniface Hospital. In 1969, I married Allan Friesen. We have lived in Kenora, Ontario ever since. Allan has been a pulp trucker for 38 years. I was busy with family for the first years; Tammy was born in 1970 and married Mike Peters in 1999. She works as an early childhood educator on a reserve. Mike is a pulp trucker too!

Darcy was born in 1972, and married Yvonne Thiessen in 1994. In April, 2000, he will graduate as an Occupational Therapist. In March, 2000, they take the role of parenting.

Carson was born on Grandpa Jake Born's 60th birthday (October 16, 1974)! Carson is a jack of all trades; done everything from being a bush whacker, cook, factory worker, to child care worker, Family Services, right now. He has a degree in Social Sciences. He spends as much time, as money allows, travelling. His greatest love is work-

ing with “unfortunate” kids.

After the kids grew up, I took a job at McDonald’s. Fourteen years later I still serve customers! I’ve also spent twenty years volunteering one morning per week at our kid’s elementary school.

(Just as a note of humour at my expense; my worst embarrassment at Kane Church was having to play a piano solo, my first. I was so nervous that my mind went blank and it took seven starts before I got through one stanza of *What a Friend We Have in Jesus!*)

**Jacque’s memories:** I was born in Morris Hospital, lived just west of Kane the first five years, then moved a half mile east of Kane.

I started grade 1 in the new Kane School. Since Lowe Farm was building a new high school, their high school students attended our school.

A school highlight for me was the Christmas program. Each child had a part in one of two or three plays, besides the group songs, poems, etc. Being tall for my age, I never got to be in the front row for group songs. I remember stretching on tiptoes, looking for my parents in the packed audience, hoping they could see me, too. At the end of the program each student received a really nice present from the teacher. The trustees would hand out big paper bags full of peanuts, candy, a bar, and of course, a Christmas orange. Preschoolers could earn a bag by going on stage and reciting a short poem or verse.

One year we had an operetta of *Cinderella*. Beautiful costumes were rented for all the actors and actresses. My sister, Margaret, was one of the palace ladies at the ball and wore a gorgeous gown. I was only about nine years old and had the part of one of the tailors who sewed Cinderella’s gown. We wore pajama-like green costumes and funny cardboard hats. It was an amazing experience for a small country school.

I loved the outdoor skating rink we had each year at school. From grades 1-8 everyone skated at noon recess all winter. One year a new pond was dug just west of the school property to supply water for the school bathroom. The next winter instead of the usual rink, we skated on that pond. One day several of us pretended not to hear the school bell at the end of noon recess. We continued skating. No one seemed to notice, but eventually we got cold and came in. I always loved the cozy smell of the little oil stove in the warm-up shack.

Halloween was always fun; dressing up, dunking for apples and games in school, then trick-or-treating all over town as well as walking a half mile or so in each direction from Kane! One Halloween night someone put both large swing sets from the school yard on top of the flat school roof!

The year Highway #23 was built the road became almost impassable. I was in grade I. One day it was so muddy that the vans stayed parked by the road and we had to try to get to them on foot from the school. My boots got stuck when I was half-way there. I stood there helpless. Then

the biggest guy on the van - Ralph Groening, came and picked me up and carried me to the van. He was my hero for quite awhile!



*Jake and Tena Born with family in 1993. (l-r) Leo and Lisa Michell, Allan and Margaret Friesen, Larry and Elvera Born, Jacque and Wes Eidse.*

A privilege we had at Kane School was that many of the teachers taught piano lessons after school at 50¢ a lesson. This made it convenient as well as affordable.

A trip to the Kane Store was always a treat. With its fancy tin ceiling, oiled hardwood floors, glass chocolate bar case and corner post office, it had a lot of country charm. One time the gumball machine was out of order for awhile and we got three large gumballs for every penny. The news spread among the school kids, but it was awhile before the store owner found out!

In 1969, I left home and worked in Winkler until my marriage to Wes Eidse in 1970. We’ve spent most of our married life near Rosenort, where we live on a hobby farm. Wes is in the auto body business, and I work at the Rosenort School. We have three children; Angelo, married to Esther and living in British Columbia, Lola and Cherry who reside in Winnipeg.

### **HENRY K. & EVA (Blatz) BRAUN** *by Eva (Blatz) Braun*

I (Eva) was born in 1916 in the Rose Farm School District. It was my great privilege to be born into the Jacob Blatz family. Being the sixteenth baby to be born of my 45 year old mother and 47 year old father could not have been easy, but am so thankful they lived through it and provided a stable, loving, respectable, and a very hospitable home for us. Many fond memories held dear.

Rose Farm School was great. Lifelong friendships were

established and still cherished. One teacher for some fifty students. The Canadian Sunday School Mission introduced us to their Bible Memory course. I memorized 500 verses and attended a free camp at Gimli where the Gospel was made clear to me, and I accepted the Lord Jesus as my own personal Saviour in 1929.

At 14 years of age, I started teaching Sunday School which greatly strengthened me spiritually. I was baptized at 19 and attended Winnipeg Bible Institute for three years.

After caring for my parents in Lowe Farm, I was honoured to meet and marry Henry K. Braun on October 4, 1941. We lived in Sperling where Glenora was born. We lived and farmed one mile west and two and a half miles south of Kane (NE 24-4-3W) from 1944-1951. Eunice and Marvin were born here. Glenora attended the Kane School for two years, taking her grades one and two. We attended Sunday services in the Kane School at that time and were also active in Sunday School work. We moved to British Columbia in 1951 where Donald and Ronald were born on August 21, 1956.



*Eva and Henry Braun with their family,  
(l-r) Eunice, Marvin and Glenora, at Kane in the late 40's.*



*The Henry and Eva Braun farm at Kane  
where they lived from 1944-1951.*

Henry and I shared joys and sorrows together for nearly 42 years when Henry suffered a heart attack and went to be with the Lord on August 25, 1984. I lived in the last home Henry built enjoying my family and friends. I loved gardening, travelling and sharing the Gospel in Sunday

School, Pioneer Girls, DVBS and our Ladies Mission Circle in Grace Church in Abbotsford. I am presently living in a lovely, large condominium in Abbotsford and I'm still working with the Ladies Mission Circle in the Grace Church.

Glenora graduated from UBC in 1966 with a BA in Math Economics and received an MBS from the University in 1980. She is married to Darcy Ford, a banker, and they live in Sydney, Australia.

Eunice received her Registered Nursing diploma from the Vancouver General Hospital in 1968. She also attended one year at Mutnomah Bible School in Portland, Oregon. Eunice and husband Walter Jakeway, a professional engineer, live in Port Alberni and attend the Baptist Church. They have three children.

Marvin left Safeway in 1988, and began a new career in the financial services industry. Marvin and wife Cindy live in Abbotsford and attend the Alliance church. They have one daughter.

Donald, a Civil Engineer, works for the Burnaby Municipality. Don and wife Alvira live in Coquitlam and attend the Alliance Church. They have three children.

Ronald, also a Civil Engineer, is with the Lafarge Cement Company. Ron and wife Patricia live near Montreal, Quebec, with their three chosen daughters.

### **JACOB F. & MARY (Dyck) BRAUN** *by Edna (Braun) Sandmoen*



*Jacob F. and Mary Braun family. Back row: Abe, John, Edd.  
Middle row: Dad, Betty, Harry, Ann, Mom. Front row: Edna,  
Arthur, Shirley.*

We moved to Kane from the Morris area in the summer of 1939. Our family consisted of Mom, Dad, Abe, Ann, Betty, Arthur, Edna and Shirley. John, Harry and Edd never really lived there, but must have spent some time there, as that is where Harry met his future wife Ann Penner.

Our time spent at Kane was happy, with lots of kids to play with; Marilyn and Mildred Toews, the Klassens, Penners and further down the road, the Reimers and Hydes. We attended school, Sunday School and church at Kane. Mrs. Henry Schellenberg was my Sunday School teacher.

We used to watch the train from the bridge as it headed east. One day in the early forties, it disappeared sooner than it should have, and I went into the house to tell Mom about it. Later we learned that Harry was "riding the rails", and had been injured in the derailment. He spent some time in Morris Hospital recuperating from his injuries.

John and Harry both served overseas during World War II. Harry came home early as he was injured, but John did not return until after the war. In fact, it was during the war that our family was all together for the first time. John had gone to British Columbia before Shirley was born, so when he came home on leave before going overseas, we were all together for the first time. The second time was when Dad passed away in 1972. We have since had a few get-togethers.

Arthur also had a mishap while we lived at Kane. It was during harvest around 1940, at the Abram Toews' farm, that he lost two fingers in a grain auger. Mr. Toews took him to Roland where Dr. Colert met them and took Art on to Carman. He spent some time in the hospital there.

Dad played the violin while we sang. He loved music and was very particular about the "time" and everything had to "schtem". He also taught us how to do the old time waltz. He was good at mathematics and would drill us on the times tables. He always said if you know your times tables, everything else will fall into place.

Mom was an avid reader and would look forward to any paper or reading material that came into the house. In spite of limited resources, she knew more about nutrition back then, than many people do today. On cold winter evenings she would read to us. Even in her last years when the nursing home attendant brought her a *Chatelaine* magazine, she said, "Oh, I've been waiting for this."

In the spring of 1946, we moved to Lowe Farm.

Jacob F. Braun and Mary Dyck were married July 15, 1917. To this union nine children were born. John (1918) worked in a lumber mill in British Columbia. He married Mary Grousel (1918-1988). John now lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Harry (1920) worked at Eaton's and later as a Security Guard in Winnipeg. He married Ann Penner. They have two children, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. They live in Winnipeg.

Edd (1922) worked in a lumber mill in British Columbia. He married Ella Varty and they live in Campbell River.

Abe (1924) worked as a farm labourer. He lives in Plum

Coulee, Manitoba.

Ann (1926) married Victor Rood who farmed in Saskatchewan until they retired to British Columbia in 1976. They have three sons and three grandsons (one of whom died in 1986) and three great granddaughters. Ann and Vic live in Winfield, British Columbia.

Betty (1929) married Jake Rempel (1927-1996) who was in road construction. Betty went into nursing in 1967. They had four children (one of whom died in 1993). There are ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Betty moved to British Columbia in 1976, and later remarried to Jack Freeman. They live in Kelowna.

Arthur (1932) worked in a pulp and paper mill in British Columbia as a paper machine supervisor. He married Isabelle Strueby. They have three girls and nine grandchildren. They live in Campbell River.

Edna (1935) married Benny Rempel (1931-1959). Edna worked as a clerk in a bank in Winnipeg and later as a Service Representative at Manitoba Telephone. Edna remarried Lloyd Sandmoen, a farmer at Vogar, Manitoba, where they still live. They have three daughters.

Shirley (1938) married Lawrence Miller (1932-1980), a fireman in Winnipeg. Shirley was an accountant for Tupperware. They had two children and three grandchildren. Shirley remarried Jim Dalgleish, a machine and construction superintendent at Hudson Bay Mining in Flin Flon, Manitoba. Shirley and Jim retired to Abbotsford, British Columbia.

**Edna's Memories:** I attended my first Christmas Concert at Kane when I was about four years old. It was also the first time I'd seen a Christmas tree all decorated and lit up with what I believe were real candles. How dangerous! I couldn't take my eyes off it.

All the pre-schoolers sat in the front row so they had a good view of the stage. When the students came on stage to sing, I sang right along with them, as I'd learned all of the songs from my older siblings. I was so embarrassed when I realized no one else in the audience was singing.

No Christmas Concert I've since attended can compare with the concerts I attended, and took part in at Kane School.

## **PETER U. & HELENA BRAUN**

*by Hattie Braun*

Peter U. Braun was born June 5, 1887 at Plum Coulee, Manitoba to Jacob & Henrietta (Unger) Braun. Died August 15, 1957.

Helena Braun was born May 23, 1889, at Altona, Manitoba to Jacob P. and Helena (Doerksen) Braun. Died March 2, 1975.

They were married October 1, 1908, at Altona Bergthaler Church. Their officiating minister was Rev. John M. Friesen and the wedding text was taken from Ruth 1:16-17.



*Peter U. and Helena Braun farm north of Kane.*



*Peter U. and Helena Braun, 1954.*

We moved to Kane in 1941 from Lowe Farm (farm) to two miles north of Kane, SW 18-5-2W. This was the first home we owned, no more renting. Dad said, "Now I can put in a nail when and where without asking!" We have lived at various places, some of which were: Rosenfeld, Gretna, Steinfeld, five miles south of Lowe Farm; Chaplin, Saskatchewan; Kronsweide, south of Lowe Farm; St. Peters, southeast of Lowe Farm; Lowe Farm, on a farm and in town; and Kane. They moved to the town of Lowe Farm in 1954.

Dad was a school trustee in Kane from 1942 - 1949. Mary, Erdman and Eva attended Kane School. Mother and Lena (Mrs. P. L. Harder) started the Kane Mission Sisters. Peter and Lena Harder owned a store in Kane for a while, then moved to British Columbia. Jake and Olga farmed north of Kane and later retired to Kane (town). For health reasons Jake moved to the Morris Parkside Villa. Ben Wiebe

(Eva's husband) was a van driver from 1951-1960, then moved to Oakville and now Portage la Prairie.

We attended the Kane Berghaler Church and Sunday School, were S. S. teachers and sang in choirs. Jake, John and Henry served as C.O.'s in the '40's.

Dad had his first heart attack November 11, 1952, and was in Roland Hospital for 1 week. His second heart attack was on November 11, 1953, and he was in Carman Hospital for six weeks. He had a stroke in April, 1956, and passed away August 15, 1957. Mother took great care of Dad, and he was at home (Home Care) until about 4:30 p.m. that day when he was taken to Morris Hospital and passed away at about 10:30 p.m.

Mother was in reasonably good health until she fell and broke her hip at home on December 24, 1974, and was in the Victoria Hospital until January 18, 1975, when she was transferred to Morris Hospital and passed away March 2, 1975.

Good memories of Kane - too numerous to mention! The Braun family:

Lena: (1910-1912) born at Rosenfeld, MB. Peter: (1911- ) born at Gretna, married Justina Braun. They live in Winnipeg, MB. Lena: (1913-1973) born at Rosenfeld and married Peter L. Harder. Jacob: (1915-1993) born at Lowe Farm and married Olga Schroeder. John: (1917- ) born at Chaplin, SK. and married Annie Falk. They live in Winkler. Tina: (1919-1920) born at Lowe Farm, MB. Henry: (1921- ) born at Lowe Farm and married Wanda Reimer who died in 1948, then married Nettie Dyck. They live in Steinbach. Henrietta: (1923- ) born at Lowe Farm, now lives in Altona. Mary: (1925- ) born at Lowe Farm, married Cornelius Friesen. They live in Lowe Farm. Erdman: (1927- ) born at Lowe Farm, married Margaretha Hildebrand. They live in

Morris, MB. Eva: (1929- ) born at Lowe Farm, married Benjamin Wiebe. They live at Portage la Prairie, MB.

**JACOB L. & OLGA (Schroeder) BRAUN**  
*by Kathy (Braun) Friesen*



*Jacob L. and Olga Braun.*

Jacob L. Braun, son of Peter U. and Helena Braun, was born at Lowe Farm on September 23, 1915. The Brauns moved to Kane in 1942 (18-5-2W). He married Olga Schroeder, daughter of Jacob and Helena Schroeder on November 19, 1944. Dad and Mom enjoyed 46 years of marriage. Together they raised ten children. They spent their life on the farm, until their retirement in 1978. Life on the farm was not always easy, but Dad stuck it out despite failing health. Mom passed away very suddenly on December 2, 1990 and Dad joined her on December 2, 1993.

Church was always an important part of our parents' lives. During the years they attended the Kane Berghaler Church, Dad was the secretary/treasurer of the church.

Dad always had a keen interest in farming, and later in life developed an interest in antiques. He had collections of old coins, old bottles, and antique tools. While in Kane his farming interests were transferred to his apple trees, tomato plants, etc.

Dad also wrote poetry for memorable occasions such as floods, family events and anniversaries. Mom enjoyed sewing, crafts, collecting family pictures and making and publishing a Schroeder book.

Each of us children remember Kane; the school with its June school picnics, skating in winter, some of the awful roads we travelled during the time Highway 23 was being prepared for paving; 4-H clubs, Kane Berghaler Church with its Sunday School and Daily Vacation Bible School.

Kathy, after grade 12, graduated from Elim Bible School and in 1968 married Gerhard Friesen. They farm



*Mr. Jacob L. Braun and family.*

at Arnaud, Manitoba. They have two children; Terry who works for Simplot, Morris, and is married to Joele Hamonic from St. Malo (they have a daughter, Jessica), and Rick who is presently back in school taking a multimedia course. In addition they have two foster children, Matthew and Chris who have been a part of their lives for the last eleven years.

Joan, after grade 12, graduated from Elim Bible School, graduated as a Registered Nurse from St. Boniface Hospital, and in 1971 married Benny Loewen. They reside at Riverside, near Rosenort, and Benny works at Midland. They have five children; Brad is married to Lana, and working for a farmer at Rosenort; Bonnie is working at Morris Home Hardware; Wendell is working for Cornelson Construction, Rosenort; and Charles and Timothy are still in school.

Eugene, after grade 12, worked for a farmer, then graduated as an x-ray technician, worked in Altona, and then transferred to Selkirk. He married Bev Loewen from Gretna and they have two children; Conrad and Tamara. Conrad is going to Red River College and taking a course for an x-ray technician, and Tamara is working in Selkirk.

Arlene worked for Manitoba Hydro after school. She then married Gil Cornelson of Rosenort. Gil is self-employed in the construction field. Arlene works for the Rosenort Credit Union. They have two boys, Robert and Douglas, both in University of Manitoba in the computer field.

Bernice married Richard Friesen. Initially they lived at Rosenort with Richard working at Friesen Bins. They then moved to Lethbridge, Alberta and opened another plant; Wheatland Bins. They have three children; Rick who is involved in the family business; Kristie who is attending Bible School in Calgary and Nathan who is still in school.

Milton initially worked on highways, then started working for Paterson Elevators. He is now in Morris in the new terminal. He married Cindy Spense of Ridgeville. She is employed by the new Super Eight Motel in Morris. They have two children, Michael and Darcy. Both boys are employed by Westfield in Rosenort.

Earl had been employed in the construction business, then worked for D. W. Friesen's and is now back in the construction business. After leaving home he built himself a house in Rosenfeld, where he now resides.

Dorothy after school worked in Winkler as a cashier. Here she met Harv Peters, whom she married. Harv at that time was working for Triple E in Winkler. Since then they left Winkler and became involved in the farming business. At present they are managing a hog operation at Arnaud. They have two children, Matthew and Melissa who are in school.

Janet has worked in Morden and Winkler. She married Joe Giesbrecht and they reside at Schonweise. Joe works at Plum Coulee. They have four boys, Mark, Jerry, Christopher, and Eric, all in school.

Les after school worked for Highways — first in the Morris Municipality, then later north of Winnipeg. He

married Jorlene Neufeld and had two boys, Tyrone and Skylar, both in school. Les and Jorlene separated in 1997.

### **WALTER J. & MARILYN (Penner) BRAUN** *by Walter and Marilyn Braun*



*Walter and Marilyn Braun with (l) Merinda and Richard and family and (r) Monica and Garth and family.*

Not many will remember us from the Kane area, since we lived there for only a short time. However for us, it was a most memorable time, since it was there that we settled as newlyweds. Our yard was right next to Don and Nancy Pfrimmer. As we recall the land number was NW16-5-3W. Walter had grown up south of Kane and was familiar with the area, whereas Marilyn came from the Kronsgart/Rosewell area.

Walter purchased that quarter of land the winter of 1964, and during the following months renovated the house since it had not been lived in for some time. New kitchen cupboards, newly painted and papered walls, and some new floor coverings in addition to hot and cold running water into the kitchen, made this a very attractive place for a new bride! In June of that year we were married and happily moved into this cozy little place. As we recall Walter seeded wheat, oats and flax that year, which we finished harvesting on Thanksgiving Day. It was a wonderful place to begin married life and we have many fond memories of being there. We had a cow which provided milk for us, and a dog who had puppies that fall. Besides that we remember a beautiful lilac bush outside the living room window. The house was not well insulated so we did not live in it during the winter months.

The first winter there we left Canada to participate in a volunteer mission assignment in Mississippi with the General Conference, from the end of October to mid April. It was a valuable experience and we learned much from it. In spring we returned to our farm home. That summer and fall we were happily anticipating the birth of our first child. Walter got a job with a contractor for the fall and

winter months, so we rented an apartment in Morden where Merinda joined our family in February.

In the spring of 1966, we moved back to our farm with our new baby, made a few changes in the house to accommodate our "family" and we stayed there until the fall when we moved into Marilyn's parents' (Henry and Annie Penner) farm at Kronsart. We had opportunity to sell our quarter at Kane two years later.

During the time we lived near Kane, Walter was employed for some months as mechanic at the John Deere dealership at the Kane Garage. He got some great experience there. We found the neighbourhood to be friendly and we cherish our memories, especially the way Pfrimmers made us feel cared for and included. Marilyn remembers doing corn together with Nancy and also attending her first Tupperware Party ever at her house! One dreadful day Walter had a car accident at 11:30 p.m. while coming home from work in Winkler. Don brought Marilyn the news of the occurrence and took her to Winkler Hospital, while Nancy kept our eight month old baby until returning hours later. We are so grateful for that support and help that night!

Since our time in Kane, life has brought us many wonderful experiences and so very many great friends! God has provided for us opportunities to get to know many people who have enriched our lives, both while we lived in the Kane area and later in Winkler, Altona, and presently in Morden. Our family now includes the two daughters that were born to us, their husbands - both Mordenites, and five lovely grandchildren. At present Walter is employed at Sun Valley RV near Morden, and Marilyn is office receptionist at Pembina Counselling Center in Morden. Our older daughter, Merinda and family are in Montreal involved in church planting, while our younger daughter, Monica, and her family are in language study in Indonesia. We thank God for our past and how it has had a role in shaping our future. Each day is that, is it not? May we make wise choices.

## **PETER I. & MATILDA (Groening) BROWN**

*by Alice (Friesen) Brown*

Pete (born October 1, 1922) and Tillie (born September 25, 1921) Brown were married on December 31, 1942. They lived on the Brown home farm until spring of 1943, then moved to a yard site northeast of Kane. In September of 1943 they moved to Tillie's parent's home, the A. A. Groenings, when Mr. Groening lost his arm in a farming accident.

In the spring of 1948 they moved to the Isaac G. Brown (Pete's father) home farm, on Section 5-4-2W. The original house had been destroyed by fire so they moved a house to the yard and settled down to farm and raise their family. They operated a mixed farm, raising cattle, hogs, and poultry to supplement their income from grain. The Browns no longer maintain livestock, but continue to farm sharing the workload with their son, Brian. Of an age to

retire, they still prefer their farm home over retirement in a town setting.

Pete's interest in mechanics and "tinkering" has been useful in the maintenance of his farm machinery as well as providing him with a hobby. His "blacksmith's" shop has serviced many a vehicle or farm implement. His knack for repairing clocks, appliances, and a variety of other items helps to pass the months between harvest and seeding.

Tillie's flower beds are well-known in the community. Tillie's garden starts blooming in the beginning of June and continues throughout the summer, often to the end of September and beginning of October. The great variety of plants ensure a continual display of colour. The yard is a lovely setting for family gatherings and photographs.

The Browns both enjoy music. The piano has often been the center of activity in the living room. The grandchildren have all sat beside Grandma on the bench, singing Sunday School choruses. Pete plays the violin and has entertained in church and at other events, including the weddings of two granddaughters.

Pete and Tillie have five children. The eldest, Virginia (born October 5, 1943) and her husband Gerald Doell live in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Virginia and Gerald have two children. Curtis and his wife Donna and daughter Kaitlin live in Sardis, B. C. Their daughter Andrea and her husband Dale Enns live in Winnipeg.

Terry (September 6, 1946) and his wife Ricki (Parkin) farm in the Kane-Lowe Farm area. They have two daughters. Jenny lives in Langley, B. C., and Shelly lives in Winnipeg.

Bruce and Brian were born on November 21, 1951. Bruce married Vivian Harder. They and their three children Vanessa, Derek, and Kendra live in Starbuck.

Brian and his wife Alice (Friesen) also farm in the Kane-Lowe Farm area. They have three daughters: Trina and husband Edward Landry and son, Tristan; Angela, husband Henry Isaak and daughters, Emily and Alesa. Both families live in Lowe Farm. Stephanie attends college in Devil's Lake.

Donald (March 5, 1957) is married to Geraldine (Kroeker). They farm east of Lowe Farm and have two sons, Justin and Jason.

## **BRIAN & ALICE (Friesen) BROWN**

*by Alice (Friesen) Brown*

Brian farms three miles east of Kane. He was born on November 21, 1951 to Peter and Matilda (Groening) Brown of Rose Farm. Brian attended the Rose Farm and Kane elementary schools, going to Lowe Farm for high school. On September 29, 1973, he married Alice, daughter of Jacob J. and Agatha (Schroeder) Friesen.

Always active in sports, Brian has played baseball and hockey in Lowe Farm and Kane communities. He has also enjoyed hunting, and is currently interested in fishing and golf. Over the years Brian has served on the Chamber

of Commerce, Curling Rink Executive, and the local Pool Elevator board. He was a volunteer with the Lowe Farm Fire Department for a number of years. At present he is a member of the Agricore board. For ten years he was employed at Manitoba Sugar in Winnipeg during the winter months. Over the past year and a half he has worked on building construction as time permits.

Alice went to school in Lowe Farm, Morris and the University of Manitoba. She teaches at the Lowe Farm School. She is interested in various sports, in the past as a participant in and coach of community baseball, currently coaching various teams at school. She is on the executive of the Lowe Farm Recreation Commission board. Alice has enjoyed her work on the Lowe Farm Centennial Committee the past year and a half.

Brian and his dad, Peter I. Brown, continue to farm together. Brian and Alice still raise some livestock (poultry and hogs) for their own and family use. Because of their children's interests and involvement in 4-H, they also have two horses.

Brian and Alice have three daughters who received their elementary and high school education in Lowe Farm and Morris. All three of the girls have been involved in sports, music and other interests over the years. The "Brown Family" continues to increase as the oldest two girls both married in the summer of 1995.

Trina (December 2, 1973) married Edward Landry of Morris on July 15. They have a son, Tristan who was born November 25, 1999. They make their home in Lowe Farm. Trina is employed at the Lowe Farm Co-op Farm Supply and Edward drives for Bartel Trucking of Rosenort.

Angela (January 13, 1975) and Henry Isaak of Winnipeg were married on August 29. They also live in Lowe Farm. They have two daughters. Emily was born on January 16, 1998 and Alesa was born on October 26, 1999. Angela graduated with a certificate in Library Technology from Red River Community College in June, 1999. Henry is self-employed in the building construction trade.

Stephanie (April 9, 1980) is a student at the University of North Dakota Lake Region at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, having received a volleyball scholarship. She is a swimming instructor and lifeguard during the summer months.

## **JAMES & AGNES (Russell) COWIE**

*by Martha (Cowie) Winter*

Agnes Manson Dickie Russell was born in Aberdeen Scotland, January 7, 1880. She was the only child of a Scottish minister. On a blustery day in March, 1900, this young Scottish lass caught a Swedish boat out of Southampton for Canada.

She came to Canada to be the governess to the Young family in Ashcroft, British Columbia. In her time with this family, Agnes went by horse and buggy to California where she spent several years. When her services as governess were no longer needed, Agnes relocated to Winnipeg,

Manitoba, where she obtained a position working for a doctor. The year was 1914.

At a house party one night she met a soldier by the name of James Souter Cowie. Even though their families lived only thirty miles from each other in Scotland, and knew the family names, they had never met.



*Jim and Agnes Cowie with Violet and Martha.*

James Souter Cowie was born in Keith, Scotland, in 1887. He too caught a Swedish boat out of Southampton, but in January, 1908, also bound for Canada.

He settled in Winnipeg. He was one of twelve children, born to James and Martha Cowie, a farmer. Although young Jim Cowie's first love was also to be a farmer, his first job was with the Street Railway and he worked at that for several years. At this point war broke out in Europe, and every available man was either conscripted or joined voluntarily. Somewhere in this space of time, James Cowie and Agnes Russell met and were married in 1917. Their union was blessed with two daughters; Violet Agnes and Martha Ann.

After the War, James Cowie went to work for Mr. Jim Miller, farming in the Myrtle District. In 1926 the Cowie family moved to a farm in Kane, Manitoba (NW 31-4-2W). This farm was rented from a nephew of Jim Miller.

Much to the delight of all the children around Kane and district, Jim Cowie raised Shetland ponies. These ponies took several prizes at the Carman Fair with daughter Martha taking first prize for best girl rider for three years running. For many years Mr. Cowie also drove the school van south to the A. A. Groening farm which was the end of the Kane School District. He was a great pal to the children in his charge. He used to participate in all the dances held in the Kane School. Agnes Cowie was noted for her sourmilk chocolate cake. This happy time in the Cowie family ended tragically in 1936, when Mr. Cowie was killed by a farm implement. In 1939, Agnes Cowie and girls moved into Winnipeg. Agnes Cowie died in 1968, in Vancouver at the age of 88 years.

In 1941 Martha married a Navy man from the Russell District. Her husband John Schwartz was in the Navy for

six years. They had three boys and one girl. They were divorced in 1972. In 1976, Martha married Mr. Eric Winter and resides in Vancouver.

In 1943 Violet married Russell Wyche, brother to Roy Wyche who ran the Paterson elevator in Kane. The name was really DE LA Wyche, but this was not discovered until years later. Russell was killed in an automobile accident, when the car in which he was a passenger, was struck by a moving van. Violet was left with four daughters. All of her family are still residents in the Southern Manitoba area.

### **WILLIAM D. & LOTTIE CUTLIP**

*by Pete and Marion Harder*



*The Cutlips and their Canadian home, (1919-1923).*

1918 - During the summer the 'Crouch Bros. Land Development Co.' advertised at the Logan County Fair in Lincoln, Illinois, trying to sell land. They praised 'The Prosperity of the Canadian Farm'. The Crouch Bros. were farming one mile east and two miles south of Kane, Manitoba.

Through this advertisement, Mr. William D. Cutlip became interested and purchased 160 acres of virgin prairie 1½ miles southeast of Kane. A total of seventy families left for Canada from Central Illinois to find their fortune farming in Canada.

1919 - The Cutlips built their home at Kane right where the lumber was unloaded near the railroad track. The finished house was moved with a large Case tractor to the farm 1 mile east and one mile south of Kane (sec. 32-4-2W).

The first crop of flax brought a return of \$6,000.00, exactly the price for which the farm was purchased. After harvest, the family returned to Illinois for the winter, with the joyous sense of accomplishment of their dream.

1920 - When they returned they rented another 640 acres. The rains were excessive and the crops failed. In the summer, son Bill helped to build the second elevator at Kane, known as the Canadian Consolidated, and then as the United Grain Growers.

During the 1920-21 school year, two of the children

attended the Kane Consolidated School. Bill was now 14 years old and in Grade 8 and Dean was in Grade 3. The following year, Laura started Grade 1 and Dean was in Grade 4.

1921 - Rain again caused 'Tombstone Disease' and another crop failure. The family returned to Illinois for the winter with the world crashing around them and their 'Impossible Dreams'. They now realized that the Crouch Bros. had misrepresented the facts.

1922 - They returned to Kane, but cut back on expenses by just seeding their own 160 acres. This year, lack of rain caused drought and another crop failure. They again returned to Illinois.



*Bill W. and Isobel Cutlip in Florida.*

1923 - When the crops were again flooded, the Cutlips made the decision to sell. They had enjoyed twenty months of high hopes and endured twenty-two months of total despair. They experienced crop failures four out of five years! Their equipment was either sold or repossessed. They sold their land of 'broken dreams' for slightly more than they had paid for it.

At the age of 88, Mr. William W. Cutlip wrote his book of *Precious Memories*.

*Taken from William W. Cutlip's (Bill) book 'Precious Memories'.*

### **How I got involved in the Cutlip Story:**

*by Pete Harder*

As mail courier, I received a letter addressed to the Postmaster at Kane, dated June 1, 1993. There were numerous questions about Kane and the crops grown there, by a Wm. W. Cutlip from Venice, Florida, U.S.A., who had lived at Kane during 1919-1923. When he had left Kane in 1923 he had been 17 years of age and had now forgotten

most of the details he wished to include in the book he was in the process of writing, *Precious Memories*.

I replied to the letter and immediately received another asking about the crops, the type of tractors used, the kind of water supply we had, etc. A lot of corresponding followed and I mailed many pictures and a copy of the school register of that time. The secretary for the R.M. of Morris was very helpful, as were Edward Groening, J. T. Handlon, Eddie H. Groening and David E. Penner in supplying the information required. Mr. Cutlip also mailed photos that he had and asked me to name or explain them.

In his now completed book, *Precious Memories* mentions having been in Kane in the summer of 1983 and visiting the farm where his folks had lived. The land was under cultivation, but there were no buildings left on it. He didn't make contact with any of the people presently living around Kane.

### JAMES B. & NORA DAVIDSON

*from Living Gold and  
Marion (Bruce) Eskelson*

George Davidson, uncle to James B. Davidson bought sections 6-5-2W and 5-5-2W in 1903. James Miller came with Mr. George Davidson from Ashern, Ontario and together they broke W½ of 6-5-2W with oxen. The next year they purchased a Hart-Parr gasoline engine and broke the E½ of 6-5-2W.

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Davidson were married in 1896, at Greenback, Ontario and came to Manitoba in 1910, and bought the E½ of 6-5-2W. Their family consisted of Edna, who was for some years matron of Carman Hospital and later for many years was the superintendent of the Black Hills General Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota; and Leonora (Mrs. Doug Bruce) who had three children; Jim, Barbara, and Marion.

From the *Free Press*: "Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Davidson honoured at a joint meeting of the Manitoba Clydesdale Association and the Shorthorn Breeders Association at Brandon. Mr. Davidson was Western Representative for these associations for many years and a well-known figure in agricultural circles throughout the west."

**Marion (Bruce) Eskelson's memories:** Sixty years have passed since Mother (Leonora Davidson Bruce), Jim, Barbara and I left Grandpa and Grandma Davidson's farm at Kane to live with our auntie Edna Davidson, in Rapid City, South Dakota. (*School records show that the Bruce children attended the Kane School during the years 1931-32 to 1938-39, and Mrs. L. D. Bruce was the secretary/treasurer of the Board of Trustees at Kane in the years 1931-34, with her father, J. B. Davidson as the Chairman of the Board the last two years.*) Neither Barbara nor I recall the year the farm was sold. Grandma and Grandpa Davidson moved to Rapid City in 1945.

Mabel Anderson taught the lower grades at Kane Consolidated School. I think she was the most loved teacher the three of us ever had. After her sudden death, she was replaced by Miss Evelyn Jack.

George Siemens, in charge of the entire school, taught the upper grades. He organized field days in which everyone participated in at least one of the many athletic events. He was a stern task-master who did his best to make sure his students passed their departmental exams.

We spent Saturday afternoons playing with the White kids at their place one week, they playing at our place the next. Alex, Frank, Tommy, Margaret, Lily and Jean were great fun. Frank and I shared the same birthday which made him the most special member of the White family for me.

We played cops and robbers at the Fredricksens. Mr. Fred Fredricksen, Gladys' grandfather, helped us butcher



*James B. and Nora Davidson farm on SE 6-5-2W.*

hogs and chickens in the fall. He made sausage, the best in the world. I can taste it still.

Mr. Peden, the itinerant preacher, baptized me when I was six. The church services were held at school as were the Box Socials. I remember the bidding on the beautifully prepared lunches wrapped in decorated boxes. I have no idea what was done with the funds raised at the auction of these special lunches. I remember Mrs. Cowie helping to wash up at the end of the meal. Everyone danced after eating. Sometimes there was a sing-a-long before the dancing began. The only song I can recall was, "Oh Chester, have you heard about Harry, just got back from the army." It was a motion song requiring everyone to touch chest, hair, arms, etc. to the appropriate words.

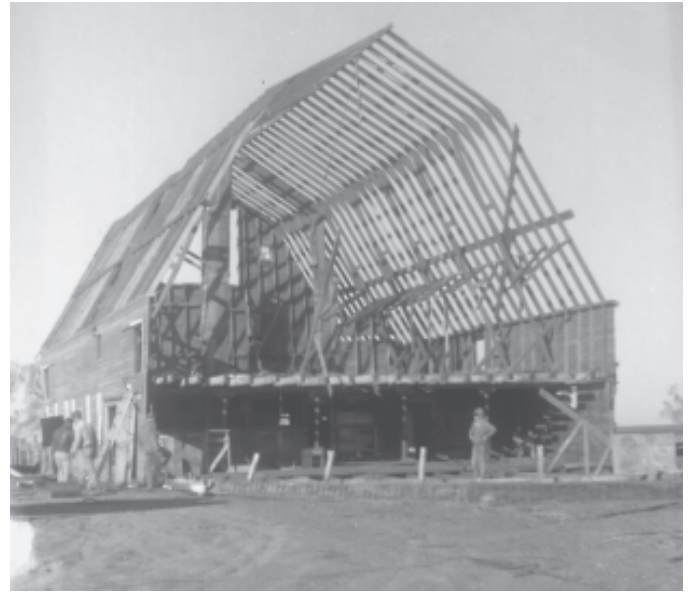
Martha Cowie and Jim raced their ponies. Jim and Barbara took Fly and Dollie to the Cowie place, had bucking contests to see whose pony could buck the longest, the outcome of these contests is lost in memory.

In winter a horse drawn van, kept warm with heated rocks, picked us up at the end of the lane, depositing us at school, returning to take us home again. It was always dark both going to school and coming back home.

Jim graduated from Rapid City High School, in 1943; joined the Canadian Navy the same year, saw action in the North Atlantic, was discharged after VE Day; returned to Rapid City where he graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1950; married Geraldine Hasket of Transcona, Manitoba. Four children, Todd, Barry, Jana and Laurie were born to this union. Jim died in a car accident while on a business trip to Montana in 1968. He was 42.



*Barbara and Marion Bruce with brother Jim on their pony, Fly. Their dog, Rex standing by, 1932.*



*The Davidson barn coming down in the early 60's.*

Barbara graduated from Rapid City High School in 1944, graduated from St. John School of Nursing in 1948. She married a school chum of Jim's, John Hoon a watchmaker, in 1948. Three children, Bruce, Susan and Jane were born to this union. John died in 1983 from cancer.

I graduated from Rapid City High School in 1947; earning a degree in English Literature and Psychology at Yankton College in 1951; married Richard Eskelson, a graduate of the School of Mines with a degree in Civil Engineering, the same year; lived in Texas, moving to San Diego, California in 1956. Four children, James, Carla, John and Gus were born to this union.

Our grandfather, James B. Davidson died 1961, age 90. Our grandmother, Nora Davidson died 1946, age 71. Our mother, Leonora died 1974, age 73, one hundred years to the day of Grandma's birth. Our auntie, Edna Davidson, died 1982, age 83.

## **JAKE & ANNIE DERKSEN**

*by Jake Derksen*

We moved from Plum Coulee in the spring of 1950, to a farm three miles north of Kane (West ½ of 24-5-3). This was just north of the big dyke, which had few bridges across it. When it rained we were cut off from the Kane community.

This is where we started to farm. Our son Brian was two months old at the time.

This was also the year of the Flood! As I had no experience with heavy clay soil, I learned many lessons the hard way.

The first three winters we moved to Winnipeg for the winter months, where I found work.

In 1952 our second son, Reginald, was born.

We attended the Kane Berghthaler Church. We served



*Jake and Annie Derksen with sons  
(l-r) Reginald and Brian in Kane.*



*Brian and Reginald Derksen on snowbank  
between house and garage.*

in the church as Sunday School teachers, and sang duets and in quartets, etc. Jake served on the Church Council and Young People's Christian Endeavor Committee.

In 1953 we bought a lot in Kane and moved a small new house into town. Brian and Reg both attended school in Kane.

We rented another three quarters of land near Sperling which we farmed from Kane.

When Jake had time he worked for J. J. Toews occasionally, also helped build the Kane Garage, took care of the skating rink, and also worked for U.G.G. In 1957 he

helped build the big grain annex.

Kane was a good gathering place for farmers to discuss their experiences on the farm.

Annie recalls how the neighbour ladies, Marion Harder and Evie Penner, would visit with her in their gardens.

In the fall of 1961 we bought a farm three miles north-west of Plum Coulee, where we moved to and farmed until 1992.

We have now retired and live in Winkler, Manitoba. Brian and Reginald and their families farm together. Reg lives on our former place at Plum Coulee and Brian lives three miles south of there.

We have many good memories of Kane.

## **WILLIAM DEUTSCHMAN**

*by Ed H. Groening*



*Mr. Bill Deutschman with  
(l-r) Carol, Ruth and Norman Wiebe, 1963.*

William Deutschman came to the Lowe Farm area in 1919. He was born September 14, 1891, and died November 24, 1969. He bought the west half section of 3-5-2W from Robert Miller. He also bought the east half section of 4-5-2W, after renting it from Miller. Later he bought the west half section of 9-5-2W.

He came from Joliet, Illinois, in the United States, where he grew up. About that time, many Americans came to Canada to buy land for speculation, but William Deutschman came to stay. He came from a church-going family, and he claimed to have taught Sunday School as a 17 year old boy. He knew more about beliefs than people realized.

William Deutschman remained a bachelor and did much of his own cooking, though in the later years he usually had a hired couple working for him. The last couple who worked for him was Abram and Betty Wiebe, who stayed with him for 18 years. He was very pleased with them, and was especially attached to the Wiebe children; Norman, Carol and Ruth, who grew up at the place. In his will, William left generous inheritances to the Wiebes.

Deutschman was a careful spender. He held onto his farming equipment longer than his neighbours did to theirs. He humorously said the old machines should be used up before getting new ones. His machine shop was well stocked with tools, and he had the know-how to do the fixing. Abe Wiebe was instrumental in convincing him that more modern equipment was a means to better farming.

Besides his crop, Deutschman for much of the time raised hogs, which he periodically hauled to Winnipeg in his own truck.

Mr. Deutschman minded his own business, and was well accepted by the neighbours and business people in town. There were certain people he got together with from time to time. In winter, he sometimes went south to Illinois for a few weeks to see his relatives, and attend to the business of his property out there. Even though he was often alone, he was a ready socializer, attending weddings or other community affairs. Deutschman's place was referred to as a reference for direction because far and wide people knew where he lived.

## **HENRY H. & ANNA (Penner) DOELL**

*by Susan (Doell) Winther*

Dad and Mother moved to the Kane community in May, 1946. Here ( on SW 32-4-2W) they farmed for a few years, after which Dad decided to take a van route for the Kane School. In summer and winter he drove with horses and van. Later he purchased a panel truck and used it to pick up the children. He had the van route for a number of years.

In summertime he worked at various odd jobs. One summer he worked as part of the construction crew that built the Lowe Farm Junior High School. While working there he accidentally broke his leg, and at age sixty-two, went to the hospital for the first time in his life.

Mother and Dad always had some animals on their small farm. Dad loved his horses, and Mother, too, was an animal lover. They raised chickens, pigs, turkeys, and geese. They always had a few cows as well, which provided them with milk and cream, and also provided a small income.



*Henry H. and Anna Doell with Susan, Henry and Annie, 1967.  
(Mr. Doell passed away a month later.)*

Mother loved gardening. She had a huge vegetable garden, an orchard, and a beautiful flower garden. The vegetable garden met the needs of the family (often her neighbours as well). She did not consider caring for her garden work, for her it was very enjoyable, and gave her great satisfaction.

In the late 50's, they had the unfortunate experience of their home being flooded. In 1965, this unfortunate experience was repeated when the dyke overflowed its banks. This time they had to vacate their home and went to stay with Mother's brother, the Peter Penner family for a few days. Due to Dad's keen sense of humour, and Mother's optimistic attitude, they were able to take these hardships in their stride.

Dad passed away suddenly at their home on March 20, 1967. Mother stayed on at the farm until May, 1970, at which time she moved to the High Rise Apartments in Winkler. In 1971, mother went for her first airplane ride to visit her sister in California. The plane ride was the highlight of her trip.

She lived in her apartment for several years, until her health deteriorated to such an extent that she could not live alone any longer. She spent about a year in Winkler and Morris Hospitals, waiting to be placed in a Nursing Home. She moved to Eventide Home in Rosenort, where she spent several years until she was moved to Red River Valley Lodge in Morris. Here she remained until her passing on October 24, 1991 (age 94 years).

Their family consisted of three children. Henry married Catherine Klassen. They had two children: Kathy and Elaine. Henry passed away on January 23, 1985, at the age of sixty-two. He had suffered many years from a heart condition.



*Mrs. Anna Doell with (l-r) Susan and Ernie Winther, Henry and Tina Doell, Annie and Anton Dyck.*

Annie married Anton Dyck. Their family consisted of five children: Lawrence, Harold, Dorothy, Tony, and Corinne. They farmed in the Kane/Myrtle and Lowe Farm areas, until their retirement, when they moved to Winkler. Annie passed away on November 18, 1998. Anton still resides in their home in Winkler.

Susan married Ernie Winther of Ostenfeld. Ernie is an electronics technician. He has owned and operated his own TV Repair Business for the past forty years. Susan taught school for twenty-nine years. Twenty of these years she taught in Ste. Anne. She retired from her chosen profession in June, 1988. Since retirement, they have travelled and pursued their hobbies. Ernie has taken up gardening, ham-radio, golfing, reading, etc. (yes, he still repairs the odd television too). Susan enjoys crafts, reading, church activities, cooking, baking, etc. Their travels take them to Florida for the winter months, but they choose to spend the summer at home in Manitoba.

## **JACOB P. & AGANETHA (Giesbrecht) DUECK**

*by Peter G. Dueck*

My parents and family moved into the then Rose Farm School District in the spring of 1927, from the Rudnerweider School District. That was a move from light sandy soil to heavy gumbo clay. That meant Dad had to relearn his farming practices. That first year was a late year, and Dad plowed and harrowed and seeded into the hardened lumps of clay. We had a poor crop that year. Dad learned fast and next year we waited until it was dry enough for working clay, and used a cultivator instead of a plow.



*Jacob P. and Aganetha Dueck, 1942.*

It was also a move from an almost new house-barn combination to an old run down farmyard. Dad's hope had been that they would rebuild the yard soon, but because of a few bad crops and the depression of the thirties, they could only build a new barn in 1938, and a new house in 1948.

For me it also meant a change of schools. I still remember that first trip to school. We had two horses pulling a wagon, and there were at least a dozen places where the water was running over the road. When we got to school we were told that school was cancelled until the road improved. We all (brothers and sisters) had our elementary education in the Rose Farm School. Some of the younger ones even had some of their high school training there. My son Henry was the last teacher in the 1964-65 school year in the Rose Farm School number 1577. After this the school consolidated with the Kane School. And then in 1969, the Kane Consolidated School became part of the Morris McDonald School Division.

Financially and socially the move to Rose Farm was a good one for our family. Here too, we were surrounded by many relatives and friends, just as we had been in Rudnerweide. Instead of living across the road from Dad's parents, now we were close to Mom's parents. Dad served as trustee and secretary on the school board and he also served as song leader (Vorsanger) in church. Mother was kept busy feeding and clothing her large family of ten; four boys and six girls. We weren't rich, but we always had food and all the necessities of life.

Where are we today? Retired!

Peter married Helena Gerbrandt and they went into farming, and he also served as leading minister in the Lowe



*The Jacob P. Dueck farm, 1978.*

Farm Bergthaler Church for many years. Helena passed away on February 20, 1994. Peter now lives in an apartment in Altona.

Mary took her Practical Nurses Training and went into nursing until she married Jake Voth who was a farmer. Jake is presently in the Altona Personal Care Home and Mary lives in their house in Altona.

Tena took her Practical Nurses Training and went into nursing until she married David Zacharias, a farmer. David passed away November 12, 1991. Tena and daughter Edna now live in an apartment in Altona.

Nettie married Jake Gerbrandt and they farmed in the Sewell and Rose Farm-Kane area. Nettie passed away November 2, 1989. Jake passed away on August 26, 1992.

Jake married Agnes Goertzen and they farmed on the home place. When they retired from farming they moved to Winkler.

John was one of those who benefited from the Rose Farm High School. He went into farming. He also went into volunteer work at Warden Woods in Ontario and at Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg for many winters. He now lives in Winnipeg.

Margaret took her Registered Nurses Training and went into nursing. She served as a nurse in mid-wifery on the mission field in Mexico for 13 years. On December 28, 1991, she married brother-in-law Jake Gerbrandt. On August 26, 1992, Jake passed away. Margaret now lives in Winkler.

Agatha married Elmer Groening. Elmer took his Teacher training and then went into teaching for a number of years. They came back and went into farming on Elmer's parents' farm. After a lengthy illness, Elmer passed away on May 27, 1989. Agatha now lives in Winkler.

Lena finished her high school and university training and went into teaching. She then took further training and preparation to join the Wycliffe Bible Translators Mission, and made that her life's vocation. She lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Henry is the youngest of the family. When he went to high school, Dad asked him whether he would want to go into farming and his answer was no. Then Dad said, "well, then we'll make an auction sale and move to town." Henry then finished Bible College and Seminary and went into full-time Church and Conference related work. Henry married Marie Kehler and they are living in Winnipeg.

Of Mom and Dad's twenty-two grandchildren, six are involved in farming. The others have chosen other vocations. There are also forty-one great-grandchildren, and two of them have also gone into farming.

## **PETER G. & HELENA (Gerbrandt) DUECK**

*by Peter G. Dueck*

I was born to Jacob and Aganetha (Giesbrecht) Dueck in the Rudnerweide School District in 1917.

I started school in 1924, and in 1927 we moved to the Rose Farm School District on SW 4-4-2W. The Cornelius Thiessens who had lived there before us had moved to Mexico. I was in grade three when I started school in Rose Farm in April, 1927. Our first trip to school was made on a wagon. It was only one and three-quarters of a mile to school, but there were at least a dozen places where the water ran over the road. There we were told that school was cancelled until the roads would be better. All of my brothers and sisters had their elementary training in the Rose Farm School. The younger ones even had some of their high schooling in Rose Farm. If I remember correctly we were up to thirty-eight students in that one room school with one teacher to teach all grades. The grade ahead of you always seemed more interesting than the one you were in. I think it worked quite well. It helped us to do the work in our grade better.

My first encounter with Kane was when Dad and I hauled cordwood out of a railway box car spotted beside the elevator. A group of high school students came into the box car and roughed around using language I was not used to. Other than that we had little to do with the Kane community. Our social circle was very limited.

After my conversion that circle widened because there were Young Peoples' Bible Studies at the A. A. Groening home and I was invited to come. Here I also noticed a pretty red haired girl coming from the Kronsweide community. This developed into a lasting friendship, and Helena Gerbrandt and I were married on October 24, 1940. Helena was born to Jacob and Helena (Penner) Gerbrandt on January 5, 1918, in the Kronsweide School District southwest



*Peter and Helena Dueck.*



*Peter and Helena Dueck with  
(l-r) Henry, Margaret and Esther, 1965.*



*Peter G. Dueck farm, 1980.*

of Lowe Farm. Helena received her schooling in the Kronsweide School. Her first teacher was Mr. Henry Friesen, a much loved and respected friend of the family. Helena found peace with God and assurance of salvation when she was sixteen years old.

In the fall of 1944, we moved our house into the Kane community onto SW 27-4-2W, where Clifford and Gloria Matthies now live. All three of our children took their elementary training in the Kane School and finished their high school in Lowe Farm.

Our memories of Kane are pleasant ones. Through school and business we have learned to know a lot of people. It was my privilege to serve as trustee for one year. Our family grew up in the Kane community. They meet their school friends all over at large social or church functions. Where are we now?

Helena passed to her eternal reward on February 20, 1994. Peter lives in an apartment in Altona.

Henry married Erna Peters (a former Kane School teacher) and they are living in Steinbach where both of them are teaching. They are active in choir and serving as deacons in the church. They have three sons. Wes is married to Norinne Danzinger and they are living in Winnipeg. Wes is working at Investors, and Norinne is teaching and working on a voice degree. James is living in Calgary, Alberta, and is working in computer programming. Curtis is at the University of Manitoba and is studying to become a teacher.

Margaret married Ernie Thiessen and they live on a farm at Austin. Margaret conducts the church choir and teaches piano. They are deacons in the church. They are operating a grain farm and cow-calf-finish beef operation. They have three children. Jeff, married Donna Funk and they are serving on a two year Volunteer Service program in Kentucky, USA. Joanne is married to Myron Martens and they are living in Winnipeg where Myron is working for a Water Bottling company and Joanne works as a teacher assistant at the University of Manitoba. Jennifer is studying at the University of Manitoba in the Performing Arts.

Esther married Abe Krahn and they are making their home at Rivers on a farm. They have a grain farm and also are Select Seed Growers. Esther and Abe are Lay Ministers in their church. They have three children. Ron is married to Anita Voth. They live on a farm at Rivers. Anita works for a trucking company and Ron has started to farm together with his dad and brother. Ruth is studying at the University of Manitoba in Family Services. Robert is studying at Caponray Bible School in British Columbia. He plans to stay on the family farm.

**WILHELM (Bill) & SADIE (Penner) DYCK  
GORDON & CHARLOTTE (Murner) DYCK**  
*by Charlotte (Murner) Dyck*



*Sadie Penner and Bill Dyck  
on their wedding day, July 7, 1940.*

Sadie was born May 23, 1924, on a farm in the Kane District, where she grew up. She was the daughter of Peter and Sarah (Hiebert) Penner. She attended Kane School and started grade one in the 1931-32 school year.

Wilhelm (Bill), was born in Aberdeen, Saskatchewan on June 29, 1919. He moved to Manitoba with his parents Abram and Justina (Dyck) Dyck and grew up in Horndean.

Bill and Sadie were married on July 7, 1940, at the Rose Farm Church. They started out their married life with a bicycle and a pig. Their home was one mile east and three-quarter mile south of Kane in "Halunkendarp". Gordon remembers when his Dad was away working and beggars came around. They (Mom, Jean and Gordon) would go and hide up in the hay loft in the barn and stay there until the beggars left.

Gordon and Jean went to school in the days of the horse drawn school vans. On one such day, Mr. Henry Kehler's horses were spooked, and the van rolled over. Helen Reimer received a cut to the head.

About 1956, when they moved to Winnipeg for a year where Bill, who was a carpenter by trade, built houses. Their next move was back to the country, one mile east and one and a half miles north of Kane where Bill took up

farming.

In 1969, Bill was active in the building of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm, which burned down in 1982. Both Bill and Sadie were very involved in the life of Emmanuel and also its outreach programs.

Bill worked with the Mennonite Disaster Service, travelling where help was needed, whether that was locally or to another country (Carman, Morris, and Kansas City, to name a few.). He made two trips to Belize, in Central America with Gospel Missionary Union to help with building projects. On one trip Sadie accompanied him.

Sadie loved music and sang with the church ladies trio and other ladies on many occasions. At home she could often be found sitting at her piano playing by memory and singing praises to God! Sadie also loved to knit, crochet and sew. She was a bubbly, cheerful, outgoing person. Wherever she went, she managed to find someone she knew or was related to. (This same spirit is carried on in her granddaughter Berni.)

Bill was a fun loving person always ready to pull a prank or tease someone. (This too has been passed on to some of his descendants.) He liked to rise early in the morning and would walk around the house singing, even if he was off key.

They loved people and a highlight of their travelling was being able to visit friends and relatives. This to them was even more enjoyable than seeing places. Family was very important to them, and they dearly loved their children, and grandchildren who grew to number nine.

Leaving the farm was something Sadie struggled with. Having lived on a farm most of her life, she wanted her grandchildren to be able to experience that freedom of country life too. When someone would come inquiring about buying the farm, she would tell them it wasn't for sale. Finally she did accept it however, and the farm was sold. They retired from farming and moved to Lowe Farm in 1970, where they built a new home. She learned to enjoy living in town and enjoyed it for the next seven years.

Bill and Sadie were killed in a car crash near Swift Current, Saskatchewan, on April 1, 1977, while on their way to visit their children in British Columbia. Bill was 57, and Sadie was 52. Both were buried in the Lowe Farm Cemetery next to their granddaughter Angela.

They had three children; Gordon, Jean and Marion.

Gordon married Charlotte Murner who grew up in Sperling, the daughter of Adolf and Mary Murner. They have four children; Bernadine, Randall, Robert and Lorrina. (A daughter Angela died in infancy.)

After our marriage in March of 1963, we moved around Manitoba a lot with Gordon's trucking jobs, also living in Winnipeg, Kenora, and Kane.

We parked our mobile home at the farm north of Kane between jobs. One such time was in October of 1964. Gordon was trucking at Swan Lake and Charlotte and daughter Berni were at the farm. Randy picked this time to make his early arrival into the world. Bill and Sadie had



*The Bill Dyck family, 1974. Back row: Ron, Randy, Charlotte, Berni, Gordon, Murray, Bill.  
Center: Marion, Donna, Sadie (Mom), Rob, Bill (Dad), Jean. Front row: Crystal, Scott, Lorri, Cheryl.*

to drive Charlotte into Winnipeg, arriving during supertime “rush hour”. Of course there were no police around to assist them in their time of need. But they did make it to the hospital and Randy was born minutes after. Gordon, having received the message that his wife was about to give birth, headed for Winnipeg. When he got there he couldn’t find her because he went to the wrong hospital.

(A similar happening took place at Gordon’s birth.) Bill was working away from home so Sadie’s Mom and Dad had to drive her to the hospital.

And yes, we did have our turn too, when our daughter Lorri’s first baby decided to arrive five weeks early. She had spent the night at our house after working at a late auction the night before and at six a.m., we took her to her home thirty minutes away so her husband could take her to the hospital.

We spent the spring, summer and fall of 1966 in our mobile home that was parked on a vacant lot in Kane.

In the spring of 1967, after spending the last of our five winters in Kenora, Ontario, hauling pulp, we moved to Lowe Farm with our two children; Bernadine (Berni) and Randy. The summer of 1967 was spent trucking in Saskatchewan and Snow Lake, Manitoba. That fall it was back to Lowe Farm. Angela Pauline (her name meaning “Little Heavenly Messenger”) was born during this time, but her life was only nine short days. Rob and Lorri joined the family in 1969 and 1970. Gordon worked for the municipality on the “bridge gang”. He also worked at Consumers Co-op as fuel truck driver and later as mechanic. In 1972, Gordon became assistant manager at Consumers Co-op and Charlotte worked there part-time as bookkeeper. This lasted until May of 1974, when Gordon started as manager of the Rosenort Co-op and we moved there. We lived there for two years before leaving Manitoba for British Columbia and Vancouver Island in September of 1976, and we are still living there.

After much prayer and seeking God's direction, we purchased and took over Campbell River Auctions in January of 1978. We wanted to do something significant with the inheritance that Mom and Dad Dyck left us. Our business is their gift to us and God has blessed us in many ways! We hold weekly sales in the Auction Building every Thursday and extras as needed on Saturdays. And we're still at it!



*Marion, Gordon and Jean Dyck.*

Our four children have all grown up in our auction business. Along with Gordon, Randy and Rob are also auctioneers as well as our son-in-law Jason. Berni worked at the Auction in the early years and also ran the concession stand for awhile. Lorri has worked off and on over the years in the office until September of 1998. Charlotte continues to do the book work.

Our children are all married and have families of their own. We have been blest with thirteen grandchildren.

Berni married Steve Hansen. They have four children; Jessica ('88), Joshua ('90), Katrina ('94) and Jonathan ('96). They own and operate ABC Printing and live in Comox, British Columbia. Berni is also a hair dresser.

Randy married Michele DeRegt. They have three children; Jasmine ('90), Andrea ('93) and Joel ('97). Randy is Youth Pastor at Courtenay Baptist Church, Courtenay, British Columbia, where they live. He works at our auction on Sale days and Michele runs the concession during Sales.

Rob married Heidi Matheson. They have three children; Jacob ('88), Leticia ('91) and Malissa ('95). They have lived at Daysland, Alberta for the past five years. They have recently sold their trucking business and are hoping to move back to the Island in the near future.

Lorri married Jason Fitzgerald. They have three daugh-



*Gordon and Charlotte Dyck family, 1998.*

ters; Laurel ('94), Lanna ('97) and Lynae ('98). Lorri is also a Preschool teacher, but has taken time off to raise her family. Jason works full time at our Auction. They live in Courtenay, British Columbia.

Jean married Bill Giesbrecht who grew up in the Lowe Farm area, the son of Ben and Annie Giesbrecht. They lived in Lowe Farm for a time before moving to Alberta, Brandon, Winnipeg, and then to British Columbia. They have two children; Murray and Cheryl.

Murray lives with his son Dylan ('92) in Bella Coola, British Columbia. He is involved with Sylvaculture.

Cheryl is married to Brian McLean. They live in Campbell River, British Columbia, with their two daughters, Carly ('93) and Lindsay ('96). Brian is in logging and Cheryl is a stay at home Mom.

Jean lives at Saratoga Beach, British Columbia with her husband Mel Fitzgerald, a mechanic recently retired from MacMillan Bloedel. Jean suffered a stroke in 1987, from which her left arm remains paralyzed. Despite this, she continues to be active in many areas and particularly enjoys golfing and gardening.

Marion married Ron Heinrichs, son of Ed and Tina Heinrichs of Lowe Farm. They too lived in Lowe Farm, Winnipeg and then moved to British Columbia. They have three children; Donna, Crystal and Scott.

Donna is married to Travis Serefini. They make their home in Victoria, British Columbia with their three children; Mikayla ('93), Jordan ('95) and Sarita ('97). Travis is a baker and Donna manages a Video Store.

Crystal and her son Stewart ('90) live at Eaglesham, Alberta. Crystal works in a Co-op near there.

Scott and Melanie live in Southern Manitoba with their four children; Alisha, Kirstein, Jeremy ('95) and Bailey ('97). Scott is apprenticing for a mill wright.

Marion is currently living in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, where she works for H & R Block.

## JIM & JUSTINA (Schellenberg) DYCK

*by Lorraine (Dyck) Dyck*



*Jim and Justina Dyck and family, 1968.*

*Back row: Larry, Lorraine, Bob, Diane, Earl. Front row: Alice and baby Cindy, Justina (Mom) and Pam, Janet, Glenn, Jim (Dad), Ruth.*

Our parents, Jim and Justina Dyck, moved to SE 28-4-2W in the Kane District in 1953, the year Lorraine was born. They came from the Rose Farm District, and previously from Sperling, and earlier from near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where their three older sons were born. They moved into the Henry Doerksen house where they resided for the next 25 years.

Church and community were integral parts of life on an acreage. Bartering with, or borrowing from neighbours, working to help each other put away vegetables or butchering pigs for meat for the winter, making soap, pooling rides to different functions were all part of everyday living. Mom was in charge of many of these things, while Dad worked hard in Winnipeg, on the bridge gang or as a carpenter in Morris in order to provide the money needed to make ends meet. We may not have been rich in material possessions, however, we were wealthy when it came to love and the necessities of life.

There were six children fortunate enough to have been born to Jim and Justina. Larry, born in 1940, married Alice Penner of Kane in 1960. They have four children: Glenn, Pamela, Cindy and Rennatta. Larry is currently a salesman in Morden, Manitoba where he and Alice reside.

Bob, born in 1943, married Diane Richter of Winnipeg in 1969. Their daughter, Tiffany, was born in 1975. Bob works as a supervisor for a trucking company in Winnipeg, where they have made their home.

Earl, born in 1945, married Ruth Hildebrandt of Morden, and that is where they presently reside. Their three children are Jason, Russel and Marlon. Earl is working as student advisor in the school system.

Lorraine, born in 1953, married Edward Dyck of Boissevain in 1974. They have three children: Audrey, Sheldon and Carson. Lorraine is a full-time home-

maker, working with her husband on a mixed farm consisting of beef cattle, grain and hay, bison, and her small flock of laying hens.

Diane was born in 1955. She is married to Bruce Boehr of Watrous, Saskatchewan in 1976. They have three children: Dusten, Brendan, and Chelsea, and currently reside in the Morden District. Diane is working in the school system along with being full-time homemaker!

Janet, the youngest of the six (I'll admit it!), was born in 1959. She married Ralph Bartel from Waldheim, Saskatchewan. They followed our lead and also had three children: Nicole, Colin and Riley. Janet is a dental assistant as well as full-time homemaker, and she and her family make their home in St. Germain.

**Now for those "remember when!"** We've put together a lot, as a family, but in no particular order.

—how could any of the "older" students forget the old schoolhouse?

—5 or 10¢ would buy a soft drink or chocolate milk in Kane's General Store. One could buy a bag of candy or jawbreakers or Mojo's for a few pennies. We were always amazed at the number of jars of sweets and the big set of scales to weigh them on! Was it the Toews' and then the Wiebe's that ran the store? AND the post office, of course.

—remember winning the Bantam "A" provincial hardball championships in 1957? Way to go, Kane!

—how about beating Carman in league football ... under the lights!

—and Lowe Farm was always the team to beat in any sport, wasn't it?

—now how about them black leather jackets and white suede shoes, T-shirts and jeans, and Brylcreme.

—Johnny Cash, for country music fans, and *ELVIS*!

—then how about those Go-Go Boots and the *BEATLES*!

—okay, let's get serious. Teachers gave piano lessons during school hours at 25¢ to 50¢.

—we had snow forts (igloos) with even the furniture and dishes "sculpted" out of snow.

—we also made forts in the trees in spring and fall.

—loved skating on the big pond, and later the ice rink.

—remember when we 'didn't hear' the bell after noon recess and stayed in the shack for at least an hour longer!

—remember the scary Inspector Whitely watching us do Math on the blackboard?

—remember certain students sitting under the teacher's desk ... hiding from her! She wasn't impressed, I guess!

—how about the Wiebe's bringing the store to our school picnics and races in the form of the concession booth. What fun!

—there was the Rose Drill, the Star Drill .. and the fire drill!

—how many kids had their tongue stuck to the rail of the mud scraper in winter?

—we went to school in a caboose thing pulled by a tractor, in a green van, in a stone boat (covered with a buffalo robe) pulled by a horse, and even a school bus!

—how did that swing set always get on top of the school on Halloween?

—lighting candles for Christmas concerts - so special. The goodie bags were a bonus, too!

**So many memories** — enjoyable for the most part!

Jim and Justina retired to Morden in 1978, a year following Dad's stroke. After fifteen years there, Dad died suddenly on May 14, 1993 at the age of 79 years. Mom continues to live in their home.

Thank-you all for helping create so many memories that helped shape our characters — colorful though some may be!

## JOHN P. & ANGANETHA (Wiebe) DYCK

*by Agatha Gerbrandt*



*John P. and Anganetha Dyck, 1941.*

The John P. Dycks moved into the Rose Farm area in 1916. They purchased a quarter of land, 16-4-2W.

The buildings were old and so they set to work improving the yard. In 1923 they bought a private school which the Old Colony Church had vacated when migrating to Mexico. The big school was moved about six miles on wagons running on either side of a water filled ditch.

The school was renovated into a house, but the ten foot high ceiling with its 4x8 clear fir beams always stayed. The house was very cold in winter, no furnace, but had a coal space heater at each end of the house.

The 28x70 foot barn was built in 1926. It had a fourteen foot lean-to on the north side. This was used for grain storage.

John Dyck's first car was a Model T Ford bought in 1919. He also owned a McCormick Deering, 28 inch threshing machine which he used to thresh his own grain plus his neighbours' grain. His first tractor, being a "Titan" was bought in the early 20's. In 1929 he bought a 22 36 McCormick Deering tractor on steel to operate the threshing machine and do fieldwork. Up until this time, all field-

work was done with horses.

In 1944 he bought his first eight foot Cockshut combine which changed harvesting completely. No more big harvesting crews to feed. In 1948 he bought a new self-propelled Massey Harris 21A combine.

I still remember going along to the N. M. Paterson elevator with our first horse drawn wagon load of wheat. The wagon held about 50 bushels. We would stop at J. J. Toews' store and buy a whole bologna, "what a thrill".

They raised a family of three boys and six girls, only Cornie is still actively farming in the community.

Rose Farm School had over fifty students enrolled at one time. Later they also included High School. The school closed in 1965.

Father served as a school trustee for many years. They were actively involved in starting the Rose Farm EMMC Church. In 1937 services were held in our barn "sheen" which had been used for storing chopped feed. In the fall of that year the Rose Farm Church was built. The weather stayed mild, the work progressed well, and they were able to have their first services in the new church by Christmas.

Father served as vorsänger in the church for many years. Rose Farm Church was very active in the community with a large Sunday School and choir. Due to the dwindling farm population, we had to close the church in 1975.

Dad's health was failing and so they retired off the farm in the fall of 1955. He passed away the following summer. Cornie lived at home with Mother in Plum Coulee, but continued farming from town. Mother died in 1977.

## DIEDRICH & HELEN DYCK

*by Helen Dyck*



*Diedrich Dyck family. Back row: Chris, Ed, Lynda.  
Front row: Gary, Helen (Mom), Diedrich (Dad), Les.*

Diedrich and Helen Dyck were married in 1947. After being involved in the construction industry, operating a dragline and driving caterpillar for two summers, we bought the NE quarter of 15-5-2W from Julius Harder in 1950 - the most northeast part of the Kane School District.

The year of 1950 was one of the springs of flooding along the Tobacco Creek (dyke). We arrived on the scene in June of '50, just in time to seed. Harvesting was late that fall, but the crop was great.

After we started a family, the distance to school started to look rather worrisome. We had only dirt roads and no phone.

In the fall of 1957, when our first one was to start school, it rained enough so the roads were impassable for motor vehicles. On Lynda's first day of school, Rev. Isaac Krahn (the bus driver) arrived with a tractor and the old style black covered school van. She was the only one on for the first two and a half miles until Ed Klassens, who lived on the Charlie Rosner farm and from there she had company in the van. Lynda can remember him singing "How Great Thou Art" as he drove the tractor as well as in the regular van. That was the beginning of many adventures.

Other school bus drivers were Mr. Abram Wiebe, Mr. Jake Reimer and then Mr. Jake B. Wiebe, our neighbour. Eventually gravel was put on the road west of Jake Wiebe's to the Sperling road, but the two miles between us and Jake Wiebe's was not gravelled for the nine years he drove our children to school.

Jake Wiebe took his duties as school bus driver seriously and so came into being Mr. Wiebe's *other* school bus, "the puddle jumper". It was a totally stripped down Model A, only the driver's seat was left. He built on a plywood caboose for the passengers (up to five of our children). It had a front opening and a side door for getting in and out. The front "window" had a canvas hung over it to keep the flying mud out. Spring, summer and fall, the Model A was used whenever rain made the road impassable for his regular van. All our children were taken the two miles many times and I remember some days when the road was really bad, Mr. Wiebe would pick up the children in the morning and they would keep them overnight to go to school again next day.

Then for the years when we were without the benefit of a phone - a tribute to Mr. Wiebe who had our confidence that he would transport our children safely every time.

When the Kane and Lowe Farm Schools consolidated, our dirt road was gravelled and an official yellow school bus picked up the youngest of our children. The adventures ended. All our children have interesting and good memories of those early school bus trips.

Our family consists of:

Lynda who married Ron Schroeder. They farm south of Lowe Farm. Their family is Kelly, Theresa, Keith and grandson Brenden.

Ed married Gina Saban. They live near Morden and own/operate Olympic Sports in Morden. Their children are Kayle, Jennesa and Megan.

Les married Jackie Matthies. Jackie passed away on April 4, 1997, after a lengthy bout with Aplastic Anemia. Les lives southeast of Kane with their children Kere, Riley

and Kelsey.

Gary married Marielle Desaulniers. They live along Highway #23 between Kane and Lowe Farm. They are both working and enjoy their large yard.

Chris married Ron Janke. They live in Morris and both work. Their children are Sabrina and Adam. Chris works part-time at the Lowe Farm Credit Union.

Diedrich Dyck passed away suddenly in February of 1987.

Over the years we have experienced various amounts of flooding from the dyke, but over all its been a good place to call home.

### **LAWRENCE & TAMMY (Fehr) DYCK**

*by Lawrence and Tammy Dyck*



*Lawrence and Tammy Dyck with their daughters (l-r) Jennifer, Naomi and Barbara in 1981.*

We moved to Kane in November, 1972 to the former home of Bill and Sadie Dyck. (The house was built by Allen and Mary (Handlon) Johnston). Barb celebrated her third birthday on November 17, shortly after our move. The farm was owned by Ben Giesbrecht and we rented the house originally only for six months (winter) as the house we were living in at Myrtle was rather difficult to keep warm during the winter. We made an offer to the landlord that as the house needed painting, we would buy the paint in lieu of rent and supply the labour for painting the interior, which he agreed to. We extensively renovated the house in 1986. Many hours have been spent planting trees and shrubs, mowing grass and gardening.

The following spring we were offered to rent the land (N½ of 7-5-2W) which we did. The land was sold in 1973; actually, we had made an offer to purchase which we

thought was accepted, but no papers were drawn up and over the weekend a better offer was received and it was sold to Conrad Leiber of Switzerland who also purchased the James Handlon farm. The remaining section (S½ of 7-5-2W) was then offered to us to rent. We have farmed that section ever since and lived there until we moved to Roland in the spring of 1996.

Jennifer was born in 1975 and Naomi joined our family in 1980. The girls received their education in Lowe Farm, went on to high school in Morris and both Barb and Jenn earned degrees from the University of Manitoba; Barb, her Masters of Science (Botany) and Jenn, her Degree in Nursing. Tragically, Naomi died in an accident at her grandparents' yard in Lowe Farm in 1982. Currently Barb is employed with Agriculture Canada, Morden, and Jenn at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

We took part in as many community activities as we could. We played on ball teams, helped out at ball tournaments and other community functions such as Kane suppers, etc. Lawrence served on the Kane Community Centre board.

We always said we lived in the middle of everywhere or the middle of nowhere, depending on whether you were an optimist or a pessimist. We spent a lot of time driving to various activities; especially as the girls got older, such as school sports and figure skating, but we had some really great times.

One of the projects Lawrence worked particularly hard at and brought into being with frequent presentations to the Public Utilities Board is the telephone service we enjoy today. Kane was on the border of three telephone exchanges and having practically no services on our Roland telephone exchange—the bank had moved to Carman, the girls' school and friends were at Lowe Farm, church at Lowe Farm, our phone bills and many others were just too high. He proposed the idea of toll-free adjacent exchange calling to the PUB and after further presentations, together with growing support from other areas of the province with similar complaints; it finally was brought into operation.

We also started Kane Fertilizer and Chemical Co. Ltd. in 1978, and were involved in its operation until we sold it to Manitoba Pool Elevators in 1994.

### **GORDON & JULIANNA (Isaak) ENNS**

*by Julianna Enns*

Gordon (son of George J. and Sarah Enns, Homewood) and I, Julianna (daughter of Rev. Henry and Ann Isaak of Carman) moved to Kane on December 13, 1975 from Carman. We purchased the former Dave and Liddy Thiessen farm one mile east and three quarter mile south of Kane (SW 32-4-2W). Gordon works in construction and I am a piano teacher.

During the 1980's we had a U-Pick strawberry farm. We attend the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Church and have been active in the activities there. Gordon enjoys flying R.

C. airplanes and I enjoy gardening.

We have three children who all live in Winnipeg. Charles (1974) drives bus for Fehr-Way Tours/Beaver Bus Lines. Andrew (A. J.) (1977) attends Winnipeg Technical Center and is a basketball referee. Natalie (1979) is in 2nd year Management at the University of Manitoba and works at Celebrations Dinner Theatre.

In 1979 when the bridge was washed out north of our place, Gordon built a raft which we used quite a long time and we well remember Alvin Penner and John Kehler sliding off into the water. We have had many spring floods each with its own unique memories. But what stands out most is the help and caring of neighbours and friends throughout these 25 years.

### **JACOB H. & MARY (Neufeld) EPP** *from Furrows in the Valley*



*Jacob H. Epp and fiancée in 1939.*

In 1910, my parents, Jacob J. and Helena Epp, moved to Lowe Farm and rented the half-section adjoining Lowe Farm to the north. Dietrich Hoepfner was the owner. The house was just a little west of the old one room school. That's where I started school. I recall a Mr. Peter Bueckert was my first school teacher.

In the fall of 1912, we moved to the Bloomfield District, six miles southwest of Kane; I spent the rest of my school days at Bloomfield.

I helped on the home farm until 1928, then hired out as farmhand at various places - spent some of the dirty thirties in Saskatchewan and also worked for Harry M. Mitchell at Myrtle until 1937, and farmed three years, seven miles northwest of Kane.

In fall of 1939, I rented NW 31-4-2W, adjoining Kane on the south side; the owner was James Davidson, of California (formerly of Kane).

In July of 1940, I married Mary Neufeld of Winkler. I had to take out an advance on my crop and borrow a cow, had a few chickens and so we started out as married partners. The crops were fair, so in 1945, we bought the quarter.

In 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Wiens of Winkler (Mary's mother and stepfather) moved in with us, due to ill health. There were no elderly peoples' homes in those days. We took turns with Mary's brother and sister-in-law, George and Agatha Neufeld, in supplying them with a home. In 1950, Mr. Wiens passed away. After that, Mrs. Wiens lost her eyesight almost completely and passed away in June, 1954.

In 1947, our only child, Ronald, was born. He attended elementary school at Kane Consolidated School and finished high school at Lowe Farm. He worked for Norman Spalding for one season on road construction, then got a job, car and girlfriend in Winnipeg. He got married in 1968 to Mavis Condon. They have a son, Corey, and a daughter, Mary Lynn.

In 1960, we bought another 80 acres, three miles south of Kane and in 1964, built an addition to the old house, installed hot and cold running water and a forced air furnace. That same year, my father passed away and Mary had to go to the rehabilitation hospital with arthritis for six weeks.

In 1965, my mother came to live in a little cottage we had on our yard. She was later hospitalized and passed away in 1966. In 1968, we sold the home quarter of land to Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Friesen, and bought the house on 130 Boyne East, in Morris from August Rausch. We have lived in the Morris rural and town area for forty years. I have served on the Kane Consolidated School board for some time; was on the Kane Berghaler Church board for some time, and also served on the Morris Senior Citizens' committee. Mary taught Sunday School for a number of years at Kane and was active in the Kane Mission Sisters as well.

*(Mary Epp passed away in March, 1982, and Jacob H. Epp passed away in December, 1993. Ronald Epp lives in Kitchener, Ontario, but spends much of his time in Detroit, Michigan, on his business travels.)*

### **FRED & EMMA FREDRICKSEN** **WALT & FLORENCE FREDRICKSEN** *by Gladys (Fredricksen) Blunt*

Fred and Emma Fredricksen, their son Walt and his wife Florence, emigrated from Bennett, Iowa in the spring of 1925, and settled on a farm southeast of Kane (SE 31-4-2W).

In the late thirties (or 1940), they bought and moved to the Jim Davidson farm, three-quarter mile east of Kane on SE 6-5-2W. In the late fifties, Walt and Florence sold the farm and moved to Morris and later to Winnipeg.

I was born in December of 1925, my brother Donald in May of 1935, and my brother Ken in August of 1943.

I have many happy memories of my life in Kane. I



*Fred Fredricksen and grandson, Donald.*



*Grandpa Fred Fredricksen, 1942  
(Davidson barn in the background).*



*Gladys and George Blunt, 1999.*

enjoyed school, but then we had a great teacher in Mr. Siemens. I didn't enjoy riding in the school van though - especially in winter.

In 1944, I started my nurses training at the Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg, graduating in 1947. I was married in 1948, and in 1961, we moved to Medicine Hat where we still live.

Donald lives in Winnipeg where he is still working in the trucking business.

Ken also lives in Winnipeg and has worked for Atomic Transport for over 30 years.

Grandma Fredricksen passed away in 1946, and Grandpa Fredricksen in 1949. My Dad passed away in 1976, and Mother in 1985. The three generations of Fredricksens had always lived together in one house during their years in Canada, until the grandparents passed away.

In her retiring years in Winnipeg, Mother said that she would always remember the years spent at Kane, and all the good neighbours who were always so willing to lend a helping hand whenever needed.

### **PETER H. & JUSTINA (Penner) FRIESEN**

*by Dorothy (Friesen) Wiebe and  
Bert Friesen*



*Peter and Justina Friesen.*

Peter and Justina Friesen moved to Kane in 1946. They were married in April of 1938 and started to farm near Myrtle so it was only a four mile move to Kane. The land was bought from a Hiebert family and is the farm where our brother, Barry, now resides. Peter and Justina had six children. Dorothy Anne (1940), Peter Ernest (1945), Albert David (1947), Sharon Katherine (1948), Barry James (1955), and Lois Nadine (1957).

In January of 1948, our house burned down to the ground during a bad snowstorm. The Friesen's returned to their homeland in 1952 after the exodus to Plum Coulee for four or five years. The new home, designed and built by the family, brought great joy to the still growing family. Dad was tired of farming from town and mother often said how good it was to raise her family at Kane.

The boys (soon to be three) enjoyed hockey on the pond and ice rink on the school yard, usually made by their father. This was a daily highlight throughout the winter. Saturday nights were often spent in the den watching the hockey game on television with Mother braiding rugs and Dad eating sunflower seeds. We enjoyed all sports that could be participated in the rural metropolis of Kane. Ernie and Bert, along with Butch Born and Brian Wiebe, won a prize in the Manitoba High School Curling Championship, and had their picture in the Winnipeg Free Press (it was stated that Kane, not the Lowe Farm School name, be printed as the place they came from). Bert was on the team that won the Manitoba B Basketball Championship in 1965, the year Dad died. Sharon was also active in sports and a great basketball player during her high school days. Sharon recalls the school class going to Lowe Farm in the back of a ton truck for a baseball game.

In the summer, everyone helped out with the farm work. Between seeding, spraying and harvest, the help included weeding a very large garden and the never ending job of weeding those evergreens. Fruit trees were a special hobby of Dad's and he experimented with trees inside the house as well as many in the garden. Sharon remembers chokecherry picking being used as a method for disciplining misbehaviour rather than time-out.

On March 13, 1965, we were all devastated when Dad died in a tragic farm accident. Life suddenly changed and Mother was faced with a lot of challenges including raising a large family on her own. Her dream was to remain on the farm long enough to enable all her children an opportunity to farm. The first crop we put in was a challenge as we were all young and learning. With the help of Leonard, the spring planting and harvesting got done and God provided a wonderful bumper crop. At that time twenty-five bushels an acre of flax was a big crop.

We remember the support of the community and church during that time. The day Dad died, George Born drove all the way to Brandon to pick Bert and Sharon up as they were in Brandon for the Manitoba B Basketball tournament. Mr. Born told Bert and Sharon that something serious had happened but gave no details. This was a long drive home for everyone in the vehicle. Bert remembers Henry Schellenberg coming to the farm many times after Dad's death, like he had done when Dad was alive. He just came to check up on how things were going.

After that first year, Ernie gave up his studies in Electronics at Red River and came back to the farm to take over the primary responsibilities of operating the farm for Mom, progressing to farming for himself.

In 1967, Mom moved to Winnipeg for a few years where Barry completed high school while playing high school hockey and Junior Hockey with the Fort Garry Blues. In 1973, they moved back to Kane in large part due to Barry's interest in farming. Lois graduated from Morris and in 1979, Mom and Lois moved to Winkler. Mom enjoyed retirement in Winkler with family and friends nearby. She continued to enjoy gardening and cooking for her children when they came to visit. Mom remained physically active with gardening, mowing lawn, clearing snow, and so on until her last days. She passed away December 10, 1993, at the age of eighty.

Dorothy married Leonard Wiebe and farm near Myrtle. They have three daughters - Leloni, Julie and Theresa and six grandchildren; Ernie married Audrey Peters and live on the land where the Kane Church used to be. They have three children - Rebecca, Holly and Matthew. Bert married Lee Wiebe, is a biochemist and president of Medicare, living in Winnipeg. They have three daughters - Selina, Bonita and Tria and two grandchildren. Sharon married Peter Friesen and live on a farm near Killarney. They have three boys - Russell, Derek and Douglas and one grandson. Barry married Audrey Wiebe and farm on the home place. They have two children - Megan and Tyler. Lois married Brad Kehler and Lois babysits out of her home in Winkler. They have three children - Jenessa, Angela and Michael.

Memories of Kane School: a horse-drawn school van with a wood stove in the back corner; the skating shack with a wood burning stove consisting of a barrel with a chimney; Dad, the trustee, taking us to school around the elevators on a stormy day so that the day could be counted as a paid school day.

Memories of Kane Church: parents making us feel that church was central to our lives; long German services, mother making quilts with the Kane Mission Sisters; Jugendverein Sunday evenings with music, poems and verses; Abe Suderman's steel guitar and singing. I don't recall any Friesen's singing but I do recall Dad once looking uncomfortable while doing a reading - he helped the church in other ways.

Memories of Kane Store: providing the basic needs for the family, including a social place to visit, eat and play games, Dick's darkroom in the basement, an introduction to the amazing invention of the television - snowy picture and all, social activities continued with the coming of the Wiebe's and the regular Pepsi, bar and "crazy eights" days, jocularly with Mrs. John Wiebe and George Born; Bert recalls the store becoming a romantic meeting place as this is where Bert met Lee, his future wife, sister to teacher Joyce Wiebe. (Friesen's must have had a thing for Wiebe's as three of us married Wiebe's.)

#### **Other family memories:**

—getting fish at the Delta and Dad cleaning them on the kitchen table (we have since discovered that the extended Friesen family's love of fish goes back to our great-grand-

father's love of fishing on the Dnieper River in Russia, close to where they lived.

—Ernie coming back from Plum Coulee one spring night after visiting his girlfriend, not thinking how fast the spillway could fill up. By the time his car stopped the water was almost window high.

—Dad winning machinery in 1961, making quite a difference in their lives economically given the present day value of a combine, two tractors, swather, cultivator and stereo (worth \$15,000 in 1961). This was the first trip we recall our parents making, going to Saskatoon for the award presentation.

—swimming in the pond whether it be Larry Born's, Ron Epp's, or if necessary, boating on our pond in continuous circles. Mom was too afraid to look out the window. Life was never dull for those Kane boys.

—motorcycle driving began at an early age for Ernie and Bert, first with the James and then with an Ariel, which Leonard drove home from Winnipeg for them. Later, Ernie bought a Triumph which came in several boxes and was worked on in the basement. Dad said it would never run, but with patience and talent, Ernie had it roaring and filling the house up with smoke.



*Peter Friesen home in Kane.*

## **BARRY & AUDREY (Wiebe) FRIESEN**

*by Audrey (Wiebe) Friesen*

In the summer of 1983, I innocently accepted a painting job from the "boy next door". I was engaged by the end of the summer and never did complete the painting job. On December 3, 1983, Barry and I were united in holy matrimony and began the next phase of our lives.

We live on NE 36-4-3W, the former home of Barry's parents, Peter H. and Justina Friesen. Barry and I quickly

got in a couple of holidays before we were awestruck by the birth of our daughter, Megan Lindsay, on April 18, 1985. This event marked the beginning of another phase into parenthood and shortly thereafter, Barry exchanged the red 1969 GTO for a gray 88 Oldsmobile. The ultimate family man was born! On May 10, 1988, (that memorable hot, dry summer) Tyler James was born and we have had ample entertainment ever since. We are blessed and life is good!

We farm and although I make an effort to assist Barry, I don't seem to be made of the same stuff as the generations before me. I also teach for the Garden Valley School Division.

Barry still enjoys many sports and has added coaching to his repertoire. Barry and his lifelong buddy, Earl Bergman, now play racquetball instead of baseball as this can be done when the kids are in school. Barry does man-age to curl once a week in Roland.

Barry and I often feel like we drive cabs for a living but are actually thrilled that our children like to participate. Megan loves ballet and this passion takes us to Winnipeg twice a week. This is Megan's first year in Morris High School and she has participated on the soccer and volleyball teams and is looking forward to basketball, baseball and track and field coming up. She is taking piano lessons, plays the flute and has added saxophone to the list this year.



*Barry and Audrey Friesen with Megan and Tyler.*

Tyler loves to participate in every sport and his favourite changes with the season. Hockey in Roland has been a positive experience and we appreciate the Roland community's acceptance of us. Tyler loves playing baseball on a team with his school friends in Lowe Farm and his love of golf also continues to grow every year, making this a fun family thing to do. Tyler takes piano lessons and plays trumpet with the school band. He is in grade six at Lowe Farm School.

Family time is important and we spend hours planning holidays of which a few actually happen. Travelling in our '78 diesel motor home (yes, dreams do come true) is a highlight for Barry and the kids, and I am usually a good sport. We have put many miles on and it's refreshing to look back and realize that the unexpected adventures, the people you meet and the "little things" are more memorable than Disneyland itself. I have adapted and remember finishing "The Hobbit" while driving into Chicago (Tyler wanted his food brought into the motor home as time didn't allow for restaurants during this great tale) and missing the Minneapolis Zoo because we hadn't completed our first Frank Peretti adventure.

Barry and I have many wonderful memories of growing up in Kane and being brought up in larger families. Although life had its share of difficulties, there seemed to be lots of time for laughter and never a dull moment. You could count on friends meeting in front of Kane Store (under the watchful eye of Sheriff Wiebe), waiting for a spontaneous game of whatever. Barry and I live exactly where we grew up and yet the sense of community we had through school, church and community activities is non-existent in Kane for our own children. This makes us sad but it is a sign of the times and Barry rarely grumbles about the amount of gas we consume as we carry on.

I remember bringing Winnipeg friends home to Kane, turning onto Highway 23, not thinking about the number of times I waved to neighbours as I neared my destination until one of my friends would exclaim, "Do you know everyone you wave to?" That was the Kane I loved where my community was my extended family, from visiting with Great Aunt Agatha (long after I had crossed the railway track and she standing at the store doorway), to all the children I baby-sat and their parents with whom I played and watched ball. I'm sure the generation gap wasn't the issue in Kane that it was in larger populated areas.

I am also sure the north corner of the Kane elevator doesn't hold a second candle to Portage and Main for the windiest spot in Manitoba.

### **ELMER GERBRANDT**

*by Elmer Gerbrandt*

I came to Kane shortly after graduating from Bible School. My aim was two-fold: to be pastor of a church (Interdenominational) there, and to finish my high school, taking grade ten the year of 1950-1951. The year at school went very well. Mr. Warkentin, then principal, was a good

teacher. The ministry as pastor did not turn out so well. Later I came to realize that it was not my gift, and I had no previous experience. While in Kane, I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Harder.



*Elmer and Gertrude Gerbrandt, Marie-Luise and Walter.*

At the end of that school year I met Gertrude Kehler from Horndean. After marriage, we went to Germany as missionaries. We had five children. Three are still living and remained in Germany. Gertrude died of cancer in March of 1979. I remarried here in Germany, to a woman by the name of Helga Reutlingshöfer. We have two children, Peter 17, and Heidi 14. I have seven grandchildren.

Continuing in the ministry of the Gospel, I came to realize that I'm a pioneer which fits very well into the need here today - going to the many refugees that come from many parts of the world. Although I'm 74, I can keep at it with the help of team members.

### **JOHN & AGATHA (Dyck) GERBRANDT**

*by Agatha Gerbrandt*

John and Agatha Gerbrandt (nee Dyck) were married in September of 1951.

We took over our parent's farm, 16-4-2W, in the fall of 1955.

We were blessed with four children; one son and three daughters. As the children grew older, they started attending Rose Farm School which was only one mile away. It was no problem taking them to school when the roads were good, but sometimes they were impassable. With no gravel and a heavy downpour you could easily get stuck in the mud. Some days they had to walk or we'd take them by open tractor and trailer. What a change in transportation when we first got our roads gravelled.

In 1965 we consolidated with Kane. Now the children were being picked up, but this meant long bus rides, especially for those that had to go to Lowe Farm and later Morris High Schools.

Our children remember:

—Kane 4-H sewing club. Those seams had to be sewn the



*John and Agatha Gerbrandt family, 1999.*



*John Gerbrandt farm, 1986.*

right way or we had to rip them open.

—going to John Wiebe's store at noon recess where Mrs. Wiebe always had a pleasant greeting and treats for them.

—the John Deere shows where Mr. Harder freely served doughnuts to the community, including the school children.

—watching baseball games, especially the Kane Pirates.

John has many pleasant memories of Kane. We delivered all our grain to the elevators there. Much of our grain went to UGG where George Born, and later Jim Hildebrand were the agents. After shovelling a load of grain on a hot humid summer's day, it was especially rewarding to be able to buy a six ounce bottle of Coke

to quench the thirst and spend a little time visiting.

We had a large yard to look after, with a big garden and plantation. We built a new house in 1967. This was our first taste of running water and flush toilets. Up until then we had to pump our water from the cistern and heat it on the stove. In summer, as well as winter, we had to use the outside biffy. What a luxury to be able to have a good plumbing system.

There were always lots of chores to do on a mixed farm; cows to milk, chickens and pigs to feed. We never ran out of work.

In later years we started taking bus tours. We met many wonderful people and were both able to enjoy the trips.

We were active in the Rose Farm Church, teaching Sunday School and serving on various boards. When the church closed in 1975, we attended Lowe Farm Emmanuel Church helping along with Clubs and Sunday School.

John served on the Credit Union Board for several terms. He also served as school trustee in Rose Farm from 1955 to 1965, when it closed.

Our son, Eldon and his wife Bonnie have served the community with furniture for the last 21 years. They are known as *Eldon's Furniture* in Morden. They have four children, their oldest son got married this year.

Lorena and her husband Wayne Favel have custody of two boys who are both on their own by now. They are serving as house parents at Bethany Homes, Wetaskawin, Alberta. These children come from non-functional homes.

Glenda furthered her education at Winnipeg Bible College and also at the University of Manitoba and is presently residing in Winnipeg and working in the office of Family Services.

Eleanor and her husband Tony Rose have lived in the Kane

area until last year, when they moved to Morris. They have three children. Tony is employed at Westfield Industries, in Rosenort. Eleanor is a spare school bus driver and also delivers mail to Kane from Lowe Farm.

After our children left home, we too found ourselves cutting back on farm work and in 1988, we built a new house in Winkler and moved off the farm. We continued farming until 1993, when we sold our machinery and retired.

We are now enjoying life in Winkler, but come summer days, we love to go for a drive into the country to see the lush fields of growing grain.

**FRANK & AGANETHA (Gerbrandt)  
GIESBRECHT**  
*by Peter G. Dueck*

Great Grandfather Franz Giesbrecht was born in 1844, to Jacob and Katharina (Bergen) Giesbrecht in Russia. Great Grandmother Aganetha (nee Gerbrandt) was born in 1846, to Jacob and Katharina (nee Bergen) Gerbrandt.

They were married on November 6, 1866, and came to Canada in 1874. The last lap of their journey was on the boat, the *International* from Fargo, North Dakota to Fort Garry, Manitoba, where they landed in September of 1874, with five children.

They settled in the East Reserve and at the first opportunity took up a homestead in the Neuhoﬀnung (New Hope) District west of Altona where a sod house was their first shelter.

In 1897, they sold their homestead and moved to 15-4-2W, three miles east and four miles south of Kane. Here they continued to farm until they retired and had a small

house built near their children, Jacob and Aganetha Blatz. Franz died in 1912, at the age of 65 years. Aganetha spent her remaining years living with her daughter Margaretha until her death in 1920 at the age of 74 years.

The Giesbrechts had twelve children: Johann (1867-1953); Jacob (1869-1951); Aganetha Blatz (1871-1953); Anna Stoesz (1873-1896); Franz (1875-1959); Heinrich (1876-1963); Peter (1878-1897); Helena Kehler (1881-1974); Katherina Groening (1882-1950); Isaac (1884-1960); Margaretha Wiebe (1886-1960); Maria Unrau (1888-1967); Susanna Wall (1890-1977).

Eight of these children - Johann, Aganetha, Franz, Heinrich, Katharina, Isaak, Margaretha and Maria - settled in Township 4-2W. Starting on 4-4-2W, and zigzagging your way north you needed only drive nine miles to visit all of them, son Heinrich remained single and worked in the area. Susanna, the youngest, married John Wall and lived in Plum Coulee. Helena married John Kehler and lived north of Morden, and Jacob married and moved west to Killarney.

Presently four of the above families are represented in the Kane-Rose Farm area by grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren of Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht.

**JOHANN F. & ANGANETHA (Wiebe)  
GIESBRECHT**  
*by Peter G. Dueck*

Johann F. Giesbrecht was born in Ekataerinoslow, Heuboden, South Russia in 1867. Together with his parents and siblings he immigrated to Manitoba in 1874. The last lap of their journey was made on the *International*,



*Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht*



*The children of Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht.  
(l-r) Aganetha Blatz, John, Helena Kehler, Frank, Katherina Groening,  
Henry, Margaretha Wiebe, Isaac, Marie Unrau, Susanna Wall, 1941*

from Fargo, North Dakota to Fort Garry, Manitoba where they landed in September of 1874.

Anganetha was born to Cornelius and Helena Wiebe in 1871, at Friedrichsthal, South Russia. The Wiebe family immigrated to Canada in 1875, reaching Quebec in October, sailing aboard the *S.S. Sardinia* of the Allen Line. From here the family moved to Manitoba where they settled in the West Reserve.

The Frank Giesbrecht family settled in the East Reserve, but soon took up a homestead in the Neuhoftung (New Hope) district west of Altona. It was here on June 25, 1891, that Johann was married to Anganetha Wiebe and settled down in the Rome district, on the very place that Tim and Dorothy Stoesz, great grandson of Johann and Anganetha, now live and farm. It was here that their children were born and the older ones grew up.

In 1915, they moved to Rose Farm settling on half a section of land where they farmed for many years. They attended the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church, where Johann served as a Chorister (Vorsanger). In 1937, Johann donated three acres of land for the building site of the

Rose Farm Rudnerweide Church, to which they also changed their membership at that time. A note of interest is that the very first wedding to be performed in the new church was that of daughter Mary to Abram A. Lepp of Saskatoon in April of 1938.

Anganetha loved plants and flowers and the parlor windows were always ablaze with brightly blooming geraniums. She was also an avid gardener and together with her daughters spent many hours raising vegetables for the family. Some of the recollections that the grandchildren have of their grandfather is that he was always whittling something or sitting near his "corner" cupboard reading. On the occasion that an evening would be spent there, without fail, Grandfather would send Aunt Tina or Mary down to the dark cellar for a large bowl of apples and what a treat that was! What fun the grandchildren had playing in the hayloft when they weren't supposed to. The smell of fresh bread baking in the outside oven and seeing rows of smoked hams hanging in the machine shed are a few of the memories that come to mind.

After the death of Anganetha, Johann retired and moved to Altona in the early 1940's. His daughter Tina made the move with him and cared for him until his death in 1953.

The children of Johann F. and Anganetha were as follows: Anganetha Dueck (1892-1977); Cornelius W. (1893-1985); Helena (1895-1895); Helena (1896-1911); John W. (1898-1953); Agatha Dyck (1899-1993); Tina (1901-1995); Margaret Neufeld (1903-1993); Frank (1905-1908); Abram W. (1906-1974); Frank W. (1908-1990); Mary Lepp (1910-1998); Henry W. (1912-1997); Susan (1914-1914).

### ISAAC GIESBRECHT FAMILY

*by Hilda (Giesbrecht) Wall*



*Johann F. and Anganetha Giesbrecht.*



*Isaac and Susan Giesbrecht family. Back row: Susie, Jessie, Henry, Menno. Front row: Susan (Mom), Margaret, Leonard, Isaac (Dad).*

I believe Mom and Dad Giesbrecht moved to the Kane School District in 1920, the year the school was built, but not quite sure. Gertrude started school at Kane in the fall of 1921, and David in the fall of 1923. We lived on the quarter section where John Thiessens lived and now Brian Browns (SE 33-4-2W) live. My Mother (nee Wiebe) died in 1926, three months after giving birth to me. Dad remarried after three years to a widow - Susan (Harder) Hiebert with four children, David, Elma, Tina and John.

The second marriage brought Henry, Jessie, Susie, and Menno. In 1943 we moved to the Sarto District twelve miles south of Steinbach. Leonard James, and Marilyn Margaret were born there. Mom and Dad moved to Steinbach in 1957 (?). Dad passed away July 15, 1960. Mother married Rev. Jacob Bergen of Lowe Farm, who also had a large grown family. Father Bergen passed away after one and a half years of married life. Mom moved back to Steinbach and later she moved to the High-Rise Apartments in Winkler. From there she landed up in Salem Home and died in August of 1973.

**Memories from Hilda (Giesbrecht) Wall:** I started my school years and ended them at Kane Consolidated School. I was seven years old when I was in grade one. My teacher was Mabel Anderson and the second teacher was Evelyn Jack. I had Tina Warkentin, Mary Loewen, Jean Sinclair and George Siemens during the years. Grade 5 was a grade I had to repeat. I enjoyed going to school. I have many good memories. We had three Arthurs in one class: Arthur Toews, Arthur Groening and Arthur Boese. My girlfriends were Ida Thiessen, Lizzie Penner, Jean White, Anne Braun and Anne Penner. The last years were the best.

I had to stay at home and help on the farm when I was 16 years old. I still kept in touch with Anne Braun and Anne Penner until we moved away to Sarto in the year of 1943. I worked at home for a few years and then worked at different places in the homes. I worked at Bethel Hospital for two years and then married Cornie Wall in 1949. We have lived at different places starting in Winkler, then to Morris and then to Plum Coulee and back to Winkler, always a mechanic working on cars and tractors and combine motors. A number of years he had his own shop on the yard where he overhauled big motors and small lawn mower motors. I went to work outside the home in 1973. Our children were all in school. Our youngest son, a Down's Syndrome child had to be looked after by the older siblings. He went on the bus with them and was in the ARC school until he was integrated into high school TMH (Trainable Mental Handicap) Classes. He graduated in 1987, and since then worked at the Valley Rehab here in Winkler. We have since retired, and he lives at home. My husband died on December 30th, 1998. We have seven children; five girls and two boys. One son died in 1966, by drowning. Our oldest daughter still single, a nurse, has been in mission work at Open Door Ministries for ten years. The others are married and have a family of their own except for our youngest son who is at home with me.

Our Giesbrecht/Hiebert family is as follows: Gertrude married Corney Falk (two children). Dave Giesbrecht married Mary Funk (one son). Dora Giesbrecht married Pete Friesen (nine children). David Hiebert married June Parker (two boys). Elma Hiebert married Saba (two children). Frank Giesbrecht married Florence Shepherd. Tena Hiebert married Ed Peters (one son). Hilda Giesbrech married Cornie Wall (eight children). John Hiebert (whereabouts unknown). Henry Giesbrecht married Verna Palmer. Jessie Giesbrecht married Menno Thiessen. Susan Giesbrecht married Ian Carlyle (two children). Menno Giesbrecht married Justina Brandt (five children). Leonard Giesbrecht (single). Marilyn Giesbrecht (a missionary at Open Door Ministries for 26 years).

**Memories from Frank Giesbrecht:** I remember the spring day in 1930, when our parents permitted Elma and me to start school. Elma was my almost twin stepsister, being four days younger than I.

Off to school I went. The most vivid memory being, since I was very shy and could not yet speak English, and nobody had told me where the "outhouse" was, I ended up with wet pants. *That's my story and I'm sticking to it!*

Other beginners in 1930, as I remember, were my stepsister Elma Hiebert, Rosie Groening, Tina Bannman, Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen, Billy Funk.

The teachers in Room #I were Miss Sarah Sawatsky, Miss Gertrude Hooge and Mabel M. Anderson. In Room #II, from Grades 5 through 8, was Mr. G. G. Siemens. I have good cause to remember him, because he slapped me around enough. Not that I deserved it. While he was a strict disciplinarian with a temper to match, on thinking back, he was after all, a good teacher.

The spring exams in 1936, were really tough. Of the seven or eight in our class, only three passed on to the next grade. Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen and me, Frank Giesbrecht, with only 49%. The next grade must have been equally tough, since we ended up with Tillie Groening, Martha Cowie, Lora Hiebert. Somewhere along the way, Peter Thiessen skipped a grade and he ended up with us through grades seven and eight.

By the end of June in 1938, I was 15 years old and old enough to earn some money, and while school was over for me, I feel that for the next 61 years, I have kept on learning.

Some highlights during the school years were of course when the end of June came around and it was picnic time. It was during those years that Mr. John Toews, in his Diamond T truck or Mr. Jake Hiebert in his Ford truck, would take all the school kids who could go, to the Carman Field Day. What an experience that was! Our Dad would give us each a ten cent piece to spend. One memory is I had spent five cents, and still had five left. Unfortunately I dropped it on some steps, and saw it drop through a crack, where it was not to be reached. What a terrible loss. Another special memory is of me chasing Mary Thiessen all over the school yard, for what reason, I'll

never tell, until she ran into the girl's "outhouse" and of course she would not come out until recess was over. That's how it was!

Van drivers I remember, and probably not in this order: Mr. William Reimer, Mr. William Harder and Mr. William Hiebert. All Williams. Most vivid are the times during winter blizzards. One blizzard when we were on our way home, Mr. Hiebert walked in front of the horses and his son Cornelius took the reins. He took us to their place where we had supper, had a chimney fire, and when the storm had blown itself out or almost, he drove us home. It was late and my parents probably were already in bed. Another blizzard in the morning, we drove around a snowbank onto the track. We were just off the track when the snowplow came and hit us with a blast of snow. That was too close for comfort. That afternoon, the CNR sent out a crew and shovelled a trench through the bank on the road. Mr. Hiebert was also the only one I recall, who had a Model T Ford he used in summer to drive us to school. He even took the kids on his route to Winnipeg. What a time we had. First time in the city, and Holy Cow, the size of Eaton's Store!

### **PETER & KATIE (Bergman) GINTER**

*by Ann Schellenberg and Trudy Schellenberg*



*Peter and Katie Ginter.*

Pete and Katie Ginter were married in 1932. They lived in various places before they bought a farm and settled down near Kane on SE 1-5-3W. They farmed two quarters of land at Kane, and lived there for 21 years. In the earlier years, (1960's) they had a number of cattle, chickens, and a few hogs.

Pete enjoyed farming. He was always interested in trying new or different equipment and new ideas in farming. Perhaps that explains why he had a variety of differ-

ent models of tractors (such as John Deere, Massey, Ford, and Allis Challmers).

Pete was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone in the community or beyond. He helped his neighbours spray their crops, combine or cultivate. In 1974, when he retired from farming, he would work for farmers in the spring and fall. He had a heart for young farmers, and believed that they should have the opportunity to get started. His sheer desire was that his nephew, Earl Bergman, would be the next owner/operator of his farm. His dream was fulfilled when Earl purchased the land in 1978.

Pete and Katie were involved in most of the activities at Kane, such as helping out at the Community Centre, plays, and serving at food booths in the summer (baseball games or school picnics). Their love of people was demonstrated through the encouragement and laughter they gave to anyone they met. They loved to entertain guests and visited many people throughout the community.

Katie enjoyed raising chickens and selling eggs to neighbours. Someone had asked Katie if there was a profit in selling the eggs, and without any hesitation she clearly stated, that it was not for the money, but for the joy of having a short visit with people when they would come to pick up eggs.

The Ginters loved gardening, growing many vegetables and some fruit. Her diary shows that she also had strawberries in her garden. One day she picked nine pounds which she sold to the Kane Store.

In the summer of 1981, Pete and Katie moved to Plum Coulee where they spent their retirement. Due to the deterioration of Pete's health (a heart condition) he was briefly hospitalized and passed away in June, 1986.



*Peter Ginter family. Standing: Katie (Mom), Garth, Pete (Dad). Sitting: Darryl, Leona, Gordon.*

Pete and Katie had one daughter, Leona. She was married to Garth Hay of Brandon. They had two sons, Gordon and Darryl. A few years after the passing of Pete, Leona died as well in 1989. Shortly after Leona's death, Garth and the sons moved to British Columbia.



*The Peter Ginter farm at Kane.*

Katie was left alone, but she loved the Lord and read her Bible which helped her a lot. She also hosted a Bible study in her home for several years. Two of her sisters lived a short distance from her which helped her tremendously. Her church was just across the street. Dave and Eva took her and her sister (Elizabeth) out quite often. The support of her siblings nearby helped her overcome her loneliness.

Katie's activities became limited when Alzheimers invaded her life. She is presently a resident of Salem Personal Care Home. She has a happy disposition, but she is physically dependent on others. She is in a wheelchair and must be helped with her meals. Two of her sisters, Anne and Trudy, take turns in helping her with her suppers and entertaining her.

"Only one life, so soon 'tis past

Only what's done for Christ will last."

Katie's son-in-law, Garth Hay, presently has his home in Abbotsford, British Columbia, but has been serving as a teacher with SIM organization in Zambia, Africa, in the last number of years. Her grandson Gordon is married to Sheila, and grandson Darryl is married to Theresa.

**JOHN & HELENA GROENING**  
**ABRAM & HELENA (Loeppky) GROENING**  
**HENRY & MARIA (Penner) GROENING**  
*by Ed H. Groening*

For some years there were a large number of Groening students in the Kane Consolidated School. Where did they come from and what was their part in the history of Kane? All the Groenings in Manitoba originate from one extended family headed by John (born 1808) and Helena Groening.

The father (John) had died in the Ukraine, but the mother and ten married and unmarried children came to Manitoba in 1874. All settled on the East Reserve, but after some years, half of the family moved to the West Reserve. Two of them moved to the Kane area. Jacob Groening and his wife moved first to north of Lowe Farm and then to section 28-4-2W. The homestead was later inhabited by his grandson, Frank and wife Tina Groening. At present, Terry and Rickie Brown reside there. The other brother was Abram, who with his wife Helena, first settled in Gnadenthal, south of Plum Coulee. Abram and Helena Groening were my grandparents.

**Abram and Helena Groening:** Abram Groening (1851-1917) and Helena Loeppky (1853-1936) were married in the Ukraine in 1872. There is an interesting story about their courtship that somehow survived. Both Abram and Helena lived in a village in the Bergthal Colony. Abram, as a young man worked in the village flour mill. He would go past the Loeppky home on the way to work in the morning. Whether that was the natural way or whether it was a scenic alternative route, we don't know. At any rate, Helena, the Loeppky daughter, took an interest in the young man. One day as he passed by, she threw an apple to him, perhaps at the advice of her wise mother. Again we don't know for certain. Anyway, he caught the apple and returned it to the young Loeppky lady. So the story goes. We well know it is a great fruit, but it appears also to have a romantic ingredient.

In 1897, Abram and Helena Groening moved to the Kane area with their four children. They sold their 240 acres at Gnadenthal and bought section 21-4-2W. Their yard was on the southwest corner of that section. It was

about a mile north of Jacob Blatz's, Dora Hildebrand's grandparents. Many don't know about the Jacob Blatz's place, but by the time they read any amount in this book, they will know who Dora Hildebrand and her husband Henry are. Dora was the main drive behind this book you are reading.

When the family came to the Kane district, Henry was 22, Katherine was nineteen, Abram fourteen, and Helen three. Two children had died in infancy. The first child died on June 17, 1874, on the train journey from the Ukraine. The other one died while they lived in Gnadenthal. I will confine myself to write mainly of my grandparents and my parents, Henry and Marie Groening. I understand there are a number of others that are writing from other perspectives.

Grandfather, with help from the family, built a large house and other buildings on the corner of section 21. I understand horses, and not oxen, were used to break the land. Earlier he used oxen, as was the practice in those days. Tractors were not developed at that time, except for steam engines. My grandfather is reported to have made at least one shopping trip to Winnipeg with oxen and wagon.

In the next twenty years, they prospered. The land, bought for \$10.00 an acre, was new with plenty of fertility. Wheat is said to have yielded 40 bushels an acre, high for that time, and even quite acceptable today. The price of wheat was possibly better than it is today as well. There was no income tax to retard paying off debts. At the time of Grandfather's death from cancer in 1917, they had substantial savings in the Wisenamt; a sort of banking system organized by the Mennonite leaders. Unfortunately, because of lack of experience in banking, and maybe because of the financial troubles of the time, the system went bankrupt with many people losing their savings.

I remember my grandfather only vaguely, as I was just four years of age when he died in 1917. My grandmother I remember very well. In my estimation she was a remarkable woman. Even in her later years she was a bright and alert person. She might well have thrown that apple on her own initiative. I recall the twinkle in her eyes and the sly smile on her face. When I would question her about life, or faith, she would return my questions. "Why are you asking me those questions?" I never really blamed my grandfather for returning the apple. The wise mother, Mrs. Loepky, stayed at their place in later years, until her death in 1913. She is buried near her daughter's grave in the Rose Farm Cemetery.

My grandparents had an aptitude for gardening. It was said that their garden had been very beautiful. Later, my Uncle Abram owned the farm. Grandchildren, including me, would go and pick blueberries and other fruit in the old garden. We often went swimming in the pond. The meadow north of the yard was not broken at the time and was a great place for wild flowers. In early spring the crocuses would grow there among the small shrubs and cow trails in the wild grasses.

Ralph Groening, a great grandson, had sentimental interest in what remained of the old yard. He transplanted some of the cherry trees to his yard on NE 33-4-2W. Every year they are still loaded with cherries. At one time he made efforts to buy the farm, but it didn't materialize. Eventually the garden trees were uprooted and the water pond was filled in. Today there remains no sign of the old yard and garden. Ralph and Tim Groening, both great grandsons, own one of the quarters adjacent to the yard. Nearly all the section is still owned by relatives.

Abram and Helena Groening had four children: Henry (1875-1940), Katherine (1878-1958?), Abram (1883-1964) and Helen (1894-1977). Henry, my father, married Maria Penner (1883-1959) in 1903, in my grandparents' home, a large house built on the corner of section 21. All of the children were married at home by ministers of their own choice. Katherine, the oldest daughter, married Peter Funk. She was also great at gardening. The large Groening house was moved by steamer to the Funk's yard on the same section after 1917, when grandmother no longer lived on the farm. Later, that fine house went to ruin when the Funks no longer lived in it. Abram married Maria Martens (1887-1974) and lived on the second quarter to the north of the homestead. The four quarters of the two sections were divided along a mile, and each of the four children inherited a quarter. Helen married Cornelius Wiebe (1893-1999) in 1916. Helen sold her quarter to her brother Abram. The late Dr. C. W. Wiebe, who practiced medicine in the Winkler area, claimed the sale of her farm helped him through medical training.

**Henry and Maria (Penner) Groening:** My parents, Henry (1875-1940) and Maria Penner (1883-1959) were married in 1903, and made their home in the middle of section 21. My mother grew up at Hueboden, south of Plum Coulee, but at the time of her marriage she lived in Lowe Farm. They first built a house and barn as one unit, as was frequently done at the time. There was a large space at the north end for hay, the south end had the living quarters and in between was the barn for the horses and cows. Part of the upstairs was designed for living, and part was used to store oats. They lived there for ten years. When the new house was built, the old living quarters were remodeled and used as a barn. Part of the old building still shows signs of once being a part of a home.

In 1912-13, a new two-story house was built. Most of our family grew up in this house. A tremendous amount of energy must have been expended in its construction. The heavy basement walls were trough mixed and poured. The lumber, much of it cedar, was shipped from British Columbia. The walls were thick, and double on the outside with rubber roofing between to seal it. All the nail holes were puttied and painted. A water heating system was installed with a coal-burning furnace in the basement. A small sawing machine run by a 1½ horse power engine was used for cutting boards, but the trimming boards were done with hand made planes. The house is now nearly



*Henry and Maria Groening.*



*Henry Groening residence in middle of section 21-4-2W, built in 1912.*

ninety years old and still quite solid. We think that with care it could stand another ninety years. Leroy, a great grandson who currently lives in the house, may not think so.

Until about the mid twenties, our parents' farming was very promising. They bought their first tractor, a Fordson. My father had a threshing outfit with his brother Abram for some years. Dad bought the thresher and Uncle Abram had a Mogol one cylinder International tractor. My

Dad was good at machining and they constructed a tractor plow from two horse plows. Abram's sons Walter and Edward would work the levers to lift and lower the plow bottoms. How much plowing was done with this plow, I can't say, but it was the beginning of the modern age. My uncle claimed he was born a generation too soon. I think he was.

My Dad, Henry, had only one brother, Abram. Dad and Uncle Abram did many things together. Uncle Abram was a very interesting man and highly favoured by most of us. Both of our families were quite large, so there were a lot of cousins. Randall was a constant friend and some of the girls were real friends, too. Uncle Abram was bold and daring and a profound extrovert. He was fond of horses, cars and tractors and afraid of nothing, not even debt. He came to our place on horseback ever so often to play checkers with Dad, and to tell stories of his exploits.

After the mid twenties there were some difficult times with the grasshopper years, sow thistle and the depression. Even worse, father's health began to fail. By this time, the members of the family were old enough to do the farming. At the time of father's passing in 1940, at the age of 64, he had clear title to five quarters of land. This was considered a fairly large acreage at the time. Compared with the aggressive American farmers around Kane today, it is quite modest.

Our family consisted of seven brothers and five sisters: one sister, Hilda, died at nine years of age; Abe died in 1991; Mary died in 1999; Dora lives in British Columbia; Theodore in Winnipeg; Eddie in Winkler; Diedrich in Winkler; Helen in Winnipeg; George in British Columbia; Clara in British Columbia; Ervin in Winkler and Norman in Winkler.

Our parents were morally conscientious. The household laws, as Wordsworth would say, were pure and wholesome. We were made well aware of what was right and acceptable behaviour. Our Groening forefathers apparently were late comers into the Mennonite community and consequently may not have been integrated into the church life as most other Mennonite families. I personally recall that attending church was not a regular practice. Father was well acquainted with the Bible, for it had been a required subject in school. Sometimes he read it to us, instead of going to church. Mother was very devout and allowed no lighthearted attitude to religious songs. There was another reason for their estrangement with the church. Both my father and Uncle Abram had mustaches; the church did not approve and admonished them for it.

Our fore-parents in later years regretted that life was so short. We do or may do the same. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, who according to Genesis lived many years, may not have deplored the shortness of life, although they may have regretted the choices they made.

**ABRAHAM H. & ELIZABETH (Paetkau) GROENING**  
**ELMER & AGATHA (Dueck) GROENING**  
*by Agatha (Dueck) Groening*



*Abram and Elizabeth Groening family, 1944. Back row: Albert, Elmer, Arnold. Center row: Burton, Elizabeth (Mom), Edwin, Abram (Dad), Linda. Front: Margaret.*



*Abram and Elizabeth Groening home at 21-4-2W. Later bought by son Elmer Groening, then by grandson Leroy Groening.*

Elmer Groening was born on April 16, 1928, in the Rose Farm School District, NE 16-4-2W. He was the first child of Abram H. and Elizabeth (Paetkau) Groening.

The family farmed one half mile north of the Rose Farm Church which they attended. The family lived in a house-barn combination. Elmer's four brothers and two sisters were all born during the time they lived there. They were Arnold, Albert, Edwin, Burton, Linda and Margaret.

They attended the Rose Farm Public School, and also Sunday School which for many years was in the school. The children often went to school with horse and buggy. Elmer took his grade nine by correspondence in school.

In 1948, Elmer's grandmother, Mrs. Henry A. Groening and daughter Mary and son Detray, moved to Lowe Farm. Elmer's parents and family then moved to his grandmother's farm on NW 21-4-2W. They were happy for the move as they had a big house to live in.

The boys helped with the farm work. In the spring of 1952, Elmer bought a Model A Ford car. He worked for his Uncle, the Theodore Groenings, who lived three miles southwest of Lowe Farm.

On September 21, 1952, Elmer and I (Agatha Dueck, daughter of Jacob P. and Aganetha Dueck of Rose Farm) got married. I also attended the Rose Farm School and Sunday School. We were married at the Rose Farm Church which we attended. We then moved to the Theodore Groening farm where Elmer did the farm work. The Theodore Groenings moved to Winnipeg that fall.

A few years later Elmer took some high school subjects at home, studying in his spare time during two winters, and wrote his June exams at Kane School.

In September 1956, we moved to Winnipeg, and Elmer attended Winnipeg Normal School in preparation to become a teacher. In 1957, we moved up north to the Mennville School about ten miles north of Riverton, where Elmer was a teacher for eight years. Elmer also taught Sunday School at Riverton.

In 1965, we moved to the Kissman School, four miles west of Moosehorn, Manitoba, where Elmer taught for two years. In July 1967, we moved to Elmer's parent's farm on NW 21-4-2W. His parents, the Abram H. Groenings, moved to Gretna that fall.

We had a mixed farm operation; some cattle, pigs, and grain farming. In our first year of farming in 1968, we had lots of rain during harvest and we finished our combining on November 26. Elmer hired a combine with rice tires.

Elmer was a quiet man and enjoyed working in his shop fixing machinery, etc. He grew some sunflowers those years, and he and his Dad made a sunflower attachment for the combine. In spring he cleaned grain for seed for his own use, and some to sell. When harvest came Elmer hauled some grain to one of the Kane elevators.



*Elmer and Agatha Groening family, 1973. Back row: Melvin, Janice, Harold. Middle row: Agatha (Mom), Donald, Elmer (Dad). Front row: Marilyn and Leroy.*

Harold, Melvin, Janice and Donald all attended the Kane School. Howard Thiessen, Norman Blatz and Ben Penner were some of the school van drivers. The children were picked up on the yard, or at the Thiessen corner.

Some of the local ladies taught 4-H in school where Janice learned to sew and crochet. After the Kane School closed, the children attended the Lowe Farm School and graduated in Morris. After the Rose Farm Church closed in 1975, we joined the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm. Elmer was involved in teaching Sunday School and was the secretary of the Missions and Sunday School departments. I was part of the ladies group, etc.

Harold was born June 13, 1954. After High School, he worked and attended Winnipeg Bible College and graduated there. He married Lillian Friesen of Altona area on June 14, 1980. After working in Calgary a few years, they took linguistic training in Grand Forks and Dallas. They have been in the Asia area for twelve years, doing Bible translation and promoting literacy, producing a dictionary and other booklets for the people to read in their own language. They have three sons: Bryce (1982), Mark (1986), and Evan (1990).

Melvin was born May 11, 1956. After high school, he took one semester at Winnipeg Bible College. Melvin married Elva Groening, daughter of Frank and Tina Groening in 1976. Melvin worked at the Macleod's Store from 1977-1980 and Elva worked at Stedman's in Morden.

In 1981, they moved to Melita, Manitoba, and were owners of the Macleods Store for eleven years. They started out with mostly grain farming at Kane. Presently they have some cattle and doing quite a bit of haying. For a few years they worked at True Value in Winkler, but now Melvin is working for Mordyck Auctions, and Elva works part time at Stedmans in Morden. They have three sons, Blair (1979) is attending Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, Brock (1983) is at Morris Collegiate, and Mitchell (1987) at Lowe Farm School.



*Mel and Elva Groening with (l-r) Mitchell, Blair and Brock live on NW 28-4-2W.*

Janice was born February 11, 1959. She graduated from Winnipeg Bible College in 1980. She married Gorden McGillivray on October 24, 1981. They worked at a Bible Camp at Beauval, Saskatchewan for four and a half years. Since 1989, they have been farming west of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, and are involved in a country church. They have six daughters. Erin and Kelsi (twins) were born in 1984, Shannon in 1987, Misty in 1989, Emily in 1995 and Kaylee in 1997.

Donald was born May 26, 1965. After graduating, he managed the farm when his Dad was sick. He played ball in the Kane team for several summers. He attended Winnipeg Bible College one year. He married Lillian Redekopp on October 28, 1989. She is a registered nurse and works half time in Winkler Hospital. They bought Donald's grandparents (Jacob P. Dueck) former farm in 1995. Don and Lillian are members of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm. He has been Sunday School Superintendent and now is a deacon. They have two children; Rylan was born in 1995, and Jillana in 1997.

Marilyn was born March 23, 1970. After graduating in Morris, she attended Winnipeg Bible College for two years. She has been working at Warehouse One Jeans Store in Winkler for nine years. She has taught Sunday School and also plays the piano. She is returning to Providence College for further studies.



*Leroy Groening, present owner of the home on 21-4-2W, which he bought in 1996.*

Leroy was born June 25, 1971. He is farming where he grew up. A number of years ago he took an electronics course. He enjoys manufacturing and inventing things. He also plays the guitar. The farm yard and some land he bought in 1996 (21-4-2W), was first bought by Leroy's great, great, grandfather Abram Groening for \$8.00 an acre in 1897.

We were always busy on the farm and had a big garden, but some summers we took time for some travelling to Banff, Alberta; Kelowna, British Columbia; Clear Lake and Black Hills, etc.

In 1983, Elmer got sick with a brain tumor. He had surgery and radiation and later chemotherapy treatments. He had six more surgeries from 1986-1988. He became blind in 1989. During his time of illness he had much time to meditate on Bible truths he learned through the years. He passed away May 27, 1989 at Altona Hospital. I stayed on the farm until October 1998 when I moved to Winkler.

**Janice remembers:** I started attending Kane School in 1967, when we bought Grandpa Groening's farm.

There was feverish excitement over the Christmas concert. Since I so enjoyed drama, I was always desperately wanting a main part. In Grade 4, Miss Penner created angel wings out of wire, tissue paper and garlands. I was thrilled to be the "head" angel who got to sing a solo. Miss Schellenberg gave all the grade 3 girls gold bracelets with our names engraved in them. Another highlight was getting to wear our new Christmas dresses. Ever since the Fall and Winter catalogue had come out, we'd been discussing pattern ideas. It was unusual for anyone to have a store bought dress. Since mini-skirts were all the rage, daughters were in tears at hemming time because the skirt seemed too long, and Moms were equally upset because

the length was too short!

Fortrel was coming in and pantsuits with flared legs were the latest thing. So were go-go boots, hot pants, and sleeveless knit shell tops, with woolly hair ribbons to complete the look.

At recess, the strip of bush surrounding the school grounds provided more entertainment than the fanciest of playground equipment. Of course, the race to get to the swings first was always on. If you were successful, you'd have the opportunity to practise your elaborate circus routines. But if someone beat you to it, there were always stick forts to work on, and other forts to feud with! Skipping was always popular in spring. Then came baseball season, which wasn't much fun for an easy-outer like me, who was usually one of the last to be chosen. On bad weather days we'd play Ping-Pong or hide-and-seek in the basement. There were ideal hiding places under the stairs where the chairs were stored. Sometimes we'd coax the teachers into letting us watch Dr. Kildaire on television.

If we had a note, we could go to the store. There mojos were two for 1¢, pixie stix were 2¢, and chips, pop, chocolate bars, and gum were all 10¢ apiece. A quarter would go a long way... At today's prices you'd need a toonie. The booth at the June school picnic was a big attraction, too.

Sometimes we would bike to the school picnic so we could enter the slow bicycle race. The person to cross the finish line *LAST* was the winner! There were parent events too. The kids were always impressed when Hank Hildebrand did his high jumping dive. There was only a sand pit - no mats - to cushion the landing. On my last picnic day at Kane School I biked home to find my parents gone. My brother Leroy had decided to arrive early!

It was really exciting when a 4-H sewing club started up. We called ourselves the "Kane Nimbofingers". It must have been hectic for the leaders, especially at Stampede time when we would march in the parade and enter exhibits. We wore matching Manitoba tartan skirts and ties with white blouses. That same day, we got to collect any prizes for school entries. First prize for an art entry was 75¢, but the penmanship entries offered a \$3.00 first prize. Imagine my dismay when I collected a penmanship prize, only to lose it on the bus ride home.

The saddest day was when we learned of Mr. Kroeker and his wife's accidental drowning. They had been scouting out potential activities for the Grade 7 and 8's class trip, when their canoe overturned in a swift river. We all wandered around in shock, finding it difficult to believe that our teacher wasn't coming back.

My school bus drivers were Howard Thiessen and Norman Blatz. Mr. Blatz had built a camperized-type box on the back of his half-ton truck, with two bench seats in it. On my 12th birthday, his wife came out to meet the bus, asking him to get someone to finish his route. It was time to get to the hospital! That was when Jeff entered the world.

History repeats itself. Now my kids attend a rural school built in the same era - those same frosted glass windows, doors and floor tiles. They too build forts in the bush, and race to get to the swings first.....

## THEODORE GROENING

*by Theodore Groening*



*Theodore and Katherine Groening with sons  
Gerald (l) and Robert, 1965.*

I grew up on the farm two and a half miles south, and two and a half miles east of Kane, Manitoba (NW 21-4-2W).

My association with Kane was mainly with the school. It was also our main grain delivery point in those days. The garage, though not large, was owned by a man named John Toews. He was well-known, and we appreciated him both as a friend, and his knowledge in motor mechanics.

An early recollection was when I brought in a load of grain. The high school teacher had moved to Kane. He asked me to use my team and wagon to haul his furniture from the CNR station to his home. I bruised my finger and had to have it bandaged while I was assisting him. It was quite dark before I got home and I had my mother worried. I could have been about twelve years of age. Also, I remember that my father sometimes shipped our grain directly into the rail boxcar at the rail platform. This was done by scoop and shovel. Talk about hard work!

The great day came when Kane Consolidated School opened and we began attending there in the spring of 1921, after our local school had closed. We were picked up by a two horse drawn van that travelled on dirt roads.

This big change, though difficult at first, turned out quite well in the long run. We had better education offered to us, though some of us earlier ones were unable to take advantage of it. However, the early years were rather turbulent. Road conditions were not prepared for such a demand. During rainy season or spring time the dirt roads became almost impassable for the horse drawn vans to make the five miles back and forth to school. In time, roads were gravelled giving way to motor vehicles.

There was no electricity at that time. The large single pane windows were not tightly fitted. No double or triple glass windows or wall insulation were available those days. They were drafty and noisy during stormy days. At times, the teacher would plug folded paper to silence them. It

was cold. The big basement cord wood furnace could not produce enough heat. This was corrected later on.

Perhaps the biggest problem was when they put two communities together that were quite different in many ways. The way it was done caused some unhappy feelings. This was reflected in the boys relationship with one another. One time two guys wanted one ball on their own terms. This resulted in a near fatal hit, fortunately it was only a small stone that was thrown. Neither of the boys made use of the ball that day.

On another occasion, I rather teasingly prevented the other guy from coming out through a basement window at school on Friday during the last recess. This was not forgotten. On Monday he had his two buddies with him. They ganged up on me in the hall, against the water fountain between the two classrooms. They kept nagging. Finally - win or lose, it was enough. I suddenly jumped upon them. They were taken by surprise. They just ran to get out of my way.

Well, enough about the unpleasant things. We had many good times, both in football and baseball, and also in the classroom. We had some good teachers and inspectors that on two occasions helped me with an Algebra problem. I was very timid at that time, and I would not ask for help. I lost some of that shyness since then. In grade nine we were to make a speech. I worked hard at it, but when I got up I could hardly say a word. Fortunately there was a knock at the door. The teacher was kept long enough, so I sat down. Later in Bible School it was not as scary.

I remember a party at the Walsh's home. He was the grain buyer for the Paterson elevator. They were both so friendly to us young people.

I believe the most appreciated van driver was Jim Cowie. Though he was a horse lover, he purchased a new 18-28 Cockshutt tractor. His joy was short lived. He tragically died due to an accident. It seems to me that it was the first day he took his prized tractor to work. He could have been in his forties. Most of us remember Shakespeare's drama *All is Well That Ends Well*. How true. May this be so in our own lives when we come to our life's end on this earth.

Since those days, three score years plus have rolled by. I attended the Winnipeg Bible Institute (now Providence College) for three years. It was here that I got acquainted with a wonderful lady, Katherine Drieger, later to be my wife in 1942.

I took up farming in the Kane district. We adopted two boys; Gerald and Robert. Gerald did quite well in accounting until he was disabled due to diabetes. He now lives in Calgary and has one daughter. Robert lives in Winnipeg. He has had various jobs, but on his own majored in motor mechanics. He has one son and two daughters all living in Manitoba. He has one grandson, Ryan, aged nine who has his own computer. His lovely daughter, Jennifer is five years old.

We retired from farming in 1974, moved to Winnipeg, and enjoyed our retirement. We majored in visiting hos-

pitals and personal care homes. My wife passed away after fifty-one years of enjoyable life together. Since then, I married her best friend, Margaret (Penner) Toews. We have enjoyed nearly five years of companionship. We are in reasonable good health, living in our own home in Winnipeg.



*The Theodore Groening family, 1982. Back row: Ron, Kathy, Robert, Jane, Gerald, Vivian. Front row: Pearl, Katherine (Mom), Theodore (Dad), Stacy.*

### **ED H. & MARGARET (Heinrichs) GROENING** *by Roger Groening*



*Ed H. Groening family, 1995. Standing (l-r): Keith Shackelford, Ralph, Charles, Paul, Tim and Roger Groening. Sitting: Anita and Krista Shackelford, Ed and Margaret Groening, Cberi, Teresa, Ruth. Front row: Michael, Allison, Jillian, Laura, Tom and Amy Groening.*

My parents, Ed and Margaret Groening were married on June 17, 1944, in the Rose Farm Church. It was the rainy season, and the wet surroundings reflected the weather of the past days, although on this particular special Saturday, there was no rain.

Ed and Margaret made their home on section 33-4-2W. The entire section was one huge wheat field, with no buildings or trees to create a sense of home. My father proceeded to build a house, a barn, and some granaries, and gradually over the next few years, a home/farmyard was created. These first years were difficult for both of my parents as they worked hard to create a home and a farming business that could support them and a family.

Ed and Margaret built the farm into a stable operation that provided safety, security and a stimulating home for themselves, and six children. My parents remained active on the farm until 1981. They moved to Winkler; first to a home on Willow drive, and more recently in Crocus Village condos. They remain active in the church, music, choir, and friendship/family social activity. Upon leaving the farm in 1981, my brothers Ralph and Tim took over responsibility for day to day operations, although for many years my father continued to take an active role providing guidance and work assistance. Ralph and Tim continue to operate the family farm, and have expanded operations to meet the changing demands of this challenging business.

My father served for 18 years as a school board member in Kane and as Sunday School Superintendent for the Kane Bergthaler Church for much of the life of that church. Despite a busy schedule of evening meetings, and church preparations, we regularly played baseball together at the end of summer or fall days. Dad also took us to major league baseball games in Minneapolis and Kansas City, and minor league games in Winnipeg, and one memorable game in Pierre, South Dakota. Mom joined us for some of these trips.

Dad also played a daily game of Scrabble with mother. My parents continue this practice to this day. This tends to be a quick, intense game, and not advised for a casual player unconcerned about time, or not fully grasping the range of vocabulary options. Another key activity for Dad

is his interest in astronomy, violin playing, woodworking, inventive projects, writing stories and reading books. He continues to be active in these activities.

My mother worked hard on the farm. Meal preparations, gardening, and maintaining a household of five boys and a girl was not a job for the weak of heart. Mother did her best to rally the children to contribute in some way to the tasks of cleaning, and getting up in the morning without having the van driver lose interest in waiting in our front yard. Mom was very active in church and community affairs, particularly the church women's group, Sunday School teaching, choir, and writing a column on community events for a number of southern Manitoba newspapers.

Mom has maintained a diary for many years. This diary is a great collection of descriptive historical detail of everyday family and community events. This diary is augmented by a special diary devoted strictly to World Series related events over the years. It has been invaluable as a reference for family history, much of which mother has already written. She continued to write a community events column after retiring to Winkler. Mom continues to be active in the church choir, adult Bible Study, writing, and maintaining a social schedule with friends and family.

One of the outstanding memories of growing up on the farm was the Groening baseball field. This field, formerly used for crops, was converted on suggestion, into a sports field, including a backstop, pitchers mound, and lime foul ball lines. The field was to become a center of many sports and other family activity over the years. It was a common event to end a summer workday with a rigorous period of baseball on the farm ball field. Dad's ability to hit long fly balls to his kids was maintained well into his 80's. These evening events, with Dad hitting balls, and Mom observing with interest from a lawn chair in the front yard, provided appropriate closure to many summer farm days.

Sports and family holidays were quite central to much of our experience as children, and reflect our parents personal interests and desire to grow in knowledge and experience. While the farm was a serious commitment, its role was in part to allow the opportunity for other experience. Education, travel, social contact, sport, and community and church involvement all formed an important part of our life together as a family.

Recreational activity in the family included baseball trips, trips to the Black Hills, the Rockies, Ontario, and day trips into Winnipeg to watch the Goldeyes, go to the Zoo and Assiniboine Park, and of course, get lost at Eaton's. We built a hockey rink on the yard some years, largely on Ralph's initiative and direction. We also spent many hours playing basketball and floor hockey in the barn loft "gymnasium", with regulation height basketball hoop and backboard, and playing football or baseball on the ball field. Table games of Monopoly, Stock Ticker, and Clue were popular in the winter, and Mom had a puzzle project going most of the time.

One of the favorite family holiday locations was the Black Hills. We went to the Black Hills eight times, often including the South Dakota Badlands. These trips were marked by dangerous needlepoint scenic drives that Dad still considers to have been unsafe. We camped with two 9x9 tents, cooked on a small propane stove, and spent the days going on hikes, seeing gold mines, seeing the Passion Play, and having memorable relationships with area rattlesnakes. Mostly we had good weather on these trips, with the exception of one excursion to Yellowstone Park. This trip was memorable primarily for the Mt. Washburn hike, which is the highest peak in the park, and two weeks of rain which threatened to make the Washburn peak the only safe place to camp.

In 1964, we attended our first game at Metropolitan Stadium in Minneapolis. The Minnesota Twins won the game with a dramatic ninth inning homer by the Twins' slugger Harmon Killebrew. Dad was quite a Killebrew and Twins fan, and upon leaving the stadium that night, felt convinced that it had been a good game. He noticed that we were quite subdued however, and we informed Dad that the Yankees defeat required a moment of sadness. Attending major league baseball became a regular summer tradition for a number of our family members, and most of us were able to get over the momentary sadness/happiness of any particular game outcome.

Ralph was born on May 23, 1946. He graduated from the Agriculture Diploma program at the University of Manitoba and continues to operate the family farm in partnership with his younger brother, Tim. Ralph is presently serving his second term on council with the Morris Municipality, and also acts as assistant reeve. He is very involved in community political and social affairs, following in that regard in the footsteps of our father. Ralph was very influential promoting the role of sport in family activity. He introduced the idea of attending major league baseball. Ralph has three children; Allison, Jillian, and Michael.

Anita was born on July 27, 1948. Anita is the only girl in the family, and together with mother, deserves special acknowledgment for pain and suffering. Anita attended one year at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, and then an Education degree at the University of Manitoba. Anita works as a teacher with students with mental health issues. Anita is married to Keith Shackleford, who works with Human Resource Development Canada in Edmonton. They have a daughter Krista, who is completing grade 12 this year.

Roger was born on May 2, 1951. Roger attended Canadian Mennonite Bible College for one year, and completed an Arts degree at the University of Manitoba. Roger later obtained a Masters degree in Educational Psychology. He is the director of Education and Employment Preparation services, a private vocational training school in Winnipeg. He married Ruth Loeppky on September 31, 1980. Ruth works with the Department of Family Services. Ruth and Roger live in Winnipeg, and have three chil-



*Ralph Groening with children Allison, Michael and Jillian.*

dren; Laura, Thomas, and Amy.

Tim was born on April 23, 1955. He attended Canadian Mennonite Bible College, and later the University of Manitoba, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts, and the Agriculture Diploma program. Tim taught at the university for some years in the Agriculture Diploma program, and has farmed with Ralph since 1978. Tim has also taken training in guitar building, and is active in the off season in this area. Tim is also an active musician, and together with his wife Teresa Rempel, and a friend, form a musical group called *Caragana*. They live in La Salle. Teresa is a florist with Canada Safeway.

Charles was born on May 2, 1956. He attended Canadian Mennonite Bible College, receiving a degree in theology, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba. Charles has also been involved in studies in the Masters of Social Work program. Charles is a counselor/therapist with New Directions agency in Winnipeg. Charles married Cheri Froese. Cheri has been active as both a social worker and teacher for special needs adults at the University of Winnipeg and Education and Employment Preparation Services.

Paul was born on May 14, 1963.. He has been active as a musician for many years. He continues to play guitar, however, he has begun to devote more time to his computer programming duties with the Angus Reid Company.

Paul is a very creative and innovative thinker, dresser, and has displayed his considerable artistic talents on the posters and other related material promoting his band.

### **NORMAN & ANNE (Heinrichs) GROENING** *by Norman Groening*



*Norman and Anne Groening.*

I was the youngest in the Henry and Maria (Penner) Groening family. My grand-parents Abram Groenings bought section 21-4-2W in 1897 and moved from Gnadenthal to make their home in the southwest corner of section 21. My parents started the farmyard in the middle of section 21 shortly after they were married in 1903.

The Consolidated School District of Kane made possible a larger school. It also meant farther to travel to school. We lived five miles from Kane which meant usually six miles plus. That was a long ride on the van for me when I struggled with motion sickness. Vans were pulled with horses. We had good van drivers. It was a hard job during long rainy spells. Mr. Jim Cowie's accidental death in 1936 was a very sad loss for all of us. He was our route van driver.

The brick school, built in 1920, was a classic in my opinion; the large classrooms connecting with a science room and a large basement with a furnace and even toilets. The front steps were wide and attractive and a nice place to get fresh air and sun. We were proud of our school and had very good learning achievements.

To promote better health during several winter months all the students were served a hot chocolate drink for lunch. We took turns getting the kettles of hot drink (from the teacherage) that Mrs. Siemens had prepared. We all appreciated that and it was fun doing the errand of getting the drink.

We always had good teachers and we were patriotic for Kane School. Some of the highlights in the sometimes boredom routine were some special practical sessions - woodworking on Friday afternoons and a series of soldering lessons taught to us by John Toews in his garage. My brother Detray made a number of large wooden propel-

lers to fit generators. A special event was going to Winnipeg to see the King and Queen who were touring Canada in 1939. John Toews took us to Winnipeg in his two ton truck. The box was covered with a tarp. Not much for comfort, but it sure was a special experience.

Anne (Heinrichs) and I were married in 1947, and the following year we started our farmyard and home on section 28 NW. There was nothing on the site at that time so it was a tough start. Ervin and Agatha and we farmed together and each built the small homes we lived in for many years. Ervin and Agatha moved to Saskatchewan in the early 1960's to do mission church work and after a few years we ended the partnership. As we were able, we added buildings and shelter belt, etc.

Kane was our natural agriculture center. It was not large, but we were enthusiastic about Kane. We had excellent grain buyers or elevator agents as we called them. For a long while we had several stores, fuel deliveries and a garage. To us John Toews was the master mechanic in southern Manitoba. He could fix most anything. It would not have been the same without this remarkable man. We were fortunate to have the John Deere service in our small town. Walter Penner was the N. M. Paterson agent when I started farming and George Born was agent in UGG (then Canadian Consolidated). The store was a natural meeting place for the farmers in the area.

Pete Harder made a tremendous contribution to the Kane community. His reliability and trust reassured us in our business. He was willing to go beyond the usual service and in his quiet, yet optimistic way, he somehow gave encouragement that things would work out even in difficult times.

Grain buyers, Irvin Wiebe (N. M. Paterson) George Born (UGG) and Jim Hildebrand (UGG) made a very encouraging contribution to our Kane farming community.

A highlight each year was the John Deere Day movie presentation. John Toews and Peter Harder would clear the garage for the event. I purchased my first John Deere tractor 4020, influenced by the movie advertisement. Our



*The Norman and Anne Groening farm, 1984.*



*Norman and Anne's daughters  
(l-r): Joyce, Karen, Wendi, Leta, Sheryl.*

girls especially remember the doughnuts Mr. Toews and later Mr. Harder served so generously after the film. Other students too were fortunate to share the refreshments and go home with their dads. A few farm ladies might attend, but very few. The fire that destroyed the large garage was a big loss for all of us.

Anne and I retired from the farm in 1991. We moved to Winkler where we reside now. We very much miss the Kane social events and our baseball games. Melvin and Elva Groening took on the farm after our move.

We have five daughters; Joyce, Leta, Karen, Sheryl and Wendi.

Joyce was born in 1949, graduated from Lowe Farm High School, attended and graduated at Briercrest Bible College, studied in Brandon University, taught in Thompson for ten years, and taught in Black Forest Academy, Germany for five years. Joyce married Bill Siemens in 1993. They reside in Morris and Joyce continues teaching in Lowe Farm.

Leta was born in 1953, graduated from Morris High School, and attended Briercrest College for two years. She married Jerry Maksymyk in 1973. They live in Portage la

Prairie where Leta is presently secretary/receptionist in the Portage Alliance Church.

Karen was born in 1957, graduated from Morris High School, studied and graduated at Berean Bible College in Calgary. She married Robert (Bob) Toews in 1978. They live near Altona where she is employed at the Altona Credit Union as well as taking care of their family.

Sheryl was born in 1961, graduated from Morris High School, attended and graduated at Berean College. She married Doug Braaten in 1986. They serve with Gospel for Asia in the Canadian office in Hamilton.

Wendi was born in 1965. She got to attend Kane School for several years. Wendi studied at Berean College for one year. She married Phil Tolley from Washington in 1986. They now reside near Denver, Colorado.

## **JACOB J. & KATHARINA (Giesbrecht) GROENING**

*by Gladys (Groening) Hiebert*

Jacob J. Groening, with his new wife Katharina (Giesbrecht), (our grandparents) moved to Kane in 1903. He left his parents' home, south of Horndean, and started to farm two quarters, living on SW 28-4-2W. To them were born eleven children:

Jacob, 1904 - married Helen Friesen. He lived most of his adult life in British Columbia and died there in 1981.

Katherine, 1906 - married Cornelius Gerbrandt. They moved to British Columbia where she died in 1984.

Nettie, 1907 - married Abe Hoeppner. They lived in Lowe Farm for some years and then moved to Sudbury, Ontario where she died in 1986.

Frank, 1909 - married Tina Heinrichs. They lived in the Kane district until their retirement in 1974, when they moved to Winkler. Frank died in 1995.



*The Groening brothers: Ben, Jake, Dave, Frank.*

Helen, 1910 - married Dan Heinrichs. They lived north of Lowe Farm for some years, then moved to Holmfield, Manitoba and now Helen is living in Winnipeg.

Mary, 1912 - married Abe Born. They lived in Kane for some time and then moved to British Columbia where Mary still lives.

Margaret, 1913 - married John Brignall. After their marriage, they moved to Dryden, Ontario, where she is still living.

Andrew, 1915 - died in 1916.

Bernard, 1917 - married Elizabeth Thiessen. They lived in the Kane district for sometime, moved to numerous places in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and presently live in Winkler.

Herman, 1919 - married Elsie Loewen. They moved to British Columbia, where they still live.

David, 1921 - married Helen Dyck. They lived in the Kane district for some years and then moved to farm near Killarney. He and his second wife, Mary, retired in Killarney, where they presently live.

Jacob's parents, Jacob and Aganetha, retired and moved from their farm south of Horndean, into a house on Jacob and Katharina's yard. Our father, Frank Groening told us the story of how, as a young child of six, he found his grandparents dead in their beds. They died of carbon monoxide poisoning in January of 1916.

In 1918, Jacob and his family moved into a new house built on the yard. The old house was moved a mile north, where John Thiessens later lived. The new house was the two and a half story house that still stands on the yard. It was built by Mr. Siervogel of Plum Coulee.

Jacob Groening farmed this land until his retirement in the fall of 1945. He then moved into a small house on the same yard, where Katharina died in January 1950. After some years of living alone, he moved to the Salem Home in Winkler. Grandfather really disliked living there and later moved in with son, Frank and Tina, who were living on the home place. Here he died in January 1960, at the age of 81.

## **FRANK G. & TINA (Heinrichs) GROENING** *by Gladys (Groening) Hiebert*

Frank started farming on his own in 1942 at SW 19-4-2W, 2¾ miles south of Kane. Here he rented two quarters of land from Mr. Jones, an American land owner. He got permission to start a yard providing he did not dig any basements. He had a house built onto this land and here he "batched" until his marriage to Tina Heinrichs in August of 1944. A little more than a year later, they moved their house onto Frank's parents' yard at SW 28-4-2W. They traded houses with his parents - Frank and Tina, with their baby daughter, moved into the big house, and Jacob and Katharina, with daughter, Margaret, into the small house. Tina tells the story of six month old June sleeping in the house while it was being moved. Shortly afterward, Frank bought one quarter of the Jones farm, along with one



*The Frank Groening family, 1964.  
Back row: Phyllis, June, Gladys, Sandra.  
Front row: Tina (Mom), Elva, Lloyd, Frank (Dad).*



*Frank and Tina Groening's first home on SW 19-4-2W.*



*50th Anniversary, 1994, of a Triple (Heinrichs sisters) Wedding. Back row: George and Nettie Groening, Susan and Henry Gerbrandt. Front row: Frank and Tina Groening.*

quarter of his father's land.

Six children were born to Frank and Tina: June - June 1945; Phyllis - October 1947; Gladys - December 1949; Sandra - September 1952; Elva - November 1955 and Lloyd - January 1959.

Frank and Tina retired in 1974, and sold the land to Terry Brown. After the auction sale, they moved to Winkler where Frank died in March of 1995. Tina continues to live at the Lions Court in Winkler.

June married Peter Voth (with two children) in April, 1978. It was Peter's grandfather, also a Peter Voth, who taught at Rose Farm at the time when the school was first registered with the government in 1910-1911, and had taught there a few years prior to that. They live in Lowe Farm. June is active in the Emmanuel Gospel Church and Peter is employed at Meridian Industries, Morris. Children: David, 1969, Barb, 1971, Juanita, 1980.

Phyllis married Roland Loeppky in July 1972. They live in Morden. Phyllis works at Homestead True Value in Winkler, and Roland as a Lab Technician at the Morden Hospital. Children: Bonnie, 1977, Byron, 1981.

Gladys married Clarence Hiebert in August 1972. They live in Plum Coulee. Gladys teaches at the Plum Coulee Elementary School and Clarence works for Triple E in Winkler. Children: Marcella, 1978, Russel, 1980.

Sandra married Larry Eidse in October 1974. They live in Rosenort. Sandi works at the Rosenort Credit Union. Larry started his teaching career as the principal of the three-room Kane School. This was the last year the school was in operation. In the fall of 1973, the teachers and students were transferred to Lowe Farm. Larry is presently principal at the Rosenort School. Children: Allison, 1976, Derek, 1979, Kenton, 1982.

Elva married Melvin Groening in June 1976. They moved back to the Kane area in 1990, where they still live. Along with a little farming, Mel works for Mordyck Auctions in Winnipeg, and Elva is employed part time at Stedmans in Morden. Children: Blair, 1979, attends Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta. Brock, 1983, attending Morris Collegiate. Mitchel, 1987, Grade 7 in the Lowe Farm School.

Lloyd married Marge Toews in March 1978. They live in Winkler. Lloyd works as a auto body technician at Janzen Pontiac, Winkler and Marge as a Health Care Aide at Salem Home, Winkler. Children: Chris, 1979, Mark 1981, Jaclyn, 1983, Robyn, 1987.

**We remember when (home memories):** Dad was working at the Jones farm and for some reason opened the radiator cap on the tractor. The water boiled over and badly burned much of Dad's upper body. He suffered a lot, but never went to see a doctor. Mom's remedy was a baking soda plaster.

In 1957, Mom and Dad took the train to Kenosha, Illinois to pick up a new car. When they got back to Gretna and tried to clear it through customs, they ran into trouble. Eventually they called Mr. Heinrichs from the Heinrichs Garage in Altona (through whom they had ordered the car), and he came to help them get the treasured car across into Canada. The Hudson was one of a kind in southern Manitoba. We remember sitting in the car and frequently having people stop, point and stare at it. I think Dad enjoyed this, but we were often embarrassed. The oldest four girls learned to drive in this car.

Early in 1959, Mom went to the hospital. We were very concerned, not really knowing why she was there. After several days, some of our friends at school commented that our Mom was going to have a baby. Inquiring of father, he just chuckled. Several days later, Dad came home grinning - the dream of his life - after five girls, a baby boy! When Lloyd came home, we thought that he was such a tiny baby, until Mom showed us a picture of two babies in the hospital - our brother weighing 12 lbs. 15 oz. and another baby less than half that size.

In the early 60's we had a winter of lots of snow. The tobogganing was terrific. Dad helped us tunnel a large snow cave behind the granary, where we spent hours playing.

In the early years, our father was never ill. His quick remedy for all ailments was to "eat something and you'll feel better". However, in 1961, Dad was diagnosed with abdominal cancer. That winter was very difficult for our family. Dad spent the week in Winnipeg receiving cobalt treatments and came home weekends. Dr. Wiebe told us that these treatments would age Dad ten years. We learned to really appreciate our relatives and neighbours during that time. Dad came home changed and never again was really healthy.

While doing laundry in the early years, the whole kitchen floor would be covered with piles of laundry. It was a many step procedure. First you washed all the loads in the washer and put them through the wringer. Then you had the room covered with wet piles. Next you emptied the washer and put in clean rinse water. All the loads went through the washer and wringer again, then into a bluing solution and through the wringer again. Finally, if anything needed to be starched, it was dipped in the water saved from cooking macaroni. In summer, the clothes were hung on the outside line and in winter onto the laundry rack on the verandah to be freeze dried. This was usually a one to two day procedure.

We took many car trips visiting relatives in Saskatchewan and Ontario. On one occasion, we picked up June from Briercrest Bible Institute, Caronport, Sask. All eight of us were in the car, three of us teenagers. Then we were given a dog by some relatives and it also came with us. There was a lot of 'close company'.

Dad would tell us Bible stories before going to bed. It took awhile before we believed that the story of Samson was really in the Bible, especially the way Dad told it.

Mom and Dad made their Christian faith a part of every day living. We all came to know the God of the Bible through their lives and words.

Mom and Dad had a major car accident in December 1973, on the way to Winnipeg. Mom was hospitalized in the Victoria Hospital for six weeks. We spent Christmas in Winnipeg with Mom. This was a very difficult time for Dad as he reflected on his failing health, especially his poor vision. That spring, Dad sold the farm.

**We remember when (school memories):** June started school with bus driver, Mr. Henry Doell. He used an old Model T (I believe). The three girls sat in front and the boys in the back.

Some time in the 50's, we had a severe snow storm. The next day, we went to school with horses and the covered black school van. The #23 Highway had so much snow that the horses were in snow up to their bellies and couldn't pull the van with all of us in it. We left our school bags and lunch kits, and walked along the railroad track to school.

A few years later, Peter Penner was our bus driver. He had two spirited horses who one day tipped the black van in the mud, with all of us in it. Fortunately no one was really hurt, but from then on, we were very nervous whenever it rained.

June remembers standing on the old school steps with many other students, as the older boys and some of the teachers helped to fight a fire at the store across from the elevator agent's house. Some of the girls in high school were living on the second floor of the store and had to watch everything burn.

John Deere days meant a break from school, exciting cartoons and donuts. Sometime in the 50's, Mom won a beautiful doll in the raffle. Mom and Dad had not planned on giving us dolls for Christmas that year, but they changed their minds. June got the prize doll, which she has kept to this day.

One fall day when the boys were playing football on the north section of the school yard, we saw our principal Mr. Janzen and his wife run across the yard. We all followed and were struck with fear as we saw David Krahn lying on the ground. Some time later, an ambulance also rushed across the yard. His death had a marked impact on us all. Some of the students sang at the funeral.

A Coca Cola representative came to visit the school and showed a movie of how Coca Cola was bottled. Each student received a bottle to drink and two, 2½ inch souvenir bottles (June still has hers). That was a real treat.

Christmas concerts were the highlight of the year. Practicing was not always fun, but we got to miss regular classes and that was worth it. We had Christian teachers, so our concerts were always based on the true meaning of Christmas. June recalls Christmas concerts in Room 2 of the old school. The room was emptied of desks, a stage made and the rest of the room filled with benches (without backs) for the parents and grandparents. The students

saw the concert at the dress rehearsal and then had to wait in Room 1 for their parts on concert night. She remembers Esther (Thiessen) Wiebe keeping the younger children spellbound, reading stories to them. Later concerts were held in the Kane Church. Concert day had all the girls coming to school in curlers and the like. After a rehearsal, we got to go home until the evening performance.

Some time in the late 50's, we moved into the new school - it had flush toilets (although they regularly overflowed)! Phyllis recalls finding a dead mouse on the steps during the move (she carried it away by its tail). The school had so much more room and we began 4-H sewing and woodworking classes. Friday afternoons were special. We recall tears of frustration and the thrill of Achievement Day, showing off all the products of our hard work. Dad bought June a wood-burning set when the girls also were allowed to do woodwork. In later years, the lines were clearly drawn, boys did woodwork and the girls sewed.

For some years the Lowe Farm grade 9 and 10's were bused to Kane. There was definitely some animosity between the two communities. June recalls Mr. Letkeman assisting the Kane students with Math and German, for 15-20 minutes after the Lowe Farm students left for the day. Many of them attributed their passing, to that time of tutoring.

Oh, the fun we had skating on the rink (and some years, on the pond) behind the school. We hurried with our lunches, to see who could get their skates on first. The snowbanks around the pond were also great for sliding. But the greatest fun was the warming shack. We watched many romances blossom around the old stove.

We built forts in the trees around the school yard. Some of the forts were quite ingenious - completely closed in. We learned to make dishes from poplar leaves, tables and cupboards out of branches and ate caragana blossoms for food. We had friendship fights, weddings, played hide-and-seek, killed mice and had hours of fun.

We had great times practicing and playing baseball, soccer, football and hockey against other schools. Being a small school, sometimes even the girls got to play. When we didn't, cheering on the sidelines was just as much fun.

Gladys remembers writing an exam in the boot room because she filled her boots with water again.

We watched the Lorna Doone movie. There was much sobbing until the teachers allowed us to leave the auditorium. Movies were very unfamiliar to us and the 'scary' parts left us with many nightmares.

School picnics were always great community get-togethers. Mom and Dad would come with a picnic lunch. The competition was fierce and we practiced for weeks in advance. We frequently got sunburned to a crisp. A big event was seeing some of the adults performing.

The nostalgia we experience when we recall the days of our childhood is pleasant, warm and sad. We still fondly refer to ourselves as having been 'Kananites' in our growing up years.

## ABRAM A. & MARIA (Martens) GROENING

*by Ellen (Groening) Thiessen*



*The A. A. Groening family: Back row: Edward, Randall, Norman Spalding, Walter. Middle row: Elvera, Nora, Carrie Spalding, Ellen, Emmie. Front row: Tillie, Abram (Dad), Liddie, Maria (Mom), Rosie. Arthur centre front.*

Had you lived in the newly opened School District of Kane, Manitoba, during the 1920's, to the '40's, we would invariably have met. Our town was not big, in fact it was but a Railway Siding with a school and teacherage, two elevators, two general stores, and a house at the west road intersection. But it was blessed with a spirit of anticipation that it would steadily grow in population. With the optimism of the new community residents and youth, the neighbouring towns of Lowe Farm and Myrtle would surely soon appreciate what we had to offer.

That spirit, however also, had a deeper, more significant expression. We were a new district, we would live and work together to build a cohesive community, no matter what our religion or ethnic background. We did not reach all of our determinations, but this one we surely did. So, had you lived in our era, you too would have enjoyed the community of Kane, and the Kane Consolidated School. You would have been taught by teachers to name a few, like; Rose Barnes, James R. Simm, C. W. Wiebe, Blanche H. Malloy, A. M. and Chas. F. Laine, R. Alwyn and Mabel Anderson, Margaret Toews, J. H. Giesbrecht, and my very own favourite, Mr. George G. Siemens.

G. G. Siemens was a relative of my Mother, but that never did work in my favour. He was strict, but fair, and had his students best interest at heart. I recall, that one year, when studying the production and preserving of beef, he carefully planned and arranged for a practical application of it. Soon after, his classes toured a beef processing facility in St. Boniface! Well, it was a 'bit much', for us girls, but our parents were very pleased at his efforts. An-

other great memory my husband and I have of this great man and teacher is that until he died, he kept in touch with us. His letters were always interesting, and encouraging. Amazing.

Kane to me, as a shy six year old farm girl, was just right. It was friendly, and not too radically different from the values taught at home. I had not yet been to very many towns, although Father had had a car since 1917, but I knew that a place with two elevators for grain sales, and two stores, was all that anyone would need. After all, didn't both stores sell candies?

I well remember that, if we were lucky enough to have a few pennies, we, at recess time or lunch hour, could hurry to Toews' or Hiebert General Store, to buy a few candies. Money in our homes, however, was scarce, but we knew how to be careful not to lose or waste it. Together with my sister Liddy, cousin Clara, and friends Tina Thiessen, and Dorothy Giesbrecht, we set off to select and buy. Like our young grandchildren today, we knew exactly what we wanted - those messy, but long lasting jaw-breakers. At a penny a piece, they were a bargain every time. And weren't they oh so good? Memories, how they linger!

Oh dear me, don't let me get so caught up with memories, that I forget to get back to this task, my odyssey of time; past and present.

In 1895, my grandparents, Abram (1851-1917) and Helena Loepky Groening (1853-1935), moved north of the Plum Coulee area to purchase virgin grassland, two miles east and three miles south of what later became Kane, Manitoba. They settled on section 21-4-2W, and built a solid 2x6 framed house, and to serve as insulation, additional 2x6's were stacked between the frame. Other types of insulation were simply not yet in existence. What an enormous project that must have been for them! It is recorded that these early Mennonite settlers do show that in spite of health problems, such as arthritis and rheumatism, they were very hard workers.

To make it even more difficult for new families to build and settle, was the fact that it all took place long before merchants and commerce entered the area. Transportation by horse and wagon on the primitive road conditions, made getting goods and supplies slow and tedious. Commerce, at the fledgling hamlet of Kane at 6-5-2W by 1911, was also still very limited. The first grain elevator was built and operational in 1918. Grain, however unless you were wealthy, first had to be sold before purchasing wood for cooking and coal for heating. The Kane Consolidated School wasn't built to open until 1920. Yet the spirit of the Groenings, and the many others that had moved into the area, remained undaunted. They hurriedly built their homes and barns before the fierce northwest winds began to blow, and bring in the cold sub zero temperatures, with the freezing deep layers of snow. Talk about the Pioneer Spirit!

Our Grandparents arrived with a growing family, namely; Uncle Henry (1875-1940), husband of Maria Penner

Groening, Aunt Kathrina Groening Funk (1878-1965), wife of Peter Funk, my father, Abram (1883-1964), husband of mother, Maria Martens Groening (1887-1974), Aunt Helena Groening Wiebe (1894-1977), wife of Dr. C. W. Wiebe (1893-1999). Each inherited a parcel of the virgin grassland, that immediately became a beehive of activity. They, except for Helena, built homes, barns and granaries, and settled to raise large families. Trees had to be planted, and the cattle and horses necessitated ponds to be dug, and filled with spring water. Drinking water was needed for human consumption, so cisterns were built. Nothing, for all of the new settlers, came easy.



*Home of Abram A. and Maria Groening, 1939. Later it became the home of Art and Tina Groening.*

Formal education for the Groenings, as well for other residents in the area was very limited. Records, however, show that the children attended their local Private School, and the District School of Queen Centre. At best, however, most only stayed to age 14, and/or grade 8. In our family, as I recall, my brother Ed and Aunt Helen were the exception. Ed went off to attend the Mennonite Collegiate Institute (MCI) at Gretna, and Aunt Helen left home to attend Wesley College, known as the University of Winnipeg today. Nevertheless, these country farm children were not entirely without learning and education.

It is said that necessity is the mother of inventions. But is it not also the mother of learning? Children went to school when possible, but they were not devoid of learning at home. They quickly picked up the practical skills needed on the farm, but they also had to be innovators. To be able to supply the sustenance of food and clothing for a family, and certainly a large family, demanded skilled innovators. And in this, these settlers excelled. For instance, later during the 'Dirty Thirty's Depression', when money and food supply was scarce, my Mother showed unbelievable innovative abilities. The loss of vegetables in her huge garden because of the grasshopper infestation did not deter her from making healthy, and delicious meals for fourteen people. So, let me ask you, were these settlers without education?

Then along came more available formal education.

More and more public schools, promoted by the Government, came into existence in southern Manitoba. In the pre 1920's, A. A. Groening children, attended the small local Private School in their community. Then along came the Queen Centre School, located one mile east, two miles south, and a quarter mile east, on land owned by the Penner family.

When it became imperative that a larger school with a better curriculum, and trained staff was needed, Kane Consolidated School, in 1920, came into existence. With this new school opening, the Government determined that all local private and district schools must close. It did not please all ethnic groups at first, nevertheless, the Kane School, when completed and staffed, opened its door to the community.

The superior facilities, and the better qualified teachers, however, were persuasive. So, in the first year of Kane School, three relatively educated part-time teachers came. They were Rose Barnes (September to January), James Simms (February to April), and C. W. Wiebe, my uncle, taught May and June. He was in Medical School, and needed summer employment.

By the way, this past May 7th, 1999, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, age 106, living in Winkler, received the Order of Canada Award, hand delivered by Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc. The Doctor, indeed, was a great man. Not only did he deliver approximately 6000 children in southern Manitoba, particularly in the Winkler area, but he also served as a MLA from 1932 to 1936. Undaunted by the Depression of 1936, he successfully crusaded to have Bethel Hospital built, and years later, the Valley Rehab Centre. He indeed served Manitoba well. And on July 12, 1999, he went to his eternal Home, with God.

Kane School, in its first year, opened with about fourteen kids enrolled. It wasn't until after the new year (1921) that the Mennonite names began to appear in the registers. By the end of the year Kane School had thirteen pupils enrolled in Grade 1. The second grade also had thirteen, of which, Carrie (Caroline), Nora (Lenore) and Randall, came from our home. Cousins in the same grade were Greta Groening, Eddie Groening, and Mary Groening. Others were Theodore Cranew, Gladys Hodge, John Penner, Willie Unrau, Susie Wiebe and Henry Penner.

Curiously, however, the following year, some pupils were placed back into Grade 1. There may be a number of reasons for it. It was not uncommon in those days for children not to be able to complete a grade in one year. Teens were often urgently needed to help with the spring seeding, and fall harvesting. If so, school must wait. Everything, including the very livelihood, depended on the harvesting of crops. They were the fruit of their year-round labour, and had to be stored in granaries, or taken to the town elevators, before winter set in.

The following year, Kane School in 1921-1922, had an even greater enrollment arrive from small school closures. Blanche H. Molloy, Room I, had twenty-one pupils, to include my brother Randall, sisters Nora and Emmie,

and cousins, Greta Groening, Annie Funk, Eddie Groening, plus other local beginners.

In Grade 2, my sister Carrie, and cousin Mary Groening were enrolled. More Groenings, namely; Lena Groening, Frank Groening, Bernard Funk, and Abram Groening, were in Grade IV. Now if that were not enough Groenings, read on!

J. R. Simms, teacher in Room II, Grade 5, Walter Groening, my brother, and Theodore Groening, my cousin were enrolled. Brother Edward Groening, and cousins; Dora Groening, Lena and Peter Funk, were in Grade 6. And in Grade 7, cousin Abram Groening was enrolled. Kane School was bustling with Groenings!

So it was and went! More of the Groenings were yet to start school! In 1922-1923, with A. M. Lane as the first year around teacher for Room I, my sisters, Nora and Emmie, and cousins Detray and Lena Groening enrolled in Grade I.

In 1925-1926, with teacher Blanch H. Molloy in Room I a new system of categorizing grades obviously began. Enrolled in 1A was my sister, Elvera, with cousins, Lena, George and Bernard Groening. So were her friends, Beryl Cates and Susie Thiessen. Enrolled in 1B, were Annie Clothier, Anna Schapansky, Tina Thiessen, Mavis Webster, Martha Geswein.

Then, after Easter in the 1926 Class of Grade 1C, Emma Shlothauer, Margaret Esau, Olive Moore, and yours truly, Ellen Groening, age six and a half, were enrolled. I remember the teacher, Miss Molloy, but not too many classmates. I was much too wrapped up in looking around, and out of the window, to cultivate new friendships. I loved to see the trains, and hear the whistle.

School, the following year of 1927-1928, became much more interesting for me. With F. Alwyn Anderson staying on for the whole year, and Liddy, my younger sister and cousins, Clara, Herman and Dave Groening, starting Beginners Class after Easter, I felt secure. Other pupils to begin also were, Dora Giesbrecht, Margaret Harder, Alex and Frank White.

Now, in Grade 1, I started to make friends with pupils; Tina Thiessen, Ray Cates, Cameron Kirk, Annie Shapansky, Willie Hiebert, Dave Giesbrecht, and Gertrude Hildebrand.

When in Grade 2, and because I was still fascinated with trains, I remember that I devised unnoticed ways of how to be outdoors whenever I heard the train whistle. It was precisely at those times that I, once too often, raised my hand, showed two fingers for permission to go to the outdoor 'washroom'. (By the way, a raised hand, showing one finger, meant wanting to get a drink at the water fountain in the foyer!)

If I thought I had a plan, wise old teacher Anderson, also had one. Addressing the class one day, he spoke of my keen interest in trains, which he too shared! But, and I recall that he looked straight at me, why go out to watch them, why not come up front to the window at his desk, to watch them come and go. Oh, poor me! I'm sure I

turned beet red and purple! How could he embarrass me so? As for me, I learned a very quick and important lesson on deception. But sadly, so ended my secret odyssey with trains - at least publicly.

Well, Room 1, Beginners Class in 1928-1929, with R. Alwyn Anderson, had another sister start school - my sister Tillie. So did Martha Cowie, Annie Harder, and neighbour Jake Unrau. Every grade, in both Room I and II, with M. T. Woods, was now represented by a Groening! Wouldn't that make you love school too? It probably helped me to grow a shade too smart.

I still easily recall that during reading class, one day, it finally came to be my turn. So, with confidence, I stood up and should have read, "three little kittens have lost their mittens, and they began to cry" - Instead, I read, "three little mittens, have lost their kittens", and got no further! That same teacher, Anderson, who shared my interest in trains, immediately took my upside-down reader away from me! Well, wasn't it a natural for me to copy, memorize and repeat the same lines of the Reader my older sisters had been repeating at home for years? Believe me, I quickly learned how to hold a book! And I never heard the last of that one!

The following year of 1930-1931, my youngest sister Rose, and cousins, Ervin Groening and Willie Funk, enrolled in Room I, with teacher, Sarah Sawatsky. Others to enroll were, Alma and Frank Giesbrecht, Tena Banman, and Henry Thiessen.

The brand name of Groening still continued to grow! Had we not been challenged long ago, to replenish the earth? Our family now represented every grade, except for Grade 5 and 9! Cousins took them! Is it any wonder that in 1931, Father chose to become a school trustee and stayed on for some five or six years?

In Grade 6, 1932-1933, an event happened to affect both my life, and future. Be assured, it wasn't that J. H. Giesbrecht was my teacher, or that dear Violet Cowie, Ray Cates, Jake Hiebert, David Brown, or long time friend and rival, Tina Thiessen, were also in my grade. No, it was much more than that! In fall, a shy, but handsome male teenager enrolled in my class! And his younger brother entered Liddy's Grade 5! All of us girls took immediate notice. By the end of June, a few of us actually had managed to get both to notice us also! Names??

In our home, our parents blessed us by having a wonderful, 'September child'. When Arthur Abram, the apple of our eye, began school in 1935, we watched over him like mother hens! But not for long! His cheerful approach allowed him to quickly cultivate classroom friendships with Marion Bruce, Arthur Toews, Agnes Bergen, Annie Unrau, Jean White, Eddie Banman, John Hiebert, Gertrude and Henry Harder, and Lizzie Penner.

Arthur (1928-1972), was the last of the A. A. and Maria Groening family to enroll in the Kane Consolidated School. Families now had fewer children, hence the Groening name undoubtedly began to decrease in number.

Where did the A. A. Groening adult children settle,

and what vocations or professions did they pursue? Briefly (??), let's see where they are today.

My brother Edward (1907-) and his dear wife, Susan Giesbrecht Groening, were farmers. Except for his health problem, he would probably still be collecting and repairing his old farm machines, and getting the engines in tune! Or cleaning the neighbours grain.

Ed's fulfilling interest has always been in community affairs, and his vision of Co-op and Credit Union growth. Susan's energy and interest is with her family, the activities of Emmanuel Gospel Church, and the Senior Centre.

Today, Ed is still a cheerful, young 92 year old, with a remarkable sense of humour, and depth of detail of the past. They have a son and daughter, and love nothing better than for family, grandchildren, and now their first great grandchild, to come for a visit.

Walter (1909-1992) graduated from Winnipeg Bible Institute (WBI), Winnipeg, Manitoba, later named Winnipeg Bible College (WBC), and now known as Providence College, Otterbourne, Manitoba. He chose farming, and had a remarkable talent for welding and repairing all of his farm machinery. Rather than go out and buy the latest model of tractor, combine, or plow, etc., he patiently repaired and repaired the old. When he married Lydia (1918-1991) and she needed an item in the house, he created it. It indeed is a wonderful gift and talent. I certainly don't have it, I can't even knit! Lydia and Walter had one daughter, two sons, plus a set of twin boys.

Carrie (1914-1981) was Mother's helper at home. She was the missionary at home, that through her new commitment to Christ, encouraged all of us to seek and find God.

She married Norman Spalding. They lived in Lowe Farm, with their family of one son and four daughters, and farmed in the area. She and her sister-in-law, Susan, taught an ever growing Sunday School class. It is probable that it developed into the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church. She was an inspiration to all of us.

During their ten years in the Yukon, Carrie allowed her gift of art and painting to take root. We have several of her very lovely oil paintings, and treasure their beauty. Their oldest daughter, Norma, who taught in Kane in 1957-1958, still lives in Whitehorse with her husband and family.

Nora (1915-1998) married Herman Brown, who was into construction of drainage and road construction. It took them to many places, but with their three sons, Lowe Farm always remained their 'home'. Her health was fragile, but it did not keep her from enjoying her interests, including her successful Christian Home Lending Library outreach.

After Kane, attendance at the WBI, Winnipeg, her marriage and children, Nora pursued her joy of music. Self-taught, she played both the piano and organ, and as long as she had the strength, played at church, and senior functions. As a widow, she remained in Lowe Farm, but retired to Winkler, and finally to a Morden nursing facility.

Randall (1915-1965), after Kane, remained at home to help Father with the farming. (And I might add, to tease his younger sisters with his mischievous pranks.) As an adult, he attended and graduated from Winnipeg Bible Institute. Then he took a short Medical Course at Peoples Church, Toronto, Ontario, before going to Mexico, as a missionary. He married his Spanish teacher, the very lovely Maria Martinese (1918-). They remained in Mexico with their two daughters and three sons for a number of years before returning to Winnipeg, and later to Transcona to live.

Randall's tragic accident was nothing short of devastating, but Maria and the children survived to go on in school, to university, and life. Today, Maria, who is still into tatting, etc., lives in Sandringham Nursing Home, Victoria, British Columbia.

Emmie (1915-), after Kane, attended and graduated from WBI, Winnipeg. She married Alex Reimer (1920-1996), a veteran of the RCAF, WWII. Alex continued to work on aircraft electrical systems, until he retired. Emmie taught Sunday School in Kane, in Bethesda Church, and DVBS and CSSM. They were longtime members of Bethesda Church and lived in Winnipeg with their three sons. A widow, Emmie is now living in the lovely Bethel Place, Winnipeg - and loves it.

Elvera (1918-), after Kane, directed the weekly Youth Meetings in our home on the farm, and attended WBI in Winnipeg. During the summer, she pursued her interest in teaching Summer Vocation Bible School, for CSSM. Her good friends in school, to name a few, were Beryl Cates, Mary Handlon, Susie Thiessen, etc.

She married John Funk (1916-1998), who served in the RCAF during WWII. John later was a Grain Buyer with the Sunflower Seed Plant in Altona, Manitoba. They have a lovely family of two sons, and three daughters. Years later, they moved to Calgary, Alberta. A widow of the past year, she continues to live in their beautiful home, and see her many friends. She is in good health, continues to swim weekly, walk daily.

Yours truly, Ellen, first became a teacher, then a S/Sgt. in the C.W.A.C., WWII. Then, in the People's Church, Toronto, Ontario, with Dr. Oswald J. Smith as Pastor, she married the best RCNVR sailor working on Shore Patrol, and stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was that shy, but handsome young man, Cornelius (Neil) Thiessen, that came into my 1932-1933, Grade 6 class!

After Kane School, and WWII, we lived in Fort Garry, and Grunthal, Manitoba. After years of teaching and more education, Neil became the Superintendent of Schools, for Division #5, Winnipeg. I 'retired' to raise our family of three children: Greg (Gas/Oil in Calgary); Colleen Speer (Missionary Church, Calgary) and Linda (nurse in Mesa, Arizona).

At age fifty, I returned to university, and graduated with a B.A. at the University of Winnipeg, and a Bachelor of Education at the University of Manitoba. As long time members of Bethesda Church, Winnipeg, and involved in

most of the activities at school and church, from board and missionary members to choir and auxiliary, and Sunday School teaching, etc., we needed a break. Now fully retired, we moved to both Calgary, Alberta and Mesa, Arizona, to play golf and learn about computers. Today, we are still at learning!

Liddy (1920-1976) married that handsome young man, Dave Thiessen, who earlier enrolled in her Kane School, Grade 5 Class. Dave, during WWII, served in the Scottish Regiment of Canada with duty in Africa, Italy, and Europe. After a safe return to Canada, they settled on a farm in the Kane School District. With failing health, Liddy always remained hopeful, and loved to do crafts, putter in her garden, with the strawberries and fruit trees.

Liddy and Dave had two lovely girls; one a teacher and the other a nurse. They were members of the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church, and when able, visited family and friends. Liddy loved to make soups, jams and pies - and when I think about it, I can still taste her delicious cinnamon buns, can't you?

Dave left farming to go into Real Estate, and as a widower, he eventually married a lovely widow and mother, Marg Loewen Wiebe, from British Columbia, who had a wonderful family of two daughters and three sons. They live in Vernon, B. C.

Tillie (1921-) married Peter Brown (1922-), and they still live and farm in the Rose Farm area. Her flower gardens and yard, with the many bird varieties that come to sing and feed, continue to be a joy and beauty to them and the rest of us. They have attended the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church for many years. She still loves to play the piano, and Peter often accompanies on his violin. They have one daughter, two sons, plus a set of twin boys.

Rose (1922-1996) married a farmer and teacher, Walter Toews. They first lived near Kane, and then left to farm in the Graysville, Manitoba area. She loved to do handwork, and was the ideal farmer's wife. Her garden, like that of Tillie's, was beautifully in bloom all summer long. Because of the soil type, their watermelon, muskmelon and cantaloupe, were the best. Their three daughters live in Manitoba, except for one, who lives in Bangkok, Thailand.

Arthur Abram (1928-1972) married a beautiful young lady, Tina Penner, from the Rose Farm area. After our parents retired to Lowe Farm, they took over the family farm, in the Kane School District. Their garden continued to have the variety of fruit trees, vegetables, watermelons, and all things delicious.

Now, Arthur did have a musical talent. He sang in a local quartet until his very tragic accident. They have four lovely children, and grandchildren. Gail is in Texas, Brad in B.C., Lynette in Manitoba, and now Janelle in B.C., was blessed with a set of twin boys.

This story of memories must not close without a brief recount of our wonderful and dear parents:

Father (1883-1964) was married to our Mother for 59

years. He was a man of God, interested in church and community affairs, and a great father. His pride and confidence in his family definitely bordered on one word - *Love*. How well I recall that, inspite of being tired and weary, and waiting for supper, he would join us in a game of baseball in our front yard! (I must add that a definite advantage of being in a large family was that we always had enough of our own players to play nearly every kind of game.)

When he vision(ed) that his girls could sing and play an instrument, we got instruments. Then Mother played the organ, and they both sang; when my sisters learned to play the organ, we all sang together.

Father's vision didn't end there! He clearly believed that with a lot of practice, we would do well enough to even perform at school and church! The unbelievable happened! Tillie, Liddy, Rose and I did sing publicly, accompanied by guitar, violin and even the mandolin. Those shaky, untalented sounds of song and instrument must yet surely still linger in the old non-acoustic corridor ceilings of the school!

Mother (1887-1964), was born in Fargo, North Dakota, but came to Canada at an early age. Of interest in 1959, when Ed and Susan took Father and Mother along on a trip to Mexico to visit Randall and Maria, all of them were denied entrance. Mother, we discovered, didn't have Canadian citizenship! She was still an American citizen! Well we never let her forget that we were born and brought up by an alien! Actually, she loved to be teased about it.

With never a sigh, she cooked and sewed, and looked after us with tender loving care. With genuine interest, she welcomed our school friends who came home from school with us on the van. The Cowie sisters, Beryl Cates, Edna Penner, and cousin Clara Groening, were always favourites.

She never had the time, or the will to attend many functions outside of the church, but she loved to get to know new people, and quietly visit. Going to Winnipeg to shop at Eaton's and the Bay was a great highlight for her. Perhaps, visiting other country women resting in the Eatons' waiting room was equal to the enjoyment she had looking around, or shopping for her family.

She was a wonderful Mother, and her children, who knew her best, consider it a high privilege to be able to "rise up and call her blessed." Proverbs 31:28.

## **ART & TINA (Penner) GROENING**

*by Lynette (Groening) Beaudry*

Art and Tina (Penner) Groening were married October 13, 1951, and lived and raised their family on the Abram A. Groening homestead near Rose Farm, Manitoba. Brad, Gail, Lynette and Janelle all received their schooling at the Kane School, right up until the school closed.

November 14, 1972, Art Groening was killed in a car accident on the #75 Highway between Winnipeg and



*The Art Groening family, 1971. Back row: Brad, Gail, Art (Dad). Front row: Janelle, Tina (Mom), Lynette.*



*The Tina Groening Thiessen family, 1990.*

Morris resulting in the family making a move to Winkler, Manitoba.

Brad Groening married Barb Freche in 1980. They have two sons: Aaron A. Groening and Stephen Groening and they now reside in Fernie, British Columbia.

Gail Groening married Ron Dykstra in 1974, and they have two daughters: Mandie Lee Dykstra and Lariesa Dykstra. They presently reside in Palestine, Texas.

Lynette Groening married Randy Dueck in 1979. They have three daughters: Joclyn Dueck, Laura Dueck, and Samantha Dueck. In 1997, Lynette remarried to Fred Beaudry and they presently reside in Winkler, Manitoba.

Janelle Groening married Ric Neufeld in 1983, and they have twin sons: Seth Neufeld and Dane Neufeld, and they presently live in Prince George, British Columbia.

Tina Groening, after being widowed for seven years, married Peter Thiessen and lived in the Crystal City area. Peter was killed in a vehicle accident in 1983, at which time Tina moved to Morden, Manitoba where she presently resides.

### **LUTHER HANCOCK** *by Dot (Hancock) Halstead*

Mr. & Mrs. Luther Hancock and their family of Eunice and Kenneth moved to the Jim Davidson farm (SE 6-5-2W) from Saskatchewan. They worked for Jim Davidson from 1922-25. Dorothy was born there on the farm. They left Kane in 1925 and moved south of Roland.

### **JAMES W. & MARIE HANDLON** *by Eva (Bowman) Handlon and information from Furrows in the Valley and Kane School records*



*James T. Handlon in his wheatfield, 1965.*

James William Handlon, former Chicago policeman arrived in Canada with his young brother Tom, April, 1918. His wife Marie and two children, James Thomas and Mary Frances followed shortly after. Their first residence was the James B. Davidson home three-quarter mile north of Kane. They farmed SE 12-5-3W, one mile north of Kane in the Roland Municipality, originally purchased by his father, James Andrew Handlon of Illinois. Tom returned to the USA a couple of years later.

Through many hardships, including their early means of transportation being a tractor and a bicycle, they acquired two sections of land north of Kane in the Morris Municipality. James William purchased the W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 7-5-2W, one



*Threshing crew at the Handlon farm at Kane. Back row: Fred Fredricksen, Mark Johnson, Walt Fredricksen, ?, James W. Handlon, Peter Anderson, ?. James T. Handlon sitting second from right.*

mile north of Kane in 1919, where he and his family lived until 1933. He then purchased the E½ 7-5-2W and W½ 8-5-2W, where he farmed and resided until his death in 1964.

James William Handlon was concerned enough about the education of the local children that he got involved when the Kane Consolidated School began in 1920. He was the first chairman of the School Board and remained on the board for the next nine years. Other members of that first Board were Lorne C. Winkin (secretary/treasurer), Mr. Gurney, and Mr. George Miller. (His son James Thomas was in the first class to start school in the fall of 1920.)

James Thomas and Mary Frances attended the Kane School in the early years. James Thomas and his wife Eva (Bowman) farmed in the Kane district until the farm was sold in 1974. Their two children Richard and Janet started school at Kane, and then later in Winnipeg. Janet Beales (Joseph) - B. Sc. N., MA - in Nursing Division at Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia. Richard (Cathy) - attorney - partner in law firm Pitblado, Buchald Asper in Winnipeg, Manitoba. James Thomas deceased in June of 1996. His wife Eva resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mary Frances married Allen Johnston (Myrtle, Manitoba) and they had four children: Sheila, Bill, Joanne and Geraldine. They farmed at Kane (across the road from the home place) for some time and the older two children attended the Kane school in their lower grades. The Johnstons moved to Carman, Manitoba where Allen passed away in May of 1990. Mary still lives in her own home.

### **PETE & MARION (Wiebe) HARDER** *by Pete and Marion Harder*



*Pete and Marion Harder with Leslie and Vivian.*

Our respective jobs, working at the John Deere Dealership and teaching at the Kane School, brought us both to Kane where we met for the first time. We were married on July 26, 1952, and for the first four years lived in an upstairs apartment in the Kane Store. In 1956, however, we had a house moved on to a lot, a former church yard, which was east of, and adjacent to, the school yard. We now had a lawn to mow and a garden to hoe. Life was good!

Pete arrived in Kane in 1942, at the age of eighteen, and was transitioned into the world of business by Mr. John J. Toews. After working for Mr. Toews for 19 years, he was given the option of purchasing the Kane Garage, which, at the time, included the John Deere and Shell contracts. He became the proud owner on February 17, 1961. Unfortunately, on October 26, 1972, business came to a temporary standstill when fire completely destroyed the Garage. When business resumed, it was to sell primarily Shell and Cominco Fertilizer products. In 1973 he also took over the mail carrier position, making the daily run between Kane and Lowe Farm for 23 years. Another business venture was presented to Pete by Mr. Toews, and in 1974 he purchased the Kane Store, which had a dual purpose thereafter: to serve as a general store, and to serve as the office for the gas station/bulk fertilizer business. Not only did the store offer the people residing in the area the convenience of buying some of their groceries locally, it also was here that each of the Harder children was officially given her/his career start.

Our first child, Vivian Jeanette, was born on July 25, 1954. She attended the Kane School until Grade 8 and then went on to Lowe Farm for Grade 9, and to Morris for Grades 10-12. She was very fortunate in that she did not even have to look for her first part-time job; in Grade 9 she was approached about giving piano lessons to local students, and this opportunity continued throughout her high school, as well as some of her university years. Besides returning to Kane every weekend to give piano lessons, she also drove many miles to play on the Kane Kanaries (Angels) ball team. Following her graduation, she completed her Bachelor of Physical Education at the University of Manitoba. Between the completion of her degree in April and the start of her first teaching position in September, she married Bruce Brown on May 22, 1976. She taught physical education in Starbuck for four years, after which she took a seven-year maternity leave. During this time, three members were added to their family unit: Vanessa Joelle, September 4, 1980, Derek Peter Kyle - July 13, 1983; Kendra Rochelle - July 7, 1987. This time was also spent completing her Bachelor of Education and a Pre-Masters in Educational Psychology. In 1987 Bruce and Vivian reversed their roles; recovering from major back surgery, Bruce stayed home with Kendra, and Vivian found a job which required her newly acquired skills; resource teacher at Sanford Collegiate. Presently, they are still residing in Starbuck, where Bruce is involved in farming, and Vivian still commutes to her job in Sanford.

Our second child, Leslie Blaine Peter, was born on June 11, 1958. He also attended school in Kane until Grade 8, continued on to Lowe Farm for one year, and then completed his high school education in Morris. Following his graduation, he attended Red River Community College, completing the Drafting and Design Diploma. This led to a two-year position with Triple E initially, after which he was employed by Acres Consulting for four years. This position would definitely be considered a positive experience.

rience because it was here that Les met Heather Ann Diehl. Following the family tradition or attempting to avoid confusion, in 1988 they also chose May 22 as their wedding date. Although they both started careers involving drafting and design, they also both decided that a career change was necessary. Les completed his Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Manitoba in 1988, earning the distinct honour of being the Gold Medal recipient. He then articulated as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse, working there for eight years before moving on to Centra Gas, where he is presently employed. Somewhere along the way, he developed a passion for running (perhaps as stress relief?) and has subsequently entered numerous marathons and ultra-marathons. Heather completed her Bachelor of Education in 1987 and is currently teaching at the Oak Bluff Community School. They presently reside in Winnipeg.

Our third child, Kevin Duane George, was born on February 2, 1964. Unlike the first two, he attended Kane School for only three years; upon his completion of Grade 3, the local school was closed and he was bussed to Lowe Farm for the next six years, and then on to Morris for his final high school years. To Kevin, the primary reason for attending school was to be involved in the athletic program. Unfortunately, sometimes the distance between home and school interfered with his involvement in the various sports. His favourite sport appeared to be fastball; after starting his "career" in high school with the local Kane Pirates, he continued playing with a number of teams in Winnipeg until just recently, when attempting to juggle work and ball became too much of a challenge. The highlight of all these years of playing ball was winning the silver medal at the 1990 Western Canadian Championships (Sr. B Mens' Fastball). Following his high school graduation, he completed the Computer Science course at Herzing Institute, and then the Business Administration

course at Red River Community College. He is currently in a managerial position at Rent-All Super Centre in Winnipeg, where he also resides.

Following a seventeen-year "leave", Marion re-entered the educational system in 1971, this time in the capacity of Secretary/Librarian, and Special Needs Educational Assistant. She worked in the Kane School for two years, and following its closure in 1973, moved, with the students to the Lowe Farm School. She retired on June 28, 1992, sharing this retirement date with Pete.

On June 28, 1992, a Kane Reunion honouring Pete's 50 years of service to the Kane community was held. It was exactly 50 years since he had first come to Kane, at the age of eighteen, to begin his life in the working world. This day was a wonderful celebration of friends, family and memories...we truly appreciated the time and effort devoted by the community to making this day so special!

To the surprise of our children, who thought their parents were permanent fixtures in Kane, we made the decision to retire in Winkler. We investigated, and then invested in, the Crocus Village condominiums. Now there were many details requiring attention: properties to sell, buildings to clean out; furniture and household articles to dispose of, or keep; treasures to sort...In the mean time, Pete continued the mail run between Lowe Farm and Kane until December 31, 1996. Finally, on March 26, 1997, we made the big transition, spending our first night in our new home. We have now come full circle, from an apartment in Kane to an apartment in Winkler.

## **PETER L & HELEN (Braun) HARDER**

*by Stan Harder*

Peter L and Helen Harder arrived in the Kane district in the early 1940's locating on a small acreage two miles north and one half mile east of town.

Employment was unreliable and Peter worked at whatever jobs became available, mostly as an unskilled farm labourer. They tried raising poultry and entered numbers of other ventures distinguished mostly by marginal results.

They moved to town and in addition to working as a farmhand, Peter started a business buying cord firewood in rail car lots, cutting the four foot lengths into stove burning size, and delivering to farms and homes in the community.

Reimer's General Store became available for purchase and subsequently Harder's General Store graced the skyline of Kane.

Peter L Harder's long time dream of owning his own business had come true and he worked with enthusiasm and zest. Sales were rising rapidly and his enterprise grew in scope and volume. Soon he added agencies for fuel, chicks and feeds, and was buying live poultry and eggs.

Relative prosperity brought social recognition and Peter L Harder became involved with the school board and the church.



*The Harder family in 1999. Standing: Heather, Les, Bruce, Pete (Dad). Seated: Kevin, Vivian, Vanessa, Kendra, Marion (Mom), Derek.*



*Peter L. and Lena Harder with Alvin and Stanley.*

But business inexperience and religious activism would undermine Harder's General Store. The cost of operating was allowed to exceed margins in the drive to be competitive and increase market share. In taking a leadership role for one side in the religious upheaval that the region was enjoying at the time, Peter L Harder effectively closed the door to trade with a large segment of the buying population.

As interests temporal were replaced by concerns spiritual, community support for Harder's General Store diminished to the point of non-viability and in 1953 Peter L and Helen Harder moved their family to B.C.

They raised four children, Al, Stan, Rose and Steve, in order of birth. Al passed away of cancer at age 29 leaving his wife Dorothy and three children. Helen and Peter succumbed to the same illness and died in '73 and '93 respectively.

Their youngest son Steve moved to Nova Scotia and became a reporter/photographer/columnist for the Halifax daily newspaper. With his wife Debbie, they have three children.

Their daughter Rose moved to P.E.I. with her husband Malcolm. They have six children, two in B.C., four in the United States.

Their second son Stan and his wife Frances are retired from cattle ranching in Alberta. They have one daughter, a physician married to a physician, in the U.S.A.



*The Harder kids, Alvin, Rosie and Stanley on their Hudson Super Six, 1945.*

## DICK & MAY HEAN

*by Tom Hean*

Dick Hean and family moved to Kane in the summer of 1941. Dick had accepted the position of grain buyer with the Canadian Consolidated Grain Company.

Dick's family consisted of his wife May, daughter Elaine and sons Tom and Dick Jr. Dick and May also had three married daughters living at Brandon and Deloraine, and one son, Nugent, who died in 1918.

The Hean family moved into the Penner house, just west of J. J. Toews' store.

The family soon settled in and made many friends.



*Elaine Hean at their home in Kane.*



*The Hean home in Kane,  
(formerly the Woodvale School) in the 40's.*

Dick enjoyed dealing with the farmers and you could be sure he would have a joke or story to tell. Dick enjoyed sports and coached Kane's PeeWee and Senior Hockey teams.

May's life revolved around her family and she was known as a very good cook. Her Sunday dinners were a real feast. May also did a lot of canning in the fall, making pickles, preserves, jams and jellies. She also did a lot of knitting for the war effort and hosted Quilting Bees at her home.

Elaine enjoyed school and sports.

Tom and Dick liked skating, hockey, football and softball. Both boys played on the PeeWee Hockey Team. Tom played on left-wing and Dick in goal. What Tom liked best was hunting, shooting gophers, rabbits and crows with his .22 caliber rifle.

The Hean family left Kane in the summer of 1948, moving to Brandon where Dick accepted a job as time-keeper for a construction company.

Dick Hean passed away in 1959, May in 1965, Dick Jr. in 1974 and Elaine in 1997.

Tom is retired and lives in Brandon with Jean, his wife of 40 years. They have three married daughters and six grandchildren.

Tom now spends his time hunting, fishing and gardening.

## REV. WILLIAM P. & KATHARINA HEINRICHS

*by Edna (Heinrichs) Fallon*



*Rev. William P. and Katharina Heinrichs.*

Rev. William P. Heinrichs along with their youngest three children moved from Steinbach, Manitoba to Kane in the fall of 1952, where my father was to be the interim pastor for a brief time at the Kane Interdenominational Church.

Having been told we could move into a furnished farmhouse where the owners would be away for a few months, we pulled into the yard with just our personal belongings. We were about to unload when a young man came out to question what we were doing. We informed him to which he replied that the offer was no longer valid as he'd be staying there. Having no place to go, the Peter L. Harders opened their home to us for the next few months. After the holidays a small house became available for us to rent so we moved once again. I believe the house was just a mile east of Kane and then a mile south. I do remember that Gordon Dyck was our closest neighbour. A few miles down the road is where the Frank Bergman family lived. Margaret and Hilda became our good friends and remain so to this day.

In the summer of 1953, we left Kane, sold our farm in Steinbach and made the move to Abbotsford, British Columbia. Our parents bought a small eight acre farm and Dad pastored a church in the country. My mother passed away in December of 1966, and my father died in November of 1972.

Johannah (Jo) lives in Abbotsford with her husband Bruce Cowie. She had two children. Her son Jamie died in 1971. Her daughter Angela, with husband Vince Tomassitti, live in Maple Ridge, British Columbia and have one daughter.



*The Heinrichs children: Johannab, Randy, Dorothy, Edna.*

In 1962, I (Edna) moved to Southern California. I was fortunate to be hired by a small company with five retail stores, selling bathroom accessories and plumbing. I started in sales, and soon was trained to be a department manager. After a few years I became their buyer for the bath department. I enjoyed my job, but my first love was always to be at home and exercise my domestic abilities so I took an early retirement.

In 1978, I was married to Tom Fallon. We bought a home in Northridge, California where we reside to this day. In 1993, Tom retired from Delta Airlines where he worked for 32 years. This was good timing as three months later we were hit by the Northridge earthquake. The next few years kept Tom busy rebuilding and fixing the damage caused by the quake. Delta gives us unlimited free air travel to any destination they service worldwide, so I make good use of this benefit. My most frequent route is to British Columbia, and Hawaii is a close second. My children; Darlene, Ron and Corey, all live in Southern California.

Randall married Dorothy Martens and together they have been in the ministry pastoring various churches in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. They retired this year and live in Abbotsford. They have two children and four grandchildren. Their daughter Val lives in Steinbach with husband George Heidebrecht and son Vern and wife Sheena live in Gibson, British Columbia.

### **PETER & HELENA (Friesen) HEPPNER** *by Evelyn (Heppner) Rodgers*

Peter Heppner of Bergfeld, and Helena Friesen of Weidenfeld, were married in 1908, and made their home south of Lowe Farm until 1935. Here their whole family of nine children were born. The Steinfeld School provided an education for the children.

The opportunities to further the education beyond grade 8, were almost non-existent for them. Nevertheless each has made his or her contribution to the community and church where they made their home.

In 1935, they moved to a farm two miles south of Kane. Three of their nine children were still in school, and Martin was at home part of the time. Abram, Nettie and Diedrich attended school in Kane, and Martin drove the school van for a while.

Martin, who was born in 1916, worked as a farm labourer for various farmers in the area. In 1940 he married Helena Dyck. In 1945, after the death of his mother, they moved to the home place and rented the farm from his father. For the most part, his father lived with them until his death in 1949.

Abram, born in 1920, worked at various jobs throughout Western Canada after school. He settled in Winnipeg where he died in 1977.

Nettie was born in 1922. She married John Epp in 1943, and they made their home in Winnipeg most of the time. They have two sons, Ken and Garry.



*Peter and Helena Heppner.*

Diedrich (Dick), born in 1924, married Margaret Neufeld in 1950. While living in Winnipeg, four children were born to them. Dick drove a fuel truck for Petro - Can for many years. His job took them to Calgary, Alberta. He is now retired and lives in Airdrie, Alberta.

Life for Peter and Helena was very different than it is today. They had no hydro, waterworks, central heating, or vehicles like we have today. Yet, they were able to raise their family and leave a mark on the community.

### **MARTIN & HELENA (Dyck) HEPPNER** *by Evelyn (Heppner) Rodgers*

Martin, who had married Helena Dyck in 1940, worked at various jobs. Then, upon the death of his mother in 1945, they moved to the home place and worked the farm. His father lived with them most of the time until his death in 1949. After living here for nineteen years, Martin bought a farm at MacGregor, Manitoba in 1964.

They have lived in the generation that has seen tremendous changes in every way. The Model A car, which was the family car for years, provided us with many an adventure. One such a trip was made to Winnipeg for Christmas. Leaving a great while before sunrise, with jugs



*The Martin Heppner family, 1960.  
Back row: Irma, Linda, Evelyn, Jim, Jack, Larry.  
Front row: Helena (Mom), Ed, Martin (Dad).*

of hot water and plenty of blankets to keep warm, we were half way to Winnipeg when we witnessed a beautiful sunrise. The newer cars with heaters and bigger speeds were a big improvement.

Machinery, too, underwent drastic changes. Martin remembers the time he built his first swather out of an old binder. This was quite an accomplishment. Then came the joyous day when he brought home his first combine. The "D" John Deere and "44" Massey with rubber tires were a far cry from the time he spent as a boy walking behind horses.

In the house the changes were just as great. With the coming of the hydro, many conveniences weren't long in coming: one of the greatest being the electric stove, which did away with the sweltering kitchen in the summer. The water supply, which used to come from the dugout and rain barrels, now was a cistern with a pump in the kitchen.

During the nineteen years at Kane, the rest of Martin and Helen's family of seven were born. The family consists of Evelyn in 1941, Jim in 1943, Jack in 1946, Linda in 1948, Irma in 1949, Larry in 1952 and Ed in 1956.

The school at Kane provided the education for the youngest two of the Peter Heppner family, and then for the greater part of Martin's family. Martin was a part of the school van system in the district, which was very unique for that time. The vans, on wheels in summer and sleighs in winter were pulled by horses and later by tractor. Later on they were used only in bad weather. To pass the time while going to school, some drivers (like Mr. Abe Penner) would bring sunflower seeds for us, and spend lots of time singing with the younger folk.

The church at Rose Farm proved to be a vital part of the life of Martin's family. They were part of the Sunday School, and as the children reached their teenage years, they became part of the choir, and young people's activities. The emphasis of the church, together with a strong



*Martin and Helena Heppner's 50th Anniversary. (l-r): George and Evelyn Rodgers, Jim and Martha Heppner, Jack and Ruth Heppner, Helena and Martin (Mom and Dad), Ed and Linda Giesbrecht, Bill and Irma Mahone, Larry and Ruby Heppner, Ed and Esther Heppner.*

Christian home, challenged the family to make personal commitments to the Lord. The result is seen in that most of them are involved in Christian service, either at home or abroad.

After teaching school for four years, and attending Winnipeg Bible College for a year, Evelyn married George Rodgers, and settled on a farm at MacGregor, Manitoba. They have five married children and six grandchildren. The last ten years they have been involved in building Life Springs Retreat Centre. In 1998, Carberry Bible Camp took over and are establishing a new site for their camp. Now they are the Sunday School Superintendent in the EMC in MacGregor.

Jim married Martha Marion and settled in Winnipeg, where he was employed with Canada Packers for many years. They have a family of four children and five grandchildren.

After finishing Bible School and teacher training, Jack taught school for five years. He married Ruth Bergen of Clearwater. They have four boys, two of whom are married. In 1974, Jack was ordained as a minister. They served as missionaries in Bolivia. He continued his education in Virginia and British Columbia, taught at Steinbach Bible College, and at present is the conference minister for the EMMC.

Linda married Ed Giesbrecht from Austin, Manitoba, after high school, and moved to Winnipeg. When her parents retired in 1975, they bought the farm and settled at MacGregor as well. They have three married children and four grandchildren. They have been involved in various capacities at the EMC in MacGregor, including starting the Boys' Brigade and Pioneer Girls programs. At present Ed is the reeve of the North Norfolk municipality.

Irma, the nurse in the family, attended Prairie Bible Institute and then went to Nicaragua for a term of missionary service. She got her degree in nursing in Harrisonburg,

Virginia. There she met and married Bill Mahone. They settled down near Charlottesville, Virginia, where she has had various nursing jobs. They have one daughter.

Larry finished Bible School after high school. He married Ruby Dyck from Austin, Manitoba and they have four children. They have pastored a few churches and at present live in Winnipeg, and are active in Springs of Living Water. Larry is also a carpenter, and has worked at this trade since he isn't pastoring.

Edward finished one year of Bible School after high school and then married Esther Doerksen of Austin, Manitoba. He was a salesman for a while, and then bought a grocery store in Austin. After operating the store for about ten years he sold it, and at present is back in the sales field. They have three daughters, and are active in the church at Edrans.

Martin passed away in 1992. The following year Helen sold her house and moved into an apartment in MacGregor. Helen has been active in the community and church, but now at the age of 81 years she has to slow down somewhat. She remains a real inspiration to her family and is a blessing to all who know her.

## **ART & LEONA HIEBERT**

*by Art Hiebert*

Leona and I live on section NE 9-4-2W, where we have a mixed farming operation. We moved here in the spring of 1980, after my parents, Martin and Elizabeth Hiebert, moved to Winkler in the fall of 1979.

Leona and I got married on May 29, 1971 in the Morden Berghaler Church. We lived in Winnipeg from 1971 to 1980, I working at Simpson Sears in Garden City, and Leona as a nurse at Concordia Hospital and at Fred Douglas Lodge.



*The Art Hiebert family, 1999. Back row: Art (Dad), Joleen, Sonia, Lyndon. Front row: Leona (Mom) and Carilee.*

During our stay in Winnipeg our three children were born; Lyndon-1975, Joleen-1977 and Carilee-1979. Lyndon married Sonia Dueck in 1997, and at present they are living in Winnipeg. Lyndon and Sonia presented us with our first grandchild, Katarina Luise, born on July 20, 1999. Joleen works and lives in Morden. Carilee lives at home and works in Winkler. All three children have attended Providence College.

We, as a family, have been worshipping at the Lowe Farm Berghaler Mennonite Church where I have had the privilege of serving as a Lay Minister for the past fifteen years. I have also served on the board of directors for the Lowe Farm Credit Union since 1981.

As a family we are active in the community and the church, and are proud to be part of this community.

#### **JACOB & GERTRUDE (Toews) HIEBERT** *by Bill Hiebert*



*Gertrude and Jake E. Hiebert with daughter Winna.*

The Jacob and Gertrude Hiebert family moved to the Kane area seeking better homesteading conditions from the small village of Rose Farm, situated a few miles south-east of Kane. I remember riding in a horse drawn wagon with my father through three to four feet of flood waters in the spring of 1924, trying to decide if we should accept this offer of land by the Manitoba Land Reserve. They settled for two quarter sections of land. We lived one mile south of Kane for about one year, then decided to homestead permanently in Kane by the railway tracks just west of the grain elevators (NE 36-4-3W). The land left a lot to be desired, flooding every other year from waters flowing through a railway track bridge just west of Kane. A number of years later father decided to improve our meager existence by purchasing farm equipment, mostly on payment plans; a John Deere tractor, a Case threshing machine, a Ford two ton truck, and with a bit of hard work we always had substantial meals on the table. When the depression came along, Dad and I operated the Kane General Merchant Store (south of the tracks). We would take orders for firewood, coal, ice, and flour to be distributed out of railway boxcars. The writer made numerous trips with the truck and semi-trailer for cordwood from points east of the Red River - six cords on a load. Father had the expertise to haul rejected railway boxcars to the Kane area from Winnipeg. For \$40.00 the CNR would place one end of the boxcar on the truck, the other end onto a set of dual wheels which would be bolted to the bottom of the load.



*Jake and Gertrude Hiebert with Lora and Bill.*

For years the Kane Post Office was operated by Mr. Roy Wyche, in a small office room at the Paterson grain elevator. Years later the Post Office was transferred to the Hiebert Store. I recall we had a total sum of 45 box holders in Kane.

Families most prominent in our memories are as follows: my Uncle John Toews, the Cowies, two Penner families, the Kirks, the Fredricksens, the Whites, the John Giesbrechts, the Heppners, two Groening families, Margaret Toews, George Siemens, the Wyches, and others.

Labour was hard to come by, so sisters Lora and Winna helped out, and when the war came along the writer de-

cided to join the RCAF in 1941, to become an aircraft electrician in numerous training stations. Four years in the service was a great learning experience. Just before being discharged, Mom and Dad and their two girls felt the urge to relocate from Kane to Lethbridge, Alberta, after some encouragement from Jacob's brother Henry. Father then did carpentry work, became a successful building contractor, and retired after twenty years. Dad and I constructed a commercial building, in which the writer operated a TV electronics store for 39 years.

The writer has many fond memories of our school days, kids we would play with, trips to the Pembina Hills picking berries, to name a few. I am sure that the Kane History Book will be enjoyed, and will further enhance those pleasant memories of earlier Kane days. We will be sad to see Kane reduced to a mere blip on the map.

Bill Hiebert lives in Osoyoos, British Columbia. Lora (Hiebert) Turrall resides in Lethbridge, Alberta. Winna, the youngest, passed away some years ago.

### **DAVID & ANNIE HILDEBRAND** *by Henry and Dora Hildebrand*

Mom and Dad Hildebrand were married on October 3, 1929 and lived in the Horndean, Plum Coulee and Krongard areas where Dad worked as a farm laborer to support his family.

In the spring of 1934 our parents moved to the SW quarter of 12-5-3, one and a half miles north-west of Kane and started farming on their own for the first time in their lives. It was a Mr. Fred Dawson, field man for the International Loan Company, who played a very important role in our parents' lives. As Dawson later told Uncle Jake Born, "Dave Hildebrand had convinced him that he only needed a chance to start farming!"

Dad drove the van for the Kane School District in 1935-36, and our oldest brother Peter had his Beginners (1935-36) and grade one (1936-1937) in the Kane School. Later in 1950-51, Marian took her Grade XI in Kane as well.

It was in May of 1937 as the family returned from a planned trip to Gimli in their 1929 Chevrolet that sported "four" wheel brakes, when the family learned,



*The David Hildebrand family, 1943. Back row: Anne, Annie (Mom), Marian, Dave, David (Dad), Henry. Front row: Jake, Jean, June, Catherine.*



*The Hildebrand family farm at Sperling, 1950.*

in Winnipeg at Uncle George Born's, that their house had burned down on the farm. They drove home through the rain to find the new Model "D" John Deere (bought from John J. Toews in the spring of 1936) which had been standing beside the house, rescued from the fire. But Mom sadly viewed the destruction of her new Singer sewing machine along with all their household goods!

The family then moved across the road to Section 11, and belonged to the Myrtle School District.

The love for sports was still strong and Dad played third base for the Highland Ball Club which had a diamond on Herb Andresen's farm on Section 23. Mr. Andresen, manager of the club, remembers that Dad put a "lot of spirit into the team". During these years the family fellowshipped in the Grossweide M.B. Church.

In 1939 the family moved north of Sperling where our brother Peter drowned on the family farm in 1941, and Dad passed away in 1943 as a result of a farming accident at Kane.

Mother Hildebrand came back to live at Kane once again in the sum-

mer of 1967 when she was the housekeeper for Frank D. Blatz after his wife had passed away. Mother spent her last years at the Rosenort Eventide Nursing Home and passed away in 1996.

Dave and wife Edna (Kehler) live a retired life in Abbotsford, B.C. after many years in management at Reimer Express Lines. Marian and husband John Friesen live in Winnipeg, and she still does some part-time nursing with the kidney dialysis. Henry and wife Dora (Blatz) are farming at Kane. Anne Fredricksen works for Canada Post in Winnipeg. Catherine and husband Gordon Zarychanski live in Edmonton where she works part-time as a switch-board operator for Sears in the WEM. June McBride is the Human Resources Administrator at Penn West Petroleum Ltd. in Calgary. Her twin Jean and husband Albert Kennedy live in Sardis, B.C. where she is the Administrative Assistant at O&Y Enterprise. Jake and wife Dale (Peckover) live in Transcona, and he drives long-distance for Bison Transport.

### **HENRY & DORA (Blatz) HILDEBRAND**

*by Henry and Dora Hildebrand*



*Hank and Dora Hildebrand, 1995.*

We were married in July of 1955, and moved into our "Honeymoon Cottage", three-quarter mile north of Kane. When the snow started blowing, and the road closed, we moved in with Dora's parents, Frank and Mary Blatz, east of Kane.

After a few years of living at Sperling and Winnipeg, we purchased the Mark Johnson farm (SE 19-5-2W), one

mile east and three miles north of Kane in 1959, for \$65.00 per acre (\$1,000.00 down), and started farming with an AR John Deere and a few small implements.

Our farm was situated next to a double dyke along the



*Hank and Dora Hildebrand family, 1997. Standing: Aaron, Gerry, Connie, Josh and Mike Caines. Kyle, Lucy, Steve and Trista Hildebrand. Sitting: Dora and Hank with Nolan H. Sitting in front: Jon C. with "Winston", Harlen H.*

Tobacco Creek, and this proved disastrous many a spring as the flood waters from the Pembina Hills came rushing down on us. In 1969, the bridge gave way and a floodway was built. In 1966, flood waters overflowed its banks and the yard was completely flooded. The water rose to the middle of the basement windows, but a sump pump kept the seepage out. We had to retrieve our empty, wooden grain bins many a spring, since they had a way of floating along with the spring flood.

Farming was tough business in those days, so Hank drove transport truck for Atomic and Reimer Express during the winter months to supplement the income, or, "keep the farm going".

In the fall of 1970, we built a hen house, 284x40, which housed 12,000 birds. The birds came in at 20 weeks old and usually stayed from eleven months to a year of laying time. Gathering eggs kept the family busy, and Henry stopped his regular transport runs in the winter at this time.

Our lives were centered around the activities at Kane, since the school, elevator, church and garage were all there. Being at the end of the school route, the children were always first on the bus in the morning and the last to get off at night. When the school closed at Kane in 1973, the children went to Lowe Farm for Junior High, and Senior High was taken at Morris. We were very much involved with life at the Community Centre with all of us playing ball, and Hank and Steve playing hockey as well. We served on the Recreation Committee at the Centre for many years. We also were involved in the work in the church, especially the Sunday School, during the years at Kane, and when it closed in 1973, we continued with the work in



*The H. H. Hildebrand farm, 1996.*

the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm.

Through the years we have put up steel bins, a work shop was built in 1976, and the house in 1978.

After forty years, we are still on the same farm, but the quota for the hen house was transferred to Prairie Egg, at Dufrost, Manitoba in 1999.

Our daughter Connie married Gerry Caines, and they live in Peterborough, Ontario. They have four sons; Josh (1979), Mike (1980), Aaron (1982), and Jon (1984).

Our son Steve married Lucy Penner and they live near Kane and farm with us. They have four children; Kyle (1985), Trista (1985), Harlen (1991), and Nolan (1995).

**Connie's Memories: Flood Time:** Every spring, run-off meant a challenge to get to school when the dyke's waters were running. If we were lucky, Steve and I would miss a day or two of school when the water was cresting. Before the big bridge was built, Dad brought us over with the John Deere tractor, until it was too deep. One spring the snow, ice and water took out the old bridge, so we played "Trazan" with ropes and planks to get across. Another spring we drove a motor boat to the front porch of our house! One year, Dad took us all the way around Carman, Roland and Myrtle just to get to school! There was excitement in the air, and we enjoyed the "adventures" especially after a long winter. It also brought the community together and often people gathered to watch the rise and fall of the local flood waters.

**Miss Enns' shower:** It was very special to have a bridal shower for a teacher I really liked, in our home. I felt honoured to "help" Mom out. The ladies from the community came to wish Miss Enns well.

**Shoe "houses":** In winter, during recess, the girls would make their homes in the empty room on the northeast corner. We would take off our shoes and place them on the outer edge to make our "house." There would be four to six homes. Then we would pretend to play house and visit each other.

**School Picnic:** The joy of eating cold watermelon slices on a hot afternoon. Mr. Wiebe would hand them out at the north side of the food booth.

**4-H:** This gave me the opportunity to go to Toronto: fly down, stay in the Royal York Hotel, see the Maple Leafs play, go on the Subway, go through the Toronto Science Museum, and see Yonge Street. Not bad for a prairie girl!

## STEVE & LUCY (Penner) HILDEBRAND *by Steve Hildebrand*

I was born on November 15, 1959, at the Concordia Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the second child of Henry and Dora Hildebrand of Kane. The first winter of my life was spent in Winnipeg, as my father was driving long distance for Atomic Transfer. Mom and Dad had already purchased the southeast quarter of 19-5-2W, that was to be my home for my entire childhood (and a good part of my adulthood).

In 1960, we moved to what was known as the Mark Johnston farm. He was an American by birth, and I was convinced that this meant that the President of the United States used to live at our house! As children, my sister Connie and I played outside on the large yard; during those times we did not have all the diversions available nowadays, but I don't recall the feelings of overwhelming boredom that I hear about now. There was always something interesting to do: big things that stand out are the flood of '66, our dog biting me, and some government guy coming out on account of a rabies scare, rice tires in '68, and the dike being dug in 1970. W.C.&R. of Oakville dug the dike, and I got a lot of rides on either cat and scrapers or bulldozers. Looking back, I guess it was probably safer for them to have me on the machine, rather than running around loose. In winter, Dad would be gone driving truck, so, much time was spent playing games inside with Mom and Connie, or digging in the snow.

In 1970, Mom and Dad built the barn; the purpose of this was to allow Dad to stay home at winter. I was very excited about this, although Dad was just a little more apprehensive about such a large undertaking. Doing chores proved exciting, as did the spending money, but I have to admit, the thrill has worn off slightly over the last 29 years. The barn has been good for us, and has carried the day more than a few times, when the grain aspect of the farm was less than we hoped for.

One thing we did as family, was to go on larger trips. After seeding, Dad would make a few trips to make necessary funds, and we would go somewhere on a trip. This meant that we couldn't go to Winni-



*Steve and Lucy Hildebrand with  
(l-r): Kyle, Trista, Harlen, and Nolan in front, 1999.*

peg on as many day trips as we would have liked, but it was well worth it. I recall a trip to California in '66, a trip to Alaska in '68, and several times to British Columbia. We were going to go to the east coast in 1975, but my sister just had to get married, so that kind of sank that ship! I considered myself very fortunate to be able to do these things, and as family, we still enjoy travelling.

I enjoyed school (for the most part) at Kane, and can honestly say that I was disappointed when we had to take grade seven to nine at Lowe Farm. I made good friends there, but Kane always seemed more carefree than did the larger school at Lowe Farm, for instance, playing ball tag around the school, and sometimes through it, was pretty normal at Kane.

Picnic day was always the big day of the summer, when we would all get together for a good day of sports. It seems to me that that day was generally a hot and sticky day (all the better reason to fill up on six cent Cokes!). Another recollection I have is the anticipation of the men's foot race, when we would settle once and for all for another year whose Dad was the fastest!

Other memories of my early years were at the church, where we attended, of being in Mrs. Giesbrecht's Sunday School Class downstairs, Christmas programs, goody bags, women on one side, men on the other, Jugendverein, etc. I also have vague recollections of sitting closer to the front with Ted Giesbrecht, and getting the dreaded tap on the shoulder when my Dad would decide that things had gone far enough, and would come from the back of the church to straighten me out.

For many years, my Dad farmed with his Uncle Jake Born; during harvesttime Dad was always on the combine,

and Uncle Jake and I would be on the truck. Uncle Jake was a lot of fun to be with, and I regarded him more as a grandfather than a great uncle. He would regale me with endless stories while we would sit at the end of the field listening to ball games, reading old Reader's Digests, and swilling cold Postum from a quart jar. He was also a good teacher, possessing the patience required to teach a nine year old to double-clutch a '49 Fargo, and to unload on the go. I do recall a few mishaps resulting in a bit of shovel practice on the field. Other good memories are of us combining with my Uncles Henry, Jake, Frank, and Norman.

Going to town was quite special in a day and age when it didn't happen all the time. I remember the sheer joy of getting to pull a drink out of the cooler at the store, drying it off with the cloth, and sitting on the steam heaters by the windows. Many times Dad would have it all settled before we went to town, that we didn't need a drink today, but he didn't count on me running into Mr. Abram H. Penner at the store. That man had a gift; he could spot a kid dying of thirst, and he knew exactly how to remedy the situation, much to Dad's chagrin! The store was a great meeting place; a place to talk to friends after picking up the mail. (My older children also can recall Pete Harder slicing up balogna, and if they were lucky, they'd get a slice.) In my mind, there was never a better place to live than where we did. The Kane Garage was also a special place, because there was another drink machine there! It was a sad day when the garage burned down.

I finished High School at Morris in 1977, then worked on road construction for one summer (the same company that had given me those rides as a kid), and started at Westfield Industries in 1978. At this time I started farming with Dad, and worked out to help make ends meet. As was the case with my father, I did some driving at Reimer Express while I was trying to expand my farming operation.

In 1985, I moved to the yard on SE 6-5-2W, where I currently reside with my family. In 1989, I was able to purchase the quarter section where I lived and this was particularly satisfying because my Uncle Jake Born had owned and lived on this property; two years later, I was able to acquire the north quarter, which had also been owned by Jake Born.

I met Lucy Penner, of Lowe Farm, very late in 1986, and we were married on February 22, 1990. We each brought a child into our marriage: Kyle Even Bradley, (August 20, 1985) and Trista Marie (November 28, 1985). We have since been blessed with two more boys, Harlen David Joseph (June 3, 1991) and Nolan Stephen Cole (March 16, 1995). Our lives are very full these days, with music and hockey lessons, and all the school and church activities.

Lucy worked at the Morris Hospital, in the kitchen, and continued to work there after our marriage. When Harlen was born, Lucy took time off and Kyle enjoyed having her at home so much that she was not encouraged to go back, so after much deliberation, Lucy decided to



*The farm of Steve and Lucy Hildebrand,  
1991 (formerly the Davidson and Fredricksen farm).*

stay at home with our boys.

We attend the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm, and enjoy the company of good friends and fellow believers there. Other activities include motorcycles, ATV's, and all the things that farm kids get to do. I own a special interest car, a convertible, that we enjoy as much as time permits in summer. In winter we go away as family on weekend snowmobile trips, these are much enjoyed by all, and serve as a healthy family activity. We also have been able to go on a number of larger trips, which have been enjoyed very much.

As far as the farm goes, Dad and I are still farming together, with my boys starting to help along. Kyle, Trista, and Harlen do chores at Dad's place, and Kyle has started doing fieldwork. Farming these days is challenging, and alternately frustrating and rewarding. I suppose that much has not changed since Mom and Dad started in 1960. One major change for us occurred this last year when we transferred our layer quota to a shareholder barn at Dufrost. Chores, which have been a way of life for us will eventually be over.

God has been good to us, and we are grateful for all the blessings He has bestowed on us.

### **ABE J. & NETTIE (Born) HYDE** *by Cameron, Lenore and Janice*



*The Hyde farm, 1954.*

Abe J. Hyde (1901-1982), our Dad, was born and raised on a farm at Horndean, Manitoba.

In 1922 he married Nettie Born (1905-1982), our Mom, and shortly thereafter they purchased and moved to a farm one mile east of Kane at NE 31-4-2W in the Morris Municipality.

It was at Kane that their four children were born, raised, and educated. They were Cameron (1924-), Cleona (1928-1994), Lenore (1933-), and Janice (1938-).

Farm life brought with it many interesting adventures. "The Pig Killing Bee" was held in the winter with the help of neighbours. Lots of water had to be boiled, fires started under the big vats used for rendering the lard, intestines had to be scraped, cleaned and salted for the making of sausage. Hams, bacon and spare ribs were also the result of this event. The helpers pay for the day was a gift of fresh meat.

Every spring the farm was flooded up to a depth of three feet in low-lying areas. These floodwaters would sweep with them the straw, weeds and flotsam that were deposited on our land, and had to be burned or removed before spring work could begin. Sometimes a cold spell would hit at the height of the flood and the resulting coat of ice would permit a person to skate for miles in any direction. On one such frosty day, a cousin, Henry Heide, skated from his home in Lowe Farm to our farm, a distance of about ten miles return.

Horses played a very important part in early farm days. In fact, when Dad and Mom got married, a wedding gift from his parents was a young horse named "Lady". She served the family well for over twenty years. Another particular horse named "Prince" comes to mind. He was a beautiful and sleek looking horse and for this reason Dad liked him for pulling the family buggy to church. Frequently following the service the family would pile into the buggy only to find that Prince was in one of his balky moods. Failing to get Prince to move, Dad would get out of the buggy and try to pull Prince along by tugging on the bridle while some of the congregation would amusedly stand around to watch and see what would happen next. Suddenly, without warning, the



*Abe and Nettie Hyde's 50th Anniversary, 1972. Back row: Glenn, Daryl and Robert White, Dale Greening. Center row: John and Janice Schellenberg, Russell and Lenore Greening, Clare and Cameron Hyde, Cleona and Tom White. Front row: Nettie (Mom), Bradley and Michael Schellenberg, Janine White, Abe (Dad).*

horse would take off at top speed leaving Dad to run as though demons were chasing him, to catch up and climb laboriously onto the back of the buggy, while Mom was desperately pulling on the reins in an endeavor to slow Prince down.

All the Hyde children received their education at the Kane Consolidated School. Children were transported to school in vans, which were on wheels in summer and placed on sleighs in winter. These vans were horse drawn in the early years. In the wintertime foot warmers filled with glowing coal briquettes were placed in the vans so that the children's feet could be kept warm. Another hazard was the ever-present danger of the van upsetting in the wintertime. The children would have to crawl out and help the driver right the van in order to continue on their way. In later years roads improved, vans became obsolete and cars took their place.

At various times Dad served as a Director, and also as Chairman of the Kane School Board of Trustees. He also

drove a school van for several years. In addition, he found himself involved with the Kane Sunday School and Church.

In 1966, Mom and Dad sold the farm to Norman Blatz and auctioned off the farm equipment. Dad and Mom farmed at Kane for a total of 44 years, retiring to Morden, Manitoba in 1967, where they lived for the next fifteen years until they both passed away in 1982.

In Dad's retirement years he kept a diary of the events of the day and closed each daily entry with these words, "I thank the Lord for grace for the day. Amen." Prior to Mom's passing she penned a few lines that were discovered later and perhaps left as a legacy to her children. "We pray to our Father in heaven, but all three, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear our prayers. Jesus, we thank you for giving your life for our sins. Holy Spirit, we thank you for living in us, directing our lives."

Cameron married Clare Kran of Morris, Manitoba in 1946. They resided briefly at Lac du Bonnet where Cam worked as Station Agent for Canadian Pacific Air Lines until

they moved to Vancouver on the west coast in 1947. Presently they live in retirement in Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island. Cam's career was in Accounting and Credit management.

Cleona married Tom White, also of Kane in 1948. Cleona worked for the T. Eaton company for many years. Tom's career was in accounting. They resided in Winnipeg and raised a family of four, three sons and one daughter. Robert, the oldest remained single. Daryl, Glenn and Janine married and each have two children. Daryl and his family reside in Calgary, and the other children live in Winnipeg. Cleona passed away in 1994, as the result of a long bout with cancer.

Lenore married Russell Greening of Lowe Farm, Manitoba in 1951. They lived in Winnipeg where Lenore worked for the Provincial Government until 1965, at which time they moved to Edmonton, Alberta. Lenore continued her career in Edmonton until she retired in 1993. Russell's career was in Sales and Management and he retired in 1997. They had one son, Dale, who died at age 30 as the result of a swimming accident. He left a wife and two small children.

Janice married John Schellenberg of Niverville, Manitoba in 1956. They lived in Winnipeg where Janice worked for the Provincial Government until 1963, at which time they moved to Red Deer, Alberta. In 1974, they moved to Sherwood Park, Alberta where Janice continued her career until her retirement in 1994. John's career was in Sales and Management and he also retired in 1994. They raised two sons Michael and Bradley. Michael, his wife and two children reside in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Bradley, his wife and four children reside in Grande Cache, Alberta.

**Recollections by Cameron:** On the farmyard, we had a couple of small granaries, which we referred to as "bins". They would be the size of a small bedroom. In springtime, following the seeding when the bins were emptied, I was allowed to select one of them for my own personal use. After I scrubbed and cleaned it, it would become my bedroom and house a steamer trunk, my bookcase which I had built at the woodworking class in school, a horse blanket for a mattress, a quilt and pillow, along with my other sparse possessions. This was my private domain, greatly treasured, but constantly invaded by my younger sisters when I was not around, in order to read my books or go through my personal possessions.

A good bike in those days cost approximately eighteen dollars at Eaton's - I know because they had them in their catalogue. For years I had been saving my pennies and nickels to buy one. As I was nearing my goal, I lost my wallet containing about half of my savings. Weeks of searching brought no results. I was so depressed that I decided to spend what remained. The following spring I came across a pair of old trousers - Lo and Behold - there in one of the back pockets was my missing wallet. Needless to add, that was one of the earliest tragedies that I can re-

member, because I never did get to own a bike until I was in my early sixties.

**Recollections by Lenore:** I remember Mom sitting on the floor in front of the old washstand, taking down her braids that she wore in a bun, and thinning her hair which was waist length. I would always sit beside her, fascinated by the procedure. Dad, when sitting in his rocking chair, would let me sit on his lap and allow me to give him weird and wonderful hair-dos.

I recall an occasion when Dad personally told me about buying a dinner set for Mom for Christmas. He decided to hide it under some straw in the barn. Unfortunately, some time during the night the horse broke out of its stall, tramping and breaking the entire dinner set as a consequence. Dad had to take another hog to market in order to replace the broken dishes. This really hurt because things were so tight financially.

We had three rows of trees behind the house that Mom had planted. She kept the soil under the trees hoed at all times. This is where my sister Janice and I spent many hours building roads and bridges, including spillways in the roads - all of it accomplished with soil and bricks. We had zilch for toys, especially boy's toys, but we did have a rusty old toy truck that we used in our play. It was minus the wheels, but served the purpose. In wintertime, Mom generously allowed us to remove the sewing machine drawers and use them to make houses for our paper dolls, which we cut from the Eaton's catalogue.

Happy memories - Mr. Blatz picking up the village kids to come pick the mustard weeds out of his grain fields. This never seemed like work - we all had such a great time and to top it all off - we got twenty-five cents an hour for our labours!!!

**Recollections by Janice:** There was the Christmas that my sister Lenore received a "Wettums doll" as a gift and which she prized so dearly. I was possibly three years old at the time. I recall being put to bed in my crib in the bedroom before the rest of the family retired for the night. I spotted that darling doll on top of the dresser that just so happened to be located adjacent to my crib. It intrigued me to the extent that I dared to reach out for it because I dearly longed to hold it for just a little while. I DROPPED IT!! The head on the doll shattered into several pieces and Lenore was shattered too, when she found out what had happened to her treasured doll and remained devastated for days.

On the eve of my wedding, Cam, Mom and I went to pick up the beautiful, ornate and fragile wedding cake, that had been made by a relative. It had been raining for days and the country roads were now muddy and slippery. Cam was driving while Mom sat next to him holding the cake. It took a lot of maneuvering to keep the car on the crown of the slippery road. Success was in sight, only our farm lane to negotiate and the cake would be safe. *Near tragedy struck!* As Cam went to turn onto the lane,

the right front wheel suddenly preferred the ditch and the car started to tilt with Mom screaming—"the cake!" Dad spotting our predicament from the farmyard, immediately readied a team of horses, pulled us onto the roadway and back to the house. A subsequent careful inspection showed that all was not lost. A bit of TCL restored the cake and it looked perfect to everyone except those who knew what had happened.

## **HENRY & ANNA (Thiessen) KEHLER**

*by Elma (Kehler) Ginter*



*The Henry Kehler farm in 1961.*

Henry and Anna were married November 28, 1935. They ran a small mixed farm 2½ miles east and two miles south of Kane. Henry also drove the school bus (van) for about nine years. It was about that time he fell ill with diabetes and passed away at age 53. That left Anna a widow at age 44. Together they had five children: one son Jake, and four daughters, Nettie, Martha, Elma and Dorothy.

After Henry's death in September, 1959, Anna and family moved to Winkler where she and Elma and Martha worked in the Sewing Factory for many years while Jake drove truck for Percy Enns, and Dorothy continued school.

In 1966, Anna met and married Jake Wiebe from British Columbia where she moved to. That union was cut short when Jake had a stroke and died in June, 1968. That left Anna a widow again. She then moved back to Manitoba.

In 1971, she married Jake Hiebert. That union was also cut short when Jake suffered a heart attack, and again she was a widow in November, 1983.

Henry and Anna's children: Nettie married Jake Klassen of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and they had four children; three girls, Charlotte (and Norm) Friesen who had five boys (the first boy died at age five); Elfrieda (and Neil) Fensko and they had two boys and one girl; Elvina (and Dave) Waind who had one son. Son Sheldon (and Leanne) Klassen have three boys and one girl. Nettie passed away in September, 1971.

Martha and Harry Penner live in Sanford, Manitoba.



*Mrs. Anna (Kehler) Hiebert and family, (l-r): Martha, Jake, Elma, Dorothy, 1996. Nettie passed away in 1971.*

They have two boys: Ken (and Lori) Penner have one son; one daughter Yvonne Penner, and Richard Penner at home.

Elma and Abe Ginter live in Winkler. They have one daughter Annette (and Darryl) Ginter/Pillipow, and they have one daughter.

Jake Kehler lives in Winnipeg with son Joel Kehler.

Dorothy and Dave Hildebrand live in Winnipeg. They have one son Colin and one daughter Cherryl at home.

## **JOHN & EDNA (Neufeld) KEHLER**

*by John and Edna Kehler*



*John and Edna Kehler on their 25th Anniversary in 1981. (l-r): Murray, Edna, Clara, John, Jim and Phyllis.*

John married Edna Neufeld (of Sewell area) south-east of Lowe Farm in 1956. We lived initially in the Kane area for a little while. We then moved around for a while as John worked on heavy construction equipment such as cranes, draglines and backhoes. We lived briefly in Calgary in 1963, and moved back to Manitoba in 1964. John then took an auctioneering course in Masen City, Iowa, and has been in the auction business for over thirty years. We settled down at Kane SE 31-4-2W, and later purchased the farm where we still reside and have for over thirty years. We operated an aerial spray service for some time along with our farming and auction business.



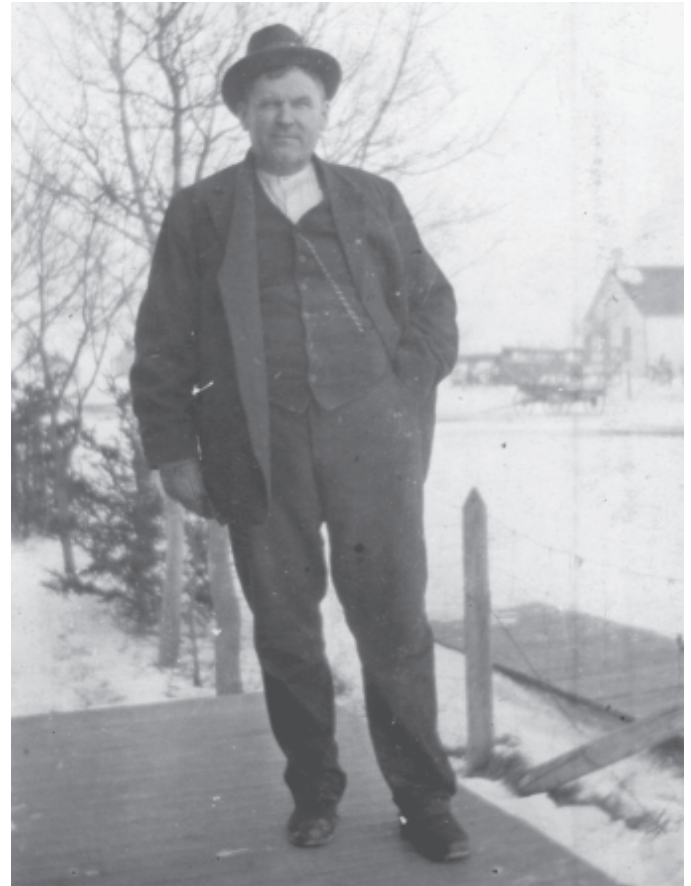
*John and Edna Kebler and family, 1999. Jim and Phyllis Kebler and sons on the left, Terry and Clara Reimer and daughters on the right.*

We were blessed with three children; James Alan, Murray John and Clara Fay. Sadly M. J. passed away in 1988, and caused us to sorrow deeply, but the Lord sustained us through this time. James is married to Phyllis (Brandt) and they have two sons; Matthew and Braden. They live in St. Vital. Clara married Terry Reimer of Morris and they have three girls; Stephanie, Lindsay and Jennifer.

Our yard at Kane, possibly one of the oldest in the area, was homesteaded perhaps 100 or so years ago, but has presently had all buildings replaced from what they were.

John's family, two brothers and two sisters, grew up 1¾ miles west of Kane with parents Cornie and Margaret Kehler. Dad Kehler passed away in 1996, and presently Mom is in the Morris Lodge at the age of 85. They had been retired to Morden for nearly twenty years. Edna's parents, Abram and Nettie Neufeld, both passed away in 1994, having resided in Winkler for many years.

**THOMAS & MARY (Cook) KIRK**  
**CLIFF & MARION (Wilson) KIRK**  
*by Donna (Kirk) Freedman and Tom Kirk*



*Thomas Kirk.*

Thomas Kirk homesteaded the family farm at Kane. His father had also homesteaded near Kincardine, Ontario, after immigrating from Perth, Scotland. In 1883, Thomas became the first in his family to come to western Canada, in search of new opportunities.

The Kirk farm was located at NW 36-4-3W. Tom was prepared for the hardships of farming as he had helped his father on the Kirk farms in Ontario, however he was now alone and faced the awesome tasks of all homesteaders of building a shelter and breaking ground. He built a sod house and staked the land the first year, thus establishing his claim to the Kane homestead.

Tom married Mary Cook in 1900. The Cook family also homesteaded at Kane in the 1880's, having moved there from South Dakota, USA. Tom and Mary had a family of eight children. Tom built a small house at Kane and a large barn for horses and cattle. Eventually he moved his family to Myrtle, Manitoba, although Tom maintained an interest in the Kane community. He was on the school board of Kane Consolidated School in its early years and served as chair for a number of those years. He owned the stores at Kane and Myrtle. Tom and Mary are buried at Myrtle Cemetery.



*The Cliff Kirk farm during spring flood.*

After Tom's death Cliff Kirk took over the family farm. He married Marion Wilson from Sperling, Manitoba, and they had two children, Donna and Thomas (Tom). Cliff was a hardworking farmer and due to his efforts the farm prospered. He planted many trees around the house, and eventually built a new home, using lumber from the old barn that had been built by his father. Marion was a great homemaker and everyone was welcome to drop in. Our early memories are of Mom cooking big dinners, and baking buns, cookies and cakes - all of which would disappear with the constant stream of company.

Donna and Tom attended the old Kane Consolidated School. Tom, like his father, loved baseball. He played on local teams and at school. Tom also played hockey. In those years there was an outdoor rink on the school yard and boys would play hockey at recess and girls would skate while the hockey games were going on! Other school memories are of going to school, on snowy winter days, in a horse drawn van. Each of these horse drawn vans had



*Cliff Kirk giving some assistance to the van.*

a small stove that we would stoke-up, amazingly no one was burned. Donna participated in the local 4-H club for young girls.

Marion and Cliff retired to Winnipeg. Cliff died on February 17, 1997. Marion lives in a seniors' apartment in Winnipeg and is close to her children and grandchildren.

Tom is a lawyer and married Mary Tongen from St. Paul, Minnesota. They live in Winnipeg. Their two children are Sarah and Molly.

Donna lives in Victoria, British Columbia. She is a nurse with the federal government. She is married to Hy Freedman and has two children from her first marriage - Kirk Stinchcombe and Tim Stinchcombe.

## **REV. ISAAC G. & NETTIE (Hoepfner) KRAHN**

*by John Krahn*



*The Krahn family, 1959. Harold, Rev Isaac Krahn, Margaret, Nettie (Mom), Mary-Ann.*

I became aware of the hamlet of Kane when I was in Grade IX in the Winkler High School. One of my five teachers, a Mr. Siemens had taught at Kane and also owned property at Kane. When I heard the name Kane at school, I asked a classmate, "Where is that?" I was aware of Roland and Morris, but didn't know that a strange place known as Kane existed about halfway between the two. For us Morris was on the main highway on the infrequent trips we made to Winnipeg; while the Roland Municipality was where my Grandfather (George D. or Gerhard) had pioneered and my Father had grown up. Little did I realize then, that within a year Kane would be my hometown!

In Winkler Dad (Reverend Isaac G. Krahn) had been a business man as well as a lay preacher in the fast growing Berghaler Church, while Mother (Nettie, nee Hoepfner) looked after the family's needs. The church responsibilities were great and time demanding while the business also required attention six days per week. The thinking seemed to be that if Dad could get involved in a smaller church and if he farmed he would have time to study during the winter months and would be able to do a more

adequate job of looking after a church. At the same time Dad seemed to have a yearning to get back into agricultural pursuits and finish raising his family in the country rather than in town. My older sister Eva had already left home to work in the far off place of St. Catherines, Ontario. After a few years there she married a man by the name of Henry Abrahams. Dad could see that in a few short years I might be entering the job market as well and I still didn't know much about farming. However, I had two younger brothers and two younger sisters who could still receive the full benefit of growing up in a rural area.

As I was entering the final term of Grade IX (Easter to June) Dad was busy negotiating the purchase of a small parcel of land at Kane and discussing the formation of a Bergthaler Church in the area. The church was soon organized and services were begun in the Kane Consolidated School. Dad had been engaged as its Pastor. At the same time the land had been purchased and Dad went to Kane every day to seed his crop. I eagerly went along on Saturdays and holidays to take part in the excitement of the farm. On Sundays the whole family went to church at Kane. Services were held in the local school. That is where I first started singing in a church choir. Dad conducted it. There was considerable interest and enthusiasm and quite a large group of participants for a small organization.

When school recessed for the summer we moved to Kane (SW 6-5-2W). What had been a little out of the way hamlet became home in the summer of 1951. That fall David and Mary-Ann started school in a new school (to them), namely in the Kane Consolidated School. I had been asked to stay home to help with the farm work.

I probably hadn't been too enthusiastic about school at this time and therefore fairly easily persuaded to stay at home. Somehow I seemed to sense though, that this wouldn't be a permanent situation. A year later I went to Bible School in Altona. The Bible School term was about five months long which fit in very well with students involved in farming in the spring, summer, and fall.

After about a year of using the Kane School building for church services, a church building was purchased and moved to Kane. For the older folk this was a big improvement. They didn't have to sit in student's desks anymore during the services. The choir had its own section to sit in, and in general there was more room. After the choir had been in existence for a while we also organized a male quartet. It consisted of Dave Giesbrecht, first tenor; Ed L. Braun, second tenor, Dad Krahn, low bass; and myself, baritone. Mrs. Dave Giesbrecht provided the piano accompaniment. We practiced quite regularly for two or three years. Both I and later Mary-Ann were baptized in that church.

The new church had been moved right onto a corner of our farmland, adjacent to the west side of town. Kane now had two churches. Most of the town, which included the school, a repair garage, the store, which also housed the post office, and a few residences besides the two teacherages as well as the other church, was also located

on the same quarter section as our farm. The two elevators and oil storage shed were located on the south side of the highway, next to the C.N. Railroad.

The decade of the 50's was a great time to live at Kane. We took cans of cream and crates of eggs to the railroad station to be shipped to market. A return cheque always came in the mail. In fall my sister shipped baskets of grapes to us which we picked up at the station. During our second summer at Kane, Eva, her husband, and three little girls (their family at the time - they later had a total of seven children), came to visit us. We were experiencing a period of rainy weather at the time which brought out a very unique aspect of the Kane area, namely its gumbo soil (heavy clay). They got quite a reception. Coming from an eastern urban area, the muddy gravel road (#23 Highway wasn't paved until we moved away) from Morris provided a strange experience. Then came the quarter of a mile of dirt road when they turned off the highway towards our farmyard. Anybody who has lived at Kane knows the the gumbo can get both slippery and sticky. We had been notified (we did have telephones though usually about six families shared a line called a 'party line') as to when to expect their arrival and were watching for them to come around the corner. They hadn't come down the dirt road more than a hundred meters (yards in those days) when the car slid off the road. I was expecting to be told to get the farm tractor and go for them, but this easterner knew what to do. He put his Oldsmobile in low gear and came roaring down the ditch beside the road. The only problem was the car engine overheated and he came into the yard in a cloud of steam. We concluded that this man from an eastern General Motors factory was quite a driver - not such a city man after all.

Things could have been worse for him however. His car wheels could have rolled up with mud to the point where he couldn't drive. Yes, I told him about times when even the tractor wheels were rolled up and the space between the wheels and the fenders plugged with mud so you couldn't drive. Then you waited for a nice sunny day and for the mud to dry so you could pick it out with a crowbar. We also told him that many of the school vans were Model A cars and occasionally drivers had to put special sets of chains around the wheels for extra traction. This was not only for mud, but also snow. Then we told him that several of the school van drivers also had a horse drawn covered wagon and a team of horses to use when things really got bad, of course in blizzardy weather there was also the option of not going at all.

The trend toward larger farms supporting fewer families had already begun. Families were moving to larger centers and some small towns were becoming smaller. The closing of the railroad station was the first evidence of the move to urban centers and substantial changes in the mode of transportation. The church on the east side of town was the next to close its doors (was moved to Lowe Farm in the spring of 1954) and though we weren't conscious of the fact at that time, the Bergthaler Church too was

destined to cease operation within the next decade, which would soon be followed by the closing of the High School section of the Kane School and finally the whole school. Isn't it strange that consolidation at one time brought more students to Kane whereas at a later point in time further consolidation took them all away.

Before the town was eroded too far, I took advantage of the educational opportunities offered at Kane at that time. Two winters of studying at Elim Bible School had opened my eyes to the need of more secular education. I enrolled in Grade XI in the old brick building that bore the inscription above its main door. "Kane School-1920". I had received special permission from the Minister of Education to skip Grade X because of the two years of Bible School training that I had. Since Bible School had not taught Mathematics, I was asked however, to finish the Grade X Mathematics course before beginning the Grade XI component. The Rose Farm School was already downsizing. They sent the only Grade XI student they had to Kane. With him we were four Grade XI students who graduated with a junior matriculation diploma the following spring. Grade XI was the top grade that Kane Consolidated offered, and the whole High School Department of the school was housed in one room in the basement, whereas the eight elementary grades were housed in two rooms on the main floor. Two of the teachers were married and lived in teacherages while a third single teacher boarded with a family in the community. For a time in fact she boarded at our place.

After that year of studying at the Kane School, I finished the third and final year of the Bible School Diploma course started earlier, before going on to study for my senior matriculation certificate at the Mennonite Collegiate Institute, in Gretna, and starting a degree program at the University of Manitoba.

It was just before I embarked on that Grade XII year at the MCI, that my brother David died on the school yard at Kane. For him school had started about two weeks earlier than for me. He had just started Grade IX when one fine noon hour while playing football he fell to the ground. The staff was summoned, but all efforts to revive him failed. I was on my way from Vancouver to Winnipeg, at the time; finishing my last trip of the season as a sleeping car porter for the Canadian National Railway. When I got to my boarding place that day I received the news of my brother's death. That was a traumatic experience not only for our family, but for the whole school; a mystery, as an autopsy on his body did not reveal any particular failures or malfunctions. The prevailing theory at the time was that David had choked on some food particles, since the incident happened very shortly after he had eaten lunch. Despite the almost immediate attention of two staff members, he could not be revived. Whatever could have choked him was not apparent to the doctor doing the post-mortem examination. Our family was able to find solace in the knowledge that David had had a very clearly expressed dependency on Jesus Christ as his Saviour from sin and

that indeed all our lives were daily in the hands of God.

Our family did not become longtime residents of Kane. After a little more than a decade the small farm didn't seem adequate to meet the needs of the family amidst rising economic pressures, although the family was decreasing in size. I had married and moved to Winnipeg while Mary-Ann was also in Winnipeg, in nurses training. Harold was still attending the Kane School. My youngest sister, Margaret, did not attend school in Kane. When she reached school age she was transported daily to a special needs school in Winkler as she had been born with a malady known as Down's Syndrome.

Beside these economic pressures the Berghthaler Church's membership too, seemed to be dwindling. As young people grew up they moved elsewhere, for employment reasons. As a result the family farm was sold, and in 1962 our family relocated to Niverville where Dad had purchased an egg grading station. During our time at Kane many other rural railroad stations had also shut down. This was indicative of the changes in agriculture throughout western Canada. Small diversified farms were giving way to larger specialized farms. The era of shipping a few cans of cream and a few cases of eggs per week was over. Some of the small town egg grading stations were also already seeing a demise as large egg producing farms changed to on farm grading. Dad's new business lasted about five years before it too succumbed to farm specialization. Harold finished his High School in the Niverville Collegiate. My wife Grace and I also moved to Niverville for a year so that she could help Dad in the egg grading station when she wasn't busy teaching piano students while I went to Teachers College (finishing my University degree had to wait).

From Niverville Dad, Mom, and Margaret moved to Goultdown, Saskatchewan where Dad had taken on a church pastorate. Harold had already enrolled in a Bible College in Winnipeg, upon completion of which, he took on a youth pastorate in a large church in Winnipeg. Mary-Ann was a Doctor's receptionist in Steinbach while I and my family had moved to Ilford (north of Thompson) to teach. Margaret had been employed at the Steinbach Kindale Training Centre, but lived with the folks, where she continued to stay nearly all her life. During the family's eleven year stay at Goultdown, she was transported daily to Swift Current to an institution that was similar to what she had been at in Winkler and Steinbach.

When Dad retired he and Mom and Margaret moved to Morden, Manitoba. From here Margaret was again transported daily to the Valley Rehab Centre in Winkler where she worked until a week before she died, which was in the spring of 1993. When the folks had to move to a Personal Care Home, in the later part of the 80's, Margaret was placed in a group home for mentally challenged people, in Winkler. Mother died in June of 1990, while Dad followed her in 1994, to be with the Lord God whom they had so diligently served in churches in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

At the time of the preparation of this book, Harold is serving as a Chaplain in the Correction Institutions of British Columbia. He lives in Abbotsford. He and his wife Carolyn, (nee Hiebert) who originally came from Herbert, the neighbouring town to Goultown, have two married sons and a third unmarried son who is serving as a carpenter's apprentice.

From Steinbach Mary-Ann had moved to Winnipeg to take a position in a hospital. While here she married Gerald T. Russell, a widower, and helped him raise two daughters, who are both married and live in British Columbia. When she wants to baby-sit any of her five grandchildren she has to fly to Vancouver. She has left the nursing profession and is working as a legal secretary while her husband is retired from his lifelong accounting job with the CNR.

I have retired from teaching and Grace and I are very involved in the Steinbach MCC Thrift Store in managerial capacities. While I was teaching at Pembina Valley Hutterite Colony I became involved with Winkler Bible Camp and its daughter camp, Pembina Valley Camp. During the late 70's and 80's I raised horses for the camp program and ran the camp Horsemanship Program during the summers. I still raise a few horses for Pembina Camp each year and bring a few more, to my hobby farm near Steinbach, to feed during the winter. Our three children are all married. They all live within forty minutes of us and we baby-sit with all our five grandchildren.

Despite our farming experiences at Kane none of us Krahn children went into farming. I got the closest. I started hobby farming when I was about halfway through my teaching career. I started with bees and purebred Morgan horses. I have also raised broilers, geese and sweet corn. At the moment I'm down to only a few horses (of my own) and about twenty acres of sweet corn.

## GEORGE MILLER

*by Dora Hildebrand with information from Furrows in the Valley*

George Miller came to Manitoba from Ontario and bought section 5-5-2W in 1912. This property had been purchased in 1903 by his cousin, George Davidson,

who also broke the land. George Davidson came to Manitoba from Ashern, Ontario together with Jim Miller, a nephew of George Miller. George Miller named his new home, *Whiteball Farm*.

Mrs. George Miller says, "By the time I got there in 1916, the house, barn and implement shed had been built. It was a great challenge to me, making a home and cooking for men. Having nursed, I had little experience, but trying to be wise I struggled on, and soon got used to western ways. I'm sure I could think of many funny experiences especially being stuck in the mud and facing blizzards."



*Whiteball Farm: home of the George Millers.*

Margaret Heinrichs (later to become Mrs. Eddie H. Groening), a young girl of sixteen, was rather apprehensive about working for these "English" people, the George Millers, when she arrived there in 1939. Mrs. Miller was very particular about the housework, and Margaret says that when she had finished washing the big kitchen floor, her employer had tested her work by wiping a white cloth over the floor. Mrs. Miller was also very involved with the "war effort" and everything possible was done to save material for the country.

Margaret was in the process of joining the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church at this time and arrangements were made that the Miller's most trusted hired man would take her to church on Sunday mornings. There were also a few times when she went along with the Millers to the Kane School where the United Church minister, Rev. Peden, held services. One Sunday night Margaret had given the invitation to the Millers to come to the concert by the Melba Choir in the Kane School. Mrs. Miller and one of the hired men (likely the driver) came to hear Margaret and her choir sing. Mrs. Miller had been quite impressed, especially with the well dressed choir master.

The Millers never did have a family, but thoroughly enjoyed their animals allowing their pet dog the run of the house, and a spot at the foot of his master's bed at night time.

Mr. Miller was a very good farmer and he handpicked the whole section for weeds like wild mustard with the help of his two hired men.

The Millers were getting on in years and their desire was to go back to Ontario for their retirement. So Mr. Miller, when looking for a prospective buyer for his property, ended up at the home of Mr. Frank G. Blatz, then living southwest of Kane. A verbal agreement was made at the time and legal papers were made much later. Blatz's second oldest son went over and started plowing at the new farm in the fall of 1943. The Millers moved to Toronto and the Blatz family moved in at *Whiteball Farm*.

Mr. Miller still had grain to sell and owned a granary full of flax that had been there since World War I without being sold because "the price

wasn't right"! He came back in 1944, stayed his nights at the Morris hotel, and went to his former farm to look after the business of selling the grain. To his dismay the flax was hard, and he believed it was all spoiled! Mr. Blatz dug around a bit and found out that only the top crust was ruined. Mr. Miller hired the two older Blatz boys to shovel the grain and it was hauled out by Eric Trinder from Lowe Farm. This time the "price was right".

**JAMES & ALICE (Wilson) NEILES**  
*from Living Gold (R.M. of Roland)*

James Neiles was born in Ireland, and came to Canada in 1885, and settled in Aurora, Ontario where he met Alice Wilson, from Chorley, England. They were married in 1894, and took over the hotel in Aurora until 1898. Through correspondence with Mrs. Rogerson, James and Alice Neiles decided to sell the hotel, and move to the Rural Municipality of Roland, in Manitoba. They bought the east half of 3-5-3W, a C.P.R. section, two miles west of Kane. Mr. Neiles broke the land and built a small house and barn. A well was drilled over 100 feet deep in the middle of the yard in 1900. When water was struck, it came up so fast it sprayed all over and soon had a small lake which remained for some time. A pump had to be kept running to keep the water eight feet below the surface, where it has remained steady for one hundred years. (It was last used in 1993 by the present owners, Jake and Helen Penner. They discontinued the use because the water was too hard.)

The Neiles family patronized the garage and fuel business at Kane regularly, and were friendly neighbours to the west.

Their family: Jim, born in Ontario, attended Woodvale (across the road to the east) and Myrtle Schools, died of the flu in 1918; Irvin, born in Ontario, farmed at Riding Mountain, retired to Winnipeg; Evelyn, Mrs. Don Odonovan, lived in Kansas City; Fred, took over the farm after his father's death in 1921. He bought land at Carman, later, retired to Winnipeg; Alice, Mrs. Amil Gorice, lived in Winnipeg; Bill and Elsie, remained on the farm

and cared for their mother, who passed away in 1961; Eddie went to Winnipeg where he worked for Air Canada. In 1964, he married Betty Binnie. Bill and Elsie moved to Morden in 1970, selling the farm in 1972. Elsie died in 1974. Bill died in the late 90's. Eddie, was the last to pass away of that generation of the Neiles family, and he died in 1999.

**GEORGE & AGATHA NEUFELD**  
*by Agatha Neufeld*



*The 25th Anniversary of George and Agatha Neufeld with Judy and Henry Froese, Gina, and grandson Douglas Froese.*



*The George Neufeld home at Kane, 1946.*

George enlisted and served in Holland with the Medical Corps.

We were married in 1946 and moved to the Kane area. Judy arrived in '47 and Gina in '48.

We purchased the NE quarter of 26-4-3 from Frank G. and Mary Blatz.

We were not very active in the community. I was a member of the Kane Mission Sisters. The highlight every year was the Mission Sale with the proceeds going to Missions.

Gina and Judy were baptized in the Kane Bergthaler Church.

Gina is employed at the Forces base in Winnipeg. Judy is with Muscular Dystrophy, also in Winnipeg.

Due to George's ill health we retired in 1977 and moved to Morris, Manitoba. George passed away in April, 1991.

**BERNARD G. & AGATHA PENNER  
BEN & MINNIE (Bergman) PENNER  
by Valerie (Penner) Klassen**



*The Ben Penner family, 1997.*

*Back row: Wes Klassen, Ben (Dad), Michael, Erin and Barrie Rose.*

*Front row: Lori Penner, Val Klassen with Bryan, Minnie (Mom),  
Stacey and Connie Rose.*

Bernard G. Penner, his wife Agatha and their young family had begun farming in the Rudnerweide area (just west of Altona). In their search for cheaper land, they chose to move to a small farm in the Rose Farm district, located at SW 4-4-2W, in 1927. Although the little farm in Rose Farm had only a barn and a small two room house, they saw a great deal of potential.

Times were tough during the depression and had it not been for a government provision, they would have lost their farm to creditors. With hard work and perseverance, they managed, and the farm began to grow. An addition was built onto the house as more children arrived in the family. The large garden and fruit trees provided a plentiful harvest, and chickens, pigs and dairy cows provided essential table food. Granaries and a machine shed were also erected.

Church involvement was of utmost importance to the Penner family. Bernhard served many years as Sunday School Superintendent at the Rose Farm EMMC. The young peoples groups and sewing circle also provided entertainment. All of the children attended the Rose Farm School, some completing their education, others leaving earlier to help manage the

farm.

Bernhard and Agatha retired to Altona in 1966, and left son Ben to manage the home farm. George, the oldest, married Elizabeth Penner and they settled in Winnipeg, where George worked in a metal foundry for many years. Agatha married Henry Bergen and they farmed in the Crystal City region. Tina married Art Groening and they farmed just north of Rose Farm. Abe married Katherine Heinrichs and they farmed just east of the Rose Farm Church. Neta married Pete Gerbrandt and they farmed near Purvis. Ben married Minnie Bergman and they took over the home farm. Helena married John Bergman; they pastored numerous churches in Manitoba and other areas.

Ben and Minnie chose to stay on the home farm and raised their daughters there. Since the Rose Farm School had closed years earlier, Valerie and Connie began their education in Kane. Ben also drove a car and later a van, to transport area children to the Kane School. Valerie remembers Connie's first day of school, as recess was announced, several of the new students asked what they could do. Miss Penner told them they could go outside to play. One student asked, "anywhere"? "Yes, anywhere," was her response. In the next moment, the entire grade one class was off at a run to the Kane Store to buy candy! Summer picnics were a highlight for Connie, however, at the end of the second grade, she had to miss the picnic due to chicken pox. Connie was delighted when Miss Penner sent home a goody bag for her too. Lori frequently accompanied Dad in the bus to deliver students to and from the Kane School; the school closed before she started and so she began her education in the Lowe Farm School.

As a family, we also enjoyed outings to the ball diamonds in summer to cheer on the Kane Pirates ball team. Winter socials at the Kane School were fun, and Ben was often challenged in his crokinole skills. In 1975, the Rose Farm Church closed and we attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm. After graduating from high school in Morris, the girls all moved off the farm. Connie and Barrie Rose and their three children Erin, Michael and Stacey, reside in Carman. Connie is the Parts Manager at Delaquis

Ford and Barrie is employed at Carmagro. Lori is a Financial Services Officer at the Winkler Credit Union.

The farm has continued to prosper under Ben's management, although Ben and Minnie moved to a newer home in Winkler in February of 1999, in the hopes of "slowing down". Later that summer, oldest daughter Valerie and her husband Wes Klassen and son Bryan moved to the farm (from Winnipeg), and hope to begin management of the farm with Dad pitching in. This marks the third and fourth generation of Penner descendants on this farm!

## **DAN & HELEN (Wiebe) PENNER**

*by Lynne (Penner) Braun*



*The Dan and Helen Penner farmyard.*

Dan Penner and Helen Wiebe were married in 1942. Shortly after their marriage and before they moved to Kane, Dan served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in England - a two year period. During these years Helen taught in Birtle, Manitoba. It was shortly after the war that Dan and Helen Penner moved to the Kane district. The land was purchased with the assistance of the Veterans Land Act. Karl Bartel, a former POW, was employed by the Penners in their early farming days. Helen taught in Kane for a few years shortly after their arrival to the community. In the early 1950's the family decided to build a new house on the farm. During that time, the family now numbering three (their first daughter Georgia was born), lived in the residence on top of the Kane Store. In the next few years two more daughters were born - Lynne and Mona.

In the early years the family attended church in the Kane School. Helen always enjoyed telling the children's story in church. Georgia recalls a Church Christmas concert in 1953, in the school. Her father had just gone to Ontario to pick up their new 1953 black Ford. While on stage with her Sunday School class, her father walked in and Georgia yelled out, "Daddy, did you get the new car," much to the embarrassment of her family.

Other recollections include lively chorus singing led by Mr. Jake Reimer, singing at Jugendvereins, and being stormed in on the New Years' Day church service.

When it was time for Georgia to attend school, Dan and Helen had to provide transportation for their daughter to attend the Kane School. Georgia remembers going to school after a snowstorm with a Ford tractor. Her father had placed a 45 gallon drum on the three point hitch, lined it with

blankets, placed her inside the drum and covered her with blankets. The following years the van service was provided for the girls. When the roads were muddy, the girls remember being picked up by Mr. Ben Wiebe in a "puddle jumper" - an old Model A. Field trips and school picnics were always a highlight in the elementary school days.

Other fond memories include attending the John Deere Days as well as the many trips to the Kane Store where one might get a 5 cent Coke.

There were many winters when Dad went to work in northern Manitoba in order to subsidize the farm income. Helen and the girls would spend winters with their Grandmother in Gretna.

The Penner farm was known for their lovely yard. Both Dan and Helen and the girls took pride in their yard and spent many hours maintaining its park-like beauty. In 1974, Lynne and Ron Braun moved to the family farm and rented the land. The farm was sold in 1976 to a family in Germany, but Lynne and Ron continued to rent it until 1987.

Helen Penner passed away November 1987. Dan Penner passed away October 1989.

Georgia and Gerry Sapinsky are presently teaching in Thompson, Manitoba. They have two children, Jason and Jodi.

Lynne and Ron Braun are living near Morden, where Lynne is teaching and Ron owns and operates a garage. They have two children, Heather and Paul, and one grandchild Alesha.

Mona Penner lives in Redlands, California where she owns and operates a number of businesses. Her son lives in Victoria, British Columbia.

## **DANIEL D. & MARIA PENNER**

**HENRY D. & KATHARINA  
PENNER**

**ED & HANNAH (Brown)  
PENNER**

*by Ed and Hannah Penner*

My grandparents, Daniel D. and Maria Penner moved from the Plum Coulee area into the Rose Farm School District #1577, in the spring of 1918. They brought with them a family of nine children. Granddad had purchased a section of land (7-4-2W)



*The wedding picture of Daniel D. and Maria Penner, 1895.*

from a bachelor farmer, Mr. Jim Brooks.

This move exposed the Penner family, who had only known private schooling, to the public school system. Granddad is said to have favoured the idea, and the younger children, Anna, Anton and Ben, started to attend. However, Aunt Anna's school days were cut short when in the late fall of the same year, Grandmother passed away due to the devastating flu epidemic of 1918, and she had to stay home and help her older sister, Justina, take care of the large family.

Granddad, however, continued his farming career. Feeling it was his responsibility to see that all his children could also become established farmers, he acquired more and more land, until he owned seven quarters which was a large acreage for those days. He retired in 1925, at age 54, and passed away six months later in May of 1926.

My parents, Henry D. and Katharina Penner, took over the Penner estate farm after Grandfather's decease. They struggled through the Depression and prospered in the forties and fifties. They actively supported the Sunday School which was held in the Rose Farm School in the thirties and early forties. They became very involved in the Rose Farm Church when it was constructed in 1937.

Hannah and I attended the Elementary School at Rose Farm adding a few years of High School correspondence. I enjoyed softball and even though Kane was a consolidated district with a bigger pupil enrollment, we, having



*Henry D. and Katharina Penner, 1961.*



*The 50th Anniversary of Ed and Hannah Penner, 1997. Back row: Ken, Carole, Crystal, Cyndy, Curtis.*

the Brown powerhouse on our side (Pete, John and Georgie), would often challenge them to a game which resulted in very entertaining ball.

When my parents moved to Winkler and into semi-retirement, Hannah and I took over the management. The Lord prospered us and we had some very good years. We delivered practically all our cereal grains and flax production to the two elevators at Kane. We also faithfully patronized the Kane fuel and oil business, and bought a considerable amount of farm equipment (John Deere and Versatile), from the good, efficient dealer, Pete Harder. Our spiritual fellowship took place in Rose Farm, but we frequented the Christian fellowship meetings when held in the Kane School, then in the Inter-denominational Church, and later in the Berghaler Church.

Five children were born into our family. Our oldest, Ken, got his elementary and high school education in Rose Farm and Lowe Farm. He continued on to get his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education at the University of Manitoba. Later he also acquired his Master of Education at the same university. He met Els Gerastein in the Netherlands while serving under Youth for Christ. They have been married for 27 years, and have three children: Kirsten, Mark and Toban. Ken, except for a three and a half year absence, has been a teacher all his life.

Our oldest daughter, Carole, took her elementary education in Rose Farm and her high schooling in Lowe Farm and Morris. Following that she had two years at Providence College where she met her husband to be, Gary Pollard, an accomplished trumpet player. Carole attained her ARCT and A. Music in piano performance as well as her licentiate. They live in Winnipeg where they make their living in the field of music. They have two boys who are also very musical: Chad and Dean.

Our third child was a boy, Curtis. He took his kindergarten schooling at Rose Farm, the elementary grades in Kane, Junior High in Lowe Farm and Senior matriculation in Morris. Later he graduated from the University of Manitoba with a diploma course in agriculture. During these years he married Beverly Klassen. Just to prove to his older brother that he could study, he worked hard and obtained the Governor General's Award. Subsequently, he taught as a lab instructor at the university's agricultural division for some time, but his heart was on the farm. When we moved off the farm in 1987, he and Bev with their son Jordan, moved onto it the same day. Thus it is now a fourth generation farm. Later, a daughter Jocelyn, was born. As of today, they work a considerable acreage besides operating a seed plant and accompanying seed sales.

Cynthia, our fourth child, took grades I-IV in Kane, V-IX in Lowe Farm and her high schooling in Morris. She received her B. A. in Pre-Education at Providence College. After that she graduated from the Brandon University with a Bachelor of Education. Here she also met Gareth Brandt from Wawanesa, who later became her husband. Gareth's further education took them to Ontario where he attended the Ontario Theological Seminary. Both par-

ticipated in a youth ministry in a church near Aylmer. Upon his graduation, Gareth took on the position of Youth Pastor at the Braeside E. M.C. in Winnipeg, where they stayed for six years. They became the parents of three children while in Winnipeg: Joel, Adriel and Sarina. Next, they moved to Swift Current where they functioned as deans of the Bible Institute and Gareth did some teaching. After two years the school closed and they moved to Calgary where Gareth is the Conference Youth Minister for the Mennonite Churches of Alberta and the Northwest. Cyndy does a lot of substitute teaching.

Our youngest, Crystal, took her elementary schooling in Lowe Farm and her high schooling in Morris. This was followed with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts at Providence College. Continuing her educational endeavours, she attended the University of Manitoba part-time for some years and finally graduated with a Honours Bachelor of Music Therapy degree from Wilfred Laurier University of Waterloo, Ontario. Presently she is practicing her profession as a therapist in the city of Toronto, as well as teaching voice in the neighbouring city of Burlington.

Now, in retrospect, I am thankful that the good hand of Providence caused my grandparents to make the move to Rose Farm and that it further prompted my parents to purchase the Penner estate after my grandfather's decease. These events directly helped to shape our destiny.

We thoroughly enjoyed our life on the farm. It was a great place to raise a family. We had a good living, usually harvesting good crops. The neighbours were great. Church life was edifying and provided an opportunity to practise our spiritual gifts. We also made many life-long friends during those years. We had numerous beautiful and precious memories of those many years on the farm. It is always a thrill to meet friends from the Rose Farm/Kane/Lowe Farm area. God bless you all!

## **CURTIS & BEVERLY (Klassen) PENNER**

*by Curtis and Beverly Penner*

It was 1979, interest rates were 12.5%, and it was the beginning of a farming career. Curtis purchased his first 80 acres of land, the decision had been made - he would be a farmer.

Curt's working career began in Winkler, first as a welder for New J. Industries, then working in sales and finally being the sales manager for the sunflower attachment and truck box manufacturer. The spring of 1980, with great expectation of farming, brought the end of the sales career in Winkler. However, 1980 was a very, very dry year and the great hopes of starting farming with a good crop were dashed.

Not sure what to do the following winter, Curt opted to attend the University of Manitoba, enrolling in the diploma program of Agriculture. This was a terrific opportunity to meet people from all over the world, and attend classes that concentrated on all aspects of farming as a business. Although Curt had absolutely hated anything



*The Curt Penner family. (l-r) Jocelyn, Bev, Jordan, Curt.*

about school previously, he certainly had a change of attitude when it came to his University classes.

The summer of 1981 brought many changes, the most important occurred on July 19. Curtis married Beverly Klassen, formerly from southeast of Lowe Farm. They were married at the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm and began their life together in their home one mile west of Kane at the Cliff Kirk farm. With Curt still attending the University of Manitoba, and Beverly enrolled at Red River Community College for the Dental Assisting program, it was decided that they would move to Winnipeg for the winter months while attending school. A small apartment just off Pembina Highway, was their home for a few months, just long enough to realize that city living was in neither of their systems, so back to the farm in the spring of 1982.

For the next five years Curt spent his winter months driving to the University, this time not as a student, but as a lab instructor for the Farm Business Management course. Beverly was employed at the Morden Dental Centre for Dr. Dick Goerz and later for Dr. David Goerz. Kane was a central location, and our poor little Honda car practically knew the way on its' own to either Winnipeg or Morden.

Working at the University was a terrific experience for Curt, but being self-employed year around was preferred. We had begun to grow Certified seed in 1980, initially just for our own use, however, what began as a small attempt to diversify became a real interest. In the fall of 1988, a decision was made to purchase seed cleaning equipment and to set up a seed cleaning facility on the Penner farm. This too was purchased with the sole purpose of cleaning our own seed. However, we began to realize that there seemed to be a need for this kind of service in our area and what began with a poster on the hydro pole in front of the Kane Store, "Cleaning Wheat - call 829-3556", was

the beginning of *Pedigreed by Penner*.

August 22, 1986 was an exciting day for us. It was the day we became parents for the first time. Jordan Daniel was born. When Jordan was three months old, Bev was given an opportunity to continue assisting in Morden a few days a week at the Dental Centre, so now all three of us were on the road during that winter with Curt still teaching at the University.



*Pedigreed by Penner seed plots.*

The following summer Curt's parents, Ed and Hannah Penner, decided to build a house in Winkler. Curt, Bev and Jordan moved to the "home place", four miles south of Kane in the fall of 1987. With the seed plant in full operation, and Curt, finding it difficult to continue working at the University as well as running the plant, it was decided that he would give up the University position.

July 17, 1989 brought another change to our home. We had a baby girl. Jocelyn Sara Rae was born. Bev enjoyed another summer off with a new baby, but was back to working two days a week in Morden that winter.

Curt continued to supplement the farm and seed plant with picking up various jobs throughout the fall and winter months. He worked for Manitoba Crop Insurance, hauled beets during the fall for many years, he taught computer courses as well as Farm Business Management courses throughout Southern Manitoba, and he was a representative for SeCan at farm trade shows.

Over the years, with the family growing, the farm growing, and the business growing, it was getting more difficult to continue working off the farm. So it was decided that Bev would give up her position in Morden and take over the bookkeeping responsibilities for the business and the farm. Curt no longer has the time for the winter jobs, he is kept busy enough on the farm and with the seed business. We currently have one employee year around as well as the help from Curt's Dad.

Curt and Bev have both enjoyed being involved in the community over the years. By playing on sports teams, teaching clubs, working with DVBS, on the Home and School Association, youth leaders, Sunday School teacher

and various other positions at the Emmanuel Gospel Church.

Currently Jordan is thirteen and in grade 8 at Lowe Farm School. He enjoys driving his first acquisition, his motorbike, as well as anything else with a steering wheel. He enjoys being on the field as long as he's driving something. Jocelyn is ten and in grade 5 at Lowe Farm as well. She is our animal lover. She hopes to own a horse someday, but for now she is content to own many cats, two hermit crabs, a guinea pig and five fish. As a family, we enjoy camping, fishing, concerts, hiking, biking and traveling.

We are very thankful for this community, our friends, and our customers. What a wonderful place to live and raise a family!

### **GEORGE & MARY (Elias) PENNER**

*by George and Mary Penner*



*George and Mary Penner with Corey, Kelvin and Michelle.*

We moved to Kane from the Morden area in 1973. We purchased the south half of 36-4-3W from Abe Suderman. We were involved mostly with grain farming, but have also had cattle and pigs.

We had three children; Kelvin George, Corey Steven, and Michelle Marie Ann. All three children went to Lowe Farm Elementary School, and then went on to Morris Collegiate where they graduated from High School.

After graduating in 1985, Kelvin attended Winnipeg Bible College (now known as Providence College), for one year. He then got a job with N. M. Paterson elevator in Kane, where he worked for four years. Kelvin died accidentally on July 15, 1990, at the age of 23.

Corey graduated in 1988. He worked at Lowe Farm Co-op Farm Supply and then at the Kane Agro Centre. He married Kathryn Lynn Fulford on July 4, 1992. Kathryn is a Clinical Dietitian at the Victoria General Hospital in Winnipeg. Corey and Kathryn have one daughter, Jocelyn Marie, born on May 8, 1999. They currently live in Lowe Farm where they are involved in farming.



*The George Penner family, 1999.  
(l-r): Terry and Michelle Neufeld, George and Mary Penner,  
Corey and Kathryn Penner and baby Jocelyn Marie.*

Michelle graduated in 1993. Upon graduating, she attended Red River Community College where she took a two year diploma course in Business Administration. She worked for Krocker Sales in Winkler. She then went to Buhler Manufacturing in Morden where she is in the accounts receivable department. On July 5, 1997, she married Terry Neufeld. Terry is the maintenance technician at Decor Cabinets in Morden. They currently live in Morden.

We were quite involved in the Kane area. When the Kane School closed, George became the local bus driver, bringing the kids home once they were dropped off in Kane by the school bus. George also played baseball for the Kane A's, and Kelvin and Corey played for the Kane Pirates and the Cardinals.

We moved from the Kane area to the Lowe Farm area in 1998, where we are currently involved in farming with our son Corey.

**PETER P. & ANNA (Ewert) PENNER**  
*by Dave and Mary Penner*



*The Diamond Wedding of Peter P. and Anna Penner, 1961.*



*"The Taxi Driver": Peter P. and Anna Penner.*

My parents Peter P. and Anna Penner moved to the Rose Farm District from south of Plum Coulee in 1916. In 1918, they moved to the Lowe Farm area (27-4-2W). After a few bad crops, and a depression in the making, Mr. Penner lost everything he owned. In the years following the loss of his land, Mr. Penner worked at various jobs, whatever was available.

When their son Henry died in 1951, Mr. Penner inherited his 1949 Austin and in the following years he was nicknamed "the taxi driver". If someone needed to go to the doctor or dentist and had no means of going, Mr. Penner was the man to see. Some days he made two or three trips to Morris, sometimes to Altona or Winkler or even Morden.

After Mrs. Penner suffered several strokes and poor health, they moved to the Ebenezer Units in Altona in January of 1966. Anna Penner passed away in March of 1966. Peter P. Penner passed away in 1980 at the age of one hundred.

There were twelve children born into our family: Helen, Peter, Margaret, Henry, Ben, David, Mary, John, Jacob, Tina, Diedrich and Annie.

We attended a private Mennonite school at Kronsweide. The school was held in the summer kitchen of my aunt and uncle, the Peter Rempels, during the summer, and then for the winter they built a new building. The first teacher was Miss Anna Friesen and then Mr. Nicolai J. Heide, who later became the postmaster in Lowe Farm. In this school we learned only German.

After World War I, the government compelled the Mennonites to go to the public school at Kronsweide and learn English.

In 1920 the Consolidated School was built in Kane, and our farm was transferred into the Kane District.

To this school we were bussed with horse drawn vans (or covered wagons you might say). All roads were dirt, and often mud roads after a lot of rain, and the going got to be pretty tough sometimes. At times it took one and a half hours to get to school and again in the evening to get home.

There was still construction going on in the building when school began in the fall. I remember some of the pranks the boys played on the men. One day a workman was working on the eaves on a high ladder, and one of the kids went around the school and pulled the rope that tripped the ladder, and the workman came sliding to the ground. He was lucky he landed on his feet. He never did find out who the guilty person was. One other recess the painter was mixing a five gallon pail of paint, and one of the kids threw a big rock into the pail, splashing paint all over the painter's face. Before he could wipe the paint off his face, the culprit was long gone.

**PETER F. & MARGARUETA (Harder)  
PENNER**

*by Charlotte (Murner) Dyck*



*Peter F. and Margarueta Penner.*

Peter F. was born in Schoenfeld, Russia, May 20, 1873, the son of Abraham Penner (1834-1897) and Anna Froese (1832-1874). Anna died eight months after Peter was born. He was the sixth child born to his parents. Abraham remarried and had nine more children. They came to Canada in the spring of 1875 when Peter was two years old. (They settled in the Steinbach District.) Abraham owned a store in a little village south of Winnipeg. He used to go to Winnipeg by oxen and cart for supplies. One day when Peter was a little boy, he went with his father and froze his feet on the way home.

Margarueta was born November 16, 1875 in Schoenfeld, Russia, the daughter of Heinrich Harder (1828-1901) and Sarah Klassen (1831-1910). She was the twelfth and last child born to her parents. They came to Canada in May of 1876, when Margarueta was only six months old. (They settled east of Barkfeld.) Heinrich was a school teacher in the village where they lived, south of Winnipeg. They lived at Pansy, Manitoba for many years, retiring to Rosenfeld.

Peter and Margarueta were married on December 5, 1893. They farmed all their lives, living in the Kane School District on SE 20-4-2W. At first they farmed with horses, later farming fifteen quarters. Not all of this was grain land,

as some of it was used for hay. In 1914, they built a big house on their farm. It had fifteen rooms and two halls, and a lovely glassed in veranda.

In her eulogy to her mother, daughter Katherina writes, "Mother loved to sing hymns and read the Bible. Very often she would tell us stories out of the Bible when we were small. Mother was a perfectionist in anything that she did. A beautiful seamstress, she made nearly all the clothes for her children when they were small, and sewed dresses for the girls even after they were grown-up. Mother loved gardening, especially flowers and her glassed in veranda was just full of lovely blooming house plants."

About her father, Katherina writes, "Dad used to have nice horses, especially one whose name was Archy. Dad had photographs taken of this horse. One day Archy got sick and the doctor said there wasn't anything he could do for it. So Dad and the boys had to take Archy to the field and destroy him. Dad felt very bad."

Peter was Councillor for the Morris District 1912-1915.

In 1935, Peter bought an old school house (Woodvale School) at Kane, and made it over into a house. They lived there until the fall of 1941 when they sold it and bought a house in Altona.

Peter died on October 4, 1941. He and daughter Sarah had gone back to Kane to harvest the vegetables from the garden they had planted in spring. While he was waiting for Sarah to gather up the produce, he had a heart attack and fell to the ground near his car. The doctor was called from Roland, but when he arrived he pronounced Peter dead. He was 68 years old.

Margarueta died July 9, 1957, in Altona of gangrene in her right foot. The doctor wanted to operate, but the children couldn't see her with her leg removed. They feared that if the Doctor would operate, she wouldn't come through it. So they didn't operate and she lived for one more month. She was 82 years old.

They had fourteen children, twelve living to adulthood:

Sarah, remained single.

Anna married Henry H. Doell. They farmed near Horndean, Lowe Farm and Kane. They had three children; Henry, Annie and Susie.

Margarueta married Henry A. Wiebe. They had two children; Dora (died shortly after birth) and Tina.

Mary married John H. Doell. They lived at Plum Coulee. They had one child, Mary.

Peter married Sarah Hiebert. They farmed in the Kane School District until their retirement, when they moved to Lowe Farm. Of their children, four lived to adulthood; Sadie, Marjorie, Elizabeth and Raymond.

Isaac married Gertrude Dyck. They had two children; Tina and Stanley. Isaac and Gertrude were divorced. His second marriage was to Pearl. They had three children; Wayne, Shirley and Russell.

Abraham married Henrietta Neufeld. They farmed in the Kane School District until their retirement, when they moved to Winkler. They had four children; Orvan, Verna,

Alvin and Dianna.

Bernard married Gladys Harvey. They had two children; Shirley and Allan.

David married Sarah Rempel. They farmed at Kane and then moved to Harding, Manitoba to farm. They retired to Virden, Manitoba. They had five children; Margaret, Frances, David, Ronald and Colleen.

John married Jean Oakes. They farmed at Kane School District, then moved to Sperling to farm. They had three children; Douglas, Linda and Morris (Morris, a twin, died at birth).

Katherina married Glenford Dow. No children.

Jacob married Jean Champagne. They had one son; Donald.

**PETER H. & SARAH (Hiebert) PENNER**  
*by Charlotte (Murner) Dyck*



*Peter H. and Sarah Penner, married 1923.*

Peter H. was born in the Kane District on September 7, 1902, one of fourteen children, to Peter F. Penner and Margueta Harder. He spent his childhood and most of his adult life in the Kane area.

Sarah was born November 23, 1905, in Herbert, Saskatchewan, the first of fifteen children born to Abram J. Hiebert (1883-1971) and Sarah Funk (1886-1946). Her grandparents, Johan Funk and Sarah Hoepfner (1860-1933)

and Johan Hiebert (1852-1908) and Anna Harder (1855-1899) lived in the Lowe Farm area.

Peter and Sarah were married in 1923. They made their home on a farm that was one mile east and two and one quarter miles south of Kane (NE 19-4-2W). They raised their family here.

Peter was usually a very serious man who didn't put up with fooling around, but once in a while could be made to crack a smile. He liked to talk politics. Although he was a farmer, he also drove the school van for a number of years. Some of those were when his own children and later on, grandchildren, attended Kane School.

Grandson Gordon recalls, "Grandad had three horses, Art, Sandy and June. When we rode Sandy, she was slow at the start, but when it was time to return, she would move real fast. I had to duck because she headed straight into the barn."



*50th Anniversary of Peter H. and Sarah Penner, 1973.*

When Gordon was a little boy, he went to Kane with Grandad. Gordon stayed in the car while Grandad went to get the mail. When Grandad came back, Gordon had locked all the car doors and only opened them when he was bribed with an ice cream cone.

Sarah was a cheerful soul who loved flowers, and had her garden and her house full of them. In her later years her fascination turned to plastic ones. Many hours were spent crocheting doilies which she sold or gave away as gifts.

She was usually cooking or baking something. One time when grandsons Gary and Gordon were there, "Granny" had just baked a batch of bread. The boys opened



*The Peter H. Penner family. Back row: Elizabeth and George Penner, Raymond Penner, Bill and Sadie Dyck. Center: Majorie Friesen, Sarah and Peter H. Penner, Anton Friesen. Front row: Gordon Dyck, Jean Dyck, Diane Penner, Garry Friesen.*

up one end of each loaf, cleaned out and ate the insides. Then they pushed each loaf neatly back against the back of the cupboard.

Christmas and Easter were spent at Granny and Grandad's with all the aunts, uncles and cousins. One winter the snow was so high that the kids slid off the barn roof. They had to stop when Grandad found out!

Peter and Sarah attended the Rose Farm Church.

In September of 1966, they retired from farming and moved to Lowe Farm. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 7, 1973, in the Lowe Farm Junior High School. A program was put on of singing, special music and reminiscing in which their family took part.

Peter's health began to fail, so in December of 1974, they moved to the Winkler Salem Home.

Peter died in 1975 at the age of 72, and Sarah in 1982, at the age of 76. Both are buried in the Rose Farm Cemetery next to their son Raymond.

They had four children: Sadie married Bill Dyck, and they lived in the Kane district. They had three children; Gordon, Jean and Marion. Sadie and Bill died April 1, 1977. They were 52 and 57.

Marjorie married Anton Friesen and they made their home in Lowe Farm. They had three children; Gary, Walter and Joan. Marjorie died March 29, 1975. She was 49 years old.

Elizabeth married George Penner. They live in Winnipeg. They have four children; Diane, Linda, Jacqueline and Lottie.

Raymond married Jean Cross. They had one child; Wendy. Raymond died February 14, 1955, at the age of 24.

### **ABRAM H. & HENRIETTA (Neufeld) PENNER**

*by Verna (Penner) Froese*

Abram Penner was born May 17, 1906, to Peter P. and Margaret Penner, two miles east and three miles south of Kane. He attended school at the Queen Centre School on the northeast corner of the section on which he was born. Dr. Cornelius Wiebe was one of his teachers. This school was

later closed and students attended the new Kane School. The younger Penner children went to Kane School. Abram was very much into the social scene, known to play the accordion for all the barn dances in the area. He took up farming on the Queen Centre School grounds in approximately 1929, purchasing the first land from a Mr. Froese who lived near Altona. In 1931, Abram married Henrietta Neufeld from the Grossweide District. They had four children: Orvan born in 1932, Verna Pearl born in 1937, Alvin Vincent Hart born in 1940, and Dianna Beulah Ruthie born in 1948.

Life was hard on the farm those first years; some years there was not enough crop for the next year's seed. Dad thankfully recalled one year when Mr. Froese simply took a handful of grain which was his rightful payment for the year by the sale agreement, ran it through his fingers and said, "There is your next year's seed grain." There were years when some foods were scarce. They roasted barley for coffee and called it "prips". Mother always said it was awful to taste. As the depression passed, things became easier and better and the Penner family farm was a thriving enterprise. For many years there was hired help on the farm, but as the family grew older it really was a family farm especially in harvest time. Dad was the foreman and manager, Mom the combine driver, Orvan did the swathing, Verna cooked the meals (which Mom had laid out in the morning to do) and later also looked after baby sister Dianne, and Alvin did the fall plowing or tilling. At the end of harvest we all got to celebrate with a trip to either Winnipeg for shopping, or a day at Winnipeg Beach.

Before there was a machine shed on the farm, Dad did his machinery repair in the garage. One such a time he had his John Deere Model D tractor in the garage for some work. The parents had taken the car out to visit the Martin Heppners, just one mile west of us. Orvan and Alvin decided to shoot birds in the granary with their air guns and took a lantern into the garage to fetch something. The gas fumes ignited, the boys got out but the garage, the tractor and all the tools burned. Eventually the Morris fire truck came but before that neighbours frantically helped with a pail brigade from the barn to save

the house. Pail after pail was poured on the steaming roof while the siding on the side facing the burning garage melted down. It was the day of an Abe Suderman wedding and we were so grateful to the many wedding guests who helped in their Sunday best. The house, which was only recently built at the time, was saved.

Abram Penners farmed until 1972 when son Alvin and his wife Betty and sons Darrell and Dexter moved to the family homestead upon purchasing the home quarter section. Our parents built a new house in Winkler and quite enjoyed living there. However, after a year and a half, Dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After a year and a half battle with this disease, Dad died at age 69 in 1975. Mom remained in the house in Winkler for quite a few more years, and then moved up the street to a seniors apartment which she enjoyed very much until her untimely death of a post operative complication in the form of a heart attack at age 76 in 1990. Both are buried in the Rose Farm Cemetery just two miles from where they farmed all their life.

Orvan was an only child for five years. During this time he was always envious of the Peter Penner cousins living across the corner from our farm. When he wasn't allowed to join them, he used to spend hours sitting on our haystack, longingly looking over at the fun time those cousins were having on their yard. Orvan and Raymond spent many hours playing together.

Orvan had a difficult time in school and since there were no Special Education classes, he limped along from year to year until age 16, when he could leave school. He learned how to do farm work however, driving vehicles and machinery. He attended the Lowe Farm Interdenominational Church and benefited much from the fellowship he received there, especially the care and nurture Rev. Jake Wiebe gave him. He later attended the Steinbach Bible School where he met and married Norma Hamm. They lived in a small house in Steinbach for most of their married life. There were no children, but they loved their two dogs.

Orvan worked at the chicken killing plant for many years, then switched to work at a gravel pit. While there he had an accident which affected him for the remainder of his life. He fell off a high piece of machinery into a pit and broke his neck. He was paralyzed from the neck down and lay in halo traction in the St. Boniface Hospital for many weeks. But eventually the break healed, feeling came back and after much therapy he was able to function again. However, his one leg dragged a bit especially when he tired. His health was never the same. He worked for the City of Steinbach for a few years and literally supported himself by mowing grass and blowing snow in Steinbach.

I, Verna, have been gone from Kane 43 years now. I married George Froese who grew up in Elm Creek. We began in Winnipeg; George at Canada Packers and I at Manitoba Wheat Pool followed by Blue Cross and Manitoba Health Plan. When George's father burned to death in a farm accident, George decided to go into insurance.

We have been transferred by George's company to Calgary, Vancouver, Minnesota, back up to Medicine Hat, then to Winnipeg long enough for our two sons, Warren and Murray to graduate from MBCI. George and I were transferred to Toronto for ten years while the boys completed their studies at the University of Manitoba. Warren married Sandy and they have four children. Sandy is a nurse by profession, but a full time homemaker and mother at the moment. Warren is an orthopedic surgeon at the Pan Am Clinic in Winnipeg. Murray married Teresa and they have two children. Murray practices law with Piblado Buckwald in Winnipeg. Teresa has her own computer consulting business. George and I moved back to the big sky, sunny days of Winnipeg in December, 1990. We so enjoy being in the same city with our children and grandchildren.

Half my career was in Credit Unions in the different provinces as loans officer, branch manager and Credit Union Central computer support supervisor followed by a move to Co-operators Insurance Company from which I retired in 1994, on a voluntary early retirement package with 23 years of co-operative service as the underwriting manager for Man/Sask region. I am presently working at Grant Memorial Baptist Church as Adult Ministries Associate on a flexible part-time basis.

George is in a public relations role with his company. Consequently, we travel across Canada and wherever else different association conventions take us. Last year it was across the country from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria and Nanaimo plus Orlando, Tucson and Hawaii. And it all began in Kane!

Dianna married Art Enns, and they live in Steinbach. She is an insurance broker at Auto-City Insurance and Art is field sales manager for Buhler Inc. They have two children, Harlan and Andrea, who both live in Vancouver. Harlan is an actuary who is married to Jennifer, an elementary school teacher and they have one son, Tristan. Andrea is an administrative assistant/consultant for Holloway, Schultz and married to Gary, an electrician.

**Verna's Memories:** Kane was my whole world at one time. Most things that needed to be bought, that were not made or grown at home, were purchased in Kane. From our prospective, one mile east and two miles south of Kane, there wasn't a great deal we needed that could not be met in Kane. There was the Kane General Store; Toews' store...the sights and smells of the store are a treasured memory. Groceries, dry goods, hardware and more could be found there. The post office off to the right back of the store held all the mailboxes with turning vault-like knobs which opened Box 37, and brought us what we needed from the outside world - bills, cheques, news and the Eaton's catalog. Farm machinery was largely purchased from J. J. Toews implement dealership - John Deere green of course. Our Dad did a lot of his own repairs on the farm, but those beyond his ability were done at the "garage." At the height of Kane's prosperity there were two stores -

Harder's General Store which later became the Fehr's Store was the competition. There were also two grain elevators where our grain was sold at whichever one offered the best price and service.

Preschool memories of Kane are mainly being allowed to "go along to Kane" whenever possible. It meant getting my hair combed - sometimes with a bowl of water, brush and tears as curly tangles were removed in order to be presentable for the occasion. A big event in our home was the trip to Kane on our birthday. This, in memory, seems to have been my equivalent of what my boys and grandchildren experience at Halloween - a stash of goodies. The birthday child could buy any treat he/she wanted. One year I chose two dollars worth of B-B-Bats at two cents each...that was 100 suckers which lasted from July until Christmas! Small wonder I have false teeth!

Another community preschool memory was visiting with neighbours. My earliest memory is of one such a visit where I first recall the best time with someone who turned out to be my "best lifelong friend". The Abe Hyde's were visiting us, Janice and I being three or four years old sat on my little red nursery chairs singing, "Honey in the Rock, my Brother" at the top of our lungs and then laughing until we were sick. That was the earliest memory we can recall of a long, rich friendship to this day. Visits with uncles and aunts; the Peter Penners, Dave Penners, Henry Doells, and other neighbours, the Toews, the Hydies, the Reimers, the Blatzs, the Groenings and others were highlights in our social life.

There was also the Sunday School in Kane for us when we were unable to attend our Grossweide Sunday School for one reason or another. This was always a treat because there were so many of my school friends there and the entire service was in English. However, I also remember having to sit quietly through Eddie Groening's what seemed to me like a very long message! The craft sale or auction was a highlight as well.

Memories of school include vans, floods, field days, school picnics, hot lunches, teachers and friends. My Uncle Peter Penner followed by Uncle Henry Doell were my van drivers for most of my school years. I remember the ski pants, scarves and mittens, lunch kits and the stove in the van. One year our van overturned on a steep snowbank. It was scary to drive through the spillway during flood time, in fact, some years it was impassable until the flood waters receded. The waters arrived during the school day one spring, so the vans could not make it to Kane to pick us up so we were billeted for a few nights. Janice and I had our "Hilton" experience at Walter and Lil Penner's house (Walter was the Paterson elevator agent). They had no children at the time and we were treated royally. Field days were looked forward to because we got to practice for and compete with other schools and got to go to Roland or Carman for the day. I recall sore muscles and sunburns from these outings. At home or away, baseball games against neighbouring schools were a highlight as well. Those good-looking guys!

And then there was the weekly hot lunch program. At the Penner household we were given weekly lunch allowance. I believe it was 23 cents a week to buy a hot dog, drink and a four cent glazed donut from Art Toews at the general store. To this day it bugs me that my dad would insist on his 2 cents change back if he had given me a quarter. Janice got to keep her extra 2 cents and bought bubble gum with it. In hind sight - those two pennies were more trouble than they were worth for Dad to remember to collect, but it taught me a lot about fiscal responsibility!

Teachers; so many good ones... Miss Tina Warkentine, Miss Mary Duerksen, Miss Tina Penner, Mrs. Helen (Dan) Penner to name a few. Then there was Myron White in Room II who was incredibly permissive. Janice and I had a ball ruling the roost! When Mr. Jack Sawatzky came the next year, we had a rude awakening when he let us know who was the boss and where we could go if we didn't like it! We had a great year that year. And then there was Mrs. Warkentin and her German classes. Those articles are still vivid in my mind..."an, auf, hinter, neben, in, über, unter, vor, zwischen." The German I learned still stands in good stead when I am told by German speaking friends that my German is more grammatically correct than that of my husband, who spoke it exclusively at home until school age. Room I, Room II and High School to grade eleven were good at Kane and gave me good preparation in a safe community for life in the years to come. I finished grade twelve later, followed by university and career courses, but the basics were laid in Kane School.

**Dianna's Memories:** Some memories I have of Kane are as follows:

—going to the elevator in town with my Dad to test whether the grain was dry enough to combine or to bring a load of grain. I remember Mr. George Born and Mr. Bill Bracken.

—after a trip to the elevator, if time allowed, a stop at the General Store to buy a "Drumstick" ice-cream and pick up the mail at box 37. The store had stools to sit on at the counter while Dad would visit with other local farmers.

—my first day of school in the old school house. I held my sister Verna's hand as we walked up the flight of stairs into the large dark brown foyer into the Grade 1-4 classroom to meet my teacher, Miss Duerksen.

—moving from the old school building where the bathrooms were downstairs in a scary corner, into the new bright building. Miss Spalding allowed us to help by carrying smaller boxes of books and our own school supplies into the new classroom.

—Friday afternoons were a real highlight in Grades 5-8. Mr. Pete Friesen was often asked to drive all the students to either Myrtle or Lowe Farm to play baseball. No thought given to safety belts as we all piled into the back of the three ton grain truck.

—the community spirit was always evident at the support given to the annual Christmas programme and the picnic

in June.

—vivid memories of paving Highway #23 through Kane. It was sooo muddy and the school buses would get stuck often.

—the John Deere dealership/garage where my Dad purchased a new tractor, only to have it burn shortly after we brought it home.

### **DARRELL & MARGE (Dyck) PENNER**

*by Darrell Penner*

I remember as a child we lived across the section from my grandparents, A. H. Penners, just one mile south of Kane. It was a small house and we used to heat it with a coal stove. One time after I was tucked into bed, upstairs, I called to my Mom for a drink of water. She told me it was on the window sill. I replied back that it was hard (it was frozen). We had many good times in that house. Dad would haul a truck load of coal and dump it through the basement window. I watched as more slats got put in the door as the room got filled. It was also the place where my Mother led me to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Going to a small school like Kane was also a good experience. Sometimes our noon hour got stretched to two hours. We all continued playing believing the teachers forgot to ring the school bell. Playing in the gym with all those support posts was a real head banging experience which I think every player experienced.

Jake Schellenbergs were good neighbours. They lived across the road from our house. Mr. Schellenberg was a man who was capable of making or fixing almost anything. He was very meticulous with what he built and with what he owned. Many times I went over to his place to borrow traps from him and always before, I left he'd treat me to old time stories and show me the latest project he was working on.

We then moved to my Grandfather's farm (NW 20-4-2W), after they retired and moved to Winkler. The day we moved was very memorable: it was the day the Kane Garage burned down. It was the biggest and hottest fire I'd ever seen. I remember the old Coca Cola machine at the door and drinks were a nickel if you left the bottle in the shop. Another exciting thing for me was that shortly after we moved, Dad bought a Steiger 4-wheel drive tractor. It was the first one in the community and I got to drive it.

There was also the time my Dad bought a heifer calf from Elmer Groening. We bought it in spring and were going to fatten it and butcher it in fall. By fall we found out we got more than we bargained for. It was in calf. We then got into the dairy business. Dad milked in the morning and I milked in the evening. Suffice to say, it wasn't long before Dad was tired of being tied down to the business of milking. This is when the cow started its trek around the community. It spent some time at the Leonard Wiebe farm. Next it walked over to the Henry Roses. I made many a trip on my minibike to pick up milk from the Roses. The

cow was always so quiet and gentle, Dad had a hard time shipping it, so it turned out to be the community cow.

I had many good times in the community as well. I remember going over to Norman Blatz's and doing all kinds of things with Dulaney at his place. We did things like rafting around in a homemade raft and getting soaked, to catching a box full of mice and bringing them to the front of the house. I'm sure his Mom was not impressed. Then when I got to be a bit older, Marvin Enns and I would go hunting and shot almost anything that moved. One time it happened to be our favourite family tiger cat. This time my Mom was not impressed.

I married Marge Dyck on July 1, 1984. We moved into the Jake Schellenberg farm where we lived for one year. Next year my parents moved to Winkler and we moved into the old homestead, (third generation farm), where we presently reside. We now have five children; Karl, Kristy, Kari, Kaleb, and Kaitlyn.

My brother Dexter moved to Winkler together with Mom and Dad in 1985 and graduated there from High School, in 1986. In 1988 he married Louise Nickel, and they have two children; Lisa and Becky. They now reside in Winkler where Dexter is presently working at Eden as a maintenance man.

### **GUSTAVE E. & HELENA PENNER**

*by Harold Penner*



*Gustave and Helena Penner with their family. (l-r): Hugo, Ella, Edna, Leonard, Harold, Walter, John. Missing is Hilda.*

During the winter of 1930, Gustave E. Penner purchased the southwest quarter of section 24-4-3W from a Mr. David Blatz. The land had been sold to Mr. Blatz in 1918 by a Mr. Hoeppner, who had homesteaded it in the first decade. Dad felt that raising his family on a farm would provide a better environment for his young family. Previously he had been a teacher at various schools in southern Manitoba. The family had been living in Winkler for some eight years.

So the decision was finalized and the family moved in the summer of 1930. Thus began a 28 year stay in the Kane district for this family. Due to the circumstances of drought, grasshoppers, rust infestation, economic depression, the first five years were difficult ones. Gustave was able to continue teaching school at Rose Farm during these years and so able to weather this difficult period.

The family consisted of three girls and five boys. The older three children, Hilda, Ella and Leonard had completed high school in Winkler. They gained employment locally during these years. Leonard worked for J. J. Toews as a salesperson. The other children continued their education in Kane.

With economic upturn in the latter part of the thirties, Hilda and Ella returned to continue their education. Hilda took teacher training while Ella took nurse's training. Hugo, Walter and John continued school to complete grade 10 which was as far as the Kane School provided at that time. Edna and Harold were more fortunate. The school by that time provided grade 11 and supported them in completing grade 12 by correspondence.



*John Penner with Pat and Nelda.*

In 1939, Leonard enlisted in the airforce. He went overseas almost immediately. He remained overseas until 1944. He returned to Canada where he remustered to aircrew. He completed his training in Brandon where he earned his pilot wings. John in the meantime also enlisted in the airforce. He graduated as a navigator and served overseas in the RAF Bomber command where he completed his tour of Ops. Harold joined the airforce after completing grade 12. He commenced his aircrew training, but the war ended before he finished his training.

Walter continued working on the farm during the war years. Later he joined the N. M. Paterson Co. as a grain buyer. He stayed with that company until retirement. Hugo



*Helen Penner and family, 1994. Nelda and Brian Johnson with Meghan and De Nel, Helen (Mom), Pat and Abe Unger.*

joined a construction firm as a carpenter. He then had his own construction firm for a number of years before taking up a position in the lumber business.

At the conclusion of the war Edna went into nurse's training. Leonard and Harold went to the Manitoba Medical College to earn their M.D. degrees. John took up farming in the Kane district and later in the Homewood area.

Gustave and Helena continued to farm with John's help until 1958. They then retired and returned to live in Winkler. John continued to farm the home place until 1972 when the farm was sold to Peter Harder.

Helena died in 1967 and Gustave passed away in 1971. John passed away in 1987, Walter in 1994, Hugo in 1997 and Edna died in 1999.

The memories of the years on the farm, and of the district of Kane are ones which all hold with great fondness.

## **JOHN & NETTIE (Unrau) PENNER**

*by Ann (Penner) Braun*

John and Nettie were both born in the Plum Coulee area and grew up there. John was born August 1, 1900 and Nettie on December 13, 1900. During the first years of their marriage, they farmed near Plum Coulee. In the spring of 1930, they moved to a farm two miles west and two miles south of Kane with their three daughters. Then on November 29, 1939, a beautiful fall day, they moved one mile east and one mile south of Kane with three daughters and three sons and were blessed with one son and one daughter while living there. All eight children grew up at Kane.

For several years, John (Dad) did farm labour and then worked on road construction for the Roland Municipality. They enjoyed worshipping in the Berghthaler Church and the fellowship of many neighbours. Nettie (Mom) was a very good seamstress, a great cook (she achieved won-



*John and Nettie Penner.*



*John and Nettie Penner with Alice and James, 1955.*

A great highlight was pig butchering day. The people that were asked to come and help came for an early breakfast. Special food was prepared for the meals, which compared in size to Christmas dinner! When leaving, each family was given a piece of deep fried spareribs and a liver sausage as a token of appreciation for their help. Even the children of the home got a school holiday and helped. We girls remember working on cleaning the sausage casings.

In 1967, they moved to Winnipeg where six of their children lived. The other two live in Calgary. They resided in Winnipeg until they went to be with the Lord. Nettie (Mom) passed away in December of 1977, and John (Dad) passed away in April of 1985.

**Anna (Penner) Braun:** Ann was born at Plum Coulee on December 7, 1926. In spring of 1930, at age three, her parents moved southwest of Kane. She attended Bloomfield School for four years. In November of 1939, they moved southeast of Kane and she attended Kane School until the year-end of 1940. What a privilege it was to be taken to school and back home by a school van, driven by horses! Her first teacher was Miss Mabel Sinclair who taught them sewing and knitting classes in her suite above the teacherage. What a great teacher! Her last teacher was Mr. George Siemens who was an excellent teacher and choir director. She enjoyed playing baseball and soccer and the wonderful Christmas programs.

Other highlights she remembers include singing in the choir at Jugendverein and at the Kane School. She also enjoyed Sunday School with teachers Emmie Groening and Elda Toews (and the "Sing-Songs" at her home), the Bible lessons, and her first Bible verse John 3:3.

She was employed as domestic help until 1945 when she married Harry Braun. They moved to Winnipeg for one year, then to Lowe Farm until July 1954, then back to Winnipeg where they still reside. They have one son, Roy (Bonnie), one daughter, Leita (Cameron), two granddaughters and two great grandchildren, all of whom live in Winnipeg. They are so blessed! Ann taught Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School, Pioneer Girls, worked in Lenette's Grocery and Coffee Shop for one year, at the



*The Penner children. Back row: Nettie, Mary, Ann, Alice.  
Front row: Bill, Pete, James, Johnny.*

ders in the kitchen), a fast worker and spread a table in a short time. She loved to have coffee with family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

John and Nettie enjoyed making a very large garden and also had fruit trees and berry bushes, which were enjoyed by the family even after being married. Neighbours and friends also enjoyed the fruits of their labour. Each year they had a family harvest day, which ended with a wiener roast.

Metropolitan store for seventeen years full-time and part-time, and both Harry and Ann served at the Winnipeg Harvest outlet at their church, Gospel Mennonite.

Harry has worked as a welder in Winnipeg, in road maintenance for Morris Municipality and as an employee for the T. Eaton Company for twenty-five years, and eight years as commissionaire. He retired in 1988. They enjoy life and thank the Lord for His goodness.

**Nettie (Penner) Wiebe:** Nettie was born October 28, 1927 at Plum Coulee, Manitoba. She completed her last three years of education at Kane School where she loved playing baseball and soccer at recess. She too enjoyed Miss Sinclair's sewing and knitting class, and Mr. George Siemens as choir director. Sunday School, with teachers Elda Toews and Eddie Groening, was also a highlight.

She was employed as domestic help at Kane, worked one season at Boese Foods, St. Catharines, Ontario, a fruit cannery, and in Winnipeg at Pauline Cambers, a cookie and candy factory. Later Nettie worked at Metropolitan store as office clerk, Thiessen and Grey Goose Bus Lines, Crosstown Credit Union Ltd., and later in Calgary at the Bank of Montreal until retirement in 1994.

Nettie attended Winkler Bible School for two years, taught Sunday School, Wayfarers Girls Club, directed a children's choir, worked with young people, sang in choirs, small groups, quartets, ladies trios and duets.

She married David Wiebe in 1960 in Winnipeg, where they lived for a number of years. They later moved to Vermillion, Alberta and Nettie now lives in Calgary. She has one daughter, Kimberly (Paul), who is now married and resides in Calgary.

**Mary (Penner) Siemens:** Mary was born on March 30, 1930 in the Plum Coulee area. She attended Kane School from grade 3 to grade 10, with fond memories of Miss Russell and Mr. Neufeld. In Kane School, she attended Sunday School and church services for the first time. She best remembers her teacher Mr. Eddie Groening, who led her to accept Jesus as Saviour.

Some highlights during her school years were their very own "Girls Baseball Team", which usually won, the dramas presented at Lowe Farm, Roland and Altona and the rides to and from school in a horse-drawn "van". During severe winters, because of high snowbanks, the van would sometimes tip on its side. The children competed with each other and believed they had won if their van tipped.

In 1950 she married Tony Siemens, who was working at the Manitoba Sugar Beet Factory. They moved to Winnipeg where they still live today. They were blessed with four children, Ken and Garry, who live in Calgary, and Brad and Sheila (Bob), who live in Winnipeg, and six grandchildren.

In 1956 Tony worked at Canada Wire & Cable Company, first as an engineer, then as a machine operator, and the last six years in Tap & Die Maintenance. He retired in

1988. Mary worked part-time for Ringer's Hardware for fifteen years, between 1968 and 1983. They are now retired and busy being grandparents, and loving it!

**Johnny Penner:** Johnny was born July 9, 1932 at Kane, Manitoba. He attended the Kane Consolidated School and attended Sunday School at Kane. He enjoyed playing hockey with the Kane team. He was employed at neighbouring farms, then at the T. Eaton Company and Carter Motors in Winnipeg.

Johnny married Audrey Sawatsky in 1956, and went to Calgary for their honeymoon where they decided to stay. His first job was car inspector for General Supplies. Johnny took a Metal Mechanics course at Calgary Technical School (where he later taught part-time) and upon completion was employed by Pittsburgh Industries. He then worked for the City of Calgary. Audrey first worked at Safeway, then as a stay-at-home mom, and later was employed at the Bay. Johnny and Audrey both retired in 1998 and moved to Kelowna.

Johnny and Audrey have one son, Roger (Cathy) with two children, residing in Calgary. They also have one daughter, Sheryl (Rod), with two children, living in Kelowna.

**Peter Penner:** Peter was born November 19, 1936 at Kane, Manitoba where he attended school, Sunday School, church and enjoyed playing hockey. He moved to Winnipeg and worked at the T. Eaton Company. After having lived in Toronto, the British Columbia interior, and Calgary for many years, he and his wife, Anita, now reside in Winnipeg.

**Bill Penner:** Bill was born July 24, 1938 at Kane, Manitoba, where he attended school, Sunday School and church. During his school years, he worked for different farmers around Kane and Lowe Farm, and enjoyed playing softball and soccer during his school years. Bill moved to Winnipeg and worked for Coldstream Refrigeration, for Pittsburgh Glass Industries and later for Beaton Glass and Windows. Bill retired in 1989 and resides in Winnipeg.

**James Penner:** James was born April 20, 1940 in Morris, Manitoba and was raised in Kane where he attended school, kindergarten to the completion of grade 11, and church. He enjoyed playing softball, football, track and field events and playing hockey during his school years. He also enjoyed hanging out at Toews General Store to watch wrestling on TV on Saturday nights and many great swimming evenings at Jake Born's dugout (and even sometimes during school lunch time!).

During his high school years, James worked for several different farmers during the summer holidays. After completing high school in Kane, he moved to Winnipeg and worked for the T. Eaton Company for one year. He was then employed by the Unemployment Insurance Com-



*James Penner taking the 1929 Model A Ford for a spin!*

mission and retired in 1997.

James participates in curling, baseball and golf, is very generous to our local charities, cheers on all the home teams and enjoys travel. He resides in Winnipeg and enjoys spending time with his nephews and nieces and their families.

**Alice (Penner) Dyck:** Alice was born on May 9, 1942 in Kane, Manitoba where she attended school, Kindergarten to grade 11, church and Sunday School. She participated in track and field and received a plaque for best girl athlete in Morris Track and Field. She also enjoyed volleyball, the 4-H Club (1958-59), baseball (the only girl on the boy's team), woodworking and, of course, some of the academic classes as well.

In 1959, Alice moved to Winnipeg and trained as a keypunch operator with the Serle Grain Company and had the privilege of working on the first computer in the Winnipeg Parliament Buildings. In 1960 she married her high school sweetheart, Lawrence (Larry) Dyck. Larry was employed in sales and management for Wilson Stationary Limited in Winnipeg and Saskatoon from 1959 to 1983. Since then, he has worked as a hearing aid audiologist in Saskatchewan, for Chrysler Canada in Calgary and recently Larry and Alice moved to Morden in 1998.

Alice and Larry have four children and eight grandchildren. Glenn lives in Winnipeg, Pamela (Larry) in Saskatchewan, Cindy (Wade) in Calgary and Renatta (Vern) in Winnipeg. Larry and Alice have been actively involved in church and community functions.

**JOHN & CATHERINE PFRIMMER  
WILLIAM & AGNES (McKerlie) PFRIMMER  
DON & NANCY (Nisbet) PFRIMMER  
*by Don Pfrimmer***

William Pfrimmer (father of Don Pfrimmer) S½ 14-5-3W, came to Manitoba from Benmiller, Ontario, near Goderich, in 1899, with parents John and Catherine, as one of eleven children.

Their first year was spent on a farm northwest of Morden before settling in the Kane-Myrtle area, purchasing sections 14-5-3, 10-5-3 and 11-5-3. They built a sod shanty on SW 14-5-3W which housed them over the winter before a wood framed house could be built.

Low land was not drained at that time, when they crossed section 15, to reach their homestead, the water was up to the horses' bellies. In 1902, a steam powered floating dredge was brought in to dig the large drainage ditch on the north side of section 14-5-3 to carry the water east.

In the summer of 1900, twenty acres of sod were broken with the use of a walking plow pulled by oxen. Will Pfrimmer, at age 16, spent many hours at this task. Don (his son) still has the original plow.

The family of John and Catherine Pfrimmer were as follows: George, Andrew, Mary, Annie (died at 21 of diphtheria), Clara, Will, Ed, Otto, Manny, Leo, Jack and Eva.

William married Agnes McKerlie in 1919 and remained on the original homestead. Though many of the Pfrimmers fell upon hard times and moved away during the depression of the thirties, Will and Agnes stayed on and built their new home in 1938.

During World War II, some German "Prisoners of War"



*Home of Don and Nancy Pfrimmer, married 1959.  
(Barn down by wind in 1966.)*

were kept in a camp (tents) along Highway #23, on section 34-4-3 near the C.N. water tower. Many worked on Pfrimmer's land during harvest, but were watched constantly by armed guards.

Don remembers his Dad telling him how the Pfrimmer brothers (Don's dad and uncles) hauled grain to Kane in the early years. They used a large steamer hooked onto enough wagons with wide rim wheels to carry the amount of grain to fill a boxcar in one trip! At the Kane siding, a portable wooden grain elevator was used to load the grain into the boxcar. The elevator had a steel frame and a square wooden tube with a steel chain and wooden paddles in it. With only one opening in the boxcar, they had to get into the car to shovel the grain to each end so they could fill the car. There were no roads or ditches, only trails across the prairie, so the Pfrimmer caravan moved across the fields to its destination — Kane!

In 1959, Don, only son of Will and Agnes, married Nancy Nisbet and took over the family farm. Their family members are Michael, Karen (died at nine months), Heather, Paul and Cindy.

High winds have been a problem through the years. In 1966, the huge metal-clad barn, which had been visible for miles, blew down. On June 20, 1975, a tornado touched down near the west road and swept through the yard, badly damaging the roof of their home and demolishing most of the other buildings in their yard. Work crews, organized by the Mennonite Disaster Services, along with friends, family and neighbours spent many long days helping clean up the debris, much of which had been scattered for over a mile.

In 1997, the farm, 14-5-3W, was sold to Heinz and Martina Doerrhoefer (children Tina and Andreas), who moved here from Germany, while Don and Nancy Pfrimmer now reside in Roland.

Michael (Keri) and family (Kylie, Kellie, Aaron and Josh), own Roland Air Spray Ltd., north of Roland, and are also actively involved in farming.

Heather (Ron) Halstead and family (Mitchell, Luke and Dane) live east of Myrtle where Ron owns Ron's Ag repair. Heather works for Perduc - Shafer in Morden.

Paul (Deb) and family (Bryce, Amanda and Evan) live at La Salle, Manitoba where they own Sweet Acres Strawberry Farm along with Deb's com-

puter business.

Cindy and her husband Leigh Terwin live at Darlingford, Manitoba. Cindy is employed by Winkler Hospital while Leigh is a cattle farmer north of Morden.

## **JACOB B. & MARIE (Toews) REIMER**

*by Jake and Marie Reimer*

We resided in the Plum Coulee area prior to our move to the Kane District. Our home was located on NW 17-5-2W, one mile east and two and a half miles north of Kane. We moved there in March, 1953. March, it seems, is almost always a bad month, weather-wise, as it proved to be that year. The road I remember was very slippery, and the truck kept swerving from side to side. We had our piano on the truck, fortunately we had it crated, but Marie was afraid that it would tip. Thankfully we arrived without any mishap. Later the road was gravelled which was a big improvement.

While we lived there we were involved in the church and Sunday School activities.

Our two sons Earl and Glenn were both born during the time we lived there and attended school there until the time we left in 1967. The buildings were very poor, and we built a new house and barn and fixed granaries, etc. We had livestock, so we had to put up a fence and seed a pasture, which all required a lot of work and time.

Jake also drove the school bus for four years, which was a big headache, as the roads on his route were just a plain nightmare when it rained, which it did frequently. I used to watch from an upstairs window, where I had a better view, to see whether he would make it to the corner of the road leading to Sperling, which by then had a sprinkling of gravel. At times he had to take the tractor to tow the school van. I don't like to even think about it to this day.

In the spring of 1966 we had such heavy rains that our fields were under water, the ditches being full, there was no runoff. That summer Jake went shopping. Next spring we purchased a section of land in the Killarney area. Here we and our boys made new friends and finished school and high school, from there both



*Jake B. and Marie Reimer with sons Glenn and Earl.*

went to college.

Due to Jake's health problems we retired, I should say semi-retired, as Jake started to build (which he enjoyed) as his health allowed. This move took us to Winkler, my father who was living with us, wished to go "home for him".

Earl and his wife Ruth and their three daughters, live in Winkler. He is in sales and travels (flies mostly) extensively, frequently. Ruth was a nurse, but now works as an Educational Assistant in the High School.

Glenn and wife Myrna have one daughter and two sons. They live in Altona, where he is employed at the Credit Union. Myrna is a teacher.

Both our sons with their families are very involved in church and community affairs, music, singing, sports, etc.



*The Jacob B. Reimer family.*

## **JACOB C. & MARGARET (Friesen) REIMER** *by Joe Reimer*



*Jacob C. and Margaret Reimer with  
(l-r): Abe, Joe, and James, 1944.*

Jacob C. Reimer and Margaret Friesen were joined in holy matrimony on July 12, 1931, in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church. Their first residence was in the St. Peters-Sewell area.

From there they moved to the Anderson farm, five miles west of Morris on the south side of Highway #23. Mr. Reimer worked here for a number of years as a farm helper. Their family of three boys was born at this location - Abraham (Abe) July 30, 1932; Jacob (Jim) February 5, 1934, and Joseph (Joe) December 13, 1935.

On September 14, 1938, the Reimer family moved to the Kane area - namely SE quarter of 20-4-2W. Here they developed a mixed farm on 423 acres. During these years Mr. Reimer became an associate grower with the Morden Experimental Station - growing many types of fruit trees, shrubs, strawberries, flowers, etc. Many people in the community benefited from his knowledge of plants.

Reimers were members of the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church and served in many different capacities. Mr. Reimer took an active part in the Kane School - serving as school trustee for a number of years.

All three boys attended Kane Consolidated School from grades one to eleven. Abe and Jim attended the M.C.I. in Gretna for their grade twelve and then enrolled in the Provincial Normal School graduating as teachers. However, both didn't complete their first year of teaching before pursuing other careers. Abe's final career was working as a Land Development Officer for the City of Winnipeg. Shortly after retiring, Abe passed away while on vacation with his wife in Pharr, Texas, on January 29, 1992 at 59 years of age.

Jim's final career was working as a meat inspector. He was employed by the Federal Government when he passed away while fishing with his wife at Pointe Du Bois on September 7, 1987 at 53 years of age.

Joe took his grade twelve in Lowe Farm, then enrolled in the Provincial Normal School. His teaching career started in Rosenfeld and finished some forty years later with the Winnipeg School Division. To keep up-to-date, he took many university courses, graduating from Bemidji State University with a B.A. and a Master of Science in Education. During his teaching career, Joe was seconded by the Department of Education to develop and write the manual for the Work Education Program in Manitoba. He also taught numerous education courses at the University of Manitoba. Farming was always an interesting hobby, and Joe and his wife Betty eventually purchased the home place and are currently farming it and living there part-time.

Mrs. Reimer's health began to fail in the early 70's and she passed away on October 15, 1977, at 66 years of age.

Mr. Reimer passed away on November 10, 1990 at 88 years of age.

### **WILLIAM & NETTIE (Esau) REIMER**

*by Margaret (Reimer) Harms*



*Nettie and William Reimer, 1986*



*The William Reimer farm, 1944. (Formerly the Fredricksen homestead and now the John Kebler home.)*

It was a beautiful spring day when my Dad told me, with excitement in his voice, that he had something to show me. At the age of five, I was eager to see the surprise. We walked across the barnyard, past the huge barn, over a garden plot to a long grove of old trees. It was here that my father had discovered a rope swing attached to a thick branch. Having just moved from a small yard with few trees, to the Fred Fredricksen's former farmyard, I was in awe of the rows and rows of trees bordering the yard, the large pastures, and now, a real swing. For a young child this was surely a bit of Heaven on earth.

Soon my parents acquired more cows and horses, pigs, sheep, chickens and turkeys since there was room in the barns, plenty of grass for grazing and storage for feed. We also always had a dog and plenty of cats.

Our new, old house had been vacant for a while before we moved into it. At one time this had been a modern farm home, for that era, with a basement furnace, fire extinguishers at each doorway and back and front doors. When we arrived the furnace no longer worked, the floor vents were covered by linoleum and the front door was boarded up. The substantial pantry remained much as it had been. In the floor was a trap door leading to the cellar. One wall was almost completely lined with shelves for baking items, utensils, dishes and other wonders. This room housed our milk separator, the butter churn and flour bin. It was in this pantry that my mother placed empty food cartons, tins and other containers on the very top shelf, for the sole purpose of playing store. On rainy days or deep freeze cold winter days, this shelf was emptied onto our big kitchen table. We now had a store. Mother had also carefully used silver paper found in some packaging and with the help of real coins, made rubbings to cover circles of cardboard for dimes, nickels and quarters. Now we were ready to shop.

At this time I shared my parents with three older sisters, Edna, Tena and Helen, and an older brother John. We had great times together. When the kitchen wasn't needed as a local grocery store, it could well become a

schoolhouse. John, being the oldest, was always the principal. He said that was so that he could use the strap, but I don't recall him ever exercising that authority. The classroom could just as easily turn into a stage for plays. I was quickly introduced to nursery rhymes, fairy tales and literature of many genres as we acted them out.

On school nights we all gathered around the kitchen table to do our homework. Mom and Dad were close by to help us whenever we needed it. On long winter evenings after all our chores and homework were done, we played games like crokinole, checkers and Chinese Checkers. Often Dad, who was an excellent player himself, would help the youngest player and that person usually won.

Once in a while when Helen and I set up our paper dolls on the table, there would be a wild windstorm that blew them all down. My Dad loved to do this by filling his lungs with air and blowing as hard and long as he could. My sister and I shrieked and howled, but we knew he wouldn't do that again for a long time and it was rather exciting to think that tragedy should strike our make-believe families so unexpectedly. We happily set up our paper dolls again.

We four sisters shared a large bedroom with two double beds. Our room was often so cold in winter that there were several inches of frost on the outside wall and the comforters would freeze onto the frost. Mother made the most wonderful carded sheep's wool blankets with flannel covers and these thick blankets helped to keep out the cold. There were special times like Christmas mornings when Edna and Tena let Helen and me crawl into their bed and we all huddled together. The warmth we felt was more than physical. We bonded spiritually and emotionally. These were times of love and caring and we still feel this closeness today.



*The Reimer siblings: Margaret, Edna, Tena, Ernie, Helen, John, Mary Ann, 1974.*

It was soon after we moved to this farm closer to town that our baby brother Ernie was born. I was six now and was very proud to help mother care for him. Four years later our youngest sister Mary Ann joined our family and again we were delighted. She was only ten months old when in October, 1950 Edna (and Jake Rempel) and Tena (and Jack Loewen) had a double wedding.

Another activity that we shared with our older siblings was herding cows along the roadsides when the pasture grass became sparse. During the many hours we spent tending the cattle, we had time to talk and tell stories. Books were scarce, but if we had one, we could read that while the cows grazed.

At the Kane School students first came in June as beginners and then started Grade One in fall. I was very anxious to start school and was fascinated by the world that opened up for me through books and the influence of dedicated teachers. School also meant making many friends. I was grateful when the George Borns moved to our community. Their daughter Evelyn and I became best friends. I benefited from all the wonderful instructors I had, but there were a number of teachers that inspired me in very special ways and encouraged me to excel. I appreciated each and everyone of my teachers.

One of the school highlights in the middle years and high school were the ball games played against teams of other schools. To get to Bloomfield and Myrtle and occasionally Lowe Farm and Rose Farm, we rode in the back of big grain trucks. Thanks to all the farmers who volunteered their time and vehicles. It was great to have their support and encouragement.

Getting to school was sometimes a challenge. For many of my years at school we went by van drawn by a team of horses. The van was much like a covered wagon, but squared on top. The seats ran lengthwise on each side from back to front. There was a full length door at the back and a split door in the front so the driver could open the top half in mild weather. In winter the wagon box was put on sleigh runners since only main roads were kept free of snow. In spring and fall the van was put on high, narrow, metal rimmed wheels for driving in the mud and slush and for summer there were smaller rubber tired wheels for smoother driving on mainly dry roads.

Before the Shannon was dug and dykes built, there was a dip in our road between our place and the Abe Hyde's. This was referred to as the "spillway". Other roads had similar places created to guide spring runoff water from the Pembina Hills to the Red River. On one particular morning in spring my parents knew that the water in the spillway was extremely high, making the channel across the road very wide. I was the youngest family member going to school at the time and so was not allowed to venture into this risky situation. Mother and I climbed to the barn hayloft to watch the van carrying many children including my older brother and three sisters. It approached the wide expanse of water. At first all went well since the horses were still on higher ground. Suddenly the horses

dropped down into the spillway and had to start swimming. The van swayed and tilted back and forth with the movement of the water and the pull of the horses as they struggled in the water. The van was now floating. As the water seeped in at the door, students got up onto the seats. Tena tells me that what she remembers is seeing the driver standing up endeavouring to balance the van with his body while holding tightly to the reins. Mother and I held our breath as we watched. At one point when the van came dangerously close to flipping on its side, Mother gave a gasp! Fortunately, the strong pull of the horses now getting onto better footing, righted the van and drew it safely to the other side. When we saw that all was well, I regretted having missed the adventure! Edna reminded me that they all got to stay in town that night because it was too dangerous to try to get the students back home.

I did, however, experience one harrowing van episode some years later. Mr. Henry Kehler was our van driver and he had just acquired a new team of horses. On this particular morning we watched for our ride as usual. My mother was extremely apprehensive when she saw these horses for the first time. They were too fast and too skittish as they came down our driveway. My mother's words were, "Those horses just look too wild!" Mr. Kehler had a hard time keeping them at a standstill long enough for us to mount the steps and get in. The time it took to travel the dirt road to the highway was shorter than usual. Once we hit the #23, still at a fast pace, there was no holding that team. The noise of the steel rimmed wheels on the gravel was just too much for those inexperienced horses. For a short distance it was a wild ride. By now the driver's hands were bleeding from hanging onto the reins as they moved back and forth over the opening of the front door. The horses were pulling so hard that we thought Mr. Kehler might suddenly be yanked out of the van. It wasn't long until the van toppled into the ditch as the horses broke loose. Mr. Kehler chased after the horses for a short distance, but soon came back to the van. People in town reported later that the team, dragging the wagon tongue, came through town (Kane) still running. I'm not sure who stopped them nor where.

Several vehicles stopped at the accident scene to offer help. Nettie Kehler had a huge bump to her head and needed attention. My sister Helen's head was bleeding because of a gash on her scalp. We saw where she had hit her head on the end of a screw on the roof of the van. Those of us seated on the ditch side weren't as badly hurt as the ones that were thrown over from the other side. I was wanting to go to school with those that weren't injured to be in on the "telling of the tale", but I knew I needed to stay with my sister so we both accepted a ride home. Everyone recovered, and the van was repaired. The horses were captured, but were never hitched to our van again.

Our High School classroom was in the school basement. The enrollment in Grades 9-11 was generally low and friendships were close. With only one teacher for three

grades, we learned to work and study independently. The Ping-Pong table just outside our classroom was in constant use before and after school and during breaks. Many of us became expert table tennis players.

When I think about our cozy basement classroom, one incident stands out in my mind. It was the day Jerry Toews was asked by the principal, Mr. Otto Funk, to check how much water was in the cistern. The door to the area of the water supply was in the front of the room. One minute I saw Jerry sitting on the edge of the cement wall and only moments later we heard a splash. He had fallen into the water. He climbed out soaking wet. Mr. Funk took him to the teacherage where Jerry changed into the principal's clothes. Unfortunately for Jerry, who was taller and slimmer than Mr. Funk, the pants were wide at the waist and extremely short. This evoked some good-natured laughter. The cistern water had not only been checked, but tested as well.

School Christmas concerts were very special and could last for three hours or more. Grain doors from the elevators were brought to the school and laid over benches to form the stage in the Grade 5-8 room. The huge Christmas tree was the community's opportunity for a card and gift exchange and the students always all received candy and peanut bags. I recall that our classes put on some major plays like *The Christmas Carol* and many more. Our audiences were brought to laughter and tears. We took great pride in our performances.

On the day of the concert, classes were dismissed at noon to enable us to get ready for the big evening ahead. Our new dresses awaited their first public display, but first we had hair to wash and curl. In the later years when cars were already in use more frequently, even in winter, it was often a challenge on a cold night to start those vehicles. Travel by horse was slower, but often more reliable in order to ensure getting to the concert on time.

Church and worship were always an integral part of the Kane community while we lived there. Before there was a church building our services were held in the school. I remember Mr. Henry P. Schellenberg, the elevator agent, as one of our spiritual leaders. My first Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Eva Braun, was a great storyteller and made the Bible stories very real. When we were in Mr. Walter Toews' class, he generously gave of his time and energy to enlarge our knowledge of the Bible and also the world around us. I was eleven when I first went to Winnipeg. This was when Mr. Toews took our class to the Assiniboine Zoo. He also took us to Walhalla for a Sunday afternoon outing.

It was in our school church that my interest in missions began with visiting missionaries like Miss Tina Blatz. We were also blessed by the winter mid-week Bible studies taught by Mr. Eddie H. Groening. There was a particular spiritual closeness in the Christian community during those years.

Frank Blatz (Sr.) would pick up some of the neighbourhood young people in his half-ton to go to the Blatz

farm to pick mustard. We would systematically walk through his fields and pull the mustard weeds. It was hot, tiring work, but because we were working with many other friends, it was enjoyable. We were also paid for our work which was helpful when money was scarce. Over the years many of Mr. Blatz's fields were so free of mustard that we did more walking in the fields than pulling weeds. In fact, if we saw a yellow blossom, two or three of us raced to see who could get it first! It was a lot of fun.

In the years that I was growing up, my Dad farmed a small acreage and worked at jobs for others. For many years he was also a van driver and had a reputation for punctuality. The people on his route used to say that they could set their clocks by his arrival each day. My father was an honest man. He was a hard worker, always willing to go the second mile for neighbours, friends and relatives. Our Dad, William Reimer, passed away in 1987 at the age of 83.

My Mother has had her 90th birthday (in 1999) and is a resident of the Morris Red River Lodge. When she was a young girl at school, she longed to be a teacher. Circumstances didn't allow that to happen, but to her children she was the ultimate teacher and an absolutely wonderful Mom.

As a family we had little money, but plenty of good healthy food grown on the farm. We were taught to respect our elders, teachers and each other. We knew we could always invite our friends to our home, especially for meals. Our parents were concerned that we do well at school and did everything they could to help us. We were blessed through our parents and I thank God for them.

After High School my brother, John Reimer, got his Journeyman's papers as a licensed mechanic and spent many years working in Saskatchewan. In 1958, he married Edith Nelson of Robin Hood, Saskatchewan. Their children William (Bill) and Diane were born in Dinsonore, after which the family moved to Lowe Farm. Here their children Kenneth, Paul, Katherine and Shirley were born. In 1997 Edith passed away after a short illness. John continues to live in their residence near Lowe Farm. He has six grandchildren.

After completing High School at Kane and teaching for a year on "permit", sister Edna married Jake Rempel of the Rosenort district, in 1950. They lived near Rosenort for a number of years working on the farm in summer and spending time in the bush camps in Western Ontario in winter. Later the family moved to Morris where Edna and Jake still reside. Their children are Dennis, Richard, Arlene Terrance and Dale.

My sister Tena left school after Grade 9 to help Mom at home. She also worked for several different farm families in the Kane area. In 1950 in a double wedding together with Edna and Jake, Tena married Jack Loewen, also of the Rosenort district. They first lived in Morris for many years and later moved to the village of Rosenort. They too spent some winters in the bush camps in Ontario and a summer on a farm near Nesbit. They have three

daughters, Beverly, Karen and Cheryl.

My brother Jacob died in infancy.

Sister Helen chose to go out to work instead of taking her High School. She worked in various places, including some jobs in Winnipeg. She also went to Bible School and sewing school in Steinbach. Helen married Abe Klassen of the Rosenhoff district in 1958. Helen and Abe first resided in Morris for a while. Now after living in Rosenhoff for most of their married life they have moved back to Morris for their retirement. They have three daughters, Gloria, Lucille and, Eileen.

The highest grade offered in Kane was eleven so I, Margaret, found it necessary to take my Grade 12 in Lowe Farm. Ever since I could remember I had wanted to be a teacher so the next step was to attend Normal School/Teachers' College in 1956-57. After three years of teaching, Jacob (Jake) Harms of Rosenhoff and I were married in 1960. After having taken time off from teaching while our children were younger, I returned to teaching in 1978 and continue to do so. For the last 25 years we have resided near Lowe Farm, but during our married life we have lived in Winnipeg and in various locations in Northern Manitoba. We too have been blessed with three children, Patricia, Josephine and Wendell.

My younger brother Ernie has made a varied career. For quite a while he worked with Dad in making concrete cisterns. He spent some time in the Royal Canadian Navy, worked as a mechanic in Winnipeg and more recently was a partner at Saints Roller Rink in St. Norbert. In 1971 Ernie married Stephanie Syrota. Their children are Daniel, Dana and Audrey. Ernie and Stef continue to live in Winnipeg.

My youngest sister Mary Ann went to school in Kane for the first few years and then continued her education in Lowe Farm where she graduated from Grade 12. Next she graduated from nurses' training from the St. Boniface Hospital in 1970, and works there even now. In 1971 she married Bruce Oliver who grew up in Nova Scotia. Mary Ann and Bruce are grateful to God for two adopted children, Thomas Joseph and Jennifer.

## **SCHELLENBERG**

**John, Ben, Bill, Henry, Lena & Anne**  
*by Lena Schellenberg*

We were actually from the Myrtle School district, and then in the early 1940's when the business closed down in Myrtle, we changed over to Kane, which was a booming business at that time. And it was open from early to late every day! Everybody knew what the next person's wheat board payment was, to how many bushels an acre the farmers got. (There were no tonnes and hectares in those days.)

There were checker games going on daily at the Kane Store, and on March 6, 1953, was one of the first checker tournaments held in Kane, when Henry Schellenberg became champion for southern Manitoba. These games continued as late as 1991, when John Toews was able to beat



*The Schellenberg family. Back row: John, Ben, Henry, Peter.  
Front row: Bill, Jake, Nettie, Anne, Lena, Tina.*

Henry in the last game that they played in the Steinbach Care Home.

Henry worked for John Toews (brother Bill did as well for some time) doing repair work of all kinds in the Kane Garage as early as 1947. Up until then Henry had worked in logging camps and in a coal mine as a Conscientious Objector for four years. In March, when he returned from camp, he worked as a C. O. as a farm labourer for Abe Suderman of Kane for three summers for 90¢ a day and paid the rest of his earnings to the Red Cross.

He later bought land in the Roland area and farmed there until his retirement in 1969 when we moved to Winkler. He did much custom combining and bought all these combines and tractors from Pete Harder and John Toews.

Many exciting times were experienced while he worked in the Kane Garage. One winter evening Henry and Pete Harder and two other men decided to go to a hockey game at Letellier. The #23 Highway was one lane traffic in several places due to high snowbanks on either side of a trench and the boys were no doubt driving too fast and upset in one of these trenches. They wasted no more than five minutes and saw the hockey game after all.

John and Ben assembled a pre-cut house east of the Kane School for the Bill Schellenbergs in 1946. When the Schellenbergs moved west, Jake Borns purchased the building and moved it to their yard on SE 1-5-3W.

What amazes me now is at that time we could buy flat wooden boxes of Soda Crackers for very little money at the Kane Store.

While reading through my old dairies, I came across some important happenings such as — *On December 11, 1952 the church was moved to Kane. On February 13, 1948, Henry was looking after Peter Friesen's house while they were away, and the house burned down mid afternoon.*

We, as a family, did all our grocery shopping in Kane. In the winter time we often wish we could have some of those relaxing, quiet evenings we had then.

John passed away in 1979, Ben in 1969, and Bill in

1983, all of heart attacks. Henry passed away in 1998 of Parkinson's Disease. Anne and I (Lena) are living a busy retired life in Winkler.



*Anne, Lena and Henry Schellenberg  
carefully plan their next holiday.*

#### **PETER D. & JUSTINA (Dyck) SCHELLENBERG by Gertrude (Schellenberg) Logan**

Our family lived one mile south and a half mile west of Kane, Manitoba. My parents were Peter and Justina (nee Dyck) Schellenberg. There were my brothers Pete and Abe, and myself. My dad was a carpenter; building houses, barns, sheds and whatever he was hired to do, and my mother was a housewife. My mom was a domestic engineer, in the truest sense. Whatever she put her mind to do, she would accomplish very well. My brothers and I all went to Kane School. Things were tough at times in those early years, but we were brought up in a Christian home where good virtues were taught. We had love, and we were happy. My parents and my brother Pete have passed away.

About half a mile east lived the Abe Sudermans. We children had lots of fun. Esther was my best friend.

**Abe Schellenberg:** In 1957, I married Tina Wall from Bloomfield. We were married in the Kronsgard Church south of Myrtle. After our wedding, we moved to Winnipeg, where I operated my own truck.

We were blessed with two boys, Ed and Garry. After living in the city for several years we moved the family back to Roland where I worked on the farm for my uncle, Henry Schellenberg. I also worked for the municipality of Roland.

Several years later I was employed by Triple E in Winkler as a tinsmith. Due to my wife's illness we moved back to Winnipeg where I worked as a custodian in a large apartment complex. My wife died in Winnipeg after a lengthy illness.

I stayed in the city and, some time later, remarried. My second wife is Susan Klassen of Winnipeg.



*Peter and Justina Schellenberg with (l-r) Abe, Gertie and Peter.*

In January of 1997, my oldest son Ed died in a high-way accident. My other son Garry is a youth leader in a large Winnipeg church. We have eight grandchildren.

I am now retired. I have a little wood-working hobby shop which I built in my backyard in Winnipeg.

**Gertrude (Schellenberg) Logan:** When I was six years of age, I started school. This was difficult for a while. Not only was I away from Mom and Dad, but I also had to learn to speak English properly because we spoke only Low German at home.

We were taken to school in a van - a sort of covered wagon with rows of seats on each side. This van was pulled by two horses. I believe our first van driver was a man by the name of Alex White. He was a kind man. We had numerous other drivers after him, and I have good memories of all these men.

One memory stands out in my mind about one such driver by the name of Tony Hoeppner. When the weather was miserable, Tony would come to our door and carry me into the van. He always said he would marry me when I grew up. (Hmmm, wonder why he didn't keep his promise...ha ha.) Our van also had a little stove in it so we

were kept warm in winter time as we travelled to school. On the coldest winter days, there were warm bricks for our feet.

My first grade teacher was Miss Warkentine. She was good to us, but very strict - at least it seemed that way to a six year old. Miss Warkentine had a habit of carrying a yardstick with her as she made her way between the rows of desks. Once in a while, in complete frustration, she would whack this yardstick down across a desk. Needless to say, we all had a healthy respect for the "yardstick".

We had other good teachers too: Miss Lorenz, Miss Duerkson, Miss Klassen, Miss Penner, Mr. Bergen, Rufus Schellenberg, Mr. Siemens, Mr. Neufeld and Mr. Warkentin who was principal. These are some of the people I recall.

We had a great school life. We received an education, and we also had fun. As youngsters, we were into Hop-Scotch, skipping, etc. etc. As we grew older, we learned how to play volleyball, baseball, and I believe some of us girls played soccer. That game was too rough. We had to bow out.

Baseball was one of the better sports and my favorite. We played against our neighboring communities. This usually brought out some on-lookers, mostly parents.

A memory that is very clear in my mind is the store at Kane. It was just a few steps from the school. It was owned and operated by the family of Mr. John Toews. Occasionally, when we had a quarter to spend, we would go over to the store at noon hour and have a hot-dog and soft drink. They had a hot-dog maker, and Art Toews was usually in charge of this. Those hot-dogs were delicious.

In the store was a counter on which stood some jars of candy. I forget how much one penny would buy, but I think we generally received far more than one penny's worth. Mr. Toews was a very generous man.

Our school picnics were a lot of fun. There were games, races, and a lot of things to eat. Eating was one of my best functions in those days. I recall one contest where we were given a cracker to eat. We had to chew as fast as possible, swallow, and then whistle. The winner got a prize, of course.

We had races of all kinds. I could run like a deer! (How things have changed.) We had many contests and many ribbons were won.

We also had Track and Field. We had good athletes, and we practiced. One year we went to Carman for this event. I don't recall which school won which race, but the day itself was one to remember.

Christmas Concerts! This was a joyful time of year for us children - especially when the stage was up and in place. My, my, how we practiced! When the Concert was given, it was always a hit. The seating was filled to capacity.

One Christmas Concert was not such a "hit" for me. I had to memorize a long poem - in German - and was to recite it. Well, to my amazement, I did it. With no mistakes. And then I fainted. It was not nerves, though; I had a severe attack of appendicitis.

That Christmas Eve, I had my appendix removed at Carman Hospital. The next morning when I awoke, I found presents beside me in my bed. Wow! There was a doll, and a magic slate, and lots of goodies to eat! What a surprise! There were four of us children in one room, and everyone had gifts and goodies. What an exciting time for an eleven year old girl. The doctors and nurses were responsible for making that Christmas a truly special one.

At school, we had Spelling Bees and programs, usually on a Friday afternoon. Through all these times, there were, of course, the "Exams". How glad we felt when we received a passing mark!

Our school also had a band. My skilled contribution to the band was as player of the "triangular chime". I had to hit it at a precise moment when I got the nod from the band leader. Then I would commit my triumphant "DING".

Life in Kane was usually quiet. However, one day at recess we noticed that Mr. and Mrs. Friesen's house was on fire. Also, the grain elevator burned down one day. What a fire that was!

On our school yard was a skating rink in the winter time. Beside the rink was a small building which was heated. This is where we put on our skates. The rink was lit up in the evening, and a lot of people came to skate at the rink. This was fun!

The education we received was due to the hard work of all the teachers we had. They did not have just one class, but three or four grades in each classroom. They were responsible for each subject in each grade. Their hours were long, and I believe they really earned their money. Besides the regular classroom studies, they also taught wood working and crafts. Miss Penner taught me how to knit a sweater. I was very proud of myself. Miss Penner said I did a good job. (I think Miss Penner was very kind!)

I finished my high school at Kane. From Kane, I went to Winnipeg and got a job at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital just at the Post Polio Era. This was a real good experience for me - working with these young people whose lives had been changed so drastically by the dread disease.

After a while, I was offered a job at the Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services. I worked there from 1953 to 1958.

In 1958, I decided that I would like to be a nurse. I trained at the Manitoba Technical Institute in Winnipeg and did my practical training in Morden, Manitoba. When I graduated in 1959, I went back to work at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital.

In 1960 I married Robert Logan from St. Vital in Winnipeg. We have four children - two daughters and two sons. We are also grandparents to five terrific grandsons.

Presently, we are residing at Pinantan Lake, British Columbia. We are semi-retired.

By the way, I was a very good nurse, and so I never attempted to be a writer.

## JACOB & ELIZABETH (Bergman) SCHELLENBERG

*by Ann (Rempel) Schellenberg*



*The first home of Jake and Elizabeth Schellenberg.*

Jacob P. Schellenberg was born on April 9, 1907 to Peter and Katherina Schellenberg in the Blumstein area. He lived with his parents for 29-30 years. His younger years were spent helping his father on the farm. During this time he did have the opportunity to attend school for a few years in the Blumefield School. His teacher was J. Hoepfner who presented him with a New Testament in 1919. He was baptized and joined the Sommerfelder Church in 1929.

March 23, 1938, Jacob purchased ½ section of land (25-4-3W), one mile south of Kane. The land was bought from John Miller of Ontario for \$6400.00

His first tractor he bought was a used Fordson Major and a eight foot IHC cultivator for \$160.00 from H. M. Jones, in Roland. It wasn't new, but it was enough to get him started. He farmed with it for a while, but later in 1934, he bought a new 1020 McCormick, (which was on steel wheels), from John J. Schroeder, an agent for IH in Lowe Farm. He paid \$940.00 for the tractor.

In 1939, he built a tiny house on his farm where he lived as a bachelor for two years. He quit his job crushing hay in 1940. Earlier he had bought a stationary motor which he placed on a wagon with a crusher on it pulled by horses. With this he would go to neighbour's and friend's farms to make feed from their hay. They'd usually pay him, although those who could not afford it, he'd do out of charity.

In 1941 his brothers and friends helped him build a barn on his farm.

It was during the time he had been doing custom feed crushing that he had met a pretty young lady. She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Bergman of Rose Farm area. This was a family of two boys and five girls. One of these girls won his heart and became his sweetheart. He had purchased a new 1941 Chev ½ ton in 1941 which probably made an impression on his girlfriend. They were married on June 20, 1942.



*First 1/2 ton truck owned by Jake Schellenberg, 1942.*

During World War II, Jacob was called to go to court so as to determine whether or not he should go to the C. O. Camps. Partially because of his age and his occupation, he was able to return home. The effects the war had on them was the rationing of foods.

As the farming continued, Jacob sold his McCormick to his brother-in-law and bought a new 1947 John Deere with rubber tires and lights. Then in 1948, due to his success in farming, he built a two-story house. He continued with his farming occupation and was able to purchase a new half ton and another new tractor and Massey Harris combine. This 52 Massey, Jacob took much pride in, along with the rest of their belongings. Later he traded most of his equipment to newer and bigger.

Jacob and Elizabeth had two children: Wilma Jane, and Donald James. Wilma and Don both attended the Kane School. Students were picked up by a school van. Some of the van drivers that Don remembers were William Reimer, Henry Doell, Peter Penner, and George Neufeld.



*Wedding of Jacob and Elizabeth Schellenberg, 1942.*

While Elizabeth was busy being a mother and home-maker, she always helped with the chores. They always had a few cows, hogs and chickens until about the early 70's. One big event for Jake was John Deere Day at the Kane Garage. He also enjoyed going to Kane Garage and



*The Bergman sisters, 1986. (l-r): Annie Buechert, Trudy Schellenberg, Eva Friesen, Tina Ginter, Elizabeth Schellenberg.*

Kane Store to pick up a few groceries, and to talk to Pete Harder as well as friends and neighbours. Jake and Elizabeth enjoyed visiting with the neighbours; the Sudermans, George Penners, the Pete Ginters, to mention a few, and the countless hours of fun and games at Alvin and Betty Penners. After retirement, they had more time to do things they enjoyed. For Elizabeth it was to go to watch the baseball games at Kane. There were not too many games Tina Ginter and she would miss.

It was in 1963, that Elizabeth's mother passed away. Her sister Eva was left by herself (after taking care of her mother for many years), so Jake and Elizabeth invited her to come and stay at their home. That was her home for 17 years until she married Dave Friesen of Plum Coulee.

Jacob worked hard at his farming, but also enjoyed welding machine work in his workshop. He equipped it with tools and machines. Most of the machines he built himself, such as an electric saw, a 35-40 ton press, a scooter (for his son), lathes for himself and others. They enjoyed farming to the fullest, but in 1975, they decided to retire and sold all the equipment to their son, Don. They remained on the farm until 1984. They bought a house in Plum Coulee where they built a workshop which Jacob enjoyed only a few years. He passed away in February, 1986 because of a massive heart attack.

Elizabeth stayed living in Plum Coulee. Tina Ginter and she enjoyed many outings with their sister Eva and brother-in-law Dave Friesen. When Elizabeth's health was failing and unable to stay by herself, she moved to Lion's Manor, Winkler, in January of 1997. Her health continued to deteriorate so she was hospitalized for nine months. In August, 1998, she moved to Salem Home, but her stay was very short. She passed away on September 30, 1998.

Wilma married Jack Falk of Plum Coulee in 1962. They live in Calgary, Alberta. At the present time they are retired. Wilma has been employed at Trans-alta Utilities in Calgary for many years. Jack was employed with the Calgary Police Department as an officer for 25 years. At the present time he is working as a court security. They have two daughters, Angela Falk and Vicki Falk, also of Calgary.

Don married Ann Rempel of Winnipeg in 1970. They live on the Schellenberg farm (27-4-3W), three miles west and one mile south of Kane. They continue to farm his father's farm and the farm formally owned by the Schellenberg aunts and uncles. The yard on his father's farm was sold to Phil and Nettie Zacharias in 1997. Don and Ann have two daughters: Colleen is married to Jeremy Giesbrecht, and they have a daughter Kara Elizabeth, and live in Winkler. Michelle Ann is married to James Fehr, and they have a daughter Lauren Ann, and also live in Winkler.



*Don and Ann Schellenberg with James and Michelle, and Jeremy and Colleen, 1995.*

## **HENRY P. & SARAH SCHELLENBERG** *by Rufus Schellenberg*



*Henry P. and Sarah Schellenberg.*



*The Henry Schellenbergs leave for Alberta. Back row: Manuel, Alvan, Rufus.  
Front row: Sarah (Mom), Esther, Henry (Dad), July, 1946.*

**August, 1940:** Henry brought his wife Sarah and their children Rufus, Alvan, Manuel and Esther to Kane. Here they established their home. Henry was agent for the N. M. Paterson Grain Company. The youngest three children enrolled in the local school. Rufus left for Altona to complete high school. The family members became involved in the community activities. The most significant organization was Sunday School, which had been started by two young women who worked for John Toews.

**August, 1943:** Rufus was invited to join the teaching staff of Kane Consolidated School. Miss Tina Warkentine taught Grades I to IV and Mr. George G. Siemens, the principal, taught the high school students. The following year Mr. Nic G. Neufeld replaced Mr. Siemens. Miss Warkentine also left. Rufus became a primary teacher for Grades I-IV.

**Spring, 1945:** Henry was diagnosed with a chronic kidney condition, brought on by the inhalation of grain dust. Dr. C. Wiebe advised him to leave the grain business.

**July, 1946:** The Schellenberg family left Kane for Didsbury, Alberta.

### **SCHNEBLY** *from Precious Memories*

*From a letter written to Dr. William Cutlip from Ruth Schnebly Atwood Johnson in answer to his questions:*

"Our family moved to Kane, Manitoba, Canada in 1916. We went to the school about 4 or 5 miles south of us called "The Mennonite School" where they spoke German when not in class! I know we went to school with the Crouch boys, but can't recall you until we had the new school-house in Kane.

"I know that the Crouches sold land there and I think we bought our land from them several miles north - we only rented that land next to you. The Crouches lived in that farm just south of you. Hurts lived there later."

*In answer to the question: How many farmers from Illinois bought land and moved to that area?* "I just don't know - in fact I cannot think of any others. No one we knew 'made it'."

*In answer to the water situation since there was no well.* "You may have hauled water from our pool, for there was one there when we moved there in 1916. We used a horse and sled to bring a barrel of water to the

house and had to melt snow in the winter time — I can recall those blocks of snow and how cold it would be bringing them in and melting them in a broiler on the cook stove.

"The only time I remember going to a service was when my dad tried to start a Sunday School class at Kane, but it didn't work out as I recall."

*About the summers and winters at Kane:* "What do I recollect!!!! Lots of hard work putting out garden and potatoes and having to pick potato bugs! All the huge weeds that grew in the garden. And the dust storms - did you ever experience one of those just after the harrowing had been done. You couldn't see a thing! That poor old house filled with dust as well.

"The COLD winters and the colder beds — HUGE snowdrifts and going to school in sleds — being picked up after we had moved to our own farm from the 'old house' —moving from there and to a newer house that never really was finished, but such DREAMS! We moved to a rented farm with almost a shed for a house and went broke again. We moved to Winnipeg where Dad intended to go back into the plumbing business again, but he broke his arm and gave up and moved back to Normal., Illinois, in 1926 and lucky thing we did of that I'm sure.

"We did have some fun times going Saskatoon picking a couple of times — away to the west where there were some mountains, then later we went square dancing at the Myrtle School. My Dad played the guitar, and Mr. Hurt played a mandolin and someone must have called. We also had some Box Socials, which were fun if you had someone special to buy your box! I guess most of all, we did a lot of growing up in a hurry, but have to hope it had some purpose. One thing I recall so well was your mother — she was especially kind to me, for as I recall, you had lost a sister "Ruthie"? Not sure about that, she was so good to me — and kind."

### **GEORGE G. & TINA SIEMENS** *by Lloyd Siemens*

My father, George G. Siemens, was the principal of the Kane Consolidated School from 1934 to 1944. In addition to his administrative duties in the three-room school, he also taught grades 9-11 and

served as school janitor, heating “engineer”, snow remover and occasional groundskeeper. In these last four duties he was assisted substantially (in the later years) by me and by my older brother Reynold, whom he paid the princely sum of 25 cents each per month for sweeping three classrooms daily, cleaning out the trash and performing other odd jobs. In the evening hours and during many summer months he studied towards his BA degree, both through correspondence courses (imagine doing advanced calculus by correspondence!) and at summer schools. He was also frequently invited to serve as an official “marker” of final examinations for the Department of Education.



*Mr. G. G. Siemens and sons,  
Lloyd and Rennie at the Kane School, 1939.*

My mother, Tina, raised her two sons and performed various social duties such as organizing sewing circles and hosting Red Cross fund-raising activities in the teacherage. Together with my father, she played the guitar and the two of them frequently performed duets at teachers' socials in the Kane-Roland-Lowe Farm areas. My mother died in 1957, and my father—after re-marriage in 1975—died in 1984. He taught in the Winkler Collegiate from 1944 until his retirement in 1967. Throughout his years in Winkler, he was active in professional societies, and in the governance of the Winkler Co-operative Society and the Winkler Credit Union; he also served as secretary-treasurer of the Winkler School Board for over twenty years.

My memories of Kane are vivid for the years after I turned four (1939). I remember the school vans/sleds pull-

ing onto the schoolyard at 8:30, the horses chomping and steaming as they were stabled in the school barn. I always wondered what the drivers did for the remaining hours before “school out”. The annual Christmas concert was, of course, one of the highlights of the school year. Early in December the raised platforms were erected in the elementary classroom, and the youngest of us mostly watched in awe as Miss Warkentine and Miss Loewen put their young charges through their paces. The Royal Visit of the King and Queen to Winnipeg in 1939 should have been the defining moment of my life in Kane, but, because I was not of school age I was not allowed to jump under the tarpaulin in the back of Mr. John Toews' truck for the muddy trip to Osborne Stadium in the big city. Thanks to the tender mercies of the teachers who had remained behind, I was placated with hastily-bought “BB bats” and a few “jaw-breakers” (all licorice).



*George and Tina Siemens with Kathy, Reynold and Lloyd,  
1957, in Winkler.*

Because I can consciously remember only six or seven years of my life in Kane, many of my memories come in the form of isolated but sharply-defined single moments; however, because I was young, these moments took on the proportions of life-events, much larger in my imagination than any merely solid realities around me could ever be. Trudging and sledding in the snowbanks (north side of school yard) brought me, I was sure, to the edge of Alaska or, better still, to within a mile of Santa's North Pole; shooting coal briquettes on the teacherage porch using mom's stove poker transported me to Maple Leaf Gardens in the seventh game of the 1942 Stanley Cup (Foster Hewitt on play-by-play), a game won by Toronto the previous night on “Sweeney” Schriener's late goal - the only time a team has ever come back from three games down to win the Cup. What a “Hockey Night in Kane” that was! In my feverish anxiety to share the good news with my parents, I inadvertently left an exposed light bulb on a wool blanket. I burned a hole in the blanket and might easily have “brought down the house” so to speak.

Almost as memorable was my first sighting of a real airplane - a yellow bi-plane that landed just west of Kane at school closing time. We all stampeded to the pasture/landing strip convinced that WWII had finally arrived in our town. (Later, many Harvard trainers, in fact, “buzzed”

the teacherage and school in practice raids on some future target...Berlin?) There was also, I recall, a train derailment east of town: the work of Nazi agents? Sabotage by Japanese-Canadians field labourers sent to the prairies from the Fraser Valley? Perhaps it was a simple accident. Who could tell?

The biggest annual sporting event was invariably the June school picnic. Messers Toews and Hiebert erected their tents on the school yard and doled out ice-cream cones and soft drinks (Cream Soda was my favorite) in exchange for crudely-cut and printed paper vouchers given to pupils as gifts by a generous school board. We ran our obligatory races and waited excitedly for the Big Game against the "villains" from Lowe Farm or Myrtle. Tom White pitching and Cameron Hyde receiving was more exciting than imagining Whitey Ford and Yogi Berra playing catch in The House That Ruth Built. Kane, it seemed, always came out on top - as we should have done because we were always the "good guys".

Without close friends there would have been little or no context for other, less imagined or imaginative experiences. I think of boisterous birthday parties (Donald Fredricksen's, Abe Schellenberg's, my own). I think also of trying to drown gophers, and flattening pennies on the railway track and playing at war games with my closest buddies, Tommy and Dicky Hean. (They were "closest" because they were the only boys my age who lived in town. We learned early how to co-exist in relative peace.)

I conclude with some additional biographical details. My sister Kathryn was born in 1952 and now lives with her husband (Dr. Bob Menzies) and their three daughters in Morden. My brother Reynold ("Rennie") pursued a professional career as a 'cellist' in the eastern USA and in Toronto; he switched careers in the 1950s, completed a PhD and taught English Literature at the University of Alberta for twenty-five years before his death in 1996. He is survived by his widow, Frances, and by their two sons, both of whom live in Vancouver. As for myself, I completed a doctorate in 1967 and retired in 1997 after spending over thirty years as a professor of English Literature, first in Vancouver and —for thirty-one years—at the University of Winnipeg. My wife Irene and I have two sons, one a musician/carpenter in Vancouver and the other a lawyer in Los Angeles.

We occasionally drive through Kane on our way from Winnipeg to Winkler. For me the brief ride through the hamlet is both pleasantly nostalgic and melancholy. The old school is gone, as are some other landmark sites of my youth, but the teacherage (at last visit) still stands. It was literally my birthplace and the locale of all my major childhood experiences and discoveries. I visited it for the last time some years ago on the occasion of Peter Harder's retirement "social"; it was a derelict ghost of its former self or, at least, of how I remembered it as being. It was a stark and poignant symbol of the role that Change plays in all our lives.

## ABE & KATHERINE (Fehr) SUDERMAN

*by Mary (Suderman) Dyck*



*The Abe Suderman family in 1946. (l-r): Esther, Katherine (Mom), Anne, Mary, Abe (Dad), Abe, and Irene in front.*

In the year 1938, Abe and Katherine Suderman with their children; Annie, Mary, Abe and Esther, moved from their farm from Hoffnungsort, four miles northwest of Plum Coulee, to one mile south of Kane to SE 36-4-3W. Dad had bought 480 acres of land at Kane. They put up all the buildings as there was nothing on the land, except a well and a tree. Times were hard in the beginning. We also had cows, pigs, chickens, and horses. In the war years Dad also raised hogs in larger numbers.

Irene, Judy and Richard were born at Kane. We, the children, all attended the Kane Consolidated School District No. 2006. We were picked up every morning for school, and brought home after four by a school van. Dad and Mom were involved in the community: Dad as a school trustee and board chairman, and Mom was involved in the Kane Mission Sisters. Dad was also involved in the church. The church was an important part of their lives.

Annie married Henry Hiebert. Their children are Irene, Iris and Ivy. Henry died in an accident in 1958. Anne then married Ed Dyck in 1960. They lived in Morden, Gretna, Winnipeg, and are now retired and live in Altona.

Mary married Art Dyck, and they made Altona their home all their married life, and are retired. Their children are Sharon, Joan and Ruth.

Abe married Faye Porte. They farmed at Kane and Rosendale, Manitoba, and are now living in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Their children are Carl, Gladys, Patsy, Debra and Roxanne.

Esther married Herb Rach. They lived in Winnipeg, but now reside on Mitchel Bay, St. Andrews, Manitoba. Their children are Murray, Melissa and Keith.

Irene died August 16, 1952 from polio, at the age of ten years.

Judy married Albert Penner. They live in Winnipeg. Their children are Paul, Alanda, Douglas, Brent, Nadine and Nathan.



*The Abe Suderman farm during the war years. Note the long pig barn.*

Richard married Joan Foxworthy. They farmed at Rossendale, Manitoba, and are now living in Winnipeg. Their children are Dawn, Lindsey and Scottie.

In 1967, Mom and Dad sold the farm at Kane and moved to Rossendale, Manitoba, where they also farmed and raised potatoes on contract.

In 1973, they retired to Carman, where they built a new house, and lived there for eighteen years. In 1991, they moved to Winkler. Mom died June 21, 1996, at the age of 87 years. Dad died March 24, 1997, at the age of 87 years.

**ABE F. & FAYE (Porte) SUDERMAN**  
*by Abe and Faye Suderman*



*Abe and Faye Suderman, 1999.*

In 1938, when I was around three years old, my parents bought land at Kane and we moved from a little northwest of Plum Coulee. The furniture was loaded on a hay-rack pulled by a tractor and Mom followed with the car. Anne and Mary were lucky enough to be allowed to ride on top of the hay-rack. I can remember running behind the hay-rack and crying because I wanted to ride on it too.

During harvest time when I was seven years old, my Dad was combining and he told me I had to haul grain to the elevator with an old Model T truck. I had to almost stand so I could reach the pedals to drive, and then going up that narrow, steep ramp to the elevator, well! I WAS SCARED, but Mr. Henry Schellenberg, the elevator agent, helped guide me and I made it okay.

There was a deep wash-out, running off Jake Schellenberg's field into the ditch, and some boys, Willie Klassen, Abe and Pete Schellenberg, Tommy and Dickie Hean, Johnnie Born and myself used to go swimming there in the summertime.

In 1954, I married Faye Porte from Plum Coulee, and we continued farming together with Dad for a few years. In 1958, my Dad and I decided we were going to make some extra money, so we bid on a contract to haul pulpwood from Rabbit Point to Pine Falls, put out by Indian Affairs. We got the contract. So during the winter of 1958-59, I, together with a few other fellows to drive the trucks, went to Rabbit Point. Due to storms on the lake and blocked roads, we didn't get it all hauled out. In summer, I hired a barge and tugboat to haul the rest of it out. Indian Affairs moved a Reserve from Berens River to Rabbit Point to pile the cord wood on the barge. To make a long story short, we didn't get rich that year.

After Christmas in 1959, Faye and I, together with our three children, Carl, Gladys and Patsy, left Kane for awhile to work on construction. We worked for Penners Construction Company, of Steinbach. We lived in a few different places during those years: Mafeking, Fairford, Steinbach, Libau and Gull Lake. When Carl started school, we decided to move back to Kane and buy some land. We bought one quarter from my Dad and another from Abe Blatz. We farmed together with Dad, and we had a few cattle and later we went into hog farming. I also hauled lumber from Mafeking to Winnipeg one year to make some

extra money. We attended the Bergthaler Church at Kane and helped out in various positions.

Dad and Mom bought land at Rossendale in 1967, and moved there to farm. We continued farming at Kane until 1970 when we moved to Rossendale, to go into potato farming with my parents. They moved to Carman in 1973 and we took over the farm and went into more potatoes. We had contracts with Carnation Foods Ltd. and McCains Foods. We also had a lot for the table market, going mainly into Baker potatoes.

We continued farming until 1990, when I had a major heart attack, and I then rented out the land. In 1993 we sold the farm to Long Plains First Nations, and we retired to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, due to my disability.

Carl is married and lives at High Bluff, Manitoba. Gladys is married and lives in Portage la Prairie. Pat is single and lives in Edmonton, Alberta. Debra and Roxanne are both married and live in Edmonton also. We have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. One grandson was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1994.

## **FRANK F. & AGATHA THIESSEN**

*by Ben Thiessen*

Franz and Agatha Thiessen and family moved to the Kane district in the early 1930's from Rosenheim, a district near Altona, Manitoba. They had purchased 300 acres of land, which included a large house and barn and also several other outbuildings. The depression of the late 1920's and early 1930's was still in full swing and making ends meet was difficult.

The farm was basically used to grow wheat, barley and oats, but not confined to grain alone. For food and supplementary income chickens, pigs and cows were included on the farm. Eggs were sold at the local market in Lowe Farm and cream was shipped by train to Winnipeg. A large garden was essential to provide vegetables for the family. For the first years on this farm, horses were the main source of power to operate all equipment. It was 1940 before the first tractor showed up to do some of the heavy jobs. During the war years as a result of the sugar shortage, sugar beets were added to crops grown. In later years sunflowers were grown to supply the sunflower oil plant in Altona.

Franz Thiessen was a successful farmer, respected father of a large family, and very active in community leadership such as school trustee in Kane, municipality counselor and a strong pillar in the church. In addition he was often called upon to help sort out estates even though he did not have any legal training. He was the executor of his father and mother's estate and neighbours were quick to seize opportunity of such experience. He only had a few years of schooling, but was self-taught in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Prior to her marriage to Franz, Agatha Thiessen had three years of nurse's training in St. Louis, Missouri, to receive her USA degree as a Registered Nurse. Her stand-

ing was not recognized in Canada so she took a post-graduate course at the King George Hospital in Winnipeg to become the first Canadian RN in southern Manitoba. She worked at several private nursing jobs until she was offered a position at the Ninette Sanitarium. In 1923, she became Matron at the Ninette Sanitarium and held that position for several years. Because of her extensive experience in nursing, she fulfilled the role of a country nurse to many neighbours. She was the first port of call when illness occurred at neighbours. She would diagnose the illness and if her skills and medical instruments were inadequate, she would tell them to go to a doctor or the hospital at Morris or Winkler. She also served as school trustee in Kane and did many other community services wherever her skills as a community leader were needed.

Five of the youngest members of the family attended Kane Consolidated School and several of the boys continued to farm in the district. For a few years, during the war, Anne (Thiessen) Reimer operated one of the general stores in Kane, while her husband served in the Armed Forces overseas.

In 1950, Franz and Agatha sold the family farm to two of their sons and moved to Steinbach, Manitoba to retire.

**School memories from Neil (C. V.):** Our move to the Kane Community from Rosenheim, a strictly rural area with a one room school, made a significant change of learning for our family. Kane School was also in a basically rural area, but it had a two room Consolidated School, with a much greater enrollment.

The vast majority of students attending were transported to Kane School by horse drawn vans. Our van driver was a local farmer by name of Mr. Banman. I clearly remember that he was a very kind and patient person. Because of the 1930's Depression, getting a van contract was very competitive. Jobs for money were very scarce. If I recall correctly, Mr. Banman in those hard-up days, received \$1.97 per school day. During some of the spring days, with the rain and gumbo mud, the drivers would be required to use a team of four horses for the same pay rate.

The Consolidated School of Kane was a big change for the Thiessens attending. Education, as such, was deemed much more important than it was in the one room schools. Teachers took a more personal interest in their students and their goals in life. It was here that I met Mr. G. G. Siemens, an excellent teacher in all ways. He would teach and re-teach until we, as students, understood the necessary concepts. We then practiced the concepts, or principles, over and over again until they became second nature to us.

Mr. Siemens and the chalkboard were almost synonymous. He very clearly and deliberately illustrated each concept to be learned. Then he would put some ten or fifteen students up at the chalkboard, and orally give us students a similar problem to solve. He would then just stand back and watch. In this way, he was able to supervise

the actual performance of each student.

He used this practice of teaching whether it was Math, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and even in our English sentence structure. Interestingly, and of great help to us students was his method of freely permitting students to criticize and assist one another. This for me, was a very enjoyable challenge. Under the teaching of this very wise teacher, we learned how to accept and solve not only academic problems, but also those of our adult life and living.

**School memories from Ben:** When I started school getting there wasn't always half the fun, for it took so long to get there and back home again. Our house was approximately five miles from school and in my first grades we took the van to get there. The van was a canvas-covered vehicle, capable of carrying about a dozen children, drawn by two horses, on wheels in the summer time and on a sled in the winter. A one-way trip took about an hour in good weather, but after a good rain in summer, the roads would become next to impassable because it seemed that the entire road surface wanted to adhere to the wheels and make it very difficult for the horses. Under these conditions regular time schedules were forgotten. To prevent the wheels of the van from jamming up completely with "gumbo", the drivers would often cross the roadside ditch and travel on the grass apron on the other side of the ditch. In hot sunny weather the temperature in the van, covered in black canvas, would soar. The side curtains could be rolled up manually to allow for circulation, but it would depend on the temperament of the driver whether this was done or not.

Winter travel had its own set of problems and difficulties. Good snow cover and cold weather made for smooth travelling. Occasionally a January thaw would come about and leave the roads without snow cover and would make sledding very difficult. However, the fields would usually still have plenty of snow, so the roads were abandoned and the journey continued across country fields. The driver would have to make sure a route was selected that would not require going through any fences. Blizzards frequently left large snowdrifts and if due care was not exercised in crossing these, the van could upset. If the weather was relatively good this could be considered fun and exciting, but in real cold weather, we had foot warmers in the van that were kept warm by a burning charcoal briquette and this presented the danger of fire if an upset occurred.

Spring was exciting and different. The much awaited warm weather, which could bring on a variety of problems for horse drawn vehicles, could also bring us the "flood". If the water was high enough the school might have to be closed for a couple of days and what could be better than that! Warm days followed by freezing nights produced miles of ice for skating. If skating wasn't possible then makeshift rafts were pressed into action. Either activity resulted in many soakings in the near freezing waters, but that was always a fair exchange for a couple of

days away from school.

School finished on the last day of June with the annual sports day and picnic. Classes continued until noon and by that time Mr. J. J. Toews would have a booth set up behind the school with all sorts of candies, pop, and ice cream. Competitions, races and baseball would start and any prizes issued were additional paper tokens good only at the booth.

Summer holidays followed and first on the list of activities was the Carman Fair. If you were lucky enough to be able to find transportation to get there and had one dollar in your pocket you could spend all day at the midway and take in the show at the grandstand as well. What a way to finish the school year!

## JACOB & JUSTINA THIESSEN

*by Judy (Blatz) Thiessen*



*Jacob and Justina Thiessen on their 65th Anniversary.  
(l-r): Bob, Larry, Esther, Mom, Dad, David, Howard.*

Jacob and Justina Thiessen moved to the Kane district in 1950, the year of the big flood. They moved to the farm of his father, Franz F. Thiessen, located on section 21-4-2W, from the Neufeld School District, four miles north of Lowe Farm.

Mom and Dad had a busy life. Dad was involved as a Kane School trustee for many years and also served as chairman of the board some of that time. He had a van route as well, this meant that everyone was up at the crack of dawn to do chores, get breakfast out of the way, and off on the van route.

The Thiessen farm was the location for many family gatherings. Both Mom and Dad were very hospitable, so their house saw a lot of action. Mom is well known for her excellent cooking, her soups being second to none. To this day at the age of 87, she still cooks for most of our family events, and has family over weekly for a meal.

Mom and Dad attended the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Church for many years and then in the early 60's started to

attend the Rose Farm Church. For many years Dad was involved as an adult Sunday School teacher and also served as a song leader in the Lowe Farm Church. The family attended Sunday School and later attended youth meetings and sang in the choir.

In 1973, Mom and Dad moved to Winkler, where Dad worked at Salem Home as an orderly for many years and Mom worked there as a cook. Their residence was on 13th Street and then until the summer of 1998, they lived on Crystal Crescent. That summer they sold their house and moved into an apartment on 3rd Street. The family has been blessed to be able to share many special anniversaries with them; the 50th in 1982, the 60th in 1992, and in 1997 we had an open house for their 65th at their home. They celebrated their 67th anniversary this September 29 and are still in reasonably good health.

They have five living children with one deceased at the age of two:

Esther married Peter Wiebe on June 20, 1970. Esther has worked as a nurse most of her life and is now doing secretarial work at the Baptist Bible College in Altona. Peter does purchasing for the College. They reside in Altona. Esther and Peter have three children: Eunice who teaches near Toronto, Ontario, David who is studying and working in Ontario, and Jeremy who is studying in Winnipeg.

Howard married Judith Blatz on June 9, 1962...see Howard Thiessen story.

Larry married Hedy Wojcik on October 25, 1969. Larry and Hedy live in Winnipeg where Larry owns and operates a trucking company. Hedy works as a teacher's aide. They have two children: Todd who is working in Toronto, Ontario, and Tanya who works in Winnipeg.

Bob married Sharon Blatz on August 10, 1968. They presently reside on an acreage just outside of Calgary, Alberta, where Sharon enjoys gardening, animals and her department 56 Dickens Village collection, as well as spending time with their grandchildren. She works out of their home as a bookkeeper and Bob is a trucker. They have three children and two grandchildren: Rob who works as a procurement manager for Lilydale Hatchery, and fiancée Caroline and daughter Stephanie; Jeff who works as a glazier for Glass Unlim-

ited, and his wife Laura and son William, and daughter Melanie who works at Home Depot.

David married Noani Searle on November 17, 1973. David works at John Deere in Morris as a service manager and Noani works as an RN in the Red River Valley Lodge. Both David and Noani are very involved in the community, in the fire department, and with the ambulance. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Trevor and his wife Carolyn and children Tyler and Megan; and Nathan who attends University of Winnipeg. Trevor and Carolyn work with Hillbilly Greenhouses in Morris.

## HOWARD & JUDY (Blatz) THIESSEN

*by Judy (Blatz) Thiessen*



*Howard Thiessen family, 1998. Back row: Blair B., Darwin T., Mike T., Rick T., Caleb B., Jobna T. Middle row standing: Harmony T., Cadence T., Josiah B. Sitting: Brenda Bates holding Jadan T., Howard (Dad) holding Joran T. and Jessie B. Judy (Mom) holding Aria T., Carolyn.*

Howard and Judy were married on June 9, 1962, in the Plum Coulee Bergthaler Church by Rev. John Froese. During the first few years of their marriage many moves were made. In winter they lived in the city where Howard was employed at Eaton's and then later went to the University of Manitoba to get his diploma in Agriculture. From 1966-1969, they lived in the Kane district, in the former Henry Kehler home. Their first three children, who had all been born in Winnipeg, were all fairly young and enjoyed the short walk across the road to Grandma and Grandpa Thiessen. During this time Howard worked on construction in summer, helped with the farm as time was available, raised some pigs and had a school bus route.

In the spring of 1969, Howard and Judy moved to MacDonald, Manitoba, where they worked on a co-op farm for one year. This is where Darwin started school; taking his kindergarten in Portage. From here they moved to Graysville, Manitoba to farm together with Judy's Dad. Here Brenda and Richard started school and Michael was added to the family. In the fall of 1973, the Thiessen family moved once again to the Darlingford district to be employed by a farmer. Here they lived in a very large old stone house, had some cattle and horses of their own and enjoyed some snowmobiling in the wide open fields. Though they were tired of moving, there was yet another move in store for them. In 1975, Howard was employed by Kroeker Farms in Winkler and Howard and Judy purchased

an acreage five and a half miles south of Morden, where they lived until 1997, when they sold their farm and moved to Morden. During the years that they lived on the farm the family spent many hours in the winter snowmobiling and tobogganing in the hills just one mile south of the yard. In the summer when Howard was done spring planting they went camping.

Howard and Judy and family have attended the Morden Alliance Church for the past 25 years and have been involved in various areas. Their four children all graduated from the Morden Collegiate. Darwin is living in Atlanta, Georgia, with his three daughters; Harmony, Cadence and Aria. Brenda and husband Blair Bates live in Peachland, British Columbia with their three children; Josiah, Caleb and Jessie. Rick and his wife Johnna live in Marysville, Washington with their two sons, Joren and Jadan. Mike lives in Morden and works at Decor Cabinets.

Two and a half years ago, Howard and Judy moved to Morden into a new home. Their grandchildren much preferred the big farmhouse and yard, but the new house and small town yard is much better suited to their still very busy lifestyle. Howard works as a shipper for Farm King in Morden and Judy works as the Life Program Manager at Salem Home in Winkler. In summertime they spend most of their spare time on their Honda Gold Wing going away for camping weekends and usually plan a bike trip annually. Some of the places they have visited with their bikes are Branson, Missouri, Waterton Glacier National Park and trips to the kids on the West Coast.

### DAVID THIESSEN FAMILY

*by Myra (Thiessen) Meyer*



*Dave Thiessen with his two daughters:  
Myra Meyer and Josey Wirch, 1997.*

David Thiessen was born to Frank F. Thiessen and Helena Peters at Weidenfeld on November 11, 1920. He moved to the Kane district in 1932. Liddy Groening was born to Abraham A. Groening and Maria Martens at Kane, on September 20, 1920. They both attended Kane School. They were married on December 26, 1941, at the Lowe Farm Berghaler Church. David was called into military service in 1942. His training took him to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; Petawawa, Ontario; and Port Alberni, British Columbia; before being sent overseas to Algiers (Africa), Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland. While he was gone, Liddy worked at the Lowe Farm Egg Grading Station and she purchased a small farm of fifty acres in the Kane district (one mile east and one-half mile south of Kane).

David was very involved in school affairs, being a school trustee for twenty years. He served as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent, and a deacon in the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm.

Their first daughter, Myra, was born in 1946. She received her education at the Kane School until the "new" high school at Lowe Farm opened in 1962. She graduated in 1964, and enrolled at Winnipeg Bible College (now known as Providence College), where she received her Bachelor of Religious Education degree in 1967. After completing a two year Education course, she began her teaching career. She graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975. Myra has taught in the Hanover School Division and the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. She has currently completed thirty years of teaching.

In 1969, Myra married Gary Meyer from Anoka, Minnesota. They have two daughters, Amber and Cherish, and one grandson, Devon. They all live in Winnipeg. Myra and Gary attend Grant Memorial Baptist Church.

David and Liddy had a second daughter, Josey, in 1951. Josey attended Kane School for her elementary education, and graduated from the Morris Collegiate in 1969. She enrolled at the Winnipeg Bible College for one year and then entered the St. Boniface School of Nursing, graduating in 1973. Her first year of nursing was spent in Fort Vermillion, Alberta. After her marriage to Ivan Wirch, in 1974, she worked at the Grace Hospital and the Municipal Hospitals (now known as the Riverview Health Centre). In 1985, Josey and Ivan and their family went as missionaries with Trans World Radio to Swaziland, Africa. They remained there until 1992, when circumstances forced their return.

Josey and Ivan have three children: Paul (married to Sanja Rumball), Lana (married to Ward Draper) and Tim. Josey is currently employed at the Menno Hospital in Abbotsford, British Columbia. She attends the Northview Community Church.

Liddy Thiessen was in ill health for many years, passing away in 1977 (just two months before her first grandchild was born). David had already sold the farm by then and was living in Winkler. In 1981, David married Margaret Wiebe from Kitimat, British Columbia. Their married life

has been spent in Kitimat, Portage la Prairie, Swaziland (Africa), and Vernon, British Columbia. They enjoy traveling to see their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario. They are involved in the Baptist Missionary Society of Latin America in San Carlos, Mexico, and in the Gideon Bible Society. David and Margaret fellowship and serve at the Faith Baptist Church in Vernon.

**Fond Memories:** Who can ever forget those school picnics at the end of the year? Even if running and jumping were not your strong point, you could always win three cents for every event you entered. Those pennies added up and cokes could be bought for ten cents at the “store” set up on the schoolyard. Of course, two cents was refunded for the return of the bottle. The day always ended with the baseball games. You could sit and cheer on the teams or “run wild” all over the schoolyard. Those were the days!

Then there were the “John Deere” days. The school children would be walked down to Pete Harder’s garage where they were seated on benches, ready to watch the “movies”. Those movies were about the new line of tractors, just what every farm child should know! If there was a cartoon or not, that memory has faded, but what left an indelible impression was the “store bought” honey-glazed doughnuts!

Winter always meant having a skating rink on the school yard. The “big” boys were allowed class time to help flood the rink. Noon hours would be spent playing hockey, or skating around the perimeter of the rink trying to dodge the hockey pucks, or trying to warm up in the skating shack. There was no concern about wind-chill factors and keeping kids in at recess if the numbers were too high. If you were cold, you went into the shack to warm up and then out you went again. You learned to be hardy and cope with the cold. You dressed for it!!

### **JACOB H. THIESSEN FAMILY** *by Dan and Helen Thiessen*

Jacob was the son of Aaron A. and Agenetha (Wiebe) Thiessen. The Aaron Thiessens had eleven children: Aaron, Bernhard, Henry, Agenetha, John, Abraham, Jacob, Agatha, Anna, Sara and Katherine. They resided in the Rural Municipality of Morris at Section 22-4-2W.

Jacob, the youngest of the boys, moved to Section 14-5-2W and lived there alone for a few years. He then met Helen Toews, born September 1912, to Mr. and Mrs. John P. Toews. Jacob and Helen married on October 17, 1937. The marriage took place after the regular church service, as was quite common during that time. After the service the bridal couple went to the parents’ home and visited with friends and family. There was a dance in the evening, after which the newlyweds went to their own place. The next day was a work day again.



*Jacob H. and Helen Thiessen with sons Grant and Dan.*



*Jacob and Tina Thiessen.*

Dan, their first son was born on December 10, 1939. He was born at home with Dr. Colert and Agenetha Hildebrand in attendance. A second son, Grant Wayne, was born in the Altona Hospital on December 20, 1946.

In fall of 1949, Jake and Helen moved to the Kane School District at NE 34-4-2W. They hired a contractor to remodel the house and built a new barn, machine shed and a large grain bin. This was a very busy year for them. They had a hired man, Abe Hildebrand, for a few years to help them out.

Farming had changed a lot from the time they had started farming. Jake used horses for seeding the first spring he farmed. In 1936, he bought his first tractor. Horses were still used for haying, cutting grain with a binder, and also for hauling the sheaves when threshing. They didn’t have their own threshing machine, so someone was hired and he brought along a threshing crew. In 1945, they bought a



*The Jacob H. Thiessen farm.*

swather and combine, which made a big difference in the amount of work to be done.

Cooking meals and bringing them to the field was done by Helen. Women generally helped in the field with grain stooking, which was a tedious chore. Having a large garden was also very important so that vegetables could be canned for the winter.

In 1965, the Thiessens built a new home in Lowe Farm and were semi-retired, but still farming some of the land. Helen had a stroke in July, 1980, and was hospitalized for a few days before passing away on July 30, 1980.

Jake remarried on October 25, 1981 to Mrs. Tina (Julius) Wiens of Lowe Farm. They resided in Lowe Farm until July, 1997, at which time they moved into Lions Manor in Winkler.

## **DAN C. & HELEN (Martens) THIESSEN**

*by Dan and Helen Thiessen*

Dan is the older of the two sons born to Jacob H. and Helen Thiessen. He started school in Kronsweide. The classroom had many older students, and was difficult for the teacher to manage, so the School Board decided that the beginners should wait another year and then start again, which they did the following September.

After his parents moved to 34-4-2W in fall of 1949, which was the Kane School District, Dan went to school there. Many stories could be told about the school bus rides, and the stunts that were pulled on the driver. During one trip home the van was stuck on the road because of snow, so a couple of the young boys went out to help push the van out, but being kind of mischievous, they only pretended to push and were actually pulling it back! On another occasion, the van rolled, fortunately no one was hurt.

Dan completed grade eight, and then stayed home to help his Dad on the farm. In 1956, farm wages were \$20.00 a month. Dan took various jobs off the farm to supplement his income. Dan also worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris for awhile that year for 85 cents an hour. Gasoline

prices were 35 cents a gallon at the time. Dan also helped with bridge building on the Shannon Drain, operating heavy construction equipment around 1965, and helping with construction of Lowe Farm School when it was built.

Dan married Helen Martens on October 10, 1964. Helen is the daughter of Peter J. and Tena Martens of the Melba School District. Helen was working as a telephone operator when they met, and for a few years after they moved to what had been Dan's parents place at 34-4-2W. She did bookkeeping for Lowe Farm Co-op.

In 1968, Dan and Helen moved out of the district and lived at various locations, including Lowe Farm for eight years, then sold the house in town in 1979, and built a new house on NE 34-4-2W in 1980. They took part in church and community activities, mostly in the Lowe Farm area. Dan and Helen farmed until 1997, and have rented out the land the last few years.

Family has always been important to them, and after moving out to the farm they got the "toys" for the children that they couldn't have in town. The first thing was a go-cart on which the children and their friends spent lots of time. Later on Stefan had a dirt bike and enjoyed racing with it. There was also *Princess* the Shetland pony, which was saddled up and ridden several times a day. The girls were more into horses, and later we had numerous kinds until the Arabian breed seemed to take over as the favourite. By this time it was mostly Rhonda's interest. She had a natural talent for getting the best from each horse and loved working with them, training and showing in various shows including 4-H and Arabian.

Dan was elected to serve as councilor for Ward 5, in the R. M. of Morris in a by-election in 1977, and was councilor for six years and reeve for twelve years. During that time he served on many committees, including the Red River Valley Hospital Board, Rail Retention Committee for the CNR Morris-Hartney line at which time that committee made an agreement to keep the line open for twenty more years and that agreement was up in 1999, and the railway has now been sold to a U. S. based company. The Pembina Valley Development Corporation was another committee that Dan was part of when the ini-

tial workings for the water line that is now running through the municipality alongside Highway #23 began. This line is bringing water to a large area in the Red River Valley. Completion of this project was in 1999, after being in the works for at least half a dozen years, if not more.

Monica, the oldest child of Dan and Helen, was born on November 12, 1967. She went to kindergarten in Kane, and it was also the last year that the school was open. She went to elementary school in Lowe Farm and graduated from Morris School in June, 1985, after completing Grade 12. She is now living in Winnipeg and has a Windshield Repair Business.



*Dan and Helen Thiessen and family, (l-r) Monica, Rhonda and Craig Shewchuck, Stefan*

Rhonda was born July 30, 1971. She also went to school in Lowe Farm and Morris, graduating from Grade 12 in 1989. After working a few years Rhonda took a computer programming course at Red River College, and has found employment in that field. Rhonda married Craig Shewchuk on May 23, 1998. They are living in Winnipeg.

Stefan was born on March 29, 1973. He attended school in Lowe Farm and Morris and vocational at St. Jean. He graduated in 1991, and worked in Morris and Rosenort as a welder for a few years and then headed out to Surrey, British Columbia for a year to work. He is now taking Mechanical Engineering at Red River College in Winnipeg.

### **ABRAM G. & AGATHA (Born) TOEWS** *by Mildred (Toews) Beach*

Abram and Agatha Toews farmed a section of land one mile east and one mile south of Kane, Manitoba. When we moved to this location from Myrtle, Manitoba in 1937, our family consisted of Erna (age 17), Elda (age 14), Bill (age 11), Marilyn (age 6) and Mildred (age 1). The memories each of our family members have of Kane life will be significantly different because of these age differences. I write from my own perspective.



*Abram and Agatha Toews.*

Closely woven into the farm and family life of our parents was their Christian orientation. Outwardly perhaps not particularly religious, both parents had a religious conviction that was firmly rooted in Mennonite faith and culture.

Dad's family was Bergthaler. Mom had been baptized Mennonite Brethren before her marriage to Dad. In those days this marriage of beliefs was a considerable compromise for each of them. Although they had joined the Bergthaler Church at the time of their marriage, it was not until much later in life that this church affiliation had significant meaning for them. Occasionally we would attend the Bergthaler Church at Lowe Farm. On big occasions like the "Viertal Jahres Fest" at Kronsgard, Manitoba, we would go there and enjoy the all-day Christian celebrations.

Dad, Elda and Walt were all involved with the Sunday School that was held in Kane School over a period of about ten years. Marilyn and I also attended and remember fondly the many hymns from the "Triumphant Service Songs" book.

Dad was ecumenical in outlook. We frequently visited Rose Farm Rudnerweider Church for "Judendverein" and I remember visiting the Pentecostal Church in Carman. When we were on winter vacations in Arizona, Dad visited the Mormon Church while I took in a Catholic service with a new found friend.

Our mother, on the other hand, kept her heart allegiance for the Mennonite Brethren Church. No doubt she



*The A. G. Toews family reunited at the farm, 1990.  
(l-r): Mildred, Elda, Walt, Erna, Marilyn.*

was pleased and gratified when the two oldest girls married men from that church.

The "faith" of our family was to be sorely tested in the accidental death of Bill in 1940. All of us have had to struggle with the "why" in various ways. I remember Dad taking us all to the piano to teach us the hymn "Gott ist die Liebe" (translated "God's love is Boundless"). I believe it is the main message we learned from life with our parents.

Just a short summary of where we are today - Erna and Frank Doerksen and family are in Keremeos, British Columbia; Elda and Henry Thiessen live in Mitchell, Manitoba; Walt, having lost his wife Rose in 1996, is now in Carman, Manitoba; Marilyn and John Wiebe are here in Winnipeg; Tony and I live in St. Vital, Manitoba.

### **JOHN J. & KATHERINE (Schellenberg) TOEWS**

*by Wilma (Toews) Taylor and Bill Toews*

Our father, John Toews (born 1903 - Kronsart) met Katherine Schellenberg (born 1905 - Altona) as she was walking home from a function at the MCI in Gretna. They married in 1927, at the church in Reinland, the village that had, at some time in the past, been home to both of their forefathers. After living with Grandpa Toews in Kronsart for a short period of time, they settled half a mile west of Kane in 1929.

Fire destroyed their small house and its contents that same year and a house was subsequently built in Kane for \$275.00, the total gross income from the farm (quarter section) that year. It was a warm house, well insulated with sawdust and sturdily built. Eventually it was moved to Winkler, where it is still in use. I (Wilma) have memories of an electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling in

each room of the house and mother having the use of electrically powered appliances, including a butter churn, all powered by a wind driven generator which also serviced the store, and the garage, for many years before the introduction of hydro.

I have many other childhood memories, or are they impressions? Sitting on father's lap with my sister, as he chatted with us, and teased us. Father taking pictures of Art, June and I, seated on the dining room table, with a camera which had some kind of flash mechanism. Sharing a Burnt Almond chocolate bar with Mom, June and Art on a Sunday afternoon. Going to the community Sunday School, which took place in the School building, with 25 cents in our hand for the offering. Meeting with our relatives in Morris or Morden Park for a picnic and many more.



*The J. J. Toews family, 1941-42. (l-r): Art, June, Katherine (Mom), Wilma, Jerry, John (Dad).*

After being relieved of the farm in 1931, by the mortgage company, a few implements were sold and the proceeds were used to procure a service garage. The front section of the garage became a grocery outlet, where one could not only buy grocery items and straw hats, but you could buy a cool soft drink which Leonard Penner would get for you by opening the trap door in the oiled floor, and reaching down into a dank, dark hole in the ground where the drinks were kept. Various dealerships were taken on and developed. (Refer to Pete Harder's article "Business in Kane".)

With the help of Bill and Herman Schellenberg (Katherine's brothers), Leonard Penner and others, the business became well established, leading to the purchase of a deluxe Diamond T, 2 ton truck in 1936. Mr. Toews used it before the war started in 1939, to take a truck box full of local people and school kids to see the King and Queen on their visit to Winnipeg. That same year, with lumber that cost \$840.00, and was shipped directly from British Columbia by rail, a general store was constructed and managed by Leonard Penner, who joined the war effort in the early '40's.

At about this time, Pete Harder came along and, with

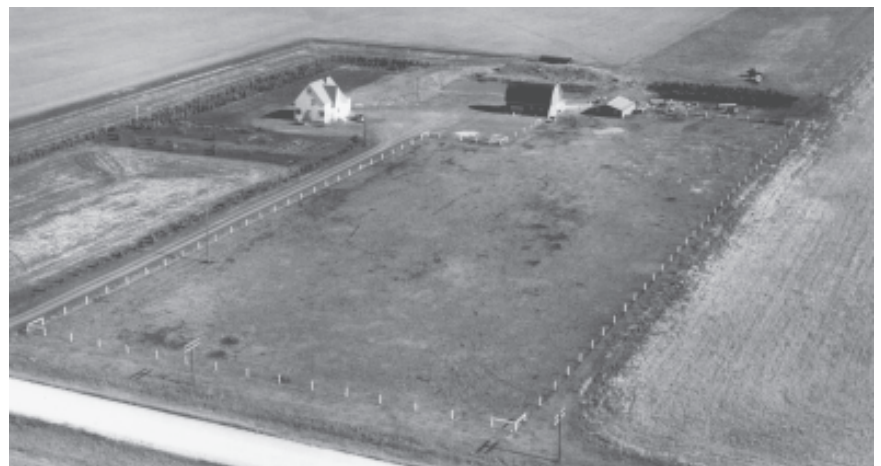


*The J. J. Toews family home in the 30's (building left of the garage) in Kane.*

Art Toews, nurtured the business into a going concern. The farm had been taken on again in 1935, but the store building became living quarters for the family, eight in total, plus the hired help.

Earlier, the Toews' had become involved in school affairs as a result of a visit by the Minister of Education, and John served as chairman of the board and Katherine, trustee - secretary for a number of years. They both had an appreciation for higher education, and expected their children to take advantage of improved opportunities. As well, they were keen on starting their children in music, especially the girls, in order to give them something to fall back on, should they have to make their own living in the future. As well, both John and Katherine were fond of good music, so June and Wilma, barely school age, were sent across the tracks to Mrs. Squires, wife of the Canadian Consolidated elevator agent, who gave them piano lessons for a short time in a small apartment on the elevator premises. Accompanied by the wheezing of the fly wheel on the stationary engine, they took instruction.

Katherine then purchased a Heintzman piano for \$50.00, with money that she earned by boarding elevator work gangs in addition to her family and hired help. For the remainder of their years at home, the girls were driven, usually by their Dad, to Winkler and later on to Winnipeg for weekly lessons.



*The John J. Toews farm, 1951-52.*

During their residency of over 47 years in the Kane area, John Toews was sought out for his ability to repair pretty well anything, keeping inflation in check in the process. Katherine, in the meantime, boarded any number of hired help as well as raising their family. She also frequently filled in to manage the store.

In 1949, Mr. Toews built a new family home on the original farm site and in 1957, a new garage was built in Kane, which Pete Harder purchased in 1960. After moving to the farm, Mr. Toews spent much of his time in his shop, where he built equipment for the farm. Each item had a unique feature not found on currently available commercial equipment. For diversion, he would engage in a game of checkers with his good friend Henry Schellenberg.

During this time Katherine went back to school at 57 years of age, and received her L.P.N. certificate after which she spent twelve years in nursing at Morris Hospital, fulfilling a lifelong desire. Her interest and loyalty to the job was demonstrated by occasionally volunteering a 16 hour shift when the situation required. Nursing also filled a social need for her.

John's final project, the rotary engine, remained unfinished due to a stroke in 1984. The engine was something he had dreamed about for

fifteen years before he started its development. The blueprint was developed in his head while he was doing field-work over a period of years. He eventually started the project in the new shop attached to their retirement home in Steinbach, and except for two crown gears from 1948 Anglia differentials, he machined the engine from scratch.

The farm was sold to his son Bill in 1976, after the Toews had already moved to Steinbach. There they found a church home and developed new, close friends. John found it difficult to see all his efforts at Kane come to a conclusion, because he had always hoped that history could be reversed and Kane would once more become a thriving community. As his projects progressed, he became less preoccupied with his old business and was able to concentrate on his Steinbach projects.

John and Katherine gradually lost their health and their ability to care for a household and they moved to a Care facility in Steinbach, where they passed away; John in 1992, and Katherine in 1997.

Their children have pursued various occupations:

Arthur (Irma) - an Agronomist, serving first with Federal Grain and then working for the Manitoba government out of Brandon. They have three children.

June Morden - continued with her career in music in various locations and presently lives in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Wilma (Mel) Taylor - enjoyed a 35 year nursing career mostly at Health Sciences Centre and is retired in Birdhill, Manitoba. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

John (Jerry) and Sue had an interesting career as an RCMP officer before his retirement in White Rock, British Columbia. During his career he was stationed in many parts of the world including Beirut, Lebanon; Germany; Bogota, Columbia; Quito, Equador.

Richard (Dick) and Betty - after working in photography at Sears and then at Independent Jewellers, he opened his own shop, "Photo Central" on the second floor of the Independent Jewellers building. They have three sons.

Bill and Barb - besides operating the home farm, he is a sessional instructor at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Agriculture. They have three children.

## **BILL & BARB (Loeppky) TOEWS**

*by Bill Toews*

**Chronology and background:** Bill - born in 1943 - spent pre-school years growing up in the Kane General Store owned by his father and mother, John and Katherine Toews. He moved to the farm home with his family in 1949, where he lived through to the completion of high school. After a couple of years, testing the education and job waters here and in Toronto, he completed a B. S. A. and M. Sc. at the University of Manitoba. Summer months were spent working with the Soils Department conducting field experiments and helping the folks on the farm when possible.



*The Bill Toews family. Back row: Barb, Bill, Shawna.  
Front row: Darryl and Ryan.*

During this period he met Barbara Loeppky from Plum Coulee as a result of his baseball playing 'career' with the Plum Coulee Dodgers. Barb, the daughter of Cornelius (Transfer) Loeppky, was a fan of baseball, but not of Bill initially, because of his vocal and aggressive playing style as a catcher. (Bill seemed to develop this same reputation while playing with Kane years later.) Eventually, she realized that he could actually be quite civilized off the baseball diamond. They married in 1968. Barb was working at the Health Science Centre in Winnipeg as a laboratory technician at the time.

Bill and Barb, after six years of work with Alberta Agriculture in both Calgary and Edmonton, bought the family farm (SW 1-5-3W) at Kane in 1976 and moved there with Darryl (born-1970) and Shawna (born-1974). Ryan was born in Winnipeg in 1977 to complete the family. All the children attended Lowe Farm and Morris Schools (Kane School had closed), interrupted only briefly by Bill's assignments with CIDA in Kenya (1982-84) and Pakistan (1985-86). Both these foreign experiences had a lasting impact on the families' world view. Since moving back, besides developing the farm with Barb and the kids, Bill has commuted to Winnipeg working on a sessional basis for both the Soils Department and the School of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba in various capacities.

Recently (since 1991), farm policy issues have taken up a significant portion of Bill's time, working with Keystone Agriculture producers, doing presentations about the Canadian Wheat Board and making presentations for the Canadian International Grains Institute, etc. Since receiving her B. A. from the University of Winnipeg in 1990, and Certificate in Adult Education from the University of Manitoba in 1996, Barb has taught at the Pembina Valley Learning Centre in Winkler. At the time of writing, Darryl is working with the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Pro-



*The home of Bill and Barb Toews.*

gram sponsored by Foreign Affairs, Red Cross and Land Mines Canada. He received his teaching certificate after completing his M.A. in history at the University of Manitoba and intends to teach in rural Manitoba after his current one year contract ends. Shawna is married to Dean Nelles, a pilot currently flying for Power Corporation in Montreal, but originally from St. Agathe. Shawna is working toward a degree in Creative Communications from the University of North Dakota. Ryan has completed his B.A. in History and Political Science and is currently studying at York University in Toronto with intentions of working in international development.

(Bill and Barb participated in the memorable 1995 referendum rally in Montreal - yes, even Kanenites want to keep this country together. This was an unforgettable experience.)

**Some of Bill's memories before leaving Kane:** On growing up in Kane and early years on the farm; it seemed very busy and exciting, living in the middle of all the activity. It seemed that all roads led to Kane. After all, Kane, was our centre of the universe. It was an opportunity to participate in a lot of the business activities as well as learning the essentials of farming; from sailing along a country road with Pete Harder in the Nash truck (no doors - let alone seat belts), to driving a John Deere tractor before you were strong enough to pull the clutch lever back, to delivering fuel in the fuel truck at fourteen years (who needs a driver's license or training). Distillate was made by mixing left over gas with left over diesel fuel - what else did you need to know? Then there were the duties of sorting mail - innocently following brother Art's instruction to put all the mail addressed to 'The Chief of Police' or 'The Sheriff' into a particular individual's post box just to irritate him.

Growing up with two older brothers to torment you was certainly a character builder. Brother Dick would sit on the railway track across from the store, pleading for help and pretending to be stuck in the track while the big black engine would be steaming, whistling and rocking along the track into Kane. I would pull and pull until Dick suddenly came free. He could pull this stunt regularly, each time, insisting that "*this time*" he really was stuck!

Brothers Jerry and Dick warned me about the men who stole little boys. These men drove a blue and yellow Jeep and came through Kane quite regularly. As proof, Dick and Jerry showed me a picture of a big burly man stealing a young boy in Grimm's Fairy Tales. Each time the men in the blue and yellow Jeep came into Kane to join the locals for some refresh-

ments in the store, I would run and hide between the wooden drink bottle cases at the back of the store in fear of my life. These men, I learned later, were the local Manitoba Hydro crew out of Morris doing their rounds. If they had only known about the little kid quivering behind the store waiting to hear their jeep start up and leave!

Even after moving to the farm, the 'J. J. Toews General Store and Garage' was still the centre of activity for us kids in the area. Saturday night television viewing (remember wrestling from Hollywood?) became popular in the store for many of the local guys, but caused some concern for some of the parents. The store would be opened by one of us 'boys' on Sunday afternoon usually after football games or other sport activities with many of our friends who came to town for some cheap entertainment and refreshments. Dad must have had a lot of trust in us (maybe a little too much). Other activities included target practice at the chimney on the train station, motorboating on the school dugout behind the store or just playing baseball catch on the highway in front of the store. One year on the morning after Halloween, the school playground equipment was standing upright high on the school roof. I remember how impressed we students were upon arriving at school that morning. Although there were suspicions, no one was able to positively identify the culprits.

**Some of Bill's memories after coming back from Alberta to farm the home place:** On returning to Kane in 1976, much had changed. Pete Harder was operating his business out of the store which Dad had bought back from John Wiebe. The garage had burned down but Pete was still a dealer for some short line equipment manufacturers, including Versatile. He still handled fuel and oil, dry fertilizers, crop protection chemicals as well as an assortment of parts. Most memorable of all, like Dad, he had an unbeatable credit policy. There were no monthly statements and no interest on overdue accounts. You paid when you had the money. (Wal-mart customers, eat your heart out.) You really didn't need to do price comparisons because Pete was always in the competitive price range. As



*Brothers Bill and Dick Toews after Bill received a tissue transplant from his brother's eye, 1998. Bill lost the sight in one eye due to a farm chemical mishap.*

well, there was always some comfort in knowing Pete was around to help find a solution to a problem. We will always remember Pete's familiar gait, walking to and from the store - you could recognize him from a mile away.

I remember Dad's determination to keep Kane alive on our return from Alberta. Dad had connected with his old friend Henry Schellenberg, who helped refurbish the store building which at the time was rented to Pete Harder. When Pete decided to close things down almost twenty years later, I thought that the store building would slowly crumble. I know how pleased Dad would be to see all the lights and activity around the Kane Store now. The Henry Klassen family has turned it into a small 'mansion' with lights on late into the night. (The only thing missing from Dad's perspective would be a blacksmith's shop and coffee counter for playing checkers.)

At the time of this writing, major structural changes are occurring in the grain industry. How long will we have the rail line? - the Paterson elevator in Kane? Who will be living on the Toews farmstead in 2010? Will grain production ever become profitable? What will happen to the local farm population? How will GMOs affect the way we do business? Will Western alienation grow due to current federal agriculture policies? *What ever happens, in our memories all roads will always lead to Kane.*

### **DAVID & MARIA (Giesbrecht) UNRAU** *by Elva (Born) Blatz*

David Unrau married Maria Giesbrecht, daughter of Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht, of the Rose Farm area. David and Mary Unrau moved to the Kane-Rose Farm area between 1915-1917 from Hochstadt. They lived on 28-4-2W, two miles south and 2½ miles east of Kane. This was across the road from the private school attended by the Groenings.

In 1920, when the consolidated school was built in Kane, the children were picked up by a van to go to the Kane School. Daughter Mary remembers her teacher Blanch H. Malloy. Son John tells of the van driving through the dyke a half mile south of Kane. During spring runoff, the water was ready to run into the van. All the Unrau children attended the Kane School.

The Unrau's had nine children; five of whom were born here. They belonged to the Sommerfelder Church. They moved to the New Kennedy School District in 1937. David (1910-1993) worked for Abram A. Groening. He married Johanna Knapp and was a pastor in the Baptist Church. Henry (1912-1946) passed away with tuberculosis. His wife Elizabeth (Letkeman) Klippenstein lives near Altona. William (Bill) (1913-1945) worked at the Fredricksens and died of cancer. Mary (1915- ) married George Born. They lived at Kane and Winnipeg. She now lives in Bethel Place, Winnipeg. Nettie (1917-1989) was single and lived in Winnipeg. She died of cancer. Erdman (Ed) (1918-1988) helped build the A. J. Hyde house. He left his name and date on the cistern. The house was built during the war and every door was different. Ed married Netta Heide. Jake (1921- ) was a barber in Morris and Winnipeg, and lives with wife Kay in Winnipeg. John (1924-), now a widower, lives in Altona where he was a carpenter. Helen (1929-1997) remained single, became a nurse, and later spent about ten years with the Mennonite Central Committee in Hamilton and Winnipeg. She died of cancer.

### **CHARLIE J. WALSH** *by Marg (Walsh) Olson*

*This is from a letter written to Eunice Preston of Roland, MB, by her long time friend Marg (Walsh) Olson of Calgary in 1999. She was in her late eighties.*

I remember Kane very well. When we first moved there from Winnipeg, there were two elevators, a general store and a school. That must have been in 1923 or 24 because I think I was in grade 3. It was a two-room consolidated school and the children came in vans drawn by horses. These vans had seats down each side, and canvas sides. They must have been cold in winter even though they were equipped with small heaters.

A Miss Malloy was our teacher and Irene and I loved her. Her father was Senator Malloy from Morris and she left to marry some government bigwig. Next we had a Mrs. Parkins. She was allowed to teach, although married, because her husband was on disability. She had twin girls, Maizie and Winnie, our age.

Mr. Parkins had been an electrician and he had a big radio with a loud speaker. He made it. At that time we had a little "peanut tube" with head phones. I remember Parkins inviting us over to hear some special broadcast on his speaker. The reception was pretty spotty, but we were impressed, anyway.

When Mrs. Parkins left we got two male teachers - Alywin Anderson in the Jr. Room (up to grade 4) and Mel Woods in the Sr. Room. By this time I was in grade 7-8 or maybe 6-7-8. Mr. Woods left after a couple of years and then Alywin took over as principal. He was a good teacher. A Miss Miller became Jr. teacher. She boarded with us for a while. Up to that time the Parkins family and then the men lived in the teacherage near the school.

During the Woods-Anderson regime, Kane School became well known for its excellent Christmas concerts. They always played to overflow crowds and some of the items were repeated in other towns by request. Mom played the piano for the musical selections, and taught us drills, etc. My Dad wrote the words to some songs that were a big hit. I even remember some verses:

*How do you do, Mr. Webster,  
How do you do?  
How do you do, Mr. Webster  
How do you do?  
Oh, you sell us prunes and rice  
And you sure put up the price!  
How do you doodle, doodle,  
doodle, doodle do?*

*How do you do, Charlie Walsh,  
How do you do?  
How do you do, Charlie Walsh,  
How do you do?  
You buy our wheat and rye  
And, the dockage is too high!  
How do you doodle, doodle,  
doodle, doodle do?*

There were also verses about the farmers. It was such a hit we kept getting encores!

Most of the kids at school were Mennonites, good people mostly.

Dad ran the N. M. Paterson elevator and one year he handled the third largest amount of grain in Western Canada. Kane was wonderful wheat country. At that time Manitoba No. 1 hard was THE wheat, and Kane grew it!

I'm sorry I can't remember who the other elevator man was, nor the Company name, but that elevator closed. He lived elsewhere.

The Kane Store was a going concern when we were first in Kane, but Mr. Webster died and Mrs. Webster sold it to a man from Winnipeg and she and her two young girls moved away. The new owners were only there a short while when the store burned down. I remember the fire. It was quite a blaze because the store was a two-story wooden building and went fast. I remember the store keeper's wife sitting on a kitchen chair in the middle of the road, throwing her apron over her head and crying loudly about all her fine furniture. Incidentally, the store was never rebuilt. My Dad had the Post Office in the elevator.

Mail used to come in by train about 8 p.m. daily. It was

a straight track from Morris to Kane and you could see the headlites for the whole sixteen miles. Later the steam train was replaced by a little electric thing that wasn't nearly as exciting. However, Irene and I used to meet the trains every night and the baggage men and mail clerks were always so good to two little country girls. They brought us treats - gum and chocolate bars from Winnipeg.

Some of the families nearest Kane were White's, about ½ mile north and Cowie's about ½ mile south. Handlon's lived a mile north, Kirk's a mile west and Miller's to the east. I don't really remember where you lived although I remember being there. There was also a Bruce family east of Kane, and Andresen's also east. Most of the other people were Mennonites and lived to the southeast of Kane. Quite a few of the Anglo-Saxon families were from the States.

Ours was the only house in Kane apart from the teacherage, but across the road to the west of us was a Martin Gesweine (?) and his niece, Marta. She was about our age. I met her years later in Eaton's in Calgary and she was a very nice looking young lady working in the hosiery department. I didn't recognize her, but she knew me.

And yes, you were right, Eunice. My Mom did have a little Sunday School and for a time she had Bible classes in the school for an hour every Friday.

Kane was a great place for us kids. There was a dugout west of town that belonged to the CNR and it was a good swimming hole. And the prairie was so beautiful with wild flowers you seldom see any more. I remember whole tracts of land orange with tiger lilies, and I remember picking blue gentians, forget-me-nots, star flowers and lady slippers along the right-of-way, and of course there were crocuses and roses in abundance.

In the winter we skated on Martin Gesweine's dugout, or when the irrigation ditches filled and froze, we could skate on them.

We went to field days in the summer at neighbouring towns, and our school yell was rather silly, but we yelled it enthusiastically as we took part in the parades:

*One, two, three, four  
Who are we for?  
Kane School! Kane School!  
Rah, rah, rah!!!*

Our school colors were green and white.

There was also a flood one year. It came from the west and the land was so open and so flat we could see the water slowly approaching, coming through Kirk's trees a mile away. It looked so pretty with the morning sun sparkling on it. When it arrived the water was about two feet deep all over and our house was surrounded by it. Dad had made us a raft. I don't remember how he got to the elevator, but I know it was over the rubber boots. He probably waded. The water just gradually subsided.

## THOMAS & ANNIE WEAVER

*as told by Elton Weaver*



*Thomas and Annie Weaver with sons Elmer and Elton (r).*

Thomas Weaver, even as a young man, had that wandering spirit that wouldn't let him stay at one place for any length of time. He worked down in Texas, worked in the mines in California and did a ten year stint in the Yukon mines. But it was in the 1890's that led him to Manitoba when he visited a cousin in Morden. He then got a job harvesting in the Thornhill area.

Thomas and Annie Weaver were married in 1910 in Ontario, and left the Woodstock area in Southern Ontario for adventure in Manitoba.

Thomas started farming northwest of Sperling and in 1912 obtained the northwest quarter of section 23, but lived in the city of Winnipeg. It was while living on section 23, that he bought section 11, which later became the Weaver home. Son Elton was born in April of 1913, and Elmer in 1918. Both were born in Winnipeg.

Mr. Weaver was also very involved in the real estate business and had offices in Winnipeg and Carman.

The Branch Manager of the Massey Harris Company

invited son Elton to work as a mechanic in the Winnipeg shop. Here he overhauled tractors and made improvements on tractors as well. He designed a grain grinder which was later patented by a major company. His jobs led him to the tractor factories in Toronto and Wisconsin. He was offered a job as shop foreman in New Zealand with possibilities of going to Australia and Europe, but declined saying, "I'm not crossing the big pond!" Elton Weaver worked for the Massey Harris Company from 1936 to 1939.

During the war years, from 1942-44, the Weavers had about six Japanese families from Hainy, British Columbia, working for them. They had been hired through the Sugar Beet Company, as most of their work was in the sugar beets.

Thomas Weaver farmed 2¼ sections at the height of his farming career: all of section 11; W½ of section 13; NW quarter of section 1; and the W½ of section 23. Mr. and Mrs. Weaver moved back to Ontario in 1948. Their son Elmer also left for Ontario in 1948 to live on his grandfather's (Mother's father) estate which he had purchased. Thomas Weaver passed away in 1959, and Annie Weaver in 1961. Both died of strokes at the age of 81.

Elton says of his mother: "She was a good cook, good housewife and a good worker. She enjoyed playing the piano. She even missed the prairies after they returned to Ontario." After a visit out west, Elton drove her home via the north route, and she had seen nothing but trees, she remarked that she would never call the prairies 'God forsaken' again!

Of his father, Elton had this to say: "He was very energetic and had lots of drive. He needed only three to five hours of sleep each night. He was very strong, and expected his sons to be as strong as he was, but the boys could never measure up to these expectations when it came to pitching hay."

Elton remained in Manitoba, farmed section 11, and became a Diesel Mechanics instructor at the Manitoba Technical Institute (MTI) (which later became the Red River



*The Thomas and Annie Weaver farm.*



*Elton Weaver, 1999.*

College) starting in the year of 1954, and continuing for ten seasons. After a year of teaching, he took a course in fuel pumps in Massachusetts in the USA, at a cost of \$1200.00 to him, and then returned to MTI where he wrote a book on Diesel Mechanics. He had up to 36 students in his class.

Today Elton Weaver lives in an apartment in Winnipeg, just a few blocks from his birthplace, and enjoys his friends and sharing stories about the "good old days" at the age of 86.

### **JOSEPH & MARGARET (Gardiner) WHITE** *by Alex White and Tom White*

Joseph White arrived in Canada from Ireland in 1918, and worked on a farm at Lowe Farm, Manitoba. He returned to Ireland in 1919.

Joseph and Margaret (nee Gardiner) were married in Larne, Ireland, on February 6, 1920. They arrived in Canada in March, 1920, and took up farming a half mile south of Kane on NW 31-4-2W, later moving a half mile north of Kane to SW 6-5-2W, where they farmed until 1949, when the family moved to a farm near Miami, Manitoba. Mr. White was a school trustee in the Kane School from 1927-1929, and a van driver from 1928-1930.

Margaret died in October of 1967, and Joe died in December of 1967.

Joe and Margaret raised six children, and all attended school at Kane.

Alex attended the Kane School and enjoyed softball in the District Schools. He drove the school van in the



*Wedding of Joseph and Margaret White with the bride's brother and groom's sister as attendants.*



*The White boys: Alex, Tom and Frank.*

years 1946-47 and 1947-48. In the fall of 1949, he moved to a farm at Miami, Manitoba, where he got involved in curling and fishing. In 1966, the move was made to the village of Miami, and he also changed his line of work to painting; interior and exterior. Alex White married Barbara R. Peirson (nee Berry), a widow with five grown children, on August 4, 1979, and moved to Roland. Barbara passed away on January 23, 1997. Alex is presently living in retirement in Roland. He has thirteen granddaughters, two great granddaughters and two great grandsons.

Frank worked in Winnipeg for several years for Shell Canada before moving to Toronto in 1942, where he worked for the Kodak Company until his retirement. He married Thelma Brown in Toronto. They have two sons, Timothy and Douglas, and one granddaughter.

Tom attended the Kane School from 1930-1942 completing grade XI. He was active in sports and holds many fond memories of the many ball tournaments at Carman Fair. He served in the Canadian Army from November, 1943, to May, 1946, and was wounded in action on August 8,

1944. He moved to Winnipeg in 1947, and attended Success Commercial College and received a diploma in accounting. Tom White married Cleona Hyde (1928-1994) on February 28, 1948, and they raised a family of four; Robert, Daryl, Glenn and Janine, and have six grandchildren. Tom was employed by the Arnett Company from 1948 to 1966, and by MacLeods, from 1966-1981. He retired in 1981.

Margaret received her degree as a Registered Nurse in Dauphin, Manitoba. She worked in Dauphin, Roblin, and Kamsack. She married Douglas Clarke of Kamsack in 1954. They lived in Kamsack for several years, and have lived in Regina, Saskatchewan since 1965. They have two sons; Barry and Brian, and six grandchildren.

Lillie worked in the Bank of Montreal in Morris for two years and taught school in Claundebeye for one year. She married Walter Penner of Kane in 1947. They raised two daughters; Carol and Audrey (there are four grandchildren). They lived in Kane until 1956, where Walter was employed by the Paterson Elevator, and were then transferred to Crystal City, Manitoba. Lillie died in 1968 and Walter in 1994.

Jean, the youngest of the White family completed grade XI at Kane School in 1946. Due to the shortage of teachers at that time in Manitoba, a special program was set up, and grade XI graduates were able to enroll in a short training school in Winnipeg. Jean took advantage of this training and taught at a rural school in the Morden area. She attended Business School in Winnipeg and moved to Calgary in 1950, where she was employed with a Customs Broker firm. Jean met her future husband, Joe MacDonald, in Calgary in 1953, and they were married in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1954, where Joe was in the Navy. On completion of his Navy service, Joe and Jean moved to Calgary in 1956, which has been home to them ever since. Sons Bruce and Jim were born in Calgary, and they are both employed in the oil industry.

### **ABRAM J. & Helen (Sawatsky) WIEBE** *by Rose (Wiebe) Penner*

We moved to Kane from New Hope (near Altona) in 1945. Our farm was one mile east and two miles north of Kane (SE 18-5-2W).

Our family is as follows: Helen and Ernie Hiebert (Ernie passed away in January, 2000) of Carman have two sons and two daughters. Henrietta and Abe Toews (Abe passed away in May, 1999) of Altona have two daughters. Tommy and Marie (Zacharias) (Marie passed away in October, 1997) of Winnipeg have two sons and one daughter. Ben and Eva (Braun) of Portage la Prairie have four sons and two daughters, and Rose and Dan Penner of Sanford have one son and one daughter.

Both Dad and Ben drove school van for a period of time. I was the only one of our family to attend school in Kane.



*Rose (Wiebe) and Dan Penner with Tim and Ruby, 1978.*

Mom and Dad farmed at Kane until 1960, when they moved to Oakville, where they farmed until Dad's passing in 1973. Mom later moved to Winnipeg, and passed away in 1984.

Dan and I spent life on the farm until 1971, after which we moved into Sanford. Dan was then a painter until he retired in 1991. I worked for Saan Stores Head Office (Winnipeg) for 21 years and retired early in 1995.

In our retirement we are enjoying some hobbies, and our annual trip to British Columbia where our daughter resides. Also Dan sings in a senior choir for which I am pianist.

**Tom's Memories:** One of our main problems was to learn how to work the land. We were used to working the light sandy soil of southern Manitoba, and the heavy gumbo in this area just did not respond the same way. For example, the plow went either too deep, or it would skim over the top. After much trial and error we caught on and things became easier. The roads were mainly dirt and we soon learned to leave our motor vehicles at home until things dried up. There was no need to undercoat the car or truck, one trip on those muddy roads after a rain would seal the underside of our vehicles for its life. The mud was so sticky and heavy that horse-drawn school vans would come to a complete halt at times. Our chickens had a hard time

walking with these big muddy feet. The hydro power line came our way in 1946, so we had to make do with our coal oil lanterns and lamps for a while.

It had been difficult to leave friends and relatives behind, but we soon made many new friends in this strange area that was to be our home. Our nearest neighbours were the P. U. Brauns, J. L. Brauns, J. I. Browns, Mark Johnson, J. Handlon, Allan Johnstons, Dan Penner. Others were the Blatz, Fredricksen and C. Dyck families. Our first friendships were made with the Blatz and Braun families. Jake Blatz and I became close friends and since we were about the same age, we had many things in common. Our friendship remains to this day.

We soon became quite serious about the business of farming. There was a need for larger and better machinery. World War II had ended and certain machinery was scarce. We required a special permit in order to obtain a new combine, which we were able to get after much red tape due to government regulations.

I would like to relate some highlights of those years. In 1947, together with some of the Blatz family we planned to go on a harvesting trip to the southern United States. The crews consisted of: Henry Blatz, Jake Blatz and Tommy White; A. J. Wiebe (my father), William (Bill) Reimer and I (Tom Wiebe). A lot of time was spent in preparation for this venture. Our crew only went south that one year. The Blatz crew continued this practise for several years.

One Sunday my sister and I were returning from a visit to southern Manitoba in my Model T Ford truck. The road south of #23 highway was no more than a trail. It was sometime after midnight driving along when I hit a hole in the road, perhaps a badger hole. I lost control of the vehicle and before I knew it, we went through the ditch and into a field of stooks. The engine died, the lights went out, but we were right side up. We expected to walk the rest of the way home, but first tried to start the truck. I lifted the starting crank, the engine sputtered to life, the lights went on and we were on our way again. A night to remember.

On Halloween night a car-load of us boys would go on a trick and prank expedition to some predetermined farmyards. We had special instruction from Father, have fun, but do not cause any damage to other people's property. There were some hair-raising incidents, but we did have a lot of fun.

In January of 1947, Jake Blatz and I hitched a ride to Vancouver with a Jake Schmidt and Dick Friesen. We took the Ferry to Vancouver Island and later returned home by Greyhound Bus.

## **BERNARD B. & KATHERINA (Kehler)**

### **WIEBE**

*by Katherina (Kehler) Wiebe*

We were trying to make our living after we were married in 1927, by farming a small acreage one and three-quarter miles north of Horndean; having suffered many

losses from grasshoppers. In 1935, our friend, Jacob Dyck, offered to rent us a quarter section from the Altona Waisinamt in the Rose Farm district, seven miles north of Horndean. We gladly accepted the offer and moved there in spring, with our two sons, John and Art.

Our first crop, wheat, suffered from rust and we had to sell it for 28¢ per bushel. That fall, the land was sold to John R. Dueck, and we had the opportunity to buy a quarter section from the Great West Life Insurance Company for \$22.00 an acre. The land was just three-quarter mile south of us, so in the fall of 1937, we moved to SE 9-4-2. We gave everything we possibly could for a down payment, including selling a slaughter hog to raise the \$200.00 needed. The Lord blessed our efforts, as crops and prices improved. Three more children were born to us; Pete, Esther, and Henry who died in 1938, at age three months.

There were other firsts for us. We bought our first car, a used 1930 Chevrolet sedan, having traded in two old horses, a cow and a small sum of money! In 1945, we bought the Henry Giesbrecht farmstead (SE 16-4-2) a half mile north of us, and on November 13, we decided to move. It was our son Art's birthday, and I had prepared a bread dough. When the relatives and friends came to help - it was get ready to go! I started to pack and hurriedly put the bread dough into pans, and into the car. The cook stove was moved by loading on the stoneboat, and as soon as it arrived at its destination, a fire was lit. The result? Freshly baked bread for all the tired workers. It turned out to be an enjoyable day.

We had good crops there and one more child was born, whom we named Dave.

Our children all attended the Rose Farm School, where two of their teachers were George Groening and the late Bill Born. Our church affiliation was with the M.B. Church at Grossweide, but we also attended the Rudnerweide Church, just across the road from us. We had good fellowship with the neighbours.

In 1949-50, John and Art attended the Kane High School. They walked one and a half miles to the van route, where they were picked up by Mr. Doell the van driver, for the remaining five miles to school.

In 1953, we moved back to Horndean and settled on our parents' (the late John J. Kehlers) homestead.

John and Marilyn (Toews) live in Winnipeg, Manitoba. After a career in education, John is now involved in agriculture. The word "retirement" is not in his vocabulary. Marilyn is teaching music.

Art and Anne (Blatz) are retired at Blumenort, Manitoba, after years of teaching for Art, and employment at Kindale Occupational Centre for Anne.

Peter and Lorraine (Unger) live in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Peter is a Sales Manager for Twin Maples Marketing Ltd, and Lorraine is in Computer Embroidery and Engraving.

Esther and Frank (Kasunich) live in Calgary, Alberta. Esther is an Operating Room Registered Nurse in Foot-hills Hospital. Frank is in Quality Control for Precast Con-

crete at Lafarge.

Dave and Vivian (Dyck) live in Calgary, Alberta. Dave is in Sale and Marketing for Lafarge. Vivian is a public school teacher.

### DAVID P. & ANNE (Ginter) WIEBE

*by Valerie (Wiebe) Wall*



*Dave and Anne Wiebe.*

Dave was born at New Hope, Manitoba, on May 13, 1927. Dave moved with his parents to the Kane area in 1944, where he helped on the farm. During this time he had the opportunity to be a frequent customer at the Kane Store, where he met his future wife, Anne Ginter.

Anne was born at Kronsweide on December 28, 1931. Dave and Anne were married on June 19, 1955. They were blessed with four daughters and nine grandchildren: Linda and Ernie Neufeld (Tony, Roger, Adam) live near Halbstadt; Shirley and Bill Guenther (Clinton, Carrie, Rachel) live in Courtland, Ontario; Sharon and Rudy Sawatzky (Leslie, Gaylene, Vicki) live in Morris; Valerie and John Wall live in Morris.

Dave and Anne moved to 32-4-2W in 1958. Dave continued working for his Dad and other farmers in the area until 1961, when he began working in Kane part time, driving fuel truck. Dave also drove school bus for approximately eight years. He was hired full time at the Kane Ga-

rage and continued his employment in Kane until his retirement in November, 1991.

Dave and Anne moved to Lowe Farm in May, 1996, where they enjoy gardening, and getting together with friends to play a game or two of Dominoes or Skip-Bo.

### THE HENRY B. WIEBE HISTORY

*by Mary (Wiebe) Penner*

In 1919 Mr. Bernard Wiebe of Altona purchased the north half of section 35-4-2W in the Lowe Farm School District, and his son Henry B. Wiebe purchased the north half of 34-4-2W and moved his wife Anna and seven children to the Kane School district. Elizabeth was the daughter of Mrs. Wiebe by her first marriage, then there were six children Henry, Ben, Tina, Dora, Susie (Sally) and Ed. In 1920 their son Peter was born and ten days later Mrs. Anna Wiebe passed away.

Mr. Wiebe then married Margaretha Giesbrecht, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Giesbrecht of the Rose Farm District. To this marriage were born three children, Mary, Jacob, and Johnny who passed away at the age of six weeks.

The Wiebe family lived on this farm until 1927 during which time Mr. Wiebe served on the school board for three years and drove the horse drawn-school van for three years.

In 1927, after lean years, the farm went back to the original owner, a Mr. Arnold from the U.S.A., and Mr. Wiebe bought his father's land and moved into the Lowe Farm School District.

Of the four children that attended the Kane School, Tina, Dora, Susie (Sally) and Ed, only Dora and Sally remain alive today (January 1999).

Dora, at the age of 88, remembers the move to Kane. In her words, "It was a very cold spring day, and we were loaded into the *Groutha Woage* (large wagon) and wrapped in comforters and blankets for the long journey to our new farm (twenty miles). It was a very, very great change from life in the town of Altona." She also remembers the bricks piled into the oven of the cook stove in the evening, and then in the morning they were wrapped in blankets and put in among the blankets in the van to keep feet warm. She also remembers Henry Giesbrecht, Mother's brother, driving the van most of the time.

Sally, at the age of 85, remembers Teacher Laine and being allowed to visit the teacherage, where she thinks he lived with his mother, and seeing a three foot high lemon tree which had seven lemons growing on it. That was a great experience. Then Dora pipes up, "How come I don't remember that?" and Sally answers, "Because you were one of the school's best spellers, and you got to go to Myrtle for a Spelling Bee that day."

I, Mary (Wiebe) Penner, remember only very vague things because I never attended the Kane School. I remember a Christmas concert, and I remember being allowed to go along in the school van one day when my sister Tina, who was finished school, had to drive the van because everyone else was busy.

**IRVIN & VIOLA (Dyck) WIEBE**  
*by Viola (Dyck) Wiebe*



*Irvin and Vi Wiebe and family, 1995.*



*The Irvin Wiebe home on the farm, 1956.*

In 1954 Irvin Wiebe and Viola Dyck of Carman were married. Irvin worked as second man in grain elevators in Beausejour, Headingley and Winnipeg. In 1956 Audrey Diane was born in Winnipeg. In 1957 Donald Anne was born while vacationing in Grand Forks. In the fall of 1957, we moved to Kane (section 23-4-3 SE) and farmed from 1957-1966. During this time three more children were born at Bethel Hospital in Winkler: Karen Renee in 1960, Alan George in 1965, Bradley John in 1966.

In 1965 we sent our three daughters to Kane School via van. This was not a popular move as Bloomfield School closed the following year due to lack of students. In 1966 Irvin was offered the position of grain buyer for N. M. Paterson. As farming was a struggle in the 60's he accepted and we moved to Kane that November. We lived in the elevator house from 1966-

1994 at which time we retired to Roland. We spent a short stint in the Kane school house (amongst many mice) while the elevator house underwent renovations.

Kane was a great place to raise a family. We enjoyed the community and had an active life. We attended the Kane Church and were kept busy with church and school activities that the children participated in. We enjoyed bowling in a Carman Mixed Bowling League and still continue to enjoy bowling in Carman. Teachers living in Kane often participated in bowling and curling with us and the loss of Henry and Lynn Kroeker had an impact on our family even though we had known them only a short while. Irvin, along with Glenn Philips and Gordon Dyck, was instrumental in Kane joining the Pembina Valley Baseball League. Irvin enjoyed playing as well as coaching baseball and we used this as family social time. Irvin also coached hockey teams involving sons, Al and Brad. I was involved in teaching 4-H for the five years it was being implemented in Kane, playing baseball when a ninth was needed and doing handwork when time permitted.

Although we enjoyed other vacations, the family vacations to Victoria Beach were most memorable. We rented a cottage for two weeks every summer for about twenty years in a row. The seven of us could be seen off to the golf course at least once a day for these two weeks. Many wonderful memories to share!

Audrey was ten years old when we moved to Kane. She enjoyed socializing with people in the active community life Kane offered in those days. Favourite activities included wiener roasts, picnics, baseball games of any kind, flag football, Young People's, basketball, babysitting (often four nights a week), etc. Other activities she endured were accordion lessons (in Winnipeg, no less) and 4-H. Audrey received a Bachelor of Arts degree and an Education degree from the University of Manitoba, while working at McDonald's and spending two summers employed at Plummer's Fishing Lodge in the N.W.T. She finally married Barry Friesen, the boy next door, on December 3, 1983. They farm on the Peter Friesen home place and Audrey teaches for the Garden Valley School Division. They have two children: Megan Lindsay (1985), and Tyler James

(1988). Megan enjoys participating in school sports, piano and ballet lessons, playing the flute and sax in Jazz Band, and the list goes on. Tyler enjoys playing hockey and golf in Roland, baseball in Lowe Farm, any other sport he can find, and piano and trumpet lessons. Barry and Audrey are now kept busy coaching and driving.



*Irvin Wiebe family living in the 'Paterson' house in Kane, 1967.*

Donalda also enjoyed sports but her true love was music. She took accordion and piano lessons and enjoyed playing piano in church. She also participated in 4-H and her brown crocheted dress for a Self-Determined Project was quite an accomplishment. Donalda took a Medical Secretary's Course at Herzing Institute. She now puts that to use at Manitoba Health Commission in Winnipeg. In 1982 Donalda married Joe Walker and has three children: Joseph George (1984), David Daniel Irvin (1989), Tracy Renee (1990). Joey and David play hockey ten months of the year and Joey's playing AAA hockey. Tracy enjoys swimming and Brownies. Being a hockey mom is a full time job but Donalda still finds time for basketball and is president of a Toastmaster's Club.

Karen grew up running, beginning with running away from the geese on the farm to running around the bases of a baseball field. In 1976, Karen won second at the Provincial B Track Meet in Gimli and was on the front page of the Winnipeg Free Press Sports Page. She was disappointed that the reporter wrote she was from Morris when she explicitly told him she was from Kane! Karen enjoyed basketball in high school and continued to participate during the year and a half she spent at Winnipeg Bible College. In fact, Karen played basketball and ball hockey until it was no longer physically possible and then remained in the game as a coach. Karen had various jobs at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children beginning as a Nurse's Aide. She then got her Class 5 Power Engineering Certificate and was employed as maintenance person. Later, she took a welding course and worked in the workshop of the Assistive Technology Department and finally, Karen worked in the Communication Program, producing computer

images and graphics into communication aides for children unable to speak. Karen faced the biggest challenge of her life battling from lymphoma and recovering from a bone marrow transplant donated by her brother Brad. Karen attempted this with the same determination she used to run a race. Karen passed away on September 17, 1999 at the Health Sciences Centre.

Alan also enjoyed playing ball, wiener roasts and spontaneous get-togethers after ball games when the ball team would come over and play football on our yard and trample cucumbers in the garden. He enjoyed playing hockey and baseball in Roland and later played hockey in Morris. Alan has had various jobs involving carpentry and is now employed by Westfield in Rosenort. He married Robin Shaw in 1994 and has two children: Lauren Marie (1995) and Ryan Shane (1996). They live in Morris where Robin teaches. Lauren and Ryan enjoy skating lessons and Lauren also takes ballet lessons. Robin and Al enjoy curling, golf and baseball.

Bradley, the youngest of the Wiebe family, does not recall the move to Kane from the farm at three weeks of age. The school closed down after he finished the first grade but it was still nice having it there as a Community Centre and for reunions and such. Many of his fondest memories of Kane and friends was playing sports. Traveling to Roland to play hockey, baseball or golfing was good but never as much fun as pickup games on the pond behind the store or street hockey in front of it. Of course, the quiet life was always made more enjoyable for Brad by having a motorcycle to drive around on to visit neighbours and by having a large family to keep him entertained when said motorcycle was broken or, as was often the case, out of gas.

## **JOHN & AGATHA (Epp) WIEBE** *by Brian Wiebe*

John and Agatha Wiebe moved to Kane on July 1, 1962. They had lived on a mixed farm north of Carman from 1948 to 1961, when Dad sold the farm to Bill and Irene Krahn. For one year, they lived in a rented house near Carman, while Dad worked at the Massey-Ferguson dealership. When they heard that John Toews wanted to sell the store in Kane, they went to take a look, and that was the beginning of their experience as owners of a country general store. I moved with Mom and Dad and lived there for three years before moving to Winnipeg.

**Life in the Store:** We lived above the store, which was convenient for getting to work, but Mom often said she would hate to count the trips up and down those stairs that were made in the course of a day. Store hours were 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, and holidays were non-existent as the store had to be open and there was never enough business to hire extra staff. Because they lived above the store, evening and Sunday afternoon rests were often interrupted for emergency grocery needs



*The 50th Wedding Anniversary of John and Agatha Wiebe taken in the Kane Community Centre.*

by people in the district.

Goods sold in the store were staples such as bread, dairy products, canned goods, and fruits and vegetables in season. Dad enjoyed selling meat and cut up many a quarter of beef in the evenings, using a handsaw and a knife. They also sold some dry goods that salesmen from Winnipeg wholesale companies would convince them they needed on the shelf. I remember the peanuts in big burlap bags, and mixed nuts and candies before Christmas. It used to bug Dad when Gladstone's in Winkler would sell peanuts as a loss leader and he couldn't compete with their price. Shelf space was always at a premium, especially in the early years. Most of the sales were charged and every family had a receipt book in a rack beside the front counter. At the end of the month, customers would come in and pay their account. Very few accounts were not paid, a tribute to the trust and honesty by the mostly farming community.

The store was a gathering place for bus drivers morning and afternoons, and Ernie and Bert Friesen, Butch Born, Ken Wiebe and myself spent many evenings playing cards, or just sitting and talking on the stools at the ice cream counter.

**Many Jobs:** Dad and Mom had a multitude of jobs along with running the store. They managed the post office, which meant sorting the mail, keeping the books up to date, and selling stamps and money orders. Dad started driving the school bus between Kane and Lowe Farm in September, 1962, and drove that Yellow Bus until 1974. In addition to these jobs, they also boarded some of the teachers from the Elementary School. Lois Wiebe and Gloria

Penner were two I remember. In the last few years, they were convinced to take on the position of caretakers at the Kane School. Going over to clean the school after supper must have been difficult after working in the store all day, but they managed. I guess this was to fill in their spare time.

**After the Store:** Dad and Mom sold the store to Pete Harder in January, 1974 and retired to Morden. During his retirement years, Dad learned some carpentry skills, building a paddle boat, a windmill, lawn swings, and picnic tables. They both enjoyed gardening, and the family fondly remember the meals that Mom produced for all occasions in those years.

In 1985, they decided to move back to Carman to be closer to the kids. Dad never made the move, as he suffered a severe stroke just before the move, and passed away in the Morden Hospital on July 22, 1985. Mom moved during his illness. Mom remarried in the fall of 1986, and was widowed for the second time in December, 1998. She now resides in the Boyne Towers in Carman.



*Brian Wiebe in front of the Kane General Store, 1966.*

**Family:** John and Agatha Wiebe had three children: Eldon born in 1934, Irene born in 1937, and Brian born in 1947.

Eldon married Magdalene Giesbrecht and they have six children, Dianne, Keith, Bruce, Roger, Wendy, and Glen. Eldon is retired and Maggy teaches Driver Education in Carman.

Irene married Bill Krahn and they have three children,

Wanda, Trevor, and Jerri-Ann. Irene and Bill live in Carman and are farming with Trevor. Irene also works at the Carman Hospital.

Brian married Anna Penner and they have two children, Mark and Michael. Brian works for a distributor of Agricultural Chemicals, and Anna is a Licensed Practical Nurse in a nursing home in Winnipeg.

## **JAKE B. & TIENA (Friesen) WIEBE**

*by Tiena Wiebe*



*Jake and Tiena Wiebe and family.*

Jake Wiebe, the son of Abram and Maria Wiebe, was born in 1916 at Hope Farm. In 1918, his parents moved to Lowe Farm, Section 6-1-4W. He attended Steinfeld School. In the winter of 1940, he took a course in Agriculture in Altona.

In June 1944, Jake married Tiena Friesen, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Jacob W. Friesen. That was during the war years, which meant that he had to help with the farmwork for his dad. Then in the fall of 1944, we (Jake and Tiena) were sent to the coal mines, called Mt. S. Mines in Bienfait, Saskatchewan, for the winter months.

When we came back in the spring of 1945, our son Edward was born. We rented and settled on a quarter of land northeast of Kane, Section 9-5-2W. It was very wet that first spring, but we still managed to get a fair crop out of it. Jake was still helping his Dad and we also paid Red Cross money every month. But by June 1945, the war ended. We bought the land we had settled on, as well as another quarter of land.

After Edward's arrival, we were blessed with three more children, Menno, Irene, and Kathy. All four children attended the Kane Elementary School for their first eight years of education. According to our youngest daughter, Kathy, the most outstanding memories of the school years in Kane revolved around the annual Kane picnic and the annual Christmas concert. As a child, the Kane School auditorium felt as large as Carnegie Hall. The Christmas concert was an exciting combination of memorizing lines, learning new carols, a new Christmas outfit, anticipating the Christmas bag goodies, and general chaos behind the stage curtain. It felt like there were a minimum of five hundred people in the audience, watching our every move.

The Kane picnic was a more relaxing experience, a chance for the

whole family to attend and join-in. The lunch that Mom packed for the family was always special. It somehow overshadowed even the exciting high jump event. But being awarded a first, second or third place ribbon was considered a significant achievement. The baseball games were generally very competitive, except for the last game of the day was usually fun-filled and entertaining. At the end of the day, Mom, Dad, and four hot and sweaty children packed up the car and went home, sunburnt, tired, but happy.

Jake was a school bus driver for eight years, driving the surrounding neighbour's children to and from school. He enjoyed the daily visit with the other van drivers, as well as getting to know the neighbour's children. But he found it quite a challenge when it rained so hard that the mud roads became impossible to travel. But Jake soon found a workable solution. He put chains and a caboose on the old Model A car and much to the disappointment of the four Diedrich Dyck children, they still got to school on time.

The children all have good memories of their Kane School years, but time marched on and the following is a short synopsis of where they are today.

Our son Edward and his wife Mary Ann, live in Tsawwassen, British Columbia. After Kane, Edward went to school in Lowe Farm, and then completed an education degree at the University of Manitoba. He married Mary Ann Doerksen in 1967. He began teaching first in Winnipeg, then Tsawwassen, as a Physical Education teacher. He is currently a Real Estate agent in Tsawwassen. Mary Ann had her own film company which she fits into her busy schedule of transporting their two boys between hockey, music and baseball. They have two sons; Aaron, born in 1982, and Eli, 1990.

Our second son, Menno, was born on April 18, 1948, in the midst of a flood. Jake had to play doctor and deliver Menno himself. He is married to Debbie Messenger and they live in Calgary. He had two children; Melanie, born in 1969, and Ian, born in 1970. They are both married and live in Calgary. Melanie married Regan Miller in 1996 and Ian married Stephanie in 1997. Menno spent his first eight years of education in Kane, then went on to Lowe Farm Collegiate, and then com-

pleted a Science degree at the University of Manitoba. More recently, Menno completed an MBA. His work takes him to many countries of the world. Debbie completed a law degree and is currently working in Calgary.

Irene, our first daughter, was born on April 19, 1952. She married Lorne Penner, son of Ben E. and Tina Penner. Irene went to school in Kane, Lowe Farm and Morris. Irene and Lornie were married on July 1, 1972. Presently they own their own business, an overhead garage door business called Universal Doors, in Brandon. They both work for the business, as do their son and son-in-law. They have three children; Kathy born in 1977, Brian, born in 1979, and Jon born in 1980. Kathy married Mike Hildebrand in 1996 and they have a son Dominik, born in 1998, and a daughter Katherine born in 1999. All live in Brandon.

Kathy, our second daughter, was born on Christmas Day, 1956. She also received her education at Kane, Lowe Farm and Morris, and the University of Manitoba. She married Mahmood Randeree in 1996 and they currently live in Potchefstrome, South Africa. Mahmood is a Deputy Director of Crops, Sales and Computer Services in the North West Agricultural Department. Kathy is busy completing the last year of a three year MBA program.

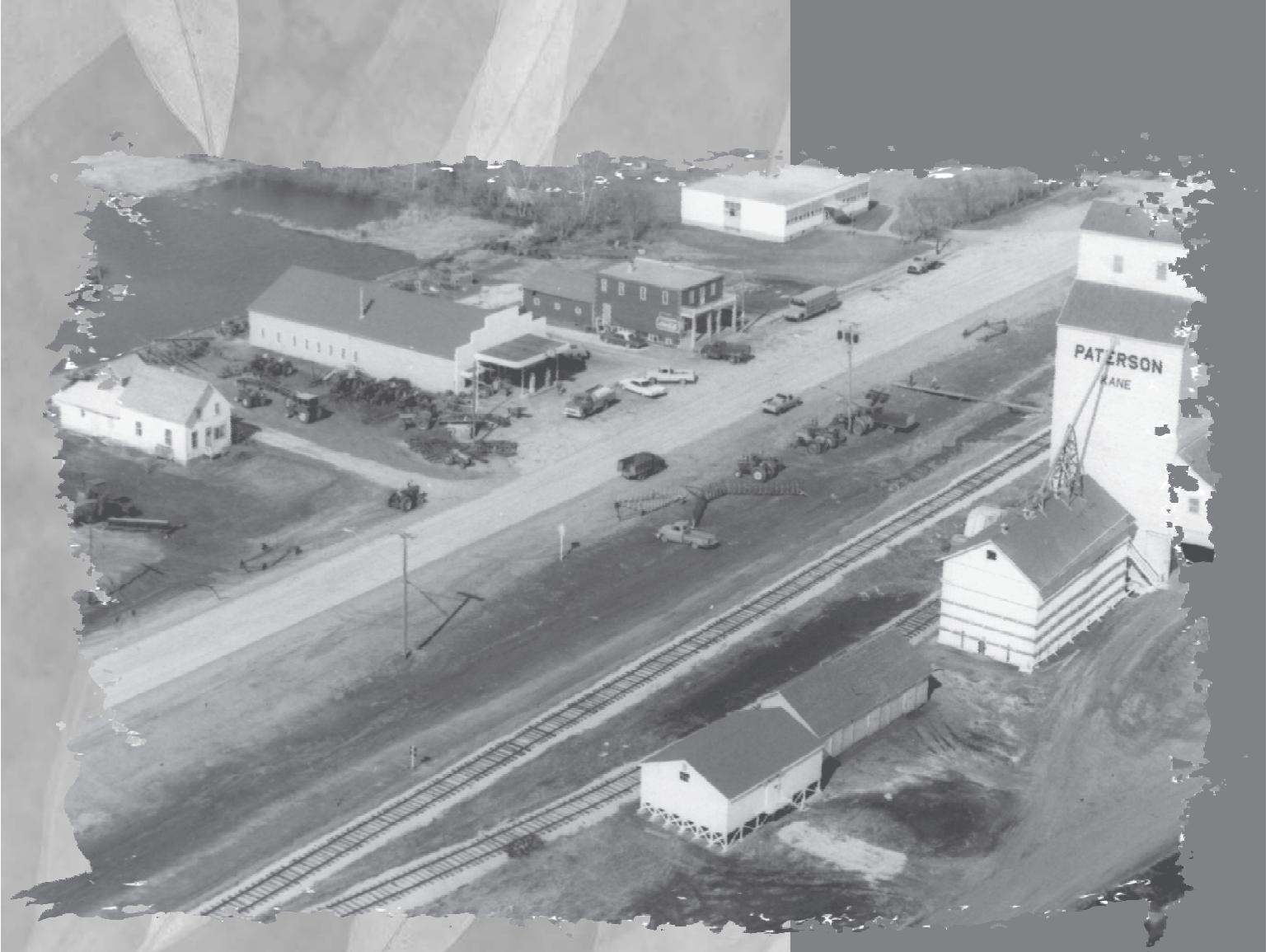
We sold our farm in 1977, and bought a house in Altona. Jake kept busy with the Thresherman's Museum between Winkler and Morden for many years. In 1991, he suffered an aneurysm and spent one month in the St. Boniface Hospital. He did not completely recover, as he could not get his strength back. Then in 1993, Parkinson's disease set in and he had a knee replacement operation in 1994. He passed away on July 28, 1997. I sold the house and moved into an apartment in Altona where I'm now living and have good health. Thanks to the good Lord and my children. I am quite happy. I have also had the opportunity to do some travelling with my children being so far away.

## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

It was a mighty army  
That pushed into the west,  
Leaving loved ones behind them  
Their's was a noble quest.  
They dreamed of a land of silver and gold,  
A wealth that was still unfound;  
By every mode of travel  
They all were westward bound.  
That was a glorious venture  
When pioneers pushed into the west.  
Some there were who perished,  
Most dear souls stood the test.  
They had their God above then —  
The sun and moon and stars.  
No one worried the least bit  
About going to the moon or Mars.  
They set to work to till the sod  
Determined the work, and slow.  
Furrows turned one over the other,  
Soon the seed they could sow.  
They planted their grain in spring time;  
They harvested their grain in the fall.  
Log cabins gave way to finer homes  
Standing so stately and tall.  
They found the gold they had dreamed of  
In the waving fields of grain;  
The land flowed with milk and honey,  
Cattle grazed on the wide open plain.  
As they looked to the golden sunset  
They counted their blessings each one,  
And knelt on their knees to thank the Lord  
For the great things He had done.  
These pioneers passed on to their offspring  
This province they loved so dear,  
And walked into the golden sunset  
Content and without a fear.  
When ever we look to the sunset  
We hear voices of days gone bye,  
Then we promise ourselves and these voices  
That we will ne'er let our heritage die.

by Barbara R. Peirson  
*used by special permission  
from (husband) Alex White*

*The spirit  
lives on...*



*...in our  
livelihood*

## THE RAILWAY

*by Paul Joyal*

On July 2, 1887, Premier John Norquay, assisted by the Mayor of Winnipeg, turned over the first sod of the Red River Valley Railway. Construction began in earnest on July 13, the intention being to have the line travelling southward from Winnipeg to the International Boundary completed by September 1 of that year.

On September 4, 1888, the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company became incorporated by the Province of Manitoba, to take over, complete and operate the Red River Valley Railway. The Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway would complete and operate a line from Winnipeg to the International Boundary and to Portage la Prairie, as well as a line from Morris to Brandon.

The Morris - Brandon branch of the NP&M was built and opened for traffic on September 1, 1889. In 1901, the NP&M, besieged by financial difficulties, was taken over by the Canadian Northern Railway. The Canadian Northern operated until 1918, when it too fell victim to financial difficulties and was taken over by the Dominion Government. On June 6, 1919, by an Act of Parliament, the Dominion Government amalgamated the many thousands of miles of the many different railways acquired over the years and incorporated them into one, the Canadian National Railway.

In 1904, Canadian Northern Railway built the station in Lowe Farm, with a Mr. Sharpe employed as the first agent.

The rail line and station were a boom to the community. Not only did the railway provide a means for farmers to send their produce to market, they also provided a somewhat more reliable avenue of transportation to the public. When roads became plugged by winter storms or impassable due to wet springs or heavy rains, the train could usually make it.

With the opening of the Morris - Brandon branch of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway, passenger service in 1894 was provided on a three day per week schedule in each direction. In addition to passenger service, the NP&M was also operating a scheduled daily freight service.

It is unknown for certain what kind of passenger service the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway may have provided during its short existence. In 1914, the Canadian Northern Railway was providing passenger service through Kane with two trains daily in each direction. With



*An old six-wheeler steam engine complete with cow-catcher.  
John Toews' 1938 International is parked alongside the oil shed.  
(Note passenger car on the main track.)*



*A stormy day in Kane, 1938.*



*The train puffs into town.*



*Coming east into Kane with the station in the distance, 1938.*



*John Toews' Diamond T (a big truck in its day) needed some help, 1938.*



*The trucks in the line-up are now sporting tandem wheels.*

the incorporation of 1919, Canadian National Railway continued with passenger service, but on a lesser schedule. Passenger service in 1929, consisted of an east-bound service that operated daily, except for Saturday and Sunday. Westbound service operated on a daily basis as well, except Saturday, Sunday and Monday. In addition, one westbound passenger train operated on a Saturday only schedule. By 1957, only one mixed passenger train remained operating. It was shortly after this time that passenger service was discontinued entirely.

By the late nineties, a great cloud of uncertainty hung over the future of the CNRail Miami Subdivision. Would the rail line be sold off to private interests, or would it be merely abandoned like so many others?

These questions were answered early in July of 1999. An announcement was made that CNRail had sold its Miami Subdivision to the Tulare Valley Railroad of Salt Lake City, Utah. On July 9, 1999, The Southern Manitoba Railway (SMR) was incorporated as the ninth railway to begin operations in Manitoba. The SMR officially began operations of the 230 kilometers (144 miles) of track on August 23, 1999. Headquarters for the Southern Manitoba Railway is currently located in Morris, Manitoba, with a work force of three employees. Two 2,000 horse power diesel electric locomotives purchased through Canac, a subsidiary of CNRail, provide motive power for the railway.

The Southern Manitoba Railway is primarily involved in the transportation of both board and nonboard grain commodities from elevators located along its right-of-way. Rail cars are interchanged with CNRail at Morris, Manitoba. From Morris, grain cars are sent north to CN Symington Yard in Winnipeg for delivery to ports in Thunder Bay, Ontario or to ports in Vancouver or Ridley Island, British Columbia. Shipments of grain destined to the United States are interchanged with American railways at either Duluth, Minnesota or Chicago, Illinois.

In the complex chain relating to the grain handling and transportation industry, the Southern Manitoba Railway is committed to providing valuable rail service to its customers. Ultimately, communities located along this rail line can breathe a

sigh of relief knowing that farmers will continue to have a safe, reliable and efficient means of delivering their products to market.

Perhaps more than ever, the Southern Manitoba Railway and the communities it serves, such as Kane, can embark on a new era of spirit and co-operation. Such co-operation will ensure success. Not only for the railway, or the communities it serves, but to the many farming families who rely, in part, on the railway for their livelihood.

A note of historical interest! In 1889, an American railway, the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway built and operated the rail line between Morris and Brandon, Manitoba. Today, that same rail line is once again operated by American interests.



*Semi-trailer units are a common sight nowadays.*



*A derailment west of Kane in the mid-fifties.*



*A derailment east of Kane in 1997. (Kane is in the background.)*



*The old-fashioned boxcars served for many years.*



*A CN diesel pulls into town.*



*The boxcars have given way to the new and more efficient hopper cars.*



*CN Kane on a wintry day.*



*The new SMR picking up a car in Kane, 1999.*



*The new SMR train leaving town, 1999.*



*Kane in 1999.*



*Mr. Dave Penner on a railway car similar to what he used at Kane.*

## **A LONG WALK WITH THE C.N.R.**

*by Dave Penner*

The van that took me to school in the early 20's, came in handy some thirty years later when I was employed by the Canadian National Railway and stationed at Myrtle, but living in Lowe Farm.

The roads were often closed due to snow in winter and car travel was not possible, so I walked the ten miles to Myrtle on Monday morning. Many times I met the van on its way to school in Kane, and they gave me a ride as far as the little shack in Kane which served as a station. I then built a fire in the stove there so that farmers could drop off their eggs and cream to be picked up by the train the next day. Then I cleaned the track switches and continued on my walk to Myrtle.

We lived in Lowe Farm throughout the years even when I left the area to relieve other section foremen for two or three weeks. One summer I was stationed at Gillam and worked the area between The Pas and Churchill and came home every two or three weeks. I retired in 1978, after 35 years with the CNR, and the last five as section foreman at Roland, Manitoba.



*Lillie White, Gladys Fredricksen and Margaret White on the railway bridge west of Kane.*



*After a year of searching, a picture of the water tower between Kane and Myrtle could not be found. This picture shows the water tower at Clearwater, Manitoba.*



*The water spout on the tower which filled the locomotive with its' supply of water.*

## THE STATION

*by Tom Hean and Dulaney Blatz*



*At the Kane Station in 1942. Gladys Fredricksen, Frank White, Margaret White, Harold Penner. (Note the cream can on the right.)*

During the first half of the century, when a train came into Kane, the town people gathered at the train station. The baggage car had parcels to drop off and pick up.

To earn money to pay the groceries, farmers brought their cream (in big cans), eggs, or produce to the station to be sold to other towns. One time a farmer's can of cream was returned full of cream dyed pink. A mouse had been found in the can (apparently), and this made the farmer very angry.

Passenger cars were also a common sight in Kane. At times a short layover allowed passengers off the train to go over to Toews' Store for a pop or chocolate bar.

During World War II, Swan Lake and Emerson were in a hockey play-off match. A special train of three passenger cars from Emerson to Swan Lake picked up hockey fans in Kane to see the evening game in Swan Lake.

During the 30's and 40's, a train came every year on Fridays, about two or three weeks before Christmas, to make a same-day-round-trip to Winnipeg! People got to go to the city to do their Christmas shopping in downtown Winnipeg. They met at the CN Station on Main Street to catch a ride back in the evening. The train ride was two hours one way.

The train station was seldom used during its later years and was torn down in 1974.

## THE FIRST ELEVATOR

*by Audrey D. Friesen*

**Interior Elevator Company — 1918-1920:** The first Paterson elevator in Kane was built in 1918. This elevator was one of twenty-three elevators that were part of the Interior Elevator Company. Materials used to build this elevator came from an elevator that had been dismantled in Winkler. The Interior Elevator Company was amalga-



*The Interior Elevator Company Limited in Kane, 1918-1920.*

mated into N. M. Paterson and Company, Ltd. in 1920. Mr. Paterson was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1940 when much of the decision-making of day-to-day operations of the firm was turned over to his sons, Donald and John. Hence, on July 31, 1950, the firm was renamed N. M. Paterson & Sons Limited. (It is believed that Norman Paterson worked as an elevator agent in an elevator in Myrtle in 1901.)

**N. M. Paterson & Sons Limited —1920-present:** The list of elevator agents is as follows:

1919 —	G. Norwood
1920 —	W. H. House
1921 —	D. Brown
1922 —	Roy Brown
1923-1924 —	H. Burr
1924-1930 —	Charles E. Walsh
1930-1940 —	Roylance de la Wyche
1940-1946 —	Henry P. Schellenberg
1946-1956 —	Walter G. Penner
1956-1966 —	J.W. (Bill) Bracken
1966-1995 —	Irvin J. Wiebe
1995-present —	Alvin D. Martens

The first elevator in Kane burned down in 1947. Ed H. Groening was the last farmer to haul grain to this elevator. He recalls going from the elevator to the store when shortly thereafter someone noticed smoke coming from the top window of the elevator. A heated motor was believed to be the cause of the fire. Luckily, Walter Penner had the presence of mind to get the important things out

of the elevator, including the top drawer of his desk and Mr. Groening's cash tickets. Irvin Wiebe tells of how he was suddenly told to run the combine that he had never been allowed on before while his Uncle George Wiebe and father rushed to Kane for the fire show.

A new elevator was constructed on the same site in the same year, 1947. The new elevator had space for 60,000 bushels and cost in the neighbourhood of \$43,384.00. Since this time, there have been many renovations and additions. I was informed that this information is of interest to some so will include a list as follows:

1951 - the dwelling was placed on a full-size base-ment and totally renovated.

1952 - a new 28,000 bushel semi-permanent annex was constructed as well as a BRAND-NEW outhouse.

1955 - another two-bin 28,000 bushel semi-permanent annex was added with an auger down the center for easier emptying.

1964 - a complete overhaul was done on the #32 Hart Emerson grain cleaner.

1965 - a new 24x36x7 fertilizer shed was added and a new head drive was installed.

1967 - a new leg and a new Bender truck hoist was installed, a 12x32 addition was done to the dwelling with new kitchen cupboards and a better heating system as well as the installation of plumbing, using a septic tank and field.

1973 - a new 115,000 BTU force air oil furnace was installed.

1976 - a dust collection system was installed with dual cyclones and repairs were done to the spouting of the annex which had been damaged by wind.

1977 - a new leg belt and a car pull was installed.

1982 - extensive renovations were completed that included dismantling the west semi-permanent annex, the construction of a new elevator-annex complex complete with a new pit, a 20-foot scale with a weighing capacity of 60 tonnes, a 70-foot unloading scale, a new office area and driveway, and a new garage for the dwelling.

1993 - the east semi-permanent balloon annex was dismantled leaving Kane with a storage capacity of 3710 tonnes as it is to date.

According to the Government Archives Division in Ottawa, elevator agent Charles Edward Walsh served as postmaster for Kane in the years 1924-08-25 to 1925-03-16 and 1927-10-31 to 1930-07-07 when elevator agent Roylance de la Wyche took over until 1940. Mail clerks came by train daily to deliver mail to Kane.

Elton Weaver remembers Charlie Walsh as a strong, big man who could push two boxcars apart without a jack. He would then run downhill with a piece of board and slip it under the wheels of the getaway boxcar. Roy Wyche is remembered as a jolly, helpful man (he loaned his 'Victory' sedan complete with rumble seat to Mr. Weaver to go to Winnipeg) who joined the forces during the war and later went to Starbuck to buy grain.



*Grain buyer Roy Wycbe with wife Edna, Cyril and Eldred.*



*Grain buyer Henry P. Schellenberg.*

Henry P. Schellenberg had a dual role in the Kane community: elevator agent for N. M. Paterson and Company and spiritual leader for Church services held in Kane School. Mr. Schellenberg came from Saskatchewan where he was an ordained Canadian Conference deacon. In 1945, Henry Schellenberg was diagnosed with a chronic kidney condition brought on by the inhalation of grain dust. He was advised to leave the grain business and did so the following year.

During the days of Walter Penner and Bill Bracken, moisture tests were done by heating an oil tester. It took twenty minutes to test grain in those days. The new electric tester was much quicker, however when in doubt, farmers would request the oil tester because the 'tried and true' was thought to be more accurate. From Kane, Walter Penner was transferred to Crystal City and Bill Bracken went to work at the Paterson elevator at Morris.

Irvin Wiebe was grain buyer for Kane Paterson elevator for 29 years. During this time three years stand out as more challenging than others both to the farmer and consequently to the grain buyer. The fall of 1968 brought constant rain during harvest and the sight of rice tires looked peculiar in Kane. Irvin remembers 'tough' grain that needed careful handling. The dry year of 1988 saw a huge decline in the amount of grain being handled at the Paterson elevator in Kane - a drop from 20,790 tonnes in 1987-88 to 8,603 tonnes in the 1988-89 crop year. The dreaded fusarium-infested wheat and barley resulted in a drop from 22,300 tonnes in 1992-93 to 14,000 tonnes in



*N. M. Paterson elevator destroyed by fire, 1947.*



*N. M. Paterson elevator destroyed by fire, 1947.*

SCALE TICKETS IN LBS.		N. M. PATERSON & SONS LIMITED		AGREEMENT NUMBER 54	CASH PURCHASE TICKET NO. 107013
GROSS WEIGHT	4.10	STATION	C.W.B. NO.	DATE	KIND OF GRAIN
NET WEIGHT	1.10	PURCHASED FROM (SURNAME)	1261	1950	Wheat
GRAIN UNLOADED	12.00	WEAVER	ELTON		
PRODUCE'S PERMIT NO.	SUP.	P.O. ADDRESS (MARK "X" IF SAME AS STATION)			
NET BUSHELS IN FURNISH	7.2	GRADED BY	11.5		
NET CASH PAYABLE (IN WORDS)	Five hundred and eighty two 72/100				
AGENTS COPY		NOT NEGOTIABLE			

*A 1955 cash ticket made out to Elton Weaver by agent Walter Penner.*

SCALE TICKETS IN LBS.		N. M. PATERSON & SONS LIMITED		AGREEMENT NUMBER 54	CASH PURCHASE TICKET NO. 438119
GROSS WEIGHT	4.97	STATION	C.W.B. NO.	DATE	KIND OF GRAIN
NET WEIGHT	1.10	PURCHASED FROM (SURNAME)	1261	June 27, 1961	Wheat
GRAIN UNLOADED	12.00	KIRK	C		
PRODUCE'S PERMIT NO.	SUP.	P.O. ADDRESS (MARK "X" IF SAME AS STATION)			
NET BUSHELS IN FURNISH	5.79	GRADED BY	122 1/2		
NET CASH PAYABLE (IN WORDS)	Eight hundred and eighty two 72/100				
AGENTS COPY		NOT NEGOTIABLE			

*A 1961 cash ticket made out to Cliff Kirk by agent J. W. (Bill) Bracken.*

the 1993-94 crop year. Irvin always had compassion for the farmer with smaller acreage and truck and in busy times, would save bin space for the farmer to top off after the line-ups had left.

With the extensive renovations and expansion of the Paterson elevator came increasing business during Irvin Wiebe's tenure. A helper was provided and Irvin trained some local men wishing to remain employed in the Kane community after high school. These helpers included Milton Braun, Dennis Rempel, Amie Dupee, Melvin Unrau, Kelvin Penner, Reynold Janzen, Weldon Enns, Henry Martens and his son, Alvin Martens who took over as manager of Kane Paterson elevator when Irvin Wiebe retired. Milton Braun and Weldon Enns are co-managers of the new high throughput Paterson elevator in Morris.

During the 70's, Jim Hildebrand (UGG grain buyer) and Irvin Wiebe were both contact men for Kane baseball teams. You got more than just the grain prices at the Kane elevators - it was the baseball information hub. (There was also more than just a few cribbage games being played at the Paterson elevator during the off-season.)

Kelly Penner was the helper when the computer age came to the Paterson elevator in Kane. Kelly's computer knowledge and willingness to learn (and teach) was a tremendous asset to Irvin when the computer was first brought in, set up and glitches ironed out. The passing of Kelly was a personal loss to Irvin and the community and he is often fondly remembered.

Alvin Martens is the first Kane grain buyer with academic credentials - a 2-year diploma in Agriculture. He is the 'transition' grain buyer with Kane becoming a satellite point for the Morris Paterson inland terminal. Approximately 40% of grain is now trucked by semi and loaded into railcars at Morris.

Many changes have taken place in the way grain was bought and handled since the first N. M. Paterson elevator was built in Kane. One would expect many more changes in the future. With the construction of concrete facilities in the area surrounding Kane brings speculation as to what the future holds for smaller elevators such as the one in Kane that have



*Walter Penner, Paterson grain buyer.*



*The Kane elevators.*



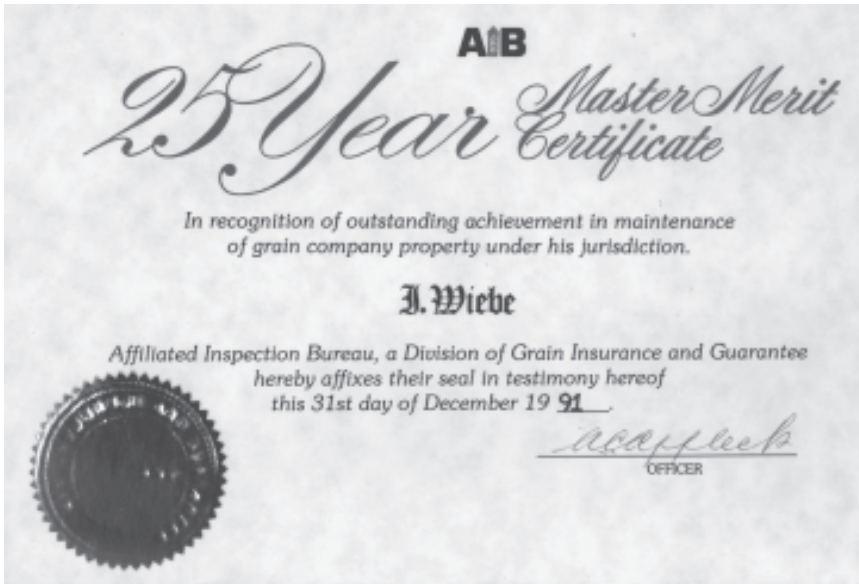
*The Paterson elevator in 1967.*



*Lena and Bill Bracken on their 50th Anniversary, 1984.*



*Paterson grain buyer, Irvin Wiebe in 1967,  
in front of his office.*



*A 25 year certificate for Irvin Wiebe, 1991.*



*The new elevator-annex complex built in 1982.*



*Grain buyer Alvin Martens (r) and his second man, Joel Findlay (l), 1999.  
(Note picture of founder N. M. Paterson on the wall.)*

served for so many years. It is hoped that the Kane elevator will be serving customers in the Kane area for some time to come.

I am grateful for the patience of the following people for taking the time to talk elevator talk with someone who didn't have a clue: Ed H. Groening, Ralph Groening, Howard Kemp, Alvin Martens, John Thiessen, Elton Weaver, Irvin Wiebe. Thanks!

## THE SECOND ELEVATOR

*by Dulaney Blatz*

### Canadian Consolidated — 1919-1959:

In 1919 a second elevator was built in Kane on the NW quarter of 31-4-2W. This new facility was built just to the east of the Interior Elevator Company elevator (later to become the N. M. Paterson). This elevator was built adjacent to the Great Northern Railroad siding of Kane. Only the Hill Store and the Interior Elevator were the other buildings in Kane at the time, and the school was built in 1920. Kane was booming! This great wooden structure would stand for 76 years; surviving the Depression, a fire, and change of ownership only to fall to the caterpillars blade and modern technology (the high through put elevator) in 1996.

Farmers hauled their grain by horses pulling wagons in summer, and bobsleds in winter. Before hydro was introduced in 1948, this skyscraper of the prairies was powered by a stationary motor in the basement of the office. A single cylinder Fairbanks engine ran a long belt which would run the leg that elevated the grain into the distributor at the top of the elevator. This motor was quite loud and when horses drove past, they would often be frightened. This motor ran steady in harvest time. Grain prices were broadcast daily at twelve noon. The agent's wife or children would turn on the old "C battery" powered radio to listen for the prices. These prices were marked in the ledger and paid to the farmer for his grain.

The managers for the Canadian Consolidated (CC) were as follows:

1919-1924	— Roy Brown *
1924-1928	— Ollie Anderson
1928-1929	— Mr. Persh *
1929-1932	— Bob Sargent

1932-1937	— closed
1937-1938	— Harry Kliess *
1938-1941	— Robert Squires
June 1941 - Aug. 1948	— Richard Hean
Sept. 1948 - Jan. 1949	— Vern Carroll
Feb. 1949 - April 1959	— George Born



Billy Deutschman's truck with the wooden cab in Kane.



A master merit Certificate awarded to R. D. Hean in 1945.

\* These names and dates were taken from the "Kane School Book" and were drawn from memory by George Born.

I am sorry to say that I have found no information on the first agent, Roy Brown. The second agent Ollie Anderson came from Myrtle, son of John Anderson. Mr. Persh was the Myrtle United Grain Growers (UGG) agent and may have filled in briefly at Kane. Bob Sargent's stay at the Kane Canadian Consolidated was during the late 20's to the early 30's. I'm guessing at these dates. From the early 30's until 1937, the elevator was closed. I believe they had a hard time paying an agent when the price of barley was only eight cents per bushel. Bob Sargent lived directly south of the tracks across from Cornie Kehler's in a white house owned by Cliff Kirk's grandfather. He could have farmed as well as worked at the elevator.

In June of 1941, Mr. Richard Hean from Hartney, Manitoba became the manager of the Canadian Consolidated at Kane. He was paid \$140.00 per month his entire stay at Kane. In spring of '41 the CC bought the old Woodvale School for a company house. This house was located on the west side of Toews' garage in the tractor lot. It had been moved from section 2-5-3W by Jim Miller in 1921 to be used as a store. Mr. Peter Penner was living in this house at the time, and it became the company house for Canadian Consolidated and United Grain Growers until 1963. The house was torn down in 1998 by Henry Klassen (the owner).

During the time of the Hean residency, they paid \$12.00 monthly rent to the company. When the superintendent, Mr. Norm Beaton, was in town to inspect the books and elevator, he would usually stay at the Hean's for dinner.

Shortly after the Heans moved into the company house, Mr. Peter Penner came back with his daughter to get some produce from the garden. Mr. Hean was up on a ladder cleaning windows and saw Mr. Penner laying in the ditch beside his car (now Highway 23). He went over and checked him out and found him to be dead. Mrs. Hean covered him with a blanket and they went over to Toews Store to contact the family (and doctor). The family came by a little while later and put Mr. Penner in the back seat of their car and left.

During the 40's more and more farmers started bringing their grain in by trucks or tractors pulling the wagons instead of horses. Grain buyers worked long hours blending grain to give farmers the best prices for their grain. When farmers brought in their sugar beets, they shovelled them into open coal cars.

In harvest time of 1947, the Paterson elevator burned to the ground. Richard Hean and others splashed pails of water on the Canadian Consolidated elevator to keep it from burning. You could hear the sap from the wood boil underneath the tin siding. Richard Hean retired from the grain buying business after 34 years in 1948, and moved to Brandon. Three months after Mr. Hean retired the company asked him to come back to manage at Kane, but he declined.

In 1948, Mr. Vern Carroll managed the Canadian Con-



*The Canadian Consolidated elevator operated  
by R. D. Hean, 1948.*

solidated briefly and was replaced in 1949 by Mr. George Born. The 1949 crop was my grandfather's (George Born) first crop year in Kane. That year all grain at Kane (170,000 bushels of it) was moved from the farms through both elevators in the fall and they stood empty until the next growing season. George did not always come home for the night or for just a few hours because he would load cars at night and do the bookwork.

In 1950, the Wheat Board began the quota system, and grain buying became a year round business. I would like to note that between 1942 and 1946, a temporary annex (25,000 bushels) was built to the east of the elevator. Grain was at a low price in Canada compared with the United States and was not moving. Many elevators added these annexes at this time. Also the labour was cheap and so was lumber. Ships were also moving men to Europe for the war and not grain.

In 1958, the Canadian Consolidated added a second annex, this one built on the west side of the main elevator. This annex had a 30,000 bushel capacity, and was considered a permanent annex. Many local boys and men helped build it. The lumber used for this great structure was trucked from Broomhill, Manitoba (southwest corner of our province). A young man by the name of Leonard Wiebe used his dad's grain truck to haul the lumber. They found it didn't haul enough lumber at a time though. Mr. Ben Wiebe decided to take the box off his '47 Chevy three ton and put a fifth wheel on to pull a flat deck trailer. Leonard could leave at night, get to Broomhill by morning, hand load the 2x4's all day, leave for Kane in the evening, and bring in the lumber to the elevator by morning. To get the lumber to Kane meant a 36 hour shift and over 330 miles of driving on poor gravel roads at night, and often alone. Conditions we would find difficult to imagine today.

In constructing the elevator annex, the work was hard and dangerous. The local men had to do most of the shingling on the top of the annex. They used pulleys and a 2x10 board tied to ropes to maneuver up and down the elevator walls to paint them. Painting from top to bottom sixteen feet wide took Norman Blatz and Leonard Wiebe twenty minutes with most of the paint on the annex; some on themselves. Every four feet they had to chop off a block sticking out of the annex with their axe. When not using their axe, they would just slam it into the wall. One time as Leonard slammed it into the wall he accidentally hit the rope, and they went down. Fortunately it was only a ten to twelve foot drop, but he suffered some rope burns.

One day Howard Thiessen was working overhead inside a bin and stepped where he thought a board was, and fell head first to the bottom of the bin. His foreman, who was also quite a big man, happened to be standing at the bottom. He tried to catch Howard to ease his fall. They were both banged up pretty bad, but were 'all right'.

It should also be noted that Art Selley who was the supervisor of Kane Canadian Consolidated was stationed as manager of Roland when UGG bought elevators (namely Lowe Farm, Kane, Roland, etc.) in Manitoba in 1959. The United Grain Growers already had a supervisor and Mr. Selley had not been with the company long enough for this position. He was well-known and well liked in the Kane community.

**United Grain Growers — 1959-1996:** The managers for the United Grain Growers (UGG) were as follows:

April 1959-June 1974:	George Born (15 years)
July 1974-Aug. 1986:	Jim Hildebrand (12 years)
Sept. 1986-Sept. 1992:	Eldon Dueck (6 years)
Oct. 1992-Nov. 1993:	Colin Heppner (13 mos.)
Dec. 1993-Oct. 1994:	Brad Gall (11 mos.)
Nov. 1994-Feb. 1996:	Gerald Heppner (16 mos)

In April of 1959, the United Grain Growers bought 120 elevators in western Canada from the Canadian Con-

solidated. Among the purchases was the elevator in Kane. Now the UGG Company held 797 grain elevators in western Canada; the most it ever had. Thirty-one years later, in 1990, they would have only 276 points left.

The elevator itself held 30,000 bushels, the permanent west annex held 50,000 bushels and east annex 25,000 bushels for a total of 105,000 bushels in the March 31st, 1959 report. For some reason in the February 28th, 1961 report the elevator held only 22,000 bushels, west annex 46,000 bushels and the east annex held 25,000 bushels for a total of 93,000 bushels.



*Elevator agent George Born on his "off time" at his favourite pastime - working on the cross-word puzzle in the Free Press.*

George Born was the first agent for UGG in Kane as he stayed on from the Canadian Consolidated. He did well for UGG and in the July 31st, 1959 report of the previous year he handled 129,000 bushels in his 93,000 bushel elevator.

In the spring of 1963, George Born built his own house on the east side of Kane. The UGG sold the elevator house to Ben Rempel of the east end of Kane. The UGG loaned George the money to build his new home.

In 1966, UGG built a fertilizer storage shed on the east side of the east annex. George also sold chemicals stored in the lower part of the office. During his agency with Kane UGG, George was very aggressive in sales. E. H. Groening told me that at one time the Company had said, "They didn't know how he does it, but he does it." And he did very well in the business.

In the summer of 1974 after fifteen years with UGG, George and Mary Born retired to Winnipeg, sold their house to UGG as the new elevator house. George Born was the elevator agent for 25 years; longer than anyone in Kane except Irvin Wiebe's 29 years with N. M. Paterson.



*John Gerbrandt and UGG grain buyer Jim Hildebrand inspecting a load of flax.*

A young man from Morden, Jim Hildebrand became the new agent in Kane. George told him to wait four years for recognition in the area. If he worked hard and was good to the farmers he would get the bushels. In 1981, he handled over 800,000 bushels. (This is the year Paterson elevator was closed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year due to renovations.) In 1984, UGG upgraded the leg and enlarged the scale. Grain trucks had been getting larger and if a five ton truck came in Jim would either have to double scale the truck (this is what he did when the supervisor was around) or he would add the "illegal weights" to the scale and just weigh once. During the 1980's boxcars were slowly weeded out of use for the bigger hopper cars. This meant the agent or his helper didn't have to cardboard and board up the doors of the boxcars.

Jim stayed in Kane for twelve years and handled more grain than any agent at the UGG elevator. He moved on to manage at Dominion City for eleven and a half years and Beausejour for one and a half years.

In fall of 1986, Eldon Dueck came to manage at Kane for the next six years. Eldon managed well at Kane. During his stay in Kane the UGG management started to discontinue upgrades to the elevator. The east annex started to fall apart and many repairs were neglected by the Company.

Colin Heppner managed in Kane from '92 to '93. He brought a lot of business for the UGG company in the way of repairs and upgrades. Better opportunities were in place for Colin and he left Kane.

Brad Gall from Saskatchewan replaced Colin and stayed for eleven months. During this time many of the local permit book holders from UGG were switching over to the Paterson Elevator Company. The last agent for Kane UGG was Gerald Heppner (Colin's older brother) from Morden. He did very well in Kane. When Gerald came to Kane, we (the Board) were told by the upper management that the UGG elevator would still be operating for another three to five years. Less than one year later the same management said they would be closing the doors



*The empty UGG elevator two weeks before it came down!*



*The east annex was dozed down first.*



*Then the west (permanent) annex toppled.*

of the Kane United Grain Growers in six months.

Gerald moved on to Roland UGG and came back from time to time to clean out the elevator. By May of 1996 it was cleaned out of grain entirely. On August 9th, 1996, a bulldozer toppled the UGG elevator. The wood was loaded on trucks and hauled to the Lowe Farm dump to be burned. It was 76 years old, and would not be replaced.

*I would like to thank the many people who helped me with my research of the Canadian Consolidated and United Grain Growers elevators: Keith Born, Mary Born, "Precious Memories" by William W. Cutlip, Eldon Dueck, E. H. Groening, Pete Harder, Tom Hean, Colin Heppner, Gerald Heppner, Dora Hildebrand, Jim Hildebrand, University of Manitoba Archives, United Grain Growers, Ben Rempel, Howard Thiessen, Elton Weaver and Leonard Wiebe.*



*The remains were hauled to the Lowe Farm dump. August, 1996.*

## **BUSINESS IN KANE**

*by Pete Harder*

One day in June, 1942, I was studying for the final grade 12 exams, not knowing what I would do after graduation. On this same day, Mr. John J. Toews, from Kane, came to Winkler to visit his brother-in-law, who happened to be the principal of the Winkler Collegiate, asking him to recommend a graduate he could hire to work in his business. He was sent across the street to see me, and following a brief



*Leonard Penner and Wilma Toews in front of the old Kane Garage and Store in the late 30's.*



*Pete Harder at work for John J. Toews in the 40's.*



*Pete Harder on his day off. Wow!*

exchange during which I informed him that I knew nothing about business or driving trucks, he assured me that he was not in need of anyone that knew most everything and I was hired. He told me he was confident that I would learn, and learn I most certainly did.

After returning home from an outing with my graduating class, I was picked up by Mr. and Mrs. Toews and two curious boys, Jerry and Dick. Arriving at their home in Kane, I discovered that there were more children in the family, another son, Art, and two daughters, June and Wilma. (Bill arrived on the scene some time later.) My education in the world of business was about to begin...

In 1929, Mr. J. J. Toews started a repair service at Kane, and worked out of a small shop. In order to expand his business, a bigger building was needed. The church in the village of Hamburg was closed in the early 1920's, and in 1926 Mr. Henry Banman purchased this building. He had William Enns move it, in two pieces, to Kronsgart, where after renovations had been made, it served as a store. Business was not as good as expected, and Mr. Banman traded the building to J. J. Toews for a Fordson tractor and a drill. In 1932, the store at Kronsgart was moved to Kane, where it again served as a store and repair shop. The store portion of the business was transferred to a new building in 1939, while the expanded service shop, known as Kane Garage, remained there until it, too, was moved into a new building in 1957. The now empty old building was torn down.

On my first day of work, I was up well before breakfast, looking around to see what I had "gotten myself into". Everything seemed very strange. Soon after breakfast, I saw children being brought to school, which was located just next door to the Garage. The school yard appeared to be quite large, but the students seemed determined to play in the corner nearest to the Toews' garage, apparently wanting a look at the new "help" that had come from Winkler.

During the first few weeks, I was repeatedly reminded that I was replacing a former employee who had been there for seven years; I, in turn, advised them not to expect the same from me. Sorting incoming mail and ordering John Deere parts soon became the major part of my job. In time, however, I also managed to drive the trucks and deliver North Star farm fuel to the customers. On one trip to Lowe Farm, with the Diamond T truck loaded with 21 drums of distillate, I had a mishap. I loaded up, and then drove up to the main street office to sign for the load. After signing, I returned to the truck and reversed onto the highway, right into the car of a government employee! I felt terrible about the accident until I explained exactly what had happened to Mr. Toews, who calmed me down by saying that the man had no business parking on the shoulder of the highway. Following a heated argument about two weeks later when the gentleman came to collect for damages, Mr. Toews offered him \$5.00 for final settlement. He took it, but was not happy!

The school children were transported to school in

vans, usually pulled by horses. In winter, after delivering their children to the school, some of the van drivers, because it did not pay to go back between trips, would stay in Kane until they could take them home again. Where could they stay? Mostly with me, in the garage, and sometimes I thought that I really got to know them too well!!



*The old Kane Garage and Store - a beehive of activity.*



*Hans Frommer with Grandma Frommer and family. Hans worked in the Kane Garage for Mr. Toews for many years.*

Business was slow in the garage in winter, so I was asked to prepare a patch on the school yard for a skating rink. I was allowed to use the Nash pick-up truck with six open-topped drums and a pail, to pick up the water needed to flood the rink, from a dugout about one mile north of Kane. After the rink was finished, lights were put up, allowing many nights of skating. Hockey games were played against Bloomfield and Sperling; it was always a treat playing in a covered rink in Sperling, where they even served sandwiches after the game!

The Kane General Store was open for business every night, and to relieve the clerk, I was asked to serve every other night. One of the first television sets in the area was

set up in the store, and customers were treated to the wrestling matches, etc. It sometimes became very lively! When the main business was done for the day, the younger people stayed for drinks and hot dogs. Over the years, we fried many wieners, served many soft drinks, and scooped a lot of ice-cream. Bananas were bought in big bunches and cut off the stem as needed, and cheese was served from a large head as required. The bread was unsliced and unwrapped, providing us with much practice in wrapping, taking paper from a large roll, and then tying the packages with twine from a spool on the top shelf.

The office in the store had a fairly large safe, which, most of the time, contained large sums of money. Much of the money was supplied by the two elevator companies, U.G.G. and N.M.P., and Mr. Toews was the payer of monies to the farmers that brought in their grain tickets received for the sale of their grain. The safe was broken into several times, but the contents were insured. Notice was also received that the Post Office was going to be moved into the office in the store. The postal service remained here for approximately 16 years, and was moved to Lowe Farm when the country set up the postal areas (e.g. R0G 2P0). Both the handling of money for the payers contract, and the Post Office duties were a great experience.

One day, the principal of the Kane School brought his car over to the garage for an oil change. I was busy, so asked him to leave it, and I would get it done as soon as possible. We did not have a hoist to raise the car, but the older cars were high enough off the ground that we could just slide under and remove the plug to drain the oil. Having removed the plug on this car, I went on to more pressing jobs. The principal returned about an hour later, saw me doing other jobs, and decided to have the oil change done some other time. Backing up to go home, he was unaware of the fact that he was leaving the pan with drained oil behind. When I realized what had happened and saw the car parked at his house, I ran over and asked him not to go anywhere; I would be back with the plug for the oil pan and four quarts of new oil.

During the 1947 harvest season, the N. M. Paterson elevator was lost in a fire. After the cleanup, the elevator was rebuilt and the buying of grain resumed.

The local school board had trouble balancing the books one year, and asked for help. I got the job done for them, and was hired for the next four years, after which I was elected as trustee. I held this position of secretary/treasurer for a period of about 20 years.

One customer that I remember in particular had a nasty streak in him. The store telephone was fastened to the wall of the office, which also served as the post office. Unauthorized persons were not allowed into the postal area. "Mr. Customer" asked to use the telephone, and in the spirit of wanting to be accommodating, he was granted permission. A big mistake! Days later, a phone call was received by Mr. Toews that this same customer had reported that unauthorized persons were allowed into the Post Office. The result was that the phone had to be taken



*Henry Schellenberg worked for John J. Toews for over 15 winters.*

KANE, MAN. PHONE 151 - 5

**JOHN DEERE**  
QUALITY FARM EQUIPMENT

**J. J. TOEWS**  
GARAGE and GENERAL MERCHANT  
JOHN DEERE PARTS • SALES & SERVICE  
GENERAL REPAIRS • WELDING

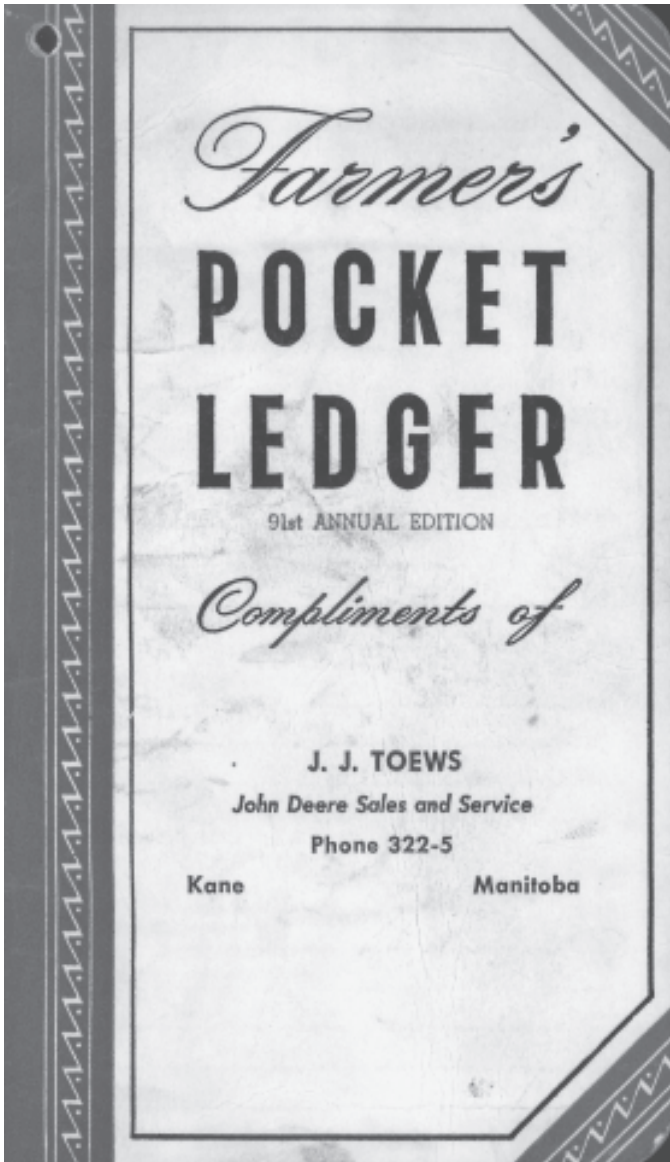
**NORTH STAR** **GOOD YEAR**

SOLD TO: *Henry J. Schellenberg* 1951  
ADDRESS: *Kane, Man.*

QUAN.	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
1	AA	John Deere Tractor less Gas - Oil serial no. 278006		\$2487.56
		Tractor Trade in	\$850.00	
		By cheque	1200.00	
		By cash	437.56	
			\$2487.56	
		Paid in full		
		<i>Monter</i>		
CASH	CHARGE	C.O.D.	REC'D	PAID OUT
CUSTOMER'S COPY				5524

MOORE BUSINESS FORMS WESTERN LTD.

*A 1951 bill of sale at the John Deere Garage in Kane.*



*The ever popular John Deere pocket ledger - 1957-1958.*

out of the store office.

Mr. Toews was also having cordwood shipped in by rail, and selling it to the customer in four-foot lengths or cut. One cold windy winter day, "Mr. Customer" asked for a half cord of cut wood. Mr. Toews said that I need not do it because of the bad weather; it was up to me. Having had a slow day, I figured 'why not?' The tractor started and the job got done. Days later, Mr. Toews received a call stating that the customer for wood had reported having to pay for seasoned wood, when what he had received was unseasoned. So much for favours done! The accusations were dismissed.

When Art Toews finished high school, and helped in the store and post office, we received in the incoming mail, a brochure advertising hand guns, addressed to the local police department. Not having a police department in Kane, and the brochure not being addressed to any person in particular, Art decided that the customer who

had reported on both the telephone and the wood "in-fractions" should be entitled to this piece of advertising. We made the wrong move!! Once again, Mr. Toews was reported, and cautioned not to let it happen again.

During the war when the Japanese living in British Columbia were displaced, some were moved to Manitoba. About four families came to live on the Tom Weaver farmyard to work in the sugar beets. The younger people came to the store frequently, and we got to know them well. One day, they asked Mr. Toews whether he would take a carload of them to visit friends near St. Jean. No problem, Pete will take you! When we got there, I was asked to join the five or six young people, but I preferred to rest in the car. For lunch, however, they insisted I come. I had an enjoyable time, especially when I realized they ate the same kind of foods I did! The senior people, in the meantime, were in the living room doing their thing, and I could not understand one word.

There were two German prisoner of war camps set up near Kane, one about four miles west of Morris, and the other three miles west of Kane. Mr. Toews was growing sugar beets at this time, and arranged to have prisoners from the Morris camp come and work, hoeing and harvesting the beets. I had the job of going for these helpers first thing in the morning, and then returning them in the afternoon. Two armed Canadian soldiers accompanied every truckload going out to the field.

The prisoners from Kane POW camp often came walking to the store after work. One night, a group of them came with money they had pooled at camp, and purchased a fair amount of groceries. Their camp cook had offered to make their favourite dishes for them. They asked me to deliver, but not into the camp. Arrangements were made that after dark the next day, I was to load the cartons of groceries onto the Diamond T truck, a truck they would recognize in the dark, and drive toward camp, but stay on the highway. Once there and stopped, they would have enough people to jump on the truck, unload, and have me move on quickly. I do not know why all the secrecy was necessary, but the mission was accomplished. They probably did not want the guards to know about it.

I worked in the store several winter months. One morning, a lady came in to buy two men's shirts. I did not give the purchase another thought. That same day, in the evening, that lady's husband came in looking for a shirt. I showed him the shirts, but did ask him whether the shirts at home did not fit, or what was wrong. He was puzzled. I informed him that his wife had bought two shirts for him that morning. He went home and asked for a shirt, and his wife replied that he knew his shirt situation: he had no shirts. "Yes," he told her, "Pete told me you bought two shirts for me this morning; hand them over..." The following day he returned to the store wearing a new shirt, and delivered his wife's message to me: not to give away secrets so close to Christmas!

As mentioned before, Art worked in the store after he finished school. One van driver had a bad habit of sam-

**JOHN J. TOEWS**  
KANE GARAGE  
GENERAL MERCHANT  
PHONE 322 R5 (ROLAND EXCH.)

Kane, Man., March 22 1957  
M. Henry Schellenberg  
Kane

1	cheese	16
2	1 drink	08
3	1 Bread	16
4	3 drinks	24
5	March 25	
6	cheese	24
7	March 29	
8	multi-use	
9	Enamel	95
10	April 3	
11	Raisins	50
12	wine	42
13	apples	48
14	1	3 23

© PAT. D. W. FRIESEN & SONS, LIMITED

**JOHN J. TOEWS**  
KANE GARAGE  
GENERAL MERCHANT  
PHONE 322 R5 (ROLAND EXCH.)

Kane, Man., April 5 1957  
M. Henry Schellenberg  
Kane 323

1	baster eggs	10
2	measuring tape	65
3	cheese	11
4	April 10	
5	cheese	12
6	butter	30
7	2 Battery	40
8	cheese	12
9	April 17	
10	1 pr. shoe laces	07
11	1 dozen oranges	50
12	peppermints	40
13	drink	3 08
14	2	6 08

© PAT. D. W. FRIESEN & SONS, LIMITED

**JOHN J. TOEWS**  
KANE GARAGE  
GENERAL MERCHANT  
PHONE 322 R5 (ROLAND EXCH.)

Kane, Man., June 17 1957  
M. Henry Schellenberg  
Kane 608

1	matches	03
2	drink	08
3	2 drink	16
4	3 drinks	24
5	drink	08
6	1 case drinks	2 24
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14	3	8 91

© PAT. D. W. FRIESEN & SONS, LIMITED

Everyone "charged" at the Kane Store and paid at the end of the month.

pling the peanuts that Art was displaying in a large glass jar. The lid was screwed on really tightly, but this customer was determined, thinking it was a great challenge. Art got some Lepage's glue and cemented the lid down. The van driver came in the next morning and, sure enough, he went for the peanut jar. He attempted, as he usually did, to open the jar, but it would not budge. He placed the jar between his legs and tried again, but finally had to admit defeat.

I came to Kane having no money. I was given a counter book and asked to mark down what I was in need of and took, and was told that this would be taken into account when I received my pay. Even petty cash was allowed to be taken out of the till in this manner. Several months went by and no pay was received nor offered. Finally, I got up enough nerve to inquire about the pay arrangement: when could I expect to be paid? "Well, do you need the money?" I was asked. "Keep track of what you have earned in wages, let me use your money, and I will pay you the interest you would receive if it was invested." At least I now knew where I was at, and had the same arrangement for many years.

The hours of work, at times, were somewhat flexible. At federal election time, I started serving as clerk. Then I was asked by the returning officer to serve as deputy returning officer at our local polling station, a position I held for several federal elections.

In 1958, Mr. Toews was given the contract to sell the full line of G. M. vehicles. After about a year and a half, we realized that this contract was not in our favour. Trades

were a problem and G. M. demands were tough, and therefore, the contract was refused. I purchased the last 1960 Pontiac from this contract.

About this time, 1959, the No. 23 Highway was upgraded, and after a few years it was cemented from Morris to Jordan. While preparing the grade through Kane, they took approximately 18 inches of gravel and dirt and put it on our implement display lot, building it up higher. In order to refill the grade with new clay, they offered to make the big dug-out north of the garage, and use the dirt for the new highway.

Mr. Toews eventually had had enough of business, and wanted to sell and retire to the farm about 3/4 mile west of the store and garage. No buyers were to be found, and so the offer to buy was presented to me. This meant making my first debt, something I might not be able to handle. The price was attractive, however, and the terms were very good. The company representatives for John Deere and Shell Canada knew me well enough by now that they did not hesitate to give me their contracts. So, on February 17, 1961, after having worked for the Toews family for about 19 years, I became the proud owner of the Kane Garage.

Up until the fall of 1959, the John Deere Co. supplied the two-cylinder tractors, and then in 1960, the four and six-cylinder tractors were made available. Ben Rempel was the mechanic Mr. Toews had hired at this time, when the new generation of tractors arrived, and Ben did a good job of servicing the tractors and combines for the time I had the John Deere contract.

## INSTALLMENT LIEN NOTE

11471847

PURCHASER'S NAME **JAKE BORN** MAILING ADDRESS **KANE MAN.** SEC. **5-2** TWP. **19** RGE. **2**

PURCHASER'S NAME **HENRY H. HILDEBRAND** MAILING ADDRESS **KANE MAN.** SEC. **5-2** TWP. **19** RGE. **2**

DATE OF ORDER **July 20/67** VENDOR'S NAME & ADDRESS **KANE GARAGE** **KANE MAN.**

HEREINAFTER CALLED THE VENDOR IS HEREBY REQUESTED BY THE UNDERSIGNED HEREINAFTER CALLED THE PURCHASER TO SHIP

ON OR ABOUT **July 20 1967** BUT NOT LATER THAN **AUG. 10 / 1967** TO **KANE** IN THE PROVINCE OF **MAN.**

THE MACHINERY LISTED HEREON WITH THE USUAL FIXTURES & EXTRAS, LISTED HEREON UPON WHICH THE PURCHASER AGREES TO PAY ALL FREIGHT AND CHARGES THEREON.

QTY.	MODEL, SIZE, DESCRIPTION	SERIAL NUMBER	CASH PRICE
1	'66 John Deere "95" Combine w/ 14' Platform, Cutting Parts, 110' Rich-Zip, Straw Chopper	<del>35149</del>	

On arrival of the said machinery at the point above named (or when the said machinery is available for delivery) the Purchaser agrees to take delivery of the same, subject to the terms and warranties herein, (pay the freight and charges thereon), and pay the Vendor for the same.

TRADE IN - DESCRIBE MODEL, YEAR, SERIAL NO. **1958 John Deere "82" Combine w/ Cutting Parts, Straw Chopper** **2950-**

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS: CASH OR CASH & TRADE AS LISTED ABOVE AND, WHEN APPLICABLE, GIVE IN SETTLEMENT AN INSTALLMENT LIEN NOTE BEARING INTEREST AT NO PERCENT PER ANNUM BEFORE MATURITY AND AT 12 PER CENT PER ANNUM AFTER MATURITY FROM DATE OF DELIVERY. PAYABLE AS DESCRIBED AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, DELIVER THE SECONDHAND MACHINERY LISTED ABOVE.

NO. OF PAY-T	TOTAL AMOUNT	DEFERRED BAL.	MOS.	DUE DATE	AMOUNT	CASH WITH ORD.	CASH ON DEL-Y	TOTAL DN. PAY-T	FINANCE CHARGE BEGINS	TOTAL TIME PRICE (LINE 5 + 10)
FIRST PAY-T DATE	LAST PAY-T DATE	1350		Apr. 1/68	1350			2950.-	July 1/68	
FIRST PAY-T DUE IS	REMAINING PAY-TS OF	5400		July 1/68	5400					
PAYMENTS ARE DUE EACH SUCCESSIVE MONTH ON THE SAME DAY OF THE MONTH AS THE FIRST PAY-T EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:		6750		TOTAL	6750					9700.-

1. INSTAL-LATION  
2. TRANS-PORTATION  
3. SALES TAX  
4. TOTAL CASH PRICE **9700.-**  
5. DOWN PAY-T **2950.-**  
6. LINE 4-5 BALANCE **6750.-**  
7. RECORDING FEE **-**  
8. LINE 6 + 7 DEFERRED BALANCE **-**  
9. BASED ON LINE 8 FINANCE CHARGE **-**  
10. LINE 8 + 9 TIME BALANCE **6750.-**

The Vendor does not give any warranties with the machinery, other than the following:  
(Here insert warranties, if any, given with the said machinery, as well as the name and address of the last previous purchaser.)

Kane Man.

LIEN NOTE: I (we) acknowledge receipt of the goods described above in the box entitled "MODEL, SIZE AND DESCRIPTION" (hereinafter called "the goods"). I (we) assent to the foregoing terms of the purchase order and the warranty, both of which are expressly made a part hereof and agree that same, together with the provisions of this note constitute the entire agreement between us. I (we) jointly and severally promise to pay to the Vendor or its order the amount designated above as the "TIME BALANCE". This amount shall be paid in the installments and on the dates shown in either or both of the boxes to the right hereof designated respectively "MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS" and "OTHER THAN MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS". Each installment hereof shall bear interest from maturity at the rate of 12% per annum.

(1) title, ownership, and right to possession of the Goods and all parts and accessories now or hereafter incorporated in or on such Goods by way of addition, accession or replacement shall remain in the Vendor until the indebtedness evidenced by this note and all interest shall be paid in money. If I (we) shall fail to pay any installment when due or if I (we) shall attempt to sell or encumber any interest in the Goods, remove them from Manitoba, institute or have instituted against me (us) proceedings under any bankruptcy or insolvency law, make an assignment for the benefit of creditors or fail to pay any taxes levied on the Goods, or if any attachment, execution, writ, etc., or other process is levied against any of my (our) property, or if for any reason the Vendor deems the debt or security unsafe, then it may immediately and without notice declare the entire balance of this note due and payable, together with all expenses of collection by suit or otherwise including reasonable attorney's fees. The Vendor may reduce the same to judgment without prejudice to or waiver of any other remedy provided by law or this note.

If any of the above events shall occur, I (we) agree to surrender possession of the Goods on demand, and the Vendor may enter upon my (our) premises to the full extent allowed by law and take possession thereof. Upon taking possession the Vendor may if permitted by law and in addition to any other remedies provided by law either:

(1) Notify me (us) that the Vendor accepts the Goods in full settlement of all my (our) obligations hereunder, retaining all payments theretofore made as liquidated damages for use and depreciation of the Goods.

(2) Sell the Goods at public or private sale, with or without notice to me (us). The Vendor may purchase the Goods at any such sale. The proceeds shall be applied, first, to the expenses incurred for repossessing, storing, reconditioning, and reselling the Goods plus reasonable attorney's fees, and, second to the principal and interest unpaid on this note. Any surplus shall be tendered to me (us). I (we) agree to pay immediately any balance remaining unpaid after the proceeds of sale have been so applied.

I (we) acknowledge that after delivery the Goods are held and used by me (us) at my (our) own risk and expense with no abatement in the obligations of this note on account of loss or damage to the Goods. I (we) shall settle all claims of any kind against Vendor directly with Vendor and if Vendor assigns this note, I (we) will not use any such claim as a defense, set off or counterclaim against any effort by the Vendor to collect the amount due on this note or to repossess the Goods. Waiver or condonation of any breach or default shall not constitute a waiver of any other or subsequent breach or default. Any provision hereof prohibited by law shall be ineffective to the extent of such prohibition only and shall not invalidate any other provision hereof. The Vendor may correct patent errors herein.

I (we) acknowledge receipt of the true copy hereof.

THIS LIEN NOTE IS TAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF "THE FARM IMPLEMENT ACT"

SECTION **19-5-2** TOWNSHIP/RANGE **19-5-2** TOWN/CITY **Kane** PROV. **Man.**

MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) **Kane Man.**

WITNESS **B. Harder** NOTE DATED AND SIGNED **Aug. 21 1967**

PURCHASER'S SIGNATURE **Jake Born**

PURCHASER'S SIGNATURE **H. Hildebrand**

## ASSIGNMENT:

I, **Kane Garage**, THE VENDOR REFERRED TO IN THE LIEN NOTE ON THE FACE HEREOF, HEREBY ASSIGN TO **JOHN DEERE LIMITED, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS**, THE SAID LIEN NOTE, INCLUDING ALL MY RIGHTS IN THE GOODS REFERRED TO THEREIN AND OF SEIZURE, RENEWAL AND SALE, AND ALL OTHER RIGHTS WITH REGARD TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SECURITY POSSESSED BY ME UNDER THE SAID LIEN NOTE.

DATED THIS **20** DAY OF **Aug.** 19 **67** (WITNESS) **D. Wiebe** VENDOR (ASSIGNOR) **B. Harder**

Jake Born and Hank Hildebrand purchased a 1966 combine (formerly Henry Schellenberg's) from Pete Harder and witnessed by Dave Wiebe in 1967.



*After the fire of the Kane John Deere Garage, October, 1972.*



*Supplies have just come in and the shelves are ready for the new stock.*

Dave Wiebe was a van driver in the 1960-61 term, and was willing to deliver Shell farm fuel to the customers between van duties. Realizing that I needed more of his time, he gave up his van route, and came to work for me full-time. Dave delivered fuel, set up equipment, loaded fertilizer, and in the later years, served in the store when I was away; he was truly a jack-of-all-trades. In 1991, after helping me for 30 years in a variety of capacities, he expressed the wish to retire.

On July 4, 1972, notice was received that my John Deere contract would not be renewed in October of that year. The John Deere parts were put into cartons in September, and were to be shipped back to Winnipeg. This shipment never happened...

On October 26, 1972, we all left the garage to go home to eat. My parents had come for supper that day, and we had just started eating when

I received a phone call informing me that the garage was burning. I ran over to the burning building, but could not enter to salvage anything. It was a complete loss, along with my half-ton truck inside and a customer's tractor that was being repaired. The fuel truck parked along side the building was also lost. After being employed for 11 years, Ben Rempel was dismissed following the loss of the garage and the John Deere contract. Fortunately, I was covered by insurance, and received the full value in money for my coverage. After hearing of our loss, the men of the Kronsart Mennonite Church, the church Marion and I had attended since we were married, came to Kane with trucks and tractors with loaders, and helped with the clean-up of the burned remains.

I had previously purchased the house west of the burned garage site as a home for my mechanic. This house had originally been the Woodvale School southwest of Kane, was then moved to Kane and remodelled to serve as a store, and then was renovated once more to serve as a home for the U.G.G. grain buyer. This house was now to become my office for the winter of 1972-1973. In 1973, Shell Canada moved in a small office from Swan Lake, and we worked out of it.

Back to the year 1960, when Mr. Toews was in the process of selling his business, the store was sold to J. E. Wiebe who operated it for twelve years before retiring to Morden. Not wanting the business in the store interrupted, Mr. Toews bought it again, made some improvements, and put it up for sale. Not finding a buyer, and knowing that I did not have a proper office, he approached me again, suggesting that I operate the store as well as the rest of the business from there. At the time, we were still selling Shell farm fuel and Cominco fertilizer. I did not want the store, knowing that the business was dwindling, and informed Mr. Toews that I did not want to consider it at even half the price he was asking, and needed to have for it. Again, I was given a price I could not refuse, so that on January 2, 1974, I took possession of the store.

By this time, I had already taken on the mail carrier job between Kane and Lowe Farm from J. E. Wiebe when he left in 1973. I continued with this until December 31, 1996, when I gave up my con-



*The Kane Store in the late 50's.*



*Father (John) and daughter (June) view the bandiwork of Henry Schellenberg after the facelift of the Kane Store in the mid 70's.*



*Pete Harder chats with two former teachers, Janet Bock and Louise (Kliwer) Enns in 1989.*

tract to Eleanor Rose. Another change that occurred two years earlier, in 1989, was that Shell Canada was forced, by the environmental agency, to close our bulk station. The tanks were getting old, and upgrading would be too costly.

During my time in Kane, I had the pleasure of serving several three-generation families, of which F. G. Blatz, Norman and Dulaney; Martin Penner, George and Corey are just two examples. I carried on business in the store by myself until June 30, 1992, at which time the entire business was permanently closed. So, after 50 great years of being involved in business in Kane, the business was now history...

### **KANE POST OFFICES** *from the National Archives of Canada*

(postmasters at Kane)	
Woodfield Fitz-Henry	1920-1924
Charles Edward Walsh	1924-1925
George Hardie	1925-1926
Charles Edward Walsh	1927-1930
Roylance de la Wyche	1930-1940
Jacob E. Hiebert	1940-1945
John Joseph Toews	1945-1962
John Erwen Wiebe	1962-1970

### **KANE AGRI SERVICES** *by Lawrence & Tammy Dyck*

In 1977 several local fellows decided there was a need for a full service farm supply outlet in the area and planning for it went into motion. It was decided the first place to begin was with an anhydrous ammonia site as more and more farmers were driving to Haskett, Carman or even St. Vincent, Minnesota, for this economical form of fertilizer. Pete Harder was approached to manage the facility, but after consulting with Cominco Fertilizers who said anhydrous ammonia was not feasible in this area, he decided to withdraw from the project. Several other partners were found and a site was purchased from Willis Glinz at the "corner" of Highway #23 and PR 336, and in August the tank was installed in quite muddy conditions. Kane Fertilizer and Chemical Co. Ltd. was in business.



*All you need to run a business.*



*Balancing the books at the end of the day.*



*The Kane Store, now the private home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Klassen, 1999. Barb Toews just picked up the mail at the boxes.*



*Tyler Friesen checks out the mail at Kane.*



*The "Hiebert Store" (NE 36-4-3W) in Kane. Jake E. and Gertrude Hiebert built the store during the depression years and sold it in the early 40's and moved to Alberta. Ernie and Anne Reimer owned and operated it during the war years. Peter L. and Helena Harder bought it in the mid 40's and sold out in 1953 and moved to B. C. Jacob P. Febr owned the store only for a few months and it burned down in June, 1953. The Febr's never lived in Kane.*

Title to the property took four years to get, due to a technicality and further plans were put on hold for the time being. In 1982, liquid fertilizer tanks were installed as liquid fertilizer gained in popularity. Custom application of liquid phosphate and NH<sub>3</sub> (double shooting) was also added to custom services of deep banding NH<sub>3</sub> already available since the company began.

In the early eighties when interest rates increased dramatically; our partners wanted out and so Lawrence and Tammy Dyck became sole owners of the company.

In 1985, as a result of a very wet fall when little fall fertilizing was done, a dry floater was purchased and was

on the go from dawn until after dusk during a very hectic spring season. In 1986, a blender for dry fertilizer was installed and custom blends based on soil sample results came into demand. An airseeder was also purchased and we could now offer the service of dry phosphate double shooting with anhydrous ammonia.

In 1989 the name of the company was changed to Kane Agri Services to reflect the growing number of services we were providing as well as to deflect the negative connotation of "chemicals" in the view of the general public.

In 1993 a Rogator was purchased and we could now



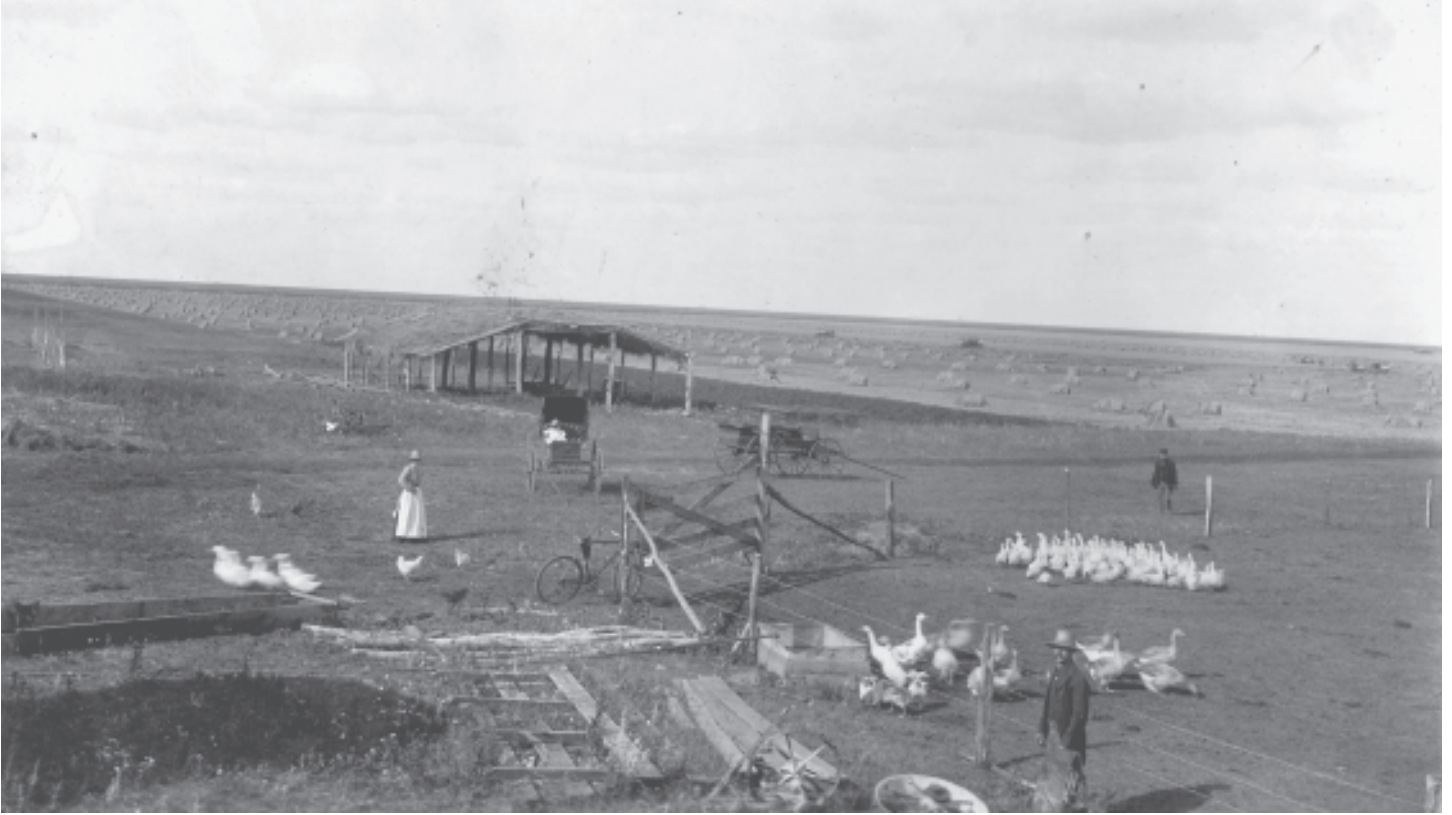
*The Agriculture Album*



*Four Deering binders that belonged to the Pfrimmer Brothers outfit, 1902. (l-r): Mannie (uncle to Don Pfrimmer), John (Don's grandfather; the homesteader), George (uncle to Don), Otto (uncle to Don), Ed (uncle to Don), William (Don's Dad).*



*Pfrimmer Brothers threshing outfit, 1902. William Pfrimmer (Don's Dad) standing far left, George is on the tractor, Andrew is holding the bar.*



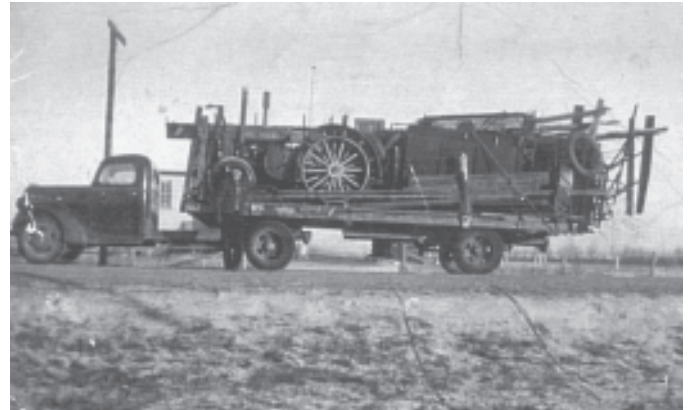
*Pfrimmer's land, acquired in 1900. George in foreground, John Pfrimmer at back, Eva in buggy.*



*Chester Crouch's Avery steamer pulling out trees in 1908.*



*Joseph White seeding in 1920 (south of Kane on NW 31-4-2W).*



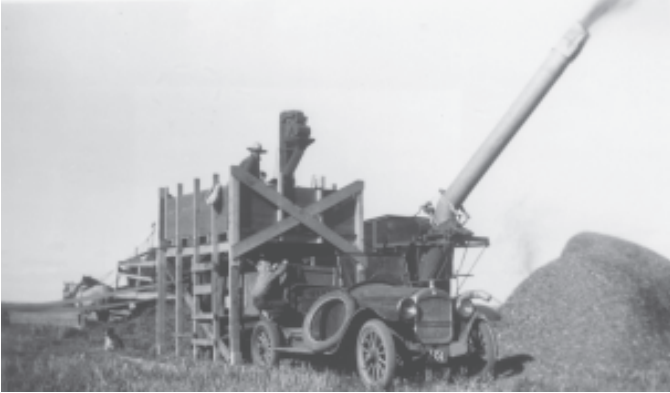
*Jacob E. Hiebert hauling farm machinery with his 2-ton Ford truck.*



*Elton Weaver with his dad, Thomas Weaver and Clarence Brice with their 10-foot power binder and tractor.*



*Abram A. Groening and his threshing crew, 1930.*



*Threshing time at the Henry Groening's.*



*George Neufeld hitching up the team to rake hay in the 'good old days'.*



*Frank G. Groening cultivating the field.*



*Jake Schellenberg on his new McCormick in 1934.*



*Jacob E. Hiebert's tractor needed some help in the spring seeding time, 1938.*



*John Schellenberg and his AR John Deere  
bought from J. J. Toews.*



*Ben Schellenberg and his new tractor.*



*Helen Thiessen (Jacob H.) helping out during harvest.*



*Donald Fredricksen with his Dad, Walt,  
and James T. Handlon, 1942.*



*Jake Born and Larry, 1942.*



*Abe Blatz sitting on the tractor seat, and brother Dan on the tractor in their beet field, 1942.*



*The Frank Groening farm.*



*Walt Fredricksen.*



*Connie and Steve Hildebrand and cousins on their 1938 International truck (formerly owned by John Toews and purchased new by J. T. Giesbrecht).*



*Jake Born and Larry pitching hay, 1949.*



*Jake Born on his new 4020 John Deere and new 14 foot McCormick Deering duplex cultivator, 1964 or 65.*



*Blatz/Hildebrand harvesting outfits in 1978.*



*Peter and Katie Ginter transporting their tiller to the garden on a stoneboat.*



*John Gerbrandt on his 2090 Case tractor pulling a 6601 John Deere combine, 1991.*



*Dr. C. W. Wiebe checking up on the relatives. (l-r): Ed H. Groening, Dr. Wiebe, Ralph Groening, 1991.*



*The first year the farmers had the "Tombstone scare" about the wheat being dangerous to bin. Dan Thiessen stored his wheat outside and is shown using the snow blower to feed it into the auger to load, winter of '95 or '96.*



*Ed, Ralph and Tim Groening and Bill Toews and families during harvest.*



*Curt Penner with his Challenger pulling a Bourgault airseeder, 1999.*

*The spirit  
lives on...*



*...in troubled  
times*

## WORLD WAR II

1939-1945

*from Furrows in the Valley*

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, and when German U Boats sank the British liner "Athena", Britain went to war. The Canadian Parliament, under McKenzie King, met to discuss the situation and on Sunday, September 10, 1939, Canada made her own declaration of war for the first time.

The war caused troubled times in Canada. In May, 1942, the "Battle of the St. Lawrence" began when a British steamer was sunk in the Gulf. This continued until October of that year, costing 700 lives and 23 ships. Early in June, the Japanese landed in the Alaskan Islands, and on the 20th of that month, a point on Vancouver Island was shelled by a Japanese submarine. Fear of invasion by Japan spread on the west coast.

Canadians continued to fight in the thick of the war, and suffered heavy losses in the raid on Dieppe, and in other battles. On April 28, 1945, Mussolini was captured and executed, and two days later, Hitler committed suicide. On May 4, German forces surrendered and the Canadians ceased fire. On May 8, in Feims, France, the surrender was signed - and VE day brought celebrations around the world. The battle in the Pacific was still raging, until August 14, 1945, when Japan surrendered. It had cost them dearly. The United States had dropped two atomic bombs on Hiroshima, Japan. The war was over.

The Second World War destroyed more life and property than any other war in history. At least 17 million men died on battlefields, and an equal number of civilians were killed. The war had cost Canada almost \$19 billion, but at the same time, she had become one of the three top leading nations of the world.

Thousands of veterans returned from Europe, and were welcomed home warmly, some bringing war brides from Europe. But 42,000 fighting men would not be returning to Canadian soil. They paid the ultimate sacrifice, and rest in the soil of lands across the sea.



*Jim Cowie during World War I.*



*Bill Schellenberg  
(husband to Evelyn Jack)  
joined RCAF in 1940.*



*Bill Schellenberg's plane crashed on the edge of a ravine at La Riviere, MB., during training. The whole crew escaped unharmed, 1943.*



*Two Penner brothers, Leonard (l) and Harold (r)  
with a friend, WWII.*



*Cameron Hyde.*



*Tom White. WWII.*



*Tom White and Harold Penner at the Kane Store.*



*John Braun.*



*Harry Braun.*



*Sisters Liddy and Ellen Groening with brothers Dave and Neil Thiessen.*



*Dave Thiessen off to Africa, Italy & Europe with Scottish Regiment of Canada, 1943.*



*Frank Giesbrecht, 1943.*



*Abe Blatz served in the Canadian Army Corps from 1943-1946.*

## **A CLOSE CALL**

*by Helen Penner*

John W. Penner enlisted in 1941, and was trained as a navigator at the RCAF base at Portage la Prairie. He went overseas and was attached to a RAF crew in England, with John being the only Canadian.

He flew many missions and on one trip their plane was hit, killing one crew member and seriously wounding their pilot. John attended to the pilot's wounds and put the pilot's leg up on his shoulder, enabling him to fly their plane back to England, where it crash-landed. John received a slight wound on his thigh. The pilot never flew again. John was transferred to another crew and flew with them until the war ended in Europe.

He was told to report for duty in the Middle East and was given a leave to visit his parents at Kane. While at home he got the news that the war was over.

John returned to the career he always wanted — "farming".

## **THE C.O.'s STORY**

*from Furrows in the Valley*

On September 10, 1939, Canada declared war on Germany. In June 1941, the government announced that Alternative Service would be provided. It was a form of national service which the Canadian government required of Conscientious Objectors (C.O.'s) in lieu of military training or service. The Canadian Government respected the C.O.'s objections to war, and made provision for exemp-



*Pilot Officer John William Penner (third from left) with his new crew after the air attack.*



*Henry Schellenberg spent four winters in CO Camps and worked on farms in the summer as a CO. Logging equipment at National Mills on Man/Sask. border, 1942-43.*



*Ministers of the Sommerfelder Church came visiting the CO boys at National Mills. Rev. Jacob Unrau on the right, 1942-43.*




*Beinfelt Coal Mine, Sask., 1943-44.*



*Henry Schellenberg helped load this truck at a CO Camp in 1944-45.*



*The Lumber Camp at Kapuskasing, Ontario. The men are thawing their frozen lunch over a fire, 1945-46.*



OTTAWA, March 27, 1946.

**N O T I C E**  
To  
Postponed Conscientious Objectors in Agriculture

---

Because of the urgent need for increased agricultural production and in view of the impending shortage of agricultural workers, I have been authorized to notify each postponed conscientious objector presently engaged in agriculture as follows:

As an incentive to stimulate agricultural production, the final employment period for which a payment to the Canadian Red Cross Society is required from a postponed conscientious objector while he is engaged in agriculture is that employment period ending March 31st 1946.

In the event that a postponed conscientious objector leaves his employment in agriculture without the consent of his Divisional Alternative Service Officer, he immediately becomes subject to Red Cross deductions from his earnings.

*G. R. Carroll*

G. R. Carroll,  
A/Chief Alternative Service Officer.

tion by order-in-council in 1873. *Any person bearing a certificate declaring his doctrine of religion is adverse to bearing arms, and refuses military service, shall be exempt.*

The C.O.'s came from the United Church of Canada, Seventh Day Adventist, Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals, Nazarenes, Friends, Christian Science, Plymouth Brethren, Methodist, but the majority were Mennonites. This was an unpopular cause at a crucial time in Canadian History, but it is known that the C.O.'s made an important contribution to the Canadian economy.

Millions of cedar, fir and hemlock were planted in the forest of British Columbia by the C.O.'s. Some served

in the Medical Corps as hospital orderlies or stretcher bearers. They were engaged in fighting forest fires, in the logging industry, tree nursery work, fuel wood cutting, unloading and loading grain at the Lakehead, and in some instances, as emergency farm workers, for the production of food.

The average C.O. was entirely sincere in his desire to do anything short of actual combat duties to be of service to his country in wartime. Of the C.O.'s wages, he could keep 50¢ a day for himself. A married man received an additional \$5-\$10 a month allowance, with \$5 for each additional child. They were paid the going rate for their jobs, but the employers were required to divert the rest of their earnings to the Red Cross; this money came at a great time of need. The total amount paid to the Red Cross in Manitoba alone from C.O.'s to the end of 1945, was over \$650,000. Manitoba had the highest number of C.O.'s in the country, over 3,000 in World War II.

### C. O. REUNION

*Kane News: from The Echo*

Sunday, September 13, 1981, dawned a beautiful day and soon the Kane Community Centre was buzzing with C.O.'s (Conscientious Objectors) and their wives who had come to celebrate the 40th anniversary since they had served together in places like Clear Lake, Manitoba; National Mills Lumber Camp; Radium Hot Springs, B.C.; Campbell River, B.C.; and others. They came from Swan River, Austin, Halbstadt, Gretna, Rosenfeld, Altona, Plum Coulee, Winkler, Manitou, Winnipeg, Lowe Farm, Morris, Morden, Riverton, Horndean, Gladstone, Crystal City, Thornhill, Boissevain, Carman and one couple came from Paraguay, S. A. Some 160-170 people had gathered.

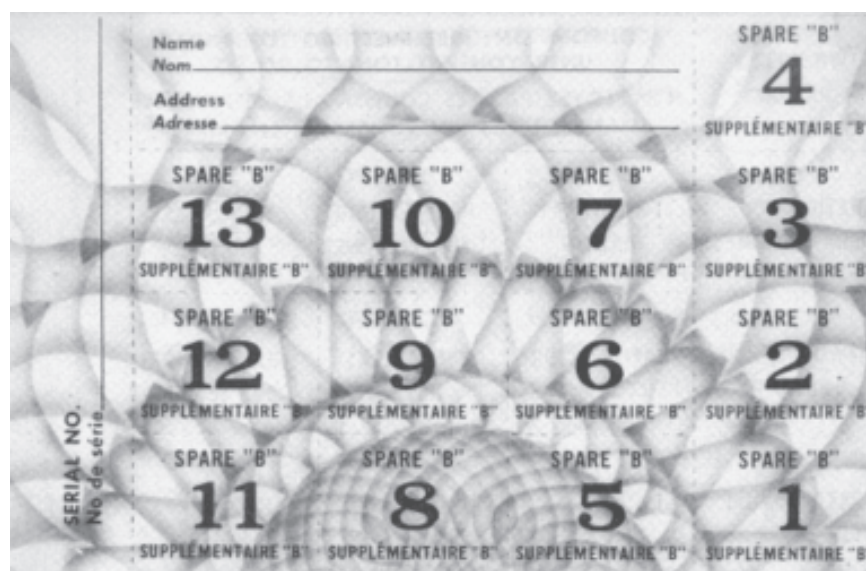
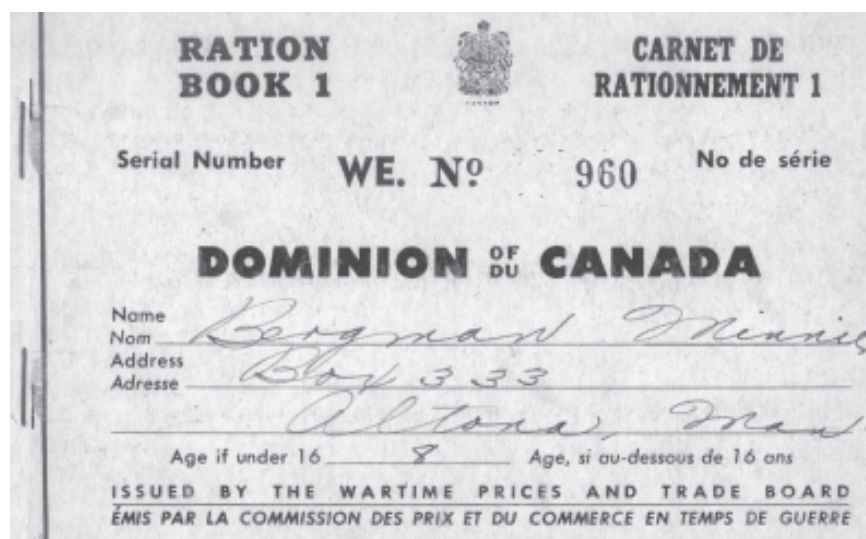
The planning and welcoming committee for this reunion were Mr. and Mrs. Jake Unrau, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Klassen and Mr. and Mrs. Anton Dyck.

### AT THE HOME FRONT

*from Furrows in the Valley*

Iron and steel were in short supply, as were rubber and silk. Scrap drives cleared the countryside as people donated any useable items for the war effort. Gasoline for cars was rationed, as well as other commodities such as tea, coffee, sugar, jam, preserves, butter and meat. In 1942, everyone was issued ration books. Canned goods disappeared from store shelves.

At home, the war years were not happy times. Everyone had a relative or friend who was in the armed services. Many women did knitting for the Red Cross, making useful things for the boys overseas. Other items sent to the boys were pure chocolate bars, and soap to wash hands and clothes. Locally, many people worked to present concerts to raise money for the Red Cross, and for Milk for Britain. "Red Cross" programs were held once a month in the schools.



*World War II Ration Book belonging to Minnie (Bergman) Penner, formerly of Kane.*



*Gertrude Schellenberg was employed with the Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services from 1953-1958.*

## PRISONERS OF WAR

*by Dora Hildebrand*

An Internment Camp for the German Prisoners of War (POW) was temporarily set up three miles west of Kane where the #23 Highway and the Lateral Ditch meet. There was a good sized dugout at that location supplying the CNR locomotives with water from the water tower which had been built for that purpose. According to Lena Schellenberg's diary, the prisoners came on September 20, 1946, and left that November 23. During this time, they helped with the beet harvest in the local farmers' fields.

The prisoners were treated very well by the Canadians. They had the freedom to visit homes in the area (without a guard), and often went to the Peter & Katrina Schellenberg home, just a mile south. Here they enjoyed the waffles, pancakes and other Mennonite foods, along with good fellowship!

One special friend, Joe Wimmer, visited the Schellenbergs 35 times during his short stay in the tent camp. After the war, in 1963, he came back to the Schellenbergs for a visit, just as he had promised he would



*German POWs harvesting beets at the John J. Toews farm, 1946.*



*Joseph Wimmer, POW at Kane in 1946, and good friend of the Schellenberg family. Picture was taken in 1963 when Joseph Wimmer of the Congregation of Alexian Brothers, USA, came to visit the Schellenbergs.*

when a free man. He was on the way to California to make an inspection to see if it was necessary to build a large nursing home for Catholic men. Joe was the Rector General of the Congregation Of Alexian Brothers out of Tennessee at that time. "He was a real Christian," said Lena, and sister Anne nodded in agreement.

It was not an uncommon sight for about a half dozen German prisoners to stroll into the Kane School for a Sunday morning church service, especially if it was in German. The prisoners were in uniform, but had a guard with them in such a public place.

The officer's tent caught fire late that fall of 1946, and because of this incident and the cold, the camp moved to Shilo, Manitoba.

A few prisoners went to the Weaver farm where they stayed until the beet harvest was finished. Mr. Elton Weaver says they had a guard at each end of the field with orders

to shoot if they got out of line. The POW's all wore blue uniforms with a big red circle on the back. According to Elton, these prisoners were well educated men and some of them had made a number of sortie flights over Britain during the German attack in the Second World War.

In the summer of 1989 when Don Pfrimmer was working the land in the area of the water tower, he dug up a beet knife which the prisoners had left behind over a half century ago! The POW's, the tent camp, the large pond, and even the water tower are all gone, and the present generation has no idea what happened right here at home during the war years unless we tell them.

## THE COMING OF THE JAPANESE

*by Dora Hildebrand*

Due to the threat of invasion by Japan during the Second World War, all people of Japanese descent within 20 miles of the west coast were sent inland. They were told by the British Columbia Security Commission (BCSC) that "when the train arrived on Friday, they had better be on it" and each family was allowed only 150 pounds of luggage. They made a list of all their possessions (that were left behind), thinking that they would return in a few months, and left it with the BCSC. They could lock the doors, but were not allowed to board up the windows. As a result in some cases, their possessions disappeared the second day after they left! Their white British Columbia neighbours did not approve of this.

The Japanese had a choice - move to the prairies and work on the farms or go to the Concentration Camp, where the families would likely be split up. Many came to Manitoba and a camp was set up at the Thomas Weaver farm on Section 11, and one at the George Miller farm on Section 5.

Mr. Thomas Weaver got his Japanese workers through the Sugar Beet Company. They had six families from Hainy, B.C. They came in April of 1942 and stayed until 1944 inclusive. The Weavers built houses for them, one on Section 23 and two on the home place on Section 11. They also moved another two buildings

to this location. The Japanese had been market gardeners on the West Coast; some growing strawberries, and one family had a hatchery selling day old chicks to the Hambly Hatchery in Winnipeg. In fact one of their boys went to work for the Hamblys when they arrived in Winnipeg. (Elton believes this family had been better off financially in British Columbia, than the Weavers were!)

The Japanese at Weavers worked mainly in the beets, but also drove tractors and did other farm work, as the Weavers worked about 1200 acres at that time. The wage was set by the BCSC and the workers were self-supporting. Elton remembers going to Winnipeg to shop at the wholesalers for their groceries. The Japanese could move around and visit other camps, but had to have permission. The children went to the Myrtle School.

Some family names of the Japanese working at the Weavers were: Sakiyama, Turmers, Suzuki, Fruhacowes, Odaguchi. The Suzuki's had left a brand new tractor behind. The Sakiyama family had a \$40,000 home in B.C. that was sold for \$5,000 by the B.C. Security Commission, which they then kept. When Mr. Weaver was asked if the Japanese were bitter about the whole matter, he shook his head and said he didn't think so. They didn't seem to want to go back to British Columbia, and after the war some went to Carman, some to Ontario, and one man, Miniruh Odaguchi, is retired in Winnipeg. Elton Weaver still has occasional contact with him.



*Four Japanese families lived on the Weaver farm on Section 11. The low buildings on the right were their homes.*



*Schowichi Ito of the Japanese family that worked for the Millers on Section 5, attended the Kane School during the 1941-43 school years. Schowichi is the fourth pupil from the left, in the first row.*

The Millers also had six families at their farm, but they stayed less than two years. They worked mostly in the beets, since Mr. Miller had 160 acres of beets that year. "They were big people and all the guys could drive trucks," recalls Elton. "This group came from the B.C. bush country and were used to hauling timber," he added. One family name was Ito and they had a son attending the Kane School during the 1941-43 school years.



*Young Japanese fellows meet the Kane gals.*

## THE PEACE HYMN

God of the nations, near and far,  
Ruler of all mankind,  
Bless Thou thy people as they strive,  
The paths of peace to find.

The clash of arms still shakes the sky,  
King battles still with king  
Wild through the frightened air of night  
The bloody tocsins ring.

But clearer far the friendly speech  
Of scientists and seers,  
The wise debate of statesmen and  
The shout of pioneers.

And stronger far the clasped hands  
Of labours teaming throngs,  
Who in a hundred tongues repeat  
Their common creeds and songs.

O Father, from the curse of war,  
We pray thee give release,  
And speed, oh speed the blessed day  
Of Justice, Love, and Peace.

*Author Unknown*

*The spirit  
lives on...*



*...in the hearts  
of Rose Farm*

## PIONEERS OF ROSE FARM

*by the late Dan G. Blatz  
and as researched by Art Hiebert*

To write the history of the Rose Farm District No. 1577, one has to go back a bit and reminisce.

A Mr. Rose settled in the district sometime in the 1870's. It is said he homesteaded on section 17-4-2W or received it as a grant. He must have had good financial backing, or was rich in his own right. He put up very large buildings including two large dwellings, one for the boss and one for the hired man. He also put up one large barn for horses and cattle, one sheep shed and one large machine shed. He brought in two big stationary steam engines, which had to be pulled across each end of the field by horses or oxen. Each had a winch on the front with a 1/4 mile chain attached to pull a turn over plow across the fields. This was very inconvenient. It is said they farmed in midsummer, due to wet weather and marshy land. The crops froze most years. This area was referred to by the people as the Big Marsh Country. I remember as a young lad, in 1917, my brother and the Gluck boys who lived there, hauled those chains to Kane siding to be shipped to the smelters for the war effort. They used four horses and four mules on each wagon with a shallow box. Cables had not been invented at the time.

This farm was used by the incoming settlers to live in, until their own buildings were ready to move into. My folks said, when they moved in fall, that they lived there until the next summer. At that time there were four families beside the De Fehr's, who farmed only a small acreage. The rest was rented to other settlers for crops, hay land and pasture. The whole country was virgin prairie.

Other earlier settlers in the district came from further west to settle here. Most came from old Ontario to Roland and Carman area, where they had relatives. They came to settle on the edge of the marsh. Mr. Jim Brooks settled on section 7-4-2W, Ward Brooks on section 6-4-2W and Frank McLean and brother Tom on south half of section 18-4-2W. A Mr. Ted Service settled on SW 20-4-2W. Jim Brooks was the first in the district in 1891. The McLeans and Service came the next year or so, along with the Frank J. De Fehrs. Other settlers filled up the area from 1895 on. Tom Chisholm came to J. Brooks farm from Scotland, to be his foreman for eleven years (1905-1916). He joined the army for World War I and when it was over, he stayed in Scotland.

Mr. Brooks was the first breeder of mules in the district. We lived one and a half miles east from his place. Some clear mornings you could hear his burro or jackass, braying all over the country. (jackass is the daddy to the mule). It was said the mule skinnners needed a special place in Heaven because they are tough animals to drive. The first thing the settlers did was plant trees; cottonwood, poplar, maple and ash were fast growing. Wild plums and wild strawberries grew on the prairies or pastures.

Uncle Daniel Blatz and family homesteaded on NW 16-4-2W, his son-in-law Isaac Dyck on NE 16-4-2W, in 1895. Our parents, the Jacob Blatz's and family and Uncle John Blatz settled on NW 9-4-2W in 1896. Later, Dad bought the southwest quarter of 9-4-2W.

Derk Boldt came in 1896, and settled on SW 16-4-2W, and 10-4-2W. The Peters brothers came in 1897. They built a grist mill, wind driven, for grinding grain for surrounding neighbours. They moved to Saskatchewan with the Daniel Blatz family in 1908-1909. They had lived on SE 16-4-2W.

The Abram Groening family settled on section 21-4-2W in 1897-1898. This section was later subdivided among their four children, namely the Peter Funks (daughter) 1898, the Henry Groenings 1900, the Abram Groenings Jr. 1905 and Helen Groening, later married to Cornelius Wiebe in 1916, who practised as Doctor in Winkler.

The Frank Giesbrecht family came to settle on section 15-4-2W, in 1897. Four unmarried children came with them. They had a total of eleven children. The others had married earlier and five of them came to settle in Rose Farm area eventually. Jacob Blatz (Aganetha Giesbrecht) 1896, on 9-4-2W; John Giesbrecht on 16-4-2W; Frank Giesbrecht 1914, on 4-4-2W; Jacob Groening (Katherine Giesbrecht) 1900 on 28-4-2W; and David Unrau (Maria Giesbrecht) 1910 on 28-4-2W.

## ROSE FARM SCHOOL DISTRICT

No. 1577

*by the late Dan G. Blatz  
and as researched by Art Hiebert*

The early settlers had no trouble naming their school after the first settler's name. Rose Farm was born in 1897, and continued until 1965, as District No. 1577. The rate payers bought two acres from our father, Jacob Blatz, on the northeast corner of our homestead, one acre for a school, and one acre for a cemetery, which was incorporated and is used to this day. Some families have four generations buried here.

The first school building was about 24 by 30. The north end was used by the teacher, center used as a hall, and south as the school. The school was moved from this location in about 1912 to the northwest corner of SW 9-4-2W. The old one was used as a teacherage, and a new school was built in 1913, which served until 1950. The school, at times, had 63 pupils. There were three rows of benches, with three to a bench. We learned our three R's together, with many cousins. Education was not taught just with a pencil and book.

In 1950, a new modern school was built, with full basement, hydro and furnace. High school education was hard to come by, as the town schools were full. In 1953, we organized a Continuation School with a classroom in the basement. There were eighteen students from Rose Farm, Melba, and Bloomfield Districts, taking grades nine to eleven. Mr. Abe Heide, from Horndean, was principal



*Rose Farm School in the early twenties with Peter Giesbrecht as teacher. Families represented include John and Frank Giesbrecht, three Friesen families, two Bergman families, Widow Dyck, Peter Dyck, J. Abrams, D. and Jake Harder, D. Penner, Jacob Blatz and Ben Toews.*



*The Rose Farm School (1913-1950) was purchased by a local resident, moved onto his property a half mile east of the Rose Farm Church, and made into a private home.*

for seven years, until the larger school division came in and the High School was transferred to Kane. In 1965, Rose Farm School closed it's doors. The school had stayed in operation for about seventy years, and taught an average of forty students per year.

The first trustees for the district varied a lot, as people moved in and out. My father, Jacob Blatz, served many years. Mr. Peter Bergman usually served as secretary, as the minutes were in the German language until about 1911.



*Miss Alvina Kroeker, teacher at the Rose Farm School from 1953-1956.*

When the first up to date school registers were brought from the Department of Education, the bare minimum of minutes were kept. From then on, we had bilingual education until the late 1920's - English and German. I remember the English-German dictionary was standard equipment. The subjects were reading, writing, and arithmetic, plus religious instruction. The Bible and Catechism were used as textbooks, as well as German storybooks. By 1910, English was used extensively. The teachers who taught, started to vary. Mr. Peter Epp taught for two years. Mr. Jacob Loepky taught one year, Mr. Bernard Wiebe, three years, Mr. Cornelius Ginter, two years, Mr. Cornelius Harms, two years, Mr. Henry Hildebrandt, two years and Mr. Peter Voth, four years. These were the teachers who taught from 1897-1913. During this period the school was classified as a private school. When World War I came along, the Department of Education tried to put in an official trustee, which was rejected by the ratepayers. They took the stand. They had managed so far and they could manage in the future; hiring teachers, etc. They organized a fully integrated school and had been such until it closed its doors in 1965.



*The new Rose Farm School built in 1950,  
with the elementary class of 1964.*

#### Period from 1911-1965 (54 years)

##### Secretaries and years of service

Mr. Peter Bergman	10 years
Mr. Isaac Brown	10 years
Mr. John Penner	10 years
Mr. Jacob Dueck	4 years
Mr. Anton Penner	10 years
Mr. Abram Groening	4 years
Mr. Martin Hiebert	6 years



The total number of teachers who taught in this school was about 32. The shortest time taught was by Miss Gertrude Giesbrecht, from January 1914, until June. She married Mr. Isaac Brown. The longest time taught was by Mr. Peter Giesbrecht for six and a half years from 1918-1926. Mr. Abe Heide taught high school from 1953-1959.

A list of teachers who taught from 1914-1965, along with their qualifications:

Miss Gertrude Giesbrecht 1914  
grade nine and teaching permit  
Mr. Jake N. Giesbrecht 1914-1917  
grade eleven and Normal School  
Miss Sarah Giesbrecht 1917-1918  
grade nine and permit  
Mr. Peter Giesbrecht 1918-1925  
grade seven and permit  
Miss Anne Friesen 1925-1926  
grade ten and permit  
Miss Helen Janzen 1926-1927  
grade eleven and permit  
Mr. John Bock 1927-1928  
grade ten and permit  
Miss Helen Warkentine 1928-1929  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. Henry Schellenberg 1929-1931  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. Gustav Penner 1931-1935  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. Bill Born 1935-1939  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. John Wiebe 1939-1940  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. Bill Born 1940-1942  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mrs. Susan Driedger 1942-1947  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Miss Evelyn Giesbrecht 1947-1948  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Miss Margaret Bergen 1948-1949  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. George Groening 1949-1952  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. Dave Friesen 1952-1953  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Miss Alvina Kroeker 1953-1956  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. Otto Toews 1956-1957  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Miss Esther Friesen 1957-1959  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Miss Hilda Dyck 1959-1960  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. John Zacharias 1960-1963  
grade twelve and Normal School  
Mr. John Hildebrand 1963-1964  
grade twelve and Normal School

Mr. Henry Dueck 1964-1965

grade twelve and Normal School

Mr. Abe Heide 1953-1959

grade twelve and Normal School

some University courses

principal/teacher: grade nine-eleven

## ROSE FARM HIGH SCHOOL

*by Abe Heide*



*Abe and Eva Heide, 1947.*

The Rose Farm School operated as a one-room rural school until the summer of 1953, when the lower room (the basement) was changed to serve as another classroom. Bookshelves, equipment shelves, desks, and other items were obtained. This new classroom served as the one-room high school from September 1953 to June 1959 - six school years.

In the years prior to 1953, students from the district that wished to continue their education, needed to do so by correspondence with the Manitoba Department of Education, or by leaving home and attending an established high school elsewhere. The need to provide further education had become a high priority within the district. The discussion about having their own high school had been going on for several years before it became a reality. The people wanted a high school, but they also wanted to



*Rose Farm High School: Helena Penner, Bernice Giesbrecht, Burton Groening, John Hildebrand, Linda Groening, Jake Froese, Mildred Penner, Minnie Bergman, Art Harder, Harry Bergman, Catherine Hildebrand, Evelyn Harder, John Hoeppner, Margaret Dyck, Martha Froese, 1956.*



*School Friends: Irma Bergman, Phyllis Penner, Helena Penner, Eva Froese, Margaret Groening, Mildred Penner, Nora Bergman, 1957-58.*

have their sons and daughters at home as long as possible.

In January of 1953, the three members of the school board of the Rose Farm S.D. came to visit me at the one room school near Rosenfeld, where I was teaching. They asked me if I would be willing to come to Rose Farm, and be their high school teacher for all the subjects in grades nine, ten and eleven. I was quite shocked at this offer, but I accepted their invitation. I have never regretted this move even though it frightened me at that time. The attitude towards learning was excellent in the young people that came to be my students. In retrospect, those six years at Rose Farm come back to my mind as having been "The good old days".

During the first of the six years, there were grade nine and ten students only. After that year, we had all three grades with anywhere from two to eight students in each grade. The total yearly enrollment varied from a low of thirteen, to a high of eighteen students. With each grade taking six or seven subjects, there would have to be fifteen to twenty class periods per day for the teacher, each with an average length of about fifteen minutes duration. It was a busy time and it could not have succeeded without the cooperation of the students and their excellent work habits.

Keeping the required work up to date needed a strong determination from everyone. But we did have our lighter moments as well. Our fifteen minute recess periods at 10:30 in the mornings and at 2:30 in the afternoons were spent in different ways. Baseball, flag football, volleyball, table tennis were some of our favorite pastimes, although there were others as well. Both the girls and the boys were involved in most of these activities. We occasionally competed against neighboring towns such as Horndean, Plum Coulee, Kane and Lowe Farm.

During the years of the operation of this high school, the Department of Education conducted a large number of final examinations for all high school grades. Grade nine students were required to write only one such paper which was mailed to the department and marked by their markers. Grade tens wrote these exams in five subjects. The teachers of the high schools were sent a copy of the answer key for each subject, and were required to do their own marking. All grade eleven students wrote a department exam for each of the subjects that they were taking. All the marking and grading was also done by the department.

During the school year from 1958 to 1959, a province wide campaign was being conducted by the Manitoba Department of Education for the vote on whether or not the people of the province would be willing to accept the larger School Division for administering the schools of the province, rather than the tiny school districts. Rose Farm was only one of hundreds of small school districts in the province. If this method of school administration were to be adopted, Rose Farm would become part of the Morris-Macdonald School Division. During this campaign period it became very evident that the voters in the area



*1955 Graduation: Abe Penner, John Dyck, Henry Dyck, Raymond Penner, Hilda Bergman, Sarah Froese, Leona Ginter.*



*Rose Farm High School, fall of 1957.*



*1958 Graduation: Art Harder, Harry Bergman, Mildred Penner, Tony Kahn, Phyllis Penner, John Hildebrand, Helena Penner.*

were still very eager to keep the operation of the school in local control. In the vote count in this district, there were only three votes in favour of the new plan. All the others were opposed. However, with the vote in the whole of Morris-Macdonald, the vote carried.

For a few years, the high school students were bussed to Lowe Farm. Later, all of the high school students of Rose Farm, Kane, and Lowe Farm were taken to Morris. Later, even the students in Grades one to eight from Kane and Rose Farm were taken to Lowe Farm.



*Rose Farm High School outing, spring of 1959. Standing: Mrs. Abram Hildebrand, Abe Heide (teacher), Virginia Brown, Ray Hildebrand, George Braun, John Hildebrand, Irma Bergman, Eva Froese, Bill Driedger. Sitting: Eva Heide (teacher's wife), Nora Bergman, Margaret Groening, Maureen Blatz.*



*Rose Farm High School van at Kane School in spring of 1960. Shirley Hildebrand, Katherine Heppner, John Hildebrand, Nora Bergman, Mr. Frank Bergman (driver), Judy Blatz, George Braun, Virginia Brown.*

**ROSE FARM EMMC**  
(Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference)  
*as researched by Art Hiebert*



*Sunday School class, taken in the early thirties, at the Rose Farm School.*

So much lies buried in the past at Rose Farm! For many people, Rose Farm has been the hub around which, at least, part of their lives have rotated. Only a remnant remains rooted in the soil which gave rise to the Rose Farm Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference (EMMC). For most of us, Rose Farm is a memory - a constellation of memories - locked into the recesses of our hearts.

Mennonite settlers first came to the Rose Farm region in the 1890's. By the mid-1930's, Mennonite churches in the region included the Mennonite Brethren Church at Grosseweide, the Berghaler Mennonite Church in Lowe Farm, and the Sommerfelder Mennonite Church at Kronsweide. A Sunday School which had been started in the Rose Farm School in the 1920's, by Rev. Peter Gerbrandt was continuing to operate.

The revival movement that swept across Southern Manitoba in the 1930's was fueled, no doubt, by the traumatic migrations of the Mennonites to and from Canada in the 1920's and the devastating depression of the following decade. By the time the winds of renewal had subsided, a new church had been born; "Die Rudnerweider Mennoniten Gemeinde". Eleven hundred members had left the Sommerfelder Church to form their own fellowship.

During the summer of 1937, many of these families met in barns, granaries, or even in the open, since they had no church buildings of their own. In the Rose Farm area, a group gathered in the barn of the John P. Dyck farm for the first time on May 6. Planks, covered with building paper, served as benches. Those who remember these meetings do so with a great deal of nostalgia.

Throughout that summer, plans were being made to build a Rudnerweider Church at Rose Farm. Everyone knew that the barn would serve only for the summer. A committee of three; Jacob Gerbrandt, Bernhard Hildebrand and John P. Dyck, were chosen to direct the project. John P. Giesbrecht donated a piece of land, and construction began. There was some debate about whether or not to have a slanted floor. Some felt it would resemble a movie theatre too much, but in the end the floor was sloped. Winter was already closing in when the roof was put on, but by late December, the building was done. It was dedi-

cated at a special service on December 20, 1937.

Already that spring, Jacob P. Bergen of Kronsweide had been elected as a minister. However, as was custom in those years, ministers travelled to all Rudnerweider locals on a circuit so that a resident minister was away from home frequently. The following year, 1938, Jacob P. Gerbrandt, of Kronsweide was elected as well. A few years later George Froese, who had been elected as minister in 1937, in the Winkler area, moved to the Melba District.

The original building had no basement. In 1946, a basement was built and the church moved onto it. That same year, the Sunday School moved from the school to the church. For the next twenty years, the Sunday School was in the basement during the same hours as the worship service for adults in the main sanctuary. In 1966, this was changed so that Sunday School classes were held for all ages in the first hour, followed by an hour of worship for everyone.

The local choir was started in the school in 1941 by George Brown. In 1947, Ervin Groening took over. In 1950, the choir was moved to the church and thus became less of a community choir. Ed Penner became the choir leader in 1955, and was in charge until the church closed.

By 1953, none of the early ministers were left at Rose Farm. The Bergens had moved to British Columbia, George Froese had been killed in a train accident in 1947, and the Gerbrandts had moved to Altona. To meet the need for local leadership, Corny Harder, who had been chosen as a local deacon in 1951, was called to the ministry. He served as the resident minister, travelling the circuit. After the formation of the Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference (EMMC) in 1959, the new localizing trend allowed Harder to stay at Rose Farm more often. He served until 1965, when he was called to serve in the Austin EMMC Church. The following year Norman Groening was elected as the local minister, and was ordained on April 23, 1967.

By the mid-1970's, various pressures combined to bring about the decision to close the church. With a declining rural population, it was increasingly difficult to keep up attendance and a full program of activities. On May 4, 1975, the church held a closing Thanksgiving service. It was a memorable occasion, as the many who had touched base with the Rose Farm Church some time in their lives came to celebrate 38 years of God's faithfulness.

Now, the Rose Farm EMMC lives on in the memories of those who knew her. There are memories of the ministry of Rudnerweider ministers in regular services, and special week-long services in January. Who could ever forget the "Jugendverein" programs, the Christmas programs, and the Sunday School picnics? What about the missionary conferences, the Thanksgiving services, and the choir socials, or memories of conversions, rededications, tragedies and heartaches.

But more than that, Rose Farm lives on in the lives and ministries of those who have spread around the world, from this country church on the Canadian prairies. In the old church, we used to sing, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through..." We are reminded today that we are pilgrims on a journey. Our situations in this world may change, but the God we learned to know at Rose

Farm will forever remain the same.

The Rose Farm EMMC may have been but a drop in the bucket of God's world-wide mission, but it was a drop that touched us all. The history of the world would have to be written differently, had it not been for the Rose Farm experience.



*Rose Farm Sunday School class, 1939 or 1940. Back row: George Penner, Agatha Penner, ?, Lena Dyck, Nettie Heinrichs, Jacob Dueck, Ed Penner, Theodore Groening (teacher). Front row: John Dueck, Cornie Bergman, Gerty Brown, ?.*



*Some of the 1961 Sunday School classes. The church had a large Sunday School of approximately 120 children.*



*The Rose Farm EMMC in 1974.  
The church was built in 1937 on 9-4-2W.*