

Halbstadt, Manitoba.

Dear Friends:

The districts of Houston, Halbstadt, and Strassberg are planning a "Centennial Reunion" to be held indoors on Sunday, July 19, 1970 at the Halbstadt Community Centre. We will start the day off with a joint church service at 10 am. An afternoon program at 1:30 pm and an evening program are also in the planning.

Please bring your own food. Coffee will be supplied. As a former resident you are c o r d i a l l y invited to attend this Reunion.

Sincerely,

The Halbstadt Centennial Committee

JAKE REMPEL

HALBSTADT

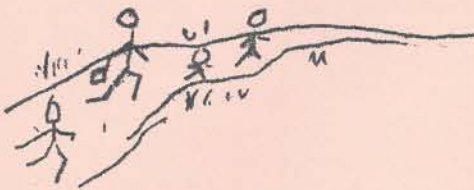
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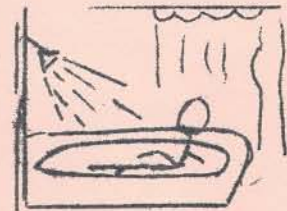
REUNION

THEN

NOW



EDUCATION



BUSINESS



FARMING



WORSHIP

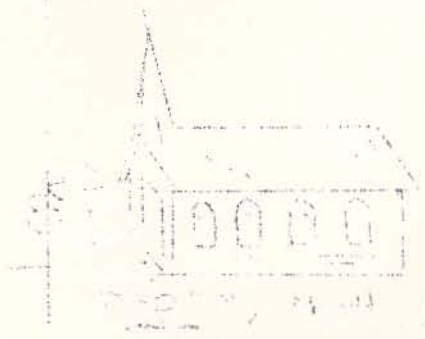


the only unchange — GOD — who makes changes

JULY 19, 1970

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HALBSTADT
COMMUNITY
CENTRE



THE COMMITTEE (AUTHORS) OF THIS BOOK

FRIESEN H.H.P. (HENRY)	REMPEL J. (JOHN)
FRIESEN W.P. (WILLIAM)	SCHROEDER J. (JOHN)
HEINRICHS H.L. (HENRY)	ZACHARIAS W.P. (WILLIAM)
PAPPEL R. (BANDZL)	

+ ?

HALBSTADT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
JULY 19, 1970

This little pamphlet is compiled in commemoration of the Centennial Celebrations of Halbstadt and surrounding districts as a medium of reflection on the past ONE HUNDRED YEARS(?) Some of it will be sad, perhaps even tragic, but most of it should inspire joy and satisfaction, maybe a little pride, in the achievements and successes, progress and growth, materially, educationally, and can we say spiritually. Perhaps some of the names that appear will cause some to recall fond memories, or, some activity might stir up your imagination and bring new courage and hope in the future. Whatever the reaction might be, it is hoped that it will serve a worthwhile purpose.

Did you pause, recently, to think that you were making history all the years that you have lived here? Did it mean anything that the horse gave way to the tractor, the old thresher to the combine, the old log house to the frame building, the buggy to the automobile, the private school to the public school, to you personally. What about trudging two or three miles to school compared to modern day bus service, or, saving your money carefully in that old sock or mattress compared to depositing your money in a fast, safe, and efficient Credit Union or Bank. Think about and compare these things.

Maybe we can understand the poet Thomas Hood better at this time when he writes in his poem:

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn;
He never came a wink too soon,
Nor brought too long a day,
But now, I often wish the night
Had borne my my breath away!

I remember, I remember,
The roses, red and white,
The violets, and the lily-cups,
Those flowers made of light!
The lilacs where the robin built,
And where my brother set
The laburnum on his birthday,
The tree is living yet!

I remember, I remember
Where I was used to swing,
And thought the air must rush fresh as
To swallows on the wing;
My spirit flew in feathers then,
That is so heavy now,
And summer pools could hardly cool
The fever on my brow!

I remember, I remember
The fir trees dark and high;
I used to think their slender tops
Were close against the sky:
It was a childish ignorance,
But now 'tis little joy
To know I'm farther off from heav'n
Than when I was a boy.

May this pamphlet be a treasure to you; something that will in future remind you of Manitoba's Birthday, its One-hundredth Birthday, in 1970!

Would it not be appropriate to join King David in his song of praise in Psalm 48-"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised", for what he has done for us throughout the past history of our area, and the province.

List of Ministers

Unrau, Peter	Saskatoon
Unrau, Henry	Saskatoon
Unrau, Jacob	Rosenfeld
Wiebe, Bernie	46 Belair Road, Fort Garry 19
Loeppky, Bernie	Winkler
Loeppky, Diedrich	
Klassen, D. D.	Homewood
Loeppky, John	Rosenfeld (Mrs. still living)
Friesen, Ben	Roseisle
Friesen, J. B.	Bolivia
Friesen, Henry	Halbstadt
Neufeld, Ben	Paraguay
Enns, Eddie	Saskatoon
Heinrichs, John	Paraguay
Nickel, C. C.	Bolivia
Loeppky, Peter	Austin
Sawatzky, Jac. A.	Altona
Klassen, Peter H.	Halbstadt
Loewen, Jacob	Stuartburn
Sawatzky, John Deacon	Gretna
Penner, Diedrich	Halbstadt
Braun, Walter	Gretna

Teachers of Halbstadt School District

Mr. & Mrs. Corney Bergen	73 Dominion Bay, Thompson, Man.
Mr. & Mrs. F. F. Enns,	74 Linacre Rd. Winnipeg 19
Mr. Henry Esau	Halbstadt
Mr. Henry Epp	
Mr. John D. Driedger	Altona
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Driedger	Winkler
Mr. Peter Driedger	
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Falk	Ebenezer Home, Altona
Mr. David P. Friesen (deceased)	
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob F. Friesen (deceased)	
Miss J. L. Friesen	Mrs. Funk, Steinbach
Miss Marie A. L. Friesen	Mrs. H. H. Goertzen Winnipeg
Miss Marie Friesen	from Winkler, Winnipeg
Miss Margaret Friesen	
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Friesen	Halbstadt
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Giesbrecht,	Altona
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Guenther	Gretna
Mr. & Mrs. Jake D. Hildebrand,	Vita
Miss S. Hildebrand	
Mr. & Mrs. Jake Heinrichs	Mexico
Miss Ingvar Lundin	nee Guenther, Ear Falls, Ont.
Mr. Logan	
Miss Kate Klassen	Winnipeg
Mr. Peter Klassen	1008 Queenston Bay, Wpg.

Continued (Teachers of Halbstadt School District)

Mr. David Neufeld (deceased)	
Mr. Meyer	
Miss Anna Peters now P. E. Braun	Altona
Miss Clara Peters (Mrs. P. Penner)	Winkler
Mr. Jacob J. Peters	Steinbach
Mr. Peter J. Peters	132 Riley Cres. Wpg.
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Siemens	Inavik, N.W.T.
Mr. Ben Schellenberg	Winnipeg
Miss Helen Schellenberg (Mrs. Reimer)	Steinbach
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Schulz	Plum Coulee
Mr. Henry Dyck	Mansfield, Pennsylvania
Sawatzky	
Mr. & Mrs. Abram L. Toews	
Mr. & Mrs. Abe Toews	Morden, Man.
Mr. & Mrs. Abe Toews	
Miss Annie Voth	38 Langside St. Wpg. 10
Mr. Jacob H. Voth	
Mr. & Mrs. Peter A. Unrau	Abbotsford, B.C.
Miss Helen Warkentin	
Miss Helen Wieler	
Mr. Weideman	
Mr. & Mrs. David Wiebe	Altona
Mr. & Mrs. C. P. Zacharias	Gretna
Mrs. Abram Wiebe	Gretna
Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Siemens	Altona
Mr. Heineman	

Strassberg Teacher List

1. George Hamm
2. Henry Vogt
3. Jacob Buhr Ebenezer Home, Altona
4. Ben Hildebrand
5. Mary Wiens B.C.
6. Henry Enns (deceased)
7. Abram L. Toews (deceased)
8. Emil Klein (deceased)
9. Peter H. Voth Goessela, Kansas, USA
10. Jacob J. Janzen Morden
11. Bernard Loeppky (deceased)
12. Diedrich D. Loeppky Kernan, California, USA
13. Tina Warkentine Winkler, 324 8th St.
14. Abram D. Friesen 410 Henry St. Steinbach
15. Bernhard D. Klippenstein 97 Hart, Winnipeg
16. Mrs. Abram K. Barkman 362 2nd St. Steinbach
17. George P. Goosen Rosenort, Morris
18. Henry Giesbrecht (deceased)
19. Abram J. Friesen 1400 Mountain, Winkler
20. Tony H. Funk (deceased)
21. Earnest Kroeger 79 Messdale, Winnipeg

Continued (Strassberg Teacher List)

22. Erna Nickel (deceased)
23. Mrs. Victor Peters 48 Queenston St. Wpg.
24. Helen Penner
25. Agatha Wiebe, Mrs. George Andrews, Box 84, Winnipegosis
26. Mrs. Ed Plett (Rev.) Gretna
27. Irene Koop, Mrs. Philip I. Dickman, 52 Hearne, Churchill
28. Mr. Bathgate
29. David Froese
30. John B. Reimer (deceased)
31. Bernie Loeppky Winkler
32. Orlando Sawatzky (deceased) Mrs. Sawatzky, Winkler
33. Rodney Siemens Steinbach
34. Jack Isaac Morden
35. Rev. Peter J. Friesen Cedarcrest, Winnipeg
36. Rev. Ronald Hoeppney Rosenort, Morris
37. Abe Peters Winnesba, Ghana, West Africa
38. Elvin Klassen Box 325, Russel, Man.

Houston Teacher List

George Labun	c/o John Labun, Winkler
Isaac A. Enns	Mrs. Enns, Ebenezer Home, Altona
H. H. Goertzen	271 Marshall, Fort Garry 475-6352
P. J. Dyck	
J. H. Bock	RL 145 Bale St. Paul 353-2089
John Boldt	
Miss Mary Klassen	
Miss Olga Dalke	Morden
Elenore Neufeld	253 Brooklyn, St. James 888-4708
Cornelia Neufeld (Mrs. Siebert)	
G. P. Neufeld	Rosu, Ont.
Bernie Wiebe	46 Balair Rd. Fort Garry 19
Laurence Toews	
Henry Krushel	646 Lindsay 489-5695
D. F. Wiebe	Centre Ave, Altona 324-8220
Dennis Siemens (see Don Heinrichs)	
Miss Mary Friesen (see Suderman)	
Ben Klassen	300 Cedar, Steinbach 326-3622
Miss Helen Penner (Corner Esso, Spangalo ?
Willie Bock (Mr. J. H. Bock-tell him)	Winnipeg
Harry Topnik	307 Raquette St. Wpg. 22
Diedrich Dirks (address unknown)	
John D. Goosen	Steinbach
Ben Funk	Herbert
Simon Sobering (see Mrs. Sobering, Gretna)	
Miss Agatha Wiebe	
Jacob J. Toews	
Edward Klein	
David Harder	Paraguay (Chaco)
Peter Toews	
Mr. Baxter	

Continued (Houston Teacher List)

Mr. Robinson	
George Neufeld (G. P. Neufeld son)	
Billy Logan	
Diedrich Penner	Grunthal, Man.
Jacob Unrau	Rosenfeld
John Unrau	
Anna Friesen	
Miss Wall	Pembina, Fort Garry
Miss Schellenberg	
Miss McDonald	
Peter Toews	Steinbach
Elmer Krushel	

List of Councillors

1905 - 1908	Henry Reimer	3 years
1909 - 1919	Isaac Hildebrand	10 years
1925 - 1945	Jacob J. Friesen	20 years
1955 - 1961	Carl Schroeder	6 years
1967 - 1970	John Wahl	3 years

Pioneers over 80 living with us are:

Mrs. Henry Friesen
Mrs. Abram Bergen

General Review of School History, Houston,
Halbstadt and Strassberg 1870-1970
By John Rempel

First it needs to be noted that a large portion of the geographic area involved was originally settled in the eighteen hundreds by non-Mennonite people. The original formation of these school districts was influenced by that circumstance during those early years.

However, by the turn of the century more and more Mennonite people established permanent residence in the area. Consequently, they gradually acquired and exercised greater control of area schools.

It should also be noted that these Mennonite people or their parents came to this country from Russia in or about 1874, having received assurance from Canadian (Federal) Government authorities that they could enjoy the "Privilege" of educating their children according to their religious principles. Manitoba became a Province in 1870. I cannot help but wonder: Were the Mennonite people of that time aware that education in Canada after Confederation was a jurisdiction of the Provincial rather than the Federal Government?

At any rate, education in Manitoba, in those early years following 1870, was under the direction and control of a "Board of Education". This Board was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council and consisted of two sections---the Protestant, composed of twelve and the Catholic of nine members, each having exclusive control of the schools of its own denomination. We can see therefore that Churches of that time were involved in affairs of school. Perhaps more so than they are today. It can be assumed, I believe, that Houston, Halbstadt and Strassberg came under the jurisdiction of the Protestant section of the Board of Education.

Records seem to indicate that during those early years the boundaries of the required School Districts in Manitoba were formed largely by Municipalities under Section 12 of the Manitoba Schools Act, on the petition by the required number of "heads of families". Often original boundaries had to be changed to fit changing patterns of settlement.

Houston School District No. 214, named after Sam Houston who came to Manitoba from Ontario in the very early years and farmed on Section 24-1-1 East, was formed on November 17th, 1884. The boundaries of the District were readjusted from time to time so that on the first day of January, 1922, it consisted of Sections 21, 22, 23 and 24, the west half of 25, all of 26, 27, 35 and 36 in Township 1, Range 1 East.

I have not found recorded evidence of school happenings in the Houston area from year 1884 till year 1904. I did, however, find some short, concise hand-written minutes in High German language in an old ledger dating back to 1904.

These were minutes of annual meetings held in Houston School District in 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907 over the signature of David Friesen, Secretary. We can take it, therefore, that Houston Public School was operative at the time.

Other itemized entries in that ledger would seem to indicate that a Private School was in operation from 1908 till 1912. Records in the same ledger show Houston Public School became operative again in 1912 and continued operating till the end of June, 1916.

It would appear that the Private School was opened again in August of 1916 and stayed in operation till 1918 or 1919. Ledger items indicate that a new private school was built in 1919. One of the last items recorded in the ledger on the private school account is for teacher salary in the amount of \$40.00 to J. Unrau.

Reliable sources have informed me that the Public School in Houston, under J. F. Greenway as Official Trustee, was trying to function in competition with the Private School system in the years 1916 till 1920. The Public School of that time had originally been built one-half mile east of the site that later became known as Houston School No. 1. Old-time reports are that round about 1918 or 1919 this school building was separated into three sections and moved by Harms & Wichert of Gretna via truck-wagon to a new location one-half mile west and one-half mile north, but on the same section.

The first few teachers hired by Mr. Greenway for this school on its new location did not receive the approval of local parents and therefore, were not successful in achieving a good enrollment. The building itself was later purchased by a local farmer, and part of it is still being used as a poultry barn.

Department of Education records on 1920-21 show that Houston School District Debentures were approved for the amount of \$4500. Reports for the same year include the following: "The Houston School ratepayers who for two years strenuously opposed the public school policy of the department, have at length submitted, have closed their private school and are now sending their children to the public school." The Inspector's Report for the year 1921-22 states that a new building was purchased in Houston. I take it, then, that Houston School District No. 214 purchased the new private school that had been built in 1919, close to the south-west corner of Section 26.

In February of 1921, Official Trustee J. F. Greenway, on the advice of local residents, hired Mr. S. H. R. Sobering, a Mennonite, as teacher for Houston School. In 1921-22 the enrollment jumped to 33 and remained at almost the same number for the next school year. In 1923-24 the ratepayers of Houston once again elected their own trustees in the persons of Isaac Hildebrand, Henry D. Friesen and P. J. Friesen with Peter F. Janzen as Secretary-Treasurer.

The enrollment of resident and non-resident pupils kept increasing to a point where in 1942 something just had to be done. On February 6th of that year, the boundaries of the District were re-adjusted to include also Section 1, 2, the east half of 3, the south half of 4, and the south-east quarter of 10, Township 2, Range 1 East, all in the R.M. of Montcalm. And this to accommodate the wishes of parents of non-resident pupils that had been coming to Houston School from that area. In the summer of 1942, another school (Houston No. 2 or Houston North) was erected

on the north-east corner of Section 34, the better to accommodate the extra enrollment. Miss Helen K. Schellenberg was the first teacher in that school.

In 1958 an attempt was made to consolidate Houston, Halbstadt, Strassberg, Post Road and the Marais School districts. This attempt failed. But on April 9th, of 1959 the boundaries of Houston School District were again readjusted to include certain smaller parcels of assessment with a relatively high pupil count resident on it, formerly included within the boundaries of Halbstadt and Strassberg. And this again to resolve a non-resident pupil enrollment problem for Houston.

In 1960 a serious effort was made to consolidate Houston, Halbstadt and Strassberg School Districts. A vote on this proposal was held in all three districts simultaneously, March 4, 1960. And again it failed to gain sufficient support. Then in 1961, beginning for the fall term, the two Houston schools were operated on a semi-graded basis, with partial pupil transportation being provided. This system was kept in effect till July 1st, 1964 when Houston School District No. 214 merged with Halbstadt School District No. 886 to form The Consolidated School District of Halbstadt No. 214.

Halbstadt School District No. 886 was first formed on April 18, 1896 by Judge Lock of consist of Sections 3 - 4 - 9 - 10 -15 and 16 of Township 1, Range 1, East. To my knowledge there have not been any major boundary changes wince that time; outside of those that also involved Houston S. D. which have been reported on in the Houston section of this report. I do assume that Halbstadt Public School became operative shortly after the District was first formed, but I have found no recorded evidence to confirm that assumption. However it is clear that the Private School was operative in the early 1900's.

Mr. William Remus who farms today in the Emerson area, reports that as a child he lived with his parents in North Dakota on the Vollrath farm across the International Boundary from Halbstadt village. They lived on that farm from 1898 till 1910. And he recalled that in or around 1906 and 1907 his parents had made arrangements with the Custom officials that he as a young lad, could cross the International Boundary to attend at the Private School in Halbstadt area. I have it that the Private school at that time was located in the vicinity of the present Otto Heinrichs farm home.

The Public School at Halbstadt was also operating at the same time and located where the Halbstadt Church standstoday. I have not been able to locate and study the first Daily School Register but I did examine one that dated back to the school year ending November 15, 1911. The total enrollment that year had been 28, almost all of the pupils of the Friesen and Heinrichs families. Henry W. Epp had been the school teacher at an annual salary of \$345.00. This Register records that the Public School was located on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10 - 1 - 1 East. The Secretary-Treasurer for the year had been John Friesen. The Board of Trustees for the next year had been Gerhart Friesen, Heinrich Heinrichs and William Heinrichs.

School Inspector Willows in his 1917 report to the Minister of Education wrote "Halbstadt S.D. No. 886 remodelled their school house in 1915, and they now have a very comfortable schoolroom and teachers room under one roof",

According to the same report it must have been in the school year 1915-16 that Halbstadt School District sent it's first two pupils up for Grade VIII Examinations. Unfortunately they were not successful on that occasion.

The following two resolutions were approved at an annual meeting held by Halbstadt ratepayers on the 17th of December 1920.

"That the ratepayers of Halbstadt S.D. No. 886 wish to have their school put under their control, and if this is done they promise to conduct the said school according to the Public School Act of the Province of Manitoba."

"That we petition Mr. J. F. Greenway, Official Trustee asking him to give the teacher written authority to hold religious exercises according to law,"

William Heinrichs was chairman of that meeting, while J. J. Siemens was secretary.

In 1910, the Remus family moved from North Dakota to the Dufferin School District near Emerson. Former pupil at Halbstadt Private School, William Remus had grown up. And when he got married he moved to a farm in Halbstadt district. Around 1922 he got elected as a Trustee of Halbstadt School District and served as Chairman of that Board.

Mr. W. W. Heinrichs was Secretary-Treasurer at that time.

A new Public School was built and located across the road and a bit south of the old school site in 1937. The school Register for that year indicates that the first day of school in the new building was on November 8th, 1937. The teacher that year was Peter J. Peters. Total enrollment was 31.

Several attempts had been made to bring about a Consolidation with neighboring School Districts in the late 1950's and early 60's. Finally in 1964, effective July the 5th, a Consolidation with Houston School District was achieved. The new name chosen was "The Consolidated School District of Halbstadt No. 214". Thus preserving the Halbstadt name and the Houston number.

The first meeting of electors of the new District was held on August 20, 1964. H. H. Sawatzky, J. W. Heinrichs, Randal Pappel, Earnst Friesen and J. W. Hildebrand were elected as the first Board of Trustees. John Schroeder was the first Secretary-Treasurer. The first teachers of the new District were Ben Klassen, Dennis Siemens, and Miss Ann Friesen. Total enrollment was _____. A few months later Houston School No. 2, and Halbstadt School had been moved to the site known as Houston No. 1, and Halbstadt Consolidated began operating a graded school in three separate school buildings on one site. Total pupil transportation was also provided as roads and weather permitted.

This system was kept in operation till September 1st of 1967 when Halbstadt Consolidated School District No. 214 merged with Altona Consolidated No. 333.

The School District of Strassberg was first formed on May the 16th of 1893, and the boundaries readjusted from time to time making the district consist at the first of July, 1932 of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, and 14 in Township 1, Range 1 East.

On October the 9th, 1952 the District was enlarged to include also the west half of both Sections 6 and 7 of Township 1, Range 2 East. And this to resolve the problem of non-resident pupil enrollment attending at Strassberg School from Post Road School District. Six and a half years later on April the 9th 1959, Strassberg lost a small assessment and a small pupil count to Houston to help resolve a non-resident pupil enrollment in that district.

Then effective January the first, 1967, Strassberg S.D. No. 757 merged with Edenberg S.D. No. 330, Gretna S.D. No. 336 and Silberfeld S.D. No. 1590 to form the Consolidated School District of Gretna No. 330.

I have not found recorded evidence of a Public School being operated in Strassberg area prior to 1918 or thereabouts. Although School Inspector T. G. Finn (who reported to the Minister of Education from this area at the time) referred to Strassberg (and please note the spelling of the name) as being one of the older districts.

Interviews with knowledgable people of the area have indicated to my satisfaction that a Private School was being operated near to the site of the present H. L. Heinrichs farm home prior to 1915. I have been told that the school building on that site could boast of a built-in teacherage with rooms on both the main floor and upstairs. My information is that usually the enrollment in that school had been around 15 pupils.

I understand that in Strassberg it was not a case of both the Public and the Private schools operating at the same time. One of the reasons for that circumstance might have been that in those early years Strassberg area was not well drained, and therefore lacked the population to sustain the necessary enrollment of a Public School. However I stand to be corrected on these statements.

As I understand it, in 1915 the Private School building was moved by horse powered winch to a new location one mile east but remaining on the same section. I take it that it was operated as a Public School on that site. I do not know if Mr. J. F. Greenway was appointed as Official Trustee of Strassberg School District in those years. Nor have I been able to find out who the first elected Trustees were.

Inspector T. G. Finn in his report to the Minister of Education in 1920 wrote that "Strassburg" had erected a thoroughly modern one room structure. Mr. Henry Pappel (now deceased) built that school. But it might have been in 1918 that the new school was built. The teacherage on the site when the district closed its school in 1966 was a fairly new building. Strassberg operated as a Closed School District from January 1, 1966 till January 1, 1967 when it merged with Gretna and other districts to form Gretna Consolidated. Mr. Elvin J. Klassen was the last teacher to instruct in Strassberg School, ending his term in June of 1966. His total enrollment was 18 pupils for that school year.

Jac. Klassen, John Wahl and Anton Loeppky were the last Board of Trustees of Strassberg School District. Jac. Klassen serving as Chairman and John Wahl as Secretary-Treasurer.

FARMING THRU THE YEARS

I realize that I do not qualify to speak on farming thru the years since I am neither a successful farmer nor an I old. However, since the committee asked for it and since I have been connected with farming all my life, I will endeavor to bring out some of my experiences and impressions of farming and its changes and developments as they come to me.

Let me begin at the beginning; my late father kept a diary. One day I came upon some entries made in January, 1914; here are a few excerpts: Jan. 11, very mild--horses are out on pasture. Jan. 12, the jersey cow freshened today. Jan. 13, no entry. Jan. 14, no entry. Jan. 15, weather still very mild--boys walked to school today. What is so remarkable about that? Well, on Jan. 14 I was born but he did not consider it of enough importance to enter this in his diary.

Well, I was not very long in this world when he found that he could put me to use. I was about six years old when I was handed a Lily White syrup pail and told to keep the swill barrel in the pig pen filled.

From this I graduated to herding cows on the road-side with my older brother. I remember once, when he sent me for drinking water and mother gave us some lemonade in a stone jug. The day was hot, the way long and the lemonade sweet so by the time I got to the grazing site the jug was nearly empty. My brother was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile down the road so I put the jug down and sat and waited for him. By the time he got to where I sat he was indeed thirsty and took a hearty drink of the remainder of the lemonade. Not long after this he started to complain of a crawly feeling in his stomach. What happened was that I had set the lemonade jug next to an ant hill and the jug had no stopper, so guess what!

When I was nine years old I turned plowman. My brother was given the Oliver plow with the easy operating lifting devise--- I got the old Cockshutt with the mechanism hard to operate. To this day I wonder why; it was a torment at every end to get the thing into and out of the ground; I also got the laziest horses. The youngsters of today will never know the agony of a small boy with a plugged plow, or the torture of following a 2-horse team pulling a three section harrow endlessly back and forth along the field, casting envious looks at big brother comfortably seated on the cultivator or drill. They would not believe that to harrow 20 acres was a good day's work and that you had to walk the horses a mile and half home at noon, unhitch, feed and water them, eat dinner, rest a bit and then back again. They will never know the endless miles from the North east quarter of this section when we are now, to Gretna by horse and wagon delivering fifty bushels of wheat and the terror of not making it back before dark when you are only ten years old.

But neither would they know the thrill of the thresher crew arriving, with all its noise and shouting, with Wm. W. Heinrichs, dwarfed by the size of his Universal tractor, standing at the wheel and turning it this way and that for all he was worth as he maneuvered it into place for a perfect lineup with the separator. Nor will they know the early morning sound of Oil Pulls, Moguls or

Waterloo Boys starting up during threshing season.

At the age of 13 I was commissioned to operate my brother David's brand new Acme sheaf loader pulled by four horses. Again the job was out of proportion to my size and age but it made me feel grown up and besides I had already had my first cigaret in the sunflower patch courtesy of Frank Schroeder, now of Camrose, Alberta. When I reached the age of 15 and was almost old enough to drive the loader I was shifted to sheaf pitching; here again I was overloaded as everyone who has done this will understand but again my pride undergirded me and I never played out, but a shower of rain was always welcome.

In the late 20's or early 30's Mr. David Heinrichs did a rash thing and purchased the first combine, or reaper thresher as they were then called. It was a Nichols & Sheppard and was so heavy that when the 35 bushel hopper got full the steel wheeled 10-20 McCormick started spinning and the hopper had to be unloaded to get things going again.

Mr. Heinrichs also pioneered in buying the first rubber tired tractor in the district; here also he was considered radical at that time. The second combine was purchased by Mr. Peter Nickel in 1938; this was a Massey Harris one man operated machine driven by the power take-off of their Model D John Deere which incidentally was the ultimate in tractors at that time. No live power shafts in those days, and I can still see Anton Loeppky slamming the gearshift into neutral and frantically engaging the clutch again to prevent plugging in heavy going. Threshing from stocks died a slow death and the last one to give it up was John J. Friesen, who with his outfit and gang found enough customers to keep him going till 19__.

With better tractors coming out every year, more and more farmers discarded their teams of horses and took to tractor farming, which was the best thing that could happen to the horse; all those who remember farming by horse cannot but recall the miserable teams of the thirties when feed was scarce, or the cruel shoulder sores and the sweltering heat and the flies during the summerfallow plowing time. The advent of modern machinery brought more leisure and less work for the farmer---or so said the machine company ads. But it did not turn out that way. Machinery made possible the raising of special crops, and these needed a certain amount of hand labour, and I remember how the beet thinning crews crept down the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile rows on hands and knees with short handled hoes for less money per day than many of us now earn in an hour. While this situation has been alleviated considerably by improved planting and cultivating techniques it is still a tedious way to earn your bread. And with sunflowers and late flax to harvest it is usually mid-November by the time John Wahl puts his combine up for the winter.

Well, this is how we do it, now the question why do we do it? It used to be that the family with a $\frac{1}{4}$ section, four horses to work it, two or three cows, two pigs and one hundred or so chickens was considered well to do---and he was. In our feverish efforts to make more money have we lost sight of the true values of life?

We must have missed the words of our Savior in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, "Do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or what shall we put on? We would also do well to be mindful of the rich farmer in Luke ch. 12 whom the Lord called a fool because he was so obsessed with his farming and was not rich as regards God.

Let me conclude with another saying of the Lord Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His justice and all these things shall be given you besides; therefore be not anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow will have anxieties of its own." And some advice from the apostle Paul: "Whether you eat or whether you drink or whatever you do; do it all to the glory of God".

THE HISTORY OF THE HALBSTADT POST OFFICE AND STORE

The first post office at Halbstadt was started by Mr. Jacob Heinrichs, one milesouth and one-half mile west of the present post office and store. Mr. Heinrichs kept the post office till the year 1905, when the post office was moved over to the C. C. Fehr store at it's present location. Mr. Fehr remained postmaster from 1905 till March of 1919, when he sold his store to P.B. Sawatsky and Frank F.Schroeder. these two men operated the post office jointly for approximately one and one-half years. After this, the post office was operated by Mr. Sawatsky and his family. During this time, Mr. Sawatsky ventured into a number of other services or businesses. In 1923, he started a hauling business where he hauled merchandice to and from Winnipeg with a car and trailer. In 1924, he purchased his first truck. In the days that he was still with us, he quite often reminissed on how he hauled merchandise to and from Winnipeg in the 1920's when the #114 highway had been built. He told us that he often had to leave the highway's tracks to pass an oncoming vehicle, getting stuck in the process. When this happened, they had to unload the whole truck, drive back onto the highway, and then reload the whole truck, and start the truck down the highway again. On some occasions he had to do this about four or five times on a single trip. Mr. Sawatsky was also one of the first to obtain the P.S.V. liscence for these services in southern Manitoba. In 1928, he ventured into the Custom threshing business and the Custom hatching business. He kept up these businesses for about for about ten years, but continued for a few more years in the Custom threshing business.

In 1945, Mr. Sawatsky had to retire from active business due to ill health. In August of 1945, Mr. Carl Sawatsky was apointed Postmaster. The hauling business, long run by Mr. Sawatsky was now operated by Henry and Carl Sawatsky for Mr. Sawatsky for three years. After this, the transfer business was rented to Henry and Carl and was operated by them for the next ten years as Sawatsky Bros. However, the Transfer was sold to H .N. Sawatsky in 1947, who owned and operated for the nex ten years . In 1957, David Sawatsky joined Henry and Carl and purchased the Transfer business from H.N. Sawatsky. From this time on, they have operated the Store and transfer as Sawatsky Bros. In 1965, they expanded their business to Emerson, and, in 1969, they expended their business to Altona.

We are glad to see that the Post Office is still open after seventy-five years of service. This is especially significant, sincein recent years, many small area P ost Offices have been closed.

A Historical Record of the Halbstadt Credit Union

It has become my obligation to relate my views as to how the Halbstadt Credit Union originated and how it progressed for better than twenty-five years. Many people might have and no doubt did some thinking in regards to organizing here in this rather small farming community, but it fell upon five local citizens in the old village of Halbstadt to sit down and discuss very superficially credit unions.

No record has been kept of it or of the provisional board which was later elected to proceed with discussion group methods of familiarizing ourselves with the structure of credit unions. For myself it was during an agricultural course offered by the Rhine-land Agricultural Institute, (better known as the RAI) Altona, where Ed Howe inspired me as to the value a credit union could have in any given community. Truthfully it required more than half a year for me to voice my hopes, successfully interesting even my closest friends as to the value and feasibility of operation a credit union at Halbstadt.

It soon became apparent that after having agreed to studying in a discussion group that we needed outside help to answer the many questions that arose during the study. It seems to me that Mr. Died Loewen then Manager of the Altona Credit Union, did invaluable work in this regard. For fear of having forgotten the many people who were helpful right from the start, men like P. P. Nickel and P. D. Klassen and many others morally and physically helped to get our Credit Union started.

Some of the humorous ideas we debated at our first board meeting was the term of chairman. Some felt that due to the fact that the secretary sat in the chair, he must be the chairman; others again felt that the president was the chairman. This took several meetings before we resolved that problem.

Coming back to our organization meeting, thirty-nine members agreed to form the Halbstadt Credit Union. Of interest might also be who the first committee men were and also who was our first treasurer. On the Board of Directors were Henry Sawatzky, Peter Nickel, Frank Schroeder, Peter B. Friesen, Peter D. Klassen, J. W. Heinrichs, and William P. Zacharias. The credit committee elected were Carl Sawatzky, Peter Nickel and Henry Sawatzky. The Supervisory Committee consisted of W. W. Heinrichs, I. I. Hildebrand, and Jacob P. Friesen. At our first directors meeting on April 2, 1943 Peter B. Friesen was appointed our first treasurer. Our first seven years we made relatively slow progress. Assets hovered around the \$12,000.00 mark for quite a few years. Due to the fact that we could not pay a decent salary, treasurers were hard to come by. Also we could not afford a permanent office, which also hindered our progress considerably. For the two above mentioned reasons we considered merging with Altona. However when a number of people resisted this move, Sawatzky Bros. Henry and Carl agreed to take over management and the office in the store at Halbstadt. After that assets grew quite rapidly. With Carl Sawatzky as manager and the office being open six days a week, it appeared that people acquired the confidence needed to make a success of the Credit Union.

With a relatively rapid growth in both businesses, the Credit Union and the Halbstadt store it again became impossible for Carl Sawatzky to handle the job as manager. We jointly agreed, the Halbstadt Credit Union and Sawatzky Bros. to hire a manager who would also serve part time as a clerk in the store. Mr. John Schroeder succeeded Carl Sawatzky as manager. Even as late as nine years after organizing, the minutes reveal that Carl Sawatzky was paid the staggering sum of \$15.00 a month. It might be said that those were the days when people still believed in charity.

During the years John Schroeder managed the Society the growth assetwise was possibly the fastest of 26 years of Credit Union existence. No doubt there are many reasons for this, some of which come to mind are that the economy of the country expanded rapidly at that time, as well as that for the time we had a manager devoting his full time to the promotion of the Credit Union, also that we accepted members beyond the immediate Halbstadt area. It was also during this time that the members agreed to build an office of their own. It was indeed a very proud moment for the entire community when the doors of this new building were opened. In some respects we were becoming so successful that we appeared to be the training area for managers. Both John Schroeder and our manager Donald Heinrichs were examples of this. Other positive gains made as result of the existence of the credit union was the experience acquired by many people who served on the various committees. Many have since attained positions as a direct result of their experience at the credit union.

Looking back at some of the areas where we failed in my opinion are 1.) our failure to successfully assimilate into our three committees people of other denominations and 2.) we might have employed young men who could have managed after the managers were promoted. There must have been many other mistakes made but one of the easiest things in life is to look back and criticize. Far more difficult though I am sure who has ever served as a director knows that to convince your fellow directors of any given idea. Why I say this is to illustrate the fact that organizations such as credit unions are combined ideas of many people.

In total six different men served as manager of the Halbstadt Credit Union. Mr. Henry Rempel served in the late forties and Douglas Adams was our last manager.

The organization seemed to have attained the ultimate potential obtainable in the late sixties. Our assets had hovered around the half million dollar mark for several years. Our last manager Doug Adams had on many occasions expressed a desire to leave for greener pastures, so we again had to shop around for a manager. Since our helper at the time was not prepared to assume the manager's position the board of Directions then looked at the alternatives facing us. We could hire inexperienced manager or merge with neighboring credit unions. After confronting the members with our problem they eventually decided to join with the Altona Credit Union.

Many things that could have been mentioned have been left unsaid in this report. It would have been nice to prepare a report like this with more time. So many people who served as Secretary, President, board and committee members ought to have been mentioned.

There were a number who made major contributions towards successfully operating the Halbstadt Credit Union.

In my humble opinion there would be no one who would regret having gone through with what I call an exercise. From comments or lack of them it seems to me the arrangement of having an office at Halbstadt is serving the area to the satisfaction of the Halbstadt members.

JA

OF PIONEER DAYS

The general community here was originally settled prior to 1974 by non-Mennonite settlers. Popular names were Haywards, Maculls, Irvins.

In 1874 the first Mennonites settled here, coming from the East Reserve where they had landed the year before. It was treeless prairie country, except along the banks of the Marais River. The oak trees growing on the banks of Marais at that time were about three feet high in Halbstadt area. Further east and north of Houston the young oak trees had grown to six feet. We can only surmise at why that difference in the height of these young oaks. The otherwise bald prairie itself had some patches of an oily bursh growing on it. This grew to a height of about three feet. There was also a small brush called Weston Snowberry ("Pepper grass"). This brush, formerly a well-known growth, particularly in pastures, has by now largely disappeared by modern agriculture and use of modern herbicides.

We have few sources of information available today on pioneer life in this community. First, because many of those that would have been able to help us in this respect, particularly from Houston and Strassburg area, immigrated to Paraguay. Others left the district here for more favourable climates.

On The Dirty Thirties

We have much evidence, oral, written and pictured of how people of the community managed to survive the "Dirty Thirties" also known as the depression years.

In this modern time we hear much about recessions. But very few of us know what a real depression is like. For a farming community a depression starts when it has a series of crop failures. Crop failures in the dirty thirties were caused by a lack of sufficient rainfall over a period of years causing the water table to drop far below normal. Wells, generally twelve feet deep in this area, ran dry during the depression years. Some farmers had no other recourse but to haul water by barrel or tank, not only for their house needs, but also for maybe six horses and a herd of ten or twelve cattle. Sometimes for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 miles.

Quite a few ponds in the area were constructed with a team of horses and a scraper. In later years the municipality purchased a dragline that they made available at a net cost of \$23.00 per pond to the drought stricken farming community. The balance of the cost was paid by P.F.R.A. This dragline worked 24 hours a day and when moving from one farmer to the next it travelled across field and raced at a rate of speed not exceeding $3/4$ mile per hour. Nobody minded if the machine took a short cut across the field for the sake of saving time. Indeed it was almost as good as a picnic for us kids to go and watch the dragline work after dark.

But rainfall or not, it is reported of one farmer that he managed to grow an eighth bushel to the acre crop of barley on a summerfallow field on Sec. 3-2-1E, on less than one-tenth of an inch of rainfall during the entire season.

Grasshoppers were another crop hazzard of the Dirty Thirties. The farmer, assisted by the municipality, went to great lengths to combat the problem. Poison was mixed with bran and spread as bait for the grasshopper. Carloads of bran were brought to local towns where it was mixed with the poison and distributed to farmers. The Department of Agriculture provided instructions to farmers on how to build a spreader in his own workshop. Grasshopper catching apparatus were also used to catch the leaping pest and smother him in a trough of used crankcase oil.

Marquis, Renown, Reward were common varieties of wheat grown in those years in this area. However, they were susceptible to rust. 1935, which was a promising year, with abundant rainfall, turned out in the end to be almost a disaster insofar as the wheat crop was concerned. Many a field with a potential of twenty or twenty-five bushel yield per acre was burned because the actual yield did not even pay for the harvesting.

Marketing of farm products was a problem, beginning in pioneer days and continuing in one form or another throughout most of the century. Transportation from farm to marketing centre was probably the first problem. In the early years some farmers brought their product from our area to Winnipeg by oxcart. Later grain products were bagged and hauled to platform at railhead to be shipped to its final destination. Bulk loadings from granary via horse-drawn wagon over the platform into the railroad cars was a later method of moving farm produce. It was a two-man job to shovel the grain from wagon box to the railroad car - one boxcar full in one day. How about you modern young athletes -- can you match that record?

Livestock was also shipped by railroad boxcar to Winnipeg stockyards. A Mr. Fehr, a resident of Halbstadt area and local merchant, was the prominent cattle buyer in those days.

Farmers also bartered eggs for merchandise at Mr. Fehr's and at Sawatzky's Store. Mr. Sawatzky, in later years, set up a grading station for eggs at his store.

The farmers started shipping cream in the 1930s. Some of the first people who freighted cream from the farmer direct to creameries at Letellier or Gardenton were Ed Brown, Lemfersweiler, D. H. Loewen, Peter Wiebe, D. N. Wiebe, D. W. Hildebrand and P. B. Sawatzky.

Believe it or not, there were times when market pigs over 200 pounds sold for \$36.00 per dozen. Some days cattle markets were so low that returns did not pay for the freight of shipping them to the packers.

Speaking of low prices, can you imagine a housewife using barley for fuel in her kitchen range rather than send her husband to town to get some coal? Yet the price of barley was so low that sometimes this was done.

General Oddities

R. B. Bennet was Prime Minister of Canada during those troubled years. As a sign of the times, when people no longer could afford to repair and drive their automobiles, they converted them to horse-drawn vehicles and named them Bennet buggies.

Pressed manure, otherwise known as "Donkey block" was common fuel of the day.

Saskatchewan experienced a series of very dry years. Wheat, feed grain, vegetables and even bales were shipped by the carload from Manitoba points to help out.

And even here in Southern Manitoba, the municipality had to advance money for seed and feed to help the farmer over the hump in spring months.

The natural channel of the Marais River one mile north of Halbstadt Store was the cause of much grief for municipal authorities. Four long bridges

were required to serve the needs of transportation within distance of about one-half mile of road. Houston School No. 1 was located very close to these bridges. These bridges became arched bridges by the heaving of frost. One day, Mr. Toews, driving the big municipal tractor, straightened one of them out by driving his machine over it. About forty school children watched in amazement.

Social functions such as weddings were often held in the home. For such occasion, the neighbourhood pitched in to help by providing baked goods, chairs, tables, cutlery and what-have-you on a voluntary but systematic basis.

Help for the young couple from home often came in the form of certain necessities. A Bible, song book, maybe a team of horses for the boy and a cow or heifer for the girl.

Preparation for funerals, which were also held in the home, was also a neighbourhood responsibility. Men like I. I. Hildebrandt, D. W. Hildebrandt and Mr. Gerhart Friesen made coffins in the local area when the need arose. The Burial Aid Society, as we know it today, came into being as the neighbourhood way of helping each other became less acceptable and burial expenses thus became higher.

Reminiscences by Mrs. Abram P. Bergen

for Centennial Celebrations

of the

Houston-Halbstadt-Strassburg-S.D. July 19, 1970

I was born 86 years ago in the village of Sommerfeld. I grew up on my father's farm attending private school. I married and lived our first 6 years in the Village of Sommerfeld. We moved to my present home 62 years ago. When we moved here the road was a nice prairie sod, passable at all times by buggy. This road was very nice compared to now (spring of 1970). We bought this quarter of land for \$4000.00 and it was mostly fenced with an oily brush about 3 - 4 feet high, and pepper grass.

Having purchased some horses we started breaking this and grew grain on it the following years. The hay for the horses was mostly made from the wide road allowances with some oats fed to them. The Abram Friesens, Gnadenfeld, threshed our first crop and the P. Heinrichses our next crop. We bought our own threshing machine later.

We purchased a blue car from Mr. P. B. Sawatzky, using it for travelling, sawing wood (fuel), and crushing grain. A Titan tractor was purchased which eased the work of the horses somewhat. Our fuel for heating the home consisted mostly of pressed manure with central heating (brick oven in centre of house). Some fuel wood was procured a few miles east of here and in later years some hauled from Dominion City from a Mr. Harms.

We have always attended the Sommerfeld Church which was built in 1991 by my father-in-law and Jacob Friesen. Our children have always attended school here. In winter they were transported by sleigh and team across the prairie to school.

Most of our food was home-grown. Wheat was hauled to Gretna where 30-100 pound bags of flour were milled annually. Much of our bread was baked in the outside brick oven for which tumble weed was gathered as fuel. My boys even today still talk of how they detested that job. Our meat consisted mainly of pork. Usually 3 or 4 pigs were butchered in fall and cured for summer use. Some beef was also consumed with the heaviest consumption during threshing. A crew of 20 men shared the table along with the family at that time. The cellar was the main storage space for winter food. These foods consisted of potatoes, cabbage, vegetables, saurkraut and crocks full of home-made butter.

I still enjoy a few hobbies now. The main one is sewing and embroidery work. I sometimes forget to put on my glasses and don't notice it right away. I have fair health with good hearing and enjoy a visit from all people.

June 1928-1933

When I promised to teach for a month at Halbstadt I never realized I would stay another five years. I never regretted it. I learned to know the children and people of the community and also did learn to love and respect them.

Since this is our centennial year we want to remember our pioneers. Grandma Klassen was the oldest member of the district then. She was a cheerful person. When I left the school she presented me with a booklet of songs in her own handwriting her children had learned at school. The Kauenhofens lived a retired life, but Mr. K. would tell me long stories of the early settlers and how he worked on the Red River Boat. Mrs. K. was an honest and diplomatic woman. She bore her state nobly.

My home away from home was at Jac. Heinrichs. Susan and I were intimate friends, she set me right when she thought I was wrong-- she gave of herself, her time, her car freely. She was the one who saw to it that the Christmas bags for the pupils were made, filled and in place. Her parents were very kind and hospitable. Though Mr. Heinrichs did not read, he remembered what had been read to him. It was a joy to converse with him. Mrs. Heinrichs was a very quiet and humble woman.

Mr. H. Friesen was a very good school trustee. He always took the children's side. Many of you that went to school when would perhaps not have had the treats you had at Christmas or at picnics had he not been on the board. Mrs. Friesen you are the oldest resident now. We'll stand by you as you stood by us.

Mr. D. Klassen was a quiet man, but he had many interests. Church, school, farming, fairs--all were part of his life. He came to see us long after we were married. We appreciated it very much. Mrs. Klassen was a warm-hearted woman. I liked her before I met her because of what I saw in her children. Afterwards we became good friends.

When I learned to know the Jac. Abrams, Mr. A. was ill in bed. When we as a Sunday School went to sing for them he sang along heartily and so did Mrs. Abrams. Mrs. Abrams was my friend from then on.

Mr. Peter Nickel was one of the men who came to hire me, and whenever I came to their home I received a warm welcome. Mrs. Nickel was talented in choosing and making very appropriate gifts. Every Christmas I was at Halbstadt a different member of her family would present me with one. Thank-you!

Mr. P. Heinrichs was lonely, a widower. He lived with the Krahns, Helen and Sara. We've visited many an hour together, he gave advice on home remedies freely. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Heinrichs took me in as a temporary boarder, in fall of 1928. After the two little rooms at school were cleaned I moved into the "Teacher's residence". The squirrels shared the cellar with me as a store room. But the classroom was close at hand, No books to forget, nor to carry.

School - During those days, to be a teacher meant to be a janitor too, clean, fire, etc. Of course pupils helped graciously and often without any pay. Anna Falk cleaned my classroom often only for a supper of pancakes and syrup. The boys were a great help in carrying coal, shovelling snow, etc. Teaching eight grades was a full time job and sometimes we used the morning or after four for extra work. Corn. F. Sawatzky used to come to school at 7:30 and had to sit till eight o'clock and learn his catechism. I remember very few late comers. Some pupils helped with the little people, Susan Friesen, Jac. Nickel, and Diedrich Klassen. The latter was a kind of disciplinarian on the playground and hall. I don't think he ever realized it.

Friday afternoon we did a bit of sewing, knitting, basketry and woodwork.

Church - Since we had no church building, all Sunday morning worship services were held at school. The Bergthaler, the Rudner-weide and the Sommerfelder ministers took their turns. The people attended all the services. It meant to have the classroom ready and the livingroom for a lobby. When Mr. H. A. Heinrichs was trustee his sons came to put in the benches etc. Sunday afternoon we rearranged the classroom and were ready for Monday. But we surely had blessed times. We sang heartily, we prayed fervently, we all knew each other. Rev. Loeppky, Rev. Bern. Neufeld and Rev. Friesen visited us usually once in winter as a school. It gave us courage to go on in the task of teaching after they showed us they cared.

Sunday School - For some time we had Sunday School. Sara Heinrichs had the little ones in my kitchen-livingroom and I had the older ones in the classroom. We had no outlined lessons. The lessons were a continuation of the weeks half hour religious instruction. We read the Bible, told stories, learned songs and verses.

Jugendverein - After we had started a choir someone approached me to ask Rev. Loeppky to help us start a Jugendverein. He was an old man, had been through many experiences in his work, and his answer was, "Aren't you afraid you'll cause trouble?" But he stood by us, came to our meetings and gave talks. Once I remember he admonished the youth to read God's word, to pray, learn songs and read good books so they would become strong Christians. We still thank the older residents for helping us then.

Choir and Orchestra - The event of starting a choir was an exciting one. We sang at the Jugendverein, at Christmas and Easter programs. The men in the group were the more talented, if it hadn't been for their consideration and patience the whole endeavor would have failed. We girls had very mediocre voices and the leader was quite incapable of her position, but someone had to swing the baton. Much credit went to Corn. Zacharias who played the organ and thus helped us to sing together.

Another group that often gathered at the school was what we proudly called our Orchestra. The men and women came and played their guitars and violins. At todays standards they perhaps had not rated very high but we enjoyed it thoroughly and gladly accompanied with our singing.

Deaths - We shall not forget those that passed on during those years - Mr. H. H. Heinrichs, Mr. Jac. Abrams, Helen Heinrichs (21), Eddie Friesen (5). Mr. Heinrichs and Mr. Abrams had long illnesses to go thru and everyone was relieved when they were laid to rest, but when a maiden of twenty-one passes so suddenly all are shocked and the question arrises Why? or What for? She asked the young people not to forget her. This is to her memory. The accidental death of Eddie Friesen shock us all to the very depths. He was such a loving child and so pretty. Maybe God gave him only for a little while so we could love him.

I could not close this report without mentioning my immediate neighbors, Rev. Klassen as preacher, singer, School trustee, Mrs. Klassen who doctored me when I was ill and comforted me with her presence after the death of my sister. The P. G. Friesens were close too, Mrs. Friesen with her quiet way was hard to win but we were and are still friends. The Peter Falks and the Jac. P. Heinrichs have left their influence on me. Mrs. Heinrichs still is often in my mind. She is a brave woman.

Thank you all so much for what you did for me and were to me. God bless you all!

Mrs. Anna Braun (nee Peters)