

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 7. Juni 1954  
Isaac G. Krabn David Schulz  
 Leiter des Unterrichts Pfarrer

*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 Sawatsky, 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*

*he 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.

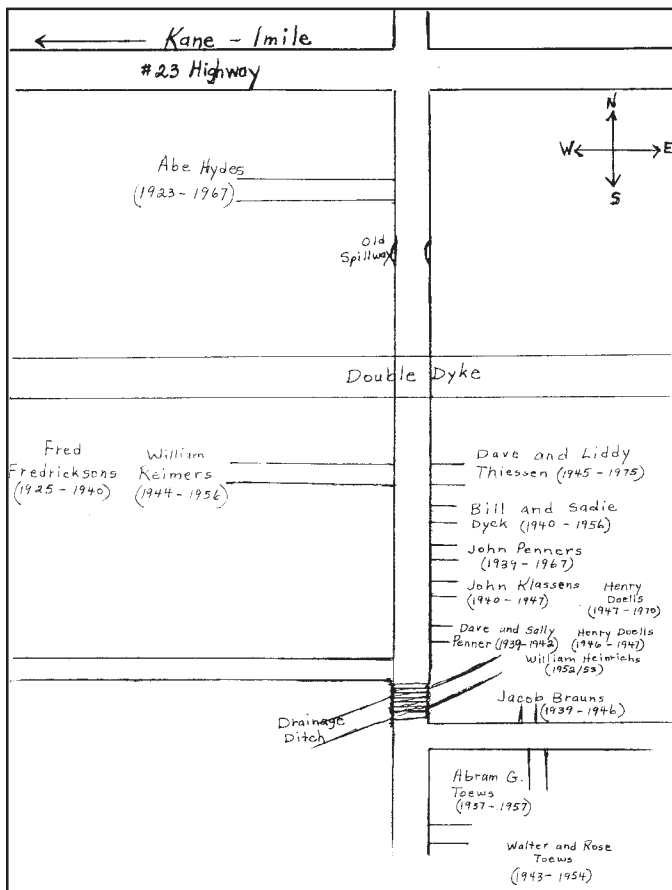
Not all the village dogs were friendly but Happy, a small dog belonging to the Henry Doells, visited often when Mr. Doell came to our place. The dog was true to his name and suited his owner.

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.

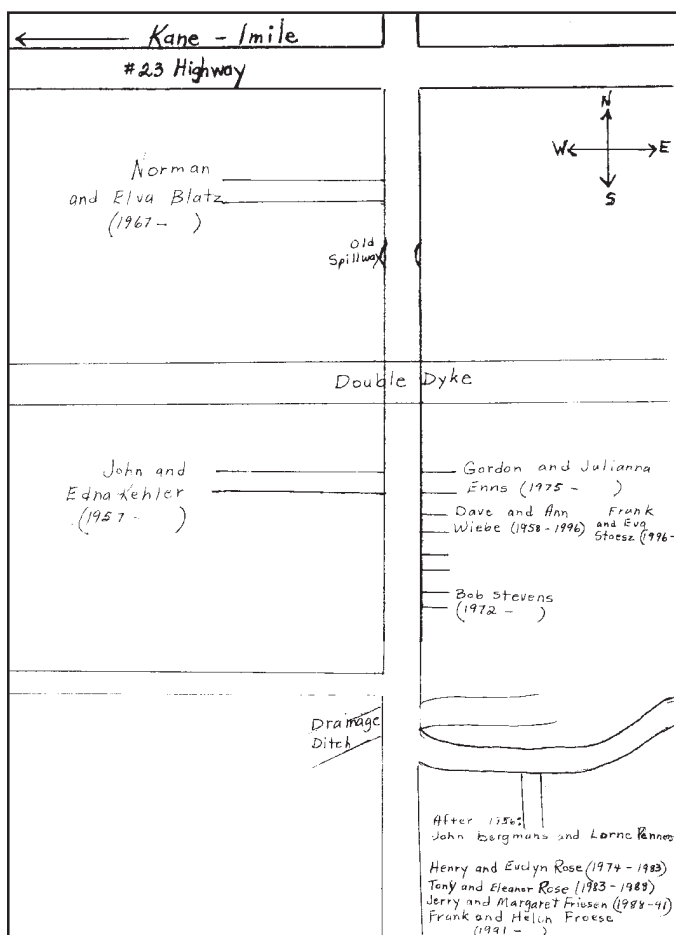
The present village has only a few families, but they still have a sense of community and arrange the odd housewarming party, wiener roast, or bring a hot meal to a sick family.

## 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 Veddin"? 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.*



*Jake and Tena Born on the Kane float at the Shannon Parade in Lowe Farm, 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.*

**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.

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.



*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 Knacksfoot  
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.*



*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 in the Tobacco Creek  
(at Hank Hildebrand's) after the 1969 flood.*



*Chris (Blatz) Block welcomes you to  
the 1997 storm and flood!*



*Hank and Dora Hildebrand's farm in the 1974 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.*

