



*The Peter H. Friesen house burns at Kane, February, 1948.*



*Fire destroys the Jake Febr Store. (Hiebert's Store), June, 1953. Picture taken from the Toews' Store.*



*The Febr Store in 1953.*



*The former Gus Penner house goes up in flames, 1977.*

## SPORTS IN KANE

1960-2000

*by Ralph Groening*

Sports were a major part of life in Kane School in the 1950's. The older boys were heroes. Howard Thiessen, James Penner, Larry and Bob Dyck, Dickie Toews, and others performed for us in football and fastball games. Not that they necessarily realized this attitude on our part, but they nevertheless had a significant influence on our view of the importance of games. Every moment of recess was dedicated to these games. Recess was king! Football was played until November or until the weather determined a change to soccer. Sometimes we were fortunate to have an ice rink in winter and we then played hockey. The years we didn't have ice, we played soccer in winter. Spring would find us searching the yard for a small spot of dry ground to play 'catch'. Then when enough dry ground appeared we would play softball. The school year would close with a picnic. The final event of the day was usually a softball game between the adult males and the school boys.

The highlights of the school athletic year were the games played against neighbouring schools. The fiercest rivalry was of course against Lowe Farm. These games were major events in our lives and the outcome of the game mattered more than anything else in the world. We also played against Rose Farm, Myrtle, and occasionally Melba School.

In 1958-59, Peter H. Friesen, with the help of Bill Braun and George Born, organized a minor baseball program in Kane. This was our first athletic venture outside of the immediate community. We travelled to Carman, Winkler, Plum Coulee, and Morden to play games against teams with uniforms, unlimited supplies of bats and balls, and too often it seemed superior talent. These games were great fun and became an important part of our sports life.

In early 1961, Ralph Groening, Tom Kirk, and Ed Wiebe, with the encouragement and guidance of Bill Toews, played senior baseball for the Plum Coulee team. Bill had already played for Plum Coulee the previous year. The next four years we went to many baseball games, usually in John Toews' green Corvair.

Then all of us boys left the community to continue our education and find jobs out there in the real world. Through family we would hear stories of the exploits of the new generation of Kane athletes. Hockey became a major sport. The Rose Farm boys, Bruce and Brian Brown, and Bernie, Cornie, and Menno Bergen gained a reputation for their skills. Barry Friesen and Earl Bergman were also acknowledged for their hockey and baseball skills. One legendary game of this time period took place in 1968. Vernon Penner took a team of young Kane hockey players led by Barry Friesen into Altona and surprised a very talented and confident team by a score of 3-1. Barry

later went on to play senior hockey for the Altona Maroons and gained immediate credibility when he acknowledged being an important part of that 1968 'parka' uniformed Kane hockey team.

In 1976, Bill Toews and Ralph Groening through coincidence moved back to Kane to work the family farms. The Kane School had closed in 1973, but sports continued in Kane. Irvin Wiebe, Glenn Phillips, Lawrence Dyck and Gordon Dyck had started a men's fastball league. Teams from Lowe Farm, Myrtle, Roland, Morris formed the nucleus for the league.

Kane fastball teams performed proudly for the many local fans for the next fifteen years. This was Kane's final moment of sports glory. For a number of years Kane had two senior fastball teams playing in the league and a women's fastball team playing in a league with Carman, Lowe Farm, and Roland. Ball games were a community event. Farmers would take a break from their work to watch the local talent perform and socialize with their neighbours. This was a time when we all, players and fans alike, felt proud to be 'from' Kane.

Just to note a few highlights from this period. The Kane Pirates won the July Starbuck Fastball two years in a row defeating a number of Winnipeg teams in the process. Part of the fun of winning this event was describing to the many people that asked the location of Kane, and in particular emphasizing the fact we were a village of some 25 people. On defeating Elm Creek in a final game at Elm Creek in 1984; those of us at the game will not easily forget Curt Penner's long drive to right field to win that crucial game for coach Irvin Wiebe and the rest of the team.

Perhaps the community highlight from this time period would be the league fastball finals between the Kane Pirates and the Lowe Farm Astros. Hundreds of people would attend these games. Community pride was fierce and the competition intense. This was an event that mattered more than anything, for that short period of time. Reputations developed and our local Kane loyalty was strengthened. These games were probably the last events that really gave the Kane people a sense of identity.

It is perhaps ironic that in the late 1980's, after both the Lowe Farm and Kane teams were short of ball players, the two communities joined forces under the name Kane-Lowe Farm Blues. This team played in the South Eastern Fastball League for a number of years winning the championship in 1988.

Dulaney Blatz, Corey and Kelly Penner, and Herb Dueck organized the Kane Cardinals in the late 1980's. This proved to be the last organized sports team in Kane. Eventually interest dropped off and this team too was forced to quit. The reasons for the demise of sports and community in Kane are typical of what has happened in rural western Canada. Larger farms translates into fewer people.



*Lowe Farm/Kane Blues are the Steinbach Tournament "B" Champs. Although Lowe Farm and Kane managed to win some games together; things were not always amicable as demonstrated in the picture. Back row: Harold Dyck, Brian Brown, Curt Penner, Gary Dyck, Ralph Groening, Barrie Rose, Dennis Rempel. Front row: Rick Rempel, Barry Friesen, Jerry Brown, Earl Bergman, Ron Braun, Kelly Penner, 1986.*



*Hank Hildebrand sporting the original white cotton with black trim uniform of the Kane Fastball Club. Menno Bergen is posing as back catcher; 1970.*

1969			
INCOME			
Mistle Tournament	1st		\$15.00
Roland Tournament	1st		\$15.00
TOTAL			\$30.00
EXPENSES			
3ellars -	2 1st @ \$2.50 - 2 1st @ \$1.75 - tax		9.87
BY INCOME			
TOTAL -			9.87
By Jan with			
Balance on hand -			\$20.13
1970			
SEPERATE ACCT-ON		UNIFORMS	
INCOME		RECEIVED	
1	LEN WIEBE	✓	16.00
2	IRVIN WIEBE	✓	16.00
3	JOHN HENNER	✓	16.00
4	HANK HILDEBRAND	✓	16.00
5	NORMAN BLAZE	✓	16.00
6	ERNIE FRIESEN	✓	16.00
7	ALLEN WIEBE	✓	16.00
8	PETE DYCK	✓	16.00
9	MENNO BERGEN	✓	16.54
10	CERNIE BERGEN	✓	16.00
11	BERNIE BERGEN	✓	16.34
12	STAN BERN	✓	16.84
TOTAL			80.68
Expenses			
June 9, 70	Naval Sportsman Club on acct		\$50.00
June 30, 70	" " " acct		178.45
			178.45

*Kane's early records of baseball.*

## KANE RAIDERS HOCKEY TEAM

1991/1992 - 1995/1996

*by Dulaney Blatz and Ralph Groening*

As far back as most people remember Kane could always put together enough skaters to make a hockey team. They would usually rent the Roland Rink and play exhibition games or scrimmage.

During the winter of 1990-1991, the guys started playing hockey in Plum Coulee. A new indoor rink had been built that summer in Plum Coulee. In 1991-1992, Kane played in a house league in Plum Coulee.

In 1992-1993, they bought red jerseys and called themselves the Kane Raiders. In these early years, Herb Dueck, Jeff Blatz, Don Brown and Eldon Dueck helped organize the hockey team in Kane. They had good teams and were competitive from 1992/1993 to 1994/1995.

The ages of players ranged from late teenagers to near pensioners. It was good exercise and a lot of fun. The league had no body contact or slap shot rules. Only two players not including the goalie, could be under the age of 25. Soon the league got younger and faster. The Kane Raiders discontinued playing after the 1995/1996 season.

## KANE MEN'S FASTBALL HISTORY

1969-1985 & 1987-1991

*by Dulaney Blatz and Ralph Groening*

### Original Kane Team 1969-1983

(took the name of Blazers in 1972-1975)

(used the name Kane A's or Kane A from 1976-1981)

(went back to the Blazers in 1982 & 1983)

1970 Champions of Red River Fastball League

1974 finished first place in Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League

### Kane Pirates 1976-1985

1984 Champions

1979 & 1983 finished first place in P.V.M.F.L.

### Kane Cardinals 1987-1991

1988 & 1989 Champs of Border Valley Men's Fastball League

1988, 1989 & 1990 finished first place in B.V.M.F.L.

### Red River Valley Men's Fastball League

Champs

1970 Kane

1971 Lowe Farm

1972 Dominion City

1973 Emerson

### Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League

Champs: — first place in league standings:

1974—Lowe Farm Astros—Kane Blazers

1975—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1976—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1977—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1978—Roland—Lowe Farm Astros

1979—Lowe Farm Astros—Kane Pirates

1980—Lowe Farm Astros—Morris Ratz

1981—Morris Ratz—Morris Ratz

1982—Morris Ratz—Morris Ratz

1983—Morris Ratz—Kane Pirates

1984—Kane Pirates—Elm Creek Astros

1985—Lowe Farm Astros—L. F. Astros

### Border Valley Men's Fastball League

Champs:— first place in league standing:

1987—Thames Tigers—Thames Tigers

(2nd-Kane Cardinals)

1988—Kane Cardinals—Kane Cardinals

1989—Kane Cardinals—Kane Cardinals

1990—Rosenfeld/Schoenthal—Kane C.

1969—played league games but no play-offs

1991—Kane played a series of exhibition games and tournament games

In 1969, regular season fastball started in Kane. Up until this time, exhibition games between neighbouring towns were played at the ball diamond in Kane. This diamond was located in the northeast corner of the school yard. We can recall a second (portable) backstop being used by younger grades in school at the southeast corner of the school yard. It was located by the car garage of the teacher's house.

The Red River Valley Men's Fastball League originally consisted of teams and coordinators from Roland - Glenn Philips, Myrtle - L. S. Dyck, Morden - Cornie Kehler, Lowe Farm - Gordon Dyck and Kane - Irvin Wiebe.

In June of 1970, twelve uniforms were purchased from Harval Sportswear Ltd. on Main Street in Winnipeg. These were the original uniforms of the Kane Fastball Club. They were white with black trim, a number on the back and KANE printed across the front of a button front shirt. The pants were white with a black stripe down the side of the leg worn with black socks. They were made of cotton, and cost \$16.54 each.

That summer Kane put on a tournament on August 8th. Morris took first prize of \$15.00, Homewood took second prize of \$10.00 and Lowe Farm took third prize of \$5.00. After expenses, the ball club made about \$70.00 and provided the community with some great entertainment. Tournaments were to have been set up for 1977 and 1979 in conjunction with the recreation committee but never materialized. A picnic was put on June 28 of 1971 and \$150.62 was earned.

In 1970, the league started play-offs for the first time. A trophy (donated by the Lowe Farm Credit Union) was given to the champions. The Kane Fastball Club were the champions that first year. After the 1970 season, the Morden team left the league.

In 1972, on April 20th, a vote was put forth by the players to have a nickname for the club. Nominations at this meeting were: 1. Blazers 2. Cardinals 3. Mohawks with Blazers winning the majority of the votes. Blazers was considered the team name until 1979, when two teams were formed in Kane. In 1971, the Red River League expanded east to Dominion City, Letellier, Emerson, St. Jean and Morris. For two years, the league had an east and west division.

After the 1973 season, Myrtle amalgamated with Roland. Roland, Lowe Farm and Kane pulled out of the Red River League and formed a new league called the Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League. They then added teams from Carman, Rosenort and Miami. These teams were not mainstays throughout the 70's but added size and closeness in travel for the league. In 1974, the league added a first place trophy. Kane won this trophy as the Blazers in 1974 and the Pirates in 1979 and 1983.

At the 1975 annual meeting, we made the motion to try and get the league to use rubber cleats. At the league meeting this motion was turned down in favour of steel cleats. On April 2nd of 1976 at the annual pre-season meeting in Kane, it was moved that two teams would play out of Kane: a senior team and a junior team. The teams would remain under one management, but have its own coach and captain.

Manager for the first year was Norman Blatz and assistant manager was Lawrence Dyck. Coach for the junior team was Barrie Rose and Irvin Wiebe was voted assistant coach. Four players (Barrie Rose, Earl Bergman, Barry Friesen and Milton Braun) left the senior team to play on the junior team. It was casually talked about at this meeting that once players reached the age of 25, they would return to the senior club. The senior team postponed voting on coach and captain until all the players were together. The Kane A team and Kane B team were entered into the league in 1976.

At the start of the season, the Kane B team were called the Kane Pirates and the Kane A team were called the Kane A's or sometimes the Kane A team. This name would officially change back to Kane Blazers in 1982.

It should be recognized that after the 1981 season, many of the old Kane A players quit playing fastball in Kane. Jim Hildebrand and Cornie Paetkau stayed on and Barrie Rose, from the Pirates, became coach and helped with catching duties. Barrie Rose was the only player to play on all four Kane ball clubs (original team 74-75, Pirates 76-81 & 83-85, Blazers 82 and Cardinals 87 & 88).

New uniforms were purchased once again from Harval Sportswear Ltd. These were the gray shirts with black trim and black pants. They replaced the old International Inn white and blue pinstripes of the mid to late 70's.

This team was made up of mostly younger players from the Kane and Lowe Farm area. This was the 80's: farms were increasing in size and farmers were decreasing. Less opportunity to farm, getting good jobs elsewhere was the logical thing to do, so ball players left the community.

The team folded after the 1983 season due to lack of players.

For eight years, Kane provided the Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League with two teams: the Kane Pirates 1976-1983 and Kane A's 1976-1981 and Kane Blazers 1982-83. Unfortunately, we could not get any official record of first year play between these two teams.

Every year the Kane Community Centre put on a wiener roast for a July game that pitted the two Kane teams against each other. This was a main community event and a good crowd was always on hand.



*Kane A's. Back row: Cornie Bergen, Dave Dueck, Lawrence Dyck, Ron Braun, George Penner, Ernie Friesen. Front row: Jim Hildebrand, Hank Hildebrand, Allen Wiebe, Marvin Hyde, 1976.*



*Pirate coach Irvin Wiebe in a rare serene moment during a play-off game between Lowe Farm and Kane. Note the usual overwhelming fan support - hard to find a parking spot in Kane on game night, 1979.*

## Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League



ALL GAMES  
START 7:30 SHARP

1984  
SCHEDULE

TUES. MAY 22 ..... Elm Creek at Tavern  
Lowe Farm at Pirates  
WED. MAY 23 ..... Ratz at Pirates  
THURS. MAY 24 ..... Elm Creek at Lowe Farm  
FRI. MAY 25 ..... Tavern at Ratz  
MON. MAY 28 ..... Ratz at Elm Creek  
Pirates at Tavern  
WED. MAY 30 ..... Lowe Farm at Ratz  
THURS. MAY 31 ..... Pirates at Elm Creek  
FRI. JUNE 1 ..... Tavern at Lowe Farm

### Rosters & League Fees Due

MON. JUNE 4 ..... Pirates at Ratz  
Tavern at Elm Creek  
WED. JUNE 6 ..... Pirates at Lowe Farm  
Ratz at Tavern  
FRI. JUNE 8 ..... Lowe Farm at Elm Creek  
MON. JUNE 11 ..... Tavern at Pirates  
Elm Creek at Ratz  
WED. JUNE 13 ..... Ratz at Lowe Farm  
THUR. JUNE 14 ..... Elm Creek at Pirates  
FRI. JUNE 15 ..... Lowe Farm at Tavern  
MON. JUNE 18 ..... Ratz at Pirates  
Elm Creek at Tavern  
WED. JUNE 20 ..... Lowe Farm at Pirates  
Tavern at Ratz  
FRI. JUNE 22 ..... Elm Creek at Lowe Farm  
MON. JUNE 25 ..... Pirates at Tavern  
Ratz at Elm Creek  
WED. JUNE 27 ..... Lowe Farm at Ratz  
THUR. JUNE 28 ..... Pirates at Elm Creek  
FRI. JUNE 29 ..... Tavern at Lowe Farm  
TUES. JULY 3 ..... Pirates at Lowe Farm  
Tavern at Elm Creek  
WED. JULY 4 ..... Ratz at Tavern  
THUR. JULY 5 ..... Lowe Farm at Elm Creek  
FRI. JULY 6 ..... Pirates at Ratz  
MON. JULY 9 ..... Elm Creek at Ratz  
Tavern at Pirates  
WED. JULY 11 ..... Ratz at Lowe Farm  
THUR. JULY 12 ..... Elm Creek at Pirates  
FRI. JULY 13 ..... Lowe Farm at Tavern

PLAYOFF 4th Place at 1st Place  
3rd Place at 2nd Place

Playoff - 4th Place at 1st Place  
3rd Place at 2nd Place

### PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Series "A" 1st Place VS 4th Place  
July 18th, 19th and 23rd if necessary

Series "B" 2nd Place VS 3rd Place  
July 18th, 19th and 23rd

### FINALS

STARTING AT TOP FINISHER  
IN LEAGUE PLAY  
July 26th, 28th and 30th  
Aug. 1st and 3rd if necessary

ALL STAR GAME AUGUST 5th  
AT 2:30 P.M. AT MORRIS

### CONTACT MEN

MORRIS RATZ Don Third ..... 746-2562  
MORRIS TAVERN Don Hildebrand .. Res. 746-6591  
Bus. 746-8967  
LOWE FARM ASTROS Ray Braun .. Res. 746-8063  
Bus. 746-8766  
KANE PIRATES Irvin Wiebe ..... Res. 343-2257  
Bus. 343-2202  
ELM CREEK Wayne Knutson ..... Res. 745-3684  
Bus. 745-2241

COMMISSIONER Doug Phillips ..... 343-2209

Home Teams please report scores to:

CFAM ..... 324-6464 - Collect  
CISV ..... 325-9506 - Collect  
or 822-4446 - Collect

**K KANE**  
FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL CO. LTD.

Phone 343-2136

**Simplot Fertilizers**



For Your Shell Farm Lubricants  
and Bulk Fuels See:

**Pete Harder**  
Kane, Manitoba  
Phone 343-2484

See  
**IRVIN WIEBE**  
for your Crop Hail Insurance  
Needs . . . Good Rates

**PHONE: 343-2202**

Kane A's (7) vs. Pirates (5), June 2nd, 1977  
 WP Cornie Bergen LP Barry Friesen  
 Kane A's (10) vs. Pirates (3), June 20, 1977  
 WP Allen Wiebe LP ?  
 Kane A's (7) vs. Pirates (7), July 15, 1977

Pirates (12) vs. Kane A's (6), June 3, 1978  
 WP Barry Friesen LP Cornie Bergen  
 Kane A's (3) vs. Pirates (2), June 14, 1978  
 WP Cornie Bergen LP?  
 Pirates (7) vs. Kane A's (5), July 4, 1978  
 WP? LP Allen Wiebe

As the Pirate team gained experience and jelled as a team, they quickly improved. Their lineup cards were stacked with power hitters, solid defense and great pitching. Combined with old baseball tactics of "bunting runners over" and "hit and run" baseball by head coach Irvin Wiebe, helped the Pirates take the first place trophy in 1979. The Pirates were one of the elite teams in the league. Although, in 1979 at the Shannon Festival, the Kane A's would beat the Pirates in the championship game.

During the eighties, the Pirates would be the dominant team in Kane. In spring of 1981, the Pirates held a work day on the Kane ball diamond along with a few of the Kane A's. A new 25' backstop with metal poles was set up: bleachers repaired and painted directly behind foul line fencing down the first and third baselines: loads of dirt were trucked in and levelled in the outfield: a scoreboard was erected behind third base: sand was put down over the entire infield to take away the bad bounces: a home run fence was erected in the outfield for a couple of years. Down the left and right field lines it was 215' (league minimum) and 240' to straightway center field. This was made of snow fencing. Right field always was a little soupy after rains and a sidewalk ran across deep left field into the left center power alley. The players benches remained the same, a 24' railway plank and three cinder blocks.

The Pirates would go on to win big money at tournaments in Altona, Plum Coulee, Morden, Morris, and St. Jean among others. Probably the best one was in Starbuck beating the Chalet Jets of Winnipeg in the finals. The Pirates came in first in the league again in 1983. In 1984, the Pirates won the league championship over a strong team from Elm Creek.



*Tony Rose celebrating yet another home run, 1982.*



*Kane Pirates won Pembina Valley Men's Fastball Championship at Elm Creek. Back row: Ron Friesen, Curt Penner, Ralph Groening, Brian Brown, Tony Rose, Tim Groening, Rod Bergman, Dennis Rempel, Kelly Penner; Irvin Wiebe (coach). Front row: Dave Dueck, Brad Wiebe, Barry Friesen, Barrie Rose, Earl Bergman, Kevin Harder, Don Rempel, 1984.*

An interesting note as of the real start to this Pirate team was in the Shannon Basin Tournament of 1975. The Lowe Farm 16 and under hardball team (comprised of Kane & Lowe Farm boys) entered the tournament. Coached by Mrs. Evelyn Rose, they picked up Gordon Dyck from Rosenort to pitch for them. He pitched orthodox as by now the league mostly had windmill pitchers. These young boys went all the way to the finals, but lost to the Kane Blazers. The nucleus of this team is what made the Kane Pirates.

After the league disbanded in 1985, there was no men's ball in 1986 in Kane. In 1987, another team was formed in Kane. The Kane Cardinals would play in the Border Valley Fastball League from 1987-1991. Original players

for that team were Corey and Kelly Penner, Dulaney Blatz, Herb Dueck, Al Wiebe, Ray Braun, Howard Brown, Steve Hildebrand, Eldon Dueck, Don Groening and player coach Barrie Rose.

The Kane Cardinals would take second place in their first year of league play. They would lose the championship in the final game to the Thames Tigers in the last inning. In 1988, the Cardinals put on a tournament in Kane where they lost the final game to the Horndean Hawks. It was a good Saturday tournament, but temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit kept a lot of people indoors at home. That year the Cardinals won "B" side in Plum Coulee, "A" side in Altona and did well at an intermediate B tourney in Notre Dame taking third place out of sixteen teams. To finish a good year of ball, they took first place in their league and brought a championship back to Kane.

The next year, 1989, they took first place and won the championship again, their second in three years. In 1990, the Kane Cardinals took first place in the Border Valley Fastball League for the third year in a row. Just a few days before the semifinal play-off game, our shortstop Kelly Penner passed away in a golf accident in Roland.



*Kane Cardinals are the Altona Sunflower Festival "A" Champs. Back row: Barrie Rose, Tony Rose, Herb Dueck, Kelly Penner, Eldon Dueck, Chris Martens. Front row: Barry Friesen, Don Groening, Bill Toews, Corey Penner, Dulaney Blatz, 1989.*

Kelly was a good ball player and helped organize the Kane Cardinals. Often being contact man, taking care of the upkeep of the diamond or equipment manager, he always did his part to help the team on or off the field.

Before the start of the semifinal game against the Horndean Hawks, we had agreed as a team to discontinue playing into the finals if we won the game. The game was decided by one run in the top of the seventh inning. Horndean won in a close low scoring game. The Kane players wore a black band on their left sleeve in honour of Kelly.

In 1991, the Kane Cardinals played exhibition games against teams in the Border Valley League. They also got

involved with a number of tournaments in Southern Manitoba. They did not play in a scheduled season of sorts. In a July tournament in St. Jean, the Kane Cardinals barrelled their way to the "A" side finals. Losing the game in the final inning, they packed their bats into the bat bag for the last time. 1991 was the last year men's fastball was played in Kane.

In spring of 1993, the Kane Cardinal Fastball Club started the Kelvin Penner Memorial Athletic Award. Every year a trophy and \$25.00 cheque is awarded to a grade 8 student at the Lowe Farm School. This award is based on the student's helpfulness to other players on their team, good sportsmanship and using 100% of their ability and talents to help their team win at any sport that they are involved in. This student must also carry above class average grades in academics. They must also be respectful to their classmates, teachers and parents. Every year this award is awarded by a Cardinal player or coach. In 1998, the Kane Cardinal Fastball Club donated \$1000.00 to the Lowe Farm School to purchase a pitching machine for the community's students, some of which came from Kane. The pitching machine helps develop young hitters and brings more fun to their practices.

In the early years, the umpires were from Kane or neighbouring communities. This was a little awkward but it worked. Sometimes umpires were not arranged before the game and had to be summoned from the crowd. Here is a list of some of the umpires who umpired in Kane: P. J. Friesen, Jack Siemens, Dick Toews, Cornie Bergman, Herb Andreson, Don Pfrimmer, Doug Reid, John Kehler.

These umpires were not always paid or paid very little. Later years, professional umpires were brought in and made things better for the game. To all the umpires behind the plate and doing bases at Kane, the ball players thank you for umpiring our games. We couldn't have played without you.

It should be said that a special thanks be given to Irvin Wiebe who brought Men's fastball to Kane in the late 60's. He helped the credibility of the P.V.M.F.L. and helped Kane to expand to two teams. Also to Dulaney Blatz who brought Men's fastball back to Kane in '87 with the Cardinals.

There was also a great help in coaching from Barrie Rose, Ralph Groening, Barry Friesen, Bill Toews, Cornie Bergen, Jim Hildebrand, Cornie Paetkau and Irvin Wiebe who coached more games, by far, than anyone else in Kane. There was a lot of help off the field too. Team managers, secretary/treasurers and contact men organized and re-organized rained out games, tournaments, and exhibition games. A fun job in the days when Roland exchange was on a party line. You could tell on game night the importance of fastball to the players. They came earlier than necessary to the ball park to help with team duties like dragging the infield, setting up bases and bringing equipment to the bench. They also gave an extra effort by joining the grass cutting crews. The diamond and outfield grass was always in great shape for game time and the big crowds that came to watch in Kane.

A very special thanks to the Kane Community Centre for keeping the booth open during and after games. A Coke never tasted better than after a Kane win against Lowe Farm! And another special thanks to all the fans who sat through the cold and the heat, fended off thousands of mosquitoes and braved the wood ticks in the trees when getting foul balls and encouraged umpires to make all close plays in favour of the Kane teams. They generously gave when "the hat was passed around".

We loved to play ball in Kane and were proud to play ball for Kane. Thanks to everyone who supported Men's and Women's fastball for 23 years in Kane.

### **KANE PIRATES**

*by Audrey D. Friesen*

A very descriptive article on baseball in Kane has been written by two players, and this leaves me free to eliminate details and share a few memories that I have accumulated about the Kane Pirates.

Irvin Wiebe (my dad) loved coaching the Pirates and would extol the virtues of all the players to a not always interested family at the supper table. Dad loved baseball statistics and would stay up well into the night, transferring the records from the latest game. I would always hear if the scorekeeping had lacked important information.

Many have marvelled over home runs hit by Tony Rose. Did any really hit the "P" on the Paterson elevator? In the days before the home run fence, Tony hit a fly ball well into the parking lot, close to the mud scrapper. A player from the Morris Ratz caught the fly ball, however David Dueck was still able to score from second base. Wow!

Everyone enjoyed the rivalry between the Pirates and the A's. When the two Kane teams played, spectators could be heard making comments like these: that's my neighbour, that's my son, that's my nephew. The annual community wiener roast that followed was always well attended. You could buy sunflower seeds during the game from Pete and Katie Ginter who cheerfully managed the booth.

1981 is remembered for two events. This is the year the Kane ball field sported a new backstop and a sturdy steel fence. It is also the year that the all nine positions could be filled from the Pirates and A's at the All Star game.

July 18, 1982, the Pirates won a two day tournament at Starbuck. Twenty-four teams were entered and the Pirates defeated the Chalet Jets from Winnipeg in the final game. In 1983, the Pirates also won the Plum Coulee Fastball Tournament, defeating the Diamond Steelers from Neuenberg 6-3. But the victory most mentioned is the league championship of 1984. It was the fifth game of the series and Elm Creek was winning 6-1 in the bottom of the 5th. The Pirates scored two runs in the 6th. Then in the 7th inning came the shot heard around southern Manitoba. Curt Penner whipped out a triple to tie the game. The Pirates scored nine runs in the extra inning to capture the trophy, winning 15-6. Brian Brown and Barrie Rose pitched and caught all eight innings. Barrie Rose led

the team in prayer on the mound and the spectators lit and waved cake sparklers after the game. A proud Kane moment!

Barrie Rose shares this memory that he says happened quite often. When catching for a tournament, the umpire would frequently ask where the team was from. Barrie would reply - Kane. The next question was usually - How big is it? Oh, 16-18 people. The umpire would be impressed that Kane had "a" ball team and Barrie would have his comeback ready. Actually, we have three - two mens and a ladies.

The Pirates that I remember always played hard, wanted to win and did Kane proud by being gracious in victory and defeat.

### **KANE CANARIES/ANGELS**

*by Audrey D. Friesen and a team effort*

After much deliberation, it is estimated that the Kane Canaries Ladies Fastball Team made its debut in 1973, give or take a year. We began with makeup games against teams from Myrtle, Roland, Miami and Rosenort. A couple of years later, the Pembina Valley Ladies Fastball League was formed. I believe the first year consisted of teams from Homewood, Roland, Carman, Miami and Kane. Later on in the early 80's, the league became the Hwy. 23 Girl's Fastball League with teams representing larger centres such as Morris, Carman and Rosenort. The ladies from the small town of Kane prevailed and played on.

Irvin Wiebe was the first fearless leader to take on the job of coaching a Kane ladies team. The challenge of coaching his wife and three daughters proved a daunting task and he smartly left to take on other challenges. Barrie Rose, Bill Toews, Ralph Groening, Evelyn Rose and Herb Martens were the other leaders of strong character to face the challenges that came with the role of coach.

We like to remember ourselves as being highly successful, often coming in first in league play and winning league championships: 1978 (under the tutelage of Barrie Rose), 1980 (Ralph was given the honour of coaching this well-rounded team). The 1980 championship seems to stand out in most of our memories. Whether this is because we battled Carman A with our strong desire to win or because this is the year we invested in new uniforms is still under discussion. The Canaries traded in their bright yellow T-shirts for blue and gold uniforms, championship jackets and a new name - Angels.

In order to keep ladies baseball alive in Kane, players were welcome from far and wide and encouraged to bring a friend along to the game (just in case). It didn't really matter if opposing teams showed up or not as we always had enough spectators to make up a game if need be. Many a time I remember driving through pouring rain, carrying on because I knew it was always sunny in Kane. As Vivian Brown reminisced, the great conversations going back and forth from Starbuck were half the fun. She also remembers the early years of driving with me in my green



*Kane Canaries Ladies Fastball Team won the Pembina Valley Ladies Fastball League championship. Back row: Coach Ralph Groening, Doreen Hyde, Darlene Bergman, Lori McLaughlin, Dorothy Braun, Deb Penner, Marlene Enns. Front row: Barb Toews, Karen Wiebe, Audrey Wiebe, Audrey Friesen.*

excuse for a car that came with a warning - DON'T WEAR WHITE! Our first baseball ritual before the game was to dust our eyelashes. I also remember many ladies crowding into my car during a deluge in the middle of a game only to be dripped on by dirty water from the windshield. How I miss that car!

Lois Johnson from Starbuck added a spark to the Kane team for a number of years. She shares this memory. She stopped at Syl's in Carman where she knew she'd find the Kane Angels after a ball game. Lois had not participated in the game because her mother had passed away. Her presence caused an awkward, silent moment until Vija gave Lois a big hug that broke the ice. This brief moment is one Lois often revisits.

Barrie Rose has another Lois Johnson memory. He remembers Lois being offended by a coaching maneuver, having a group of Canaries explain to him why he had to apologize and then made to apologize to Lois. Barrie still sounds a bit confused about the whole thing. You gotta love women's baseball!

The Kane Canaries/Angels weren't only known for their baseball abilities. They were also available for anniversaries and showers and could do a 'resounding' rendition of "Take me out to the Ball Game". Windups to Rainbow Stage and Stage West were highlights but the real highlight of every season was the camaraderie shared.

I would love to mention all the players who dedicated time and spirit to the Canaries/Angels teams but have been cautioned to withhold. It was a blast! Only later could

I appreciate the sacrifice made by mothers who had a strong desire to keep baseball going in Kane during a very hectic farming season. An extra heartfelt appreciation to these players. What can you say about the dedication and commitment given by the coaches - thank you. I'm sure many cringed at the call for an umpire and yet there were always those special members of the community that answered the call. You know who you are! Spectators add flavour to any game, and in this, Kane ball teams had quantity and quality.



*The Kane Angels wind up the 1981 season at Stage West. Back row: Karen Wiebe, Audrey Wiebe, Ralph Groening, Tim Groening. Front row: Eleanor Rose, Barb Toews, Vivian Brown, Audrey Friesen, Deb Penner, Marlene Enns.*



*Henry Schellenberg in his Plum Coulee ball uniform, 1948.*



*Myrtle's Bantam "A" team are possessors of the Rusco Window Co. trophy, emblematic of league honours for 1957. Back row: Manager Henry Rempel, Wayne Allison, Gordon Dyck, Don Rempel, Art Thiessen. Front row: Bob Bracken, Bill Toews, Don Patterson, Murray Sloan, Tommy Kirk, Ken Fredricksen.*



*Kane Rockets: (l-r) James Penner, Len Born, Ernie Born, Eddie Derksen, Ken Giesbrecht, Larry Born, Gordon Dyck, Walter Born.*



*Provincial High School Curling Championship in Winnipeg. Brian Wiebe (skip), Ernie Friesen (third), Bert Friesen (second) Keith Born (lead), of Kane, 1965.*



*Provincial High School Basketball Tournament Champs in Brandon, 1965. Back row: Hardy Kehler (coach), Art Wiebe, Harold Dyck, Earl Dyck, Eugene Hildebrandt, Bert Friesen, Paul Friesen. Front row: Larry Gluck, Ralph Groening, Ed Wiebe, Menno Wiebe.*



*The Kane/Lowe Farm Red River Ramblers Snowmobile Club was active during the 1970's. Most of the riding was along the ditches, the Red River and the Pembina Hills.*



*Kane/Lowe Farm Hockey Team, 1981. Back row: Larry Gluck, Tony Rose, Brian Brown, Barrie Rose, Les Dyck, Dennis Rempel, Jerry Brown, Richard Rempel. Front row: Norman Blatz, Rick Giesbrecht, Hank Hildebrand, Cornie Paetkau, Larry Klassen, Howard Brown.*



*Kane/Lowe Farm captured the Morden Linament Hockey League trophy when they defeated the Plum Coulee Pirates 7-3, in 1982. Back row: Earl Braun, Rick Rempel, Milton Braun, Larry Gluck, Gary Dyck, Tony Rose, Brian Brown, Dennis Rempel, Les Dyck, Norman Blatz. Front row: Ken Reimer, Rodney Bergman, Howard Brown, Cornie Paetkau, Barrie Rose, Barry Friesen (coach), Rick Giesbrecht, Hank Hildebrand.*

*The spirit  
lives on...*



*...in our  
roots*

**PETER & MARIA BERGMAN  
FRANK & HELEN BERGMAN**

*by Hilda (Bergman) Hiebert*



*This house was built by  
Peter Bergman in 1920*

Peter and Maria Bergman (our grandparents) lived on a farm in the Rose Farm District, four miles south and half a mile east of Kane (SW 18-4-2W). Grandpa built a large, modern home for his family in 1920. They raised five children, Mary, Frank, Edna, Bill and Jim. Many happy times were enjoyed at Grandma and Grandpa's house. Grandpa passed away in 1942 while saying the closing prayer at a service in the Rose Farm Church. Grandma remarried and eventually sold the farm and retired to Plum Coulee until her death in 1969.

Frank continued to farm in the Kane/Rose Farm area together with his wife Helen. Edna (Unrau) and her family farmed in the Myrtle area for many years but the rest of the family left the community to make their living elsewhere.

Frank and Helen had a family of four daughters, Margaret, Hilda, Irma and Nora, and one son, Ed. We were active in both the Rose Farm School and Church. Although our family was more closely involved in the Rose Farm community, our post office was Kane and business was conducted in town on a regular basis. Margaret and Hilda attended Kane High School in the 1952/53 school year but returned to Rose Farm in the Fall of '53 when the Rose Farm High School was opened.

We have many fond memories of our childhood days. Events such as family gatherings, a trip to Winnipeg, or a picnic at Seven Sisters Falls, were highlights. As we grew

up we left the farm, one by one, to find employment and eventually Mom and Dad took up seasonal employment in Winnipeg and worked the farm in the summer. After a number of years of part-time farming, they sold the farm and took up permanent residence in Winnipeg. Dad passed away in the fall of 1993. We miss him, but are thankful for the many things he taught us and the good example he was to us. We remember well his willingness to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Mom now lives in Bethel Place, a Seniors' apartment building in Winnipeg. At the present time the family all reside in Winnipeg with the exception of Nora and her husband who live in Calgary, and one grandson who lives in Toronto.

We thank God for our parents and grandparents and the faith and values they passed on to us.

**JACOB & AGANETHA (Giesbrecht) BLATZ**  
*by Dora (Blatz) Hildebrand*

My grandparents, Jacob and Aganetha Blatz, were married on July 9, 1891, at Neuhoffnung (New Hope), near Gretna, Manitoba and moved to Rose Farm (NW 9-4-2W) in 1896.

In the same year Grandpa made available; one acre for a school, and one acre for a cemetery, on the northeast corner of the home quarter. Grandpa Blatz served on the school board for many years.

A large two-story house was built in 1919, and the Blatz family enjoyed many gatherings there, including their Golden Anniversary in 1941.

In 1928 Grandpa lost his left leg from above the knee due to blood poisoning, and so most of the grandchildren remember him only with crutches. Grandpa loved to entertain us kids, and I remember him telling us that his cat could talk! He held the cat in his arms and asked, "Have you caught any mice today?" The feline would answer with a prompt *meow*. Then he asked if she had a fight with a dog today? A vigorous shaking of the head was a certain negative answer. We thought Grandpa and his cat were very smart. Years later we found out that a pinch on the tail would bring out the *meow*, and a gentle blowing into the ear brought about a shaking of the head. We loved our Grandpa.

Grandma was of a less gentle nature and was known for her scoldings and complainings. But we all knew that her bark was worse than her bite. One day when Grandma had been on the farm for a sleep over, she complained about her teeth all through breakfast, and was still muttering when Dad helped her into the car. At that point, Mother came out to the car, and laughingly handed over the much more comfortable lower dentures, and retrieved her own! We loved our Grandma too!

Grandpa and Grandma Blatz retired to Lowe Farm (now #15 on Fourth Street West), in 1939, but my single uncles stayed on the farm. They now had a very small house; two rooms on the main floor with a lean-to, and



*Jacob and Aganetha Blatz on their 50th Anniversary at Rose Farm, 1941.*

*Jacob Blatz's home built in 1919 at Rose Farm.*

one room and a storage room upstairs. They worshipped in the Bergthaler Church in Lowe Farm.

An old custom was held to spread oats on grandparents on New Year's morning by grandchildren. Grandpa encouraged my brother Norman to do this for him. Grandma wanted no part of it, and agreed to it as long as she was not in bed. Norman stayed overnight and in the morning Grandma woke him up and then Norman sprinkled the oats on Grandpa.

Terry Blatz, son of Jac and Helen Blatz, grandson of Frank G. and Mary Blatz, was the 19th great grandchild of Jacob and Aganetha Blatz and the first male great grandchild by the name of "Blatz".

Grandpa passed away on June 24, 1947, and Grandma on March 9, 1953. They were both buried in the Rose Farm Cemetery that he had looked after for so many years (his son Dan took over the job after Grandpa, and now grandson Frank D. Blatz is on a committee of two that organize its care).

Their children include: Jacob (1892-1918) remained single and was training for the dentistry in Toronto at his passing; Agnes (1893-1981) lost her first husband John Dyck in 1918, and then married Peter Rempel. They farmed at Lowe Farm; Daniel (December, 1894-January, 1895); Helen (1896-1971) married John N. Dyck and they farmed at Lowe Farm and Rivers; Frank (1897-1980) married Maria Dueck and farmed at Horndean, Kane, and retired to Plum Coulee; Peter (1898) stillborn; Mary (1900-1963) remained single and was a Registered Nurse at Winkler, Altona and Ninette Sanitarium; John (1902-1907) died of diphtheria; Susan (1903-1968) married Abram Dueck and they lived at Horndean and Fort Garry; Anna (1905) stillborn; Andrew (1906-1991) married Justina Toews and they farmed at Homewood, then at Killarney and had years of construction while living at Morden; Daniel (November, 1907-February, 1908); Daniel (1909-1990) married Edna Loeppky and they farmed at Rose Farm and Graysville; Abram (1911-1995) married Tina Klassen and they farmed at Kane, then

moved to Winnipeg; Tina (1912) remained single and served as a missionary in Germany, and is now retired in Abbotsford; Eva (1916) married Henry Braun. They farmed at Sperling and Kane, then moved to British Columbia where she still resides.

### **FRANK G. & MARY (Dueck) BLATZ** *by Dora (Blatz) Hildebrand*



*Frank and Mary Blatz family in the mid 40's.  
Annie, Jake, Mary (Mom), Dora, Henry, Frank (Dad), Frank,  
and Norman in front.*

It was in October of 1938, that Mom and Dad made their move to Kane from Horndean, with their six children. Dad was at our former home preparing another load, the older two brothers were on the trail on horseback bringing the cattle, and Mother, the maid, and us young'ens were in this new strange place, way up north behind the dyke. We weren't afraid until we saw Mother

nail the door shut! Then we knew we were on the wild frontier! The next morning the sun was shining, Dad came with another load of goods, the boys came with the cattle, we were a family again, and our new life at Kane had begun.

We farmed at this place (SE of 26-4-3W), 3½ miles southwest of Kane for five years. (This property had been purchased from the Dominion Bank of Canada. A previous owner had been Mr. John Miller who had lost the property to bankers Mr. Bailey and Mr. Tannahill from Toronto.) We attended services at the Bloomfield School during the first years, as Kane didn't have any regular organized services at that time.

In November of 1943, our family moved to the George Miller farm, 1½ miles east of Kane. Dad purchased the whole section of 5-5-2W for \$35.00 per acre. Now we had a big house with three porches, and a very big barn built in eastern style, as Mr. Miller had come from Ontario. The barn was built with main beams notched and dowelled. There was a driveway leading to the hayloft, and the tractors with hayracks would drive up and unload the hay which was held in slings. The barn was destroyed by fire in 1956, and the insurance company paid Dad \$4,440. Replacement value was about \$12,000, but all agreed that timbers like that would be hard to find.

Mom and Dad were very active in the community and church; Mother was on the executive of the Mission Sisters and Dad served on the Church Board for most of their years at Kane. He was also a school trustee for many years at Kane.

Mom lived for her family and her idea of a perfect family was to have seven kids. That way a different offspring could come home each day of the week! She was a great hostess, and graciously welcomed all the guests that Dad invited.



*Frank G. and Mary Blatz farm in the 40's.*



*The Blatz family in 1998. (l-r): Dora and Hank Hildebrand, Norman and Elva Blatz, Jac and Helen Blatz, Frank and Elaine Blatz, Anne and Art Wiebe.*

Dad loved the farm, and enjoyed seeing things grow. He grew registered Selkirk wheat, had it cleaned at Plum Coulee, and shipped it to the States for many years. He planted two long rows of evergreens from the yard to the highway. He kept the yard well groomed at a time when "things were done the hard way".

Together, our parents taught us many things; such as perseverance on the job, dedication to God and the church, good money management, the love for stories, books, and people. Although we were born and raised during the Great Depression and World War II, we never felt deprived of the good things in life.

Our parents left the farm in 1964, and retired to Plum Coulee where they joined, and were active in the Bergthaler Church. They made many friends, and spent time visiting and taxiing the "old people" around. Mother passed away in September of 1978. Dad stayed in Plum Coulee for another year, then spent one year in an apartment in Altona, and passed away in December of 1980.

Our parents raised six children: Henry remained single, farmed at Kane and Myrtle, and passed away in April of 1988. Jake and wife Helen (Boehlig) farmed at Kane, and retired to Morden. Frank and wife Elaine (Robinson) farm the "home

place" at Kane. Anne and husband Art Wiebe, are retired at Blumenort after years of teaching for Art, and employment at the Kindale Workshop for Anne. Dora and husband Henry (Hank) Hildebrand farm at Kane. Norman and wife Elva (Born) farm at Kane.

### **JAC & HELEN (Boehlig) BLATZ** *by Jac and Helen Blatz*



*Helen and Jac Blatz with (l-r) Maxine, Terry and Ron in 1957.*

I, Jac, was born in Horndean, July 18, 1926, and moved to Kane in 1938 when Dad sold our Horndean farm to Mr. George Siemens. He was teaching at Kane School at the time. The Kane farm was occupied and likely worked by the Caminsky family.

When we moved to Kane, Henry and I had to herd the cattle all the way from Horndean to Kane on horseback. When we got closer to Rose Farm, Uncle Dan Blatz joined us to help. We herded them all the way to Rose Farm to my Grandparents Blatz's place, stayed the night there and had to milk the cows while there. We took them the rest of the way in the morning. The Caminsky farm we'd bought was SE 26-4-3W.

Dad was driving a John Deere model "D" tractor on rubber. He was one of the first to have a tractor on rubber. So Mom, the younger kids and Margaret Wiebe (Viebe Greta) stayed alone for the first night. She had helped us move. It was way out in the wilderness and scary. Seeing the door had no lock, they took a knife and stuck it between the door and frame or trim board, hoping no one would break in.

Betty Braun stayed at our place, while she went to school at Kane.

We went to school by van. One day in winter we tipped seven times. John Penner was our van driver at that time.

In 1943, Dad bought the Miller farm for \$20,000, a whole section of land, 5-5-2W. They moved there without making any legal papers, doing that later. I (Jac) went to

the Miller farm first and started plowing there, staying at Miller's for the night.

We sold our Caminsky farm to George and Agatha Neufeld.

I bought my first motorcycle, a Harley Davidson, in 1945.

In 1947, Henry and I, with cousins John and Jake Dyck, rented a half section of land at Gladstone. That same year we bought a combine from Frank Groening. Henry and Tom White bought a truck and then we all went to Kansas, South Dakota and North Dakota, USA, to help harvest. Abram J. Wiebe and son Tommy and Bill Reimer went too. We got back in time to help Dad harvest, and later went to Gladstone to harvest our flax.

I got married in 1951, to Helen Boehlig in the Winkler M.B. Church. It was a beautiful, sunny day for October 7. We went to the Black Hills for our honeymoon, using Dad's new car, a 1951 Meteor.

We lived and worked in Winnipeg the first winter. We rented a small apartment, with a small kitchen and bed-sitting room for \$35.00 a month. In spring we moved out to the farm we'd bought from Cornie Dyck's. It was two miles east and two miles north of Kane on SW 16-5-2W. Here we also had a small home, 18 feet by 22 feet; two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. It was heated with a warm morning coal burning stove, and on very cold days, we kept all the doors closed so we could get the kitchen warm enough to survive. We had no running water, and the first summer we used dugout water to wash clothes, dishes, etc. and got drinking water from Mom and Dad's place. We got a cistern after the first year, but it was only usable in summer. In winter we had a barrel close to the stove to melt ice or snow and that was our water supply.

All three of our children were born while in this house: Terrance Wayne Jacob - July 26, 1952; Ronald Dale Ernest - June 3, 1955; Maxine Anne Marie - June 12, 1957. When Maxine was a baby we had a new house built by Arnold Hiebert of Plum Coulee, and had it moved to our yard.

The house was 24 by 40, and with the foundation, it cost us \$4,200.00. Carpets and light fixtures were extra. After seven years, we had a basement put under the house and also built a porch over the back door. We lived there for 25 years.

I was active on the school board at Kane Consolidated and later Morris MacDonald for about eleven years. I was also on the board of the Kane Berghthaler Church and the Kane Community Centre.

We built a chicken barn in 1969, a 12,000 bird laying barn. In 1970 we bought a half section of land from the Billy Deutschman estate, which was right across the road from our yard. (Paid \$20,000 for it.) Later, we sold our farm to the Hiessingers (a German couple) in 1976. We then moved to Morden on October 7, 1976, exactly on our 25th anniversary, and are still in Morden in 1999.

Terry is married to Sheryl Mintenko, and they live in Charleswood, Winnipeg. They have two boys, Michael James Jacob - October 7, 1984 and Mark Daniel Gerald -



*Jac and Helen Blatz farm at Kane.*



*Jac and Helen Blatz and family, Christmas, 1998. Standing: Ron and Chris Blatz, Jeff and Maxine Kuryk, Karlee, Kristi and Brandon, Sheryl and Terry Blatz. Michael and Mark are sitting up front.*

January 8, 1987. Terry works for Pitney Bowes as a Customer Service Technician. He has been there for 26 years, ever since he graduated from Red River College. Sheryl works part-time at Beaver Lodge Elementary School. Terry's an avid curler and has curled about 23 years. His team consists of Eldon Thiessen of Kane and Stan Friesen from Sewell. Cousin David Blatz has been with them for four years because one of the players moved out of town. They won the Club Championship this year. Their Claim to Fame was beating Jeff Stoughton when they played against him.

Ron is married to Chris Dyck and they live in Elmwood area in Winnipeg. They have two girls and one boy: Karlee Bonita - September 7, 1980; Kristi Noelle - June 24, 1982 and Brendan Matthew - August 9, 1984. Ron manages the Discovery Centre on Silver and Hampton in St. James. He has 160 kids, ages two to twelve, and employs 28 staff members. Chris does some computer work from her

home. The Discovery Centre is the second largest in Manitoba and the most unique one in Canada. It is open eighteen hours a day, six days a week. Karlee finished her first year of university this year.

Maxine is married to Jeffrey Kuryk. They live in St. Albert, Alberta. She presently works as a Clinical Social Worker in Alberta Hospital in a turning point program. Maxine works with young offenders ages twelve to eighteen. Her husband Jeff is a physiologist and works for Alberta Mental Health board in a clinic. Maxine has run three marathons. Her first marathon was a gift to herself for her 40th birthday. They enjoy travelling, skiing and scuba diving. Her hobbies include gardening, sculpturing and water colour painting.

**Terry's memories:** The thing that sticks with me the most about growing up in Kane in the 50's and 60's, (gee, that makes me feel old!) and what I tell my city friends the most, is the safe, secure environment we grew up in. The kids I went to school with were mostly the kids I went to church with. Not only did I never get into a fight in school, I can't even remember seeing a fight in school. It really was a great place to grow up, and I am proud to have come from Kane.

Some highlights I recall and maybe some you will too:

—riding my tricycle to visit Irene Wiebe three-quarter mile away (while Dad kept a close eye on me!).

—riding on Mr. Jake Wiebe's bus to school and getting Cuban Lunch bars as a treat periodically. Once we even went part way by horse and stoneboat!

—Kane School field day at the end of every school year when we got to ride our bicycles to school!

—going to Kane Store for a drink and chocolate bar out of that special glass cabinet where the bars were kept! Remember the Fat Emma's and Pie Face? Yum, yum, Good!

—riding our go-cart down the back road to visit Grampa and Gramma Blatz's. What a special place that was for a kid; swings, garden, playhouse, apples, berries, and lots of trees to play in. Plus two aunts and uncles living on the same yard!

—Uncle Hank Hildebrand leading the chorus singing, before Sunday School at Kane Church.

—my first jobs; caretaking the church with Stan Born and Roger Groening. And who can forget unloading fertilizer from the grain cars for George Born at the UGG Elevator (sure earned

your money doing that!)

—Christmas concerts at school with Christmas bags afterwards. Boy did we look forward to that!

—getting my ear pulled by Mr. Braun for not listening in class. This was the biggest trouble I ever got into except for the time in grade one where all the grade one's were playing follow the leader through the puddles on the school yard in spring (against the rules!) and I happened to be the leader when we got caught! Of course everyone else in school was watching when Mr. Braun called us in. Option: one week detention at lunch time, or a strapping. We all took the week.

—the annual Capture The Flag Game. What fun that was.

—Family get-togethers at Grandparents Blatz's (well the kids called them family get-togethers, the adults sometimes called them Pig Slaughtering Bees!)

—at 15+ years riding all over the countryside with piles of other guys on our motorcycles (only once did we actually end up in a PILE!) Boy, what fun times we had with those bikes.

—Rose Farm School closing and their kids coming to Kane. Boy, did that make an improvement to our ball team.

—riding motorcycle with Ed Dyck to visit Irene Wiebe. Often Irene was away with her boyfriend, so we would stay and visit with her parents.

—visiting (sleepover once or twice a year!) at Brad Groening's house (Art & Tina). What a great old farm house and orchard.

—Kane Garage, John Deere days, those wonderful donuts all us school kids got to have and the film. What a treat.

#### **Maxine writes:** *I remember ....*

...having the opportunity to make extra money by cleaning the church. On occasion I would be visited by Roger Groening, who would entertain me with philosophical conversation as I worked.

... the church was always left unlocked, even after it was no longer in use. At times my friend Gerry and I would go in and play piano and sing on the top of our lungs. No performance anxiety and no critics.

...the old oily wooden counter at Kane General Store. We received 25 cents allowance which went a long way - with a small coke at seven cents (two cents return on a bottle) and small chocolate bars for five cents. (I remember when there were cent signs on typewriters.)

..."schwien schlachting" at Grandma's was always fun. The men worked, the women cooked up a storm, and the kids played. A great time spent with all my cousins.

...being towed to school in a covered wagon behind a tractor when it was too muddy for the van. ...years of 4-H; learning to sew at the hands of experts, giving speeches, going to fairs, learning snowmobile safety on an awesome snowmobile course, all thanks to our parents who volunteered.

...my early church memories include my Aunt Dora's flannel board; new dresses for Easter Sunday; Uncle Hank leading us in chorus singing, and playing guitar and har-

monica; getting caught giggling in church; boys sitting on one side and girls on the other, with only strangers daring to challenge the seating plan, drawing stares from the locals. In fact all strangers drew stares.

...grade one. Miss Enns was my teacher, and there were four grades in my classroom which included two of my cousins and my brother (he reported everything I did to Mom). All of the girls in grade 1 through 4 would play together at times, with the older girls taking on leadership roles. One spring Vivian, Vallery, Gail and Bernice had us playing school every recess, complete with little work booklets they had made. I'm surprised they didn't all turn out to be teachers.

...the peg boards in grade one, (with four grades in a classroom, you had to entertain yourself when you completed your work). The first one done their work got the plastic pegs, everyone else was left to play with wooden pegs or plasticine.

...grade 3 when Rose Farm School consolidated with Kane. We went from two rooms to four and had about ten kids per grade.

...the scary flush toilets, and even scarier - telling the principal the toilet was flooded - which seemed to happen often.

...visits by Mr. Whitely, the School Inspector. We greeted him with hands tucked behind our backs, greeting him in unison with, "Good morning, Mr. Whitely." We were nervous and wondered whether we made the mark, never fully aware he was there to assess our teacher. I remember being very disappointed when first meeting him, as he did not have the white suit and hair I had imagined.

...skipping every lunch at school with friends, (that's with a skipping rope not truancy). There were only three boys in my grade to get all the attention from seven or eight girls.

...the Gestetner, the sound, the smell, enough said, I'm old.

...playing baseball with the Kane Canaries. I was bad, really bad, but still had the opportunity to play. The benefits of being raised in a small town.

...trying to play basketball in a gym with eight foot ceilings, and four concrete pillars strategically placed to be in your way. It's amazing no one suffered permanent brain damage.

...the Kane Family Picnics held at the end of each school year. Everyone got 5 cents per race, or more if you won, and there were lots of races; wheelbarrow races, three-legged races, sack races, etc. Moms got to race each other in the nail hammering event, and I remember Uncle Hank doing great head first high jumps. The concession eagerly took our hard earned money, and all the girls sported candy necklaces.

...the 60's hit Kane. . . and perhaps the first and only strike, a one woman strike. Upon discovering my father was paying the neighbour more to gather eggs than he was paying me, I protested with strike slogans written all over my white rubber boots. My father patiently tolerated my pro-

test, and eventually gave in.

...These are only some of the very fond memories I have of growing up in Kane. As the years go by, I more greatly appreciate the benefits of growing up in a small rural community surrounded by family and friends. I still consider Kane my home.

### FRANK D. BLATZ STORY

*by Frank and Elaine Blatz*

In a winter in which Frank's Dad recorded as being "hard and long with much snow," Frank was born on February 17, 1930, to Frank and Mary Blatz on the family farm one mile east and three-quarter mile south of Horndean. He was the third child in a family of six.

Because the school was too full, Frank was unable to start his schooling at six years of age. He attended school in Horndean for two months before the family moved to the Kane area. However, in this short time Frank experienced the sting of the teacher's ruler across his hands for copying someone else's work, art work at that!

In 1938, the family moved to a 480 acre farm south of Kane which Frank's Dad purchased for \$9000.00. Early memories on this farm include "an awful lot of snow with high snowbanks and big spring floods". Although the Blatz farm did not flood, there were many days when they could not go to Kane because there was no bridge, only a spillway.

In some of these years Fred Gluck helped combine in harvest time before Frank's Dad purchased a Clipper combine. This combine served them well, for in one year it took off seven quarters.

The Miller farm (5-5-2W) located 1.5 miles east of Kane was bought in 1943, and it is on this property that Frank and his wife Elaine still reside.



*Frank and Mary Blatz with  
(l-r) Joan, Linda and David in 1966.*

In reminiscing about childhood fun on the farm, Frank recalls the hours spent playing in the big hayloft, pulling each other up on the hay sling to a height of about 30 feet. Skating was a prime source of winter fun. Henry Blatz and Alex White often made an ice rink at school or at the Blatz or Pete Friesen farms.

Tales of school life at Kane often include episodes with the van. In the winter the van was placed on a sleigh. On one particularly bad day it tipped seven times. This ride generated both laughter and tears, depending upon one's love of adventure! Vans and school buses continued to be an integral part of Frank's life for he spent numerous years at being a van or bus driver.



*The Frank and Elaine Blatz farm.*

Frank's career in farming began early in his life. He worked for and with his Dad before buying his first quarter of land south of Kane. Later this land was sold and he purchased part of the home section from his father.

On September 26, 1954, Frank married Mary Heinrichs. He met Mary when she worked for John Toews who operated the Kane Store. During the first months of their marriage, the young couple resided in Winnipeg, working at the Hilton Box Factory and the Municipal Hospitals respectively. Their first house was purchased from Dave Hildebrand for under \$1000.00 and it was moved to the home place. A few years later a larger house was bought and moved to another location on the property. In the spring of 1967, the family moved into the original house that was on the farm.

David is the first child born to Frank and Mary. He has studied and received undergraduate degrees from Canadian Mennonite Bible College and the University of Manitoba. David holds a Certified General Accountant designation. In 1978 he married Judith Epp. She teaches music in the Hanover School Division. David and Judy have three sons: Matthew, Gregory and Kenton. They make their home in Winnipeg.

A daughter, Diana Lynne died in 1957 at age eleven months.

The second daughter Joan is an ordained minister in the General Conference Mennonite Church. After receiving her undergraduate degrees at Canadian Mennonite Bible College and the University of Manitoba, Joan pursued further studies, and received a Masters degree from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries in Elkhart, Indiana. After studying and being employed in the United States for several years, Joan returned to Manitoba. She currently works and resides in Winnipeg.

Linda, the youngest daughter, received a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Manitoba. She married Sandy Chodak and they have one son, Danon.



*Frank and Elaine Blatz and family, 1998. Back row: Greg, David, Frank, Matthew. Front row: Kenton, Judy, Elaine, Linda with Danon, Joan.*

Linda and Danon live in Winkler and she is employed by the Garden Valley School Division.

A second son, Lloyd died in infancy in 1960.

Two other sons, twin boys Larry and Garry, died shortly after their birth in 1961.

The Blatz family home known as the "big house", was destroyed in a fire on April 11, 1977. Ernie and Barry Friesen were passing through Kane when they heard Frank call the fire department. They arrived immediately to aid Frank in removing as much furniture as they could from the main floor. A new house was built during that summer with Gordon Enns hired as the contractor. This was the third major fire that occurred on this farm, for a large barn and a smaller barn had been destroyed when the farm still belonged to Frank's parents.

In 1994, Frank married Elaine Robinson. She worked as a school counsellor and teacher in the Fort Garry School Division before resigning in 1997. Frank and Elaine continue to work and live on the farm at Kane.

The threads of laughter and tears are often closely woven throughout the fabric of life. Such is so in this story, our story, but within our hearts we truly affirm that God has been and is with us.

## **NORMAN & ELVA (Born) BLATZ**

*by Elva (Born) Blatz*

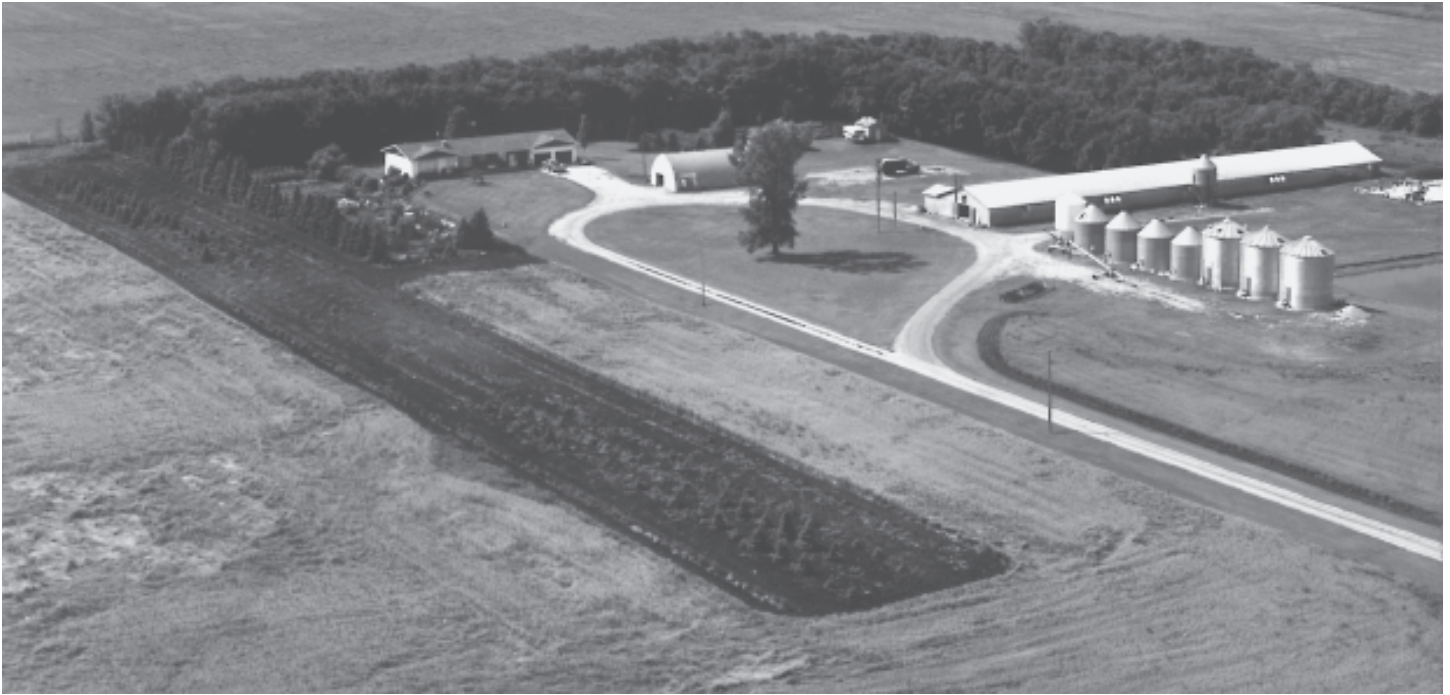


*Elva and Norman Blatz, 1998.*

Norman Blatz moved to Kane with his parents in 1938, at the age of two, and received all his education at Kane. He bought his first quarter of land from his father, Frank G. Blatz, in 1955 (the northeast quarter of section 5-5-2W of his father's home section). Norman farmed with his brother Frank, and his father, until his parents retired to Plum Coulee in 1964.

Norman and Frank bought their first tractor together in 1957, a "44" Special Massey. They still farm together, and they still have the tractor.

Elva Born began grade one in Sperling and finished her last week in Kane in 1947, and continued her education in Kane. In 1960 Norman Blatz married Elva Born of Kane, and in fall of 1964, when his parents retired, the



*Norman and Elva Blatz farm, 1994.*

couple moved into the home place. In 1966, Norman purchased a quarter section (NE 31-4-2W) from A. J. Hyde, and moved there in May, 1967.

There was always a need to "supplement the farm" income. In 1966, Norman and Frank bought a new combine and truck, and went south custom harvesting. Together with one other combining unit belonging to brothers Henry and Jake, Norman and Elva, their two small children, and brother Henry, took three units as far south as Kansas, and then moved north until their own harvest was ready. Elva did the cooking for the gang and at times travelled forty miles to deliver meals. The second year they took three combines and seven men. In Kansas and South Dakota the trailers were set up on farm yards. Friendships were made and visits are still made to these farms. The second generation now comes to visit them in Canada.

Norman drove a school bus from 1968 to 1972. Winters found Norman driving transport; six years for Atomic Transfer and six years for Reimer Express until 1970. A pullet barn was then built to house 10,000 birds on a floor operation and in 1974 cages were put in to hold 24,000 birds. The barn income took the place of the trucking, but trucking was still part of some winter months even until the early 1980's. In 1999 the barn quota was transferred to the Willowridge Poultry Farm near New Bothwell (Jant Zied).

In the '70's and '80's the family found time for sports. Baseball became a big part of the summer. Norman played for the Kane A's for many years and wore number "9". He was good at running bases. Elva was playing for the Kane Canaries, so this meant baseball about four nights a week. At times the children also played ball, and Dulaney played

hardball for Lowe Farm. Trying to juggle all these games wasn't always easy. One year Chris played with a girls team coached by Evelyn Rose and games were scheduled by Chris and Elva. In 1980 (we were building our house) Chris played hardball with the Lowe Farm 16 and under, and ran for Shannon Queen contest. Busy times enjoyed by all!

Hockey kept them busy in the winter. In the late '70's a Kane-Lowe Farm team, the Kings, played hockey in Morden, and won the cup against Plum Coulee in 1978. Later in the '90's Norman was able to play defense with son Jeff, and son Dulaney in goal, while playing in a Plum Coulee league. This was a special time for him.

They enjoyed the Kane Community Centre, and have taken part in the many activities with seldom missing an event. They have done some travelling, having travelled to the southern States, across Canada, and to work in Panama and Venezuela for missions, and to Europe. Norman and Elva have been active in the Bergthaler Church at Kane, and now in the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm. The Sunday School and Youth work have been a challenge. Norman was also on the Church Building Committee after the fire of 1982, and held the position of deacon for some years.

The couple have four children. Dulaney and wife Vicky farm two miles north and one mile east of the home place on the land which had belonged to his Uncle Jake Blatz. Besides grain farming with Norman and his Uncle Frank, they raise cattle. They have four children, Michael, Miranda, Jesse, and Jackson.

Christine married Merle Block. They live in Morden, and own and operate a sign painting business called

Checker Signs. They have two boys, Reece and Lane.

Jeffrey worked for CFAM radio for six years. After a two year agriculture diploma course, he took a job with Tiger Industries in Calgary.

Melanie married Nathan Bartel, and they live one mile south of Kane. Nathan is farming and works for a farmer. They have one son, Tobias.



*Norman and Elva Blatz and family, 1998. Back row: Michael, Vicky and Dulaney Blatz, Jeff Blatz, Chris and Meryl Block, Melanie and Nathan Bartel. Norman with Jackson, and Elva with Tobias. Sitting in front: Jesse, Reece, Lane.*

**Elva's Memories:** As children the only summer job available was picking mustard for Frank G. Blatz. Kool Aid or ice water in ten pound syrup pails awaited us after the long walks across the fields. We got picked up and brought home. It was a break in the long summer, gave us some spending money, and also a chance to see some other children.

We lived next to the store. Very often I was sent for a pound of coffee or some other item or two. The store was open evenings, but I was seldom allowed to go in the evenings. We could see who came to town and sometimes some of the girls would drop by to see us. One such time Esther Thiessen dropped by and told us the tragic news of Irene Suderman's death, a good friend of mine who died of polio.

I remember an event in high school when Mr. Funk was the teacher. In winter the cistern, which was in the basement of the school, would freeze over and the school did not have water. Jerry Toews was asked to get onto the cistern to try get the water to flow up the pump. Seeing the teacher left the room, his brother Dick was going to take advantage and act up until Jerry fell in. Dick turned white as a sheet and hurried to help his brother. All ended well with Jerry wearing the principal's clothes the rest of the day.

My first Sunday services I attended were in the Kane School. There were lots of youth and young married couples. Then for some time we attended the little grey church on the east side of town. Here were lots of children and the singing was exuberant. Then the Berghaler Church was moved to town and we went there. We had a backyard path to the church. Here I remember Sunday School with Walter Toews and Eddie Groening as teachers. I received my first Bible from Walter Toews. This was where Norman and I were baptized by Bishop David Schulz. Rev. I. G. Krahn was the preacher. My sister Evelyn married Wilfred Wiebe in this church. One funeral was held here for Frank and Mary's daughter, Diana, and one twenty-fifth wedding anniversary for the Jake L. Braun's.

The elevator was mostly out of bounds for me except for an occasional visit to Dad, or to bring him a sandwich. But once he did take me up on the lift.

### **DULANEY & VICKY (Zacharias) BLATZ** *by Dulaney Blatz*



*Dulaney and Vicky Blatz with (l-r) Miranda, Jackson, Michael, Jesse, 1998.*

The first two years of my life I lived with my parents Norman and Elva Blatz on my grandparent's (Frank G. and Mary Blatz) farm, one and a half miles east of Kane. We lived in an 18'x24' house on the south side of Grandma's garden. By the time I could walk I had a beaten path through Grandma's garden to her door. When my grandparents moved to Plum Coulee, we moved into the big house for two years. This was on SW 5-5-2W and the yard was built up after George Miller bought it in 1912. For the first thirty years this section was operated as a grain farm and had one of the finest Shorthorn cattle herds in southern Manitoba.

In 1967 we moved to NE 31-4-2W which people referred to as the 'Hyde farm'. It had a small house, 24'x26' with a 6'x10' porch. And I remember some bags of seed grain being stored in one of the bedrooms when we moved in. I lived here with my parents, brother and sisters until 1985. Then I moved to Lowe Farm briefly and then to the old Wiebe farm on SW 3-5-2W, three and a quarter miles east of Kane.

I spent most of my growing up years in Kane during the 60's and 70's. I would often go to town with Dad to the elevator and see Grandpa (George Born). Sometimes Mom would take me with her to the store "to get groceries". You could still get your mail from behind the far end of the counter back then too! Dad bought his John Deere parts and Shell gas and fuel at the Kane Garage. Often some kids would be around to play with or Dave Wiebe would push me around the showroom on a riding mower. The garage always smelled oily. The big tractors in these days were the 4020 John Deere and 95 John Deere combines. One time someone wrote 4U2P on the bathroom door. Kevin and I thought it was funny, but he said his Dad didn't like that. If my Uncle Henry was at the garage, he was always good for a little six and a half ounce Coke. All you had to tell him was, "I wouldn't be so dry if I had a dime."

I recall going to Pete Ginters one day with Mom and my sister Christine. I think we went to get eggs. Christine was about three and I was five. She wanted to sit up front by the door when we left. So reluctantly I let her. As we took off, her door wasn't closed and she opened it to try and close it all the way. Instead she fell out of the car on the driveway. She didn't get hurt much and when she quit crying, I told her she should sit in back next time where it was safe, and I would sit by the door.

In the winter of 1967-68, I recall going to the Kane skating rink one Sunday afternoon. I was four and Dad pulled me around on my new bob skates. A lot of people were skating and visiting at the edge of the rink. Every year Pete Harder flooded a fairly large area in the left/center field of the ball field. This way kids could skate at every recess too. Sometimes we had 2x6's on the ends to stop the pucks. One winter in the 1980's, I helped a few other guys from town make a rink for the community kids. Later years Kevin Harder, Al and Brad Wiebe and I skated on the pond north of the store. One week it snowed so

much it buried our goal net we were using from the school, and we couldn't find it. Next summer Pete Harder hired a diver to fish it out. Mr. Harder always said to come into the store if we got cold or tired. We did, and we bought a lot of cokes and chips to help rest up and keep warm too!

In the fall of 1969, I started Grade 1 in Kane School. There was no Kindergarten at the time. My principal was in his early twenties and my teacher a nineteen year old from Smith Spur (four miles east of Lowe Farm). Everyone liked Miss Joanne Friesen in the Grade 1 and 2 class. I thought school was a lot of fun and you could fool around in class. Miss Friesen didn't figure so and made me stand in the corner three times my first day in school. Kane School was the best. They didn't give homework, we had lots of recesses, and lots of fighting. The best fights (most serious) were behind the skating shack. One time in spring, Paul Groening and I were playing in the sandbox (which was just a sand pit where the old school used to be). We played all noon hour and never noticed the bell ring. Finally ten minutes before last recess we went into the school to see where everyone went. Realizing classes were in progress we slipped into our seats without Gloria Penner even noticing. We had a two and a half hour recess, ten minutes of mathematics, and twenty minutes of recess again, then one hour of Art class. What an easy day!

The two greatest events non-school related that happened to me in school was that every year a great event called John Deere day came to the Kane Garage. School was let out for the afternoon and we all went over to the garage to watch a film, have some juice and doughnuts. It was so tidy in the back of the garage you'd hardly recognize it. The other really great event was on September 28, of 1972. That afternoon our principal Larry Eidse rolled the big 20" black and white TV into our Grade 4 to 6 classroom to watch the historic final game of the Canada/Russia Series. It was great to be a Canadian that day. The next spring someone broke into our school and stole that TV among other miscellaneous items. That was the first time I ever heard of a crime in Kane.

In the spring of 1973 we had a lot of water and one night the water froze so much that the next morning I could skate from my home on NE 31-4-2W all the way across the fields to the fertilizer shed at Kane.

In school we played a lot of soccer, baseball, football, track and field and hockey. One time we played Lowe Farm Grade 4 boys in football. We tied 6-6 and had mostly girls playing the front line. There was a Grade 5 and 6 hockey tournament in Morris McDonald School Division. One game was played outdoors in Lowe Farm. Lowe Farm beat Kane 7-1. We didn't have enough boys in grade 5 and 6, so girls played and I got to play even though I was in Grade 4. In that particular game Elva Penner was our goalie. In the tournament Howard Brown played goal and Lorne Bergen scored all of our goals. We lost 12-1 to Morris, but beat Rosenort 2-1. After the game Mr. C. W. Loewen, the superintendent came to our dressing room and congratu-

lated our little school on beating Rosenort, a much larger school. Larry Eidse, from Rosenort, was our coach and principal.

In the summer we could go to the fertilizer shed on the south side of the tracks. There we would play in the rafters and watch the bigger boys unload bags of fertilizer. Riding my bike to Kane, I could usually find two or three glass pop bottles in the ditch. You got two cents for the big bottles and one cent for the little bottles. Two bits bought a big Coke and a bag of chips in 1972.

When I was thirteen or so, Kevin Harder and I built a fort in the top of an old shed behind the spot where the garage was. (This building was originally built as an ice house.) It still stands today as a chicken house. We would sleep up there for night. One night, Paul Groening came with us. We had balloons and filled them with water, got up on the store balcony and bombed cars as they drove through Kane at night. Not knowing where these water bombs came from, people soon gave up looking, and drove off. After a while we got bored and went to the elevators. At that time the office of the Paterson elevator was attached to the elevator by a catwalk. Being dark, we would hide under the catwalk and the first grain truck that came out of the elevator we bombed. The brake light lit up, tires ground against the gravel, and the driver jumped out yelling and our feet started running. We quickly zig-zagged between the elevators and annexes and took off for the oil shed. On the east side of the platform was a trapdoor. You could have a good hiding place under the platform around all the pipes. When things quieted down and the farmer's truck left, we went back to our fort. When we got there we saw Alan and Brad Wiebe throwing stones on top of our fort hoping we would open the door to see what was going on. They would then soak us with a water bomb. So we snuck up behind them and bombed them good. They went home wet. When Irvin came home from the elevator and found his boys wet from water bombing, he figured they bombed the farmer's truck. Al and Brad had a lot of explaining to do that night.

We had 4-H in Kane and I took woodworking and snowmobile. The Kane Kadets Kombined Klub marched in the Morris Stampede, took a trip to Winnipeg to see Karen Magnason and the Ice Capades skate. We had regular snowmobile riding evenings and had a special course set up in the school yard. We had to show good handling ability of our machine to pass. I drove my dad's 1970 Arlberg. Jake Blatz and Irvin Wiebe were the judges.

I attended many years of Sunday School at the Kane Bergthaler Church. My teachers were my mother, Elva Blatz, Dorothy Wiebe, Mrs. John Thiessen, and Mrs. E. H. Groening. Mrs. Groening mostly taught me and if she couldn't make it one of her children taught the class. In fact I remember every one of her children teaching the class at one time or another except Paul. He was in the class.

Since the closure of the Kane School we've used the building as a Community Centre until the late 90's. I've

participated in various skits and plays that were put on, on entertainment nights. I played on baseball teams; Kane A's 1979-1981 and Kane Blazers 1982-1983.

In the summer of 1986, the Pembina Valley Fastball League had folded. This was the first year in many that there would be no men's fastball in Kane. In 1987, I organized a team with some friends, Kelly and Corey Penner and Herb Dueck. This team was called the Kane Cardinals and played for five years in the Boarder Valley Fastball League. Our first year in the league we lost in the final game of the championship series by one run. The next two years we brought championships to Kane. Our fourth year we earned the right to go to the Championship Series. We declined to continue playing due to the loss and untimely death of our short-stop, Kelly Penner. The Kane Cardinals folded at the end of 1991. In 1988 I helped organize a small, but fun Fastball tourney in Kane. There have been many enjoyable highlights on the old ball diamond in Kane. We always had a good rivalry with Lowe Farm.

I have lived in the Kane community most of my adult life. After high school I worked one summer (1981) for my Dad and Uncle Frank D. Blatz. In the fall of '81, I worked on the Paterson construction crew in Kane. We built the east elevator and added a new driveway and office. It was the second last wooden elevator built in Manitoba. Culross, Manitoba, elevator was the last one built by the Paterson Elevator Company. In the spring of 1982, I started farming with my dad and uncle. I rented the NE quarter of 11-5-3W. This land was broken in the early 1900's by a man named "Shanty Jack" Loree who resided in the SW corner of that quarter. In December of 1988, I bought the east eighty acres of SE 8-5-2W. Originally the west eighty was a Hudson Bay Trading Company quarter. In 1948, my uncles Henry and Jake bought this quarter. In 1991 my Dad bought my eighty acres when I purchased the SW quarter of 16-5-2W from Walter Reichert of Niverville. This was my Uncle Jake Blatz's yard and farm from 1951-1976. I still own and farm it to this writing and my brother Jeff now owns the eighty acres on section eight.

On October 19, 1996, I married Vicky Zacharias of Carman. People would know her grandfather Jacob W. Zacharias of Roland. He was the Rawleighs and Watkins man and sold the products in the Kane area in the 50's and 60's. Her grandmother was born at the northeast corner of NW 8-4-2W - exactly one mile west of the Rose Farm Cemetery. We have four children: Michael, Miranda, Jesse, and Jackson. Our children go to the school in Lowe Farm and attend Sunday School and Church at the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church.

In 1992 I started into the cattle business with the purchase of feeder steers. In December of '95 Vicky and I bought our first eleven bred heifers from George Penner for \$900.00 each. On February 15th of 1996 we had our first calving season and have shifted the focus of our cattle operation to cow/calf pairs. We pasture our herd on our home quarter and do very well converting grain land to



*Dulaney and son Jesse feeding the cattle, December, 1999.*

pasture. We still grain farm a section of land and calve out 40 cows in February and March. Vicky takes care of a lot of the calving activities while I'm working away from home in winter. When not too busy, Vicky enjoys working with her horses, or going out antique hunting.

Mike has been a big help during our July haying season. Capable of most of the field work, he is also very mechanically inclined.

Miranda enjoys working with crafts and writing songs. She gets involved with most school sports and excels at baseball and soccer.

Jesse enjoys all sports, especially hockey.

Jackson likes to press the buttons of the T V "clicker" and cause mischief. He is a very happy little boy.

We enjoy spending time together as a family. On summer Sundays we have wiener roasts and play baseball. Winter evenings are spent around the kitchen table playing board games or doing a little reading.

### **DANIEL G. & EDNA (Loeppky) BLATZ**

*by Maureen (Blatz) Hiebert and  
Judy (Blatz) Thiessen*

Our Dad, Daniel G. Blatz was born on March 20, 1909, to Jacob and Aganetha (Giesbrecht) Blatz on the family farm in the rural district of Rose Farm. Grandma and Grandpa Blatz homesteaded the NW quarter of 9-4-2W in the Morris Municipality in 1896. Dad got his elementary education at the Rose Farm School and in the winter of 1937-38 attended the University of Manitoba to take a Diploma Course in Agriculture. Dad and his brother Abe started off farming on their own by renting their parents farm in 1935. Dad purchased the farm in 1937. Grandma and Grandpa remained on the farm until 1939, when they purchased a house in Lowe Farm and moved into town.

Dad was an innovative, progressive farmer. He was one of the first to own a rubber tired tractor in the community, to seed special crops like sunflowers and corn,



*Edna and Dan Blatz, 1942.*

and to have caragana windrows. Dad was also involved in farm organizations such as the Farmer's Union, the local Co-op and 4-H Clubs. A much anticipated event each summer was our trip to Carman Fair with the 4-H Club. Dad tried to involve his family as much as possible by taking us to some meetings at the Co-op Hall. I remember some great sing-alongs we had there.

In 1941, Dad married our mom, Edna (Loeppky) from Horndean. Mom was born on August 20, 1915 in the village of Altona. She got her education at New Kennedy School and later moved to Horndean where her parents owned and operated a general store. From the time Mom finished school until her marriage to Dad, she helped her parents at the store and being the oldest in the family assisted with raising her younger siblings.

Life continued to be busy for Mom and Dad as their family grew. They had eight children who were all born at the Altona Hospital with Dr. S. S. Toni as our family physician. Times were not easy when there were few conveniences and many mouths to feed. I remember when the hydro came to our home in 1947, and they were able to purchase a fridge and Grandpa Loeppky gave Mom an electric washing machine. Growing up on a mixed farm gave us all a good opportunity to develop some great work ethics.

Some of our early memories are of a very closely knit church and school. Maureen and Judy started their education in the old Rose Farm School and in 1950 a new school was built where we as well as Randy and Sharon received the rest of our elementary education. In 1959 the High School closed and we went to Kane School. For the first time in our lives we had to be bused to school instead of walking that quarter mile down the road. It was a very wet fall and our bus driver, Mr. Frank Bergman, had to park his panel truck and haul us the six miles to school with a tractor and trailer. Kathy, John, Lori and Craig started off at Rose Farm and in 1965 when the school consolidation took place, they attended the Kane School.

We have many good memories of the years at Rose Farm School. The Red Cross sales were a highlight. We worked hard all winter doing crafts, handwork, woodwork, etc., and in spring the community packed into the small school for the annual event. Another highlight of the school year was the Christmas program. This always took place at the Rose Farm Church where there was more space. Every year we would make the trek to the church to practice our program and then on the final night we would perform for our parents. Our final practice was always at the home of Mrs. Bergman, a widowed shut-in lady in the community.

Our family always attended the Rose Farm Church. When we were very young the neighbours picked us up to go to Sunday School. As we grew older we attended Young People's meetings and sang in the choir. We learned a lot about music, singing in the choir under the direction of Mr. Ed Penner. Cantatas were a regular part of Easter services and many were the trips we made to churches to perform the well practiced pieces of music. Our church had a very active youth group and large choir. Even after we were older and away from home we made a special effort to get home to be at choir practice on Friday nights. Many special memories were made around the activities at the little country church. On Christmas Eve the choir would go caroling and sometimes walk down long snow blocked lanes to reach the homes. We had a Missionary Conference every fall where the church was packed each night and all day Sunday, with a special Thanksgiving meal at noon on Sunday.

Mom and Dad farmed at Rose Farm until 1967, when they sold the farm to Leonard Penner of Plum Coulee and purchased a farm in the Graysville area. They continued to farm there until 1978, when they sold the farm to Randy and moved into the village of Graysville.

In 1988, Dad's health began to fail and in the fall of that year he was hospitalized with congestive heart failure and was not expected to live. Dad pulled through and went on to write the "Jacob and Aganetha Blatz family history book" which was published in the summer of 1989. On November 13, 1990, Dad passed away at the Carman Hospital after he suffered a severe heart attack. Mom continued to live in Graysville until the spring of 1991, and then moved to an apartment in Carman. In 1993, she moved

to Boyne Lodge where she presently resides.

The Dan Blatz family: Maureen was born on August 21, 1942. After high school she worked for a year and then attended Winkler Bible School for two years, graduating in 1965. This was one of the goals she had set as a young girl for herself. In 1966 she entered nurse's training and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1967. Except for a few short breaks she has worked in the profession ever since. The last 24 years have been spent at Central Park Lodge in Winnipeg where she still works part time.

In 1977, she married Pete Hiebert, a widower with three sons and at that time Pete adopted her daughter Cheryl, who was born in 1968. All four children are married and each has two children. Allen and wife Darlene live in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where Al is a carpet layer and Darlene works at a bank. Their two children are Rachelle (19), and Jenna (15). Gerald and wife Gwen live in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, where Gerry works for AT Plastics and Gwen works in accounting. Their two children are Gregory (8), and Lisa (6). Bob and wife Karen live in Winnipeg where Bob works in maintenance for the Winnipeg School Division #1. Karen works at Walmart. They have two sons Roger (16) and Bobby (12). Cheryl and husband Will Papageorgiou live in Toronto where Will is in industrial refrigeration and Cheryl works at Home Depot. They have two children, Nicholas (11) and Jamie (7).

Pete Hiebert has been retired since 1990, and enjoys his hobby antique cars. He has restored a 1923 Ford Touring and a 1928 Model A Ford which they love to ride around in. In her spare time Maureen enjoys crocheting, sewing, gardening, reading and genealogy research.

Judy was born on August 19, 1943.....see Howard Thiessen story.

Randy was born on July 29, 1947. Randy and his wife Marlyne reside in Grande Prairie, Alberta where Randy works as an oil field consultant and does some farming as well. Marlyne works in their home and spends a lot of time with their grandchildren. Randy has two children; Vanessa who lives in Grande Prairie, has two daughters, Taylor and Tessa; and Chad who lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Sharon was born on September 25, 1948.....see Jacob Thiessen family.

Kathy was born on April 11, 1951. She married Roy Webster on May 9, 1987. They reside in Carman where Kathy owns and operates "Kathy's Fabrics". Kathy enjoys sewing, baking and singing. Roy is semi-retired and a self-employed mechanic and heavy equipment operator at the age of 80.

John was born on September 1, 1954. On September 16, 1978 John married Cheryl Middleton. They lived and worked in Lamont, Alberta, for several years, then in 1988 moved back to the St. Daniel School District near Graysville. John works as the Plant Operator for Pioneer Grain at Mollard Siding and Cheryl works as an LPN at the St. Claude PCH. They have three children; Christopher, Jared, and

Kari who all attend school at Carman.

Lorelle was born on January 21, 1956. Lori works at Morinville, Alberta for the Sturgeon County as a clerk for the transportation department. Her hobbies are sewing, baking and hunting. She lives with Wilf Mahoney and his two sons, Ryan and Jarrod, in Bon Accord, Alberta. Wilf is a Security Shift Leader for Morguard Investments in Edmonton, Alberta.

Craig was born December 12, 1957. He trained as a heavy crane operator, worked in Ft. McMurray for several years, then moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1989 Craig married Donelda MacDonald of Cape Breton Island. He still works in construction as a heavy crane operator and Donelda is a Social Worker. They reside in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.



*Edna Blatz and family: Back row: Maureen, Craig, Lori, Kathy, Randy. Front row: Sharon, Judy, John, Edna (Mom).*

### **ABE & KATHERINE (Klassen) BLATZ** *by Dora (Blatz) Hildebrand*



*Abe and Tina Blatz family, 1984.  
Back row: David, Wilma, Peggy, Melvin.  
Front row: Abe, Trisha, Kimberly, Amanda, Tina.*

Abe Blatz was born in 1911 to Jacob and Aganetha Blatz at Rose Farm, Manitoba (NW-9-4-2W). He received his early education at the Rose Farm School and later attended the Rhineland Institute of Agriculture in Altona.

In 1935 Abe and his brother Dan rented the family farm for the first time. It was also the year of the rust and the grain would hardly run down the spout. They had about sixty acres of wheat, but threshed only two loads of bundles and burnt the rest. The year 1936 was dry and the wheat did only 6-7 bushels an acre. In 1937 they hit the jack pot! It was a very good year as their area didn't have any grasshoppers. Their Dad (my Grandpa Blatz) said in all his years of farming, the farm had not produced as much grain. The rye yielded about 45 bushels per acre at \$1.03 per bushel; spring wheat yielded about 35 bushels per acre at \$1.11 per bushel; barley yielded about 45 bushels per acre at 55¢ per bushel; and oats yielded about 50 bushels per acre at 45¢ per bushel. Their fifteen acres of corn went 50 bushels per acre for a total of 750 bushels — all hand picked!

In 1937, Abe and Dan purchased a quarter at Kane (NE 24-4-3W), and Abe worked the farm from 1937 until 1943 when he volunteered for the Canadian Army. (His sister Eva and husband Henry Braun worked the land from 1944-1951.) After the war Abe returned to Canada and to farming. He also worked for the Lowe Farm Co-op from 1946 to 1951.

Abe Blatz married Katherine (Tina) Klassen of Lowe Farm in May of 1951. The wedding took place in the Lowe Farm Co-op Hall. Abe and Tina Blatz moved to their farm at Kane and two children were born to them; Wilma in 1953 and Melvin in 1955. Wilma attended the Kane School.

The Blatz family sold the farm in 1961, lived in Lowe Farm during the winter and moved to Winnipeg in 1962. Life on the farm had not been easy, "but it seems whenever the family sits around the kitchen table and remembers the good times they had shared, the funniest stories seemed to happen on the farm". Abe worked for the Versatile Manufacturing company from 1962 until 1976. Abe Blatz passed away in 1995.

Presently Wilma and husband David Kropla live in Ajax, Ontario. They have three daughters; Trisha, Kimberly and Amanda. Melvin and wife Peggy Ann (Berger) live in Innisfail, Alberta with son Brendon. Tina Blatz lives in her apartment in Fort Richmond (Winnipeg).

### **JACOB & OLGA BOESE** *by Lilly Boese*

Our parents, Jacob and Olga Boese, with six children, moved to Kane from Arnaud in 1941. We lived on a farm between two dykes, north of Kane. Lillie, Arthur, Harry, and later John (grade I) attended Kane School.

We usually walked three miles, caught the van at the Wiebe's farm, and had a ride another three miles to school. One cold winter we missed the van, and walked six miles! When Lillie sat down in her desk, she was embarrassed



*Jacob and Olga Boese family in 1955.*

*Back row: Arthur and wife Margaret, Olga and Jacob (Mom and Dad), Lillie, Harry. Front row: John, Victor, Philip (Art's son), Helen, Ken, Richard, David.*

because she could not stop shaking, due to hypothermia. We enjoyed school at Kane, and made many friends.

Mr. George Siemens was a favourite teacher. His history classes were especially interesting. He also taught us how to write an essay. Lillie was later able to teach her brother and her cousin how to write an essay in one lesson, using the "Siemens method". They were then able to pass their departmental exams.

In 1944, the family moved back to Arnaud. In 1950 they moved to Elm Creek, and later the parents moved to a retirement farm at Poplar Point. In 1975, the parents moved to Winnipeg. Jacob passed away in 1990, Olga in 1992, and son Richard in 1995.

Lillie was a teacher for 35 years, and now resides in Winnipeg.

Arthur became an American, served in Korea for two years, got an engineering degree, and worked for NASA. Arthur has two children, and four grandchildren. Arthur and his wife, Cindy, now reside in Sun City West, Arizona.

Harry was a chartered accountant. He retired from the audit department of Canada Life in Toronto. He and his wife, Janet, have two grown children. They have a retirement home in Brooklin, Ontario.

John worked in food services and sales. He and his wife, Rita, now live in Sun Lakes, Arizona.

David retired from the Land Titles office. He and his wife, Karin, have two children, and four grandchildren. They live in Winnipeg.

Victor left farming, was a mechanic, and owned a garage, and now works with computers. Victor and his wife, Hertha, have three sons, and five grandsons. Vic and Hertha live in Virgil, Ontario.

Helen has a physics degree, and works at the Tom Baker Cancer Clinic in Calgary.

Ken is an engineer. He and his wife, Gay, spent eight years in Lesotha, Africa, organizing the building of schools,

and starting a furniture factory. They now live in Steinbach, Manitoba, where Ken built a Canadian Guiderail Factory for an American firm. They have three children.

## **GEORGE & MARY (Unrau) BORN** *by Elva (Born) Blatz*



*Mary and George Born, 1979.*

George Born married Mary Unrau in June, 1946, and they lived in the Sperling area for one year. This marriage brought together his family of four children, who had been living with the grandparents, and aunts and uncles, after their mother passed away. They moved into the Kane area on section 3-5-2W, then owned by Henry Penner, now the home of Barry and Elva Dyck, daughter of Henry Penner. George took on a van route for the Kane Consolidated School District. He worked for Frank G. Blatz in the summer of 1947, while Blatz's sons went to the States to combine. He also worked for Peter Klassen, who rented the back of the Kane Garage. He did this between van times. George and Mary had four more children together.

In February, 1949, George became elevator agent for Canadian Consolidated (CC) in Kane, after Vern Carroll. That year, all grain at Kane, 170,000 bushels of it, was moved from the farms through both elevators in the fall, and they stood empty until the next growing season. George did not always come home for the night, or sometimes came for just a few hours, because he would load cars at night and do the bookwork. In 1950, the Wheat Board began the quota system, and grain buying became a year round business. In 1959, the agency was sold to United Grain Growers (UGG). Art Selley was the superintendent for CC, and was demoted to grain buyer in Roland when UGG took over. Mr. Wilcox, the first superintendent for UGG, always stayed for lunch at the Borns.

The house on the west side of town had been the Woodvale School on section 2-5-3W, and moved to town by Jim Miller as a store. It was later sold to Canadian Consolidated for a company house. It was in this house that the Borns had electricity for the first time! This was their

home until 1963, when George and Mary bought their own home on the east side of town, which they sold to the company on his retirement in 1974. George was grain buyer at Kane for 26 years.

Mary took down the grain prices twice a day all those years. Canadian Consolidated would have a gift of thanks for her every Christmas for this service. She also cooked for the gang who built the east annex in 1957. That was a big undertaking with a family of seven children.

They retired to Summerland Apartments in Winnipeg. George passed away in March of 1988. In 1995, Mary moved to Bethel Place, having lived at Summerland for twenty years.

Johnny married Dorothy Laidlaw. He worked for Foster Wheeler Chemical Construction in the United States. They moved across the country eighteen times in nineteen years. They have four children: Randy, Donna (who is deaf), Tracy, and John. Johnny passed away in 1991. Dorothy lives at Lockport, Illinois.

Evelyn is retired and lives in Winnipeg. She has three children: Susan, Ramona and Scott.

Leonard passed away accidentally in September, 1960 at the age of 21.

Elva married Norman Blatz of Kane, and they farm near Kane. They have four children: Dulaney, Christine, Jeffrey, and Melanie.

Keith is married to Vicky Motkaluk. He spent twenty years with the Credit Union, and was robbed twice at gun-point. They live in Swan River where he is a bookkeeper for Hadiken Concrete. He has one son Adam.

Sally married Robert Nickel and they live in Winnipeg. Sally works for Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), and Robert works in public relations for the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies. They have one daughter, Stephanie.

Stanley married Fernilee McCurry and they live near Lockport, Manitoba. He works in autobody for McPhillips Lincoln Mercury, and Fernilee owns a business as physiotherapist in Selkirk, namely, Interlake Physio Clinic. They have two girls; Kaitlin and Tanika.



*Children of George and Mary Born, 1988. Back row: Robert, Stan, Butch, John. Front row: Sally, Elva, Evelyn.*

Robert lives in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. He is a draftsman.

**Keith's (Butch) memories:** There are many great memories I have of living in Kane, but the ones I love most are the simple ones involving the community during the fifties.

John Deere Day at Toews Garage: half day off school, a movie, with lots of John Deere equipment in it, and all the free donuts and drinks you could hold. That's living!

The Toews General Store: oiled wooden floors, a counter with stools, watching Eaton's Santa Claus Day Parade from Toronto on the only TV in town, Crokinole and Checkers Tournaments.

The old school: four grades to a room, double desks, getting the basement ready for the Christmas concert, saw-horses and grain doors for a stage, lots of practices, everybody included, the whole town and area turn out for the show, exchanging names for gifts - wondering who had yours, Christmas bag of goodies - peanuts, candies and an orange.

Sunday afternoons when the young people would all meet at the school yard and start a game of baseball or football: all ages, all sizes, everybody played, could be twenty to a side, nobody serious about winning, great action and better fun.

School year-end picnics and Track and Field events: a concession stand, novelty races - three legged race, sack race and so on, youngsters with Brownie cameras, baseball games, end with a big bonfire and wiener roast.

The outdoor skating rink: learning skating technique, pick-up hockey at 25 below Fahrenheit, the wood stove in the shack to warm you up, that special smell of wood smoke and sweaty socks.

The trees surrounding the school yard: great for climbing, playing cowboys and Indians or cops and robbers.

The big pond behind the store and garage; made for toboggans.

The blizzards when all we could do was stay inside and do jigsaw puzzles or read a book.

The excitement of the transfer coming with the Simpson's Sears or Eaton's parcels, getting books from the University of Manitoba Lending Library, watching the trains come through.

The Church Picnic: another great community event full of games, food and singing choruses.

Listening to our elders telling stories in Low German. Laugh until our sides ached.

Fond memories of the fifties in Kane. We were richly blessed.

### **JACOB & TENA (Penner) BORN** *by Jacque (Born) Eidse*

Jacob was born October 16, 1914, in the Rosenbach School District and grew up at Bloomfield. He started farming north of Kane in 1936, when he rented a quarter sec-



*Jake and Tena Born in their 'healthy' years at Kane.*

tion. He worked for his brother-in-law, Dave Hildebrand and used his machinery to work the land.

In 1937, he became engaged to Tena Penner (born October 13, 1913) of Rose Farm. Her father, Henry P. Penner bought a quarter section three miles north of Kane at \$2,500.00 and sold it to Jake for \$500.00. When a bachelor living in a house on the property heard that he'd have to move before the winter, he fainted. Jake and Tena felt sorry for him and changed their wedding date from October to April. Their first home was that same 12'X20' two room house with stairs on the outside leading to a small storage space.

Jake and Tena started out with mixed farming, raising cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys. The first litter of pigs all died, except two which were bottle-fed because the sow was sick. When the turkeys hatched, they managed to raise eighteen for market in the fall. Jake kept two turkey hens and one gobbler over the winter to start the flock in spring. One stormy night the old barn toppled over with the turkeys in it. That incident ended the turkey business.

May 16, 1940, a tiny four and a half pound premature baby named Lawrence Ivan Henry (Larry) was born to Jake and Tena. He was born in the home of an elderly nurse in Carman, assisted by a doctor. The doctor warned Jake and Tena that the baby must be woken every few hours or he might stay asleep and pass away. A new 14'x20' addition was built to their home and a new roof.

In 1943 Jake rededicated his Christian life to the Lord as a result of a Crusade held at Kane School with speakers Ed Erickson, Mr. Parschauer, and Ken Robins. Later, while out on the field, Jake shared his experience with Dave Hildebrand who explained things further. They prayed together. Later that year, while harvesting together at the Born farm, Dave died as the result of a tragic combine accident.

Tena gave birth to another premature baby boy, David Kenneth in 1944. His lungs were not developed. He only

lived nine hours. Tena's father built a tiny coffin and her mother decorated the little coffin with pretty leaves and flowers. Baby David was buried at the Rose Farm Cemetery where Jake purchased a family plot.

Three more babies were miscarried at different stages and were buried near a set of trees by the pond at the home place. Although the farm yard is no longer there, one lone tree still stands as a memorial on what is now Hank Hildebrand's land (Dave Hildebrand's son).

Later in the 1940's, Jake and Tena sold the farm and moved just west of Kane, where they farmed one and a half sections.

As told by Jake Born to daughter Jacque:

"In 1946, on June 2, I went to make a fire in the coal stove in the brooder house. It was 11 o'clock in the evening, after getting home from mother-in-law's birthday party. I made the fire, then went to milk the cows. Then I went back to check on the fire, but it had gone out. Just then I noticed a can of antifreeze (alcohol) standing nearby. I poured a little on the fire and it started to burn, but then the can exploded as I held it between my feet and the liquid poured onto my pant leg, which then burst into flames. I ran to the house. My wife saw me coming and ran for a blanket. I tried to wipe the fire out with my hands, but my hands burned too. Tena came with the blanket and wrapped it around the fire. Six year old Larry and Tina Schroeder (Tena's cousin and housekeeper) ran to Kane and got the elevator man, who took me to the hospital.

"I was in Carman Hospital four or five weeks. The wound didn't heal because of the antifreeze. The doctor contemplated amputating my leg, then he stopped coming to see me. One day I saw the doctor in the hall. I went to him, hopping on one leg, and told him, 'I'm going to Winnipeg Hospital tomorrow.' The doctor said I should wait until he could make arrangements for the transfer. My sister Annie Hildebrand (Dave's widow) drove me to Winnipeg although she was timid about driving.

"In Winnipeg, the doctor took me to the operating room and removed the burned flesh. I had no calf. Then they sliced skin from my back and grafted it to my leg. My back hurt more than my leg. I was there four and a half weeks.

"The doctor gave me a cane and said I'd never be able to straighten my leg. Every day I walked to Kane with Larry. After awhile my leg straightened out nicely and never bothered me again!"

Jake and Tena had applied for adoption; however before any adoption came through, Tena gave birth to a healthy, full term, baby girl on February 10, 1948. Margaret Evelyn Joyce was born. Tena stayed in a midwife's home in Altona next to the hospital in the last month of pregnancy to assure the baby's safe arrival.

Then on May 23, 1953, Rose Marie Jacqueline was born in Morris Hospital, yet another premature baby.

In 1958, Jake and Tena moved a half mile east of Kane to the old Fredricksen farm, formerly Davidson's. The most



*Skin taken from Jake Born's back to graft onto his burned right leg, 1946.*

land he farmed was one and a half sections. At this farm was a huge old barn where the children spent many fun times swinging on the gigantic ropes that extended from the ceiling in the hayloft.

During one of the early years of the Morris Stampede a cowboy from Calgary put up his horse in this barn. Margaret and Jacque had the privilege of riding the beautiful horse.

The same year that Jake and Tena moved to the Fredricksen farm, they started fostering children. The whole family found it too difficult when the little ones were adopted and taken from them. So in July of 1962, they welcomed Lisa Anne Christine, at one month old, born June 22, and adopted her.

Jake and Tena loved farming and country living. They took pride in making the yard beautiful. A highlight for Jake was the purchase of a 4010 John Deere tractor! He was a real John Deere man at heart. He also enjoyed his seventeen years as a school van driver. He always picked out special gifts for the passengers at Christmas.

In 1963, Jake had the barn dismantled and built a new machine shed. Then in 1967, they sold the house and built a lovely bungalow.

Jake and Tena were very hospitable, entertaining many friends, relatives and missionaries in their home as well as going out to visit.

Although they attended church in Kronsart, they also went to evening services at Kane Church. The whole family enjoyed the big event of the Mission Sisters Auction Sale at Kane School once a year. Jake loved bidding on items in support of missions and each one in our family got to take something home.

It was a new experience for Jake when he was asked to act the role of himself in a Low German play performed at Kane School. Of course, he was the local story and joke teller.

After farming at Kane for 38 years Jake sold the farm in 1974. Jake and Tena chose to retire in Lowe Farm. There they attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church and were very involved. Jake continued to work at Kane as a hired hand for Lawrence Dyck for three more years.

In 1987, Jake and Tena moved to an apartment in Morris where they continued being the hospitable, outgoing people they had always been, although they were limited by failing health.

Jake passed away on July 10, 1994. They were married 56 years. Tena now lives in the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris.

**Larry's memories:** My Dad had a pond dug, 160 feet by 65 feet, and 12 feet deep, and built a diving board on one side. Many of my school friends came swimming in summer.

In winter we played hockey on the school yard ice rink, and often before we could play hockey we would have to clear the snow off the ice — temperature down to -30°. We had very little equipment. If you were lucky you had shin pads. Helmets were unheard of, even for goal keepers, resulting in many injuries, but the game went on.

I remember my parents giving me 25¢ on Fridays for my school lunch which I would eat at the Toews country store. My lunch consisted of a hot dog (15¢) and drink (10¢).

I think in 1949 or 1950, the Toews store bought a black and white TV, and many of us gathered around it and watched boxing.

One day while in High School, a few of us guys had lunch at the Toews General Store, and were ready to go back for classes when Pete Harder asked us to carry a new indoor toilet back with us. We were delighted! Knowing that our teacher ate his lunch while looking out of his dining room window keeping an eye on his students, we had a plan. Two of us would carry the toilet while the rest of the guys would form a wall so the teacher could not see what was going on, but just enough to raise his suspicions that a prank was taking place. We followed through with the plan taking the toilet into the school and placing it right above the appropriate hole and cubical. Shortly thereafter the teacher arrived looking very suspicious. We of course looked very innocent. He looked around and could find nothing wrong, so called the class to order. All through class he had a hard time concentrating as he kept

on watching each of us for a hint of what was going on. At recess he did another complete search in the hall and washroom, but could see nothing out of place or damaged. Finally before day's end, he was forced to ask what the wall of people had been hiding. We told him the truth to his embarrassment, and the joyous laughter of the class.



*Jake Born with nephew and friend, Hank Hildebrand, enjoying a guitar picking session, 1989.*

**Margaret's memories:** My roots began in Kane and I have very fond memories of my time spent there. My special memories of community relate to "family" events, at the school.

My first fond memory is of a Christmas program in the old school building. The whole community tried to squeeze into one classroom for the performance. The special one I remember, all nine girls in my grade performed on "stage" in the brand new pajamas created by our mothers.

My saddest memory during that time is of the day David Krahn collapsed at school and died. It was extra hard for our family as we were dear friends.

In the new school again Christmas programs were a highlight! Even with a big auditorium, the place was packed to capacity, with people sitting out toward the stairwell. Here we performed Christmas plays and even the operetta *Cinderella*, of which I played a part. Sally Born was Cinderella and Harold Krahn was Prince Charming. I was one of the townspeople. We all got to wear fancy gowns rented from Winnipeg. Movie night was also a big event, with movies, such as *Lorna Doone*, *Les Misérables*, and *Tale of Two Cities*.

The big Mission Sisters auction was also looked forward to with great anticipation. Our dad would really get excited and bid lavishly.

The school picnics were absolutely tops! Even though I was lousy at sports, I entered every event, as did most others, because we got a nickel for each event entered. The best performer got 15¢ and second best got 10¢. Those were awesome rewards, as chocolate bars and ice cream drumsticks were only 10¢! It was a super family event;

some families brought along a noon picnic lunch and others, like our family, bought hot dogs and pop! A super treat!

My father started to drive school "bus" when I started school. Drivers used either their own car or half ton with a homemade unit built over the back with two benches. Some also had the old version of van with two benches. When it was the rainy season, the country roads were only passable by tractor and the old black hearse-like wooden buggy. When Highway #23 was being rebuilt in 1959, it rained so much that only Model T's or the above mentioned buggies or cars like my dad's '39 auto could manage the deep ruts. (My sister Jacque, being in grade 1 that year, decided I, her ten year old sister should carry her to school. The gumbo was so bad that we had several inches of it stuck to the bottom of our boots.)

Our father eventually had a big orange Chevy, I believe, a fifteen seater, four-speed van as his prize bus! I, at age seventeen, even drove bus for him a few times. He drove school bus for seventeen years with pride and joy.

Jacquie and I were spoiled by our bus driver, Frank Blatz. When it was muddy, Frank would pull right up to the steps of the house and let us jump out of the van without getting muddy!

John Deere Day was also a big hit. They served the freshest and best doughnuts I have ever tasted! They also had door prizes, of which our Dad usually won one. Occasionally we were let out of school early to watch the comedy movie that was shown at the Kane Garage during this event.

Our parents were very hospitable and had company any given day of the week. We would come home from school to find a full fasma being served to friends. Our Mom would often do laundry between ten p.m. and midnight as the number of visitors just didn't allow time during the day!

I left Kane for my first job when I was 17. I worked one summer in Salem Home in Winkler, followed by a year of Bible School there. This was followed by one and a half years as a Nurses Aide in Morris Hospital. In 1968, I took my LPN course at St. Boniface Hospital. In 1969, I married Allan Friesen. We have lived in Kenora, Ontario ever since. Allan has been a pulp trucker for 38 years. I was busy with family for the first years; Tammy was born in 1970 and married Mike Peters in 1999. She works as an early childhood educator on a reserve. Mike is a pulp trucker too!

Darcy was born in 1972, and married Yvonne Thiessen in 1994. In April, 2000, he will graduate as an Occupational Therapist. In March, 2000, they take the role of parenting.

Carson was born on Grandpa Jake Born's 60th birthday (October 16, 1974)! Carson is a jack of all trades; done everything from being a bush whacker, cook, factory worker, to child care worker, Family Services, right now. He has a degree in Social Sciences. He spends as much time, as money allows, travelling. His greatest love is work-

ing with “unfortunate” kids.

After the kids grew up, I took a job at McDonald’s. Fourteen years later I still serve customers! I’ve also spent twenty years volunteering one morning per week at our kid’s elementary school.

(Just as a note of humour at my expense; my worst embarrassment at Kane Church was having to play a piano solo, my first. I was so nervous that my mind went blank and it took seven starts before I got through one stanza of *What a Friend We Have in Jesus!*)

**Jacque’s memories:** I was born in Morris Hospital, lived just west of Kane the first five years, then moved a half mile east of Kane.

I started grade 1 in the new Kane School. Since Lowe Farm was building a new high school, their high school students attended our school.

A school highlight for me was the Christmas program. Each child had a part in one of two or three plays, besides the group songs, poems, etc. Being tall for my age, I never got to be in the front row for group songs. I remember stretching on tiptoes, looking for my parents in the packed audience, hoping they could see me, too. At the end of the program each student received a really nice present from the teacher. The trustees would hand out big paper bags full of peanuts, candy, a bar, and of course, a Christmas orange. Preschoolers could earn a bag by going on stage and reciting a short poem or verse.

One year we had an operetta of *Cinderella*. Beautiful costumes were rented for all the actors and actresses. My sister, Margaret, was one of the palace ladies at the ball and wore a gorgeous gown. I was only about nine years old and had the part of one of the tailors who sewed Cinderella’s gown. We wore pajama-like green costumes and funny cardboard hats. It was an amazing experience for a small country school.

I loved the outdoor skating rink we had each year at school. From grades 1-8 everyone skated at noon recess all winter. One year a new pond was dug just west of the school property to supply water for the school bathroom. The next winter instead of the usual rink, we skated on that pond. One day several of us pretended not to hear the school bell at the end of noon recess. We continued skating. No one seemed to notice, but eventually we got cold and came in. I always loved the cozy smell of the little oil stove in the warm-up shack.

Halloween was always fun; dressing up, dunking for apples and games in school, then trick-or-treating all over town as well as walking a half mile or so in each direction from Kane! One Halloween night someone put both large swing sets from the school yard on top of the flat school roof!

The year Highway #23 was built the road became almost impassable. I was in grade I. One day it was so muddy that the vans stayed parked by the road and we had to try to get to them on foot from the school. My boots got stuck when I was half-way there. I stood there helpless. Then

the biggest guy on the van - Ralph Groening, came and picked me up and carried me to the van. He was my hero for quite awhile!



*Jake and Tena Born with family in 1993. (l-r) Leo and Lisa Michell, Allan and Margaret Friesen, Larry and Elvera Born, Jacque and Wes Eidse.*

A privilege we had at Kane School was that many of the teachers taught piano lessons after school at 50¢ a lesson. This made it convenient as well as affordable.

A trip to the Kane Store was always a treat. With its fancy tin ceiling, oiled hardwood floors, glass chocolate bar case and corner post office, it had a lot of country charm. One time the gumball machine was out of order for awhile and we got three large gumballs for every penny. The news spread among the school kids, but it was awhile before the store owner found out!

In 1969, I left home and worked in Winkler until my marriage to Wes Eidse in 1970. We’ve spent most of our married life near Rosenort, where we live on a hobby farm. Wes is in the auto body business, and I work at the Rosenort School. We have three children; Angelo, married to Esther and living in British Columbia, Lola and Cherry who reside in Winnipeg.

### **HENRY K. & EVA (Blatz) BRAUN** *by Eva (Blatz) Braun*

I (Eva) was born in 1916 in the Rose Farm School District. It was my great privilege to be born into the Jacob Blatz family. Being the sixteenth baby to be born of my 45 year old mother and 47 year old father could not have been easy, but am so thankful they lived through it and provided a stable, loving, respectable, and a very hospitable home for us. Many fond memories held dear.

Rose Farm School was great. Lifelong friendships were

established and still cherished. One teacher for some fifty students. The Canadian Sunday School Mission introduced us to their Bible Memory course. I memorized 500 verses and attended a free camp at Gimli where the Gospel was made clear to me, and I accepted the Lord Jesus as my own personal Saviour in 1929.

At 14 years of age, I started teaching Sunday School which greatly strengthened me spiritually. I was baptized at 19 and attended Winnipeg Bible Institute for three years.

After caring for my parents in Lowe Farm, I was honoured to meet and marry Henry K. Braun on October 4, 1941. We lived in Sperling where Glenora was born. We lived and farmed one mile west and two and a half miles south of Kane (NE 24-4-3W) from 1944-1951. Eunice and Marvin were born here. Glenora attended the Kane School for two years, taking her grades one and two. We attended Sunday services in the Kane School at that time and were also active in Sunday School work. We moved to British Columbia in 1951 where Donald and Ronald were born on August 21, 1956.



*Eva and Henry Braun with their family,  
(l-r) Eunice, Marvin and Glenora, at Kane in the late 40's.*



*The Henry and Eva Braun farm at Kane  
where they lived from 1944-1951.*

Henry and I shared joys and sorrows together for nearly 42 years when Henry suffered a heart attack and went to be with the Lord on August 25, 1984. I lived in the last home Henry built enjoying my family and friends. I loved gardening, travelling and sharing the Gospel in Sunday

School, Pioneer Girls, DVBS and our Ladies Mission Circle in Grace Church in Abbotsford. I am presently living in a lovely, large condominium in Abbotsford and I'm still working with the Ladies Mission Circle in the Grace Church.

Glenora graduated from UBC in 1966 with a BA in Math Economics and received an MBS from the University in 1980. She is married to Darcy Ford, a banker, and they live in Sydney, Australia.

Eunice received her Registered Nursing diploma from the Vancouver General Hospital in 1968. She also attended one year at Mutnomah Bible School in Portland, Oregon. Eunice and husband Walter Jakeway, a professional engineer, live in Port Alberni and attend the Baptist Church. They have three children.

Marvin left Safeway in 1988, and began a new career in the financial services industry. Marvin and wife Cindy live in Abbotsford and attend the Alliance church. They have one daughter.

Donald, a Civil Engineer, works for the Burnaby Municipality. Don and wife Alvira live in Coquitlam and attend the Alliance Church. They have three children.

Ronald, also a Civil Engineer, is with the Lafarge Cement Company. Ron and wife Patricia live near Montreal, Quebec, with their three chosen daughters.

### **JACOB F. & MARY (Dyck) BRAUN** *by Edna (Braun) Sandmoen*



*Jacob F. and Mary Braun family. Back row: Abe, John, Edd.  
Middle row: Dad, Betty, Harry, Ann, Mom. Front row: Edna,  
Arthur, Shirley.*

We moved to Kane from the Morris area in the summer of 1939. Our family consisted of Mom, Dad, Abe, Ann, Betty, Arthur, Edna and Shirley. John, Harry and Edd never really lived there, but must have spent some time there, as that is where Harry met his future wife Ann Penner.

Our time spent at Kane was happy, with lots of kids to play with; Marilyn and Mildred Toews, the Klassens, Penners and further down the road, the Reimers and Hydes. We attended school, Sunday School and church at Kane. Mrs. Henry Schellenberg was my Sunday School teacher.

We used to watch the train from the bridge as it headed east. One day in the early forties, it disappeared sooner than it should have, and I went into the house to tell Mom about it. Later we learned that Harry was "riding the rails", and had been injured in the derailment. He spent some time in Morris Hospital recuperating from his injuries.

John and Harry both served overseas during World War II. Harry came home early as he was injured, but John did not return until after the war. In fact, it was during the war that our family was all together for the first time. John had gone to British Columbia before Shirley was born, so when he came home on leave before going overseas, we were all together for the first time. The second time was when Dad passed away in 1972. We have since had a few get-togethers.

Arthur also had a mishap while we lived at Kane. It was during harvest around 1940, at the Abram Toews' farm, that he lost two fingers in a grain auger. Mr. Toews took him to Roland where Dr. Colert met them and took Art on to Carman. He spent some time in the hospital there.

Dad played the violin while we sang. He loved music and was very particular about the "time" and everything had to "schtem". He also taught us how to do the old time waltz. He was good at mathematics and would drill us on the times tables. He always said if you know your times tables, everything else will fall into place.

Mom was an avid reader and would look forward to any paper or reading material that came into the house. In spite of limited resources, she knew more about nutrition back then, than many people do today. On cold winter evenings she would read to us. Even in her last years when the nursing home attendant brought her a *Chatelaine* magazine, she said, "Oh, I've been waiting for this."

In the spring of 1946, we moved to Lowe Farm.

Jacob F. Braun and Mary Dyck were married July 15, 1917. To this union nine children were born. John (1918) worked in a lumber mill in British Columbia. He married Mary Grousel (1918-1988). John now lives in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Harry (1920) worked at Eaton's and later as a Security Guard in Winnipeg. He married Ann Penner. They have two children, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. They live in Winnipeg.

Edd (1922) worked in a lumber mill in British Columbia. He married Ella Varty and they live in Campbell River.

Abe (1924) worked as a farm labourer. He lives in Plum

Coulee, Manitoba.

Ann (1926) married Victor Rood who farmed in Saskatchewan until they retired to British Columbia in 1976. They have three sons and three grandsons (one of whom died in 1986) and three great granddaughters. Ann and Vic live in Winfield, British Columbia.

Betty (1929) married Jake Rempel (1927-1996) who was in road construction. Betty went into nursing in 1967. They had four children (one of whom died in 1993). There are ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Betty moved to British Columbia in 1976, and later remarried to Jack Freeman. They live in Kelowna.

Arthur (1932) worked in a pulp and paper mill in British Columbia as a paper machine supervisor. He married Isabelle Strueby. They have three girls and nine grandchildren. They live in Campbell River.

Edna (1935) married Benny Rempel (1931-1959). Edna worked as a clerk in a bank in Winnipeg and later as a Service Representative at Manitoba Telephone. Edna remarried Lloyd Sandmoen, a farmer at Vogar, Manitoba, where they still live. They have three daughters.

Shirley (1938) married Lawrence Miller (1932-1980), a fireman in Winnipeg. Shirley was an accountant for Tupperware. They had two children and three grandchildren. Shirley remarried Jim Dalgleish, a machine and construction superintendent at Hudson Bay Mining in Flin Flon, Manitoba. Shirley and Jim retired to Abbotsford, British Columbia.

**Edna's Memories:** I attended my first Christmas Concert at Kane when I was about four years old. It was also the first time I'd seen a Christmas tree all decorated and lit up with what I believe were real candles. How dangerous! I couldn't take my eyes off it.

All the pre-schoolers sat in the front row so they had a good view of the stage. When the students came on stage to sing, I sang right along with them, as I'd learned all of the songs from my older siblings. I was so embarrassed when I realized no one else in the audience was singing.

No Christmas Concert I've since attended can compare with the concerts I attended, and took part in at Kane School.

## **PETER U. & HELENA BRAUN**

*by Hattie Braun*

Peter U. Braun was born June 5, 1887 at Plum Coulee, Manitoba to Jacob & Henrietta (Unger) Braun. Died August 15, 1957.

Helena Braun was born May 23, 1889, at Altona, Manitoba to Jacob P. and Helena (Doerksen) Braun. Died March 2, 1975.

They were married October 1, 1908, at Altona Bergthaler Church. Their officiating minister was Rev. John M. Friesen and the wedding text was taken from Ruth 1:16-17.



*Peter U. and Helena Braun farm north of Kane.*



*Peter U. and Helena Braun, 1954.*

We moved to Kane in 1941 from Lowe Farm (farm) to two miles north of Kane, SW 18-5-2W. This was the first home we owned, no more renting. Dad said, "Now I can put in a nail when and where without asking!" We have lived at various places, some of which were: Rosenfeld, Gretna, Steinfeld, five miles south of Lowe Farm; Chaplin, Saskatchewan; Kronsweide, south of Lowe Farm; St. Peters, southeast of Lowe Farm; Lowe Farm, on a farm and in town; and Kane. They moved to the town of Lowe Farm in 1954.

Dad was a school trustee in Kane from 1942 - 1949. Mary, Erdman and Eva attended Kane School. Mother and Lena (Mrs. P. L. Harder) started the Kane Mission Sisters. Peter and Lena Harder owned a store in Kane for a while, then moved to British Columbia. Jake and Olga farmed north of Kane and later retired to Kane (town). For health reasons Jake moved to the Morris Parkside Villa. Ben Wiebe

(Eva's husband) was a van driver from 1951-1960, then moved to Oakville and now Portage la Prairie.

We attended the Kane Berghaler Church and Sunday School, were S. S. teachers and sang in choirs. Jake, John and Henry served as C.O.'s in the '40's.

Dad had his first heart attack November 11, 1952, and was in Roland Hospital for 1 week. His second heart attack was on November 11, 1953, and he was in Carman Hospital for six weeks. He had a stroke in April, 1956, and passed away August 15, 1957. Mother took great care of Dad, and he was at home (Home Care) until about 4:30 p.m. that day when he was taken to Morris Hospital and passed away at about 10:30 p.m.

Mother was in reasonably good health until she fell and broke her hip at home on December 24, 1974, and was in the Victoria Hospital until January 18, 1975, when she was transferred to Morris Hospital and passed away March 2, 1975.

Good memories of Kane - too numerous to mention! The Braun family:

Lena: (1910-1912) born at Rosenfeld, MB. Peter: (1911- ) born at Gretna, married Justina Braun. They live in Winnipeg, MB. Lena: (1913-1973) born at Rosenfeld and married Peter L. Harder. Jacob: (1915-1993) born at Lowe Farm and married Olga Schroeder. John: (1917- ) born at Chaplin, SK. and married Annie Falk. They live in Winkler. Tina: (1919-1920) born at Lowe Farm, MB. Henry: (1921- ) born at Lowe Farm and married Wanda Reimer who died in 1948, then married Nettie Dyck. They live in Steinbach. Henrietta: (1923- ) born at Lowe Farm, now lives in Altona. Mary: (1925- ) born at Lowe Farm, married Cornelius Friesen. They live in Lowe Farm. Erdman: (1927- ) born at Lowe Farm, married Margaretha Hildebrand. They live in

Morris, MB. Eva: (1929- ) born at Lowe Farm, married Benjamin Wiebe. They live at Portage la Prairie, MB.

**JACOB L. & OLGA (Schroeder) BRAUN**  
*by Kathy (Braun) Friesen*



*Jacob L. and Olga Braun.*

Jacob L. Braun, son of Peter U. and Helena Braun, was born at Lowe Farm on September 23, 1915. The Brauns moved to Kane in 1942 (18-5-2W). He married Olga Schroeder, daughter of Jacob and Helena Schroeder on November 19, 1944. Dad and Mom enjoyed 46 years of marriage. Together they raised ten children. They spent their life on the farm, until their retirement in 1978. Life on the farm was not always easy, but Dad stuck it out despite failing health. Mom passed away very suddenly on December 2, 1990 and Dad joined her on December 2, 1993.

Church was always an important part of our parents' lives. During the years they attended the Kane Berghaler Church, Dad was the secretary/treasurer of the church.

Dad always had a keen interest in farming, and later in life developed an interest in antiques. He had collections of old coins, old bottles, and antique tools. While in Kane his farming interests were transferred to his apple trees, tomato plants, etc.

Dad also wrote poetry for memorable occasions such as floods, family events and anniversaries. Mom enjoyed sewing, crafts, collecting family pictures and making and publishing a Schroeder book.

Each of us children remember Kane; the school with its June school picnics, skating in winter, some of the awful roads we travelled during the time Highway 23 was being prepared for paving; 4-H clubs, Kane Berghaler Church with its Sunday School and Daily Vacation Bible School.

Kathy, after grade 12, graduated from Elim Bible School and in 1968 married Gerhard Friesen. They farm



*Mr. Jacob L. Braun and family.*

at Arnaud, Manitoba. They have two children; Terry who works for Simplot, Morris, and is married to Joele Hamonic from St. Malo (they have a daughter, Jessica), and Rick who is presently back in school taking a multimedia course. In addition they have two foster children, Matthew and Chris who have been a part of their lives for the last eleven years.

Joan, after grade 12, graduated from Elim Bible School, graduated as a Registered Nurse from St. Boniface Hospital, and in 1971 married Benny Loewen. They reside at Riverside, near Rosenort, and Benny works at Midland. They have five children; Brad is married to Lana, and working for a farmer at Rosenort; Bonnie is working at Morris Home Hardware; Wendell is working for Cornelson Construction, Rosenort; and Charles and Timothy are still in school.

Eugene, after grade 12, worked for a farmer, then graduated as an x-ray technician, worked in Altona, and then transferred to Selkirk. He married Bev Loewen from Gretna and they have two children; Conrad and Tamara. Conrad is going to Red River College and taking a course for an x-ray technician, and Tamara is working in Selkirk.

Arlene worked for Manitoba Hydro after school. She then married Gil Cornelson of Rosenort. Gil is self-employed in the construction field. Arlene works for the Rosenort Credit Union. They have two boys, Robert and Douglas, both in University of Manitoba in the computer field.

Bernice married Richard Friesen. Initially they lived at Rosenort with Richard working at Friesen Bins. They then moved to Lethbridge, Alberta and opened another plant; Wheatland Bins. They have three children; Rick who is involved in the family business; Kristie who is attending Bible School in Calgary and Nathan who is still in school.

Milton initially worked on highways, then started working for Paterson Elevators. He is now in Morris in the new terminal. He married Cindy Spense of Ridgeville. She is employed by the new Super Eight Motel in Morris. They have two children, Michael and Darcy. Both boys are employed by Westfield in Rosenort.

Earl had been employed in the construction business, then worked for D. W. Friesen's and is now back in the construction business. After leaving home he built himself a house in Rosenfeld, where he now resides.

Dorothy after school worked in Winkler as a cashier. Here she met Harv Peters, whom she married. Harv at that time was working for Triple E in Winkler. Since then they left Winkler and became involved in the farming business. At present they are managing a hog operation at Arnaud. They have two children, Matthew and Melissa who are in school.

Janet has worked in Morden and Winkler. She married Joe Giesbrecht and they reside at Schonweise. Joe works at Plum Coulee. They have four boys, Mark, Jerry, Christopher, and Eric, all in school.

Les after school worked for Highways — first in the Morris Municipality, then later north of Winnipeg. He

married Jorlene Neufeld and had two boys, Tyrone and Skylar, both in school. Les and Jorlene separated in 1997.

### **WALTER J. & MARILYN (Penner) BRAUN** *by Walter and Marilyn Braun*



*Walter and Marilyn Braun with (l) Merinda and Richard and family and (r) Monica and Garth and family.*

Not many will remember us from the Kane area, since we lived there for only a short time. However for us, it was a most memorable time, since it was there that we settled as newlyweds. Our yard was right next to Don and Nancy Pfrimmer. As we recall the land number was NW16-5-3W. Walter had grown up south of Kane and was familiar with the area, whereas Marilyn came from the Kronsgart/Rosewell area.

Walter purchased that quarter of land the winter of 1964, and during the following months renovated the house since it had not been lived in for some time. New kitchen cupboards, newly painted and papered walls, and some new floor coverings in addition to hot and cold running water into the kitchen, made this a very attractive place for a new bride! In June of that year we were married and happily moved into this cozy little place. As we recall Walter seeded wheat, oats and flax that year, which we finished harvesting on Thanksgiving Day. It was a wonderful place to begin married life and we have many fond memories of being there. We had a cow which provided milk for us, and a dog who had puppies that fall. Besides that we remember a beautiful lilac bush outside the living room window. The house was not well insulated so we did not live in it during the winter months.

The first winter there we left Canada to participate in a volunteer mission assignment in Mississippi with the General Conference, from the end of October to mid April. It was a valuable experience and we learned much from it. In spring we returned to our farm home. That summer and fall we were happily anticipating the birth of our first child. Walter got a job with a contractor for the fall and

winter months, so we rented an apartment in Morden where Merinda joined our family in February.

In the spring of 1966, we moved back to our farm with our new baby, made a few changes in the house to accommodate our "family" and we stayed there until the fall when we moved into Marilyn's parents' (Henry and Annie Penner) farm at Kronsart. We had opportunity to sell our quarter at Kane two years later.

During the time we lived near Kane, Walter was employed for some months as mechanic at the John Deere dealership at the Kane Garage. He got some great experience there. We found the neighbourhood to be friendly and we cherish our memories, especially the way Pfrimmers made us feel cared for and included. Marilyn remembers doing corn together with Nancy and also attending her first Tupperware Party ever at her house! One dreadful day Walter had a car accident at 11:30 p.m. while coming home from work in Winkler. Don brought Marilyn the news of the occurrence and took her to Winkler Hospital, while Nancy kept our eight month old baby until returning hours later. We are so grateful for that support and help that night!

Since our time in Kane, life has brought us many wonderful experiences and so very many great friends! God has provided for us opportunities to get to know many people who have enriched our lives, both while we lived in the Kane area and later in Winkler, Altona, and presently in Morden. Our family now includes the two daughters that were born to us, their husbands - both Mordenites, and five lovely grandchildren. At present Walter is employed at Sun Valley RV near Morden, and Marilyn is office receptionist at Pembina Counselling Center in Morden. Our older daughter, Merinda and family are in Montreal involved in church planting, while our younger daughter, Monica, and her family are in language study in Indonesia. We thank God for our past and how it has had a role in shaping our future. Each day is that, is it not? May we make wise choices.

## **PETER I. & MATILDA (Groening) BROWN**

*by Alice (Friesen) Brown*

Pete (born October 1, 1922) and Tillie (born September 25, 1921) Brown were married on December 31, 1942. They lived on the Brown home farm until spring of 1943, then moved to a yard site northeast of Kane. In September of 1943 they moved to Tillie's parent's home, the A. A. Groenings, when Mr. Groening lost his arm in a farming accident.

In the spring of 1948 they moved to the Isaac G. Brown (Pete's father) home farm, on Section 5-4-2W. The original house had been destroyed by fire so they moved a house to the yard and settled down to farm and raise their family. They operated a mixed farm, raising cattle, hogs, and poultry to supplement their income from grain. The Browns no longer maintain livestock, but continue to farm sharing the workload with their son, Brian. Of an age to

retire, they still prefer their farm home over retirement in a town setting.

Pete's interest in mechanics and "tinkering" has been useful in the maintenance of his farm machinery as well as providing him with a hobby. His "blacksmith's" shop has serviced many a vehicle or farm implement. His knack for repairing clocks, appliances, and a variety of other items helps to pass the months between harvest and seeding.

Tillie's flower beds are well-known in the community. Tillie's garden starts blooming in the beginning of June and continues throughout the summer, often to the end of September and beginning of October. The great variety of plants ensure a continual display of colour. The yard is a lovely setting for family gatherings and photographs.

The Browns both enjoy music. The piano has often been the center of activity in the living room. The grandchildren have all sat beside Grandma on the bench, singing Sunday School choruses. Pete plays the violin and has entertained in church and at other events, including the weddings of two granddaughters.

Pete and Tillie have five children. The eldest, Virginia (born October 5, 1943) and her husband Gerald Doell live in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Virginia and Gerald have two children. Curtis and his wife Donna and daughter Kaitlin live in Sardis, B. C. Their daughter Andrea and her husband Dale Enns live in Winnipeg.

Terry (September 6, 1946) and his wife Ricki (Parkin) farm in the Kane-Lowe Farm area. They have two daughters. Jenny lives in Langley, B. C., and Shelly lives in Winnipeg.

Bruce and Brian were born on November 21, 1951. Bruce married Vivian Harder. They and their three children Vanessa, Derek, and Kendra live in Starbuck.

Brian and his wife Alice (Friesen) also farm in the Kane-Lowe Farm area. They have three daughters: Trina and husband Edward Landry and son, Tristan; Angela, husband Henry Isaak and daughters, Emily and Alesa. Both families live in Lowe Farm. Stephanie attends college in Devil's Lake.

Donald (March 5, 1957) is married to Geraldine (Kroeker). They farm east of Lowe Farm and have two sons, Justin and Jason.

## **BRIAN & ALICE (Friesen) BROWN**

*by Alice (Friesen) Brown*

Brian farms three miles east of Kane. He was born on November 21, 1951 to Peter and Matilda (Groening) Brown of Rose Farm. Brian attended the Rose Farm and Kane elementary schools, going to Lowe Farm for high school. On September 29, 1973, he married Alice, daughter of Jacob J. and Agatha (Schroeder) Friesen.

Always active in sports, Brian has played baseball and hockey in Lowe Farm and Kane communities. He has also enjoyed hunting, and is currently interested in fishing and golf. Over the years Brian has served on the Chamber

of Commerce, Curling Rink Executive, and the local Pool Elevator board. He was a volunteer with the Lowe Farm Fire Department for a number of years. At present he is a member of the Agricore board. For ten years he was employed at Manitoba Sugar in Winnipeg during the winter months. Over the past year and a half he has worked on building construction as time permits.

Alice went to school in Lowe Farm, Morris and the University of Manitoba. She teaches at the Lowe Farm School. She is interested in various sports, in the past as a participant in and coach of community baseball, currently coaching various teams at school. She is on the executive of the Lowe Farm Recreation Commission board. Alice has enjoyed her work on the Lowe Farm Centennial Committee the past year and a half.

Brian and his dad, Peter I. Brown, continue to farm together. Brian and Alice still raise some livestock (poultry and hogs) for their own and family use. Because of their children's interests and involvement in 4-H, they also have two horses.

Brian and Alice have three daughters who received their elementary and high school education in Lowe Farm and Morris. All three of the girls have been involved in sports, music and other interests over the years. The "Brown Family" continues to increase as the oldest two girls both married in the summer of 1995.

Trina (December 2, 1973) married Edward Landry of Morris on July 15. They have a son, Tristan who was born November 25, 1999. They make their home in Lowe Farm. Trina is employed at the Lowe Farm Co-op Farm Supply and Edward drives for Bartel Trucking of Rosenort.

Angela (January 13, 1975) and Henry Isaak of Winnipeg were married on August 29. They also live in Lowe Farm. They have two daughters. Emily was born on January 16, 1998 and Alesa was born on October 26, 1999. Angela graduated with a certificate in Library Technology from Red River Community College in June, 1999. Henry is self-employed in the building construction trade.

Stephanie (April 9, 1980) is a student at the University of North Dakota Lake Region at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, having received a volleyball scholarship. She is a swimming instructor and lifeguard during the summer months.

## **JAMES & AGNES (Russell) COWIE**

*by Martha (Cowie) Winter*

Agnes Manson Dickie Russell was born in Aberdeen Scotland, January 7, 1880. She was the only child of a Scottish minister. On a blustery day in March, 1900, this young Scottish lass caught a Swedish boat out of Southampton for Canada.

She came to Canada to be the governess to the Young family in Ashcroft, British Columbia. In her time with this family, Agnes went by horse and buggy to California where she spent several years. When her services as governess were no longer needed, Agnes relocated to Winnipeg,

Manitoba, where she obtained a position working for a doctor. The year was 1914.

At a house party one night she met a soldier by the name of James Souter Cowie. Even though their families lived only thirty miles from each other in Scotland, and knew the family names, they had never met.



*Jim and Agnes Cowie with Violet and Martha.*

James Souter Cowie was born in Keith, Scotland, in 1887. He too caught a Swedish boat out of Southampton, but in January, 1908, also bound for Canada.

He settled in Winnipeg. He was one of twelve children, born to James and Martha Cowie, a farmer. Although young Jim Cowie's first love was also to be a farmer, his first job was with the Street Railway and he worked at that for several years. At this point war broke out in Europe, and every available man was either conscripted or joined voluntarily. Somewhere in this space of time, James Cowie and Agnes Russell met and were married in 1917. Their union was blessed with two daughters; Violet Agnes and Martha Ann.

After the War, James Cowie went to work for Mr. Jim Miller, farming in the Myrtle District. In 1926 the Cowie family moved to a farm in Kane, Manitoba (NW 31-4-2W). This farm was rented from a nephew of Jim Miller.

Much to the delight of all the children around Kane and district, Jim Cowie raised Shetland ponies. These ponies took several prizes at the Carman Fair with daughter Martha taking first prize for best girl rider for three years running. For many years Mr. Cowie also drove the school van south to the A. A. Groening farm which was the end of the Kane School District. He was a great pal to the children in his charge. He used to participate in all the dances held in the Kane School. Agnes Cowie was noted for her sourmilk chocolate cake. This happy time in the Cowie family ended tragically in 1936, when Mr. Cowie was killed by a farm implement. In 1939, Agnes Cowie and girls moved into Winnipeg. Agnes Cowie died in 1968, in Vancouver at the age of 88 years.

In 1941 Martha married a Navy man from the Russell District. Her husband John Schwartz was in the Navy for

six years. They had three boys and one girl. They were divorced in 1972. In 1976, Martha married Mr. Eric Winter and resides in Vancouver.

In 1943 Violet married Russell Wyche, brother to Roy Wyche who ran the Paterson elevator in Kane. The name was really DE LA Wyche, but this was not discovered until years later. Russell was killed in an automobile accident, when the car in which he was a passenger, was struck by a moving van. Violet was left with four daughters. All of her family are still residents in the Southern Manitoba area.

### **WILLIAM D. & LOTTIE CUTLIP**

*by Pete and Marion Harder*



*The Cutlips and their Canadian home, (1919-1923).*

1918 - During the summer the 'Crouch Bros. Land Development Co.' advertised at the Logan County Fair in Lincoln, Illinois, trying to sell land. They praised 'The Prosperity of the Canadian Farm'. The Crouch Bros. were farming one mile east and two miles south of Kane, Manitoba.

Through this advertisement, Mr. William D. Cutlip became interested and purchased 160 acres of virgin prairie 1½ miles southeast of Kane. A total of seventy families left for Canada from Central Illinois to find their fortune farming in Canada.

1919 - The Cutlips built their home at Kane right where the lumber was unloaded near the railroad track. The finished house was moved with a large Case tractor to the farm 1 mile east and one mile south of Kane (sec. 32-4-2W).

The first crop of flax brought a return of \$6,000.00, exactly the price for which the farm was purchased. After harvest, the family returned to Illinois for the winter, with the joyous sense of accomplishment of their dream.

1920 - When they returned they rented another 640 acres. The rains were excessive and the crops failed. In the summer, son Bill helped to build the second elevator at Kane, known as the Canadian Consolidated, and then as the United Grain Growers.

During the 1920-21 school year, two of the children

attended the Kane Consolidated School. Bill was now 14 years old and in Grade 8 and Dean was in Grade 3. The following year, Laura started Grade 1 and Dean was in Grade 4.

1921 - Rain again caused 'Tombstone Disease' and another crop failure. The family returned to Illinois for the winter with the world crashing around them and their 'Impossible Dreams'. They now realized that the Crouch Bros. had misrepresented the facts.

1922 - They returned to Kane, but cut back on expenses by just seeding their own 160 acres. This year, lack of rain caused drought and another crop failure. They again returned to Illinois.



*Bill W. and Isobel Cutlip in Florida.*

1923 - When the crops were again flooded, the Cutlips made the decision to sell. They had enjoyed twenty months of high hopes and endured twenty-two months of total despair. They experienced crop failures four out of five years! Their equipment was either sold or repossessed. They sold their land of 'broken dreams' for slightly more than they had paid for it.

At the age of 88, Mr. William W. Cutlip wrote his book of *Precious Memories*.

*Taken from William W. Cutlip's (Bill) book 'Precious Memories'.*

### **How I got involved in the Cutlip Story:**

*by Pete Harder*

As mail courier, I received a letter addressed to the Postmaster at Kane, dated June 1, 1993. There were numerous questions about Kane and the crops grown there, by a Wm. W. Cutlip from Venice, Florida, U.S.A., who had lived at Kane during 1919-1923. When he had left Kane in 1923 he had been 17 years of age and had now forgotten

most of the details he wished to include in the book he was in the process of writing, *Precious Memories*.

I replied to the letter and immediately received another asking about the crops, the type of tractors used, the kind of water supply we had, etc. A lot of corresponding followed and I mailed many pictures and a copy of the school register of that time. The secretary for the R.M. of Morris was very helpful, as were Edward Groening, J. T. Handlon, Eddie H. Groening and David E. Penner in supplying the information required. Mr. Cutlip also mailed photos that he had and asked me to name or explain them.

In his now completed book, *Precious Memories* mentions having been in Kane in the summer of 1983 and visiting the farm where his folks had lived. The land was under cultivation, but there were no buildings left on it. He didn't make contact with any of the people presently living around Kane.

### JAMES B. & NORA DAVIDSON

*from Living Gold and  
Marion (Bruce) Eskelson*

George Davidson, uncle to James B. Davidson bought sections 6-5-2W and 5-5-2W in 1903. James Miller came with Mr. George Davidson from Ashern, Ontario and together they broke W½ of 6-5-2W with oxen. The next year they purchased a Hart-Parr gasoline engine and broke the E½ of 6-5-2W.

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Davidson were married in 1896, at Greenback, Ontario and came to Manitoba in 1910, and bought the E½ of 6-5-2W. Their family consisted of Edna, who was for some years matron of Carman Hospital and later for many years was the superintendent of the Black Hills General Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota; and Leonora (Mrs. Doug Bruce) who had three children; Jim, Barbara, and Marion.

From the *Free Press*: "Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Davidson honoured at a joint meeting of the Manitoba Clydesdale Association and the Shorthorn Breeders Association at Brandon. Mr. Davidson was Western Representative for these associations for many years and a well-known figure in agricultural circles throughout the west."

**Marion (Bruce) Eskelson's memories:** Sixty years have passed since Mother (Leonora Davidson Bruce), Jim, Barbara and I left Grandpa and Grandma Davidson's farm at Kane to live with our auntie Edna Davidson, in Rapid City, South Dakota. (*School records show that the Bruce children attended the Kane School during the years 1931-32 to 1938-39, and Mrs. L. D. Bruce was the secretary/treasurer of the Board of Trustees at Kane in the years 1931-34, with her father, J. B. Davidson as the Chairman of the Board the last two years.*) Neither Barbara nor I recall the year the farm was sold. Grandma and Grandpa Davidson moved to Rapid City in 1945.

Mabel Anderson taught the lower grades at Kane Consolidated School. I think she was the most loved teacher the three of us ever had. After her sudden death, she was replaced by Miss Evelyn Jack.

George Siemens, in charge of the entire school, taught the upper grades. He organized field days in which everyone participated in at least one of the many athletic events. He was a stern task-master who did his best to make sure his students passed their departmental exams.

We spent Saturday afternoons playing with the White kids at their place one week, they playing at our place the next. Alex, Frank, Tommy, Margaret, Lily and Jean were great fun. Frank and I shared the same birthday which made him the most special member of the White family for me.

We played cops and robbers at the Fredricksens. Mr. Fred Fredricksen, Gladys' grandfather, helped us butcher



*James B. and Nora Davidson farm on SE 6-5-2W.*

hogs and chickens in the fall. He made sausage, the best in the world. I can taste it still.

Mr. Peden, the itinerant preacher, baptized me when I was six. The church services were held at school as were the Box Socials. I remember the bidding on the beautifully prepared lunches wrapped in decorated boxes. I have no idea what was done with the funds raised at the auction of these special lunches. I remember Mrs. Cowie helping to wash up at the end of the meal. Everyone danced after eating. Sometimes there was a sing-a-long before the dancing began. The only song I can recall was, "Oh Chester, have you heard about Harry, just got back from the army." It was a motion song requiring everyone to touch chest, hair, arms, etc. to the appropriate words.

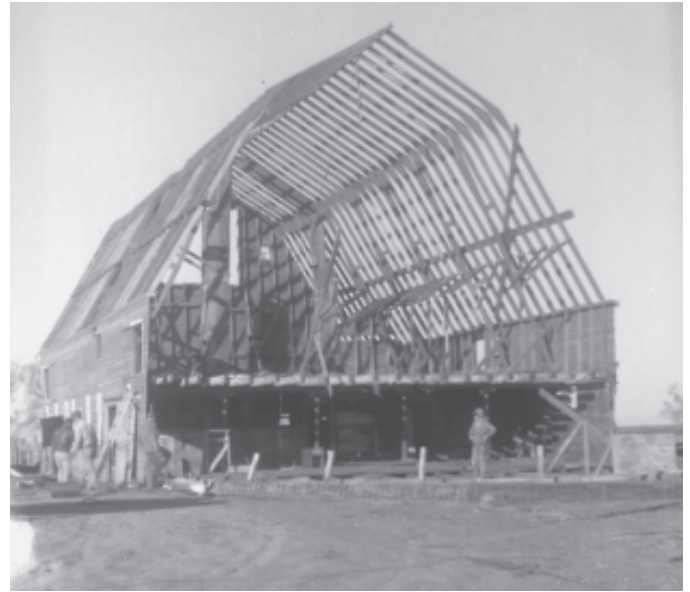
Martha Cowie and Jim raced their ponies. Jim and Barbara took Fly and Dollie to the Cowie place, had bucking contests to see whose pony could buck the longest, the outcome of these contests is lost in memory.

In winter a horse drawn van, kept warm with heated rocks, picked us up at the end of the lane, depositing us at school, returning to take us home again. It was always dark both going to school and coming back home.

Jim graduated from Rapid City High School, in 1943; joined the Canadian Navy the same year, saw action in the North Atlantic, was discharged after VE Day; returned to Rapid City where he graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1950; married Geraldine Hasket of Transcona, Manitoba. Four children, Todd, Barry, Jana and Laurie were born to this union. Jim died in a car accident while on a business trip to Montana in 1968. He was 42.



*Barbara and Marion Bruce with brother Jim on their pony, Fly. Their dog, Rex standing by, 1932.*



*The Davidson barn coming down in the early 60's.*

Barbara graduated from Rapid City High School in 1944, graduated from St. John School of Nursing in 1948. She married a school chum of Jim's, John Hoon a watchmaker, in 1948. Three children, Bruce, Susan and Jane were born to this union. John died in 1983 from cancer.

I graduated from Rapid City High School in 1947; earning a degree in English Literature and Psychology at Yankton College in 1951; married Richard Eskelson, a graduate of the School of Mines with a degree in Civil Engineering, the same year; lived in Texas, moving to San Diego, California in 1956. Four children, James, Carla, John and Gus were born to this union.

Our grandfather, James B. Davidson died 1961, age 90. Our grandmother, Nora Davidson died 1946, age 71. Our mother, Leonora died 1974, age 73, one hundred years to the day of Grandma's birth. Our auntie, Edna Davidson, died 1982, age 83.

## **JAKE & ANNIE DERKSEN**

*by Jake Derksen*

We moved from Plum Coulee in the spring of 1950, to a farm three miles north of Kane (West ½ of 24-5-3). This was just north of the big dyke, which had few bridges across it. When it rained we were cut off from the Kane community.

This is where we started to farm. Our son Brian was two months old at the time.

This was also the year of the Flood! As I had no experience with heavy clay soil, I learned many lessons the hard way.

The first three winters we moved to Winnipeg for the winter months, where I found work.

In 1952 our second son, Reginald, was born.

We attended the Kane Berghthaler Church. We served



*Jake and Annie Derksen with sons  
(l-r) Reginald and Brian in Kane.*



*Brian and Reginald Derksen on snowbank  
between house and garage.*

in the church as Sunday School teachers, and sang duets and in quartets, etc. Jake served on the Church Council and Young People's Christian Endeavor Committee.

In 1953 we bought a lot in Kane and moved a small new house into town. Brian and Reg both attended school in Kane.

We rented another three quarters of land near Sperling which we farmed from Kane.

When Jake had time he worked for J. J. Toews occasionally, also helped build the Kane Garage, took care of the skating rink, and also worked for U.G.G. In 1957 he

helped build the big grain annex.

Kane was a good gathering place for farmers to discuss their experiences on the farm.

Annie recalls how the neighbour ladies, Marion Harder and Evie Penner, would visit with her in their gardens.

In the fall of 1961 we bought a farm three miles northwest of Plum Coulee, where we moved to and farmed until 1992.

We have now retired and live in Winkler, Manitoba. Brian and Reginald and their families farm together. Reg lives on our former place at Plum Coulee and Brian lives three miles south of there.

We have many good memories of Kane.

## **WILLIAM DEUTSCHMAN**

*by Ed H. Groening*



*Mr. Bill Deutschman with  
(l-r) Carol, Ruth and Norman Wiebe, 1963.*

William Deutschman came to the Lowe Farm area in 1919. He was born September 14, 1891, and died November 24, 1969. He bought the west half section of 3-5-2W from Robert Miller. He also bought the east half section of 4-5-2W, after renting it from Miller. Later he bought the west half section of 9-5-2W.

He came from Joliet, Illinois, in the United States, where he grew up. About that time, many Americans came to Canada to buy land for speculation, but William Deutschman came to stay. He came from a church-going family, and he claimed to have taught Sunday School as a 17 year old boy. He knew more about beliefs than people realized.

William Deutschman remained a bachelor and did much of his own cooking, though in the later years he usually had a hired couple working for him. The last couple who worked for him was Abram and Betty Wiebe, who stayed with him for 18 years. He was very pleased with them, and was especially attached to the Wiebe children; Norman, Carol and Ruth, who grew up at the place. In his will, William left generous inheritances to the Wiebes.

Deutschman was a careful spender. He held onto his farming equipment longer than his neighbours did to theirs. He humorously said the old machines should be used up before getting new ones. His machine shop was well stocked with tools, and he had the know-how to do the fixing. Abe Wiebe was instrumental in convincing him that more modern equipment was a means to better farming.

Besides his crop, Deutschman for much of the time raised hogs, which he periodically hauled to Winnipeg in his own truck.

Mr. Deutschman minded his own business, and was well accepted by the neighbours and business people in town. There were certain people he got together with from time to time. In winter, he sometimes went south to Illinois for a few weeks to see his relatives, and attend to the business of his property out there. Even though he was often alone, he was a ready socializer, attending weddings or other community affairs. Deutschman's place was referred to as a reference for direction because far and wide people knew where he lived.

## **HENRY H. & ANNA (Penner) DOELL**

*by Susan (Doell) Winther*

Dad and Mother moved to the Kane community in May, 1946. Here ( on SW 32-4-2W) they farmed for a few years, after which Dad decided to take a van route for the Kane School. In summer and winter he drove with horses and van. Later he purchased a panel truck and used it to pick up the children. He had the van route for a number of years.

In summertime he worked at various odd jobs. One summer he worked as part of the construction crew that built the Lowe Farm Junior High School. While working there he accidentally broke his leg, and at age sixty-two, went to the hospital for the first time in his life.

Mother and Dad always had some animals on their small farm. Dad loved his horses, and Mother, too, was an animal lover. They raised chickens, pigs, turkeys, and geese. They always had a few cows as well, which provided them with milk and cream, and also provided a small income.



*Henry H. and Anna Doell with Susan, Henry and Annie, 1967.  
(Mr. Doell passed away a month later.)*

Mother loved gardening. She had a huge vegetable garden, an orchard, and a beautiful flower garden. The vegetable garden met the needs of the family (often her neighbours as well). She did not consider caring for her garden work, for her it was very enjoyable, and gave her great satisfaction.

In the late 50's, they had the unfortunate experience of their home being flooded. In 1965, this unfortunate experience was repeated when the dyke overflowed its banks. This time they had to vacate their home and went to stay with Mother's brother, the Peter Penner family for a few days. Due to Dad's keen sense of humour, and Mother's optimistic attitude, they were able to take these hardships in their stride.

Dad passed away suddenly at their home on March 20, 1967. Mother stayed on at the farm until May, 1970, at which time she moved to the High Rise Apartments in Winkler. In 1971, mother went for her first airplane ride to visit her sister in California. The plane ride was the highlight of her trip.

She lived in her apartment for several years, until her health deteriorated to such an extent that she could not live alone any longer. She spent about a year in Winkler and Morris Hospitals, waiting to be placed in a Nursing Home. She moved to Eventide Home in Rosenort, where she spent several years until she was moved to Red River Valley Lodge in Morris. Here she remained until her passing on October 24, 1991 (age 94 years).

Their family consisted of three children. Henry married Catherine Klassen. They had two children: Kathy and Elaine. Henry passed away on January 23, 1985, at the age of sixty-two. He had suffered many years from a heart condition.



*Mrs. Anna Doell with (l-r) Susan and Ernie Winther, Henry and Tina Doell, Annie and Anton Dyck.*

Annie married Anton Dyck. Their family consisted of five children: Lawrence, Harold, Dorothy, Tony, and Corinne. They farmed in the Kane/Myrtle and Lowe Farm areas, until their retirement, when they moved to Winkler. Annie passed away on November 18, 1998. Anton still resides in their home in Winkler.

Susan married Ernie Winther of Ostenfeld. Ernie is an electronics technician. He has owned and operated his own TV Repair Business for the past forty years. Susan taught school for twenty-nine years. Twenty of these years she taught in Ste. Anne. She retired from her chosen profession in June, 1988. Since retirement, they have travelled and pursued their hobbies. Ernie has taken up gardening, ham-radio, golfing, reading, etc. (yes, he still repairs the odd television too). Susan enjoys crafts, reading, church activities, cooking, baking, etc. Their travels take them to Florida for the winter months, but they choose to spend the summer at home in Manitoba.

## **JACOB P. & AGANETHA (Giesbrecht) DUECK**

*by Peter G. Dueck*

My parents and family moved into the then Rose Farm School District in the spring of 1927, from the Rudnerweider School District. That was a move from light sandy soil to heavy gumbo clay. That meant Dad had to relearn his farming practices. That first year was a late year, and Dad plowed and harrowed and seeded into the hardened lumps of clay. We had a poor crop that year. Dad learned fast and next year we waited until it was dry enough for working clay, and used a cultivator instead of a plow.



*Jacob P. and Aganetha Dueck, 1942.*

It was also a move from an almost new house-barn combination to an old run down farmyard. Dad's hope had been that they would rebuild the yard soon, but because of a few bad crops and the depression of the thirties, they could only build a new barn in 1938, and a new house in 1948.

For me it also meant a change of schools. I still remember that first trip to school. We had two horses pulling a wagon, and there were at least a dozen places where the water was running over the road. When we got to school we were told that school was cancelled until the road improved. We all (brothers and sisters) had our elementary education in the Rose Farm School. Some of the younger ones even had some of their high school training there. My son Henry was the last teacher in the 1964-65 school year in the Rose Farm School number 1577. After this the school consolidated with the Kane School. And then in 1969, the Kane Consolidated School became part of the Morris McDonald School Division.

Financially and socially the move to Rose Farm was a good one for our family. Here too, we were surrounded by many relatives and friends, just as we had been in Rudnerweide. Instead of living across the road from Dad's parents, now we were close to Mom's parents. Dad served as trustee and secretary on the school board and he also served as song leader (Vorsanger) in church. Mother was kept busy feeding and clothing her large family of ten; four boys and six girls. We weren't rich, but we always had food and all the necessities of life.

Where are we today? Retired!

Peter married Helena Gerbrandt and they went into farming, and he also served as leading minister in the Lowe



*The Jacob P. Dueck farm, 1978.*

Farm Bergthaler Church for many years. Helena passed away on February 20, 1994. Peter now lives in an apartment in Altona.

Mary took her Practical Nurses Training and went into nursing until she married Jake Voth who was a farmer. Jake is presently in the Altona Personal Care Home and Mary lives in their house in Altona.

Tena took her Practical Nurses Training and went into nursing until she married David Zacharias, a farmer. David passed away November 12, 1991. Tena and daughter Edna now live in an apartment in Altona.

Nettie married Jake Gerbrandt and they farmed in the Sewell and Rose Farm-Kane area. Nettie passed away November 2, 1989. Jake passed away on August 26, 1992.

Jake married Agnes Goertzen and they farmed on the home place. When they retired from farming they moved to Winkler.

John was one of those who benefited from the Rose Farm High School. He went into farming. He also went into volunteer work at Warden Woods in Ontario and at Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg for many winters. He now lives in Winnipeg.

Margaret took her Registered Nurses Training and went into nursing. She served as a nurse in mid-wifery on the mission field in Mexico for 13 years. On December 28, 1991, she married brother-in-law Jake Gerbrandt. On August 26, 1992, Jake passed away. Margaret now lives in Winkler.

Agatha married Elmer Groening. Elmer took his Teacher training and then went into teaching for a number of years. They came back and went into farming on Elmer's parents' farm. After a lengthy illness, Elmer passed away on May 27, 1989. Agatha now lives in Winkler.

Lena finished her high school and university training and went into teaching. She then took further training and preparation to join the Wycliffe Bible Translators Mission, and made that her life's vocation. She lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Henry is the youngest of the family. When he went to high school, Dad asked him whether he would want to go into farming and his answer was no. Then Dad said, "well, then we'll make an auction sale and move to town." Henry then finished Bible College and Seminary and went into full-time Church and Conference related work. Henry married Marie Kehler and they are living in Winnipeg.

Of Mom and Dad's twenty-two grandchildren, six are involved in farming. The others have chosen other vocations. There are also forty-one great-grandchildren, and two of them have also gone into farming.

## **PETER G. & HELENA (Gerbrandt) DUECK**

*by Peter G. Dueck*

I was born to Jacob and Aganetha (Giesbrecht) Dueck in the Rudnerweide School District in 1917.

I started school in 1924, and in 1927 we moved to the Rose Farm School District on SW 4-4-2W. The Cornelius Thiessens who had lived there before us had moved to Mexico. I was in grade three when I started school in Rose Farm in April, 1927. Our first trip to school was made on a wagon. It was only one and three-quarters of a mile to school, but there were at least a dozen places where the water ran over the road. There we were told that school was cancelled until the roads would be better. All of my brothers and sisters had their elementary training in the Rose Farm School. The younger ones even had some of their high schooling in Rose Farm. If I remember correctly we were up to thirty-eight students in that one room school with one teacher to teach all grades. The grade ahead of you always seemed more interesting than the one you were in. I think it worked quite well. It helped us to do the work in our grade better.

My first encounter with Kane was when Dad and I hauled cordwood out of a railway box car spotted beside the elevator. A group of high school students came into the box car and roughed around using language I was not used to. Other than that we had little to do with the Kane community. Our social circle was very limited.

After my conversion that circle widened because there were Young Peoples' Bible Studies at the A. A. Groening home and I was invited to come. Here I also noticed a pretty red haired girl coming from the Kronsweide community. This developed into a lasting friendship, and Helena Gerbrandt and I were married on October 24, 1940. Helena was born to Jacob and Helena (Penner) Gerbrandt on January 5, 1918, in the Kronsweide School District southwest



*Peter and Helena Dueck.*



*Peter and Helena Dueck with  
(l-r) Henry, Margaret and Esther, 1965.*



*Peter G. Dueck farm, 1980.*

of Lowe Farm. Helena received her schooling in the Kronsweide School. Her first teacher was Mr. Henry Friesen, a much loved and respected friend of the family. Helena found peace with God and assurance of salvation when she was sixteen years old.

In the fall of 1944, we moved our house into the Kane community onto SW 27-4-2W, where Clifford and Gloria Matthies now live. All three of our children took their elementary training in the Kane School and finished their high school in Lowe Farm.

Our memories of Kane are pleasant ones. Through school and business we have learned to know a lot of people. It was my privilege to serve as trustee for one year. Our family grew up in the Kane community. They meet their school friends all over at large social or church functions. Where are we now?

Helena passed to her eternal reward on February 20, 1994. Peter lives in an apartment in Altona.

Henry married Erna Peters (a former Kane School teacher) and they are living in Steinbach where both of them are teaching. They are active in choir and serving as deacons in the church. They have three sons. Wes is married to Norinne Danzinger and they are living in Winnipeg. Wes is working at Investors, and Norinne is teaching and working on a voice degree. James is living in Calgary, Alberta, and is working in computer programming. Curtis is at the University of Manitoba and is studying to become a teacher.

Margaret married Ernie Thiessen and they live on a farm at Austin. Margaret conducts the church choir and teaches piano. They are deacons in the church. They are operating a grain farm and cow-calf-finish beef operation. They have three children. Jeff, married Donna Funk and they are serving on a two year Volunteer Service program in Kentucky, USA. Joanne is married to Myron Martens and they are living in Winnipeg where Myron is working for a Water Bottling company and Joanne works as a teacher assistant at the University of Manitoba. Jennifer is studying at the University of Manitoba in the Performing Arts.

Esther married Abe Krahn and they are making their home at Rivers on a farm. They have a grain farm and also are Select Seed Growers. Esther and Abe are Lay Ministers in their church. They have three children. Ron is married to Anita Voth. They live on a farm at Rivers. Anita works for a trucking company and Ron has started to farm together with his dad and brother. Ruth is studying at the University of Manitoba in Family Services. Robert is studying at Caponray Bible School in British Columbia. He plans to stay on the family farm.

**WILHELM (Bill) & SADIE (Penner) DYCK  
GORDON & CHARLOTTE (Murner) DYCK**  
*by Charlotte (Murner) Dyck*



*Sadie Penner and Bill Dyck  
on their wedding day, July 7, 1940.*

Sadie was born May 23, 1924, on a farm in the Kane District, where she grew up. She was the daughter of Peter and Sarah (Hiebert) Penner. She attended Kane School and started grade one in the 1931-32 school year.

Wilhelm (Bill), was born in Aberdeen, Saskatchewan on June 29, 1919. He moved to Manitoba with his parents Abram and Justina (Dyck) Dyck and grew up in Horndean.

Bill and Sadie were married on July 7, 1940, at the Rose Farm Church. They started out their married life with a bicycle and a pig. Their home was one mile east and three-quarter mile south of Kane in "Halunkendarp". Gordon remembers when his Dad was away working and beggars came around. They (Mom, Jean and Gordon) would go and hide up in the hay loft in the barn and stay there until the beggars left.

Gordon and Jean went to school in the days of the horse drawn school vans. On one such day, Mr. Henry Kehler's horses were spooked, and the van rolled over. Helen Reimer received a cut to the head.

About 1956, when they moved to Winnipeg for a year where Bill, who was a carpenter by trade, built houses. Their next move was back to the country, one mile east and one and a half miles north of Kane where Bill took up

farming.

In 1969, Bill was active in the building of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm, which burned down in 1982. Both Bill and Sadie were very involved in the life of Emmanuel and also its outreach programs.

Bill worked with the Mennonite Disaster Service, travelling where help was needed, whether that was locally or to another country (Carman, Morris, and Kansas City, to name a few.). He made two trips to Belize, in Central America with Gospel Missionary Union to help with building projects. On one trip Sadie accompanied him.

Sadie loved music and sang with the church ladies trio and other ladies on many occasions. At home she could often be found sitting at her piano playing by memory and singing praises to God! Sadie also loved to knit, crochet and sew. She was a bubbly, cheerful, outgoing person. Wherever she went, she managed to find someone she knew or was related to. (This same spirit is carried on in her granddaughter Berni.)

Bill was a fun loving person always ready to pull a prank or tease someone. (This too has been passed on to some of his descendants.) He liked to rise early in the morning and would walk around the house singing, even if he was off key.

They loved people and a highlight of their travelling was being able to visit friends and relatives. This to them was even more enjoyable than seeing places. Family was very important to them, and they dearly loved their children, and grandchildren who grew to number nine.

Leaving the farm was something Sadie struggled with. Having lived on a farm most of her life, she wanted her grandchildren to be able to experience that freedom of country life too. When someone would come inquiring about buying the farm, she would tell them it wasn't for sale. Finally she did accept it however, and the farm was sold. They retired from farming and moved to Lowe Farm in 1970, where they built a new home. She learned to enjoy living in town and enjoyed it for the next seven years.

Bill and Sadie were killed in a car crash near Swift Current, Saskatchewan, on April 1, 1977, while on their way to visit their children in British Columbia. Bill was 57, and Sadie was 52. Both were buried in the Lowe Farm Cemetery next to their granddaughter Angela.

They had three children; Gordon, Jean and Marion.

Gordon married Charlotte Murner who grew up in Sperling, the daughter of Adolf and Mary Murner. They have four children; Bernadine, Randall, Robert and Lorrina. (A daughter Angela died in infancy.)

After our marriage in March of 1963, we moved around Manitoba a lot with Gordon's trucking jobs, also living in Winnipeg, Kenora, and Kane.

We parked our mobile home at the farm north of Kane between jobs. One such time was in October of 1964. Gordon was trucking at Swan Lake and Charlotte and daughter Berni were at the farm. Randy picked this time to make his early arrival into the world. Bill and Sadie had