



*The Bill Dyck family, 1974. Back row: Ron, Randy, Charlotte, Berni, Gordon, Murray, Bill.
Center: Marion, Donna, Sadie (Mom), Rob, Bill (Dad), Jean. Front row: Crystal, Scott, Lorri, Cheryl.*

to drive Charlotte into Winnipeg, arriving during supertime “rush hour”. Of course there were no police around to assist them in their time of need. But they did make it to the hospital and Randy was born minutes after. Gordon, having received the message that his wife was about to give birth, headed for Winnipeg. When he got there he couldn’t find her because he went to the wrong hospital.

(A similar happening took place at Gordon’s birth.) Bill was working away from home so Sadie’s Mom and Dad had to drive her to the hospital.

And yes, we did have our turn too, when our daughter Lorri’s first baby decided to arrive five weeks early. She had spent the night at our house after working at a late auction the night before and at six a.m., we took her to her home thirty minutes away so her husband could take her to the hospital.

We spent the spring, summer and fall of 1966 in our mobile home that was parked on a vacant lot in Kane.

In the spring of 1967, after spending the last of our five winters in Kenora, Ontario, hauling pulp, we moved to Lowe Farm with our two children; Bernadine (Berni) and Randy. The summer of 1967 was spent trucking in Saskatchewan and Snow Lake, Manitoba. That fall it was back to Lowe Farm. Angela Pauline (her name meaning “Little Heavenly Messenger”) was born during this time, but her life was only nine short days. Rob and Lorri joined the family in 1969 and 1970. Gordon worked for the municipality on the “bridge gang”. He also worked at Consumers Co-op as fuel truck driver and later as mechanic. In 1972, Gordon became assistant manager at Consumers Co-op and Charlotte worked there part-time as bookkeeper. This lasted until May of 1974, when Gordon started as manager of the Rosenort Co-op and we moved there. We lived there for two years before leaving Manitoba for British Columbia and Vancouver Island in September of 1976, and we are still living there.

After much prayer and seeking God's direction, we purchased and took over Campbell River Auctions in January of 1978. We wanted to do something significant with the inheritance that Mom and Dad Dyck left us. Our business is their gift to us and God has blessed us in many ways! We hold weekly sales in the Auction Building every Thursday and extras as needed on Saturdays. And we're still at it!



Marion, Gordon and Jean Dyck.

Our four children have all grown up in our auction business. Along with Gordon, Randy and Rob are also auctioneers as well as our son-in-law Jason. Berni worked at the Auction in the early years and also ran the concession stand for awhile. Lorri has worked off and on over the years in the office until September of 1998. Charlotte continues to do the book work.

Our children are all married and have families of their own. We have been blest with thirteen grandchildren.

Berni married Steve Hansen. They have four children; Jessica ('88), Joshua ('90), Katrina ('94) and Jonathan ('96). They own and operate ABC Printing and live in Comox, British Columbia. Berni is also a hair dresser.

Randy married Michele DeRegt. They have three children; Jasmine ('90), Andrea ('93) and Joel ('97). Randy is Youth Pastor at Courtenay Baptist Church, Courtenay, British Columbia, where they live. He works at our auction on Sale days and Michele runs the concession during Sales.

Rob married Heidi Matheson. They have three children; Jacob ('88), Leticia ('91) and Malissa ('95). They have lived at Daysland, Alberta for the past five years. They have recently sold their trucking business and are hoping to move back to the Island in the near future.

Lorri married Jason Fitzgerald. They have three daugh-



Gordon and Charlotte Dyck family, 1998.

ters; Laurel ('94), Lanna ('97) and Lynae ('98). Lorri is also a Preschool teacher, but has taken time off to raise her family. Jason works full time at our Auction. They live in Courtenay, British Columbia.

Jean married Bill Giesbrecht who grew up in the Lowe Farm area, the son of Ben and Annie Giesbrecht. They lived in Lowe Farm for a time before moving to Alberta, Brandon, Winnipeg, and then to British Columbia. They have two children; Murray and Cheryl.

Murray lives with his son Dylan ('92) in Bella Coola, British Columbia. He is involved with Sylvaculture.

Cheryl is married to Brian McLean. They live in Campbell River, British Columbia, with their two daughters, Carly ('93) and Lindsay ('96). Brian is in logging and Cheryl is a stay at home Mom.

Jean lives at Saratoga Beach, British Columbia with her husband Mel Fitzgerald, a mechanic recently retired from MacMillan Bloedel. Jean suffered a stroke in 1987, from which her left arm remains paralyzed. Despite this, she continues to be active in many areas and particularly enjoys golfing and gardening.

Marion married Ron Heinrichs, son of Ed and Tina Heinrichs of Lowe Farm. They too lived in Lowe Farm, Winnipeg and then moved to British Columbia. They have three children; Donna, Crystal and Scott.

Donna is married to Travis Serefini. They make their home in Victoria, British Columbia with their three children; Mikayla ('93), Jordan ('95) and Sarita ('97). Travis is a baker and Donna manages a Video Store.

Crystal and her son Stewart ('90) live at Eaglesham, Alberta. Crystal works in a Co-op near there.

Scott and Melanie live in Southern Manitoba with their four children; Alisha, Kirstein, Jeremy ('95) and Bailey ('97). Scott is apprenticing for a mill wright.

Marion is currently living in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, where she works for H & R Block.

JIM & JUSTINA (Schellenberg) DYCK

by Lorraine (Dyck) Dyck



Jim and Justina Dyck and family, 1968.

Back row: Larry, Lorraine, Bob, Diane, Earl. Front row: Alice and baby Cindy, Justina (Mom) and Pam, Janet, Glenn, Jim (Dad), Ruth.

Our parents, Jim and Justina Dyck, moved to SE 28-4-2W in the Kane District in 1953, the year Lorraine was born. They came from the Rose Farm District, and previously from Sperling, and earlier from near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where their three older sons were born. They moved into the Henry Doerksen house where they resided for the next 25 years.

Church and community were integral parts of life on an acreage. Bartering with, or borrowing from neighbours, working to help each other put away vegetables or butchering pigs for meat for the winter, making soap, pooling rides to different functions were all part of everyday living. Mom was in charge of many of these things, while Dad worked hard in Winnipeg, on the bridge gang or as a carpenter in Morris in order to provide the money needed to make ends meet. We may not have been rich in material possessions, however, we were wealthy when it came to love and the necessities of life.

There were six children fortunate enough to have been born to Jim and Justina. Larry, born in 1940, married Alice Penner of Kane in 1960. They have four children: Glenn, Pamela, Cindy and Rennatta. Larry is currently a salesman in Morden, Manitoba where he and Alice reside.

Bob, born in 1943, married Diane Richter of Winnipeg in 1969. Their daughter, Tiffany, was born in 1975. Bob works as a supervisor for a trucking company in Winnipeg, where they have made their home.

Earl, born in 1945, married Ruth Hildebrandt of Morden, and that is where they presently reside. Their three children are Jason, Russel and Marlon. Earl is working as student advisor in the school system.

Lorraine, born in 1953, married Edward Dyck of Boissevain in 1974. They have three children: Audrey, Sheldon and Carson. Lorraine is a full-time home-

maker, working with her husband on a mixed farm consisting of beef cattle, grain and hay, bison, and her small flock of laying hens.

Diane was born in 1955. She is married to Bruce Boehr of Watrous, Saskatchewan in 1976. They have three children: Dusten, Brendan, and Chelsea, and currently reside in the Morden District. Diane is working in the school system along with being full-time homemaker!

Janet, the youngest of the six (I'll admit it!), was born in 1959. She married Ralph Bartel from Waldheim, Saskatchewan. They followed our lead and also had three children: Nicole, Colin and Riley. Janet is a dental assistant as well as full-time homemaker, and she and her family make their home in St. Germain.

Now for those "remember when!" We've put together a lot, as a family, but in no particular order.

—how could any of the "older" students forget the old schoolhouse?

—5 or 10¢ would buy a soft drink or chocolate milk in Kane's General Store. One could buy a bag of candy or jawbreakers or Mojo's for a few pennies. We were always amazed at the number of jars of sweets and the big set of scales to weigh them on! Was it the Toews' and then the Wiebe's that ran the store? AND the post office, of course.

—remember winning the Bantam "A" provincial hardball championships in 1957? Way to go, Kane!

—how about beating Carman in league football ... under the lights!

—and Lowe Farm was always the team to beat in any sport, wasn't it?

—now how about them black leather jackets and white suede shoes, T-shirts and jeans, and Brylcreme.

—Johnny Cash, for country music fans, and *ELVIS*!

—then how about those Go-Go Boots and the *BEATLES*!

—okay, let's get serious. Teachers gave piano lessons during school hours at 25¢ to 50¢.

—we had snow forts (igloos) with even the furniture and dishes "sculpted" out of snow.

—we also made forts in the trees in spring and fall.

—loved skating on the big pond, and later the ice rink.

—remember when we 'didn't hear' the bell after noon recess and stayed in the shack for at least an hour longer!

—remember the scary Inspector Whitely watching us do Math on the blackboard?

—remember certain students sitting under the teacher's desk ... hiding from her! She wasn't impressed, I guess!

—how about the Wiebe's bringing the store to our school picnics and races in the form of the concession booth. What fun!

—there was the Rose Drill, the Star Drill .. and the fire drill!

—how many kids had their tongue stuck to the rail of the mud scraper in winter?

—we went to school in a caboose thing pulled by a tractor, in a green van, in a stone boat (covered with a buffalo robe) pulled by a horse, and even a school bus!

—how did that swing set always get on top of the school on Halloween?

—lighting candles for Christmas concerts - so special. The goodie bags were a bonus, too!

So many memories — enjoyable for the most part!

Jim and Justina retired to Morden in 1978, a year following Dad's stroke. After fifteen years there, Dad died suddenly on May 14, 1993 at the age of 79 years. Mom continues to live in their home.

Thank-you all for helping create so many memories that helped shape our characters — colorful though some may be!

JOHN P. & ANGANETHA (Wiebe) DYCK

by Agatha Gerbrandt



John P. and Anganetha Dyck, 1941.

The John P. Dycks moved into the Rose Farm area in 1916. They purchased a quarter of land, 16-4-2W.

The buildings were old and so they set to work improving the yard. In 1923 they bought a private school which the Old Colony Church had vacated when migrating to Mexico. The big school was moved about six miles on wagons running on either side of a water filled ditch.

The school was renovated into a house, but the ten foot high ceiling with its 4x8 clear fir beams always stayed. The house was very cold in winter, no furnace, but had a coal space heater at each end of the house.

The 28x70 foot barn was built in 1926. It had a fourteen foot lean-to on the north side. This was used for grain storage.

John Dyck's first car was a Model T Ford bought in 1919. He also owned a McCormick Deering, 28 inch threshing machine which he used to thresh his own grain plus his neighbours' grain. His first tractor, being a "Titan" was bought in the early 20's. In 1929 he bought a 22 36 McCormick Deering tractor on steel to operate the threshing machine and do fieldwork. Up until this time, all field-

work was done with horses.

In 1944 he bought his first eight foot Cockshut combine which changed harvesting completely. No more big harvesting crews to feed. In 1948 he bought a new self-propelled Massey Harris 21A combine.

I still remember going along to the N. M. Paterson elevator with our first horse drawn wagon load of wheat. The wagon held about 50 bushels. We would stop at J. J. Toews' store and buy a whole bologna, "what a thrill".

They raised a family of three boys and six girls, only Cornie is still actively farming in the community.

Rose Farm School had over fifty students enrolled at one time. Later they also included High School. The school closed in 1965.

Father served as a school trustee for many years. They were actively involved in starting the Rose Farm EMMC Church. In 1937 services were held in our barn "sheen" which had been used for storing chopped feed. In the fall of that year the Rose Farm Church was built. The weather stayed mild, the work progressed well, and they were able to have their first services in the new church by Christmas.

Father served as vorsänger in the church for many years. Rose Farm Church was very active in the community with a large Sunday School and choir. Due to the dwindling farm population, we had to close the church in 1975.

Dad's health was failing and so they retired off the farm in the fall of 1955. He passed away the following summer. Cornie lived at home with Mother in Plum Coulee, but continued farming from town. Mother died in 1977.

DIEDRICH & HELEN DYCK

by Helen Dyck



*Diedrich Dyck family. Back row: Chris, Ed, Lynda.
Front row: Gary, Helen (Mom), Diedrich (Dad), Les.*

Diedrich and Helen Dyck were married in 1947. After being involved in the construction industry, operating a dragline and driving caterpillar for two summers, we bought the NE quarter of 15-5-2W from Julius Harder in 1950 - the most northeast part of the Kane School District.

The year of 1950 was one of the springs of flooding along the Tobacco Creek (dyke). We arrived on the scene in June of '50, just in time to seed. Harvesting was late that fall, but the crop was great.

After we started a family, the distance to school started to look rather worrisome. We had only dirt roads and no phone.

In the fall of 1957, when our first one was to start school, it rained enough so the roads were impassable for motor vehicles. On Lynda's first day of school, Rev. Isaac Krahn (the bus driver) arrived with a tractor and the old style black covered school van. She was the only one on for the first two and a half miles until Ed Klassens, who lived on the Charlie Rosner farm and from there she had company in the van. Lynda can remember him singing "How Great Thou Art" as he drove the tractor as well as in the regular van. That was the beginning of many adventures.

Other school bus drivers were Mr. Abram Wiebe, Mr. Jake Reimer and then Mr. Jake B. Wiebe, our neighbour. Eventually gravel was put on the road west of Jake Wiebe's to the Sperling road, but the two miles between us and Jake Wiebe's was not gravelled for the nine years he drove our children to school.

Jake Wiebe took his duties as school bus driver seriously and so came into being Mr. Wiebe's *other* school bus, "the puddle jumper". It was a totally stripped down Model A, only the driver's seat was left. He built on a plywood caboose for the passengers (up to five of our children). It had a front opening and a side door for getting in and out. The front "window" had a canvas hung over it to keep the flying mud out. Spring, summer and fall, the Model A was used whenever rain made the road impassable for his regular van. All our children were taken the two miles many times and I remember some days when the road was really bad, Mr. Wiebe would pick up the children in the morning and they would keep them overnight to go to school again next day.

Then for the years when we were without the benefit of a phone - a tribute to Mr. Wiebe who had our confidence that he would transport our children safely every time.

When the Kane and Lowe Farm Schools consolidated, our dirt road was gravelled and an official yellow school bus picked up the youngest of our children. The adventures ended. All our children have interesting and good memories of those early school bus trips.

Our family consists of:

Lynda who married Ron Schroeder. They farm south of Lowe Farm. Their family is Kelly, Theresa, Keith and grandson Brenden.

Ed married Gina Saban. They live near Morden and own/operate Olympic Sports in Morden. Their children are Kayle, Jennesa and Megan.

Les married Jackie Matthies. Jackie passed away on April 4, 1997, after a lengthy bout with Aplastic Anemia. Les lives southeast of Kane with their children Kere, Riley

and Kelsey.

Gary married Marielle Desaulniers. They live along Highway #23 between Kane and Lowe Farm. They are both working and enjoy their large yard.

Chris married Ron Janke. They live in Morris and both work. Their children are Sabrina and Adam. Chris works part-time at the Lowe Farm Credit Union.

Diedrich Dyck passed away suddenly in February of 1987.

Over the years we have experienced various amounts of flooding from the dyke, but over all its been a good place to call home.

LAWRENCE & TAMMY (Fehr) DYCK

by Lawrence and Tammy Dyck



Lawrence and Tammy Dyck with their daughters (l-r) Jennifer, Naomi and Barbara in 1981.

We moved to Kane in November, 1972 to the former home of Bill and Sadie Dyck. (The house was built by Allen and Mary (Handlon) Johnston). Barb celebrated her third birthday on November 17, shortly after our move. The farm was owned by Ben Giesbrecht and we rented the house originally only for six months (winter) as the house we were living in at Myrtle was rather difficult to keep warm during the winter. We made an offer to the landlord that as the house needed painting, we would buy the paint in lieu of rent and supply the labour for painting the interior, which he agreed to. We extensively renovated the house in 1986. Many hours have been spent planting trees and shrubs, mowing grass and gardening.

The following spring we were offered to rent the land (N½ of 7-5-2W) which we did. The land was sold in 1973; actually, we had made an offer to purchase which we

thought was accepted, but no papers were drawn up and over the weekend a better offer was received and it was sold to Conrad Leiber of Switzerland who also purchased the James Handlon farm. The remaining section (S½ of 7-5-2W) was then offered to us to rent. We have farmed that section ever since and lived there until we moved to Roland in the spring of 1996.

Jennifer was born in 1975 and Naomi joined our family in 1980. The girls received their education in Lowe Farm, went on to high school in Morris and both Barb and Jenn earned degrees from the University of Manitoba; Barb, her Masters of Science (Botany) and Jenn, her Degree in Nursing. Tragically, Naomi died in an accident at her grandparents' yard in Lowe Farm in 1982. Currently Barb is employed with Agriculture Canada, Morden, and Jenn at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

We took part in as many community activities as we could. We played on ball teams, helped out at ball tournaments and other community functions such as Kane suppers, etc. Lawrence served on the Kane Community Centre board.

We always said we lived in the middle of everywhere or the middle of nowhere, depending on whether you were an optimist or a pessimist. We spent a lot of time driving to various activities; especially as the girls got older, such as school sports and figure skating, but we had some really great times.

One of the projects Lawrence worked particularly hard at and brought into being with frequent presentations to the Public Utilities Board is the telephone service we enjoy today. Kane was on the border of three telephone exchanges and having practically no services on our Roland telephone exchange—the bank had moved to Carman, the girls' school and friends were at Lowe Farm, church at Lowe Farm, our phone bills and many others were just too high. He proposed the idea of toll-free adjacent exchange calling to the PUB and after further presentations, together with growing support from other areas of the province with similar complaints; it finally was brought into operation.

We also started Kane Fertilizer and Chemical Co. Ltd. in 1978, and were involved in its operation until we sold it to Manitoba Pool Elevators in 1994.

GORDON & JULIANNA (Isaak) ENNS

by Julianna Enns

Gordon (son of George J. and Sarah Enns, Homewood) and I, Julianna (daughter of Rev. Henry and Ann Isaak of Carman) moved to Kane on December 13, 1975 from Carman. We purchased the former Dave and Liddy Thiessen farm one mile east and three quarter mile south of Kane (SW 32-4-2W). Gordon works in construction and I am a piano teacher.

During the 1980's we had a U-Pick strawberry farm. We attend the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Church and have been active in the activities there. Gordon enjoys flying R.

C. airplanes and I enjoy gardening.

We have three children who all live in Winnipeg. Charles (1974) drives bus for Fehr-Way Tours/Beaver Bus Lines. Andrew (A. J.) (1977) attends Winnipeg Technical Center and is a basketball referee. Natalie (1979) is in 2nd year Management at the University of Manitoba and works at Celebrations Dinner Theatre.

In 1979 when the bridge was washed out north of our place, Gordon built a raft which we used quite a long time and we well remember Alvin Penner and John Kehler sliding off into the water. We have had many spring floods each with its own unique memories. But what stands out most is the help and caring of neighbours and friends throughout these 25 years.

JACOB H. & MARY (Neufeld) EPP *from Furrows in the Valley*



Jacob H. Epp and fiancée in 1939.

In 1910, my parents, Jacob J. and Helena Epp, moved to Lowe Farm and rented the half-section adjoining Lowe Farm to the north. Dietrich Hoepfner was the owner. The house was just a little west of the old one room school. That's where I started school. I recall a Mr. Peter Bueckert was my first school teacher.

In the fall of 1912, we moved to the Bloomfield District, six miles southwest of Kane; I spent the rest of my school days at Bloomfield.

I helped on the home farm until 1928, then hired out as farmhand at various places - spent some of the dirty thirties in Saskatchewan and also worked for Harry M. Mitchell at Myrtle until 1937, and farmed three years, seven miles northwest of Kane.

In fall of 1939, I rented NW 31-4-2W, adjoining Kane on the south side; the owner was James Davidson, of California (formerly of Kane).

In July of 1940, I married Mary Neufeld of Winkler. I had to take out an advance on my crop and borrow a cow, had a few chickens and so we started out as married partners. The crops were fair, so in 1945, we bought the quarter.

In 1946, Mr. and Mrs. Wiens of Winkler (Mary's mother and stepfather) moved in with us, due to ill health. There were no elderly peoples' homes in those days. We took turns with Mary's brother and sister-in-law, George and Agatha Neufeld, in supplying them with a home. In 1950, Mr. Wiens passed away. After that, Mrs. Wiens lost her eyesight almost completely and passed away in June, 1954.

In 1947, our only child, Ronald, was born. He attended elementary school at Kane Consolidated School and finished high school at Lowe Farm. He worked for Norman Spalding for one season on road construction, then got a job, car and girlfriend in Winnipeg. He got married in 1968 to Mavis Condon. They have a son, Corey, and a daughter, Mary Lynn.

In 1960, we bought another 80 acres, three miles south of Kane and in 1964, built an addition to the old house, installed hot and cold running water and a forced air furnace. That same year, my father passed away and Mary had to go to the rehabilitation hospital with arthritis for six weeks.

In 1965, my mother came to live in a little cottage we had on our yard. She was later hospitalized and passed away in 1966. In 1968, we sold the home quarter of land to Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Friesen, and bought the house on 130 Boyne East, in Morris from August Rausch. We have lived in the Morris rural and town area for forty years. I have served on the Kane Consolidated School board for some time; was on the Kane Berghaler Church board for some time, and also served on the Morris Senior Citizens' committee. Mary taught Sunday School for a number of years at Kane and was active in the Kane Mission Sisters as well.

(Mary Epp passed away in March, 1982, and Jacob H. Epp passed away in December, 1993. Ronald Epp lives in Kitchener, Ontario, but spends much of his time in Detroit, Michigan, on his business travels.)

FRED & EMMA FREDRICKSEN **WALT & FLORENCE FREDRICKSEN** *by Gladys (Fredricksen) Blunt*

Fred and Emma Fredricksen, their son Walt and his wife Florence, emigrated from Bennett, Iowa in the spring of 1925, and settled on a farm southeast of Kane (SE 31-4-2W).

In the late thirties (or 1940), they bought and moved to the Jim Davidson farm, three-quarter mile east of Kane on SE 6-5-2W. In the late fifties, Walt and Florence sold the farm and moved to Morris and later to Winnipeg.

I was born in December of 1925, my brother Donald in May of 1935, and my brother Ken in August of 1943.

I have many happy memories of my life in Kane. I



Fred Fredricksen and grandson, Donald.



*Grandpa Fred Fredricksen, 1942
(Davidson barn in the background).*



Gladys and George Blunt, 1999.

enjoyed school, but then we had a great teacher in Mr. Siemens. I didn't enjoy riding in the school van though - especially in winter.

In 1944, I started my nurses training at the Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg, graduating in 1947. I was married in 1948, and in 1961, we moved to Medicine Hat where we still live.

Donald lives in Winnipeg where he is still working in the trucking business.

Ken also lives in Winnipeg and has worked for Atomic Transport for over 30 years.

Grandma Fredricksen passed away in 1946, and Grandpa Fredricksen in 1949. My Dad passed away in 1976, and Mother in 1985. The three generations of Fredricksens had always lived together in one house during their years in Canada, until the grandparents passed away.

In her retiring years in Winnipeg, Mother said that she would always remember the years spent at Kane, and all the good neighbours who were always so willing to lend a helping hand whenever needed.

PETER H. & JUSTINA (Penner) FRIESEN

*by Dorothy (Friesen) Wiebe and
Bert Friesen*



Peter and Justina Friesen.

Peter and Justina Friesen moved to Kane in 1946. They were married in April of 1938 and started to farm near Myrtle so it was only a four mile move to Kane. The land was bought from a Hiebert family and is the farm where our brother, Barry, now resides. Peter and Justina had six children. Dorothy Anne (1940), Peter Ernest (1945), Albert David (1947), Sharon Katherine (1948), Barry James (1955), and Lois Nadine (1957).

In January of 1948, our house burned down to the ground during a bad snowstorm. The Friesen's returned to their homeland in 1952 after the exodus to Plum Coulee for four or five years. The new home, designed and built by the family, brought great joy to the still growing family. Dad was tired of farming from town and mother often said how good it was to raise her family at Kane.

The boys (soon to be three) enjoyed hockey on the pond and ice rink on the school yard, usually made by their father. This was a daily highlight throughout the winter. Saturday nights were often spent in the den watching the hockey game on television with Mother braiding rugs and Dad eating sunflower seeds. We enjoyed all sports that could be participated in the rural metropolis of Kane. Ernie and Bert, along with Butch Born and Brian Wiebe, won a prize in the Manitoba High School Curling Championship, and had their picture in the Winnipeg Free Press (it was stated that Kane, not the Lowe Farm School name, be printed as the place they came from). Bert was on the team that won the Manitoba B Basketball Championship in 1965, the year Dad died. Sharon was also active in sports and a great basketball player during her high school days. Sharon recalls the school class going to Lowe Farm in the back of a ton truck for a baseball game.

In the summer, everyone helped out with the farm work. Between seeding, spraying and harvest, the help included weeding a very large garden and the never ending job of weeding those evergreens. Fruit trees were a special hobby of Dad's and he experimented with trees inside the house as well as many in the garden. Sharon remembers chokecherry picking being used as a method for disciplining misbehaviour rather than time-out.

On March 13, 1965, we were all devastated when Dad died in a tragic farm accident. Life suddenly changed and Mother was faced with a lot of challenges including raising a large family on her own. Her dream was to remain on the farm long enough to enable all her children an opportunity to farm. The first crop we put in was a challenge as we were all young and learning. With the help of Leonard, the spring planting and harvesting got done and God provided a wonderful bumper crop. At that time twenty-five bushels an acre of flax was a big crop.

We remember the support of the community and church during that time. The day Dad died, George Born drove all the way to Brandon to pick Bert and Sharon up as they were in Brandon for the Manitoba B Basketball tournament. Mr. Born told Bert and Sharon that something serious had happened but gave no details. This was a long drive home for everyone in the vehicle. Bert remembers Henry Schellenberg coming to the farm many times after Dad's death, like he had done when Dad was alive. He just came to check up on how things were going.

After that first year, Ernie gave up his studies in Electronics at Red River and came back to the farm to take over the primary responsibilities of operating the farm for Mom, progressing to farming for himself.

In 1967, Mom moved to Winnipeg for a few years where Barry completed high school while playing high school hockey and Junior Hockey with the Fort Garry Blues. In 1973, they moved back to Kane in large part due to Barry's interest in farming. Lois graduated from Morris and in 1979, Mom and Lois moved to Winkler. Mom enjoyed retirement in Winkler with family and friends nearby. She continued to enjoy gardening and cooking for her children when they came to visit. Mom remained physically active with gardening, mowing lawn, clearing snow, and so on until her last days. She passed away December 10, 1993, at the age of eighty.

Dorothy married Leonard Wiebe and farm near Myrtle. They have three daughters - Leloni, Julie and Theresa and six grandchildren; Ernie married Audrey Peters and live on the land where the Kane Church used to be. They have three children - Rebecca, Holly and Matthew. Bert married Lee Wiebe, is a biochemist and president of Medicare, living in Winnipeg. They have three daughters - Selina, Bonita and Tria and two grandchildren. Sharon married Peter Friesen and live on a farm near Killarney. They have three boys - Russell, Derek and Douglas and one grandson. Barry married Audrey Wiebe and farm on the home place. They have two children - Megan and Tyler. Lois married Brad Kehler and Lois babysits out of her home in Winkler. They have three children - Jenessa, Angela and Michael.

Memories of Kane School: a horse-drawn school van with a wood stove in the back corner; the skating shack with a wood burning stove consisting of a barrel with a chimney; Dad, the trustee, taking us to school around the elevators on a stormy day so that the day could be counted as a paid school day.

Memories of Kane Church: parents making us feel that church was central to our lives; long German services, mother making quilts with the Kane Mission Sisters; Jugendverein Sunday evenings with music, poems and verses; Abe Suderman's steel guitar and singing. I don't recall any Friesen's singing but I do recall Dad once looking uncomfortable while doing a reading - he helped the church in other ways.

Memories of Kane Store: providing the basic needs for the family, including a social place to visit, eat and play games, Dick's darkroom in the basement, an introduction to the amazing invention of the television - snowy picture and all, social activities continued with the coming of the Wiebe's and the regular Pepsi, bar and "crazy eights" days, jocularly with Mrs. John Wiebe and George Born; Bert recalls the store becoming a romantic meeting place as this is where Bert met Lee, his future wife, sister to teacher Joyce Wiebe. (Friesen's must have had a thing for Wiebe's as three of us married Wiebe's.)

Other family memories:

—getting fish at the Delta and Dad cleaning them on the kitchen table (we have since discovered that the extended Friesen family's love of fish goes back to our great-grand-

father's love of fishing on the Dnieper River in Russia, close to where they lived.

—Ernie coming back from Plum Coulee one spring night after visiting his girlfriend, not thinking how fast the spillway could fill up. By the time his car stopped the water was almost window high.

—Dad winning machinery in 1961, making quite a difference in their lives economically given the present day value of a combine, two tractors, swather, cultivator and stereo (worth \$15,000 in 1961). This was the first trip we recall our parents making, going to Saskatoon for the award presentation.

—swimming in the pond whether it be Larry Born's, Ron Epp's, or if necessary, boating on our pond in continuous circles. Mom was too afraid to look out the window. Life was never dull for those Kane boys.

—motorcycle driving began at an early age for Ernie and Bert, first with the James and then with an Ariel, which Leonard drove home from Winnipeg for them. Later, Ernie bought a Triumph which came in several boxes and was worked on in the basement. Dad said it would never run, but with patience and talent, Ernie had it roaring and filling the house up with smoke.



Peter Friesen home in Kane.

BARRY & AUDREY (Wiebe) FRIESEN

by Audrey (Wiebe) Friesen

In the summer of 1983, I innocently accepted a painting job from the "boy next door". I was engaged by the end of the summer and never did complete the painting job. On December 3, 1983, Barry and I were united in holy matrimony and began the next phase of our lives.

We live on NE 36-4-3W, the former home of Barry's parents, Peter H. and Justina Friesen. Barry and I quickly

got in a couple of holidays before we were awestruck by the birth of our daughter, Megan Lindsay, on April 18, 1985. This event marked the beginning of another phase into parenthood and shortly thereafter, Barry exchanged the red 1969 GTO for a gray 88 Oldsmobile. The ultimate family man was born! On May 10, 1988, (that memorable hot, dry summer) Tyler James was born and we have had ample entertainment ever since. We are blessed and life is good!

We farm and although I make an effort to assist Barry, I don't seem to be made of the same stuff as the generations before me. I also teach for the Garden Valley School Division.

Barry still enjoys many sports and has added coaching to his repertoire. Barry and his lifelong buddy, Earl Bergman, now play racquetball instead of baseball as this can be done when the kids are in school. Barry does man-age to curl once a week in Roland.

Barry and I often feel like we drive cabs for a living but are actually thrilled that our children like to participate. Megan loves ballet and this passion takes us to Winnipeg twice a week. This is Megan's first year in Morris High School and she has participated on the soccer and volleyball teams and is looking forward to basketball, baseball and track and field coming up. She is taking piano lessons, plays the flute and has added saxophone to the list this year.



Barry and Audrey Friesen with Megan and Tyler.

Tyler loves to participate in every sport and his favourite changes with the season. Hockey in Roland has been a positive experience and we appreciate the Roland community's acceptance of us. Tyler loves playing baseball on a team with his school friends in Lowe Farm and his love of golf also continues to grow every year, making this a fun family thing to do. Tyler takes piano lessons and plays trumpet with the school band. He is in grade six at Lowe Farm School.

Family time is important and we spend hours planning holidays of which a few actually happen. Travelling in our '78 diesel motor home (yes, dreams do come true) is a highlight for Barry and the kids, and I am usually a good sport. We have put many miles on and it's refreshing to look back and realize that the unexpected adventures, the people you meet and the "little things" are more memorable than Disneyland itself. I have adapted and remember finishing "The Hobbit" while driving into Chicago (Tyler wanted his food brought into the motor home as time didn't allow for restaurants during this great tale) and missing the Minneapolis Zoo because we hadn't completed our first Frank Peretti adventure.

Barry and I have many wonderful memories of growing up in Kane and being brought up in larger families. Although life had its share of difficulties, there seemed to be lots of time for laughter and never a dull moment. You could count on friends meeting in front of Kane Store (under the watchful eye of Sheriff Wiebe), waiting for a spontaneous game of whatever. Barry and I live exactly where we grew up and yet the sense of community we had through school, church and community activities is non-existent in Kane for our own children. This makes us sad but it is a sign of the times and Barry rarely grumbles about the amount of gas we consume as we carry on.

I remember bringing Winnipeg friends home to Kane, turning onto Highway 23, not thinking about the number of times I waved to neighbours as I neared my destination until one of my friends would exclaim, "Do you know everyone you wave to?" That was the Kane I loved where my community was my extended family, from visiting with Great Aunt Agatha (long after I had crossed the railway track and she standing at the store doorway), to all the children I baby-sat and their parents with whom I played and watched ball. I'm sure the generation gap wasn't the issue in Kane that it was in larger populated areas.

I am also sure the north corner of the Kane elevator doesn't hold a second candle to Portage and Main for the windiest spot in Manitoba.

ELMER GERBRANDT

by Elmer Gerbrandt

I came to Kane shortly after graduating from Bible School. My aim was two-fold: to be pastor of a church (Interdenominational) there, and to finish my high school, taking grade ten the year of 1950-1951. The year at school went very well. Mr. Warkentin, then principal, was a good

teacher. The ministry as pastor did not turn out so well. Later I came to realize that it was not my gift, and I had no previous experience. While in Kane, I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Harder.



Elmer and Gertrude Gerbrandt, Marie-Luise and Walter.

At the end of that school year I met Gertrude Kehler from Horndean. After marriage, we went to Germany as missionaries. We had five children. Three are still living and remained in Germany. Gertrude died of cancer in March of 1979. I remarried here in Germany, to a woman by the name of Helga Reutlingshöfer. We have two children, Peter 17, and Heidi 14. I have seven grandchildren.

Continuing in the ministry of the Gospel, I came to realize that I'm a pioneer which fits very well into the need here today - going to the many refugees that come from many parts of the world. Although I'm 74, I can keep at it with the help of team members.

JOHN & AGATHA (Dyck) GERBRANDT

by Agatha Gerbrandt

John and Agatha Gerbrandt (nee Dyck) were married in September of 1951.

We took over our parent's farm, 16-4-2W, in the fall of 1955.

We were blessed with four children; one son and three daughters. As the children grew older, they started attending Rose Farm School which was only one mile away. It was no problem taking them to school when the roads were good, but sometimes they were impassable. With no gravel and a heavy downpour you could easily get stuck in the mud. Some days they had to walk or we'd take them by open tractor and trailer. What a change in transportation when we first got our roads gravelled.

In 1965 we consolidated with Kane. Now the children were being picked up, but this meant long bus rides, especially for those that had to go to Lowe Farm and later Morris High Schools.

Our children remember:

—Kane 4-H sewing club. Those seams had to be sewn the



John and Agatha Gerbrandt family, 1999.



John Gerbrandt farm, 1986.

right way or we had to rip them open.

—going to John Wiebe's store at noon recess where Mrs. Wiebe always had a pleasant greeting and treats for them.

—the John Deere shows where Mr. Harder freely served doughnuts to the community, including the school children.

—watching baseball games, especially the Kane Pirates.

John has many pleasant memories of Kane. We delivered all our grain to the elevators there. Much of our grain went to UGG where George Born, and later Jim Hildebrand were the agents. After shovelling a load of grain on a hot humid summer's day, it was especially rewarding to be able to buy a six ounce bottle of Coke

to quench the thirst and spend a little time visiting.

We had a large yard to look after, with a big garden and plantation. We built a new house in 1967. This was our first taste of running water and flush toilets. Up until then we had to pump our water from the cistern and heat it on the stove. In summer, as well as winter, we had to use the outside biffy. What a luxury to be able to have a good plumbing system.

There were always lots of chores to do on a mixed farm; cows to milk, chickens and pigs to feed. We never ran out of work.

In later years we started taking bus tours. We met many wonderful people and were both able to enjoy the trips.

We were active in the Rose Farm Church, teaching Sunday School and serving on various boards. When the church closed in 1975, we attended Lowe Farm Emmanuel Church helping along with Clubs and Sunday School.

John served on the Credit Union Board for several terms. He also served as school trustee in Rose Farm from 1955 to 1965, when it closed.

Our son, Eldon and his wife Bonnie have served the community with furniture for the last 21 years. They are known as *Eldon's Furniture* in Morden. They have four children, their oldest son got married this year.

Lorena and her husband Wayne Favel have custody of two boys who are both on their own by now. They are serving as house parents at Bethany Homes, Wetaskawin, Alberta. These children come from non-functional homes.

Glenda furthered her education at Winnipeg Bible College and also at the University of Manitoba and is presently residing in Winnipeg and working in the office of Family Services.

Eleanor and her husband Tony Rose have lived in the Kane

area until last year, when they moved to Morris. They have three children. Tony is employed at Westfield Industries, in Rosenort. Eleanor is a spare school bus driver and also delivers mail to Kane from Lowe Farm.

After our children left home, we too found ourselves cutting back on farm work and in 1988, we built a new house in Winkler and moved off the farm. We continued farming until 1993, when we sold our machinery and retired.

We are now enjoying life in Winkler, but come summer days, we love to go for a drive into the country to see the lush fields of growing grain.

FRANK & AGANETHA (Gerbrandt) GIESBRECHT *by Peter G. Dueck*

Great Grandfather Franz Giesbrecht was born in 1844, to Jacob and Katharina (Bergen) Giesbrecht in Russia. Great Grandmother Aganetha (nee Gerbrandt) was born in 1846, to Jacob and Katharina (nee Bergen) Gerbrandt.

They were married on November 6, 1866, and came to Canada in 1874. The last lap of their journey was on the boat, the *International* from Fargo, North Dakota to Fort Garry, Manitoba, where they landed in September of 1874, with five children.

They settled in the East Reserve and at the first opportunity took up a homestead in the Neuhoﬀnung (New Hope) District west of Altona where a sod house was their first shelter.

In 1897, they sold their homestead and moved to 15-4-2W, three miles east and four miles south of Kane. Here they continued to farm until they retired and had a small

house built near their children, Jacob and Aganetha Blatz. Franz died in 1912, at the age of 65 years. Aganetha spent her remaining years living with her daughter Margaretha until her death in 1920 at the age of 74 years.

The Giesbrechts had twelve children: Johann (1867-1953); Jacob (1869-1951); Aganetha Blatz (1871-1953); Anna Stoesz (1873-1896); Franz (1875-1959); Heinrich (1876-1963); Peter (1878-1897); Helena Kehler (1881-1974); Katherina Groening (1882-1950); Isaac (1884-1960); Margaretha Wiebe (1886-1960); Maria Unrau (1888-1967); Susanna Wall (1890-1977).

Eight of these children - Johann, Aganetha, Franz, Heinrich, Katharina, Isaak, Margaretha and Maria - settled in Township 4-2W. Starting on 4-4-2W, and zigzagging your way north you needed only drive nine miles to visit all of them, son Heinrich remained single and worked in the area. Susanna, the youngest, married John Wall and lived in Plum Coulee. Helena married John Kehler and lived north of Morden, and Jacob married and moved west to Killarney.

Presently four of the above families are represented in the Kane-Rose Farm area by grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren of Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht.

JOHANN F. & ANGANETHA (Wiebe) GIESBRECHT *by Peter G. Dueck*

Johann F. Giesbrecht was born in Ekataerinoslow, Heuboden, South Russia in 1867. Together with his parents and siblings he immigrated to Manitoba in 1874. The last lap of their journey was made on the *International*,



Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht



*The children of Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht.
(l-r) Aganetha Blatz, John, Helena Kehler, Frank, Katherina Groening,
Henry, Margaretha Wiebe, Isaac, Marie Unrau, Susanna Wall, 1941*

from Fargo, North Dakota to Fort Garry, Manitoba where they landed in September of 1874.

Anganetha was born to Cornelius and Helena Wiebe in 1871, at Friedrichsthal, South Russia. The Wiebe family immigrated to Canada in 1875, reaching Quebec in October, sailing aboard the *S.S. Sardinia* of the Allen Line. From here the family moved to Manitoba where they settled in the West Reserve.

The Frank Giesbrecht family settled in the East Reserve, but soon took up a homestead in the Neuhoftung (New Hope) district west of Altona. It was here on June 25, 1891, that Johann was married to Anganetha Wiebe and settled down in the Rome district, on the very place that Tim and Dorothy Stoesz, great grandson of Johann and Anganetha, now live and farm. It was here that their children were born and the older ones grew up.

In 1915, they moved to Rose Farm settling on half a section of land where they farmed for many years. They attended the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church, where Johann served as a Chorister (Vorsanger). In 1937, Johann donated three acres of land for the building site of the

Rose Farm Rudnerweide Church, to which they also changed their membership at that time. A note of interest is that the very first wedding to be performed in the new church was that of daughter Mary to Abram A. Lepp of Saskatoon in April of 1938.

Anganetha loved plants and flowers and the parlor windows were always ablaze with brightly blooming geraniums. She was also an avid gardener and together with her daughters spent many hours raising vegetables for the family. Some of the recollections that the grandchildren have of their grandfather is that he was always whittling something or sitting near his "corner" cupboard reading. On the occasion that an evening would be spent there, without fail, Grandfather would send Aunt Tina or Mary down to the dark cellar for a large bowl of apples and what a treat that was! What fun the grandchildren had playing in the hayloft when they weren't supposed to. The smell of fresh bread baking in the outside oven and seeing rows of smoked hams hanging in the machine shed are a few of the memories that come to mind.

After the death of Anganetha, Johann retired and moved to Altona in the early 1940's. His daughter Tina made the move with him and cared for him until his death in 1953.

The children of Johann F. and Anganetha were as follows: Anganetha Dueck (1892-1977); Cornelius W. (1893-1985); Helena (1895-1895); Helena (1896-1911); John W. (1898-1953); Agatha Dyck (1899-1993); Tina (1901-1995); Margaret Neufeld (1903-1993); Frank (1905-1908); Abram W. (1906-1974); Frank W. (1908-1990); Mary Lepp (1910-1998); Henry W. (1912-1997); Susan (1914-1914).

ISAAC GIESBRECHT FAMILY

by Hilda (Giesbrecht) Wall



Johann F. and Anganetha Giesbrecht.



Isaac and Susan Giesbrecht family. Back row: Susie, Jessie, Henry, Menno. Front row: Susan (Mom), Margaret, Leonard, Isaac (Dad).

I believe Mom and Dad Giesbrecht moved to the Kane School District in 1920, the year the school was built, but not quite sure. Gertrude started school at Kane in the fall of 1921, and David in the fall of 1923. We lived on the quarter section where John Thiessens lived and now Brian Browns (SE 33-4-2W) live. My Mother (nee Wiebe) died in 1926, three months after giving birth to me. Dad remarried after three years to a widow - Susan (Harder) Hiebert with four children, David, Elma, Tina and John.

The second marriage brought Henry, Jessie, Susie, and Menno. In 1943 we moved to the Sarto District twelve miles south of Steinbach. Leonard James, and Marilyn Margaret were born there. Mom and Dad moved to Steinbach in 1957 (?). Dad passed away July 15, 1960. Mother married Rev. Jacob Bergen of Lowe Farm, who also had a large grown family. Father Bergen passed away after one and a half years of married life. Mom moved back to Steinbach and later she moved to the High-Rise Apartments in Winkler. From there she landed up in Salem Home and died in August of 1973.

Memories from Hilda (Giesbrecht) Wall: I started my school years and ended them at Kane Consolidated School. I was seven years old when I was in grade one. My teacher was Mabel Anderson and the second teacher was Evelyn Jack. I had Tina Warkentin, Mary Loewen, Jean Sinclair and George Siemens during the years. Grade 5 was a grade I had to repeat. I enjoyed going to school. I have many good memories. We had three Arthurs in one class: Arthur Toews, Arthur Groening and Arthur Boese. My girlfriends were Ida Thiessen, Lizzie Penner, Jean White, Anne Braun and Anne Penner. The last years were the best.

I had to stay at home and help on the farm when I was 16 years old. I still kept in touch with Anne Braun and Anne Penner until we moved away to Sarto in the year of 1943. I worked at home for a few years and then worked at different places in the homes. I worked at Bethel Hospital for two years and then married Cornie Wall in 1949. We have lived at different places starting in Winkler, then to Morris and then to Plum Coulee and back to Winkler, always a mechanic working on cars and tractors and combine motors. A number of years he had his own shop on the yard where he overhauled big motors and small lawn mower motors. I went to work outside the home in 1973. Our children were all in school. Our youngest son, a Down's Syndrome child had to be looked after by the older siblings. He went on the bus with them and was in the ARC school until he was integrated into high school TMH (Trainable Mental Handicap) Classes. He graduated in 1987, and since then worked at the Valley Rehab here in Winkler. We have since retired, and he lives at home. My husband died on December 30th, 1998. We have seven children; five girls and two boys. One son died in 1966, by drowning. Our oldest daughter still single, a nurse, has been in mission work at Open Door Ministries for ten years. The others are married and have a family of their own except for our youngest son who is at home with me.

Our Giesbrecht/Hiebert family is as follows: Gertrude married Corney Falk (two children). Dave Giesbrecht married Mary Funk (one son). Dora Giesbrecht married Pete Friesen (nine children). David Hiebert married June Parker (two boys). Elma Hiebert married Saba (two children). Frank Giesbrecht married Florence Shepherd. Tena Hiebert married Ed Peters (one son). Hilda Giesbrech married Cornie Wall (eight children). John Hiebert (whereabouts unknown). Henry Giesbrecht married Verna Palmer. Jessie Giesbrecht married Menno Thiessen. Susan Giesbrecht married Ian Carlyle (two children). Menno Giesbrecht married Justina Brandt (five children). Leonard Giesbrecht (single). Marilyn Giesbrecht (a missionary at Open Door Ministries for 26 years).

Memories from Frank Giesbrecht: I remember the spring day in 1930, when our parents permitted Elma and me to start school. Elma was my almost twin stepsister, being four days younger than I.

Off to school I went. The most vivid memory being, since I was very shy and could not yet speak English, and nobody had told me where the "outhouse" was, I ended up with wet pants. *That's my story and I'm sticking to it!*

Other beginners in 1930, as I remember, were my stepsister Elma Hiebert, Rosie Groening, Tina Bannman, Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen, Billy Funk.

The teachers in Room #I were Miss Sarah Sawatsky, Miss Gertrude Hooge and Mabel M. Anderson. In Room #II, from Grades 5 through 8, was Mr. G. G. Siemens. I have good cause to remember him, because he slapped me around enough. Not that I deserved it. While he was a strict disciplinarian with a temper to match, on thinking back, he was after all, a good teacher.

The spring exams in 1936, were really tough. Of the seven or eight in our class, only three passed on to the next grade. Ervin Groening, Henry Thiessen and me, Frank Giesbrecht, with only 49%. The next grade must have been equally tough, since we ended up with Tillie Groening, Martha Cowie, Lora Hiebert. Somewhere along the way, Peter Thiessen skipped a grade and he ended up with us through grades seven and eight.

By the end of June in 1938, I was 15 years old and old enough to earn some money, and while school was over for me, I feel that for the next 61 years, I have kept on learning.

Some highlights during the school years were of course when the end of June came around and it was picnic time. It was during those years that Mr. John Toews, in his Diamond T truck or Mr. Jake Hiebert in his Ford truck, would take all the school kids who could go, to the Carman Field Day. What an experience that was! Our Dad would give us each a ten cent piece to spend. One memory is I had spent five cents, and still had five left. Unfortunately I dropped it on some steps, and saw it drop through a crack, where it was not to be reached. What a terrible loss. Another special memory is of me chasing Mary Thiessen all over the school yard, for what reason, I'll

never tell, until she ran into the girl's "outhouse" and of course she would not come out until recess was over. That's how it was!

Van drivers I remember, and probably not in this order: Mr. William Reimer, Mr. William Harder and Mr. William Hiebert. All Williams. Most vivid are the times during winter blizzards. One blizzard when we were on our way home, Mr. Hiebert walked in front of the horses and his son Cornelius took the reins. He took us to their place where we had supper, had a chimney fire, and when the storm had blown itself out or almost, he drove us home. It was late and my parents probably were already in bed. Another blizzard in the morning, we drove around a snowbank onto the track. We were just off the track when the snowplow came and hit us with a blast of snow. That was too close for comfort. That afternoon, the CNR sent out a crew and shovelled a trench through the bank on the road. Mr. Hiebert was also the only one I recall, who had a Model T Ford he used in summer to drive us to school. He even took the kids on his route to Winnipeg. What a time we had. First time in the city, and Holy Cow, the size of Eaton's Store!

PETER & KATIE (Bergman) GINTER

by Ann Schellenberg and Trudy Schellenberg



Peter and Katie Ginter.

Pete and Katie Ginter were married in 1932. They lived in various places before they bought a farm and settled down near Kane on SE 1-5-3W. They farmed two quarters of land at Kane, and lived there for 21 years. In the earlier years, (1960's) they had a number of cattle, chickens, and a few hogs.

Pete enjoyed farming. He was always interested in trying new or different equipment and new ideas in farming. Perhaps that explains why he had a variety of differ-

ent models of tractors (such as John Deere, Massey, Ford, and Allis Challmers).

Pete was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone in the community or beyond. He helped his neighbours spray their crops, combine or cultivate. In 1974, when he retired from farming, he would work for farmers in the spring and fall. He had a heart for young farmers, and believed that they should have the opportunity to get started. His sheer desire was that his nephew, Earl Bergman, would be the next owner/operator of his farm. His dream was fulfilled when Earl purchased the land in 1978.

Pete and Katie were involved in most of the activities at Kane, such as helping out at the Community Centre, plays, and serving at food booths in the summer (baseball games or school picnics). Their love of people was demonstrated through the encouragement and laughter they gave to anyone they met. They loved to entertain guests and visited many people throughout the community.

Katie enjoyed raising chickens and selling eggs to neighbours. Someone had asked Katie if there was a profit in selling the eggs, and without any hesitation she clearly stated, that it was not for the money, but for the joy of having a short visit with people when they would come to pick up eggs.

The Ginters loved gardening, growing many vegetables and some fruit. Her diary shows that she also had strawberries in her garden. One day she picked nine pounds which she sold to the Kane Store.

In the summer of 1981, Pete and Katie moved to Plum Coulee where they spent their retirement. Due to the deterioration of Pete's health (a heart condition) he was briefly hospitalized and passed away in June, 1986.



Peter Ginter family. Standing: Katie (Mom), Garth, Pete (Dad). Sitting: Darryl, Leona, Gordon.

Pete and Katie had one daughter, Leona. She was married to Garth Hay of Brandon. They had two sons, Gordon and Darryl. A few years after the passing of Pete, Leona died as well in 1989. Shortly after Leona's death, Garth and the sons moved to British Columbia.



The Peter Ginter farm at Kane.

Katie was left alone, but she loved the Lord and read her Bible which helped her a lot. She also hosted a Bible study in her home for several years. Two of her sisters lived a short distance from her which helped her tremendously. Her church was just across the street. Dave and Eva took her and her sister (Elizabeth) out quite often. The support of her siblings nearby helped her overcome her loneliness.

Katie's activities became limited when Alzheimers invaded her life. She is presently a resident of Salem Personal Care Home. She has a happy disposition, but she is physically dependent on others. She is in a wheelchair and must be helped with her meals. Two of her sisters, Anne and Trudy, take turns in helping her with her suppers and entertaining her.

"Only one life, so soon 'tis past

Only what's done for Christ will last."

Katie's son-in-law, Garth Hay, presently has his home in Abbotsford, British Columbia, but has been serving as a teacher with SIM organization in Zambia, Africa, in the last number of years. Her grandson Gordon is married to Sheila, and grandson Darryl is married to Theresa.

JOHN & HELENA GROENING
ABRAM & HELENA (Loeppky) GROENING
HENRY & MARIA (Penner) GROENING
by Ed H. Groening

For some years there were a large number of Groening students in the Kane Consolidated School. Where did they come from and what was their part in the history of Kane? All the Groenings in Manitoba originate from one extended family headed by John (born 1808) and Helena Groening.

The father (John) had died in the Ukraine, but the mother and ten married and unmarried children came to Manitoba in 1874. All settled on the East Reserve, but after some years, half of the family moved to the West Reserve. Two of them moved to the Kane area. Jacob Groening and his wife moved first to north of Lowe Farm and then to section 28-4-2W. The homestead was later inhabited by his grandson, Frank and wife Tina Groening. At present, Terry and Rickie Brown reside there. The other brother was Abram, who with his wife Helena, first settled in Gnadenthal, south of Plum Coulee. Abram and Helena Groening were my grandparents.

Abram and Helena Groening: Abram Groening (1851-1917) and Helena Loeppky (1853-1936) were married in the Ukraine in 1872. There is an interesting story about their courtship that somehow survived. Both Abram and Helena lived in a village in the Bergthal Colony. Abram, as a young man worked in the village flour mill. He would go past the Loeppky home on the way to work in the morning. Whether that was the natural way or whether it was a scenic alternative route, we don't know. At any rate, Helena, the Loeppky daughter, took an interest in the young man. One day as he passed by, she threw an apple to him, perhaps at the advice of her wise mother. Again we don't know for certain. Anyway, he caught the apple and returned it to the young Loeppky lady. So the story goes. We well know it is a great fruit, but it appears also to have a romantic ingredient.

In 1897, Abram and Helena Groening moved to the Kane area with their four children. They sold their 240 acres at Gnadenthal and bought section 21-4-2W. Their yard was on the southwest corner of that section. It was

about a mile north of Jacob Blatz's, Dora Hildebrand's grandparents. Many don't know about the Jacob Blatz's place, but by the time they read any amount in this book, they will know who Dora Hildebrand and her husband Henry are. Dora was the main drive behind this book you are reading.

When the family came to the Kane district, Henry was 22, Katherine was nineteen, Abram fourteen, and Helen three. Two children had died in infancy. The first child died on June 17, 1874, on the train journey from the Ukraine. The other one died while they lived in Gnadenthal. I will confine myself to write mainly of my grandparents and my parents, Henry and Marie Groening. I understand there are a number of others that are writing from other perspectives.

Grandfather, with help from the family, built a large house and other buildings on the corner of section 21. I understand horses, and not oxen, were used to break the land. Earlier he used oxen, as was the practice in those days. Tractors were not developed at that time, except for steam engines. My grandfather is reported to have made at least one shopping trip to Winnipeg with oxen and wagon.

In the next twenty years, they prospered. The land, bought for \$10.00 an acre, was new with plenty of fertility. Wheat is said to have yielded 40 bushels an acre, high for that time, and even quite acceptable today. The price of wheat was possibly better than it is today as well. There was no income tax to retard paying off debts. At the time of Grandfather's death from cancer in 1917, they had substantial savings in the Wisenamt; a sort of banking system organized by the Mennonite leaders. Unfortunately, because of lack of experience in banking, and maybe because of the financial troubles of the time, the system went bankrupt with many people losing their savings.

I remember my grandfather only vaguely, as I was just four years of age when he died in 1917. My grandmother I remember very well. In my estimation she was a remarkable woman. Even in her later years she was a bright and alert person. She might well have thrown that apple on her own initiative. I recall the twinkle in her eyes and the sly smile on her face. When I would question her about life, or faith, she would return my questions. "Why are you asking me those questions?" I never really blamed my grandfather for returning the apple. The wise mother, Mrs. Loepky, stayed at their place in later years, until her death in 1913. She is buried near her daughter's grave in the Rose Farm Cemetery.

My grandparents had an aptitude for gardening. It was said that their garden had been very beautiful. Later, my Uncle Abram owned the farm. Grandchildren, including me, would go and pick blueberries and other fruit in the old garden. We often went swimming in the pond. The meadow north of the yard was not broken at the time and was a great place for wild flowers. In early spring the crocuses would grow there among the small shrubs and cow trails in the wild grasses.

Ralph Groening, a great grandson, had sentimental interest in what remained of the old yard. He transplanted some of the cherry trees to his yard on NE 33-4-2W. Every year they are still loaded with cherries. At one time he made efforts to buy the farm, but it didn't materialize. Eventually the garden trees were uprooted and the water pond was filled in. Today there remains no sign of the old yard and garden. Ralph and Tim Groening, both great grandsons, own one of the quarters adjacent to the yard. Nearly all the section is still owned by relatives.

Abram and Helena Groening had four children: Henry (1875-1940), Katherine (1878-1958?), Abram (1883-1964) and Helen (1894-1977). Henry, my father, married Maria Penner (1883-1959) in 1903, in my grandparents' home, a large house built on the corner of section 21. All of the children were married at home by ministers of their own choice. Katherine, the oldest daughter, married Peter Funk. She was also great at gardening. The large Groening house was moved by steamer to the Funk's yard on the same section after 1917, when grandmother no longer lived on the farm. Later, that fine house went to ruin when the Funks no longer lived in it. Abram married Maria Martens (1887-1974) and lived on the second quarter to the north of the homestead. The four quarters of the two sections were divided along a mile, and each of the four children inherited a quarter. Helen married Cornelius Wiebe (1893-1999) in 1916. Helen sold her quarter to her brother Abram. The late Dr. C. W. Wiebe, who practiced medicine in the Winkler area, claimed the sale of her farm helped him through medical training.

Henry and Maria (Penner) Groening: My parents, Henry (1875-1940) and Maria Penner (1883-1959) were married in 1903, and made their home in the middle of section 21. My mother grew up at Hueboden, south of Plum Coulee, but at the time of her marriage she lived in Lowe Farm. They first built a house and barn as one unit, as was frequently done at the time. There was a large space at the north end for hay, the south end had the living quarters and in between was the barn for the horses and cows. Part of the upstairs was designed for living, and part was used to store oats. They lived there for ten years. When the new house was built, the old living quarters were remodeled and used as a barn. Part of the old building still shows signs of once being a part of a home.

In 1912-13, a new two-story house was built. Most of our family grew up in this house. A tremendous amount of energy must have been expended in its construction. The heavy basement walls were trough mixed and poured. The lumber, much of it cedar, was shipped from British Columbia. The walls were thick, and double on the outside with rubber roofing between to seal it. All the nail holes were puttied and painted. A water heating system was installed with a coal-burning furnace in the basement. A small sawing machine run by a 1½ horse power engine was used for cutting boards, but the trimming boards were done with hand made planes. The house is now nearly



Henry and Maria Groening.



Henry Groening residence in middle of section 21-4-2W, built in 1912.

ninety years old and still quite solid. We think that with care it could stand another ninety years. Leroy, a great grandson who currently lives in the house, may not think so.

Until about the mid twenties, our parents' farming was very promising. They bought their first tractor, a Fordson. My father had a threshing outfit with his brother Abram for some years. Dad bought the thresher and Uncle Abram had a Mogol one cylinder International tractor. My

Dad was good at machining and they constructed a tractor plow from two horse plows. Abram's sons Walter and Edward would work the levers to lift and lower the plow bottoms. How much plowing was done with this plow, I can't say, but it was the beginning of the modern age. My uncle claimed he was born a generation too soon. I think he was.

My Dad, Henry, had only one brother, Abram. Dad and Uncle Abram did many things together. Uncle Abram was a very interesting man and highly favoured by most of us. Both of our families were quite large, so there were a lot of cousins. Randall was a constant friend and some of the girls were real friends, too. Uncle Abram was bold and daring and a profound extrovert. He was fond of horses, cars and tractors and afraid of nothing, not even debt. He came to our place on horseback ever so often to play checkers with Dad, and to tell stories of his exploits.

After the mid twenties there were some difficult times with the grasshopper years, sow thistle and the depression. Even worse, father's health began to fail. By this time, the members of the family were old enough to do the farming. At the time of father's passing in 1940, at the age of 64, he had clear title to five quarters of land. This was considered a fairly large acreage at the time. Compared with the aggressive American farmers around Kane today, it is quite modest.

Our family consisted of seven brothers and five sisters: one sister, Hilda, died at nine years of age; Abe died in 1991; Mary died in 1999; Dora lives in British Columbia; Theodore in Winnipeg; Eddie in Winkler; Diedrich in Winkler; Helen in Winnipeg; George in British Columbia; Clara in British Columbia; Ervin in Winkler and Norman in Winkler.

Our parents were morally conscientious. The household laws, as Wordsworth would say, were pure and wholesome. We were made well aware of what was right and acceptable behaviour. Our Groening forefathers apparently were late comers into the Mennonite community and consequently may not have been integrated into the church life as most other Mennonite families. I personally recall that attending church was not a regular practice. Father was well acquainted with the Bible, for it had been a required subject in school. Sometimes he read it to us, instead of going to church. Mother was very devout and allowed no lighthearted attitude to religious songs. There was another reason for their estrangement with the church. Both my father and Uncle Abram had mustaches; the church did not approve and admonished them for it.

Our fore-parents in later years regretted that life was so short. We do or may do the same. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, who according to Genesis lived many years, may not have deplored the shortness of life, although they may have regretted the choices they made.

ABRAHAM H. & ELIZABETH (Paetkau) GROENING
ELMER & AGATHA (Dueck) GROENING
by Agatha (Dueck) Groening



Abram and Elizabeth Groening family, 1944. Back row: Albert, Elmer, Arnold. Center row: Burton, Elizabeth (Mom), Edwin, Abram (Dad), Linda. Front: Margaret.



Abram and Elizabeth Groening home at 21-4-2W. Later bought by son Elmer Groening, then by grandson Leroy Groening.

Elmer Groening was born on April 16, 1928, in the Rose Farm School District, NE 16-4-2W. He was the first child of Abram H. and Elizabeth (Paetkau) Groening.

The family farmed one half mile north of the Rose Farm Church which they attended. The family lived in a house-barn combination. Elmer's four brothers and two sisters were all born during the time they lived there. They were Arnold, Albert, Edwin, Burton, Linda and Margaret.

They attended the Rose Farm Public School, and also Sunday School which for many years was in the school. The children often went to school with horse and buggy. Elmer took his grade nine by correspondence in school.

In 1948, Elmer's grandmother, Mrs. Henry A. Groening and daughter Mary and son Detray, moved to Lowe Farm. Elmer's parents and family then moved to his grandmother's farm on NW 21-4-2W. They were happy for the move as they had a big house to live in.

The boys helped with the farm work. In the spring of 1952, Elmer bought a Model A Ford car. He worked for his Uncle, the Theodore Groenings, who lived three miles southwest of Lowe Farm.

On September 21, 1952, Elmer and I (Agatha Dueck, daughter of Jacob P. and Aganetha Dueck of Rose Farm) got married. I also attended the Rose Farm School and Sunday School. We were married at the Rose Farm Church which we attended. We then moved to the Theodore Groening farm where Elmer did the farm work. The Theodore Groenings moved to Winnipeg that fall.

A few years later Elmer took some high school subjects at home, studying in his spare time during two winters, and wrote his June exams at Kane School.

In September 1956, we moved to Winnipeg, and Elmer attended Winnipeg Normal School in preparation to become a teacher. In 1957, we moved up north to the Mennville School about ten miles north of Riverton, where Elmer was a teacher for eight years. Elmer also taught Sunday School at Riverton.

In 1965, we moved to the Kissman School, four miles west of Moosehorn, Manitoba, where Elmer taught for two years. In July 1967, we moved to Elmer's parent's farm on NW 21-4-2W. His parents, the Abram H. Groenings, moved to Gretna that fall.

We had a mixed farm operation; some cattle, pigs, and grain farming. In our first year of farming in 1968, we had lots of rain during harvest and we finished our combining on November 26. Elmer hired a combine with rice tires.

Elmer was a quiet man and enjoyed working in his shop fixing machinery, etc. He grew some sunflowers those years, and he and his Dad made a sunflower attachment for the combine. In spring he cleaned grain for seed for his own use, and some to sell. When harvest came Elmer hauled some grain to one of the Kane elevators.



*Elmer and Agatha Groening family,
1973. Back row: Melvin, Janice, Harold. Middle row: Agatha
(Mom), Donald, Elmer (Dad). Front row: Marilyn and Leroy.*

Harold, Melvin, Janice and Donald all attended the Kane School. Howard Thiessen, Norman Blatz and Ben Penner were some of the school van drivers. The children were picked up on the yard, or at the Thiessen corner.

Some of the local ladies taught 4-H in school where Janice learned to sew and crochet. After the Kane School closed, the children attended the Lowe Farm School and graduated in Morris. After the Rose Farm Church closed in 1975, we joined the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm. Elmer was involved in teaching Sunday School and was the secretary of the Missions and Sunday School departments. I was part of the ladies group, etc.

Harold was born June 13, 1954. After High School, he worked and attended Winnipeg Bible College and graduated there. He married Lillian Friesen of Altona area on June 14, 1980. After working in Calgary a few years, they took linguistic training in Grand Forks and Dallas. They have been in the Asia area for twelve years, doing Bible translation and promoting literacy, producing a dictionary and other booklets for the people to read in their own language. They have three sons: Bryce (1982), Mark (1986), and Evan (1990).

Melvin was born May 11, 1956. After high school, he took one semester at Winnipeg Bible College. Melvin married Elva Groening, daughter of Frank and Tina Groening in 1976. Melvin worked at the Macleod's Store from 1977-1980 and Elva worked at Stedman's in Morden.

In 1981, they moved to Melita, Manitoba, and were owners of the Macleods Store for eleven years. They started out with mostly grain farming at Kane. Presently they have some cattle and doing quite a bit of haying. For a few years they worked at True Value in Winkler, but now Melvin is working for Mordyck Auctions, and Elva works part time at Stedmans in Morden. They have three sons, Blair (1979) is attending Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, Brock (1983) is at Morris Collegiate, and Mitchell (1987) at Lowe Farm School.



*Mel and Elva Groening with (l-r) Mitchell, Blair and Brock
live on NW 28-4-2W.*

Janice was born February 11, 1959. She graduated from Winnipeg Bible College in 1980. She married Gorden McGillivray on October 24, 1981. They worked at a Bible Camp at Beauval, Saskatchewan for four and a half years. Since 1989, they have been farming west of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, and are involved in a country church. They have six daughters. Erin and Kelsi (twins) were born in 1984, Shannon in 1987, Misty in 1989, Emily in 1995 and Kaylee in 1997.

Donald was born May 26, 1965. After graduating, he managed the farm when his Dad was sick. He played ball in the Kane team for several summers. He attended Winnipeg Bible College one year. He married Lillian Redekopp on October 28, 1989. She is a registered nurse and works half time in Winkler Hospital. They bought Donald's grandparents (Jacob P. Dueck) former farm in 1995. Don and Lillian are members of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm. He has been Sunday School Superintendent and now is a deacon. They have two children; Rylan was born in 1995, and Jillana in 1997.

Marilyn was born March 23, 1970. After graduating in Morris, she attended Winnipeg Bible College for two years. She has been working at Warehouse One Jeans Store in Winkler for nine years. She has taught Sunday School and also plays the piano. She is returning to Providence College for further studies.



Leroy Groening, present owner of the home on 21-4-2W, which he bought in 1996.

Leroy was born June 25, 1971. He is farming where he grew up. A number of years ago he took an electronics course. He enjoys manufacturing and inventing things. He also plays the guitar. The farm yard and some land he bought in 1996 (21-4-2W), was first bought by Leroy's great, great, grandfather Abram Groening for \$8.00 an acre in 1897.

We were always busy on the farm and had a big garden, but some summers we took time for some travelling to Banff, Alberta; Kelowna, British Columbia; Clear Lake and Black Hills, etc.

In 1983, Elmer got sick with a brain tumor. He had surgery and radiation and later chemotherapy treatments. He had six more surgeries from 1986-1988. He became blind in 1989. During his time of illness he had much time to meditate on Bible truths he learned through the years. He passed away May 27, 1989 at Altona Hospital. I stayed on the farm until October 1998 when I moved to Winkler.

Janice remembers: I started attending Kane School in 1967, when we bought Grandpa Groening's farm.

There was feverish excitement over the Christmas concert. Since I so enjoyed drama, I was always desperately wanting a main part. In Grade 4, Miss Penner created angel wings out of wire, tissue paper and garlands. I was thrilled to be the "head" angel who got to sing a solo. Miss Schellenberg gave all the grade 3 girls gold bracelets with our names engraved in them. Another highlight was getting to wear our new Christmas dresses. Ever since the Fall and Winter catalogue had come out, we'd been discussing pattern ideas. It was unusual for anyone to have a store bought dress. Since mini-skirts were all the rage, daughters were in tears at hemming time because the skirt seemed too long, and Moms were equally upset because

the length was too short!

Fortrel was coming in and pantsuits with flared legs were the latest thing. So were go-go boots, hot pants, and sleeveless knit shell tops, with woolly hair ribbons to complete the look.

At recess, the strip of bush surrounding the school grounds provided more entertainment than the fanciest of playground equipment. Of course, the race to get to the swings first was always on. If you were successful, you'd have the opportunity to practise your elaborate circus routines. But if someone beat you to it, there were always stick forts to work on, and other forts to feud with! Skipping was always popular in spring. Then came baseball season, which wasn't much fun for an easy-outer like me, who was usually one of the last to be chosen. On bad weather days we'd play Ping-Pong or hide-and-seek in the basement. There were ideal hiding places under the stairs where the chairs were stored. Sometimes we'd coax the teachers into letting us watch Dr. Kildaire on television.

If we had a note, we could go to the store. There mojos were two for 1¢, pixie stix were 2¢, and chips, pop, chocolate bars, and gum were all 10¢ apiece. A quarter would go a long way... At today's prices you'd need a toonie. The booth at the June school picnic was a big attraction, too.

Sometimes we would bike to the school picnic so we could enter the slow bicycle race. The person to cross the finish line *LAST* was the winner! There were parent events too. The kids were always impressed when Hank Hildebrand did his high jumping dive. There was only a sand pit - no mats - to cushion the landing. On my last picnic day at Kane School I biked home to find my parents gone. My brother Leroy had decided to arrive early!

It was really exciting when a 4-H sewing club started up. We called ourselves the "Kane Nimbofingers". It must have been hectic for the leaders, especially at Stampede time when we would march in the parade and enter exhibits. We wore matching Manitoba tartan skirts and ties with white blouses. That same day, we got to collect any prizes for school entries. First prize for an art entry was 75¢, but the penmanship entries offered a \$3.00 first prize. Imagine my dismay when I collected a penmanship prize, only to lose it on the bus ride home.

The saddest day was when we learned of Mr. Kroeker and his wife's accidental drowning. They had been scouting out potential activities for the Grade 7 and 8's class trip, when their canoe overturned in a swift river. We all wandered around in shock, finding it difficult to believe that our teacher wasn't coming back.

My school bus drivers were Howard Thiessen and Norman Blatz. Mr. Blatz had built a camperized-type box on the back of his half-ton truck, with two bench seats in it. On my 12th birthday, his wife came out to meet the bus, asking him to get someone to finish his route. It was time to get to the hospital! That was when Jeff entered the world.

History repeats itself. Now my kids attend a rural school built in the same era - those same frosted glass windows, doors and floor tiles. They too build forts in the bush, and race to get to the swings first.....

THEODORE GROENING

by Theodore Groening



*Theodore and Katherine Groening with sons
Gerald (l) and Robert, 1965.*

I grew up on the farm two and a half miles south, and two and a half miles east of Kane, Manitoba (NW 21-4-2W).

My association with Kane was mainly with the school. It was also our main grain delivery point in those days. The garage, though not large, was owned by a man named John Toews. He was well-known, and we appreciated him both as a friend, and his knowledge in motor mechanics.

An early recollection was when I brought in a load of grain. The high school teacher had moved to Kane. He asked me to use my team and wagon to haul his furniture from the CNR station to his home. I bruised my finger and had to have it bandaged while I was assisting him. It was quite dark before I got home and I had my mother worried. I could have been about twelve years of age. Also, I remember that my father sometimes shipped our grain directly into the rail boxcar at the rail platform. This was done by scoop and shovel. Talk about hard work!

The great day came when Kane Consolidated School opened and we began attending there in the spring of 1921, after our local school had closed. We were picked up by a two horse drawn van that travelled on dirt roads.

This big change, though difficult at first, turned out quite well in the long run. We had better education offered to us, though some of us earlier ones were unable to take advantage of it. However, the early years were rather turbulent. Road conditions were not prepared for such a demand. During rainy season or spring time the dirt roads became almost impassable for the horse drawn vans to make the five miles back and forth to school. In time, roads were gravelled giving way to motor vehicles.

There was no electricity at that time. The large single pane windows were not tightly fitted. No double or triple glass windows or wall insulation were available those days. They were drafty and noisy during stormy days. At times, the teacher would plug folded paper to silence them. It

was cold. The big basement cord wood furnace could not produce enough heat. This was corrected later on.

Perhaps the biggest problem was when they put two communities together that were quite different in many ways. The way it was done caused some unhappy feelings. This was reflected in the boys relationship with one another. One time two guys wanted one ball on their own terms. This resulted in a near fatal hit, fortunately it was only a small stone that was thrown. Neither of the boys made use of the ball that day.

On another occasion, I rather teasingly prevented the other guy from coming out through a basement window at school on Friday during the last recess. This was not forgotten. On Monday he had his two buddies with him. They ganged up on me in the hall, against the water fountain between the two classrooms. They kept nagging. Finally - win or lose, it was enough. I suddenly jumped upon them. They were taken by surprise. They just ran to get out of my way.

Well, enough about the unpleasant things. We had many good times, both in football and baseball, and also in the classroom. We had some good teachers and inspectors that on two occasions helped me with an Algebra problem. I was very timid at that time, and I would not ask for help. I lost some of that shyness since then. In grade nine we were to make a speech. I worked hard at it, but when I got up I could hardly say a word. Fortunately there was a knock at the door. The teacher was kept long enough, so I sat down. Later in Bible School it was not as scary.

I remember a party at the Walsh's home. He was the grain buyer for the Paterson elevator. They were both so friendly to us young people.

I believe the most appreciated van driver was Jim Cowie. Though he was a horse lover, he purchased a new 18-28 Cockshutt tractor. His joy was short lived. He tragically died due to an accident. It seems to me that it was the first day he took his prized tractor to work. He could have been in his forties. Most of us remember Shakespeare's drama *All is Well That Ends Well*. How true. May this be so in our own lives when we come to our life's end on this earth.

Since those days, three score years plus have rolled by. I attended the Winnipeg Bible Institute (now Providence College) for three years. It was here that I got acquainted with a wonderful lady, Katherine Drieger, later to be my wife in 1942.

I took up farming in the Kane district. We adopted two boys; Gerald and Robert. Gerald did quite well in accounting until he was disabled due to diabetes. He now lives in Calgary and has one daughter. Robert lives in Winnipeg. He has had various jobs, but on his own majored in motor mechanics. He has one son and two daughters all living in Manitoba. He has one grandson, Ryan, aged nine who has his own computer. His lovely daughter, Jennifer is five years old.

We retired from farming in 1974, moved to Winnipeg, and enjoyed our retirement. We majored in visiting hos-

pitals and personal care homes. My wife passed away after fifty-one years of enjoyable life together. Since then, I married her best friend, Margaret (Penner) Toews. We have enjoyed nearly five years of companionship. We are in reasonable good health, living in our own home in Winnipeg.



The Theodore Groening family, 1982. Back row: Ron, Kathy, Robert, Jane, Gerald, Vivian. Front row: Pearl, Katherine (Mom), Theodore (Dad), Stacy.

ED H. & MARGARET (Heinrichs) GROENING *by Roger Groening*



Ed H. Groening family, 1995. Standing (l-r): Keith Shackelford, Ralph, Charles, Paul, Tim and Roger Groening. Sitting: Anita and Krista Shackelford, Ed and Margaret Groening, Cberi, Teresa, Ruth. Front row: Michael, Allison, Jillian, Laura, Tom and Amy Groening.

My parents, Ed and Margaret Groening were married on June 17, 1944, in the Rose Farm Church. It was the rainy season, and the wet surroundings reflected the weather of the past days, although on this particular special Saturday, there was no rain.

Ed and Margaret made their home on section 33-4-2W. The entire section was one huge wheat field, with no buildings or trees to create a sense of home. My father proceeded to build a house, a barn, and some granaries, and gradually over the next few years, a home/farmyard was created. These first years were difficult for both of my parents as they worked hard to create a home and a farming business that could support them and a family.

Ed and Margaret built the farm into a stable operation that provided safety, security and a stimulating home for themselves, and six children. My parents remained active on the farm until 1981. They moved to Winkler; first to a home on Willow drive, and more recently in Crocus Village condos. They remain active in the church, music, choir, and friendship/family social activity. Upon leaving the farm in 1981, my brothers Ralph and Tim took over responsibility for day to day operations, although for many years my father continued to take an active role providing guidance and work assistance. Ralph and Tim continue to operate the family farm, and have expanded operations to meet the changing demands of this challenging business.

My father served for 18 years as a school board member in Kane and as Sunday School Superintendent for the Kane Bergthaler Church for much of the life of that church. Despite a busy schedule of evening meetings, and church preparations, we regularly played baseball together at the end of summer or fall days. Dad also took us to major league baseball games in Minneapolis and Kansas City, and minor league games in Winnipeg, and one memorable game in Pierre, South Dakota. Mom joined us for some of these trips.

Dad also played a daily game of Scrabble with mother. My parents continue this practice to this day. This tends to be a quick, intense game, and not advised for a casual player unconcerned about time, or not fully grasping the range of vocabulary options. Another key activity for Dad

is his interest in astronomy, violin playing, woodworking, inventive projects, writing stories and reading books. He continues to be active in these activities.

My mother worked hard on the farm. Meal preparations, gardening, and maintaining a household of five boys and a girl was not a job for the weak of heart. Mother did her best to rally the children to contribute in some way to the tasks of cleaning, and getting up in the morning without having the van driver lose interest in waiting in our front yard. Mom was very active in church and community affairs, particularly the church women's group, Sunday School teaching, choir, and writing a column on community events for a number of southern Manitoba newspapers.

Mom has maintained a diary for many years. This diary is a great collection of descriptive historical detail of everyday family and community events. This diary is augmented by a special diary devoted strictly to World Series related events over the years. It has been invaluable as a reference for family history, much of which mother has already written. She continued to write a community events column after retiring to Winkler. Mom continues to be active in the church choir, adult Bible Study, writing, and maintaining a social schedule with friends and family.

One of the outstanding memories of growing up on the farm was the Groening baseball field. This field, formerly used for crops, was converted on suggestion, into a sports field, including a backstop, pitchers mound, and lime foul ball lines. The field was to become a center of many sports and other family activity over the years. It was a common event to end a summer workday with a rigorous period of baseball on the farm ball field. Dad's ability to hit long fly balls to his kids was maintained well into his 80's. These evening events, with Dad hitting balls, and Mom observing with interest from a lawn chair in the front yard, provided appropriate closure to many summer farm days.

Sports and family holidays were quite central to much of our experience as children, and reflect our parents personal interests and desire to grow in knowledge and experience. While the farm was a serious commitment, its role was in part to allow the opportunity for other experience. Education, travel, social contact, sport, and community and church involvement all formed an important part of our life together as a family.

Recreational activity in the family included baseball trips, trips to the Black Hills, the Rockies, Ontario, and day trips into Winnipeg to watch the Goldeyes, go to the Zoo and Assiniboine Park, and of course, get lost at Eaton's. We built a hockey rink on the yard some years, largely on Ralph's initiative and direction. We also spent many hours playing basketball and floor hockey in the barn loft "gymnasium", with regulation height basketball hoop and backboard, and playing football or baseball on the ball field. Table games of Monopoly, Stock Ticker, and Clue were popular in the winter, and Mom had a puzzle project going most of the time.

One of the favorite family holiday locations was the Black Hills. We went to the Black Hills eight times, often including the South Dakota Badlands. These trips were marked by dangerous needlepoint scenic drives that Dad still considers to have been unsafe. We camped with two 9x9 tents, cooked on a small propane stove, and spent the days going on hikes, seeing gold mines, seeing the Passion Play, and having memorable relationships with area rattlesnakes. Mostly we had good weather on these trips, with the exception of one excursion to Yellowstone Park. This trip was memorable primarily for the Mt. Washburn hike, which is the highest peak in the park, and two weeks of rain which threatened to make the Washburn peak the only safe place to camp.

In 1964, we attended our first game at Metropolitan Stadium in Minneapolis. The Minnesota Twins won the game with a dramatic ninth inning homer by the Twins' slugger Harmon Killebrew. Dad was quite a Killebrew and Twins fan, and upon leaving the stadium that night, felt convinced that it had been a good game. He noticed that we were quite subdued however, and we informed Dad that the Yankees defeat required a moment of sadness. Attending major league baseball became a regular summer tradition for a number of our family members, and most of us were able to get over the momentary sadness/happiness of any particular game outcome.

Ralph was born on May 23, 1946. He graduated from the Agriculture Diploma program at the University of Manitoba and continues to operate the family farm in partnership with his younger brother, Tim. Ralph is presently serving his second term on council with the Morris Municipality, and also acts as assistant reeve. He is very involved in community political and social affairs, following in that regard in the footsteps of our father. Ralph was very influential promoting the role of sport in family activity. He introduced the idea of attending major league baseball. Ralph has three children; Allison, Jillian, and Michael.

Anita was born on July 27, 1948. Anita is the only girl in the family, and together with mother, deserves special acknowledgment for pain and suffering. Anita attended one year at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, and then an Education degree at the University of Manitoba. Anita works as a teacher with students with mental health issues. Anita is married to Keith Shackleford, who works with Human Resource Development Canada in Edmonton. They have a daughter Krista, who is completing grade 12 this year.

Roger was born on May 2, 1951. Roger attended Canadian Mennonite Bible College for one year, and completed an Arts degree at the University of Manitoba. Roger later obtained a Masters degree in Educational Psychology. He is the director of Education and Employment Preparation services, a private vocational training school in Winnipeg. He married Ruth Loeppky on September 31, 1980. Ruth works with the Department of Family Services. Ruth and Roger live in Winnipeg, and have three chil-



Ralph Groening with children Allison, Michael and Jillian.

dren; Laura, Thomas, and Amy.

Tim was born on April 23, 1955. He attended Canadian Mennonite Bible College, and later the University of Manitoba, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts, and the Agriculture Diploma program. Tim taught at the university for some years in the Agriculture Diploma program, and has farmed with Ralph since 1978. Tim has also taken training in guitar building, and is active in the off season in this area. Tim is also an active musician, and together with his wife Teresa Rempel, and a friend, form a musical group called *Caragana*. They live in La Salle. Teresa is a florist with Canada Safeway.

Charles was born on May 2, 1956. He attended Canadian Mennonite Bible College, receiving a degree in theology, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba. Charles has also been involved in studies in the Masters of Social Work program. Charles is a counselor/therapist with New Directions agency in Winnipeg. Charles married Cheri Froese. Cheri has been active as both a social worker and teacher for special needs adults at the University of Winnipeg and Education and Employment Preparation Services.

Paul was born on May 14, 1963.. He has been active as a musician for many years. He continues to play guitar, however, he has begun to devote more time to his computer programming duties with the Angus Reid Company.

Paul is a very creative and innovative thinker, dresser, and has displayed his considerable artistic talents on the posters and other related material promoting his band.

NORMAN & ANNE (Heinrichs) GROENING *by Norman Groening*



Norman and Anne Groening.

I was the youngest in the Henry and Maria (Penner) Groening family. My grand-parents Abram Groenings bought section 21-4-2W in 1897 and moved from Gnadenthal to make their home in the southwest corner of section 21. My parents started the farmyard in the middle of section 21 shortly after they were married in 1903.

The Consolidated School District of Kane made possible a larger school. It also meant farther to travel to school. We lived five miles from Kane which meant usually six miles plus. That was a long ride on the van for me when I struggled with motion sickness. Vans were pulled with horses. We had good van drivers. It was a hard job during long rainy spells. Mr. Jim Cowie's accidental death in 1936 was a very sad loss for all of us. He was our route van driver.

The brick school, built in 1920, was a classic in my opinion; the large classrooms connecting with a science room and a large basement with a furnace and even toilets. The front steps were wide and attractive and a nice place to get fresh air and sun. We were proud of our school and had very good learning achievements.

To promote better health during several winter months all the students were served a hot chocolate drink for lunch. We took turns getting the kettles of hot drink (from the teacherage) that Mrs. Siemens had prepared. We all appreciated that and it was fun doing the errand of getting the drink.

We always had good teachers and we were patriotic for Kane School. Some of the highlights in the sometimes boredom routine were some special practical sessions - woodworking on Friday afternoons and a series of soldering lessons taught to us by John Toews in his garage. My brother Detray made a number of large wooden propel-

lers to fit generators. A special event was going to Winnipeg to see the King and Queen who were touring Canada in 1939. John Toews took us to Winnipeg in his two ton truck. The box was covered with a tarp. Not much for comfort, but it sure was a special experience.

Anne (Heinrichs) and I were married in 1947, and the following year we started our farmyard and home on section 28 NW. There was nothing on the site at that time so it was a tough start. Ervin and Agatha and we farmed together and each built the small homes we lived in for many years. Ervin and Agatha moved to Saskatchewan in the early 1960's to do mission church work and after a few years we ended the partnership. As we were able, we added buildings and shelter belt, etc.

Kane was our natural agriculture center. It was not large, but we were enthusiastic about Kane. We had excellent grain buyers or elevator agents as we called them. For a long while we had several stores, fuel deliveries and a garage. To us John Toews was the master mechanic in southern Manitoba. He could fix most anything. It would not have been the same without this remarkable man. We were fortunate to have the John Deere service in our small town. Walter Penner was the N. M. Paterson agent when I started farming and George Born was agent in UGG (then Canadian Consolidated). The store was a natural meeting place for the farmers in the area.

Pete Harder made a tremendous contribution to the Kane community. His reliability and trust reassured us in our business. He was willing to go beyond the usual service and in his quiet, yet optimistic way, he somehow gave encouragement that things would work out even in difficult times.

Grain buyers, Irvin Wiebe (N. M. Paterson) George Born (UGG) and Jim Hildebrand (UGG) made a very encouraging contribution to our Kane farming community.

A highlight each year was the John Deere Day movie presentation. John Toews and Peter Harder would clear the garage for the event. I purchased my first John Deere tractor 4020, influenced by the movie advertisement. Our



The Norman and Anne Groening farm, 1984.



*Norman and Anne's daughters
(l-r): Joyce, Karen, Wendi, Leta, Sheryl.*

girls especially remember the doughnuts Mr. Toews and later Mr. Harder served so generously after the film. Other students too were fortunate to share the refreshments and go home with their dads. A few farm ladies might attend, but very few. The fire that destroyed the large garage was a big loss for all of us.

Anne and I retired from the farm in 1991. We moved to Winkler where we reside now. We very much miss the Kane social events and our baseball games. Melvin and Elva Groening took on the farm after our move.

We have five daughters; Joyce, Leta, Karen, Sheryl and Wendi.

Joyce was born in 1949, graduated from Lowe Farm High School, attended and graduated at Briercrest Bible College, studied in Brandon University, taught in Thompson for ten years, and taught in Black Forest Academy, Germany for five years. Joyce married Bill Siemens in 1993. They reside in Morris and Joyce continues teaching in Lowe Farm.

Leta was born in 1953, graduated from Morris High School, and attended Briercrest College for two years. She married Jerry Maksymyk in 1973. They live in Portage la

Prairie where Leta is presently secretary/receptionist in the Portage Alliance Church.

Karen was born in 1957, graduated from Morris High School, studied and graduated at Berean Bible College in Calgary. She married Robert (Bob) Toews in 1978. They live near Altona where she is employed at the Altona Credit Union as well as taking care of their family.

Sheryl was born in 1961, graduated from Morris High School, attended and graduated at Berean College. She married Doug Braaten in 1986. They serve with Gospel for Asia in the Canadian office in Hamilton.

Wendi was born in 1965. She got to attend Kane School for several years. Wendi studied at Berean College for one year. She married Phil Tolley from Washington in 1986. They now reside near Denver, Colorado.

JACOB J. & KATHARINA (Giesbrecht) GROENING

by Gladys (Groening) Hiebert

Jacob J. Groening, with his new wife Katharina (Giesbrecht), (our grandparents) moved to Kane in 1903. He left his parents' home, south of Horndean, and started to farm two quarters, living on SW 28-4-2W. To them were born eleven children:

Jacob, 1904 - married Helen Friesen. He lived most of his adult life in British Columbia and died there in 1981.

Katherine, 1906 - married Cornelius Gerbrandt. They moved to British Columbia where she died in 1984.

Nettie, 1907 - married Abe Hoeppner. They lived in Lowe Farm for some years and then moved to Sudbury, Ontario where she died in 1986.

Frank, 1909 - married Tina Heinrichs. They lived in the Kane district until their retirement in 1974, when they moved to Winkler. Frank died in 1995.



The Groening brothers: Ben, Jake, Dave, Frank.

Helen, 1910 - married Dan Heinrichs. They lived north of Lowe Farm for some years, then moved to Holmfield, Manitoba and now Helen is living in Winnipeg.

Mary, 1912 - married Abe Born. They lived in Kane for some time and then moved to British Columbia where Mary still lives.

Margaret, 1913 - married John Brignall. After their marriage, they moved to Dryden, Ontario, where she is still living.

Andrew, 1915 - died in 1916.

Bernard, 1917 - married Elizabeth Thiessen. They lived in the Kane district for sometime, moved to numerous places in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and presently live in Winkler.

Herman, 1919 - married Elsie Loewen. They moved to British Columbia, where they still live.

David, 1921 - married Helen Dyck. They lived in the Kane district for some years and then moved to farm near Killarney. He and his second wife, Mary, retired in Killarney, where they presently live.

Jacob's parents, Jacob and Aganetha, retired and moved from their farm south of Horndean, into a house on Jacob and Katharina's yard. Our father, Frank Groening told us the story of how, as a young child of six, he found his grandparents dead in their beds. They died of carbon monoxide poisoning in January of 1916.

In 1918, Jacob and his family moved into a new house built on the yard. The old house was moved a mile north, where John Thiessens later lived. The new house was the two and a half story house that still stands on the yard. It was built by Mr. Siervogel of Plum Coulee.

Jacob Groening farmed this land until his retirement in the fall of 1945. He then moved into a small house on the same yard, where Katharina died in January 1950. After some years of living alone, he moved to the Salem Home in Winkler. Grandfather really disliked living there and later moved in with son, Frank and Tina, who were living on the home place. Here he died in January 1960, at the age of 81.

FRANK G. & TINA (Heinrichs) GROENING *by Gladys (Groening) Hiebert*

Frank started farming on his own in 1942 at SW 19-4-2W, 2¾ miles south of Kane. Here he rented two quarters of land from Mr. Jones, an American land owner. He got permission to start a yard providing he did not dig any basements. He had a house built onto this land and here he "batched" until his marriage to Tina Heinrichs in August of 1944. A little more than a year later, they moved their house onto Frank's parents' yard at SW 28-4-2W. They traded houses with his parents - Frank and Tina, with their baby daughter, moved into the big house, and Jacob and Katharina, with daughter, Margaret, into the small house. Tina tells the story of six month old June sleeping in the house while it was being moved. Shortly afterward, Frank bought one quarter of the Jones farm, along with one



*The Frank Groening family, 1964.
Back row: Phyllis, June, Gladys, Sandra.
Front row: Tina (Mom), Elva, Lloyd, Frank (Dad).*



Frank and Tina Groening's first home on SW 19-4-2W.



50th Anniversary, 1994, of a Triple (Heinrichs sisters) Wedding. Back row: George and Nettie Groening, Susan and Henry Gerbrandt. Front row: Frank and Tina Groening.

quarter of his father's land.

Six children were born to Frank and Tina: June - June 1945; Phyllis - October 1947; Gladys - December 1949; Sandra - September 1952; Elva - November 1955 and Lloyd - January 1959.

Frank and Tina retired in 1974, and sold the land to Terry Brown. After the auction sale, they moved to Winkler where Frank died in March of 1995. Tina continues to live at the Lions Court in Winkler.

June married Peter Voth (with two children) in April, 1978. It was Peter's grandfather, also a Peter Voth, who taught at Rose Farm at the time when the school was first registered with the government in 1910-1911, and had taught there a few years prior to that. They live in Lowe Farm. June is active in the Emmanuel Gospel Church and Peter is employed at Meridian Industries, Morris. Children: David, 1969, Barb, 1971, Juanita, 1980.

Phyllis married Roland Loeppky in July 1972. They live in Morden. Phyllis works at Homestead True Value in Winkler, and Roland as a Lab Technician at the Morden Hospital. Children: Bonnie, 1977, Byron, 1981.

Gladys married Clarence Hiebert in August 1972. They live in Plum Coulee. Gladys teaches at the Plum Coulee Elementary School and Clarence works for Triple E in Winkler. Children: Marcella, 1978, Russel, 1980.

Sandra married Larry Eidse in October 1974. They live in Rosenort. Sandi works at the Rosenort Credit Union. Larry started his teaching career as the principal of the three-room Kane School. This was the last year the school was in operation. In the fall of 1973, the teachers and students were transferred to Lowe Farm. Larry is presently principal at the Rosenort School. Children: Allison, 1976, Derek, 1979, Kenton, 1982.

Elva married Melvin Groening in June 1976. They moved back to the Kane area in 1990, where they still live. Along with a little farming, Mel works for Mordyck Auctions in Winnipeg, and Elva is employed part time at Stedmans in Morden. Children: Blair, 1979, attends Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta. Brock, 1983, attending Morris Collegiate. Mitchel, 1987, Grade 7 in the Lowe Farm School.

Lloyd married Marge Toews in March 1978. They live in Winkler. Lloyd works as a auto body technician at Janzen Pontiac, Winkler and Marge as a Health Care Aide at Salem Home, Winkler. Children: Chris, 1979, Mark 1981, Jaclyn, 1983, Robyn, 1987.

We remember when (home memories): Dad was working at the Jones farm and for some reason opened the radiator cap on the tractor. The water boiled over and badly burned much of Dad's upper body. He suffered a lot, but never went to see a doctor. Mom's remedy was a baking soda plaster.

In 1957, Mom and Dad took the train to Kenosha, Illinois to pick up a new car. When they got back to Gretna and tried to clear it through customs, they ran into trouble. Eventually they called Mr. Heinrichs from the Heinrichs Garage in Altona (through whom they had ordered the car), and he came to help them get the treasured car across into Canada. The Hudson was one of a kind in southern Manitoba. We remember sitting in the car and frequently having people stop, point and stare at it. I think Dad enjoyed this, but we were often embarrassed. The oldest four girls learned to drive in this car.

Early in 1959, Mom went to the hospital. We were very concerned, not really knowing why she was there. After several days, some of our friends at school commented that our Mom was going to have a baby. Inquiring of father, he just chuckled. Several days later, Dad came home grinning - the dream of his life - after five girls, a baby boy! When Lloyd came home, we thought that he was such a tiny baby, until Mom showed us a picture of two babies in the hospital - our brother weighing 12 lbs. 15 oz. and another baby less than half that size.

In the early 60's we had a winter of lots of snow. The tobogganing was terrific. Dad helped us tunnel a large snow cave behind the granary, where we spent hours playing.

In the early years, our father was never ill. His quick remedy for all ailments was to "eat something and you'll feel better". However, in 1961, Dad was diagnosed with abdominal cancer. That winter was very difficult for our family. Dad spent the week in Winnipeg receiving cobalt treatments and came home weekends. Dr. Wiebe told us that these treatments would age Dad ten years. We learned to really appreciate our relatives and neighbours during that time. Dad came home changed and never again was really healthy.

While doing laundry in the early years, the whole kitchen floor would be covered with piles of laundry. It was a many step procedure. First you washed all the loads in the washer and put them through the wringer. Then you had the room covered with wet piles. Next you emptied the washer and put in clean rinse water. All the loads went through the washer and wringer again, then into a bluing solution and through the wringer again. Finally, if anything needed to be starched, it was dipped in the water saved from cooking macaroni. In summer, the clothes were hung on the outside line and in winter onto the laundry rack on the verandah to be freeze dried. This was usually a one to two day procedure.

We took many car trips visiting relatives in Saskatchewan and Ontario. On one occasion, we picked up June from Briercrest Bible Institute, Caronport, Sask. All eight of us were in the car, three of us teenagers. Then we were given a dog by some relatives and it also came with us. There was a lot of 'close company'.

Dad would tell us Bible stories before going to bed. It took awhile before we believed that the story of Samson was really in the Bible, especially the way Dad told it.

Mom and Dad made their Christian faith a part of every day living. We all came to know the God of the Bible through their lives and words.

Mom and Dad had a major car accident in December 1973, on the way to Winnipeg. Mom was hospitalized in the Victoria Hospital for six weeks. We spent Christmas in Winnipeg with Mom. This was a very difficult time for Dad as he reflected on his failing health, especially his poor vision. That spring, Dad sold the farm.

We remember when (school memories): June started school with bus driver, Mr. Henry Doell. He used an old Model T (I believe). The three girls sat in front and the boys in the back.

Some time in the 50's, we had a severe snow storm. The next day, we went to school with horses and the covered black school van. The #23 Highway had so much snow that the horses were in snow up to their bellies and couldn't pull the van with all of us in it. We left our school bags and lunch kits, and walked along the railroad track to school.

A few years later, Peter Penner was our bus driver. He had two spirited horses who one day tipped the black van in the mud, with all of us in it. Fortunately no one was really hurt, but from then on, we were very nervous whenever it rained.

June remembers standing on the old school steps with many other students, as the older boys and some of the teachers helped to fight a fire at the store across from the elevator agent's house. Some of the girls in high school were living on the second floor of the store and had to watch everything burn.

John Deere days meant a break from school, exciting cartoons and donuts. Sometime in the 50's, Mom won a beautiful doll in the raffle. Mom and Dad had not planned on giving us dolls for Christmas that year, but they changed their minds. June got the prize doll, which she has kept to this day.

One fall day when the boys were playing football on the north section of the school yard, we saw our principal Mr. Janzen and his wife run across the yard. We all followed and were struck with fear as we saw David Krahn lying on the ground. Some time later, an ambulance also rushed across the yard. His death had a marked impact on us all. Some of the students sang at the funeral.

A Coca Cola representative came to visit the school and showed a movie of how Coca Cola was bottled. Each student received a bottle to drink and two, 2½ inch souvenir bottles (June still has hers). That was a real treat.

Christmas concerts were the highlight of the year. Practicing was not always fun, but we got to miss regular classes and that was worth it. We had Christian teachers, so our concerts were always based on the true meaning of Christmas. June recalls Christmas concerts in Room 2 of the old school. The room was emptied of desks, a stage made and the rest of the room filled with benches (without backs) for the parents and grandparents. The students

saw the concert at the dress rehearsal and then had to wait in Room 1 for their parts on concert night. She remembers Esther (Thiessen) Wiebe keeping the younger children spellbound, reading stories to them. Later concerts were held in the Kane Church. Concert day had all the girls coming to school in curlers and the like. After a rehearsal, we got to go home until the evening performance.

Some time in the late 50's, we moved into the new school - it had flush toilets (although they regularly overflowed)! Phyllis recalls finding a dead mouse on the steps during the move (she carried it away by its tail). The school had so much more room and we began 4-H sewing and woodworking classes. Friday afternoons were special. We recall tears of frustration and the thrill of Achievement Day, showing off all the products of our hard work. Dad bought June a wood-burning set when the girls also were allowed to do woodwork. In later years, the lines were clearly drawn, boys did woodwork and the girls sewed.

For some years the Lowe Farm grade 9 and 10's were bused to Kane. There was definitely some animosity between the two communities. June recalls Mr. Letkeman assisting the Kane students with Math and German, for 15-20 minutes after the Lowe Farm students left for the day. Many of them attributed their passing, to that time of tutoring.

Oh, the fun we had skating on the rink (and some years, on the pond) behind the school. We hurried with our lunches, to see who could get their skates on first. The snowbanks around the pond were also great for sliding. But the greatest fun was the warming shack. We watched many romances blossom around the old stove.

We built forts in the trees around the school yard. Some of the forts were quite ingenious - completely closed in. We learned to make dishes from poplar leaves, tables and cupboards out of branches and ate caragana blossoms for food. We had friendship fights, weddings, played hide-and-seek, killed mice and had hours of fun.

We had great times practicing and playing baseball, soccer, football and hockey against other schools. Being a small school, sometimes even the girls got to play. When we didn't, cheering on the sidelines was just as much fun.

Gladys remembers writing an exam in the boot room because she filled her boots with water again.

We watched the Lorna Doone movie. There was much sobbing until the teachers allowed us to leave the auditorium. Movies were very unfamiliar to us and the 'scary' parts left us with many nightmares.

School picnics were always great community get-togethers. Mom and Dad would come with a picnic lunch. The competition was fierce and we practiced for weeks in advance. We frequently got sunburned to a crisp. A big event was seeing some of the adults performing.

The nostalgia we experience when we recall the days of our childhood is pleasant, warm and sad. We still fondly refer to ourselves as having been 'Kananites' in our growing up years.

ABRAM A. & MARIA (Martens) GROENING

by Ellen (Groening) Thiessen



The A. A. Groening family: Back row: Edward, Randall, Norman Spalding, Walter; Middle row: Elvera, Nora, Carrie Spalding, Ellen, Emmie. Front row: Tillie, Abram (Dad), Liddie, Maria (Mom), Rosie. Arthur centre front.

Had you lived in the newly opened School District of Kane, Manitoba, during the 1920's, to the '40's, we would invariably have met. Our town was not big, in fact it was but a Railway Siding with a school and teacherage, two elevators, two general stores, and a house at the west road intersection. But it was blessed with a spirit of anticipation that it would steadily grow in population. With the optimism of the new community residents and youth, the neighbouring towns of Lowe Farm and Myrtle would surely soon appreciate what we had to offer.

That spirit, however also, had a deeper, more significant expression. We were a new district, we would live and work together to build a cohesive community, no matter what our religion or ethnic background. We did not reach all of our determinations, but this one we surely did. So, had you lived in our era, you too would have enjoyed the community of Kane, and the Kane Consolidated School. You would have been taught by teachers to name a few, like; Rose Barnes, James R. Simm, C. W. Wiebe, Blanche H. Malloy, A. M. and Chas. F. Laine, R. Alwyn and Mabel Anderson, Margaret Toews, J. H. Giesbrecht, and my very own favourite, Mr. George G. Siemens.

G. G. Siemens was a relative of my Mother, but that never did work in my favour. He was strict, but fair, and had his students best interest at heart. I recall, that one year, when studying the production and preserving of beef, he carefully planned and arranged for a practical application of it. Soon after, his classes toured a beef processing facility in St. Boniface! Well, it was a 'bit much', for us girls, but our parents were very pleased at his efforts. An-

other great memory my husband and I have of this great man and teacher is that until he died, he kept in touch with us. His letters were always interesting, and encouraging. Amazing.

Kane to me, as a shy six year old farm girl, was just right. It was friendly, and not too radically different from the values taught at home. I had not yet been to very many towns, although Father had had a car since 1917, but I knew that a place with two elevators for grain sales, and two stores, was all that anyone would need. After all, didn't both stores sell candies?

I well remember that, if we were lucky enough to have a few pennies, we, at recess time or lunch hour, could hurry to Toews' or Hiebert General Store, to buy a few candies. Money in our homes, however, was scarce, but we knew how to be careful not to lose or waste it. Together with my sister Liddy, cousin Clara, and friends Tina Thiessen, and Dorothy Giesbrecht, we set off to select and buy. Like our young grandchildren today, we knew exactly what we wanted - those messy, but long lasting jaw-breakers. At a penny a piece, they were a bargain every time. And weren't they oh so good? Memories, how they linger!

Oh dear me, don't let me get so caught up with memories, that I forget to get back to this task, my odyssey of time; past and present.

In 1895, my grandparents, Abram (1851-1917) and Helena Loepky Groening (1853-1935), moved north of the Plum Coulee area to purchase virgin grassland, two miles east and three miles south of what later became Kane, Manitoba. They settled on section 21-4-2W, and built a solid 2x6 framed house, and to serve as insulation, additional 2x6's were stacked between the frame. Other types of insulation were simply not yet in existence. What an enormous project that must have been for them! It is recorded that these early Mennonite settlers do show that in spite of health problems, such as arthritis and rheumatism, they were very hard workers.

To make it even more difficult for new families to build and settle, was the fact that it all took place long before merchants and commerce entered the area. Transportation by horse and wagon on the primitive road conditions, made getting goods and supplies slow and tedious. Commerce, at the fledgling hamlet of Kane at 6-5-2W by 1911, was also still very limited. The first grain elevator was built and operational in 1918. Grain, however unless you were wealthy, first had to be sold before purchasing wood for cooking and coal for heating. The Kane Consolidated School wasn't built to open until 1920. Yet the spirit of the Groenings, and the many others that had moved into the area, remained undaunted. They hurriedly built their homes and barns before the fierce northwest winds began to blow, and bring in the cold sub zero temperatures, with the freezing deep layers of snow. Talk about the Pioneer Spirit!

Our Grandparents arrived with a growing family, namely; Uncle Henry (1875-1940), husband of Maria Penner

Groening, Aunt Kathrina Groening Funk (1878-1965), wife of Peter Funk, my father, Abram (1883-1964), husband of mother, Maria Martens Groening (1887-1974), Aunt Helena Groening Wiebe (1894-1977), wife of Dr. C. W. Wiebe (1893-1999). Each inherited a parcel of the virgin grassland, that immediately became a beehive of activity. They, except for Helena, built homes, barns and granaries, and settled to raise large families. Trees had to be planted, and the cattle and horses necessitated ponds to be dug, and filled with spring water. Drinking water was needed for human consumption, so cisterns were built. Nothing, for all of the new settlers, came easy.



Home of Abram A. and Maria Groening, 1939. Later it became the home of Art and Tina Groening.

Formal education for the Groenings, as well for other residents in the area was very limited. Records, however, show that the children attended their local Private School, and the District School of Queen Centre. At best, however, most only stayed to age 14, and/or grade 8. In our family, as I recall, my brother Ed and Aunt Helen were the exception. Ed went off to attend the Mennonite Collegiate Institute (MCI) at Gretna, and Aunt Helen left home to attend Wesley College, known as the University of Winnipeg today. Nevertheless, these country farm children were not entirely without learning and education.

It is said that necessity is the mother of inventions. But is it not also the mother of learning? Children went to school when possible, but they were not devoid of learning at home. They quickly picked up the practical skills needed on the farm, but they also had to be innovators. To be able to supply the sustenance of food and clothing for a family, and certainly a large family, demanded skilled innovators. And in this, these settlers excelled. For instance, later during the 'Dirty Thirty's Depression', when money and food supply was scarce, my Mother showed unbelievable innovative abilities. The loss of vegetables in her huge garden because of the grasshopper infestation did not deter her from making healthy, and delicious meals for fourteen people. So, let me ask you, were these settlers without education?

Then along came more available formal education.

More and more public schools, promoted by the Government, came into existence in southern Manitoba. In the pre 1920's, A. A. Groening children, attended the small local Private School in their community. Then along came the Queen Centre School, located one mile east, two miles south, and a quarter mile east, on land owned by the Penner family.

When it became imperative that a larger school with a better curriculum, and trained staff was needed, Kane Consolidated School, in 1920, came into existence. With this new school opening, the Government determined that all local private and district schools must close. It did not please all ethnic groups at first, nevertheless, the Kane School, when completed and staffed, opened its door to the community.

The superior facilities, and the better qualified teachers, however, were persuasive. So, in the first year of Kane School, three relatively educated part-time teachers came. They were Rose Barnes (September to January), James Simms (February to April), and C. W. Wiebe, my uncle, taught May and June. He was in Medical School, and needed summer employment.

By the way, this past May 7th, 1999, Dr. C. W. Wiebe, age 106, living in Winkler, received the Order of Canada Award, hand delivered by Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc. The Doctor, indeed, was a great man. Not only did he deliver approximately 6000 children in southern Manitoba, particularly in the Winkler area, but he also served as a MLA from 1932 to 1936. Undaunted by the Depression of 1936, he successfully crusaded to have Bethel Hospital built, and years later, the Valley Rehab Centre. He indeed served Manitoba well. And on July 12, 1999, he went to his eternal Home, with God.

Kane School, in its first year, opened with about fourteen kids enrolled. It wasn't until after the new year (1921) that the Mennonite names began to appear in the registers. By the end of the year Kane School had thirteen pupils enrolled in Grade 1. The second grade also had thirteen, of which, Carrie (Caroline), Nora (Lenore) and Randall, came from our home. Cousins in the same grade were Greta Groening, Eddie Groening, and Mary Groening. Others were Theodore Cranew, Gladys Hodge, John Penner, Willie Unrau, Susie Wiebe and Henry Penner.

Curiously, however, the following year, some pupils were placed back into Grade 1. There may be a number of reasons for it. It was not uncommon in those days for children not to be able to complete a grade in one year. Teens were often urgently needed to help with the spring seeding, and fall harvesting. If so, school must wait. Everything, including the very livelihood, depended on the harvesting of crops. They were the fruit of their year-round labour, and had to be stored in granaries, or taken to the town elevators, before winter set in.

The following year, Kane School in 1921-1922, had an even greater enrollment arrive from small school closures. Blanche H. Molloy, Room I, had twenty-one pupils, to include my brother Randall, sisters Nora and Emmie,

and cousins, Greta Groening, Annie Funk, Eddie Groening, plus other local beginners.

In Grade 2, my sister Carrie, and cousin Mary Groening were enrolled. More Groenings, namely; Lena Groening, Frank Groening, Bernard Funk, and Abram Groening, were in Grade IV. Now if that were not enough Groenings, read on!

J. R. Simms, teacher in Room II, Grade 5, Walter Groening, my brother, and Theodore Groening, my cousin were enrolled. Brother Edward Groening, and cousins; Dora Groening, Lena and Peter Funk, were in Grade 6. And in Grade 7, cousin Abram Groening was enrolled. Kane School was bustling with Groenings!

So it was and went! More of the Groenings were yet to start school! In 1922-1923, with A. M. Lane as the first year around teacher for Room I, my sisters, Nora and Emmie, and cousins Detray and Lena Groening enrolled in Grade I.

In 1925-1926, with teacher Blanch H. Molloy in Room I a new system of categorizing grades obviously began. Enrolled in 1A was my sister, Elvera, with cousins, Lena, George and Bernard Groening. So were her friends, Beryl Cates and Susie Thiessen. Enrolled in 1B, were Annie Clothier, Anna Schapansky, Tina Thiessen, Mavis Webster, Martha Geswein.

Then, after Easter in the 1926 Class of Grade 1C, Emma Shlothauer, Margaret Esau, Olive Moore, and yours truly, Ellen Groening, age six and a half, were enrolled. I remember the teacher, Miss Molloy, but not too many classmates. I was much too wrapped up in looking around, and out of the window, to cultivate new friendships. I loved to see the trains, and hear the whistle.

School, the following year of 1927-1928, became much more interesting for me. With F. Alwyn Anderson staying on for the whole year, and Liddy, my younger sister and cousins, Clara, Herman and Dave Groening, starting Beginners Class after Easter, I felt secure. Other pupils to begin also were, Dora Giesbrecht, Margaret Harder, Alex and Frank White.

Now, in Grade 1, I started to make friends with pupils; Tina Thiessen, Ray Cates, Cameron Kirk, Annie Shapansky, Willie Hiebert, Dave Giesbrecht, and Gertrude Hildebrand.

When in Grade 2, and because I was still fascinated with trains, I remember that I devised unnoticed ways of how to be outdoors whenever I heard the train whistle. It was precisely at those times that I, once too often, raised my hand, showed two fingers for permission to go to the outdoor 'washroom'. (By the way, a raised hand, showing one finger, meant wanting to get a drink at the water fountain in the foyer!)

If I thought I had a plan, wise old teacher Anderson, also had one. Addressing the class one day, he spoke of my keen interest in trains, which he too shared! But, and I recall that he looked straight at me, why go out to watch them, why not come up front to the window at his desk, to watch them come and go. Oh, poor me! I'm sure I

turned beet red and purple! How could he embarrass me so? As for me, I learned a very quick and important lesson on deception. But sadly, so ended my secret odyssey with trains - at least publicly.

Well, Room 1, Beginners Class in 1928-1929, with R. Alwyn Anderson, had another sister start school - my sister Tillie. So did Martha Cowie, Annie Harder, and neighbour Jake Unrau. Every grade, in both Room I and II, with M. T. Woods, was now represented by a Groening! Wouldn't that make you love school too? It probably helped me to grow a shade too smart.

I still easily recall that during reading class, one day, it finally came to be my turn. So, with confidence, I stood up and should have read, "three little kittens have lost their mittens, and they began to cry" - Instead, I read, "three little mittens, have lost their kittens", and got no further! That same teacher, Anderson, who shared my interest in trains, immediately took my upside-down reader away from me! Well, wasn't it a natural for me to copy, memorize and repeat the same lines of the Reader my older sisters had been repeating at home for years? Believe me, I quickly learned how to hold a book! And I never heard the last of that one!

The following year of 1930-1931, my youngest sister Rose, and cousins, Ervin Groening and Willie Funk, enrolled in Room I, with teacher, Sarah Sawatsky. Others to enroll were, Alma and Frank Giesbrecht, Tena Banman, and Henry Thiessen.

The brand name of Groening still continued to grow! Had we not been challenged long ago, to replenish the earth? Our family now represented every grade, except for Grade 5 and 9! Cousins took them! Is it any wonder that in 1931, Father chose to become a school trustee and stayed on for some five or six years?

In Grade 6, 1932-1933, an event happened to affect both my life, and future. Be assured, it wasn't that J. H. Giesbrecht was my teacher, or that dear Violet Cowie, Ray Cates, Jake Hiebert, David Brown, or long time friend and rival, Tina Thiessen, were also in my grade. No, it was much more than that! In fall, a shy, but handsome male teenager enrolled in my class! And his younger brother entered Liddy's Grade 5! All of us girls took immediate notice. By the end of June, a few of us actually had managed to get both to notice us also! Names??

In our home, our parents blessed us by having a wonderful, 'September child'. When Arthur Abram, the apple of our eye, began school in 1935, we watched over him like mother hens! But not for long! His cheerful approach allowed him to quickly cultivate classroom friendships with Marion Bruce, Arthur Toews, Agnes Bergen, Annie Unrau, Jean White, Eddie Banman, John Hiebert, Gertrude and Henry Harder, and Lizzie Penner.

Arthur (1928-1972), was the last of the A. A. and Maria Groening family to enroll in the Kane Consolidated School. Families now had fewer children, hence the Groening name undoubtedly began to decrease in number.

Where did the A. A. Groening adult children settle,

and what vocations or professions did they pursue? Briefly (??), let's see where they are today.

My brother Edward (1907-) and his dear wife, Susan Giesbrecht Groening, were farmers. Except for his health problem, he would probably still be collecting and repairing his old farm machines, and getting the engines in tune! Or cleaning the neighbours grain.

Ed's fulfilling interest has always been in community affairs, and his vision of Co-op and Credit Union growth. Susan's energy and interest is with her family, the activities of Emmanuel Gospel Church, and the Senior Centre.

Today, Ed is still a cheerful, young 92 year old, with a remarkable sense of humour, and depth of detail of the past. They have a son and daughter, and love nothing better than for family, grandchildren, and now their first great grandchild, to come for a visit.

Walter (1909-1992) graduated from Winnipeg Bible Institute (WBI), Winnipeg, Manitoba, later named Winnipeg Bible College (WBC), and now known as Providence College, Otterbourne, Manitoba. He chose farming, and had a remarkable talent for welding and repairing all of his farm machinery. Rather than go out and buy the latest model of tractor, combine, or plow, etc., he patiently repaired and repaired the old. When he married Lydia (1918-1991) and she needed an item in the house, he created it. It indeed is a wonderful gift and talent. I certainly don't have it, I can't even knit! Lydia and Walter had one daughter, two sons, plus a set of twin boys.

Carrie (1914-1981) was Mother's helper at home. She was the missionary at home, that through her new commitment to Christ, encouraged all of us to seek and find God.

She married Norman Spalding. They lived in Lowe Farm, with their family of one son and four daughters, and farmed in the area. She and her sister-in-law, Susan, taught an ever growing Sunday School class. It is probable that it developed into the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church. She was an inspiration to all of us.

During their ten years in the Yukon, Carrie allowed her gift of art and painting to take root. We have several of her very lovely oil paintings, and treasure their beauty. Their oldest daughter, Norma, who taught in Kane in 1957-1958, still lives in Whitehorse with her husband and family.

Nora (1915-1998) married Herman Brown, who was into construction of drainage and road construction. It took them to many places, but with their three sons, Lowe Farm always remained their 'home'. Her health was fragile, but it did not keep her from enjoying her interests, including her successful Christian Home Lending Library outreach.

After Kane, attendance at the WBI, Winnipeg, her marriage and children, Nora pursued her joy of music. Self-taught, she played both the piano and organ, and as long as she had the strength, played at church, and senior functions. As a widow, she remained in Lowe Farm, but retired to Winkler, and finally to a Morden nursing facility.

Randall (1915-1965), after Kane, remained at home to help Father with the farming. (And I might add, to tease his younger sisters with his mischievous pranks.) As an adult, he attended and graduated from Winnipeg Bible Institute. Then he took a short Medical Course at Peoples Church, Toronto, Ontario, before going to Mexico, as a missionary. He married his Spanish teacher, the very lovely Maria Martinese (1918-). They remained in Mexico with their two daughters and three sons for a number of years before returning to Winnipeg, and later to Transcona to live.

Randall's tragic accident was nothing short of devastating, but Maria and the children survived to go on in school, to university, and life. Today, Maria, who is still into tatting, etc., lives in Sandringham Nursing Home, Victoria, British Columbia.

Emmie (1915-), after Kane, attended and graduated from WBI, Winnipeg. She married Alex Reimer (1920-1996), a veteran of the RCAF, WWII. Alex continued to work on aircraft electrical systems, until he retired. Emmie taught Sunday School in Kane, in Bethesda Church, and DVBS and CSSM. They were longtime members of Bethesda Church and lived in Winnipeg with their three sons. A widow, Emmie is now living in the lovely Bethel Place, Winnipeg - and loves it.

Elvera (1918-), after Kane, directed the weekly Youth Meetings in our home on the farm, and attended WBI in Winnipeg. During the summer, she pursued her interest in teaching Summer Vocation Bible School, for CSSM. Her good friends in school, to name a few, were Beryl Cates, Mary Handlon, Susie Thiessen, etc.

She married John Funk (1916-1998), who served in the RCAF during WWII. John later was a Grain Buyer with the Sunflower Seed Plant in Altona, Manitoba. They have a lovely family of two sons, and three daughters. Years later, they moved to Calgary, Alberta. A widow of the past year, she continues to live in their beautiful home, and see her many friends. She is in good health, continues to swim weekly, walk daily.

Yours truly, Ellen, first became a teacher, then a S/Sgt. in the C.W.A.C., WWII. Then, in the People's Church, Toronto, Ontario, with Dr. Oswald J. Smith as Pastor, she married the best RCNVR sailor working on Shore Patrol, and stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was that shy, but handsome young man, Cornelius (Neil) Thiessen, that came into my 1932-1933, Grade 6 class!

After Kane School, and WWII, we lived in Fort Garry, and Grunthal, Manitoba. After years of teaching and more education, Neil became the Superintendent of Schools, for Division #5, Winnipeg. I 'retired' to raise our family of three children: Greg (Gas/Oil in Calgary); Colleen Speer (Missionary Church, Calgary) and Linda (nurse in Mesa, Arizona).

At age fifty, I returned to university, and graduated with a B.A. at the University of Winnipeg, and a Bachelor of Education at the University of Manitoba. As long time members of Bethesda Church, Winnipeg, and involved in

most of the activities at school and church, from board and missionary members to choir and auxiliary, and Sunday School teaching, etc., we needed a break. Now fully retired, we moved to both Calgary, Alberta and Mesa, Arizona, to play golf and learn about computers. Today, we are still at learning!

Liddy (1920-1976) married that handsome young man, Dave Thiessen, who earlier enrolled in her Kane School, Grade 5 Class. Dave, during WWII, served in the Scottish Regiment of Canada with duty in Africa, Italy, and Europe. After a safe return to Canada, they settled on a farm in the Kane School District. With failing health, Liddy always remained hopeful, and loved to do crafts, putter in her garden, with the strawberries and fruit trees.

Liddy and Dave had two lovely girls; one a teacher and the other a nurse. They were members of the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church, and when able, visited family and friends. Liddy loved to make soups, jams and pies - and when I think about it, I can still taste her delicious cinnamon buns, can't you?

Dave left farming to go into Real Estate, and as a widower, he eventually married a lovely widow and mother, Marg Loewen Wiebe, from British Columbia, who had a wonderful family of two daughters and three sons. They live in Vernon, B. C.

Tillie (1921-) married Peter Brown (1922-), and they still live and farm in the Rose Farm area. Her flower gardens and yard, with the many bird varieties that come to sing and feed, continue to be a joy and beauty to them and the rest of us. They have attended the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church for many years. She still loves to play the piano, and Peter often accompanies on his violin. They have one daughter, two sons, plus a set of twin boys.

Rose (1922-1996) married a farmer and teacher, Walter Toews. They first lived near Kane, and then left to farm in the Graysville, Manitoba area. She loved to do handwork, and was the ideal farmer's wife. Her garden, like that of Tillie's, was beautifully in bloom all summer long. Because of the soil type, their watermelon, muskmelon and cantaloupe, were the best. Their three daughters live in Manitoba, except for one, who lives in Bangkok, Thailand.

Arthur Abram (1928-1972) married a beautiful young lady, Tina Penner, from the Rose Farm area. After our parents retired to Lowe Farm, they took over the family farm, in the Kane School District. Their garden continued to have the variety of fruit trees, vegetables, watermelons, and all things delicious.

Now, Arthur did have a musical talent. He sang in a local quartet until his very tragic accident. They have four lovely children, and grandchildren. Gail is in Texas, Brad in B.C., Lynette in Manitoba, and now Janelle in B.C., was blessed with a set of twin boys.

This story of memories must not close without a brief recount of our wonderful and dear parents:

Father (1883-1964) was married to our Mother for 59

years. He was a man of God, interested in church and community affairs, and a great father. His pride and confidence in his family definitely bordered on one word - *Love*. How well I recall that, inspite of being tired and weary, and waiting for supper, he would join us in a game of baseball in our front yard! (I must add that a definite advantage of being in a large family was that we always had enough of our own players to play nearly every kind of game.)

When he vision(ed) that his girls could sing and play an instrument, we got instruments. Then Mother played the organ, and they both sang; when my sisters learned to play the organ, we all sang together.

Father's vision didn't end there! He clearly believed that with a lot of practice, we would do well enough to even perform at school and church! The unbelievable happened! Tillie, Liddy, Rose and I did sing publicly, accompanied by guitar, violin and even the mandolin. Those shaky, untalented sounds of song and instrument must yet surely still linger in the old non-acoustic corridor ceilings of the school!

Mother (1887-1964), was born in Fargo, North Dakota, but came to Canada at an early age. Of interest in 1959, when Ed and Susan took Father and Mother along on a trip to Mexico to visit Randall and Maria, all of them were denied entrance. Mother, we discovered, didn't have Canadian citizenship! She was still an American citizen! Well we never let her forget that we were born and brought up by an alien! Actually, she loved to be teased about it.

With never a sigh, she cooked and sewed, and looked after us with tender loving care. With genuine interest, she welcomed our school friends who came home from school with us on the van. The Cowie sisters, Beryl Cates, Edna Penner, and cousin Clara Groening, were always favourites.

She never had the time, or the will to attend many functions outside of the church, but she loved to get to know new people, and quietly visit. Going to Winnipeg to shop at Eaton's and the Bay was a great highlight for her. Perhaps, visiting other country women resting in the Eatons' waiting room was equal to the enjoyment she had looking around, or shopping for her family.

She was a wonderful Mother, and her children, who knew her best, consider it a high privilege to be able to "rise up and call her blessed." Proverbs 31:28.

ART & TINA (Penner) GROENING

by Lynette (Groening) Beaudry

Art and Tina (Penner) Groening were married October 13, 1951, and lived and raised their family on the Abram A. Groening homestead near Rose Farm, Manitoba. Brad, Gail, Lynette and Janelle all received their schooling at the Kane School, right up until the school closed.

November 14, 1972, Art Groening was killed in a car accident on the #75 Highway between Winnipeg and



The Art Groening family, 1971. Back row: Brad, Gail, Art (Dad). Front row: Janelle, Tina (Mom), Lynette.



The Tina Groening Thiessen family, 1990.

Morris resulting in the family making a move to Winkler, Manitoba.

Brad Groening married Barb Freche in 1980. They have two sons: Aaron A. Groening and Stephen Groening and they now reside in Fernie, British Columbia.

Gail Groening married Ron Dykstra in 1974, and they have two daughters: Mandie Lee Dykstra and Lariesa Dykstra. They presently reside in Palestine, Texas.

Lynette Groening married Randy Dueck in 1979. They have three daughters: Joclyn Dueck, Laura Dueck, and Samantha Dueck. In 1997, Lynette remarried to Fred Beaudry and they presently reside in Winkler, Manitoba.

Janelle Groening married Ric Neufeld in 1983, and they have twin sons: Seth Neufeld and Dane Neufeld, and they presently live in Prince George, British Columbia.

Tina Groening, after being widowed for seven years, married Peter Thiessen and lived in the Crystal City area. Peter was killed in a vehicle accident in 1983, at which time Tina moved to Morden, Manitoba where she presently resides.

LUTHER HANCOCK *by Dot (Hancock) Halstead*

Mr. & Mrs. Luther Hancock and their family of Eunice and Kenneth moved to the Jim Davidson farm (SE 6-5-2W) from Saskatchewan. They worked for Jim Davidson from 1922-25. Dorothy was born there on the farm. They left Kane in 1925 and moved south of Roland.

JAMES W. & MARIE HANDLON *by Eva (Bowman) Handlon and information from Furrows in the Valley and Kane School records*



James T. Handlon in his wheatfield, 1965.

James William Handlon, former Chicago policeman arrived in Canada with his young brother Tom, April, 1918. His wife Marie and two children, James Thomas and Mary Frances followed shortly after. Their first residence was the James B. Davidson home three-quarter mile north of Kane. They farmed SE 12-5-3W, one mile north of Kane in the Roland Municipality, originally purchased by his father, James Andrew Handlon of Illinois. Tom returned to the USA a couple of years later.

Through many hardships, including their early means of transportation being a tractor and a bicycle, they acquired two sections of land north of Kane in the Morris Municipality. James William purchased the W¹/₂ 7-5-2W, one



Threshing crew at the Handlon farm at Kane. Back row: Fred Fredricksen, Mark Johnson, Walt Fredricksen, ?, James W. Handlon, Peter Anderson, ?. James T. Handlon sitting second from right.

mile north of Kane in 1919, where he and his family lived until 1933. He then purchased the E½ 7-5-2W and W½ 8-5-2W, where he farmed and resided until his death in 1964.

James William Handlon was concerned enough about the education of the local children that he got involved when the Kane Consolidated School began in 1920. He was the first chairman of the School Board and remained on the board for the next nine years. Other members of that first Board were Lorne C. Winkin (secretary/treasurer), Mr. Gurney, and Mr. George Miller. (His son James Thomas was in the first class to start school in the fall of 1920.)

James Thomas and Mary Frances attended the Kane School in the early years. James Thomas and his wife Eva (Bowman) farmed in the Kane district until the farm was sold in 1974. Their two children Richard and Janet started school at Kane, and then later in Winnipeg. Janet Beales (Joseph) - B. Sc. N., MA - in Nursing Division at Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia. Richard (Cathy) - attorney - partner in law firm Pitblado, Buchald Asper in Winnipeg, Manitoba. James Thomas deceased in June of 1996. His wife Eva resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mary Frances married Allen Johnston (Myrtle, Manitoba) and they had four children: Sheila, Bill, Joanne and Geraldine. They farmed at Kane (across the road from the home place) for some time and the older two children attended the Kane school in their lower grades. The Johnstons moved to Carman, Manitoba where Allen passed away in May of 1990. Mary still lives in her own home.

PETE & MARION (Wiebe) HARDER *by Pete and Marion Harder*



Pete and Marion Harder with Leslie and Vivian.

Our respective jobs, working at the John Deere Dealership and teaching at the Kane School, brought us both to Kane where we met for the first time. We were married on July 26, 1952, and for the first four years lived in an upstairs apartment in the Kane Store. In 1956, however, we had a house moved on to a lot, a former church yard, which was east of, and adjacent to, the school yard. We now had a lawn to mow and a garden to hoe. Life was good!

Pete arrived in Kane in 1942, at the age of eighteen, and was transitioned into the world of business by Mr. John J. Toews. After working for Mr. Toews for 19 years, he was given the option of purchasing the Kane Garage, which, at the time, included the John Deere and Shell contracts. He became the proud owner on February 17, 1961. Unfortunately, on October 26, 1972, business came to a temporary standstill when fire completely destroyed the Garage. When business resumed, it was to sell primarily Shell and Cominco Fertilizer products. In 1973 he also took over the mail carrier position, making the daily run between Kane and Lowe Farm for 23 years. Another business venture was presented to Pete by Mr. Toews, and in 1974 he purchased the Kane Store, which had a dual purpose thereafter: to serve as a general store, and to serve as the office for the gas station/bulk fertilizer business. Not only did the store offer the people residing in the area the convenience of buying some of their groceries locally, it also was here that each of the Harder children was officially given her/his career start.

Our first child, Vivian Jeanette, was born on July 25, 1954. She attended the Kane School until Grade 8 and then went on to Lowe Farm for Grade 9, and to Morris for Grades 10-12. She was very fortunate in that she did not even have to look for her first part-time job; in Grade 9 she was approached about giving piano lessons to local students, and this opportunity continued throughout her high school, as well as some of her university years. Besides returning to Kane every weekend to give piano lessons, she also drove many miles to play on the Kane Kanaries (Angels) ball team. Following her graduation, she completed her Bachelor of Physical Education at the University of Manitoba. Between the completion of her degree in April and the start of her first teaching position in September, she married Bruce Brown on May 22, 1976. She taught physical education in Starbuck for four years, after which she took a seven-year maternity leave. During this time, three members were added to their family unit: Vanessa Joelle, September 4, 1980, Derek Peter Kyle - July 13, 1983; Kendra Rochelle - July 7, 1987. This time was also spent completing her Bachelor of Education and a Pre-Masters in Educational Psychology. In 1987 Bruce and Vivian reversed their roles; recovering from major back surgery, Bruce stayed home with Kendra, and Vivian found a job which required her newly acquired skills; resource teacher at Sanford Collegiate. Presently, they are still residing in Starbuck, where Bruce is involved in farming, and Vivian still commutes to her job in Sanford.

Our second child, Leslie Blaine Peter, was born on June 11, 1958. He also attended school in Kane until Grade 8, continued on to Lowe Farm for one year, and then completed his high school education in Morris. Following his graduation, he attended Red River Community College, completing the Drafting and Design Diploma. This led to a two-year position with Triple E initially, after which he was employed by Acres Consulting for four years. This position would definitely be considered a positive experience.

rience because it was here that Les met Heather Ann Diehl. Following the family tradition or attempting to avoid confusion, in 1988 they also chose May 22 as their wedding date. Although they both started careers involving drafting and design, they also both decided that a career change was necessary. Les completed his Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Manitoba in 1988, earning the distinct honour of being the Gold Medal recipient. He then articulated as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse, working there for eight years before moving on to Centra Gas, where he is presently employed. Somewhere along the way, he developed a passion for running (perhaps as stress relief?) and has subsequently entered numerous marathons and ultra-marathons. Heather completed her Bachelor of Education in 1987 and is currently teaching at the Oak Bluff Community School. They presently reside in Winnipeg.

Our third child, Kevin Duane George, was born on February 2, 1964. Unlike the first two, he attended Kane School for only three years; upon his completion of Grade 3, the local school was closed and he was bussed to Lowe Farm for the next six years, and then on to Morris for his final high school years. To Kevin, the primary reason for attending school was to be involved in the athletic program. Unfortunately, sometimes the distance between home and school interfered with his involvement in the various sports. His favourite sport appeared to be fastball; after starting his "career" in high school with the local Kane Pirates, he continued playing with a number of teams in Winnipeg until just recently, when attempting to juggle work and ball became too much of a challenge. The highlight of all these years of playing ball was winning the silver medal at the 1990 Western Canadian Championships (Sr. B Mens' Fastball). Following his high school graduation, he completed the Computer Science course at Herzing Institute, and then the Business Administration

course at Red River Community College. He is currently in a managerial position at Rent-All Super Centre in Winnipeg, where he also resides.

Following a seventeen-year "leave", Marion re-entered the educational system in 1971, this time in the capacity of Secretary/Librarian, and Special Needs Educational Assistant. She worked in the Kane School for two years, and following its closure in 1973, moved, with the students to the Lowe Farm School. She retired on June 28, 1992, sharing this retirement date with Pete.

On June 28, 1992, a Kane Reunion honouring Pete's 50 years of service to the Kane community was held. It was exactly 50 years since he had first come to Kane, at the age of eighteen, to begin his life in the working world. This day was a wonderful celebration of friends, family and memories...we truly appreciated the time and effort devoted by the community to making this day so special!

To the surprise of our children, who thought their parents were permanent fixtures in Kane, we made the decision to retire in Winkler. We investigated, and then invested in, the Crocus Village condominiums. Now there were many details requiring attention: properties to sell, buildings to clean out; furniture and household articles to dispose of, or keep; treasures to sort...In the mean time, Pete continued the mail run between Lowe Farm and Kane until December 31, 1996. Finally, on March 26, 1997, we made the big transition, spending our first night in our new home. We have now come full circle, from an apartment in Kane to an apartment in Winkler.

PETER L & HELEN (Braun) HARDER *by Stan Harder*

Peter L and Helen Harder arrived in the Kane district in the early 1940's locating on a small acreage two miles north and one half mile east of town.

Employment was unreliable and Peter worked at whatever jobs became available, mostly as an unskilled farm labourer. They tried raising poultry and entered numbers of other ventures distinguished mostly by marginal results.

They moved to town and in addition to working as a farmhand, Peter started a business buying cord firewood in rail car lots, cutting the four foot lengths into stove burning size, and delivering to farms and homes in the community.

Reimer's General Store became available for purchase and subsequently Harder's General Store graced the skyline of Kane.

Peter L Harder's long time dream of owning his own business had come true and he worked with enthusiasm and zest. Sales were rising rapidly and his enterprise grew in scope and volume. Soon he added agencies for fuel, chicks and feeds, and was buying live poultry and eggs.

Relative prosperity brought social recognition and Peter L Harder became involved with the school board and the church.



The Harder family in 1999. Standing: Heather, Les, Bruce, Pete (Dad). Seated: Kevin, Vivian, Vanessa, Kendra, Marion (Mom), Derek.



Peter L. and Lena Harder with Alvin and Stanley.

But business inexperience and religious activism would undermine Harder's General Store. The cost of operating was allowed to exceed margins in the drive to be competitive and increase market share. In taking a leadership role for one side in the religious upheaval that the region was enjoying at the time, Peter L Harder effectively closed the door to trade with a large segment of the buying population.

As interests temporal were replaced by concerns spiritual, community support for Harder's General Store diminished to the point of non-viability and in 1953 Peter L and Helen Harder moved their family to B.C.

They raised four children, Al, Stan, Rose and Steve, in order of birth. Al passed away of cancer at age 29 leaving his wife Dorothy and three children. Helen and Peter succumbed to the same illness and died in '73 and '93 respectively.

Their youngest son Steve moved to Nova Scotia and became a reporter/photographer/columnist for the Halifax daily newspaper. With his wife Debbie, they have three children.

Their daughter Rose moved to P.E.I. with her husband Malcolm. They have six children, two in B.C., four in the United States.

Their second son Stan and his wife Frances are retired from cattle ranching in Alberta. They have one daughter, a physician married to a physician, in the U.S.A.



The Harder kids, Alvin, Rosie and Stanley on their Hudson Super Six, 1945.

DICK & MAY HEAN

by Tom Hean

Dick Hean and family moved to Kane in the summer of 1941. Dick had accepted the position of grain buyer with the Canadian Consolidated Grain Company.

Dick's family consisted of his wife May, daughter Elaine and sons Tom and Dick Jr. Dick and May also had three married daughters living at Brandon and Deloraine, and one son, Nugent, who died in 1918.

The Hean family moved into the Penner house, just west of J. J. Toews' store.

The family soon settled in and made many friends.



Elaine Hean at their home in Kane.



*The Hean home in Kane,
(formerly the Woodvale School) in the 40's.*

Dick enjoyed dealing with the farmers and you could be sure he would have a joke or story to tell. Dick enjoyed sports and coached Kane's PeeWee and Senior Hockey teams.

May's life revolved around her family and she was known as a very good cook. Her Sunday dinners were a real feast. May also did a lot of canning in the fall, making pickles, preserves, jams and jellies. She also did a lot of knitting for the war effort and hosted Quilting Bees at her home.

Elaine enjoyed school and sports.

Tom and Dick liked skating, hockey, football and softball. Both boys played on the PeeWee Hockey Team. Tom played on left-wing and Dick in goal. What Tom liked best was hunting, shooting gophers, rabbits and crows with his .22 caliber rifle.

The Hean family left Kane in the summer of 1948, moving to Brandon where Dick accepted a job as time-keeper for a construction company.

Dick Hean passed away in 1959, May in 1965, Dick Jr. in 1974 and Elaine in 1997.

Tom is retired and lives in Brandon with Jean, his wife of 40 years. They have three married daughters and six grandchildren.

Tom now spends his time hunting, fishing and gardening.

REV. WILLIAM P. & KATHARINA HEINRICHS

by Edna (Heinrichs) Fallon



Rev. William P. and Katharina Heinrichs.

Rev. William P. Heinrichs along with their youngest three children moved from Steinbach, Manitoba to Kane in the fall of 1952, where my father was to be the interim pastor for a brief time at the Kane Interdenominational Church.

Having been told we could move into a furnished farmhouse where the owners would be away for a few months, we pulled into the yard with just our personal belongings. We were about to unload when a young man came out to question what we were doing. We informed him to which he replied that the offer was no longer valid as he'd be staying there. Having no place to go, the Peter L. Harders opened their home to us for the next few months. After the holidays a small house became available for us to rent so we moved once again. I believe the house was just a mile east of Kane and then a mile south. I do remember that Gordon Dyck was our closest neighbour. A few miles down the road is where the Frank Bergman family lived. Margaret and Hilda became our good friends and remain so to this day.

In the summer of 1953, we left Kane, sold our farm in Steinbach and made the move to Abbotsford, British Columbia. Our parents bought a small eight acre farm and Dad pastored a church in the country. My mother passed away in December of 1966, and my father died in November of 1972.

Johannah (Jo) lives in Abbotsford with her husband Bruce Cowie. She had two children. Her son Jamie died in 1971. Her daughter Angela, with husband Vince Tomassitti, live in Maple Ridge, British Columbia and have one daughter.



The Heinrichs children: Johannab, Randy, Dorothy, Edna.

In 1962, I (Edna) moved to Southern California. I was fortunate to be hired by a small company with five retail stores, selling bathroom accessories and plumbing. I started in sales, and soon was trained to be a department manager. After a few years I became their buyer for the bath department. I enjoyed my job, but my first love was always to be at home and exercise my domestic abilities so I took an early retirement.

In 1978, I was married to Tom Fallon. We bought a home in Northridge, California where we reside to this day. In 1993, Tom retired from Delta Airlines where he worked for 32 years. This was good timing as three months later we were hit by the Northridge earthquake. The next few years kept Tom busy rebuilding and fixing the damage caused by the quake. Delta gives us unlimited free air travel to any destination they service worldwide, so I make good use of this benefit. My most frequent route is to British Columbia, and Hawaii is a close second. My children; Darlene, Ron and Corey, all live in Southern California.

Randall married Dorothy Martens and together they have been in the ministry pastoring various churches in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. They retired this year and live in Abbotsford. They have two children and four grandchildren. Their daughter Val lives in Steinbach with husband George Heidebrecht and son Vern and wife Sheena live in Gibson, British Columbia.

PETER & HELENA (Friesen) HEPPNER *by Evelyn (Heppner) Rodgers*

Peter Heppner of Bergfeld, and Helena Friesen of Weidenfeld, were married in 1908, and made their home south of Lowe Farm until 1935. Here their whole family of nine children were born. The Steinfeld School provided an education for the children.

The opportunities to further the education beyond grade 8, were almost non-existent for them. Nevertheless each has made his or her contribution to the community and church where they made their home.

In 1935, they moved to a farm two miles south of Kane. Three of their nine children were still in school, and Martin was at home part of the time. Abram, Nettie and Diedrich attended school in Kane, and Martin drove the school van for a while.

Martin, who was born in 1916, worked as a farm labourer for various farmers in the area. In 1940 he married Helena Dyck. In 1945, after the death of his mother, they moved to the home place and rented the farm from his father. For the most part, his father lived with them until his death in 1949.

Abram, born in 1920, worked at various jobs throughout Western Canada after school. He settled in Winnipeg where he died in 1977.

Nettie was born in 1922. She married John Epp in 1943, and they made their home in Winnipeg most of the time. They have two sons, Ken and Garry.



Peter and Helena Heppner.

Diedrich (Dick), born in 1924, married Margaret Neufeld in 1950. While living in Winnipeg, four children were born to them. Dick drove a fuel truck for Petro - Can for many years. His job took them to Calgary, Alberta. He is now retired and lives in Airdrie, Alberta.

Life for Peter and Helena was very different than it is today. They had no hydro, waterworks, central heating, or vehicles like we have today. Yet, they were able to raise their family and leave a mark on the community.

MARTIN & HELENA (Dyck) HEPPNER *by Evelyn (Heppner) Rodgers*

Martin, who had married Helena Dyck in 1940, worked at various jobs. Then, upon the death of his mother in 1945, they moved to the home place and worked the farm. His father lived with them most of the time until his death in 1949. After living here for nineteen years, Martin bought a farm at MacGregor, Manitoba in 1964.

They have lived in the generation that has seen tremendous changes in every way. The Model A car, which was the family car for years, provided us with many an adventure. One such a trip was made to Winnipeg for Christmas. Leaving a great while before sunrise, with jugs



*The Martin Heppner family, 1960.
Back row: Irma, Linda, Evelyn, Jim, Jack, Larry.
Front row: Helena (Mom), Ed, Martin (Dad).*

of hot water and plenty of blankets to keep warm, we were half way to Winnipeg when we witnessed a beautiful sunrise. The newer cars with heaters and bigger speeds were a big improvement.

Machinery, too, underwent drastic changes. Martin remembers the time he built his first swather out of an old binder. This was quite an accomplishment. Then came the joyous day when he brought home his first combine. The "D" John Deere and "44" Massey with rubber tires were a far cry from the time he spent as a boy walking behind horses.

In the house the changes were just as great. With the coming of the hydro, many conveniences weren't long in coming: one of the greatest being the electric stove, which did away with the sweltering kitchen in the summer. The water supply, which used to come from the dugout and rain barrels, now was a cistern with a pump in the kitchen.

During the nineteen years at Kane, the rest of Martin and Helen's family of seven were born. The family consists of Evelyn in 1941, Jim in 1943, Jack in 1946, Linda in 1948, Irma in 1949, Larry in 1952 and Ed in 1956.

The school at Kane provided the education for the youngest two of the Peter Heppner family, and then for the greater part of Martin's family. Martin was a part of the school van system in the district, which was very unique for that time. The vans, on wheels in summer and sleighs in winter were pulled by horses and later by tractor. Later on they were used only in bad weather. To pass the time while going to school, some drivers (like Mr. Abe Penner) would bring sunflower seeds for us, and spend lots of time singing with the younger folk.

The church at Rose Farm proved to be a vital part of the life of Martin's family. They were part of the Sunday School, and as the children reached their teenage years, they became part of the choir, and young people's activities. The emphasis of the church, together with a strong



Martin and Helena Heppner's 50th Anniversary. (l-r): George and Evelyn Rodgers, Jim and Martha Heppner, Jack and Ruth Heppner, Helena and Martin (Mom and Dad), Ed and Linda Giesbrecht, Bill and Irma Mahone, Larry and Ruby Heppner, Ed and Esther Heppner.

Christian home, challenged the family to make personal commitments to the Lord. The result is seen in that most of them are involved in Christian service, either at home or abroad.

After teaching school for four years, and attending Winnipeg Bible College for a year, Evelyn married George Rodgers, and settled on a farm at MacGregor, Manitoba. They have five married children and six grandchildren. The last ten years they have been involved in building Life Springs Retreat Centre. In 1998, Carberry Bible Camp took over and are establishing a new site for their camp. Now they are the Sunday School Superintendent in the EMC in MacGregor.

Jim married Martha Marion and settled in Winnipeg, where he was employed with Canada Packers for many years. They have a family of four children and five grandchildren.

After finishing Bible School and teacher training, Jack taught school for five years. He married Ruth Bergen of Clearwater. They have four boys, two of whom are married. In 1974, Jack was ordained as a minister. They served as missionaries in Bolivia. He continued his education in Virginia and British Columbia, taught at Steinbach Bible College, and at present is the conference minister for the EMMC.

Linda married Ed Giesbrecht from Austin, Manitoba, after high school, and moved to Winnipeg. When her parents retired in 1975, they bought the farm and settled at MacGregor as well. They have three married children and four grandchildren. They have been involved in various capacities at the EMC in MacGregor, including starting the Boys' Brigade and Pioneer Girls programs. At present Ed is the reeve of the North Norfolk municipality.

Irma, the nurse in the family, attended Prairie Bible Institute and then went to Nicaragua for a term of missionary service. She got her degree in nursing in Harrisonburg,

Virginia. There she met and married Bill Mahone. They settled down near Charlottesville, Virginia, where she has had various nursing jobs. They have one daughter.

Larry finished Bible School after high school. He married Ruby Dyck from Austin, Manitoba and they have four children. They have pastored a few churches and at present live in Winnipeg, and are active in Springs of Living Water. Larry is also a carpenter, and has worked at this trade since he isn't pastoring.

Edward finished one year of Bible School after high school and then married Esther Doerksen of Austin, Manitoba. He was a salesman for a while, and then bought a grocery store in Austin. After operating the store for about ten years he sold it, and at present is back in the sales field. They have three daughters, and are active in the church at Edrans.

Martin passed away in 1992. The following year Helen sold her house and moved into an apartment in MacGregor. Helen has been active in the community and church, but now at the age of 81 years she has to slow down somewhat. She remains a real inspiration to her family and is a blessing to all who know her.

ART & LEONA HIEBERT

by Art Hiebert

Leona and I live on section NE 9-4-2W, where we have a mixed farming operation. We moved here in the spring of 1980, after my parents, Martin and Elizabeth Hiebert, moved to Winkler in the fall of 1979.

Leona and I got married on May 29, 1971 in the Morden Berghaler Church. We lived in Winnipeg from 1971 to 1980, I working at Simpson Sears in Garden City, and Leona as a nurse at Concordia Hospital and at Fred Douglas Lodge.



The Art Hiebert family, 1999. Back row: Art (Dad), Joleen, Sonia, Lyndon. Front row: Leona (Mom) and Carilee.

During our stay in Winnipeg our three children were born; Lyndon-1975, Joleen-1977 and Carilee-1979. Lyndon married Sonia Dueck in 1997, and at present they are living in Winnipeg. Lyndon and Sonia presented us with our first grandchild, Katarina Luise, born on July 20, 1999. Joleen works and lives in Morden. Carilee lives at home and works in Winkler. All three children have attended Providence College.

We, as a family, have been worshipping at the Lowe Farm Berghaler Mennonite Church where I have had the privilege of serving as a Lay Minister for the past fifteen years. I have also served on the board of directors for the Lowe Farm Credit Union since 1981.

As a family we are active in the community and the church, and are proud to be part of this community.

JACOB & GERTRUDE (Toews) HIEBERT *by Bill Hiebert*



Gertrude and Jake E. Hiebert with daughter Winna.

The Jacob and Gertrude Hiebert family moved to the Kane area seeking better homesteading conditions from the small village of Rose Farm, situated a few miles south-east of Kane. I remember riding in a horse drawn wagon with my father through three to four feet of flood waters in the spring of 1924, trying to decide if we should accept this offer of land by the Manitoba Land Reserve. They settled for two quarter sections of land. We lived one mile south of Kane for about one year, then decided to homestead permanently in Kane by the railway tracks just west of the grain elevators (NE 36-4-3W). The land left a lot to be desired, flooding every other year from waters flowing through a railway track bridge just west of Kane. A number of years later father decided to improve our meager existence by purchasing farm equipment, mostly on payment plans; a John Deere tractor, a Case threshing machine, a Ford two ton truck, and with a bit of hard work we always had substantial meals on the table. When the depression came along, Dad and I operated the Kane General Merchant Store (south of the tracks). We would take orders for firewood, coal, ice, and flour to be distributed out of railway boxcars. The writer made numerous trips with the truck and semi-trailer for cordwood from points east of the Red River - six cords on a load. Father had the expertise to haul rejected railway boxcars to the Kane area from Winnipeg. For \$40.00 the CNR would place one end of the boxcar on the truck, the other end onto a set of dual wheels which would be bolted to the bottom of the load.



Jake and Gertrude Hiebert with Lora and Bill.

For years the Kane Post Office was operated by Mr. Roy Wyche, in a small office room at the Paterson grain elevator. Years later the Post Office was transferred to the Hiebert Store. I recall we had a total sum of 45 box holders in Kane.

Families most prominent in our memories are as follows: my Uncle John Toews, the Cowies, two Penner families, the Kirks, the Fredricksens, the Whites, the John Giesbrechts, the Heppners, two Groening families, Margaret Toews, George Siemens, the Wyches, and others.

Labour was hard to come by, so sisters Lora and Winna helped out, and when the war came along the writer de-

cided to join the RCAF in 1941, to become an aircraft electrician in numerous training stations. Four years in the service was a great learning experience. Just before being discharged, Mom and Dad and their two girls felt the urge to relocate from Kane to Lethbridge, Alberta, after some encouragement from Jacob's brother Henry. Father then did carpentry work, became a successful building contractor, and retired after twenty years. Dad and I constructed a commercial building, in which the writer operated a TV electronics store for 39 years.

The writer has many fond memories of our school days, kids we would play with, trips to the Pembina Hills picking berries, to name a few. I am sure that the Kane History Book will be enjoyed, and will further enhance those pleasant memories of earlier Kane days. We will be sad to see Kane reduced to a mere blip on the map.

Bill Hiebert lives in Osoyoos, British Columbia. Lora (Hiebert) Turrall resides in Lethbridge, Alberta. Winna, the youngest, passed away some years ago.

DAVID & ANNIE HILDEBRAND *by Henry and Dora Hildebrand*

Mom and Dad Hildebrand were married on October 3, 1929 and lived in the Horndean, Plum Coulee and Krongard areas where Dad worked as a farm laborer to support his family.

In the spring of 1934 our parents moved to the SW quarter of 12-5-3, one and a half miles north-west of Kane and started farming on their own for the first time in their lives. It was a Mr. Fred Dawson, field man for the International Loan Company, who played a very important role in our parents' lives. As Dawson later told Uncle Jake Born, "Dave Hildebrand had convinced him that he only needed a chance to start farming!"

Dad drove the van for the Kane School District in 1935-36, and our oldest brother Peter had his Beginners (1935-36) and grade one (1936-1937) in the Kane School. Later in 1950-51, Marian took her Grade XI in Kane as well.

It was in May of 1937 as the family returned from a planned trip to Gimli in their 1929 Chevrolet that sported "four" wheel brakes, when the family learned,



The David Hildebrand family, 1943. Back row: Anne, Annie (Mom), Marian, Dave, David (Dad), Henry. Front row: Jake, Jean, June, Catherine.



The Hildebrand family farm at Sperling, 1950.

in Winnipeg at Uncle George Born's, that their house had burned down on the farm. They drove home through the rain to find the new Model "D" John Deere (bought from John J. Toews in the spring of 1936) which had been standing beside the house, rescued from the fire. But Mom sadly viewed the destruction of her new Singer sewing machine along with all their household goods!

The family then moved across the road to Section 11, and belonged to the Myrtle School District.

The love for sports was still strong and Dad played third base for the Highland Ball Club which had a diamond on Herb Andresen's farm on Section 23. Mr. Andresen, manager of the club, remembers that Dad put a "lot of spirit into the team". During these years the family fellowshiped in the Grossweide M.B. Church.

In 1939 the family moved north of Sperling where our brother Peter drowned on the family farm in 1941, and Dad passed away in 1943 as a result of a farming accident at Kane.

Mother Hildebrand came back to live at Kane once again in the sum-

mer of 1967 when she was the housekeeper for Frank D. Blatz after his wife had passed away. Mother spent her last years at the Rosenort Eventide Nursing Home and passed away in 1996.

Dave and wife Edna (Kehler) live a retired life in Abbotsford, B.C. after many years in management at Reimer Express Lines. Marian and husband John Friesen live in Winnipeg, and she still does some part-time nursing with the kidney dialysis. Henry and wife Dora (Blatz) are farming at Kane. Anne Fredricksen works for Canada Post in Winnipeg. Catherine and husband Gordon Zarychanski live in Edmonton where she works part-time as a switch-board operator for Sears in the WEM. June McBride is the Human Resources Administrator at Penn West Petroleum Ltd. in Calgary. Her twin Jean and husband Albert Kennedy live in Sardis, B.C. where she is the Administrative Assistant at O&Y Enterprise. Jake and wife Dale (Peckover) live in Transcona, and he drives long-distance for Bison Transport.

HENRY & DORA (Blatz) HILDEBRAND

by Henry and Dora Hildebrand



Hank and Dora Hildebrand, 1995.

We were married in July of 1955, and moved into our "Honeymoon Cottage", three-quarter mile north of Kane. When the snow started blowing, and the road closed, we moved in with Dora's parents, Frank and Mary Blatz, east of Kane.

After a few years of living at Sperling and Winnipeg, we purchased the Mark Johnson farm (SE 19-5-2W), one

mile east and three miles north of Kane in 1959, for \$65.00 per acre (\$1,000.00 down), and started farming with an AR John Deere and a few small implements.

Our farm was situated next to a double dyke along the



Hank and Dora Hildebrand family, 1997. Standing: Aaron, Gerry, Connie, Josh and Mike Caines. Kyle, Lucy, Steve and Trista Hildebrand. Sitting: Dora and Hank with Nolan H. Sitting in front: Jon C. with "Winston", Harlen H.

Tobacco Creek, and this proved disastrous many a spring as the flood waters from the Pembina Hills came rushing down on us. In 1969, the bridge gave way and a floodway was built. In 1966, flood waters overflowed its banks and the yard was completely flooded. The water rose to the middle of the basement windows, but a sump pump kept the seepage out. We had to retrieve our empty, wooden grain bins many a spring, since they had a way of floating along with the spring flood.

Farming was tough business in those days, so Hank drove transport truck for Atomic and Reimer Express during the winter months to supplement the income, or, "keep the farm going".

In the fall of 1970, we built a hen house, 284x40, which housed 12,000 birds. The birds came in at 20 weeks old and usually stayed from eleven months to a year of laying time. Gathering eggs kept the family busy, and Henry stopped his regular transport runs in the winter at this time.

Our lives were centered around the activities at Kane, since the school, elevator, church and garage were all there. Being at the end of the school route, the children were always first on the bus in the morning and the last to get off at night. When the school closed at Kane in 1973, the children went to Lowe Farm for Junior High, and Senior High was taken at Morris. We were very much involved with life at the Community Centre with all of us playing ball, and Hank and Steve playing hockey as well. We served on the Recreation Committee at the Centre for many years. We also were involved in the work in the church, especially the Sunday School, during the years at Kane, and when it closed in 1973, we continued with the work in



The H. H. Hildebrand farm, 1996.

the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm.

Through the years we have put up steel bins, a work shop was built in 1976, and the house in 1978.

After forty years, we are still on the same farm, but the quota for the hen house was transferred to Prairie Egg, at Dufrost, Manitoba in 1999.

Our daughter Connie married Gerry Caines, and they live in Peterborough, Ontario. They have four sons; Josh (1979), Mike (1980), Aaron (1982), and Jon (1984).

Our son Steve married Lucy Penner and they live near Kane and farm with us. They have four children; Kyle (1985), Trista (1985), Harlen (1991), and Nolan (1995).

Connie's Memories: Flood Time: Every spring, run-off meant a challenge to get to school when the dyke's waters were running. If we were lucky, Steve and I would miss a day or two of school when the water was cresting. Before the big bridge was built, Dad brought us over with the John Deere tractor, until it was too deep. One spring the snow, ice and water took out the old bridge, so we played "Trazan" with ropes and planks to get across. Another spring we drove a motor boat to the front porch of our house! One year, Dad took us all the way around Carman, Roland and Myrtle just to get to school! There was excitement in the air, and we enjoyed the "adventures" especially after a long winter. It also brought the community together and often people gathered to watch the rise and fall of the local flood waters.

Miss Enns' shower: It was very special to have a bridal shower for a teacher I really liked, in our home. I felt honoured to "help" Mom out. The ladies from the community came to wish Miss Enns well.

Shoe "houses": In winter, during recess, the girls would make their homes in the empty room on the northeast corner. We would take off our shoes and place them on the outer edge to make our "house." There would be four to six homes. Then we would pretend to play house and visit each other.

School Picnic: The joy of eating cold watermelon slices on a hot afternoon. Mr. Wiebe would hand them out at the north side of the food booth.

4-H: This gave me the opportunity to go to Toronto: fly down, stay in the Royal York Hotel, see the Maple Leafs play, go on the Subway, go through the Toronto Science Museum, and see Yonge Street. Not bad for a prairie girl!

STEVE & LUCY (Penner) HILDEBRAND *by Steve Hildebrand*

I was born on November 15, 1959, at the Concordia Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the second child of Henry and Dora Hildebrand of Kane. The first winter of my life was spent in Winnipeg, as my father was driving long distance for Atomic Transfer. Mom and Dad had already purchased the southeast quarter of 19-5-2W, that was to be my home for my entire childhood (and a good part of my adulthood).

In 1960, we moved to what was known as the Mark Johnston farm. He was an American by birth, and I was convinced that this meant that the President of the United States used to live at our house! As children, my sister Connie and I played outside on the large yard; during those times we did not have all the diversions available nowadays, but I don't recall the feelings of overwhelming boredom that I hear about now. There was always something interesting to do: big things that stand out are the flood of '66, our dog biting me, and some government guy coming out on account of a rabies scare, rice tires in '68, and the dike being dug in 1970. W.C.&R. of Oakville dug the dike, and I got a lot of rides on either cat and scrapers or bulldozers. Looking back, I guess it was probably safer for them to have me on the machine, rather than running around loose. In winter, Dad would be gone driving truck, so, much time was spent playing games inside with Mom and Connie, or digging in the snow.

In 1970, Mom and Dad built the barn; the purpose of this was to allow Dad to stay home at winter. I was very excited about this, although Dad was just a little more apprehensive about such a large undertaking. Doing chores proved exciting, as did the spending money, but I have to admit, the thrill has worn off slightly over the last 29 years. The barn has been good for us, and has carried the day more than a few times, when the grain aspect of the farm was less than we hoped for.

One thing we did as family, was to go on larger trips. After seeding, Dad would make a few trips to make necessary funds, and we would go somewhere on a trip. This meant that we couldn't go to Winni-



*Steve and Lucy Hildebrand with
(l-r): Kyle, Trista, Harlen, and Nolan in front, 1999.*

peg on as many day trips as we would have liked, but it was well worth it. I recall a trip to California in '66, a trip to Alaska in '68, and several times to British Columbia. We were going to go to the east coast in 1975, but my sister just had to get married, so that kind of sank that ship! I considered myself very fortunate to be able to do these things, and as family, we still enjoy travelling.

I enjoyed school (for the most part) at Kane, and can honestly say that I was disappointed when we had to take grade seven to nine at Lowe Farm. I made good friends there, but Kane always seemed more carefree than did the larger school at Lowe Farm, for instance, playing ball tag around the school, and sometimes through it, was pretty normal at Kane.

Picnic day was always the big day of the summer, when we would all get together for a good day of sports. It seems to me that that day was generally a hot and sticky day (all the better reason to fill up on six cent Cokes!). Another recollection I have is the anticipation of the men's foot race, when we would settle once and for all for another year whose Dad was the fastest!

Other memories of my early years were at the church, where we attended, of being in Mrs. Giesbrecht's Sunday School Class downstairs, Christmas programs, goody bags, women on one side, men on the other, Jugendverein, etc. I also have vague recollections of sitting closer to the front with Ted Giesbrecht, and getting the dreaded tap on the shoulder when my Dad would decide that things had gone far enough, and would come from the back of the church to straighten me out.

For many years, my Dad farmed with his Uncle Jake Born; during harvesttime Dad was always on the combine,

and Uncle Jake and I would be on the truck. Uncle Jake was a lot of fun to be with, and I regarded him more as a grandfather than a great uncle. He would regale me with endless stories while we would sit at the end of the field listening to ball games, reading old Reader's Digests, and swilling cold Postum from a quart jar. He was also a good teacher, possessing the patience required to teach a nine year old to double-clutch a '49 Fargo, and to unload on the go. I do recall a few mishaps resulting in a bit of shovel practice on the field. Other good memories are of us combining with my Uncles Henry, Jake, Frank, and Norman.

Going to town was quite special in a day and age when it didn't happen all the time. I remember the sheer joy of getting to pull a drink out of the cooler at the store, drying it off with the cloth, and sitting on the steam heaters by the windows. Many times Dad would have it all settled before we went to town, that we didn't need a drink today, but he didn't count on me running into Mr. Abram H. Penner at the store. That man had a gift; he could spot a kid dying of thirst, and he knew exactly how to remedy the situation, much to Dad's chagrin! The store was a great meeting place; a place to talk to friends after picking up the mail. (My older children also can recall Pete Harder slicing up balogna, and if they were lucky, they'd get a slice.) In my mind, there was never a better place to live than where we did. The Kane Garage was also a special place, because there was another drink machine there! It was a sad day when the garage burned down.

I finished High School at Morris in 1977, then worked on road construction for one summer (the same company that had given me those rides as a kid), and started at Westfield Industries in 1978. At this time I started farming with Dad, and worked out to help make ends meet. As was the case with my father, I did some driving at Reimer Express while I was trying to expand my farming operation.

In 1985, I moved to the yard on SE 6-5-2W, where I currently reside with my family. In 1989, I was able to purchase the quarter section where I lived and this was particularly satisfying because my Uncle Jake Born had owned and lived on this property; two years later, I was able to acquire the north quarter, which had also been owned by Jake Born.

I met Lucy Penner, of Lowe Farm, very late in 1986, and we were married on February 22, 1990. We each brought a child into our marriage: Kyle Even Bradley, (August 20, 1985) and Trista Marie (November 28, 1985). We have since been blessed with two more boys, Harlen David Joseph (June 3, 1991) and Nolan Stephen Cole (March 16, 1995). Our lives are very full these days, with music and hockey lessons, and all the school and church activities.

Lucy worked at the Morris Hospital, in the kitchen, and continued to work there after our marriage. When Harlen was born, Lucy took time off and Kyle enjoyed having her at home so much that she was not encouraged to go back, so after much deliberation, Lucy decided to



*The farm of Steve and Lucy Hildebrand,
1991 (formerly the Davidson and Fredricksen farm).*

stay at home with our boys.

We attend the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm, and enjoy the company of good friends and fellow believers there. Other activities include motorcycles, ATV's, and all the things that farm kids get to do. I own a special interest car, a convertible, that we enjoy as much as time permits in summer. In winter we go away as family on weekend snowmobile trips, these are much enjoyed by all, and serve as a healthy family activity. We also have been able to go on a number of larger trips, which have been enjoyed very much.

As far as the farm goes, Dad and I are still farming together, with my boys starting to help along. Kyle, Trista, and Harlen do chores at Dad's place, and Kyle has started doing fieldwork. Farming these days is challenging, and alternately frustrating and rewarding. I suppose that much has not changed since Mom and Dad started in 1960. One major change for us occurred this last year when we transferred our layer quota to a shareholder barn at Dufrost. Chores, which have been a way of life for us will eventually be over.

God has been good to us, and we are grateful for all the blessings He has bestowed on us.

ABE J. & NETTIE (Born) HYDE *by Cameron, Lenore and Janice*



The Hyde farm, 1954.

Abe J. Hyde (1901-1982), our Dad, was born and raised on a farm at Horndean, Manitoba.

In 1922 he married Nettie Born (1905-1982), our Mom, and shortly thereafter they purchased and moved to a farm one mile east of Kane at NE 31-4-2W in the Morris Municipality.

It was at Kane that their four children were born, raised, and educated. They were Cameron (1924-), Cleona (1928-1994), Lenore (1933-), and Janice (1938-).

Farm life brought with it many interesting adventures. "The Pig Killing Bee" was held in the winter with the help of neighbours. Lots of water had to be boiled, fires started under the big vats used for rendering the lard, intestines had to be scraped, cleaned and salted for the making of sausage. Hams, bacon and spare ribs were also the result of this event. The helpers pay for the day was a gift of fresh meat.

Every spring the farm was flooded up to a depth of three feet in low-lying areas. These floodwaters would sweep with them the straw, weeds and flotsam that were deposited on our land, and had to be burned or removed before spring work could begin. Sometimes a cold spell would hit at the height of the flood and the resulting coat of ice would permit a person to skate for miles in any direction. On one such frosty day, a cousin, Henry Heide, skated from his home in Lowe Farm to our farm, a distance of about ten miles return.

Horses played a very important part in early farm days. In fact, when Dad and Mom got married, a wedding gift from his parents was a young horse named "Lady". She served the family well for over twenty years. Another particular horse named "Prince" comes to mind. He was a beautiful and sleek looking horse and for this reason Dad liked him for pulling the family buggy to church. Frequently following the service the family would pile into the buggy only to find that Prince was in one of his balky moods. Failing to get Prince to move, Dad would get out of the buggy and try to pull Prince along by tugging on the bridle while some of the congregation would amusedly stand around to watch and see what would happen next. Suddenly, without warning, the