



*Abe and Nettie Hyde's 50th Anniversary, 1972. Back row: Glenn, Daryl and Robert White, Dale Greening. Center row: John and Janice Schellenberg, Russell and Lenore Greening, Clare and Cameron Hyde, Cleona and Tom White. Front row: Nettie (Mom), Bradley and Michael Schellenberg, Janine White, Abe (Dad).*

horse would take off at top speed leaving Dad to run as though demons were chasing him, to catch up and climb laboriously onto the back of the buggy, while Mom was desperately pulling on the reins in an endeavor to slow Prince down.

All the Hyde children received their education at the Kane Consolidated School. Children were transported to school in vans, which were on wheels in summer and placed on sleighs in winter. These vans were horse drawn in the early years. In the wintertime foot warmers filled with glowing coal briquettes were placed in the vans so that the children's feet could be kept warm. Another hazard was the ever-present danger of the van upsetting in the wintertime. The children would have to crawl out and help the driver right the van in order to continue on their way. In later years roads improved, vans became obsolete and cars took their place.

At various times Dad served as a Director, and also as Chairman of the Kane School Board of Trustees. He also

drove a school van for several years. In addition, he found himself involved with the Kane Sunday School and Church.

In 1966, Mom and Dad sold the farm to Norman Blatz and auctioned off the farm equipment. Dad and Mom farmed at Kane for a total of 44 years, retiring to Morden, Manitoba in 1967, where they lived for the next fifteen years until they both passed away in 1982.

In Dad's retirement years he kept a diary of the events of the day and closed each daily entry with these words, "I thank the Lord for grace for the day. Amen." Prior to Mom's passing she penned a few lines that were discovered later and perhaps left as a legacy to her children. "We pray to our Father in heaven, but all three, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hear our prayers. Jesus, we thank you for giving your life for our sins. Holy Spirit, we thank you for living in us, directing our lives."

Cameron married Clare Kran of Morris, Manitoba in 1946. They resided briefly at Lac du Bonnet where Cam worked as Station Agent for Canadian Pacific Air Lines until

they moved to Vancouver on the west coast in 1947. Presently they live in retirement in Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island. Cam's career was in Accounting and Credit management.

Cleona married Tom White, also of Kane in 1948. Cleona worked for the T. Eaton company for many years. Tom's career was in accounting. They resided in Winnipeg and raised a family of four, three sons and one daughter. Robert, the oldest remained single. Daryl, Glenn and Janine married and each have two children. Daryl and his family reside in Calgary, and the other children live in Winnipeg. Cleona passed away in 1994, as the result of a long bout with cancer.

Lenore married Russell Greening of Lowe Farm, Manitoba in 1951. They lived in Winnipeg where Lenore worked for the Provincial Government until 1965, at which time they moved to Edmonton, Alberta. Lenore continued her career in Edmonton until she retired in 1993. Russell's career was in Sales and Management and he retired in 1997. They had one son, Dale, who died at age 30 as the result of a swimming accident. He left a wife and two small children.

Janice married John Schellenberg of Niverville, Manitoba in 1956. They lived in Winnipeg where Janice worked for the Provincial Government until 1963, at which time they moved to Red Deer, Alberta. In 1974, they moved to Sherwood Park, Alberta where Janice continued her career until her retirement in 1994. John's career was in Sales and Management and he also retired in 1994. They raised two sons Michael and Bradley. Michael, his wife and two children reside in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Bradley, his wife and four children reside in Grande Cache, Alberta.

**Recollections by Cameron:** On the farmyard, we had a couple of small granaries, which we referred to as "bins". They would be the size of a small bedroom. In springtime, following the seeding when the bins were emptied, I was allowed to select one of them for my own personal use. After I scrubbed and cleaned it, it would become my bedroom and house a steamer trunk, my bookcase which I had built at the woodworking class in school, a horse blanket for a mattress, a quilt and pillow, along with my other sparse possessions. This was my private domain, greatly treasured, but constantly invaded by my younger sisters when I was not around, in order to read my books or go through my personal possessions.

A good bike in those days cost approximately eighteen dollars at Eaton's - I know because they had them in their catalogue. For years I had been saving my pennies and nickels to buy one. As I was nearing my goal, I lost my wallet containing about half of my savings. Weeks of searching brought no results. I was so depressed that I decided to spend what remained. The following spring I came across a pair of old trousers - Lo and Behold - there in one of the back pockets was my missing wallet. Needless to add, that was one of the earliest tragedies that I can re-

member, because I never did get to own a bike until I was in my early sixties.

**Recollections by Lenore:** I remember Mom sitting on the floor in front of the old washstand, taking down her braids that she wore in a bun, and thinning her hair which was waist length. I would always sit beside her, fascinated by the procedure. Dad, when sitting in his rocking chair, would let me sit on his lap and allow me to give him weird and wonderful hair-dos.

I recall an occasion when Dad personally told me about buying a dinner set for Mom for Christmas. He decided to hide it under some straw in the barn. Unfortunately, some time during the night the horse broke out of its stall, tramping and breaking the entire dinner set as a consequence. Dad had to take another hog to market in order to replace the broken dishes. This really hurt because things were so tight financially.

We had three rows of trees behind the house that Mom had planted. She kept the soil under the trees hoed at all times. This is where my sister Janice and I spent many hours building roads and bridges, including spillways in the roads - all of it accomplished with soil and bricks. We had zilch for toys, especially boy's toys, but we did have a rusty old toy truck that we used in our play. It was minus the wheels, but served the purpose. In wintertime, Mom generously allowed us to remove the sewing machine drawers and use them to make houses for our paper dolls, which we cut from the Eaton's catalogue.

Happy memories - Mr. Blatz picking up the village kids to come pick the mustard weeds out of his grain fields. This never seemed like work - we all had such a great time and to top it all off - we got twenty-five cents an hour for our labours!!!

**Recollections by Janice:** There was the Christmas that my sister Lenore received a "Wettums doll" as a gift and which she prized so dearly. I was possibly three years old at the time. I recall being put to bed in my crib in the bedroom before the rest of the family retired for the night. I spotted that darling doll on top of the dresser that just so happened to be located adjacent to my crib. It intrigued me to the extent that I dared to reach out for it because I dearly longed to hold it for just a little while. I DROPPED IT!! The head on the doll shattered into several pieces and Lenore was shattered too, when she found out what had happened to her treasured doll and remained devastated for days.

On the eve of my wedding, Cam, Mom and I went to pick up the beautiful, ornate and fragile wedding cake, that had been made by a relative. It had been raining for days and the country roads were now muddy and slippery. Cam was driving while Mom sat next to him holding the cake. It took a lot of maneuvering to keep the car on the crown of the slippery road. Success was in sight, only our farm lane to negotiate and the cake would be safe. *Near tragedy struck!* As Cam went to turn onto the lane,

the right front wheel suddenly preferred the ditch and the car started to tilt with Mom screaming—"the cake!" Dad spotting our predicament from the farmyard, immediately readied a team of horses, pulled us onto the roadway and back to the house. A subsequent careful inspection showed that all was not lost. A bit of TCL restored the cake and it looked perfect to everyone except those who knew what had happened.

**HENRY & ANNA (Thiessen) KEHLER**  
*by Elma (Kehler) Ginter*



*The Henry Kehler farm in 1961.*

Henry and Anna were married November 28, 1935. They ran a small mixed farm 2½ miles east and two miles south of Kane. Henry also drove the school bus (van) for about nine years. It was about that time he fell ill with diabetes and passed away at age 53. That left Anna a widow at age 44. Together they had five children: one son Jake, and four daughters, Nettie, Martha, Elma and Dorothy.

After Henry's death in September, 1959, Anna and family moved to Winkler where she and Elma and Martha worked in the Sewing Factory for many years while Jake drove truck for Percy Enns, and Dorothy continued school.

In 1966, Anna met and married Jake Wiebe from British Columbia where she moved to. That union was cut short when Jake had a stroke and died in June, 1968. That left Anna a widow again. She then moved back to Manitoba.

In 1971, she married Jake Hiebert. That union was also cut short when Jake suffered a heart attack, and again she was a widow in November, 1983.

Henry and Anna's children: Nettie married Jake Klassen of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and they had four children; three girls, Charlotte (and Norm) Friesen who had five boys (the first boy died at age five); Elfrieda (and Neil) Fensko and they had two boys and one girl; Elvina (and Dave) Waind who had one son. Son Sheldon (and Leanne) Klassen have three boys and one girl. Nettie passed away in September, 1971.

Martha and Harry Penner live in Sanford, Manitoba.



*Mrs. Anna (Kehler) Hiebert and family, (l-r): Martha, Jake, Elma, Dorothy, 1996. Nettie passed away in 1971.*

They have two boys: Ken (and Lori) Penner have one son; one daughter Yvonne Penner, and Richard Penner at home.

Elma and Abe Ginter live in Winkler. They have one daughter Annette (and Darryl) Ginter/Pillipow, and they have one daughter.

Jake Kehler lives in Winnipeg with son Joel Kehler.

Dorothy and Dave Hildebrand live in Winnipeg. They have one son Colin and one daughter Cherryl at home.

**JOHN & EDNA (Neufeld) KEHLER**  
*by John and Edna Kehler*



*John and Edna Kehler on their 25th Anniversary in 1981. (l-r): Murray, Edna, Clara, John, Jim and Phyllis.*



John married Edna Neufeld (of Sewell area) south-east of Lowe Farm in 1956. We lived initially in the Kane area for a little while. We then moved around for a while as John worked on heavy construction equipment such as cranes, draglines and backhoes. We lived briefly in Calgary in 1963, and moved back to Manitoba in 1964. John then took an auctioneering course in Masen City, Iowa, and has been in the auction business for over thirty years. We settled down at Kane SE 31-4-2W, and later purchased the farm where we still reside and have for over thirty years. We operated an aerial spray service for some time along with our farming and auction business.



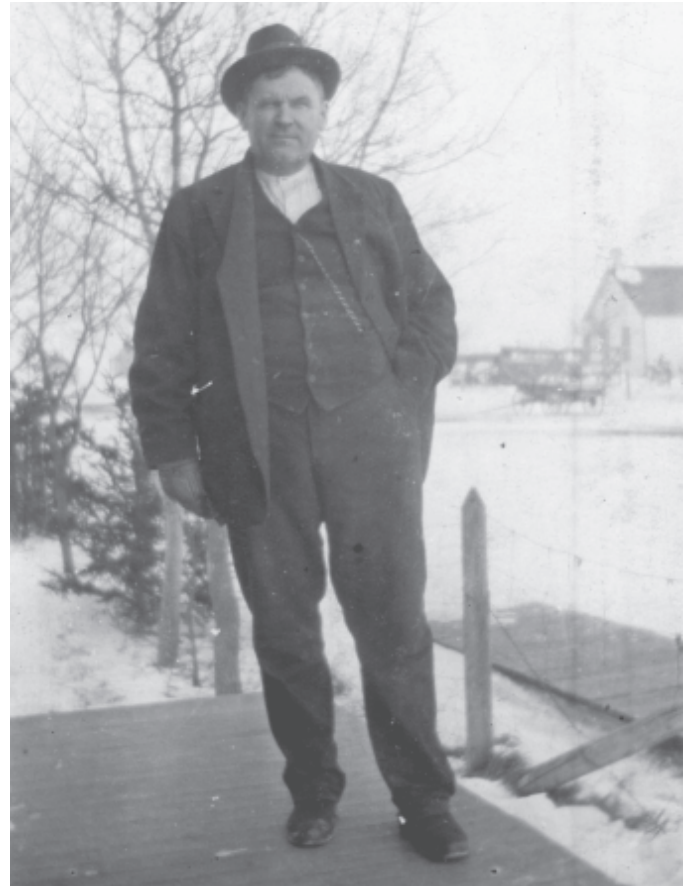
*John and Edna Kebler and family, 1999. Jim and Phyllis Kebler and sons on the left, Terry and Clara Reimer and daughters on the right.*

We were blessed with three children; James Alan, Murray John and Clara Fay. Sadly M. J. passed away in 1988, and caused us to sorrow deeply, but the Lord sustained us through this time. James is married to Phyllis (Brandt) and they have two sons; Matthew and Braden. They live in St. Vital. Clara married Terry Reimer of Morris and they have three girls; Stephanie, Lindsay and Jennifer.

Our yard at Kane, possibly one of the oldest in the area, was homesteaded perhaps 100 or so years ago, but has presently had all buildings replaced from what they were.

John's family, two brothers and two sisters, grew up 1¾ miles west of Kane with parents Cornie and Margaret Kehler. Dad Kehler passed away in 1996, and presently Mom is in the Morris Lodge at the age of 85. They had been retired to Morden for nearly twenty years. Edna's parents, Abram and Nettie Neufeld, both passed away in 1994, having resided in Winkler for many years.

**THOMAS & MARY (Cook) KIRK  
CLIFF & MARION (Wilson) KIRK**  
*by Donna (Kirk) Freedman and Tom Kirk*



*Thomas Kirk.*

Thomas Kirk homesteaded the family farm at Kane. His father had also homesteaded near Kincardine, Ontario, after immigrating from Perth, Scotland. In 1883, Thomas became the first in his family to come to western Canada, in search of new opportunities.

The Kirk farm was located at NW 36-4-3W. Tom was prepared for the hardships of farming as he had helped his father on the Kirk farms in Ontario, however he was now alone and faced the awesome tasks of all homesteaders of building a shelter and breaking ground. He built a sod house and staked the land the first year, thus establishing his claim to the Kane homestead.

Tom married Mary Cook in 1900. The Cook family also homesteaded at Kane in the 1880's, having moved there from South Dakota, USA. Tom and Mary had a family of eight children. Tom built a small house at Kane and a large barn for horses and cattle. Eventually he moved his family to Myrtle, Manitoba, although Tom maintained an interest in the Kane community. He was on the school board of Kane Consolidated School in its early years and served as chair for a number of those years. He owned the stores at Kane and Myrtle. Tom and Mary are buried at Myrtle Cemetery.



*The Cliff Kirk farm during spring flood.*

After Tom's death Cliff Kirk took over the family farm. He married Marion Wilson from Sperling, Manitoba, and they had two children, Donna and Thomas (Tom). Cliff was a hardworking farmer and due to his efforts the farm prospered. He planted many trees around the house, and eventually built a new home, using lumber from the old barn that had been built by his father. Marion was a great homemaker and everyone was welcome to drop in. Our early memories are of Mom cooking big dinners, and baking buns, cookies and cakes - all of which would disappear with the constant stream of company.

Donna and Tom attended the old Kane Consolidated School. Tom, like his father, loved baseball. He played on local teams and at school. Tom also played hockey. In those years there was an outdoor rink on the school yard and boys would play hockey at recess and girls would skate while the hockey games were going on! Other school memories are of going to school, on snowy winter days, in a horse drawn van. Each of these horse drawn vans had



*Cliff Kirk giving some assistance to the van.*

a small stove that we would stoke-up, amazingly no one was burned. Donna participated in the local 4-H club for young girls.

Marion and Cliff retired to Winnipeg. Cliff died on February 17, 1997. Marion lives in a seniors' apartment in Winnipeg and is close to her children and grandchildren.

Tom is a lawyer and married Mary Tongen from St. Paul, Minnesota. They live in Winnipeg. Their two children are Sarah and Molly.

Donna lives in Victoria, British Columbia. She is a nurse with the federal government. She is married to Hy Freedman and has two children from her first marriage - Kirk Stinchcombe and Tim Stinchcombe.

## **REV. ISAAC G. & NETTIE (Hoepfner) KRAHN**

*by John Krahn*



*The Krahn family, 1959. Harold, Rev Isaac Krahn, Margaret, Nettie (Mom), Mary-Ann.*

I became aware of the hamlet of Kane when I was in Grade IX in the Winkler High School. One of my five teachers, a Mr. Siemens had taught at Kane and also owned property at Kane. When I heard the name Kane at school, I asked a classmate, "Where is that?" I was aware of Roland and Morris, but didn't know that a strange place known as Kane existed about halfway between the two. For us Morris was on the main highway on the infrequent trips we made to Winnipeg; while the Roland Municipality was where my Grandfather (George D. or Gerhard) had pioneered and my Father had grown up. Little did I realize then, that within a year Kane would be my hometown!

In Winkler Dad (Reverend Isaac G. Krahn) had been a business man as well as a lay preacher in the fast growing Berghaler Church, while Mother (Nettie, nee Hoepfner) looked after the family's needs. The church responsibilities were great and time demanding while the business also required attention six days per week. The thinking seemed to be that if Dad could get involved in a smaller church and if he farmed he would have time to study during the winter months and would be able to do a more

adequate job of looking after a church. At the same time Dad seemed to have a yearning to get back into agricultural pursuits and finish raising his family in the country rather than in town. My older sister Eva had already left home to work in the far off place of St. Catherines, Ontario. After a few years there she married a man by the name of Henry Abrahams. Dad could see that in a few short years I might be entering the job market as well and I still didn't know much about farming. However, I had two younger brothers and two younger sisters who could still receive the full benefit of growing up in a rural area.

As I was entering the final term of Grade IX (Easter to June) Dad was busy negotiating the purchase of a small parcel of land at Kane and discussing the formation of a Bergthaler Church in the area. The church was soon organized and services were begun in the Kane Consolidated School. Dad had been engaged as its Pastor. At the same time the land had been purchased and Dad went to Kane every day to seed his crop. I eagerly went along on Saturdays and holidays to take part in the excitement of the farm. On Sundays the whole family went to church at Kane. Services were held in the local school. That is where I first started singing in a church choir. Dad conducted it. There was considerable interest and enthusiasm and quite a large group of participants for a small organization.

When school recessed for the summer we moved to Kane (SW 6-5-2W). What had been a little out of the way hamlet became home in the summer of 1951. That fall David and Mary-Ann started school in a new school (to them), namely in the Kane Consolidated School. I had been asked to stay home to help with the farm work.

I probably hadn't been too enthusiastic about school at this time and therefore fairly easily persuaded to stay at home. Somehow I seemed to sense though, that this wouldn't be a permanent situation. A year later I went to Bible School in Altona. The Bible School term was about five months long which fit in very well with students involved in farming in the spring, summer, and fall.

After about a year of using the Kane School building for church services, a church building was purchased and moved to Kane. For the older folk this was a big improvement. They didn't have to sit in student's desks anymore during the services. The choir had its own section to sit in, and in general there was more room. After the choir had been in existence for a while we also organized a male quartet. It consisted of Dave Giesbrecht, first tenor; Ed L. Braun, second tenor, Dad Krahn, low bass; and myself, baritone. Mrs. Dave Giesbrecht provided the piano accompaniment. We practiced quite regularly for two or three years. Both I and later Mary-Ann were baptized in that church.

The new church had been moved right onto a corner of our farmland, adjacent to the west side of town. Kane now had two churches. Most of the town, which included the school, a repair garage, the store, which also housed the post office, and a few residences besides the two teacherages as well as the other church, was also located

on the same quarter section as our farm. The two elevators and oil storage shed were located on the south side of the highway, next to the C.N. Railroad.

The decade of the 50's was a great time to live at Kane. We took cans of cream and crates of eggs to the railroad station to be shipped to market. A return cheque always came in the mail. In fall my sister shipped baskets of grapes to us which we picked up at the station. During our second summer at Kane, Eva, her husband, and three little girls (their family at the time - they later had a total of seven children), came to visit us. We were experiencing a period of rainy weather at the time which brought out a very unique aspect of the Kane area, namely its gumbo soil (heavy clay). They got quite a reception. Coming from an eastern urban area, the muddy gravel road (#23 Highway wasn't paved until we moved away) from Morris provided a strange experience. Then came the quarter of a mile of dirt road when they turned off the highway towards our farmyard. Anybody who has lived at Kane knows the the gumbo can get both slippery and sticky. We had been notified (we did have telephones though usually about six families shared a line called a 'party line') as to when to expect their arrival and were watching for them to come around the corner. They hadn't come down the dirt road more than a hundred meters (yards in those days) when the car slid off the road. I was expecting to be told to get the farm tractor and go for them, but this easterner knew what to do. He put his Oldsmobile in low gear and came roaring down the ditch beside the road. The only problem was the car engine overheated and he came into the yard in a cloud of steam. We concluded that this man from an eastern General Motors factory was quite a driver - not such a city man after all.

Things could have been worse for him however. His car wheels could have rolled up with mud to the point where he couldn't drive. Yes, I told him about times when even the tractor wheels were rolled up and the space between the wheels and the fenders plugged with mud so you couldn't drive. Then you waited for a nice sunny day and for the mud to dry so you could pick it out with a crowbar. We also told him that many of the school vans were Model A cars and occasionally drivers had to put special sets of chains around the wheels for extra traction. This was not only for mud, but also snow. Then we told him that several of the school van drivers also had a horse drawn covered wagon and a team of horses to use when things really got bad, of course in blizzardy weather there was also the option of not going at all.

The trend toward larger farms supporting fewer families had already begun. Families were moving to larger centers and some small towns were becoming smaller. The closing of the railroad station was the first evidence of the move to urban centers and substantial changes in the mode of transportation. The church on the east side of town was the next to close its doors (was moved to Lowe Farm in the spring of 1954) and though we weren't conscious of the fact at that time, the Bergthaler Church too was



destined to cease operation within the next decade, which would soon be followed by the closing of the High School section of the Kane School and finally the whole school. Isn't it strange that consolidation at one time brought more students to Kane whereas at a later point in time further consolidation took them all away.

Before the town was eroded too far, I took advantage of the educational opportunities offered at Kane at that time. Two winters of studying at Elim Bible School had opened my eyes to the need of more secular education. I enrolled in Grade XI in the old brick building that bore the inscription above its main door. "Kane School-1920". I had received special permission from the Minister of Education to skip Grade X because of the two years of Bible School training that I had. Since Bible School had not taught Mathematics, I was asked however, to finish the Grade X Mathematics course before beginning the Grade XI component. The Rose Farm School was already downsizing. They sent the only Grade XI student they had to Kane. With him we were four Grade XI students who graduated with a junior matriculation diploma the following spring. Grade XI was the top grade that Kane Consolidated offered, and the whole High School Department of the school was housed in one room in the basement, whereas the eight elementary grades were housed in two rooms on the main floor. Two of the teachers were married and lived in teacherages while a third single teacher boarded with a family in the community. For a time in fact she boarded at our place.

After that year of studying at the Kane School, I finished the third and final year of the Bible School Diploma course started earlier, before going on to study for my senior matriculation certificate at the Mennonite Collegiate Institute, in Gretna, and starting a degree program at the University of Manitoba.

It was just before I embarked on that Grade XII year at the MCI, that my brother David died on the school yard at Kane. For him school had started about two weeks earlier than for me. He had just started Grade IX when one fine noon hour while playing football he fell to the ground. The staff was summoned, but all efforts to revive him failed. I was on my way from Vancouver to Winnipeg, at the time; finishing my last trip of the season as a sleeping car porter for the Canadian National Railway. When I got to my boarding place that day I received the news of my brother's death. That was a traumatic experience not only for our family, but for the whole school; a mystery, as an autopsy on his body did not reveal any particular failures or malfunctions. The prevailing theory at the time was that David had choked on some food particles, since the incident happened very shortly after he had eaten lunch. Despite the almost immediate attention of two staff members, he could not be revived. Whatever could have choked him was not apparent to the doctor doing the post-mortem examination. Our family was able to find solace in the knowledge that David had had a very clearly expressed dependency on Jesus Christ as his Saviour from sin and

that indeed all our lives were daily in the hands of God.

Our family did not become longtime residents of Kane. After a little more than a decade the small farm didn't seem adequate to meet the needs of the family amidst rising economic pressures, although the family was decreasing in size. I had married and moved to Winnipeg while Mary-Ann was also in Winnipeg, in nurses training. Harold was still attending the Kane School. My youngest sister, Margaret, did not attend school in Kane. When she reached school age she was transported daily to a special needs school in Winkler as she had been born with a malady known as Down's Syndrome.

Beside these economic pressures the Bergthaler Church's membership too, seemed to be dwindling. As young people grew up they moved elsewhere, for employment reasons. As a result the family farm was sold, and in 1962 our family relocated to Niverville where Dad had purchased an egg grading station. During our time at Kane many other rural railroad stations had also shut down. This was indicative of the changes in agriculture throughout western Canada. Small diversified farms were giving way to larger specialized farms. The era of shipping a few cans of cream and a few cases of eggs per week was over. Some of the small town egg grading stations were also already seeing a demise as large egg producing farms changed to on farm grading. Dad's new business lasted about five years before it too succumbed to farm specialization. Harold finished his High School in the Niverville Collegiate. My wife Grace and I also moved to Niverville for a year so that she could help Dad in the egg grading station when she wasn't busy teaching piano students while I went to Teachers College (finishing my University degree had to wait).

From Niverville Dad, Mom, and Margaret moved to Goultdown, Saskatchewan where Dad had taken on a church pastorate. Harold had already enrolled in a Bible College in Winnipeg, upon completion of which, he took on a youth pastorate in a large church in Winnipeg. Mary-Ann was a Doctor's receptionist in Steinbach while I and my family had moved to Ilford (north of Thompson) to teach. Margaret had been employed at the Steinbach Kindale Training Centre, but lived with the folks, where she continued to stay nearly all her life. During the family's eleven year stay at Goultdown, she was transported daily to Swift Current to an institution that was similar to what she had been at in Winkler and Steinbach.

When Dad retired he and Mom and Margaret moved to Morden, Manitoba. From here Margaret was again transported daily to the Valley Rehab Centre in Winkler where she worked until a week before she died, which was in the spring of 1993. When the folks had to move to a Personal Care Home, in the later part of the 80's, Margaret was placed in a group home for mentally challenged people, in Winkler. Mother died in June of 1990, while Dad followed her in 1994, to be with the Lord God whom they had so diligently served in churches in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

At the time of the preparation of this book, Harold is serving as a Chaplain in the Correction Institutions of British Columbia. He lives in Abbotsford. He and his wife Carolyn, (nee Hiebert) who originally came from Herbert, the neighbouring town to Goultown, have two married sons and a third unmarried son who is serving as a carpenter's apprentice.

From Steinbach Mary-Ann had moved to Winnipeg to take a position in a hospital. While here she married Gerald T. Russell, a widower, and helped him raise two daughters, who are both married and live in British Columbia. When she wants to baby-sit any of her five grandchildren she has to fly to Vancouver. She has left the nursing profession and is working as a legal secretary while her husband is retired from his lifelong accounting job with the CNR.

I have retired from teaching and Grace and I are very involved in the Steinbach MCC Thrift Store in managerial capacities. While I was teaching at Pembina Valley Hutterite Colony I became involved with Winkler Bible Camp and its daughter camp, Pembina Valley Camp. During the late 70's and 80's I raised horses for the camp program and ran the camp Horsemanship Program during the summers. I still raise a few horses for Pembina Camp each year and bring a few more, to my hobby farm near Steinbach, to feed during the winter. Our three children are all married. They all live within forty minutes of us and we baby-sit with all our five grandchildren.

Despite our farming experiences at Kane none of us Krahn children went into farming. I got the closest. I started hobby farming when I was about halfway through my teaching career. I started with bees and purebred Morgan horses. I have also raised broilers, geese and sweet corn. At the moment I'm down to only a few horses (of my own) and about twenty acres of sweet corn.

## GEORGE MILLER

*by Dora Hildebrand with information from Furrows in the Valley*

George Miller came to Manitoba from Ontario and bought section 5-5-2W in 1912. This property had been purchased in 1903 by his cousin, George Davidson,

who also broke the land. George Davidson came to Manitoba from Ashern, Ontario together with Jim Miller, a nephew of George Miller. George Miller named his new home, *Whiteball Farm*.

Mrs. George Miller says, "By the time I got there in 1916, the house, barn and implement shed had been built. It was a great challenge to me, making a home and cooking for men. Having nursed, I had little experience, but trying to be wise I struggled on, and soon got used to western ways. I'm sure I could think of many funny experiences especially being stuck in the mud and facing blizzards."



*Whiteball Farm: home of the George Millers.*

Margaret Heinrichs (later to become Mrs. Eddie H. Groening), a young girl of sixteen, was rather apprehensive about working for these "English" people, the George Millers, when she arrived there in 1939. Mrs. Miller was very particular about the housework, and Margaret says that when she had finished washing the big kitchen floor, her employer had tested her work by wiping a white cloth over the floor. Mrs. Miller was also very involved with the "war effort" and everything possible was done to save material for the country.

Margaret was in the process of joining the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church at this time and arrangements were made that the Miller's most trusted hired man would take her to church on Sunday mornings. There were also a few times when she went along with the Millers to the Kane School where the United Church minister, Rev. Peden, held services. One Sunday night Margaret had given the invitation to the Millers to come to the concert by the Melba Choir in the Kane School. Mrs. Miller and one of the hired men (likely the driver) came to hear Margaret and her choir sing. Mrs. Miller had been quite impressed, especially with the well dressed choir master.

The Millers never did have a family, but thoroughly enjoyed their animals allowing their pet dog the run of the house, and a spot at the foot of his master's bed at night time.

Mr. Miller was a very good farmer and he handpicked the whole section for weeds like wild mustard with the help of his two hired men.

The Millers were getting on in years and their desire was to go back to Ontario for their retirement. So Mr. Miller, when looking for a prospective buyer for his property, ended up at the home of Mr. Frank G. Blatz, then living southwest of Kane. A verbal agreement was made at the time and legal papers were made much later. Blatz's second oldest son went over and started plowing at the new farm in the fall of 1943. The Millers moved to Toronto and the Blatz family moved in at *Whiteball Farm*.

Mr. Miller still had grain to sell and owned a granary full of flax that had been there since World War I without being sold because "the price



wasn't right"! He came back in 1944, stayed his nights at the Morris hotel, and went to his former farm to look after the business of selling the grain. To his dismay the flax was hard, and he believed it was all spoiled! Mr. Blatz dug around a bit and found out that only the top crust was ruined. Mr. Miller hired the two older Blatz boys to shovel the grain and it was hauled out by Eric Trinder from Lowe Farm. This time the "price was right".

**JAMES & ALICE (Wilson) NEILES**  
*from Living Gold (R.M. of Roland)*

James Neiles was born in Ireland, and came to Canada in 1885, and settled in Aurora, Ontario where he met Alice Wilson, from Chorley, England. They were married in 1894, and took over the hotel in Aurora until 1898. Through correspondence with Mrs. Rogerson, James and Alice Neiles decided to sell the hotel, and move to the Rural Municipality of Roland, in Manitoba. They bought the east half of 3-5-3W, a C.P.R. section, two miles west of Kane. Mr. Neiles broke the land and built a small house and barn. A well was drilled over 100 feet deep in the middle of the yard in 1900. When water was struck, it came up so fast it sprayed all over and soon had a small lake which remained for some time. A pump had to be kept running to keep the water eight feet below the surface, where it has remained steady for one hundred years. (It was last used in 1993 by the present owners, Jake and Helen Penner. They discontinued the use because the water was too hard.)

The Neiles family patronized the garage and fuel business at Kane regularly, and were friendly neighbours to the west.

Their family: Jim, born in Ontario, attended Woodvale (across the road to the east) and Myrtle Schools, died of the flu in 1918; Irvin, born in Ontario, farmed at Riding Mountain, retired to Winnipeg; Evelyn, Mrs. Don Odonovan, lived in Kansas City; Fred, took over the farm after his father's death in 1921. He bought land at Carman, later, retired to Winnipeg; Alice, Mrs. Amil Gorice, lived in Winnipeg; Bill and Elsie, remained on the farm

and cared for their mother, who passed away in 1961; Eddie went to Winnipeg where he worked for Air Canada. In 1964, he married Betty Binnie. Bill and Elsie moved to Morden in 1970, selling the farm in 1972. Elsie died in 1974. Bill died in the late 90's. Eddie, was the last to pass away of that generation of the Neiles family, and he died in 1999.

**GEORGE & AGATHA NEUFELD**  
*by Agatha Neufeld*



*The 25th Anniversary of George and Agatha Neufeld with Judy and Henry Froese, Gina, and grandson Douglas Froese.*



*The George Neufeld home at Kane, 1946.*

George enlisted and served in Holland with the Medical Corps.

We were married in 1946 and moved to the Kane area. Judy arrived in '47 and Gina in '48.

We purchased the NE quarter of 26-4-3 from Frank G. and Mary Blatz.

We were not very active in the community. I was a member of the Kane Mission Sisters. The highlight every year was the Mission Sale with the proceeds going to Missions.

Gina and Judy were baptized in the Kane Bergthaler Church.

Gina is employed at the Forces base in Winnipeg. Judy is with Muscular Dystrophy, also in Winnipeg.

Due to George's ill health we retired in 1977 and moved to Morris, Manitoba. George passed away in April, 1991.

**BERNARD G. & AGATHA PENNER  
BEN & MINNIE (Bergman) PENNER  
by Valerie (Penner) Klassen**



*The Ben Penner family, 1997.*

*Back row: Wes Klassen, Ben (Dad), Michael, Erin and Barrie Rose.*

*Front row: Lori Penner, Val Klassen with Bryan, Minnie (Mom),  
Stacey and Connie Rose.*

Bernard G. Penner, his wife Agatha and their young family had begun farming in the Rudnerweide area (just west of Altona). In their search for cheaper land, they chose to move to a small farm in the Rose Farm district, located at SW 4-4-2W, in 1927. Although the little farm in Rose Farm had only a barn and a small two room house, they saw a great deal of potential.

Times were tough during the depression and had it not been for a government provision, they would have lost their farm to creditors. With hard work and perseverance, they managed, and the farm began to grow. An addition was built onto the house as more children arrived in the family. The large garden and fruit trees provided a plentiful harvest, and chickens, pigs and dairy cows provided essential table food. Granaries and a machine shed were also erected.

Church involvement was of utmost importance to the Penner family. Bernhard served many years as Sunday School Superintendent at the Rose Farm EMMC. The young peoples groups and sewing circle also provided entertainment. All of the children attended the Rose Farm School, some completing their education, others leaving earlier to help manage the

farm.

Bernhard and Agatha retired to Altona in 1966, and left son Ben to manage the home farm. George, the oldest, married Elizabeth Penner and they settled in Winnipeg, where George worked in a metal foundry for many years. Agatha married Henry Bergen and they farmed in the Crystal City region. Tina married Art Groening and they farmed just north of Rose Farm. Abe married Katherine Heinrichs and they farmed just east of the Rose Farm Church. Neta married Pete Gerbrandt and they farmed near Purvis. Ben married Minnie Bergman and they took over the home farm. Helena married John Bergman; they pastored numerous churches in Manitoba and other areas.

Ben and Minnie chose to stay on the home farm and raised their daughters there. Since the Rose Farm School had closed years earlier, Valerie and Connie began their education in Kane. Ben also drove a car and later a van, to transport area children to the Kane School. Valerie remembers Connie's first day of school, as recess was announced, several of the new students asked what they could do. Miss Penner told them they could go outside to play. One student asked, "anywhere"? "Yes, anywhere," was her response. In the next moment, the entire grade one class was off at a run to the Kane Store to buy candy! Summer picnics were a highlight for Connie, however, at the end of the second grade, she had to miss the picnic due to chicken pox. Connie was delighted when Miss Penner sent home a goody bag for her too. Lori frequently accompanied Dad in the bus to deliver students to and from the Kane School; the school closed before she started and so she began her education in the Lowe Farm School.

As a family, we also enjoyed outings to the ball diamonds in summer to cheer on the Kane Pirates ball team. Winter socials at the Kane School were fun, and Ben was often challenged in his crokinole skills. In 1975, the Rose Farm Church closed and we attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm. After graduating from high school in Morris, the girls all moved off the farm. Connie and Barrie Rose and their three children Erin, Michael and Stacey, reside in Carman. Connie is the Parts Manager at Delaquis

Ford and Barrie is employed at Carmagro. Lori is a Financial Services Officer at the Winkler Credit Union.

The farm has continued to prosper under Ben's management, although Ben and Minnie moved to a newer home in Winkler in February of 1999, in the hopes of "slowing down". Later that summer, oldest daughter Valerie and her husband Wes Klassen and son Bryan moved to the farm (from Winnipeg), and hope to begin management of the farm with Dad pitching in. This marks the third and fourth generation of Penner descendants on this farm!

## **DAN & HELEN (Wiebe) PENNER**

*by Lynne (Penner) Braun*



*The Dan and Helen Penner farmyard.*

Dan Penner and Helen Wiebe were married in 1942. Shortly after their marriage and before they moved to Kane, Dan served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in England - a two year period. During these years Helen taught in Birtle, Manitoba. It was shortly after the war that Dan and Helen Penner moved to the Kane district. The land was purchased with the assistance of the Veterans Land Act. Karl Bartel, a former POW, was employed by the Penners in their early farming days. Helen taught in Kane for a few years shortly after their arrival to the community. In the early 1950's the family decided to build a new house on the farm. During that time, the family now numbering three (their first daughter Georgia was born), lived in the residence on top of the Kane Store. In the next few years two more daughters were born - Lynne and Mona.

In the early years the family attended church in the Kane School. Helen always enjoyed telling the children's story in church. Georgia recalls a Church Christmas concert in 1953, in the school. Her father had just gone to Ontario to pick up their new 1953 black Ford. While on stage with her Sunday School class, her father walked in and Georgia yelled out, "Daddy, did you get the new car," much to the embarrassment of her family.

Other recollections include lively chorus singing led by Mr. Jake Reimer, singing at Jugendvereins, and being stormed in on the New Years' Day church service.

When it was time for Georgia to attend school, Dan and Helen had to provide transportation for their daughter to attend the Kane School. Georgia remembers going to school after a snowstorm with a Ford tractor. Her father had placed a 45 gallon drum on the three point hitch, lined it with

blankets, placed her inside the drum and covered her with blankets. The following years the van service was provided for the girls. When the roads were muddy, the girls remember being picked up by Mr. Ben Wiebe in a "puddle jumper" - an old Model A. Field trips and school picnics were always a highlight in the elementary school days.

Other fond memories include attending the John Deere Days as well as the many trips to the Kane Store where one might get a 5 cent Coke.

There were many winters when Dad went to work in northern Manitoba in order to subsidize the farm income. Helen and the girls would spend winters with their Grandmother in Gretna.

The Penner farm was known for their lovely yard. Both Dan and Helen and the girls took pride in their yard and spent many hours maintaining its park-like beauty. In 1974, Lynne and Ron Braun moved to the family farm and rented the land. The farm was sold in 1976 to a family in Germany, but Lynne and Ron continued to rent it until 1987.

Helen Penner passed away November 1987. Dan Penner passed away October 1989.

Georgia and Gerry Sapinsky are presently teaching in Thompson, Manitoba. They have two children, Jason and Jodi.

Lynne and Ron Braun are living near Morden, where Lynne is teaching and Ron owns and operates a garage. They have two children, Heather and Paul, and one grandchild Alesha.

Mona Penner lives in Redlands, California where she owns and operates a number of businesses. Her son lives in Victoria, British Columbia.

## **DANIEL D. & MARIA PENNER**

**HENRY D. & KATHARINA  
PENNER**

**ED & HANNAH (Brown)  
PENNER**

*by Ed and Hannah Penner*

My grandparents, Daniel D. and Maria Penner moved from the Plum Coulee area into the Rose Farm School District #1577, in the spring of 1918. They brought with them a family of nine children. Granddad had purchased a section of land (7-4-2W)





*The wedding picture of Daniel D. and Maria Penner, 1895.*

from a bachelor farmer, Mr. Jim Brooks.

This move exposed the Penner family, who had only known private schooling, to the public school system. Granddad is said to have favoured the idea, and the younger children, Anna, Anton and Ben, started to attend. However, Aunt Anna's school days were cut short when in the late fall of the same year, Grandmother passed away due to the devastating flu epidemic of 1918, and she had to stay home and help her older sister, Justina, take care of the large family.

Granddad, however, continued his farming career. Feeling it was his responsibility to see that all his children could also become established farmers, he acquired more and more land, until he owned seven quarters which was a large acreage for those days. He retired in 1925, at age 54, and passed away six months later in May of 1926.

My parents, Henry D. and Katharina Penner, took over the Penner estate farm after Grandfather's decease. They struggled through the Depression and prospered in the forties and fifties. They actively supported the Sunday School which was held in the Rose Farm School in the thirties and early forties. They became very involved in the Rose Farm Church when it was constructed in 1937.

Hannah and I attended the Elementary School at Rose Farm adding a few years of High School correspondence. I enjoyed softball and even though Kane was a consolidated district with a bigger pupil enrollment, we, having



*Henry D. and Katharina Penner, 1961.*



*The 50th Anniversary of Ed and Hannah Penner, 1997. Back row: Ken, Carole, Crystal, Cyndy, Curtis.*

the Brown powerhouse on our side (Pete, John and Georgie), would often challenge them to a game which resulted in very entertaining ball.

When my parents moved to Winkler and into semi-retirement, Hannah and I took over the management. The Lord prospered us and we had some very good years. We delivered practically all our cereal grains and flax production to the two elevators at Kane. We also faithfully patronized the Kane fuel and oil business, and bought a considerable amount of farm equipment (John Deere and Versatile), from the good, efficient dealer, Pete Harder. Our spiritual fellowship took place in Rose Farm, but we frequented the Christian fellowship meetings when held in the Kane School, then in the Inter-denominational Church, and later in the Berghaler Church.

Five children were born into our family. Our oldest, Ken, got his elementary and high school education in Rose Farm and Lowe Farm. He continued on to get his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education at the University of Manitoba. Later he also acquired his Master of Education at the same university. He met Els Gerastein in the Netherlands while serving under Youth for Christ. They have been married for 27 years, and have three children: Kirsten, Mark and Toban. Ken, except for a three and a half year absence, has been a teacher all his life.

Our oldest daughter, Carole, took her elementary education in Rose Farm and her high schooling in Lowe Farm and Morris. Following that she had two years at Providence College where she met her husband to be, Gary Pollard, an accomplished trumpet player. Carole attained her ARCT and A. Music in piano performance as well as her licentiate. They live in Winnipeg where they make their living in the field of music. They have two boys who are also very musical: Chad and Dean.

Our third child was a boy, Curtis. He took his kindergarten schooling at Rose Farm, the elementary grades in Kane, Junior High in Lowe Farm and Senior matriculation in Morris. Later he graduated from the University of Manitoba with a diploma course in agriculture. During these years he married Beverly Klassen. Just to prove to his older brother that he could study, he worked hard and obtained the Governor General's Award. Subsequently, he taught as a lab instructor at the university's agricultural division for some time, but his heart was on the farm. When we moved off the farm in 1987, he and Bev with their son Jordan, moved onto it the same day. Thus it is now a fourth generation farm. Later, a daughter Jocelyn, was born. As of today, they work a considerable acreage besides operating a seed plant and accompanying seed sales.

Cynthia, our fourth child, took grades I-IV in Kane, V-IX in Lowe Farm and her high schooling in Morris. She received her B. A. in Pre-Education at Providence College. After that she graduated from the Brandon University with a Bachelor of Education. Here she also met Gareth Brandt from Wawanessa, who later became her husband. Gareth's further education took them to Ontario where he attended the Ontario Theological Seminary. Both par-

ticipated in a youth ministry in a church near Aylmer. Upon his graduation, Gareth took on the position of Youth Pastor at the Braeside E. M.C. in Winnipeg, where they stayed for six years. They became the parents of three children while in Winnipeg: Joel, Adriel and Sarina. Next, they moved to Swift Current where they functioned as deans of the Bible Institute and Gareth did some teaching. After two years the school closed and they moved to Calgary where Gareth is the Conference Youth Minister for the Mennonite Churches of Alberta and the Northwest. Cyndy does a lot of substitute teaching.

Our youngest, Crystal, took her elementary schooling in Lowe Farm and her high schooling in Morris. This was followed with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts at Providence College. Continuing her educational endeavours, she attended the University of Manitoba part-time for some years and finally graduated with a Honours Bachelor of Music Therapy degree from Wilfred Laurier University of Waterloo, Ontario. Presently she is practicing her profession as a therapist in the city of Toronto, as well as teaching voice in the neighbouring city of Burlington.

Now, in retrospect, I am thankful that the good hand of Providence caused my grandparents to make the move to Rose Farm and that it further prompted my parents to purchase the Penner estate after my grandfather's decease. These events directly helped to shape our destiny.

We thoroughly enjoyed our life on the farm. It was a great place to raise a family. We had a good living, usually harvesting good crops. The neighbours were great. Church life was edifying and provided an opportunity to practise our spiritual gifts. We also made many life-long friends during those years. We had numerous beautiful and precious memories of those many years on the farm. It is always a thrill to meet friends from the Rose Farm/Kane/Lowe Farm area. God bless you all!

## **CURTIS & BEVERLY (Klassen) PENNER**

*by Curtis and Beverly Penner*

It was 1979, interest rates were 12.5%, and it was the beginning of a farming career. Curtis purchased his first 80 acres of land, the decision had been made - he would be a farmer.

Curt's working career began in Winkler, first as a welder for New J. Industries, then working in sales and finally being the sales manager for the sunflower attachment and truck box manufacturer. The spring of 1980, with great expectation of farming, brought the end of the sales career in Winkler. However, 1980 was a very, very dry year and the great hopes of starting farming with a good crop were dashed.

Not sure what to do the following winter, Curt opted to attend the University of Manitoba, enrolling in the diploma program of Agriculture. This was a terrific opportunity to meet people from all over the world, and attend classes that concentrated on all aspects of farming as a business. Although Curt had absolutely hated anything



*The Curt Penner family. (l-r) Jocelyn, Bev, Jordan, Curt.*

about school previously, he certainly had a change of attitude when it came to his University classes.

The summer of 1981 brought many changes, the most important occurred on July 19. Curtis married Beverly Klassen, formerly from southeast of Lowe Farm. They were married at the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm and began their life together in their home one mile west of Kane at the Cliff Kirk farm. With Curt still attending the University of Manitoba, and Beverly enrolled at Red River Community College for the Dental Assisting program, it was decided that they would move to Winnipeg for the winter months while attending school. A small apartment just off Pembina Highway, was their home for a few months, just long enough to realize that city living was in neither of their systems, so back to the farm in the spring of 1982.

For the next five years Curt spent his winter months driving to the University, this time not as a student, but as a lab instructor for the Farm Business Management course. Beverly was employed at the Morden Dental Centre for Dr. Dick Goerz and later for Dr. David Goerz. Kane was a central location, and our poor little Honda car practically knew the way on its' own to either Winnipeg or Morden.

Working at the University was a terrific experience for Curt, but being self-employed year around was preferred. We had begun to grow Certified seed in 1980, initially just for our own use, however, what began as a small attempt to diversify became a real interest. In the fall of 1988, a decision was made to purchase seed cleaning equipment and to set up a seed cleaning facility on the Penner farm. This too was purchased with the sole purpose of cleaning our own seed. However, we began to realize that there seemed to be a need for this kind of service in our area and what began with a poster on the hydro pole in front of the Kane Store, "Cleaning Wheat - call 829-3556", was

the beginning of *Pedigreed by Penner*.

August 22, 1986 was an exciting day for us. It was the day we became parents for the first time. Jordan Daniel was born. When Jordan was three months old, Bev was given an opportunity to continue assisting in Morden a few days a week at the Dental Centre, so now all three of us were on the road during that winter with Curt still teaching at the University.



*Pedigreed by Penner seed plots.*

The following summer Curt's parents, Ed and Hannah Penner, decided to build a house in Winkler. Curt, Bev and Jordan moved to the "home place", four miles south of Kane in the fall of 1987. With the seed plant in full operation, and Curt, finding it difficult to continue working at the University as well as running the plant, it was decided that he would give up the University position.

July 17, 1989 brought another change to our home. We had a baby girl. Jocelyn Sara Rae was born. Bev enjoyed another summer off with a new baby, but was back to working two days a week in Morden that winter.

Curt continued to supplement the farm and seed plant with picking up various jobs throughout the fall and winter months. He worked for Manitoba Crop Insurance, hauled beets during the fall for many years, he taught computer courses as well as Farm Business Management courses throughout Southern Manitoba, and he was a representative for SeCan at farm trade shows.

Over the years, with the family growing, the farm growing, and the business growing, it was getting more difficult to continue working off the farm. So it was decided that Bev would give up her position in Morden and take over the bookkeeping responsibilities for the business and the farm. Curt no longer has the time for the winter jobs, he is kept busy enough on the farm and with the seed business. We currently have one employee year around as well as the help from Curt's Dad.

Curt and Bev have both enjoyed being involved in the community over the years. By playing on sports teams, teaching clubs, working with DVBS, on the Home and School Association, youth leaders, Sunday School teacher



and various other positions at the Emmanuel Gospel Church.

Currently Jordan is thirteen and in grade 8 at Lowe Farm School. He enjoys driving his first acquisition, his motorbike, as well as anything else with a steering wheel. He enjoys being on the field as long as he's driving something. Jocelyn is ten and in grade 5 at Lowe Farm as well. She is our animal lover. She hopes to own a horse someday, but for now she is content to own many cats, two hermit crabs, a guinea pig and five fish. As a family, we enjoy camping, fishing, concerts, hiking, biking and traveling.

We are very thankful for this community, our friends, and our customers. What a wonderful place to live and raise a family!

### **GEORGE & MARY (Elias) PENNER**

*by George and Mary Penner*



*George and Mary Penner with Corey, Kelvin and Michelle.*

We moved to Kane from the Morden area in 1973. We purchased the south half of 36-4-3W from Abe Suderman. We were involved mostly with grain farming, but have also had cattle and pigs.

We had three children; Kelvin George, Corey Steven, and Michelle Marie Ann. All three children went to Lowe Farm Elementary School, and then went on to Morris Collegiate where they graduated from High School.

After graduating in 1985, Kelvin attended Winnipeg Bible College (now known as Providence College), for one year. He then got a job with N. M. Paterson elevator in Kane, where he worked for four years. Kelvin died accidentally on July 15, 1990, at the age of 23.

Corey graduated in 1988. He worked at Lowe Farm Co-op Farm Supply and then at the Kane Agro Centre. He married Kathryn Lynn Fulford on July 4, 1992. Kathryn is a Clinical Dietitian at the Victoria General Hospital in Winnipeg. Corey and Kathryn have one daughter, Jocelyn Marie, born on May 8, 1999. They currently live in Lowe Farm where they are involved in farming.



*The George Penner family, 1999.  
(l-r): Terry and Michelle Neufeld, George and Mary Penner,  
Corey and Kathryn Penner and baby Jocelyn Marie.*

Michelle graduated in 1993. Upon graduating, she attended Red River Community College where she took a two year diploma course in Business Administration. She worked for Krocker Sales in Winkler. She then went to Buhler Manufacturing in Morden where she is in the accounts receivable department. On July 5, 1997, she married Terry Neufeld. Terry is the maintenance technician at Decor Cabinets in Morden. They currently live in Morden.

We were quite involved in the Kane area. When the Kane School closed, George became the local bus driver, bringing the kids home once they were dropped off in Kane by the school bus. George also played baseball for the Kane A's, and Kelvin and Corey played for the Kane Pirates and the Cardinals.

We moved from the Kane area to the Lowe Farm area in 1998, where we are currently involved in farming with our son Corey.

**PETER P. & ANNA (Ewert) PENNER**  
*by Dave and Mary Penner*



*The Diamond Wedding of Peter P. and Anna Penner, 1961.*



*"The Taxi Driver": Peter P. and Anna Penner.*

My parents Peter P. and Anna Penner moved to the Rose Farm District from south of Plum Coulee in 1916. In 1918, they moved to the Lowe Farm area (27-4-2W). After a few bad crops, and a depression in the making, Mr. Penner lost everything he owned. In the years following the loss of his land, Mr. Penner worked at various jobs, whatever was available.

When their son Henry died in 1951, Mr. Penner inherited his 1949 Austin and in the following years he was nicknamed "the taxi driver". If someone needed to go to the doctor or dentist and had no means of going, Mr. Penner was the man to see. Some days he made two or three trips to Morris, sometimes to Altona or Winkler or even Morden.

After Mrs. Penner suffered several strokes and poor health, they moved to the Ebenezer Units in Altona in January of 1966. Anna Penner passed away in March of 1966. Peter P. Penner passed away in 1980 at the age of one hundred.

There were twelve children born into our family: Helen, Peter, Margaret, Henry, Ben, David, Mary, John, Jacob, Tina, Diedrich and Annie.

We attended a private Mennonite school at Kronsweide. The school was held in the summer kitchen of my aunt and uncle, the Peter Rempels, during the summer, and then for the winter they built a new building. The first teacher was Miss Anna Friesen and then Mr. Nicolai J. Heide, who later became the postmaster in Lowe Farm. In this school we learned only German.

After World War I, the government compelled the Mennonites to go to the public school at Kronsweide and learn English.

In 1920 the Consolidated School was built in Kane, and our farm was transferred into the Kane District.

To this school we were bussed with horse drawn vans (or covered wagons you might say). All roads were dirt, and often mud roads after a lot of rain, and the going got to be pretty tough sometimes. At times it took one and a half hours to get to school and again in the evening to get home.

There was still construction going on in the building when school began in the fall. I remember some of the pranks the boys played on the men. One day a workman was working on the eaves on a high ladder, and one of the kids went around the school and pulled the rope that tripped the ladder, and the workman came sliding to the ground. He was lucky he landed on his feet. He never did find out who the guilty person was. One other recess the painter was mixing a five gallon pail of paint, and one of the kids threw a big rock into the pail, splashing paint all over the painter's face. Before he could wipe the paint off his face, the culprit was long gone.

## PETER F. & MARGARUETA (Harder) PENNER

*by Charlotte (Murner) Dyck*



*Peter F. and Margarueta Penner.*

Peter F. was born in Schoenfeld, Russia, May 20, 1873, the son of Abraham Penner (1834-1897) and Anna Froese (1832-1874). Anna died eight months after Peter was born. He was the sixth child born to his parents. Abraham remarried and had nine more children. They came to Canada in the spring of 1875 when Peter was two years old. (They settled in the Steinbach District.) Abraham owned a store in a little village south of Winnipeg. He used to go to Winnipeg by oxen and cart for supplies. One day when Peter was a little boy, he went with his father and froze his feet on the way home.

Margarueta was born November 16, 1875 in Schoenfeld, Russia, the daughter of Heinrich Harder (1828-1901) and Sarah Klassen (1831-1910). She was the twelfth and last child born to her parents. They came to Canada in May of 1876, when Margarueta was only six months old. (They settled east of Barkfeld.) Heinrich was a school teacher in the village where they lived, south of Winnipeg. They lived at Pansy, Manitoba for many years, retiring to Rosenfeld.

Peter and Margarueta were married on December 5, 1893. They farmed all their lives, living in the Kane School District on SE 20-4-2W. At first they farmed with horses, later farming fifteen quarters. Not all of this was grain land,

as some of it was used for hay. In 1914, they built a big house on their farm. It had fifteen rooms and two halls, and a lovely glassed in veranda.

In her eulogy to her mother, daughter Katherina writes, "Mother loved to sing hymns and read the Bible. Very often she would tell us stories out of the Bible when we were small. Mother was a perfectionist in anything that she did. A beautiful seamstress, she made nearly all the clothes for her children when they were small, and sewed dresses for the girls even after they were grown-up. Mother loved gardening, especially flowers and her glassed in veranda was just full of lovely blooming house plants."

About her father, Katherina writes, "Dad used to have nice horses, especially one whose name was Archy. Dad had photographs taken of this horse. One day Archy got sick and the doctor said there wasn't anything he could do for it. So Dad and the boys had to take Archy to the field and destroy him. Dad felt very bad."

Peter was Councillor for the Morris District 1912-1915.

In 1935, Peter bought an old school house (Woodvale School) at Kane, and made it over into a house. They lived there until the fall of 1941 when they sold it and bought a house in Altona.

Peter died on October 4, 1941. He and daughter Sarah had gone back to Kane to harvest the vegetables from the garden they had planted in spring. While he was waiting for Sarah to gather up the produce, he had a heart attack and fell to the ground near his car. The doctor was called from Roland, but when he arrived he pronounced Peter dead. He was 68 years old.

Margarueta died July 9, 1957, in Altona of gangrene in her right foot. The doctor wanted to operate, but the children couldn't see her with her leg removed. They feared that if the Doctor would operate, she wouldn't come through it. So they didn't operate and she lived for one more month. She was 82 years old.

They had fourteen children, twelve living to adulthood:

Sarah, remained single.

Anna married Henry H. Doell. They farmed near Horndean, Lowe Farm and Kane. They had three children; Henry, Annie and Susie.

Margarueta married Henry A. Wiebe. They had two children; Dora (died shortly after birth) and Tina.

Mary married John H. Doell. They lived at Plum Coulee. They had one child, Mary.

Peter married Sarah Hiebert. They farmed in the Kane School District until their retirement, when they moved to Lowe Farm. Of their children, four lived to adulthood; Sadie, Marjorie, Elizabeth and Raymond.

Isaac married Gertrude Dyck. They had two children; Tina and Stanley. Isaac and Gertrude were divorced. His second marriage was to Pearl. They had three children; Wayne, Shirley and Russell.

Abraham married Henrietta Neufeld. They farmed in the Kane School District until their retirement, when they moved to Winkler. They had four children; Orvan, Verna,



Alvin and Dianna.

Bernard married Gladys Harvey. They had two children; Shirley and Allan.

David married Sarah Rempel. They farmed at Kane and then moved to Harding, Manitoba to farm. They retired to Virden, Manitoba. They had five children; Margaret, Frances, David, Ronald and Colleen.

John married Jean Oakes. They farmed at Kane School District, then moved to Sperling to farm. They had three children; Douglas, Linda and Morris (Morris, a twin, died at birth).

Katherina married Glenford Dow. No children.

Jacob married Jean Champagne. They had one son; Donald.

**PETER H. & SARAH (Hiebert) PENNER**  
by *Charlotte (Murner) Dyck*



*Peter H. and Sarah Penner, married 1923.*

Peter H. was born in the Kane District on September 7, 1902, one of fourteen children, to Peter F. Penner and Margueta Harder. He spent his childhood and most of his adult life in the Kane area.

Sarah was born November 23, 1905, in Herbert, Saskatchewan, the first of fifteen children born to Abram J. Hiebert (1883-1971) and Sarah Funk (1886-1946). Her grandparents, Johan Funk and Sarah Hoepfner (1860-1933)

and Johan Hiebert (1852-1908) and Anna Harder (1855-1899) lived in the Lowe Farm area.

Peter and Sarah were married in 1923. They made their home on a farm that was one mile east and two and one quarter miles south of Kane (NE 19-4-2W). They raised their family here.

Peter was usually a very serious man who didn't put up with fooling around, but once in a while could be made to crack a smile. He liked to talk politics. Although he was a farmer, he also drove the school van for a number of years. Some of those were when his own children and later on, grandchildren, attended Kane School.

Grandson Gordon recalls, "Grandad had three horses, Art, Sandy and June. When we rode Sandy, she was slow at the start, but when it was time to return, she would move real fast. I had to duck because she headed straight into the barn."



*50th Anniversary of Peter H. and Sarah Penner, 1973.*

When Gordon was a little boy, he went to Kane with Grandad. Gordon stayed in the car while Grandad went to get the mail. When Grandad came back, Gordon had locked all the car doors and only opened them when he was bribed with an ice cream cone.

Sarah was a cheerful soul who loved flowers, and had her garden and her house full of them. In her later years her fascination turned to plastic ones. Many hours were spent crocheting doilies which she sold or gave away as gifts.

She was usually cooking or baking something. One time when grandsons Gary and Gordon were there, "Granny" had just baked a batch of bread. The boys opened



*The Peter H. Penner family. Back row: Elizabeth and George Penner, Raymond Penner, Bill and Sadie Dyck. Center: Majorie Friesen, Sarah and Peter H. Penner, Anton Friesen. Front row: Gordon Dyck, Jean Dyck, Diane Penner, Garry Friesen.*

up one end of each loaf, cleaned out and ate the insides. Then they pushed each loaf neatly back against the back of the cupboard.

Christmas and Easter were spent at Granny and Grandad's with all the aunts, uncles and cousins. One winter the snow was so high that the kids slid off the barn roof. They had to stop when Grandad found out!

Peter and Sarah attended the Rose Farm Church.

In September of 1966, they retired from farming and moved to Lowe Farm. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 7, 1973, in the Lowe Farm Junior High School. A program was put on of singing, special music and reminiscing in which their family took part.

Peter's health began to fail, so in December of 1974, they moved to the Winkler Salem Home.

Peter died in 1975 at the age of 72, and Sarah in 1982, at the age of 76. Both are buried in the Rose Farm Cemetery next to their son Raymond.

They had four children: Sadie married Bill Dyck, and they lived in the Kane district. They had three children; Gordon, Jean and Marion. Sadie and Bill died April 1, 1977. They were 52 and 57.

Marjorie married Anton Friesen and they made their home in Lowe Farm. They had three children; Gary, Walter and Joan. Marjorie died March 29, 1975. She was 49 years old.

Elizabeth married George Penner. They live in Winnipeg. They have four children; Diane, Linda, Jacqueline and Lottie.

Raymond married Jean Cross. They had one child; Wendy. Raymond died February 14, 1955, at the age of 24.

### **ABRAM H. & HENRIETTA (Neufeld) PENNER**

*by Verna (Penner) Froese*

Abram Penner was born May 17, 1906, to Peter P. and Margaret Penner, two miles east and three miles south of Kane. He attended school at the Queen Centre School on the northeast corner of the section on which he was born. Dr. Cornelius Wiebe was one of his teachers. This school was

later closed and students attended the new Kane School. The younger Penner children went to Kane School. Abram was very much into the social scene, known to play the accordion for all the barn dances in the area. He took up farming on the Queen Centre School grounds in approximately 1929, purchasing the first land from a Mr. Froese who lived near Altona. In 1931, Abram married Henrietta Neufeld from the Grossweide District. They had four children: Orvan born in 1932, Verna Pearl born in 1937, Alvin Vincent Hart born in 1940, and Dianna Beulah Ruthie born in 1948.

Life was hard on the farm those first years; some years there was not enough crop for the next year's seed. Dad thankfully recalled one year when Mr. Froese simply took a handful of grain which was his rightful payment for the year by the sale agreement, ran it through his fingers and said, "There is your next year's seed grain." There were years when some foods were scarce. They roasted barley for coffee and called it "prips". Mother always said it was awful to taste. As the depression passed, things became easier and better and the Penner family farm was a thriving enterprise. For many years there was hired help on the farm, but as the family grew older it really was a family farm especially in harvest time. Dad was the foreman and manager, Mom the combine driver, Orvan did the swathing, Verna cooked the meals (which Mom had laid out in the morning to do) and later also looked after baby sister Dianne, and Alvin did the fall plowing or tilling. At the end of harvest we all got to celebrate with a trip to either Winnipeg for shopping, or a day at Winnipeg Beach.

Before there was a machine shed on the farm, Dad did his machinery repair in the garage. One such a time he had his John Deere Model D tractor in the garage for some work. The parents had taken the car out to visit the Martin Heppners, just one mile west of us. Orvan and Alvin decided to shoot birds in the granary with their air guns and took a lantern into the garage to fetch something. The gas fumes ignited, the boys got out but the garage, the tractor and all the tools burned. Eventually the Morris fire truck came but before that neighbours frantically helped with a pail brigade from the barn to save

the house. Pail after pail was poured on the steaming roof while the siding on the side facing the burning garage melted down. It was the day of an Abe Suderman wedding and we were so grateful to the many wedding guests who helped in their Sunday best. The house, which was only recently built at the time, was saved.

Abram Penners farmed until 1972 when son Alvin and his wife Betty and sons Darrell and Dexter moved to the family homestead upon purchasing the home quarter section. Our parents built a new house in Winkler and quite enjoyed living there. However, after a year and a half, Dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After a year and a half battle with this disease, Dad died at age 69 in 1975. Mom remained in the house in Winkler for quite a few more years, and then moved up the street to a seniors apartment which she enjoyed very much until her untimely death of a post operative complication in the form of a heart attack at age 76 in 1990. Both are buried in the Rose Farm Cemetery just two miles from where they farmed all their life.

Orvan was an only child for five years. During this time he was always envious of the Peter Penner cousins living across the corner from our farm. When he wasn't allowed to join them, he used to spend hours sitting on our haystack, longingly looking over at the fun time those cousins were having on their yard. Orvan and Raymond spent many hours playing together.

Orvan had a difficult time in school and since there were no Special Education classes, he limped along from year to year until age 16, when he could leave school. He learned how to do farm work however, driving vehicles and machinery. He attended the Lowe Farm Interdenominational Church and benefited much from the fellowship he received there, especially the care and nurture Rev. Jake Wiebe gave him. He later attended the Steinbach Bible School where he met and married Norma Hamm. They lived in a small house in Steinbach for most of their married life. There were no children, but they loved their two dogs.

Orvan worked at the chicken killing plant for many years, then switched to work at a gravel pit. While there he had an accident which affected him for the remainder of his life. He fell off a high piece of machinery into a pit and broke his neck. He was paralyzed from the neck down and lay in halo traction in the St. Boniface Hospital for many weeks. But eventually the break healed, feeling came back and after much therapy he was able to function again. However, his one leg dragged a bit especially when he tired. His health was never the same. He worked for the City of Steinbach for a few years and literally supported himself by mowing grass and blowing snow in Steinbach.

I, Verna, have been gone from Kane 43 years now. I married George Froese who grew up in Elm Creek. We began in Winnipeg; George at Canada Packers and I at Manitoba Wheat Pool followed by Blue Cross and Manitoba Health Plan. When George's father burned to death in a farm accident, George decided to go into insurance.

We have been transferred by George's company to Calgary, Vancouver, Minnesota, back up to Medicine Hat, then to Winnipeg long enough for our two sons, Warren and Murray to graduate from MBCI. George and I were transferred to Toronto for ten years while the boys completed their studies at the University of Manitoba. Warren married Sandy and they have four children. Sandy is a nurse by profession, but a full time homemaker and mother at the moment. Warren is an orthopedic surgeon at the Pan Am Clinic in Winnipeg. Murray married Teresa and they have two children. Murray practices law with Piblado Buckwald in Winnipeg. Teresa has her own computer consulting business. George and I moved back to the big sky, sunny days of Winnipeg in December, 1990. We so enjoy being in the same city with our children and grandchildren.

Half my career was in Credit Unions in the different provinces as loans officer, branch manager and Credit Union Central computer support supervisor followed by a move to Co-operators Insurance Company from which I retired in 1994, on a voluntary early retirement package with 23 years of co-operative service as the underwriting manager for Man/Sask region. I am presently working at Grant Memorial Baptist Church as Adult Ministries Associate on a flexible part-time basis.

George is in a public relations role with his company. Consequently, we travel across Canada and wherever else different association conventions take us. Last year it was across the country from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria and Nanaimo plus Orlando, Tucson and Hawaii. And it all began in Kane!

Dianna married Art Enns, and they live in Steinbach. She is an insurance broker at Auto-City Insurance and Art is field sales manager for Buhler Inc. They have two children, Harlan and Andrea, who both live in Vancouver. Harlan is an actuary who is married to Jennifer, an elementary school teacher and they have one son, Tristan. Andrea is an administrative assistant/consultant for Holloway, Schultz and married to Gary, an electrician.

**Verna's Memories:** Kane was my whole world at one time. Most things that needed to be bought, that were not made or grown at home, were purchased in Kane. From our prospective, one mile east and two miles south of Kane, there wasn't a great deal we needed that could not be met in Kane. There was the Kane General Store; Toews' store...the sights and smells of the store are a treasured memory. Groceries, dry goods, hardware and more could be found there. The post office off to the right back of the store held all the mailboxes with turning vault-like knobs which opened Box 37, and brought us what we needed from the outside world - bills, cheques, news and the Eaton's catalog. Farm machinery was largely purchased from J. J. Toews implement dealership - John Deere green of course. Our Dad did a lot of his own repairs on the farm, but those beyond his ability were done at the "garage." At the height of Kane's prosperity there were two stores -



Harder's General Store which later became the Fehr's Store was the competition. There were also two grain elevators where our grain was sold at whichever one offered the best price and service.

Preschool memories of Kane are mainly being allowed to "go along to Kane" whenever possible. It meant getting my hair combed - sometimes with a bowl of water, brush and tears as curly tangles were removed in order to be presentable for the occasion. A big event in our home was the trip to Kane on our birthday. This, in memory, seems to have been my equivalent of what my boys and grandchildren experience at Halloween - a stash of goodies. The birthday child could buy any treat he/she wanted. One year I chose two dollars worth of B-B-Bats at two cents each...that was 100 suckers which lasted from July until Christmas! Small wonder I have false teeth!

Another community preschool memory was visiting with neighbours. My earliest memory is of one such a visit where I first recall the best time with someone who turned out to be my "best lifelong friend". The Abe Hyde's were visiting us, Janice and I being three or four years old sat on my little red nursery chairs singing, "Honey in the Rock, my Brother" at the top of our lungs and then laughing until we were sick. That was the earliest memory we can recall of a long, rich friendship to this day. Visits with uncles and aunts; the Peter Penners, Dave Penners, Henry Doells, and other neighbours, the Toews, the Hydies, the Reimers, the Blatzs, the Groenings and others were highlights in our social life.

There was also the Sunday School in Kane for us when we were unable to attend our Grossweide Sunday School for one reason or another. This was always a treat because there were so many of my school friends there and the entire service was in English. However, I also remember having to sit quietly through Eddie Groening's what seemed to me like a very long message! The craft sale or auction was a highlight as well.

Memories of school include vans, floods, field days, school picnics, hot lunches, teachers and friends. My Uncle Peter Penner followed by Uncle Henry Doell were my van drivers for most of my school years. I remember the ski pants, scarves and mittens, lunch kits and the stove in the van. One year our van overturned on a steep snowbank. It was scary to drive through the spillway during flood time, in fact, some years it was impassable until the flood waters receded. The waters arrived during the school day one spring, so the vans could not make it to Kane to pick us up so we were billeted for a few nights. Janice and I had our "Hilton" experience at Walter and Lil Penner's house (Walter was the Paterson elevator agent). They had no children at the time and we were treated royally. Field days were looked forward to because we got to practice for and compete with other schools and got to go to Roland or Carman for the day. I recall sore muscles and sunburns from these outings. At home or away, baseball games against neighbouring schools were a highlight as well. Those good-looking guys!

And then there was the weekly hot lunch program. At the Penner household we were given weekly lunch allowance. I believe it was 23 cents a week to buy a hot dog, drink and a four cent glazed donut from Art Toews at the general store. To this day it bugs me that my dad would insist on his 2 cents change back if he had given me a quarter. Janice got to keep her extra 2 cents and bought bubble gum with it. In hind sight - those two pennies were more trouble than they were worth for Dad to remember to collect, but it taught me a lot about fiscal responsibility!

Teachers; so many good ones... Miss Tina Warkentine, Miss Mary Duerksen, Miss Tina Penner, Mrs. Helen (Dan) Penner to name a few. Then there was Myron White in Room II who was incredibly permissive. Janice and I had a ball ruling the roost! When Mr. Jack Sawatzky came the next year, we had a rude awakening when he let us know who was the boss and where we could go if we didn't like it! We had a great year that year. And then there was Mrs. Warkentin and her German classes. Those articles are still vivid in my mind..."an, auf, hinter, neben, in, über, unter, vor, zwischen." The German I learned still stands in good stead when I am told by German speaking friends that my German is more grammatically correct than that of my husband, who spoke it exclusively at home until school age. Room I, Room II and High School to grade eleven were good at Kane and gave me good preparation in a safe community for life in the years to come. I finished grade twelve later, followed by university and career courses, but the basics were laid in Kane School.

**Dianna's Memories:** Some memories I have of Kane are as follows:

—going to the elevator in town with my Dad to test whether the grain was dry enough to combine or to bring a load of grain. I remember Mr. George Born and Mr. Bill Bracken.

—after a trip to the elevator, if time allowed, a stop at the General Store to buy a "Drumstick" ice-cream and pick up the mail at box 37. The store had stools to sit on at the counter while Dad would visit with other local farmers.

—my first day of school in the old school house. I held my sister Verna's hand as we walked up the flight of stairs into the large dark brown foyer into the Grade 1-4 classroom to meet my teacher, Miss Duerksen.

—moving from the old school building where the bathrooms were downstairs in a scary corner, into the new bright building. Miss Spalding allowed us to help by carrying smaller boxes of books and our own school supplies into the new classroom.

—Friday afternoons were a real highlight in Grades 5-8. Mr. Pete Friesen was often asked to drive all the students to either Myrtle or Lowe Farm to play baseball. No thought given to safety belts as we all piled into the back of the three ton grain truck.

—the community spirit was always evident at the support given to the annual Christmas programme and the picnic

in June.

—vivid memories of paving Highway #23 through Kane. It was sooo muddy and the school buses would get stuck often.

—the John Deere dealership/garage where my Dad purchased a new tractor, only to have it burn shortly after we brought it home.

### **DARRELL & MARGE (Dyck) PENNER**

*by Darrell Penner*

I remember as a child we lived across the section from my grandparents, A. H. Penners, just one mile south of Kane. It was a small house and we used to heat it with a coal stove. One time after I was tucked into bed, upstairs, I called to my Mom for a drink of water. She told me it was on the window sill. I replied back that it was hard (it was frozen). We had many good times in that house. Dad would haul a truck load of coal and dump it through the basement window. I watched as more slats got put in the door as the room got filled. It was also the place where my Mother led me to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Going to a small school like Kane was also a good experience. Sometimes our noon hour got stretched to two hours. We all continued playing believing the teachers forgot to ring the school bell. Playing in the gym with all those support posts was a real head banging experience which I think every player experienced.

Jake Schellenbergs were good neighbours. They lived across the road from our house. Mr. Schellenberg was a man who was capable of making or fixing almost anything. He was very meticulous with what he built and with what he owned. Many times I went over to his place to borrow traps from him and always before, I left he'd treat me to old time stories and show me the latest project he was working on.

We then moved to my Grandfather's farm (NW 20-4-2W), after they retired and moved to Winkler. The day we moved was very memorable: it was the day the Kane Garage burned down. It was the biggest and hottest fire I'd ever seen. I remember the old Coca Cola machine at the door and drinks were a nickel if you left the bottle in the shop. Another exciting thing for me was that shortly after we moved, Dad bought a Steiger 4-wheel drive tractor. It was the first one in the community and I got to drive it.

There was also the time my Dad bought a heifer calf from Elmer Groening. We bought it in spring and were going to fatten it and butcher it in fall. By fall we found out we got more than we bargained for. It was in calf. We then got into the dairy business. Dad milked in the morning and I milked in the evening. Suffice to say, it wasn't long before Dad was tired of being tied down to the business of milking. This is when the cow started its trek around the community. It spent some time at the Leonard Wiebe farm. Next it walked over to the Henry Roses. I made many a trip on my minibike to pick up milk from the Roses. The

cow was always so quiet and gentle, Dad had a hard time shipping it, so it turned out to be the community cow.

I had many good times in the community as well. I remember going over to Norman Blatz's and doing all kinds of things with Dulaney at his place. We did things like rafting around in a homemade raft and getting soaked, to catching a box full of mice and bringing them to the front of the house. I'm sure his Mom was not impressed. Then when I got to be a bit older, Marvin Enns and I would go hunting and shot almost anything that moved. One time it happened to be our favourite family tiger cat. This time my Mom was not impressed.

I married Marge Dyck on July 1, 1984. We moved into the Jake Schellenberg farm where we lived for one year. Next year my parents moved to Winkler and we moved into the old homestead, (third generation farm), where we presently reside. We now have five children; Karl, Kristy, Kari, Kaleb, and Kaitlyn.

My brother Dexter moved to Winkler together with Mom and Dad in 1985 and graduated there from High School, in 1986. In 1988 he married Louise Nickel, and they have two children; Lisa and Becky. They now reside in Winkler where Dexter is presently working at Eden as a maintenance man.

### **GUSTAVE E. & HELENA PENNER**

*by Harold Penner*



*Gustave and Helena Penner with their family. (l-r): Hugo, Ella, Edna, Leonard, Harold, Walter, John. Missing is Hilda.*

During the winter of 1930, Gustave E. Penner purchased the southwest quarter of section 24-4-3W from a Mr. David Blatz. The land had been sold to Mr. Blatz in 1918 by a Mr. Hoeppner, who had homesteaded it in the first decade. Dad felt that raising his family on a farm would provide a better environment for his young family. Previously he had been a teacher at various schools in southern Manitoba. The family had been living in Winkler for some eight years.

So the decision was finalized and the family moved in the summer of 1930. Thus began a 28 year stay in the Kane district for this family. Due to the circumstances of drought, grasshoppers, rust infestation, economic depression, the first five years were difficult ones. Gustave was able to continue teaching school at Rose Farm during these years and so able to weather this difficult period.

The family consisted of three girls and five boys. The older three children, Hilda, Ella and Leonard had completed high school in Winkler. They gained employment locally during these years. Leonard worked for J. J. Toews as a salesperson. The other children continued their education in Kane.

With economic upturn in the latter part of the thirties, Hilda and Ella returned to continue their education. Hilda took teacher training while Ella took nurse's training. Hugo, Walter and John continued school to complete grade 10 which was as far as the Kane School provided at that time. Edna and Harold were more fortunate. The school by that time provided grade 11 and supported them in completing grade 12 by correspondence.



*John Penner with Pat and Nelda.*

In 1939, Leonard enlisted in the airforce. He went overseas almost immediately. He remained overseas until 1944. He returned to Canada where he remustered to aircrew. He completed his training in Brandon where he earned his pilot wings. John in the meantime also enlisted in the airforce. He graduated as a navigator and served overseas in the RAF Bomber command where he completed his tour of Ops. Harold joined the airforce after completing grade 12. He commenced his aircrew training, but the war ended before he finished his training.

Walter continued working on the farm during the war years. Later he joined the N. M. Paterson Co. as a grain buyer. He stayed with that company until retirement. Hugo



*Helen Penner and family, 1994. Nelda and Brian Johnson with Meghan and De Nel, Helen (Mom), Pat and Abe Unger.*

joined a construction firm as a carpenter. He then had his own construction firm for a number of years before taking up a position in the lumber business.

At the conclusion of the war Edna went into nurse's training. Leonard and Harold went to the Manitoba Medical College to earn their M.D. degrees. John took up farming in the Kane district and later in the Homewood area.

Gustave and Helena continued to farm with John's help until 1958. They then retired and returned to live in Winkler. John continued to farm the home place until 1972 when the farm was sold to Peter Harder.

Helena died in 1967 and Gustave passed away in 1971. John passed away in 1987, Walter in 1994, Hugo in 1997 and Edna died in 1999.

The memories of the years on the farm, and of the district of Kane are ones which all hold with great fondness.

## **JOHN & NETTIE (Unrau) PENNER**

*by Ann (Penner) Braun*

John and Nettie were both born in the Plum Coulee area and grew up there. John was born August 1, 1900 and Nettie on December 13, 1900. During the first years of their marriage, they farmed near Plum Coulee. In the spring of 1930, they moved to a farm two miles west and two miles south of Kane with their three daughters. Then on November 29, 1939, a beautiful fall day, they moved one mile east and one mile south of Kane with three daughters and three sons and were blessed with one son and one daughter while living there. All eight children grew up at Kane.

For several years, John (Dad) did farm labour and then worked on road construction for the Roland Municipality. They enjoyed worshipping in the Berghthaler Church and the fellowship of many neighbours. Nettie (Mom) was a very good seamstress, a great cook (she achieved won-





*John and Nettie Penner.*



*John and Nettie Penner with Alice and James, 1955.*

A great highlight was pig butchering day. The people that were asked to come and help came for an early breakfast. Special food was prepared for the meals, which compared in size to Christmas dinner! When leaving, each family was given a piece of deep fried spareribs and a liver sausage as a token of appreciation for their help. Even the children of the home got a school holiday and helped. We girls remember working on cleaning the sausage casings.

In 1967, they moved to Winnipeg where six of their children lived. The other two live in Calgary. They resided in Winnipeg until they went to be with the Lord. Nettie (Mom) passed away in December of 1977, and John (Dad) passed away in April of 1985.

**Anna (Penner) Braun:** Ann was born at Plum Coulee on December 7, 1926. In spring of 1930, at age three, her parents moved southwest of Kane. She attended Bloomfield School for four years. In November of 1939, they moved southeast of Kane and she attended Kane School until the year-end of 1940. What a privilege it was to be taken to school and back home by a school van, driven by horses! Her first teacher was Miss Mabel Sinclair who taught them sewing and knitting classes in her suite above the teacherage. What a great teacher! Her last teacher was Mr. George Siemens who was an excellent teacher and choir director. She enjoyed playing baseball and soccer and the wonderful Christmas programs.

Other highlights she remembers include singing in the choir at Jugendverein and at the Kane School. She also enjoyed Sunday School with teachers Emmie Groening and Elda Toews (and the "Sing-Songs" at her home), the Bible lessons, and her first Bible verse John 3:3.

She was employed as domestic help until 1945 when she married Harry Braun. They moved to Winnipeg for one year, then to Lowe Farm until July 1954, then back to Winnipeg where they still reside. They have one son, Roy (Bonnie), one daughter, Leita (Cameron), two granddaughters and two great grandchildren, all of whom live in Winnipeg. They are so blessed! Ann taught Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School, Pioneer Girls, worked in Lenette's Grocery and Coffee Shop for one year, at the



*The Penner children. Back row: Nettie, Mary, Ann, Alice.  
Front row: Bill, Pete, James, Johnny.*

ders in the kitchen), a fast worker and spread a table in a short time. She loved to have coffee with family, relatives, neighbours and friends.

John and Nettie enjoyed making a very large garden and also had fruit trees and berry bushes, which were enjoyed by the family even after being married. Neighbours and friends also enjoyed the fruits of their labour. Each year they had a family harvest day, which ended with a wiener roast.

Metropolitan store for seventeen years full-time and part-time, and both Harry and Ann served at the Winnipeg Harvest outlet at their church, Gospel Mennonite.

Harry has worked as a welder in Winnipeg, in road maintenance for Morris Municipality and as an employee for the T. Eaton Company for twenty-five years, and eight years as commissionaire. He retired in 1988. They enjoy life and thank the Lord for His goodness.

**Nettie (Penner) Wiebe:** Nettie was born October 28, 1927 at Plum Coulee, Manitoba. She completed her last three years of education at Kane School where she loved playing baseball and soccer at recess. She too enjoyed Miss Sinclair's sewing and knitting class, and Mr. George Siemens as choir director. Sunday School, with teachers Elda Toews and Eddie Groening, was also a highlight.

She was employed as domestic help at Kane, worked one season at Boese Foods, St. Catharines, Ontario, a fruit cannery, and in Winnipeg at Pauline Cambers, a cookie and candy factory. Later Nettie worked at Metropolitan store as office clerk, Thiessen and Grey Goose Bus Lines, Crosstown Credit Union Ltd., and later in Calgary at the Bank of Montreal until retirement in 1994.

Nettie attended Winkler Bible School for two years, taught Sunday School, Wayfarers Girls Club, directed a children's choir, worked with young people, sang in choirs, small groups, quartets, ladies trios and duets.

She married David Wiebe in 1960 in Winnipeg, where they lived for a number of years. They later moved to Vermillion, Alberta and Nettie now lives in Calgary. She has one daughter, Kimberly (Paul), who is now married and resides in Calgary.

**Mary (Penner) Siemens:** Mary was born on March 30, 1930 in the Plum Coulee area. She attended Kane School from grade 3 to grade 10, with fond memories of Miss Russell and Mr. Neufeld. In Kane School, she attended Sunday School and church services for the first time. She best remembers her teacher Mr. Eddie Groening, who led her to accept Jesus as Saviour.

Some highlights during her school years were their very own "Girls Baseball Team", which usually won, the dramas presented at Lowe Farm, Roland and Altona and the rides to and from school in a horse-drawn "van". During severe winters, because of high snowbanks, the van would sometimes tip on its side. The children competed with each other and believed they had won if their van tipped.

In 1950 she married Tony Siemens, who was working at the Manitoba Sugar Beet Factory. They moved to Winnipeg where they still live today. They were blessed with four children, Ken and Garry, who live in Calgary, and Brad and Sheila (Bob), who live in Winnipeg, and six grandchildren.

In 1956 Tony worked at Canada Wire & Cable Company, first as an engineer, then as a machine operator, and the last six years in Tap & Die Maintenance. He retired in

1988. Mary worked part-time for Ringer's Hardware for fifteen years, between 1968 and 1983. They are now retired and busy being grandparents, and loving it!

**Johnny Penner:** Johnny was born July 9, 1932 at Kane, Manitoba. He attended the Kane Consolidated School and attended Sunday School at Kane. He enjoyed playing hockey with the Kane team. He was employed at neighbouring farms, then at the T. Eaton Company and Carter Motors in Winnipeg.

Johnny married Audrey Sawatsky in 1956, and went to Calgary for their honeymoon where they decided to stay. His first job was car inspector for General Supplies. Johnny took a Metal Mechanics course at Calgary Technical School (where he later taught part-time) and upon completion was employed by Pittsburgh Industries. He then worked for the City of Calgary. Audrey first worked at Safeway, then as a stay-at-home mom, and later was employed at the Bay. Johnny and Audrey both retired in 1998 and moved to Kelowna.

Johnny and Audrey have one son, Roger (Cathy) with two children, residing in Calgary. They also have one daughter, Sheryl (Rod), with two children, living in Kelowna.

**Peter Penner:** Peter was born November 19, 1936 at Kane, Manitoba where he attended school, Sunday School, church and enjoyed playing hockey. He moved to Winnipeg and worked at the T. Eaton Company. After having lived in Toronto, the British Columbia interior, and Calgary for many years, he and his wife, Anita, now reside in Winnipeg.

**Bill Penner:** Bill was born July 24, 1938 at Kane, Manitoba, where he attended school, Sunday School and church. During his school years, he worked for different farmers around Kane and Lowe Farm, and enjoyed playing softball and soccer during his school years. Bill moved to Winnipeg and worked for Coldstream Refrigeration, for Pittsburgh Glass Industries and later for Beaton Glass and Windows. Bill retired in 1989 and resides in Winnipeg.

**James Penner:** James was born April 20, 1940 in Morris, Manitoba and was raised in Kane where he attended school, kindergarten to the completion of grade 11, and church. He enjoyed playing softball, football, track and field events and playing hockey during his school years. He also enjoyed hanging out at Toews General Store to watch wrestling on TV on Saturday nights and many great swimming evenings at Jake Born's dugout (and even sometimes during school lunch time!).

During his high school years, James worked for several different farmers during the summer holidays. After completing high school in Kane, he moved to Winnipeg and worked for the T. Eaton Company for one year. He was then employed by the Unemployment Insurance Com-



*James Penner taking the 1929 Model A Ford for a spin!*

mission and retired in 1997.

James participates in curling, baseball and golf, is very generous to our local charities, cheers on all the home teams and enjoys travel. He resides in Winnipeg and enjoys spending time with his nephews and nieces and their families.

**Alice (Penner) Dyck:** Alice was born on May 9, 1942 in Kane, Manitoba where she attended school, Kindergarten to grade 11, church and Sunday School. She participated in track and field and received a plaque for best girl athlete in Morris Track and Field. She also enjoyed volleyball, the 4-H Club (1958-59), baseball (the only girl on the boy's team), woodworking and, of course, some of the academic classes as well.

In 1959, Alice moved to Winnipeg and trained as a keypunch operator with the Serle Grain Company and had the privilege of working on the first computer in the Winnipeg Parliament Buildings. In 1960 she married her high school sweetheart, Lawrence (Larry) Dyck. Larry was employed in sales and management for Wilson Stationary Limited in Winnipeg and Saskatoon from 1959 to 1983. Since then, he has worked as a hearing aid audiologist in Saskatchewan, for Chrysler Canada in Calgary and recently Larry and Alice moved to Morden in 1998.

Alice and Larry have four children and eight grandchildren. Glenn lives in Winnipeg, Pamela (Larry) in Saskatchewan, Cindy (Wade) in Calgary and Renatta (Vern) in Winnipeg. Larry and Alice have been actively involved in church and community functions.

**JOHN & CATHERINE PFRIMMER  
WILLIAM & AGNES (McKerlie) PFRIMMER  
DON & NANCY (Nisbet) PFRIMMER  
*by Don Pfrimmer***

William Pfrimmer (father of Don Pfrimmer) S½ 14-5-3W, came to Manitoba from Benmiller, Ontario, near Goderich, in 1899, with parents John and Catherine, as one of eleven children.

Their first year was spent on a farm northwest of Morden before settling in the Kane-Myrtle area, purchasing sections 14-5-3, 10-5-3 and 11-5-3. They built a sod shanty on SW 14-5-3W which housed them over the winter before a wood framed house could be built.

Low land was not drained at that time, when they crossed section 15, to reach their homestead, the water was up to the horses' bellies. In 1902, a steam powered floating dredge was brought in to dig the large drainage ditch on the north side of section 14-5-3 to carry the water east.

In the summer of 1900, twenty acres of sod were broken with the use of a walking plow pulled by oxen. Will Pfrimmer, at age 16, spent many hours at this task. Don (his son) still has the original plow.

The family of John and Catherine Pfrimmer were as follows: George, Andrew, Mary, Annie (died at 21 of diphtheria), Clara, Will, Ed, Otto, Manny, Leo, Jack and Eva.

William married Agnes McKerlie in 1919 and remained on the original homestead. Though many of the Pfrimmers fell upon hard times and moved away during the depression of the thirties, Will and Agnes stayed on and built their new home in 1938.

During World War II, some German "Prisoners of War"





*Home of Don and Nancy Pfrimmer, married 1959.  
(Barn down by wind in 1966.)*

were kept in a camp (tents) along Highway #23, on section 34-4-3 near the C.N. water tower. Many worked on Pfrimmer's land during harvest, but were watched constantly by armed guards.

Don remembers his Dad telling him how the Pfrimmer brothers (Don's dad and uncles) hauled grain to Kane in the early years. They used a large steamer hooked onto enough wagons with wide rim wheels to carry the amount of grain to fill a boxcar in one trip! At the Kane siding, a portable wooden grain elevator was used to load the grain into the boxcar. The elevator had a steel frame and a square wooden tube with a steel chain and wooden paddles in it. With only one opening in the boxcar, they had to get into the car to shovel the grain to each end so they could fill the car. There were no roads or ditches, only trails across the prairie, so the Pfrimmer caravan moved across the fields to its destination — Kane!

In 1959, Don, only son of Will and Agnes, married Nancy Nisbet and took over the family farm. Their family members are Michael, Karen (died at nine months), Heather, Paul and Cindy.

High winds have been a problem through the years. In 1966, the huge metal-clad barn, which had been visible for miles, blew down. On June 20, 1975, a tornado touched down near the west road and swept through the yard, badly damaging the roof of their home and demolishing most of the other buildings in their yard. Work crews, organized by the Mennonite Disaster Services, along with friends, family and neighbours spent many long days helping clean up the debris, much of which had been scattered for over a mile.

In 1997, the farm, 14-5-3W, was sold to Heinz and Martina Doerrhoefer (children Tina and Andreas), who moved here from Germany, while Don and Nancy Pfrimmer now reside in Roland.

Michael (Keri) and family (Kylie, Kellie, Aaron and Josh), own Roland Air Spray Ltd., north of Roland, and are also actively involved in farming.

Heather (Ron) Halstead and family (Mitchell, Luke and Dane) live east of Myrtle where Ron owns Ron's Ag repair. Heather works for Perduc - Shafer in Morden.

Paul (Deb) and family (Bryce, Amanda and Evan) live at La Salle, Manitoba where they own Sweet Acres Strawberry Farm along with Deb's com-

puter business.

Cindy and her husband Leigh Terwin live at Darlingford, Manitoba. Cindy is employed by Winkler Hospital while Leigh is a cattle farmer north of Morden.

## **JACOB B. & MARIE (Toews) REIMER**

*by Jake and Marie Reimer*

We resided in the Plum Coulee area prior to our move to the Kane District. Our home was located on NW 17-5-2W, one mile east and two and a half miles north of Kane. We moved there in March, 1953. March, it seems, is almost always a bad month, weather-wise, as it proved to be that year. The road I remember was very slippery, and the truck kept swerving from side to side. We had our piano on the truck, fortunately we had it crated, but Marie was afraid that it would tip. Thankfully we arrived without any mishap. Later the road was gravelled which was a big improvement.

While we lived there we were involved in the church and Sunday School activities.

Our two sons Earl and Glenn were both born during the time we lived there and attended school there until the time we left in 1967. The buildings were very poor, and we built a new house and barn and fixed granaries, etc. We had livestock, so we had to put up a fence and seed a pasture, which all required a lot of work and time.

Jake also drove the school bus for four years, which was a big headache, as the roads on his route were just a plain nightmare when it rained, which it did frequently. I used to watch from an upstairs window, where I had a better view, to see whether he would make it to the corner of the road leading to Sperling, which by then had a sprinkling of gravel. At times he had to take the tractor to tow the school van. I don't like to even think about it to this day.

In the spring of 1966 we had such heavy rains that our fields were under water, the ditches being full, there was no runoff. That summer Jake went shopping. Next spring we purchased a section of land in the Killarney area. Here we and our boys made new friends and finished school and high school, from there both



*Jake B. and Marie Reimer with sons Glenn and Earl.*

went to college.

Due to Jake's health problems we retired, I should say semi-retired, as Jake started to build (which he enjoyed) as his health allowed. This move took us to Winkler, my father who was living with us, wished to go "home for him".

Earl and his wife Ruth and their three daughters, live in Winkler. He is in sales and travels (flies mostly) extensively, frequently. Ruth was a nurse, but now works as an Educational Assistant in the High School.

Glenn and wife Myrna have one daughter and two sons. They live in Altona, where he is employed at the Credit Union. Myrna is a teacher.

Both our sons with their families are very involved in church and community affairs, music, singing, sports, etc.



*The Jacob B. Reimer family.*

## **JACOB C. & MARGARET (Friesen) REIMER** *by Joe Reimer*



*Jacob C. and Margaret Reimer with  
(l-r): Abe, Joe, and James, 1944.*

Jacob C. Reimer and Margaret Friesen were joined in holy matrimony on July 12, 1931, in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church. Their first residence was in the St. Peters-Sewell area.

From there they moved to the Anderson farm, five miles west of Morris on the south side of Highway #23. Mr. Reimer worked here for a number of years as a farm helper. Their family of three boys was born at this location - Abraham (Abe) July 30, 1932; Jacob (Jim) February 5, 1934, and Joseph (Joe) December 13, 1935.

On September 14, 1938, the Reimer family moved to the Kane area - namely SE quarter of 20-4-2W. Here they developed a mixed farm on 423 acres. During these years Mr. Reimer became an associate grower with the Morden Experimental Station - growing many types of fruit trees, shrubs, strawberries, flowers, etc. Many people in the community benefited from his knowledge of plants.

Reimers were members of the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church and served in many different capacities. Mr. Reimer took an active part in the Kane School - serving as school trustee for a number of years.

All three boys attended Kane Consolidated School from grades one to eleven. Abe and Jim attended the M.C.I. in Gretna for their grade twelve and then enrolled in the Provincial Normal School graduating as teachers. However, both didn't complete their first year of teaching before pursuing other careers. Abe's final career was working as a Land Development Officer for the City of Winnipeg. Shortly after retiring, Abe passed away while on vacation with his wife in Pharr, Texas, on January 29, 1992 at 59 years of age.

Jim's final career was working as a meat inspector. He was employed by the Federal Government when he passed away while fishing with his wife at Pointe Du Bois on September 7, 1987 at 53 years of age.

Joe took his grade twelve in Lowe Farm, then enrolled in the Provincial Normal School. His teaching career started in Rosenfeld and finished some forty years later with the Winnipeg School Division. To keep up-to-date, he took many university courses, graduating from Bemidji State University with a B.A. and a Master of Science in Education. During his teaching career, Joe was seconded by the Department of Education to develop and write the manual for the Work Education Program in Manitoba. He also taught numerous education courses at the University of Manitoba. Farming was always an interesting hobby, and Joe and his wife Betty eventually purchased the home place and are currently farming it and living there part-time.

Mrs. Reimer's health began to fail in the early 70's and she passed away on October 15, 1977, at 66 years of age.

Mr. Reimer passed away on November 10, 1990 at 88 years of age.

### **WILLIAM & NETTIE (Esau) REIMER**

*by Margaret (Reimer) Harms*



*Nettie and William Reimer, 1986*



*The William Reimer farm, 1944. (Formerly the Fredricksen homestead and now the John Kebler home.)*

It was a beautiful spring day when my Dad told me, with excitement in his voice, that he had something to show me. At the age of five, I was eager to see the surprise. We walked across the barnyard, past the huge barn, over a garden plot to a long grove of old trees. It was here that my father had discovered a rope swing attached to a thick branch. Having just moved from a small yard with few trees, to the Fred Fredricksen's former farmyard, I was in awe of the rows and rows of trees bordering the yard, the large pastures, and now, a real swing. For a young child this was surely a bit of Heaven on earth.

Soon my parents acquired more cows and horses, pigs, sheep, chickens and turkeys since there was room in the barns, plenty of grass for grazing and storage for feed. We also always had a dog and plenty of cats.

Our new, old house had been vacant for a while before we moved into it. At one time this had been a modern farm home, for that era, with a basement furnace, fire extinguishers at each doorway and back and front doors. When we arrived the furnace no longer worked, the floor vents were covered by linoleum and the front door was boarded up. The substantial pantry remained much as it had been. In the floor was a trap door leading to the cellar. One wall was almost completely lined with shelves for baking items, utensils, dishes and other wonders. This room housed our milk separator, the butter churn and flour bin. It was in this pantry that my mother placed empty food cartons, tins and other containers on the very top shelf, for the sole purpose of playing store. On rainy days or deep freeze cold winter days, this shelf was emptied onto our big kitchen table. We now had a store. Mother had also carefully used silver paper found in some packaging and with the help of real coins, made rubbings to cover circles of cardboard for dimes, nickels and quarters. Now we were ready to shop.

At this time I shared my parents with three older sisters, Edna, Tena and Helen, and an older brother John. We had great times together. When the kitchen wasn't needed as a local grocery store, it could well become a



schoolhouse. John, being the oldest, was always the principal. He said that was so that he could use the strap, but I don't recall him ever exercising that authority. The classroom could just as easily turn into a stage for plays. I was quickly introduced to nursery rhymes, fairy tales and literature of many genres as we acted them out.

On school nights we all gathered around the kitchen table to do our homework. Mom and Dad were close by to help us whenever we needed it. On long winter evenings after all our chores and homework were done, we played games like crokinole, checkers and Chinese Checkers. Often Dad, who was an excellent player himself, would help the youngest player and that person usually won.

Once in a while when Helen and I set up our paper dolls on the table, there would be a wild windstorm that blew them all down. My Dad loved to do this by filling his lungs with air and blowing as hard and long as he could. My sister and I shrieked and howled, but we knew he wouldn't do that again for a long time and it was rather exciting to think that tragedy should strike our make-believe families so unexpectedly. We happily set up our paper dolls again.

We four sisters shared a large bedroom with two double beds. Our room was often so cold in winter that there were several inches of frost on the outside wall and the comforters would freeze onto the frost. Mother made the most wonderful carded sheep's wool blankets with flannel covers and these thick blankets helped to keep out the cold. There were special times like Christmas mornings when Edna and Tena let Helen and me crawl into their bed and we all huddled together. The warmth we felt was more than physical. We bonded spiritually and emotionally. These were times of love and caring and we still feel this closeness today.



*The Reimer siblings: Margaret, Edna, Tena, Ernie, Helen, John, Mary Ann, 1974.*

It was soon after we moved to this farm closer to town that our baby brother Ernie was born. I was six now and was very proud to help mother care for him. Four years later our youngest sister Mary Ann joined our family and again we were delighted. She was only ten months old when in October, 1950 Edna (and Jake Rempel) and Tena (and Jack Loewen) had a double wedding.

Another activity that we shared with our older siblings was herding cows along the roadsides when the pasture grass became sparse. During the many hours we spent tending the cattle, we had time to talk and tell stories. Books were scarce, but if we had one, we could read that while the cows grazed.

At the Kane School students first came in June as beginners and then started Grade One in fall. I was very anxious to start school and was fascinated by the world that opened up for me through books and the influence of dedicated teachers. School also meant making many friends. I was grateful when the George Borns moved to our community. Their daughter Evelyn and I became best friends. I benefited from all the wonderful instructors I had, but there were a number of teachers that inspired me in very special ways and encouraged me to excel. I appreciated each and everyone of my teachers.

One of the school highlights in the middle years and high school were the ball games played against teams of other schools. To get to Bloomfield and Myrtle and occasionally Lowe Farm and Rose Farm, we rode in the back of big grain trucks. Thanks to all the farmers who volunteered their time and vehicles. It was great to have their support and encouragement.

Getting to school was sometimes a challenge. For many of my years at school we went by van drawn by a team of horses. The van was much like a covered wagon, but squared on top. The seats ran lengthwise on each side from back to front. There was a full length door at the back and a split door in the front so the driver could open the top half in mild weather. In winter the wagon box was put on sleigh runners since only main roads were kept free of snow. In spring and fall the van was put on high, narrow, metal rimmed wheels for driving in the mud and slush and for summer there were smaller rubber tired wheels for smoother driving on mainly dry roads.

Before the Shannon was dug and dykes built, there was a dip in our road between our place and the Abe Hyde's. This was referred to as the "spillway". Other roads had similar places created to guide spring runoff water from the Pembina Hills to the Red River. On one particular morning in spring my parents knew that the water in the spillway was extremely high, making the channel across the road very wide. I was the youngest family member going to school at the time and so was not allowed to venture into this risky situation. Mother and I climbed to the barn hayloft to watch the van carrying many children including my older brother and three sisters. It approached the wide expanse of water. At first all went well since the horses were still on higher ground. Suddenly the horses

dropped down into the spillway and had to start swimming. The van swayed and tilted back and forth with the movement of the water and the pull of the horses as they struggled in the water. The van was now floating. As the water seeped in at the door, students got up onto the seats. Tena tells me that what she remembers is seeing the driver standing up endeavouring to balance the van with his body while holding tightly to the reins. Mother and I held our breath as we watched. At one point when the van came dangerously close to flipping on its side, Mother gave a gasp! Fortunately, the strong pull of the horses now getting onto better footing, righted the van and drew it safely to the other side. When we saw that all was well, I regretted having missed the adventure! Edna reminded me that they all got to stay in town that night because it was too dangerous to try to get the students back home.

I did, however, experience one harrowing van episode some years later. Mr. Henry Kehler was our van driver and he had just acquired a new team of horses. On this particular morning we watched for our ride as usual. My mother was extremely apprehensive when she saw these horses for the first time. They were too fast and too skittish as they came down our driveway. My mother's words were, "Those horses just look too wild!" Mr. Kehler had a hard time keeping them at a standstill long enough for us to mount the steps and get in. The time it took to travel the dirt road to the highway was shorter than usual. Once we hit the #23, still at a fast pace, there was no holding that team. The noise of the steel rimmed wheels on the gravel was just too much for those inexperienced horses. For a short distance it was a wild ride. By now the driver's hands were bleeding from hanging onto the reins as they moved back and forth over the opening of the front door. The horses were pulling so hard that we thought Mr. Kehler might suddenly be yanked out of the van. It wasn't long until the van toppled into the ditch as the horses broke loose. Mr. Kehler chased after the horses for a short distance, but soon came back to the van. People in town reported later that the team, dragging the wagon tongue, came through town (Kane) still running. I'm not sure who stopped them nor where.

Several vehicles stopped at the accident scene to offer help. Nettie Kehler had a huge bump to her head and needed attention. My sister Helen's head was bleeding because of a gash on her scalp. We saw where she had hit her head on the end of a screw on the roof of the van. Those of us seated on the ditch side weren't as badly hurt as the ones that were thrown over from the other side. I was wanting to go to school with those that weren't injured to be in on the "telling of the tale", but I knew I needed to stay with my sister so we both accepted a ride home. Everyone recovered, and the van was repaired. The horses were captured, but were never hitched to our van again.

Our High School classroom was in the school basement. The enrollment in Grades 9-11 was generally low and friendships were close. With only one teacher for three

grades, we learned to work and study independently. The Ping-Pong table just outside our classroom was in constant use before and after school and during breaks. Many of us became expert table tennis players.

When I think about our cozy basement classroom, one incident stands out in my mind. It was the day Jerry Toews was asked by the principal, Mr. Otto Funk, to check how much water was in the cistern. The door to the area of the water supply was in the front of the room. One minute I saw Jerry sitting on the edge of the cement wall and only moments later we heard a splash. He had fallen into the water. He climbed out soaking wet. Mr. Funk took him to the teacherage where Jerry changed into the principal's clothes. Unfortunately for Jerry, who was taller and slimmer than Mr. Funk, the pants were wide at the waist and extremely short. This evoked some good-natured laughter. The cistern water had not only been checked, but tested as well.

School Christmas concerts were very special and could last for three hours or more. Grain doors from the elevators were brought to the school and laid over benches to form the stage in the Grade 5-8 room. The huge Christmas tree was the community's opportunity for a card and gift exchange and the students always all received candy and peanut bags. I recall that our classes put on some major plays like *The Christmas Carol* and many more. Our audiences were brought to laughter and tears. We took great pride in our performances.

On the day of the concert, classes were dismissed at noon to enable us to get ready for the big evening ahead. Our new dresses awaited their first public display, but first we had hair to wash and curl. In the later years when cars were already in use more frequently, even in winter, it was often a challenge on a cold night to start those vehicles. Travel by horse was slower, but often more reliable in order to ensure getting to the concert on time.

Church and worship were always an integral part of the Kane community while we lived there. Before there was a church building our services were held in the school. I remember Mr. Henry P. Schellenberg, the elevator agent, as one of our spiritual leaders. My first Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Eva Braun, was a great storyteller and made the Bible stories very real. When we were in Mr. Walter Toews' class, he generously gave of his time and energy to enlarge our knowledge of the Bible and also the world around us. I was eleven when I first went to Winnipeg. This was when Mr. Toews took our class to the Assiniboine Zoo. He also took us to Walhalla for a Sunday afternoon outing.

It was in our school church that my interest in missions began with visiting missionaries like Miss Tina Blatz. We were also blessed by the winter mid-week Bible studies taught by Mr. Eddie H. Groening. There was a particular spiritual closeness in the Christian community during those years.

Frank Blatz (Sr.) would pick up some of the neighbourhood young people in his half-ton to go to the Blatz

farm to pick mustard. We would systematically walk through his fields and pull the mustard weeds. It was hot, tiring work, but because we were working with many other friends, it was enjoyable. We were also paid for our work which was helpful when money was scarce. Over the years many of Mr. Blatz's fields were so free of mustard that we did more walking in the fields than pulling weeds. In fact, if we saw a yellow blossom, two or three of us raced to see who could get it first! It was a lot of fun.

In the years that I was growing up, my Dad farmed a small acreage and worked at jobs for others. For many years he was also a van driver and had a reputation for punctuality. The people on his route used to say that they could set their clocks by his arrival each day. My father was an honest man. He was a hard worker, always willing to go the second mile for neighbours, friends and relatives. Our Dad, William Reimer, passed away in 1987 at the age of 83.

My Mother has had her 90th birthday (in 1999) and is a resident of the Morris Red River Lodge. When she was a young girl at school, she longed to be a teacher. Circumstances didn't allow that to happen, but to her children she was the ultimate teacher and an absolutely wonderful Mom.

As a family we had little money, but plenty of good healthy food grown on the farm. We were taught to respect our elders, teachers and each other. We knew we could always invite our friends to our home, especially for meals. Our parents were concerned that we do well at school and did everything they could to help us. We were blessed through our parents and I thank God for them.

After High School my brother, John Reimer, got his Journeyman's papers as a licensed mechanic and spent many years working in Saskatchewan. In 1958, he married Edith Nelson of Robin Hood, Saskatchewan. Their children William (Bill) and Diane were born in Dinsonore, after which the family moved to Lowe Farm. Here their children Kenneth, Paul, Katherine and Shirley were born. In 1997 Edith passed away after a short illness. John continues to live in their residence near Lowe Farm. He has six grandchildren.

After completing High School at Kane and teaching for a year on "permit", sister Edna married Jake Rempel of the Rosenort district, in 1950. They lived near Rosenort for a number of years working on the farm in summer and spending time in the bush camps in Western Ontario in winter. Later the family moved to Morris where Edna and Jake still reside. Their children are Dennis, Richard, Arlene Terrance and Dale.

My sister Tena left school after Grade 9 to help Mom at home. She also worked for several different farm families in the Kane area. In 1950 in a double wedding together with Edna and Jake, Tena married Jack Loewen, also of the Rosenort district. They first lived in Morris for many years and later moved to the village of Rosenort. They too spent some winters in the bush camps in Ontario and a summer on a farm near Nesbit. They have three

daughters, Beverly, Karen and Cheryl.

My brother Jacob died in infancy.

Sister Helen chose to go out to work instead of taking her High School. She worked in various places, including some jobs in Winnipeg. She also went to Bible School and sewing school in Steinbach. Helen married Abe Klassen of the Rosenhoff district in 1958. Helen and Abe first resided in Morris for a while. Now after living in Rosenhoff for most of their married life they have moved back to Morris for their retirement. They have three daughters, Gloria, Lucille and, Eileen.

The highest grade offered in Kane was eleven so I, Margaret, found it necessary to take my Grade 12 in Lowe Farm. Ever since I could remember I had wanted to be a teacher so the next step was to attend Normal School/Teachers' College in 1956-57. After three years of teaching, Jacob (Jake) Harms of Rosenhoff and I were married in 1960. After having taken time off from teaching while our children were younger, I returned to teaching in 1978 and continue to do so. For the last 25 years we have resided near Lowe Farm, but during our married life we have lived in Winnipeg and in various locations in Northern Manitoba. We too have been blessed with three children, Patricia, Josephine and Wendell.

My younger brother Ernie has made a varied career. For quite a while he worked with Dad in making concrete cisterns. He spent some time in the Royal Canadian Navy, worked as a mechanic in Winnipeg and more recently was a partner at Saints Roller Rink in St. Norbert. In 1971 Ernie married Stephanie Syrota. Their children are Daniel, Dana and Audrey. Ernie and Stef continue to live in Winnipeg.

My youngest sister Mary Ann went to school in Kane for the first few years and then continued her education in Lowe Farm where she graduated from Grade 12. Next she graduated from nurses' training from the St. Boniface Hospital in 1970, and works there even now. In 1971 she married Bruce Oliver who grew up in Nova Scotia. Mary Ann and Bruce are grateful to God for two adopted children, Thomas Joseph and Jennifer.

## **SCHELLENBERG**

**John, Ben, Bill, Henry, Lena & Anne**  
*by Lena Schellenberg*

We were actually from the Myrtle School district, and then in the early 1940's when the business closed down in Myrtle, we changed over to Kane, which was a booming business at that time. And it was open from early to late every day! Everybody knew what the next person's wheat board payment was, to how many bushels an acre the farmers got. (There were no tonnes and hectares in those days.)

There were checker games going on daily at the Kane Store, and on March 6, 1953, was one of the first checker tournaments held in Kane, when Henry Schellenberg became champion for southern Manitoba. These games continued as late as 1991, when John Toews was able to beat





*The Schellenberg family. Back row: John, Ben, Henry, Peter.  
Front row: Bill, Jake, Nettie, Anne, Lena, Tina.*

Henry in the last game that they played in the Steinbach Care Home.

Henry worked for John Toews (brother Bill did as well for some time) doing repair work of all kinds in the Kane Garage as early as 1947. Up until then Henry had worked in logging camps and in a coal mine as a Conscientious Objector for four years. In March, when he returned from camp, he worked as a C. O. as a farm labourer for Abe Suderman of Kane for three summers for 90¢ a day and paid the rest of his earnings to the Red Cross.

He later bought land in the Roland area and farmed there until his retirement in 1969 when we moved to Winkler. He did much custom combining and bought all these combines and tractors from Pete Harder and John Toews.

Many exciting times were experienced while he worked in the Kane Garage. One winter evening Henry and Pete Harder and two other men decided to go to a hockey game at Letellier. The #23 Highway was one lane traffic in several places due to high snowbanks on either side of a trench and the boys were no doubt driving too fast and upset in one of these trenches. They wasted no more than five minutes and saw the hockey game after all.

John and Ben assembled a pre-cut house east of the Kane School for the Bill Schellenbergs in 1946. When the Schellenbergs moved west, Jake Borns purchased the building and moved it to their yard on SE 1-5-3W.

What amazes me now is at that time we could buy flat wooden boxes of Soda Crackers for very little money at the Kane Store.

While reading through my old dairies, I came across some important happenings such as — *On December 11, 1952 the church was moved to Kane. On February 13, 1948, Henry was looking after Peter Friesen's house while they were away, and the house burned down mid afternoon.*

We, as a family, did all our grocery shopping in Kane. In the winter time we often wish we could have some of those relaxing, quiet evenings we had then.

John passed away in 1979, Ben in 1969, and Bill in

1983, all of heart attacks. Henry passed away in 1998 of Parkinson's Disease. Anne and I (Lena) are living a busy retired life in Winkler.



*Anne, Lena and Henry Schellenberg  
carefully plan their next holiday.*

### **PETER D. & JUSTINA (Dyck) SCHELLENBERG by Gertrude (Schellenberg) Logan**

Our family lived one mile south and a half mile west of Kane, Manitoba. My parents were Peter and Justina (nee Dyck) Schellenberg. There were my brothers Pete and Abe, and myself. My dad was a carpenter; building houses, barns, sheds and whatever he was hired to do, and my mother was a housewife. My mom was a domestic engineer, in the truest sense. Whatever she put her mind to do, she would accomplish very well. My brothers and I all went to Kane School. Things were tough at times in those early years, but we were brought up in a Christian home where good virtues were taught. We had love, and we were happy. My parents and my brother Pete have passed away.

About half a mile east lived the Abe Sudermans. We children had lots of fun. Esther was my best friend.

**Abe Schellenberg:** In 1957, I married Tina Wall from Bloomfield. We were married in the Kronsgard Church south of Myrtle. After our wedding, we moved to Winnipeg, where I operated my own truck.

We were blessed with two boys, Ed and Garry. After living in the city for several years we moved the family back to Roland where I worked on the farm for my uncle, Henry Schellenberg. I also worked for the municipality of Roland.

Several years later I was employed by Triple E in Winkler as a tinsmith. Due to my wife's illness we moved back to Winnipeg where I worked as a custodian in a large apartment complex. My wife died in Winnipeg after a lengthy illness.

I stayed in the city and, some time later, remarried. My second wife is Susan Klassen of Winnipeg.



*Peter and Justina Schellenberg with (l-r) Abe, Gertie and Peter.*

In January of 1997, my oldest son Ed died in a high-way accident. My other son Garry is a youth leader in a large Winnipeg church. We have eight grandchildren.

I am now retired. I have a little wood-working hobby shop which I built in my backyard in Winnipeg.

**Gertrude (Schellenberg) Logan:** When I was six years of age, I started school. This was difficult for a while. Not only was I away from Mom and Dad, but I also had to learn to speak English properly because we spoke only Low German at home.

We were taken to school in a van - a sort of covered wagon with rows of seats on each side. This van was pulled by two horses. I believe our first van driver was a man by the name of Alex White. He was a kind man. We had numerous other drivers after him, and I have good memories of all these men.

One memory stands out in my mind about one such driver by the name of Tony Hoeppner. When the weather was miserable, Tony would come to our door and carry me into the van. He always said he would marry me when I grew up. (Hmmm, wonder why he didn't keep his promise...ha ha.) Our van also had a little stove in it so we

were kept warm in winter time as we travelled to school. On the coldest winter days, there were warm bricks for our feet.

My first grade teacher was Miss Warkentine. She was good to us, but very strict - at least it seemed that way to a six year old. Miss Warkentine had a habit of carrying a yardstick with her as she made her way between the rows of desks. Once in a while, in complete frustration, she would whack this yardstick down across a desk. Needless to say, we all had a healthy respect for the "yardstick".

We had other good teachers too: Miss Lorenz, Miss Duerkson, Miss Klassen, Miss Penner, Mr. Bergen, Rufus Schellenberg, Mr. Siemens, Mr. Neufeld and Mr. Warkentin who was principal. These are some of the people I recall.

We had a great school life. We received an education, and we also had fun. As youngsters, we were into Hop-Scotch, skipping, etc. etc. As we grew older, we learned how to play volleyball, baseball, and I believe some of us girls played soccer. That game was too rough. We had to bow out.

Baseball was one of the better sports and my favorite. We played against our neighboring communities. This usually brought out some on-lookers, mostly parents.

A memory that is very clear in my mind is the store at Kane. It was just a few steps from the school. It was owned and operated by the family of Mr. John Toews. Occasionally, when we had a quarter to spend, we would go over to the store at noon hour and have a hot-dog and soft drink. They had a hot-dog maker, and Art Toews was usually in charge of this. Those hot-dogs were delicious.

In the store was a counter on which stood some jars of candy. I forget how much one penny would buy, but I think we generally received far more than one penny's worth. Mr. Toews was a very generous man.

Our school picnics were a lot of fun. There were games, races, and a lot of things to eat. Eating was one of my best functions in those days. I recall one contest where we were given a cracker to eat. We had to chew as fast as possible, swallow, and then whistle. The winner got a prize, of course.

We had races of all kinds. I could run like a deer! (How things have changed.) We had many contests and many ribbons were won.

We also had Track and Field. We had good athletes, and we practiced. One year we went to Carman for this event. I don't recall which school won which race, but the day itself was one to remember.

Christmas Concerts! This was a joyful time of year for us children - especially when the stage was up and in place. My, my, how we practiced! When the Concert was given, it was always a hit. The seating was filled to capacity.

One Christmas Concert was not such a "hit" for me. I had to memorize a long poem - in German - and was to recite it. Well, to my amazement, I did it. With no mistakes. And then I fainted. It was not nerves, though; I had a severe attack of appendicitis.

That Christmas Eve, I had my appendix removed at Carman Hospital. The next morning when I awoke, I found presents beside me in my bed. Wow! There was a doll, and a magic slate, and lots of goodies to eat! What a surprise! There were four of us children in one room, and everyone had gifts and goodies. What an exciting time for an eleven year old girl. The doctors and nurses were responsible for making that Christmas a truly special one.

At school, we had Spelling Bees and programs, usually on a Friday afternoon. Through all these times, there were, of course, the "Exams". How glad we felt when we received a passing mark!

Our school also had a band. My skilled contribution to the band was as player of the "triangular chime". I had to hit it at a precise moment when I got the nod from the band leader. Then I would commit my triumphant "DING".

Life in Kane was usually quiet. However, one day at recess we noticed that Mr. and Mrs. Friesen's house was on fire. Also, the grain elevator burned down one day. What a fire that was!

On our school yard was a skating rink in the winter time. Beside the rink was a small building which was heated. This is where we put on our skates. The rink was lit up in the evening, and a lot of people came to skate at the rink. This was fun!

The education we received was due to the hard work of all the teachers we had. They did not have just one class, but three or four grades in each classroom. They were responsible for each subject in each grade. Their hours were long, and I believe they really earned their money. Besides the regular classroom studies, they also taught wood working and crafts. Miss Penner taught me how to knit a sweater. I was very proud of myself. Miss Penner said I did a good job. (I think Miss Penner was very kind!)

I finished my high school at Kane. From Kane, I went to Winnipeg and got a job at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital just at the Post Polio Era. This was a real good experience for me - working with these young people whose lives had been changed so drastically by the dread disease.

After a while, I was offered a job at the Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services. I worked there from 1953 to 1958.

In 1958, I decided that I would like to be a nurse. I trained at the Manitoba Technical Institute in Winnipeg and did my practical training in Morden, Manitoba. When I graduated in 1959, I went back to work at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital.

In 1960 I married Robert Logan from St. Vital in Winnipeg. We have four children - two daughters and two sons. We are also grandparents to five terrific grandsons.

Presently, we are residing at Pinantan Lake, British Columbia. We are semi-retired.

By the way, I was a very good nurse, and so I never attempted to be a writer.

## JACOB & ELIZABETH (Bergman) SCHELLENBERG

*by Ann (Rempel) Schellenberg*



*The first home of Jake and Elizabeth Schellenberg.*

Jacob P. Schellenberg was born on April 9, 1907 to Peter and Katherina Schellenberg in the Blumstein area. He lived with his parents for 29-30 years. His younger years were spent helping his father on the farm. During this time he did have the opportunity to attend school for a few years in the Blumefield School. His teacher was J. Hoepfner who presented him with a New Testament in 1919. He was baptized and joined the Sommerfelder Church in 1929.

March 23, 1938, Jacob purchased ½ section of land (25-4-3W), one mile south of Kane. The land was bought from John Miller of Ontario for \$6400.00

His first tractor he bought was a used Fordson Major and a eight foot IHC cultivator for \$160.00 from H. M. Jones, in Roland. It wasn't new, but it was enough to get him started. He farmed with it for a while, but later in 1934, he bought a new 1020 McCormick, (which was on steel wheels), from John J. Schroeder, an agent for IH in Lowe Farm. He paid \$940.00 for the tractor.

In 1939, he built a tiny house on his farm where he lived as a bachelor for two years. He quit his job crushing hay in 1940. Earlier he had bought a stationary motor which he placed on a wagon with a crusher on it pulled by horses. With this he would go to neighbour's and friend's farms to make feed from their hay. They'd usually pay him, although those who could not afford it, he'd do out of charity.

In 1941 his brothers and friends helped him build a barn on his farm.

It was during the time he had been doing custom feed crushing that he had met a pretty young lady. She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Bergman of Rose Farm area. This was a family of two boys and five girls. One of these girls won his heart and became his sweetheart. He had purchased a new 1941 Chev ½ ton in 1941 which probably made an impression on his girlfriend. They were married on June 20, 1942.





*First 1/2 ton truck owned by Jake Schellenberg, 1942.*

During World War II, Jacob was called to go to court so as to determine whether or not he should go to the C. O. Camps. Partially because of his age and his occupation, he was able to return home. The effects the war had on them was the rationing of foods.

As the farming continued, Jacob sold his McCormick to his brother-in-law and bought a new 1947 John Deere with rubber tires and lights. Then in 1948, due to his success in farming, he built a two-story house. He continued with his farming occupation and was able to purchase a new half ton and another new tractor and Massey Harris combine. This 52 Massey, Jacob took much pride in, along with the rest of their belongings. Later he traded most of his equipment to newer and bigger.

Jacob and Elizabeth had two children: Wilma Jane, and Donald James. Wilma and Don both attended the Kane School. Students were picked up by a school van. Some of the van drivers that Don remembers were William Reimer, Henry Doell, Peter Penner, and George Neufeld.



*Wedding of Jacob and Elizabeth Schellenberg, 1942.*

While Elizabeth was busy being a mother and home-maker, she always helped with the chores. They always had a few cows, hogs and chickens until about the early 70's. One big event for Jake was John Deere Day at the Kane Garage. He also enjoyed going to Kane Garage and



*The Bergman sisters, 1986. (l-r): Annie Buechert, Trudy Schellenberg, Eva Friesen, Tina Ginter, Elizabeth Schellenberg.*

Kane Store to pick up a few groceries, and to talk to Pete Harder as well as friends and neighbours. Jake and Elizabeth enjoyed visiting with the neighbours; the Sudermans, George Penners, the Pete Ginters, to mention a few, and the countless hours of fun and games at Alvin and Betty Penners. After retirement, they had more time to do things they enjoyed. For Elizabeth it was to go to watch the baseball games at Kane. There were not too many games Tina Ginter and she would miss.

It was in 1963, that Elizabeth's mother passed away. Her sister Eva was left by herself (after taking care of her mother for many years), so Jake and Elizabeth invited her to come and stay at their home. That was her home for 17 years until she married Dave Friesen of Plum Coulee.

Jacob worked hard at his farming, but also enjoyed welding machine work in his workshop. He equipped it with tools and machines. Most of the machines he built himself, such as an electric saw, a 35-40 ton press, a scooter (for his son), lathes for himself and others. They enjoyed farming to the fullest, but in 1975, they decided to retire and sold all the equipment to their son, Don. They remained on the farm until 1984. They bought a house in Plum Coulee where they built a workshop which Jacob enjoyed only a few years. He passed away in February, 1986 because of a massive heart attack.

Elizabeth stayed living in Plum Coulee. Tina Ginter and she enjoyed many outings with their sister Eva and brother-in-law Dave Friesen. When Elizabeth's health was failing and unable to stay by herself, she moved to Lion's Manor, Winkler, in January of 1997. Her health continued to deteriorate so she was hospitalized for nine months. In August, 1998, she moved to Salem Home, but her stay was very short. She passed away on September 30, 1998.

Wilma married Jack Falk of Plum Coulee in 1962. They live in Calgary, Alberta. At the present time they are retired. Wilma has been employed at Trans-alta Utilities in Calgary for many years. Jack was employed with the Calgary Police Department as an officer for 25 years. At the present time he is working as a court security. They have two daughters, Angela Falk and Vicki Falk, also of Calgary.

Don married Ann Rempel of Winnipeg in 1970. They live on the Schellenberg farm (27-4-3W), three miles west and one mile south of Kane. They continue to farm his father's farm and the farm formally owned by the Schellenberg aunts and uncles. The yard on his father's farm was sold to Phil and Nettie Zacharias in 1997. Don and Ann have two daughters: Colleen is married to Jeremy Giesbrecht, and they have a daughter Kara Elizabeth, and live in Winkler. Michelle Ann is married to James Fehr, and they have a daughter Lauren Ann, and also live in Winkler.



*Don and Ann Schellenberg with James and Michelle, and Jeremy and Colleen, 1995.*

## **HENRY P. & SARAH SCHELLENBERG** *by Rufus Schellenberg*



*Henry P. and Sarah Schellenberg.*



*The Henry Schellenbergs leave for Alberta. Back row: Manuel, Alvan, Rufus.  
Front row: Sarah (Mom), Esther, Henry (Dad), July, 1946.*

**August, 1940:** Henry brought his wife Sarah and their children Rufus, Alvan, Manuel and Esther to Kane. Here they established their home. Henry was agent for the N. M. Paterson Grain Company. The youngest three children enrolled in the local school. Rufus left for Altona to complete high school. The family members became involved in the community activities. The most significant organization was Sunday School, which had been started by two young women who worked for John Toews.

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

**Spring, 1945:** Henry was diagnosed with a chronic kidney condition, brought on by the inhalation of grain dust. Dr. C. Wiebe advised him to leave the grain business.

**July, 1946:** The Schellenberg family left Kane for Didsbury, Alberta.

### **SCHNEBLY** *from Precious Memories*

*From a letter written to Dr. William Cutlip from Ruth Schnebly Atwood Johnson in answer to his questions:*

"Our family moved to Kane, Manitoba, Canada in 1916. We went to the school about 4 or 5 miles south of us called "The Mennonite School" where they spoke German when not in class! I know we went to school with the Crouch boys, but can't recall you until we had the new school-house in Kane.

"I know that the Crouches sold land there and I think we bought our land from them several miles north - we only rented that land next to you. The Crouches lived in that farm just south of you. Hurts lived there later."

*In answer to the question: How many farmers from Illinois bought land and moved to that area?* "I just don't know - in fact I cannot think of any others. No one we knew 'made it'."

*In answer to the water situation since there was no well.* "You may have hauled water from our pool, for there was one there when we moved there in 1916. We used a horse and sled to bring a barrel of water to the

house and had to melt snow in the winter time — I can recall those blocks of snow and how cold it would be bringing them in and melting them in a broiler on the cook stove.

"The only time I remember going to a service was when my dad tried to start a Sunday School class at Kane, but it didn't work out as I recall."

*About the summers and winters at Kane:* "What do I recollect!!!! Lots of hard work putting out garden and potatoes and having to pick potato bugs! All the huge weeds that grew in the garden. And the dust storms - did you ever experience one of those just after the harrowing had been done. You couldn't see a thing! That poor old house filled with dust as well.

"The COLD winters and the colder beds — HUGE snowdrifts and going to school in sleds — being picked up after we had moved to our own farm from the 'old house' —moving from there and to a newer house that never really was finished, but such DREAMS! We moved to a rented farm with almost a shed for a house and went broke again. We moved to Winnipeg where Dad intended to go back into the plumbing business again, but he broke his arm and gave up and moved back to Normal., Illinois, in 1926 and lucky thing we did of that I'm sure.

"We did have some fun times going Saskatoon picking a couple of times — away to the west where there were some mountains, then later we went square dancing at the Myrtle School. My Dad played the guitar, and Mr. Hurt played a mandolin and someone must have called. We also had some Box Socials, which were fun if you had someone special to buy your box! I guess most of all, we did a lot of growing up in a hurry, but have to hope it had some purpose. One thing I recall so well was your mother — she was especially kind to me, for as I recall, you had lost a sister "Ruthie"? Not sure about that, she was so good to me — and kind."

### **GEORGE G. & TINA SIEMENS** *by Lloyd Siemens*

My father, George G. Siemens, was the principal of the Kane Consolidated School from 1934 to 1944. In addition to his administrative duties in the three-room school, he also taught grades 9-11 and



served as school janitor, heating “engineer”, snow remover and occasional groundskeeper. In these last four duties he was assisted substantially (in the later years) by me and by my older brother Reynold, whom he paid the princely sum of 25 cents each per month for sweeping three classrooms daily, cleaning out the trash and performing other odd jobs. In the evening hours and during many summer months he studied towards his BA degree, both through correspondence courses (imagine doing advanced calculus by correspondence!) and at summer schools. He was also frequently invited to serve as an official “marker” of final examinations for the Department of Education.



*Mr. G. G. Siemens and sons,  
Lloyd and Rennie at the Kane School, 1939.*

My mother, Tina, raised her two sons and performed various social duties such as organizing sewing circles and hosting Red Cross fund-raising activities in the teacherage. Together with my father, she played the guitar and the two of them frequently performed duets at teachers' socials in the Kane-Roland-Lowe Farm areas. My mother died in 1957, and my father—after re-marriage in 1975—died in 1984. He taught in the Winkler Collegiate from 1944 until his retirement in 1967. Throughout his years in Winkler, he was active in professional societies, and in the governance of the Winkler Co-operative Society and the Winkler Credit Union; he also served as secretary-treasurer of the Winkler School Board for over twenty years.

My memories of Kane are vivid for the years after I turned four (1939). I remember the school vans/sleds pull-

ing onto the schoolyard at 8:30, the horses chomping and steaming as they were stabled in the school barn. I always wondered what the drivers did for the remaining hours before “school out”. The annual Christmas concert was, of course, one of the highlights of the school year. Early in December the raised platforms were erected in the elementary classroom, and the youngest of us mostly watched in awe as Miss Warkentine and Miss Loewen put their young charges through their paces. The Royal Visit of the King and Queen to Winnipeg in 1939 should have been the defining moment of my life in Kane, but, because I was not of school age I was not allowed to jump under the tarpaulin in the back of Mr. John Toews' truck for the muddy trip to Osborne Stadium in the big city. Thanks to the tender mercies of the teachers who had remained behind, I was placated with hastily-bought “BB bats” and a few “jaw-breakers” (all licorice).



*George and Tina Siemens with Kathy, Reynold and Lloyd,  
1957, in Winkler.*

Because I can consciously remember only six or seven years of my life in Kane, many of my memories come in the form of isolated but sharply-defined single moments; however, because I was young, these moments took on the proportions of life-events, much larger in my imagination than any merely solid realities around me could ever be. Trudging and sledding in the snowbanks (north side of school yard) brought me, I was sure, to the edge of Alaska or, better still, to within a mile of Santa's North Pole; shooting coal briquettes on the teacherage porch using mom's stove poker transported me to Maple Leaf Gardens in the seventh game of the 1942 Stanley Cup (Foster Hewitt on play-by-play), a game won by Toronto the previous night on “Sweeney” Schriener's late goal - the only time a team has ever come back from three games down to win the Cup. What a “Hockey Night in Kane” that was! In my feverish anxiety to share the good news with my parents, I inadvertently left an exposed light bulb on a wool blanket. I burned a hole in the blanket and might easily have “brought down the house” so to speak.

Almost as memorable was my first sighting of a real airplane - a yellow bi-plane that landed just west of Kane at school closing time. We all stampeded to the pasture/landing strip convinced that WWII had finally arrived in our town. (Later, many Harvard trainers, in fact, “buzzed”

the teacherage and school in practice raids on some future target...Berlin?) There was also, I recall, a train derailment east of town: the work of Nazi agents? Sabotage by Japanese-Canadians field labourers sent to the prairies from the Fraser Valley? Perhaps it was a simple accident. Who could tell?

The biggest annual sporting event was invariably the June school picnic. Messers Toews and Hiebert erected their tents on the school yard and doled out ice-cream cones and soft drinks (Cream Soda was my favorite) in exchange for crudely-cut and printed paper vouchers given to pupils as gifts by a generous school board. We ran our obligatory races and waited excitedly for the Big Game against the "villains" from Lowe Farm or Myrtle. Tom White pitching and Cameron Hyde receiving was more exciting than imagining Whitey Ford and Yogi Berra playing catch in The House That Ruth Built. Kane, it seemed, always came out on top - as we should have done because we were always the "good guys".

Without close friends there would have been little or no context for other, less imagined or imaginative experiences. I think of boisterous birthday parties (Donald Fredricksen's, Abe Schellenberg's, my own). I think also of trying to drown gophers, and flattening pennies on the railway track and playing at war games with my closest buddies, Tommy and Dicky Hean. (They were "closest" because they were the only boys my age who lived in town. We learned early how to co-exist in relative peace.)

I conclude with some additional biographical details. My sister Kathryn was born in 1952 and now lives with her husband (Dr. Bob Menzies) and their three daughters in Morden. My brother Reynold ("Rennie") pursued a professional career as a 'cellist' in the eastern USA and in Toronto; he switched careers in the 1950s, completed a PhD and taught English Literature at the University of Alberta for twenty-five years before his death in 1996. He is survived by his widow, Frances, and by their two sons, both of whom live in Vancouver. As for myself, I completed a doctorate in 1967 and retired in 1997 after spending over thirty years as a professor of English Literature, first in Vancouver and —for thirty-one years—at the University of Winnipeg. My wife Irene and I have two sons, one a musician/carpenter in Vancouver and the other a lawyer in Los Angeles.

We occasionally drive through Kane on our way from Winnipeg to Winkler. For me the brief ride through the hamlet is both pleasantly nostalgic and melancholy. The old school is gone, as are some other landmark sites of my youth, but the teacherage (at last visit) still stands. It was literally my birthplace and the locale of all my major childhood experiences and discoveries. I visited it for the last time some years ago on the occasion of Peter Harder's retirement "social"; it was a derelict ghost of its former self or, at least, of how I remembered it as being. It was a stark and poignant symbol of the role that Change plays in all our lives.

## ABE & KATHERINE (Fehr) SUDERMAN

*by Mary (Suderman) Dyck*



*The Abe Suderman family in 1946. (l-r): Esther, Katherine (Mom), Anne, Mary, Abe (Dad), Abe, and Irene in front.*

In the year 1938, Abe and Katherine Suderman with their children; Annie, Mary, Abe and Esther, moved from their farm from Hoffnungsort, four miles northwest of Plum Coulee, to one mile south of Kane to SE 36-4-3W. Dad had bought 480 acres of land at Kane. They put up all the buildings as there was nothing on the land, except a well and a tree. Times were hard in the beginning. We also had cows, pigs, chickens, and horses. In the war years Dad also raised hogs in larger numbers.

Irene, Judy and Richard were born at Kane. We, the children, all attended the Kane Consolidated School District No. 2006. We were picked up every morning for school, and brought home after four by a school van. Dad and Mom were involved in the community: Dad as a school trustee and board chairman, and Mom was involved in the Kane Mission Sisters. Dad was also involved in the church. The church was an important part of their lives.

Annie married Henry Hiebert. Their children are Irene, Iris and Ivy. Henry died in an accident in 1958. Anne then married Ed Dyck in 1960. They lived in Morden, Gretna, Winnipeg, and are now retired and live in Altona.

Mary married Art Dyck, and they made Altona their home all their married life, and are retired. Their children are Sharon, Joan and Ruth.

Abe married Faye Porte. They farmed at Kane and Rosendale, Manitoba, and are now living in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Their children are Carl, Gladys, Patsy, Debra and Roxanne.

Esther married Herb Rach. They lived in Winnipeg, but now reside on Mitchel Bay, St. Andrews, Manitoba. Their children are Murray, Melissa and Keith.

Irene died August 16, 1952 from polio, at the age of ten years.

Judy married Albert Penner. They live in Winnipeg. Their children are Paul, Alanda, Douglas, Brent, Nadine and Nathan.



*The Abe Suderman farm during the war years. Note the long pig barn.*

Richard married Joan Foxworthy. They farmed at Rossendale, Manitoba, and are now living in Winnipeg. Their children are Dawn, Lindsey and Scottie.

In 1967, Mom and Dad sold the farm at Kane and moved to Rossendale, Manitoba, where they also farmed and raised potatoes on contract.

In 1973, they retired to Carman, where they built a new house, and lived there for eighteen years. In 1991, they moved to Winkler. Mom died June 21, 1996, at the age of 87 years. Dad died March 24, 1997, at the age of 87 years.

**ABE F. & FAYE (Porte) SUDERMAN**  
*by Abe and Faye Suderman*



*Abe and Faye Suderman, 1999.*

In 1938, when I was around three years old, my parents bought land at Kane and we moved from a little northwest of Plum Coulee. The furniture was loaded on a hay-rack pulled by a tractor and Mom followed with the car. Anne and Mary were lucky enough to be allowed to ride on top of the hay-rack. I can remember running behind the hay-rack and crying because I wanted to ride on it too.

During harvest time when I was seven years old, my Dad was combining and he told me I had to haul grain to the elevator with an old Model T truck. I had to almost stand so I could reach the pedals to drive, and then going up that narrow, steep ramp to the elevator, well! I WAS SCARED, but Mr. Henry Schellenberg, the elevator agent, helped guide me and I made it okay.

There was a deep wash-out, running off Jake Schellenberg's field into the ditch, and some boys, Willie Klassen, Abe and Pete Schellenberg, Tommy and Dickie Hean, Johnnie Born and myself used to go swimming there in the summertime.

In 1954, I married Faye Porte from Plum Coulee, and we continued farming together with Dad for a few years. In 1958, my Dad and I decided we were going to make some extra money, so we bid on a contract to haul pulpwood from Rabbit Point to Pine Falls, put out by Indian Affairs. We got the contract. So during the winter of 1958-59, I, together with a few other fellows to drive the trucks, went to Rabbit Point. Due to storms on the lake and blocked roads, we didn't get it all hauled out. In summer, I hired a barge and tugboat to haul the rest of it out. Indian Affairs moved a Reserve from Berens River to Rabbit Point to pile the cord wood on the barge. To make a long story short, we didn't get rich that year.

After Christmas in 1959, Faye and I, together with our three children, Carl, Gladys and Patsy, left Kane for awhile to work on construction. We worked for Penners Construction Company, of Steinbach. We lived in a few different places during those years: Mafeking, Fairford, Steinbach, Libau and Gull Lake. When Carl started school, we decided to move back to Kane and buy some land. We bought one quarter from my Dad and another from Abe Blatz. We farmed together with Dad, and we had a few cattle and later we went into hog farming. I also hauled lumber from Mafeking to Winnipeg one year to make some



extra money. We attended the Bergthaler Church at Kane and helped out in various positions.

Dad and Mom bought land at Rossendale in 1967, and moved there to farm. We continued farming at Kane until 1970 when we moved to Rossendale, to go into potato farming with my parents. They moved to Carman in 1973 and we took over the farm and went into more potatoes. We had contracts with Carnation Foods Ltd. and McCains Foods. We also had a lot for the table market, going mainly into Baker potatoes.

We continued farming until 1990, when I had a major heart attack, and I then rented out the land. In 1993 we sold the farm to Long Plains First Nations, and we retired to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, due to my disability.

Carl is married and lives at High Bluff, Manitoba. Gladys is married and lives in Portage la Prairie. Pat is single and lives in Edmonton, Alberta. Debra and Roxanne are both married and live in Edmonton also. We have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. One grandson was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1994.

## **FRANK F. & AGATHA THIESSEN**

*by Ben Thiessen*

Franz and Agatha Thiessen and family moved to the Kane district in the early 1930's from Rosenheim, a district near Altona, Manitoba. They had purchased 300 acres of land, which included a large house and barn and also several other outbuildings. The depression of the late 1920's and early 1930's was still in full swing and making ends meet was difficult.

The farm was basically used to grow wheat, barley and oats, but not confined to grain alone. For food and supplementary income chickens, pigs and cows were included on the farm. Eggs were sold at the local market in Lowe Farm and cream was shipped by train to Winnipeg. A large garden was essential to provide vegetables for the family. For the first years on this farm, horses were the main source of power to operate all equipment. It was 1940 before the first tractor showed up to do some of the heavy jobs. During the war years as a result of the sugar shortage, sugar beets were added to crops grown. In later years sunflowers were grown to supply the sunflower oil plant in Altona.

Franz Thiessen was a successful farmer, respected father of a large family, and very active in community leadership such as school trustee in Kane, municipality counselor and a strong pillar in the church. In addition he was often called upon to help sort out estates even though he did not have any legal training. He was the executor of his father and mother's estate and neighbours were quick to seize opportunity of such experience. He only had a few years of schooling, but was self-taught in reading, writing and arithmetic.

Prior to her marriage to Franz, Agatha Thiessen had three years of nurse's training in St. Louis, Missouri, to receive her USA degree as a Registered Nurse. Her stand-

ing was not recognized in Canada so she took a post-graduate course at the King George Hospital in Winnipeg to become the first Canadian RN in southern Manitoba. She worked at several private nursing jobs until she was offered a position at the Ninette Sanitarium. In 1923, she became Matron at the Ninette Sanitarium and held that position for several years. Because of her extensive experience in nursing, she fulfilled the role of a country nurse to many neighbours. She was the first port of call when illness occurred at neighbours. She would diagnose the illness and if her skills and medical instruments were inadequate, she would tell them to go to a doctor or the hospital at Morris or Winkler. She also served as school trustee in Kane and did many other community services wherever her skills as a community leader were needed.

Five of the youngest members of the family attended Kane Consolidated School and several of the boys continued to farm in the district. For a few years, during the war, Anne (Thiessen) Reimer operated one of the general stores in Kane, while her husband served in the Armed Forces overseas.

In 1950, Franz and Agatha sold the family farm to two of their sons and moved to Steinbach, Manitoba to retire.

**School memories from Neil (C. V.):** Our move to the Kane Community from Rosenheim, a strictly rural area with a one room school, made a significant change of learning for our family. Kane School was also in a basically rural area, but it had a two room Consolidated School, with a much greater enrollment.

The vast majority of students attending were transported to Kane School by horse drawn vans. Our van driver was a local farmer by name of Mr. Banman. I clearly remember that he was a very kind and patient person. Because of the 1930's Depression, getting a van contract was very competitive. Jobs for money were very scarce. If I recall correctly, Mr. Banman in those hard-up days, received \$1.97 per school day. During some of the spring days, with the rain and gumbo mud, the drivers would be required to use a team of four horses for the same pay rate.

The Consolidated School of Kane was a big change for the Thiessens attending. Education, as such, was deemed much more important than it was in the one room schools. Teachers took a more personal interest in their students and their goals in life. It was here that I met Mr. G. G. Siemens, an excellent teacher in all ways. He would teach and re-teach until we, as students, understood the necessary concepts. We then practiced the concepts, or principles, over and over again until they became second nature to us.

Mr. Siemens and the chalkboard were almost synonymous. He very clearly and deliberately illustrated each concept to be learned. Then he would put some ten or fifteen students up at the chalkboard, and orally give us students a similar problem to solve. He would then just stand back and watch. In this way, he was able to supervise

the actual performance of each student.

He used this practice of teaching whether it was Math, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and even in our English sentence structure. Interestingly, and of great help to us students was his method of freely permitting students to criticize and assist one another. This for me, was a very enjoyable challenge. Under the teaching of this very wise teacher, we learned how to accept and solve not only academic problems, but also those of our adult life and living.

**School memories from Ben:** When I started school getting there wasn't always half the fun, for it took so long to get there and back home again. Our house was approximately five miles from school and in my first grades we took the van to get there. The van was a canvas-covered vehicle, capable of carrying about a dozen children, drawn by two horses, on wheels in the summer time and on a sled in the winter. A one-way trip took about an hour in good weather, but after a good rain in summer, the roads would become next to impassable because it seemed that the entire road surface wanted to adhere to the wheels and make it very difficult for the horses. Under these conditions regular time schedules were forgotten. To prevent the wheels of the van from jamming up completely with "gumbo", the drivers would often cross the roadside ditch and travel on the grass apron on the other side of the ditch. In hot sunny weather the temperature in the van, covered in black canvas, would soar. The side curtains could be rolled up manually to allow for circulation, but it would depend on the temperament of the driver whether this was done or not.

Winter travel had its own set of problems and difficulties. Good snow cover and cold weather made for smooth travelling. Occasionally a January thaw would come about and leave the roads without snow cover and would make sledding very difficult. However, the fields would usually still have plenty of snow, so the roads were abandoned and the journey continued across country fields. The driver would have to make sure a route was selected that would not require going through any fences. Blizzards frequently left large snowdrifts and if due care was not exercised in crossing these, the van could upset. If the weather was relatively good this could be considered fun and exciting, but in real cold weather, we had foot warmers in the van that were kept warm by a burning charcoal briquette and this presented the danger of fire if an upset occurred.

Spring was exciting and different. The much awaited warm weather, which could bring on a variety of problems for horse drawn vehicles, could also bring us the "flood". If the water was high enough the school might have to be closed for a couple of days and what could be better than that! Warm days followed by freezing nights produced miles of ice for skating. If skating wasn't possible then makeshift rafts were pressed into action. Either activity resulted in many soakings in the near freezing waters, but that was always a fair exchange for a couple of

days away from school.

School finished on the last day of June with the annual sports day and picnic. Classes continued until noon and by that time Mr. J. J. Toews would have a booth set up behind the school with all sorts of candies, pop, and ice cream. Competitions, races and baseball would start and any prizes issued were additional paper tokens good only at the booth.

Summer holidays followed and first on the list of activities was the Carman Fair. If you were lucky enough to be able to find transportation to get there and had one dollar in your pocket you could spend all day at the midway and take in the show at the grandstand as well. What a way to finish the school year!

## JACOB & JUSTINA THIESSEN

*by Judy (Blatz) Thiessen*



*Jacob and Justina Thiessen on their 65th Anniversary.  
(l-r): Bob, Larry, Esther, Mom, Dad, David, Howard.*

Jacob and Justina Thiessen moved to the Kane district in 1950, the year of the big flood. They moved to the farm of his father, Franz F. Thiessen, located on section 21-4-2W, from the Neufeld School District, four miles north of Lowe Farm.

Mom and Dad had a busy life. Dad was involved as a Kane School trustee for many years and also served as chairman of the board some of that time. He had a van route as well, this meant that everyone was up at the crack of dawn to do chores, get breakfast out of the way, and off on the van route.

The Thiessen farm was the location for many family gatherings. Both Mom and Dad were very hospitable, so their house saw a lot of action. Mom is well known for her excellent cooking, her soups being second to none. To this day at the age of 87, she still cooks for most of our family events, and has family over weekly for a meal.

Mom and Dad attended the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Church for many years and then in the early 60's started to

attend the Rose Farm Church. For many years Dad was involved as an adult Sunday School teacher and also served as a song leader in the Lowe Farm Church. The family attended Sunday School and later attended youth meetings and sang in the choir.

In 1973, Mom and Dad moved to Winkler, where Dad worked at Salem Home as an orderly for many years and Mom worked there as a cook. Their residence was on 13th Street and then until the summer of 1998, they lived on Crystal Crescent. That summer they sold their house and moved into an apartment on 3rd Street. The family has been blessed to be able to share many special anniversaries with them; the 50th in 1982, the 60th in 1992, and in 1997 we had an open house for their 65th at their home. They celebrated their 67th anniversary this September 29 and are still in reasonably good health.

They have five living children with one deceased at the age of two:

Esther married Peter Wiebe on June 20, 1970. Esther has worked as a nurse most of her life and is now doing secretarial work at the Baptist Bible College in Altona. Peter does purchasing for the College. They reside in Altona. Esther and Peter have three children: Eunice who teaches near Toronto, Ontario, David who is studying and working in Ontario, and Jeremy who is studying in Winnipeg.

Howard married Judith Blatz on June 9, 1962...see Howard Thiessen story.

Larry married Hedy Wojcik on October 25, 1969. Larry and Hedy live in Winnipeg where Larry owns and operates a trucking company. Hedy works as a teacher's aide. They have two children: Todd who is working in Toronto, Ontario, and Tanya who works in Winnipeg.

Bob married Sharon Blatz on August 10, 1968. They presently reside on an acreage just outside of Calgary, Alberta, where Sharon enjoys gardening, animals and her department 56 Dickens Village collection, as well as spending time with their grandchildren. She works out of their home as a bookkeeper and Bob is a trucker. They have three children and two grandchildren: Rob who works as a procurement manager for Lilydale Hatchery, and fiancée Caroline and daughter Stephanie; Jeff who works as a glazier for Glass Unlim-

ited, and his wife Laura and son William, and daughter Melanie who works at Home Depot.

David married Noani Searle on November 17, 1973. David works at John Deere in Morris as a service manager and Noani works as an RN in the Red River Valley Lodge. Both David and Noani are very involved in the community, in the fire department, and with the ambulance. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Trevor and his wife Carolyn and children Tyler and Megan; and Nathan who attends University of Winnipeg. Trevor and Carolyn work with Hillbilly Greenhouses in Morris.

## HOWARD & JUDY (Blatz) THIESSEN

*by Judy (Blatz) Thiessen*



*Howard Thiessen family, 1998. Back row: Blair B., Darwin T., Mike T., Rick T., Caleb B., Jobna T. Middle row standing: Harmony T., Cadence T., Josiah B. Sitting: Brenda Bates holding Jadan T., Howard (Dad) holding Joran T. and Jessie B. Judy (Mom) holding Aria T., Carolyn.*

Howard and Judy were married on June 9, 1962, in the Plum Coulee Bergthaler Church by Rev. John Froese. During the first few years of their marriage many moves were made. In winter they lived in the city where Howard was employed at Eaton's and then later went to the University of Manitoba to get his diploma in Agriculture. From 1966-1969, they lived in the Kane district, in the former Henry Kehler home. Their first three children, who had all been born in Winnipeg, were all fairly young and enjoyed the short walk across the road to Grandma and Grandpa Thiessen. During this time Howard worked on construction in summer, helped with the farm as time was available, raised some pigs and had a school bus route.

In the spring of 1969, Howard and Judy moved to MacDonald, Manitoba, where they worked on a co-op farm for one year. This is where Darwin started school; taking his kindergarten in Portage. From here they moved to Graysville, Manitoba to farm together with Judy's Dad. Here Brenda and Richard started school and Michael was added to the family. In the fall of 1973, the Thiessen family moved once again to the Darlingford district to be employed by a farmer. Here they lived in a very large old stone house, had some cattle and horses of their own and enjoyed some snowmobiling in the wide open fields. Though they were tired of moving, there was yet another move in store for them. In 1975, Howard was employed by Kroeker Farms in Winkler and Howard and Judy purchased



an acreage five and a half miles south of Morden, where they lived until 1997, when they sold their farm and moved to Morden. During the years that they lived on the farm the family spent many hours in the winter snowmobiling and tobogganing in the hills just one mile south of the yard. In the summer when Howard was done spring planting they went camping.

Howard and Judy and family have attended the Morden Alliance Church for the past 25 years and have been involved in various areas. Their four children all graduated from the Morden Collegiate. Darwin is living in Atlanta, Georgia, with his three daughters; Harmony, Cadence and Aria. Brenda and husband Blair Bates live in Peachland, British Columbia with their three children; Josiah, Caleb and Jessie. Rick and his wife Johnna live in Marysville, Washington with their two sons, Joren and Jadan. Mike lives in Morden and works at Decor Cabinets.

Two and a half years ago, Howard and Judy moved to Morden into a new home. Their grandchildren much preferred the big farmhouse and yard, but the new house and small town yard is much better suited to their still very busy lifestyle. Howard works as a shipper for Farm King in Morden and Judy works as the Life Program Manager at Salem Home in Winkler. In summertime they spend most of their spare time on their Honda Gold Wing going away for camping weekends and usually plan a bike trip annually. Some of the places they have visited with their bikes are Branson, Missouri, Waterton Glacier National Park and trips to the kids on the West Coast.

### DAVID THIESSEN FAMILY

*by Myra (Thiessen) Meyer*



*Dave Thiessen with his two daughters:  
Myra Meyer and Josey Wirsch, 1997.*

David Thiessen was born to Frank F. Thiessen and Helena Peters at Weidenfeld on November 11, 1920. He moved to the Kane district in 1932. Liddy Groening was born to Abraham A. Groening and Maria Martens at Kane, on September 20, 1920. They both attended Kane School. They were married on December 26, 1941, at the Lowe Farm Berghaler Church. David was called into military service in 1942. His training took him to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; Petawawa, Ontario; and Port Alberni, British Columbia; before being sent overseas to Algiers (Africa), Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland. While he was gone, Liddy worked at the Lowe Farm Egg Grading Station and she purchased a small farm of fifty acres in the Kane district (one mile east and one-half mile south of Kane).

David was very involved in school affairs, being a school trustee for twenty years. He served as a Sunday School teacher and superintendent, and a deacon in the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm.

Their first daughter, Myra, was born in 1946. She received her education at the Kane School until the "new" high school at Lowe Farm opened in 1962. She graduated in 1964, and enrolled at Winnipeg Bible College (now known as Providence College), where she received her Bachelor of Religious Education degree in 1967. After completing a two year Education course, she began her teaching career. She graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975. Myra has taught in the Hanover School Division and the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. She has currently completed thirty years of teaching.

In 1969, Myra married Gary Meyer from Anoka, Minnesota. They have two daughters, Amber and Cherish, and one grandson, Devon. They all live in Winnipeg. Myra and Gary attend Grant Memorial Baptist Church.

David and Liddy had a second daughter, Josey, in 1951. Josey attended Kane School for her elementary education, and graduated from the Morris Collegiate in 1969. She enrolled at the Winnipeg Bible College for one year and then entered the St. Boniface School of Nursing, graduating in 1973. Her first year of nursing was spent in Fort Vermillion, Alberta. After her marriage to Ivan Wirsch, in 1974, she worked at the Grace Hospital and the Municipal Hospitals (now known as the Riverview Health Centre). In 1985, Josey and Ivan and their family went as missionaries with Trans World Radio to Swaziland, Africa. They remained there until 1992, when circumstances forced their return.

Josey and Ivan have three children: Paul (married to Sanja Rumball), Lana (married to Ward Draper) and Tim. Josey is currently employed at the Menno Hospital in Abbotsford, British Columbia. She attends the Northview Community Church.

Liddy Thiessen was in ill health for many years, passing away in 1977 (just two months before her first grandchild was born). David had already sold the farm by then and was living in Winkler. In 1981, David married Margaret Wiebe from Kitimat, British Columbia. Their married life

has been spent in Kitimat, Portage la Prairie, Swaziland (Africa), and Vernon, British Columbia. They enjoy traveling to see their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario. They are involved in the Baptist Missionary Society of Latin America in San Carlos, Mexico, and in the Gideon Bible Society. David and Margaret fellowship and serve at the Faith Baptist Church in Vernon.

**Fond Memories:** Who can ever forget those school picnics at the end of the year? Even if running and jumping were not your strong point, you could always win three cents for every event you entered. Those pennies added up and cokes could be bought for ten cents at the “store” set up on the schoolyard. Of course, two cents was refunded for the return of the bottle. The day always ended with the baseball games. You could sit and cheer on the teams or “run wild” all over the schoolyard. Those were the days!

Then there were the “John Deere” days. The school children would be walked down to Pete Harder’s garage where they were seated on benches, ready to watch the “movies”. Those movies were about the new line of tractors, just what every farm child should know! If there was a cartoon or not, that memory has faded, but what left an indelible impression was the “store bought” honey-glazed doughnuts!

Winter always meant having a skating rink on the school yard. The “big” boys were allowed class time to help flood the rink. Noon hours would be spent playing hockey, or skating around the perimeter of the rink trying to dodge the hockey pucks, or trying to warm up in the skating shack. There was no concern about wind-chill factors and keeping kids in at recess if the numbers were too high. If you were cold, you went into the shack to warm up and then out you went again. You learned to be hardy and cope with the cold. You dressed for it!!

### **JACOB H. THIESSEN FAMILY** *by Dan and Helen Thiessen*

Jacob was the son of Aaron A. and Agenetha (Wiebe) Thiessen. The Aaron Thiessens had eleven children: Aaron, Bernhard, Henry, Agenetha, John, Abraham, Jacob, Agatha, Anna, Sara and Katherine. They resided in the Rural Municipality of Morris at Section 22-4-2W.

Jacob, the youngest of the boys, moved to Section 14-5-2W and lived there alone for a few years. He then met Helen Toews, born September 1912, to Mr. and Mrs. John P. Toews. Jacob and Helen married on October 17, 1937. The marriage took place after the regular church service, as was quite common during that time. After the service the bridal couple went to the parents’ home and visited with friends and family. There was a dance in the evening, after which the newlyweds went to their own place. The next day was a work day again.



*Jacob H. and Helen Thiessen with sons Grant and Dan.*



*Jacob and Tina Thiessen.*

Dan, their first son was born on December 10, 1939. He was born at home with Dr. Colert and Agenetha Hildebrand in attendance. A second son, Grant Wayne, was born in the Altona Hospital on December 20, 1946.

In fall of 1949, Jake and Helen moved to the Kane School District at NE 34-4-2W. They hired a contractor to remodel the house and built a new barn, machine shed and a large grain bin. This was a very busy year for them. They had a hired man, Abe Hildebrand, for a few years to help them out.

Farming had changed a lot from the time they had started farming. Jake used horses for seeding the first spring he farmed. In 1936, he bought his first tractor. Horses were still used for haying, cutting grain with a binder, and also for hauling the sheaves when threshing. They didn’t have their own threshing machine, so someone was hired and he brought along a threshing crew. In 1945, they bought a



*The Jacob H. Thiessen farm.*

swather and combine, which made a big difference in the amount of work to be done.

Cooking meals and bringing them to the field was done by Helen. Women generally helped in the field with grain stooking, which was a tedious chore. Having a large garden was also very important so that vegetables could be canned for the winter.

In 1965, the Thiessens built a new home in Lowe Farm and were semi-retired, but still farming some of the land. Helen had a stroke in July, 1980, and was hospitalized for a few days before passing away on July 30, 1980.

Jake remarried on October 25, 1981 to Mrs. Tina (Julius) Wiens of Lowe Farm. They resided in Lowe Farm until July, 1997, at which time they moved into Lions Manor in Winkler.

### **DAN C. & HELEN (Martens) THIESSEN** *by Dan and Helen Thiessen*

Dan is the older of the two sons born to Jacob H. and Helen Thiessen. He started school in Kronsweide. The classroom had many older students, and was difficult for the teacher to manage, so the School Board decided that the beginners should wait another year and then start again, which they did the following September.

After his parents moved to 34-4-2W in fall of 1949, which was the Kane School District, Dan went to school there. Many stories could be told about the school bus rides, and the stunts that were pulled on the driver. During one trip home the van was stuck on the road because of snow, so a couple of the young boys went out to help push the van out, but being kind of mischievous, they only pretended to push and were actually pulling it back! On another occasion, the van rolled, fortunately no one was hurt.

Dan completed grade eight, and then stayed home to help his Dad on the farm. In 1956, farm wages were \$20.00 a month. Dan took various jobs off the farm to supplement his income. Dan also worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris for awhile that year for 85 cents an hour. Gasoline

prices were 35 cents a gallon at the time. Dan also helped with bridge building on the Shannon Drain, operating heavy construction equipment around 1965, and helping with construction of Lowe Farm School when it was built.

Dan married Helen Martens on October 10, 1964. Helen is the daughter of Peter J. and Tena Martens of the Melba School District. Helen was working as a telephone operator when they met, and for a few years after they moved to what had been Dan's parents place at 34-4-2W. She did bookkeeping for Lowe Farm Co-op.

In 1968, Dan and Helen moved out of the district and lived at various locations, including Lowe Farm for eight years, then sold the house in town in 1979, and built a new house on NE 34-4-2W in 1980. They took part in church and community activities, mostly in the Lowe Farm area. Dan and Helen farmed until 1997, and have rented out the land the last few years.

Family has always been important to them, and after moving out to the farm they got the "toys" for the children that they couldn't have in town. The first thing was a go-cart on which the children and their friends spent lots of time. Later on Stefan had a dirt bike and enjoyed racing with it. There was also *Princess* the Shetland pony, which was saddled up and ridden several times a day. The girls were more into horses, and later we had numerous kinds until the Arabian breed seemed to take over as the favourite. By this time it was mostly Rhonda's interest. She had a natural talent for getting the best from each horse and loved working with them, training and showing in various shows including 4-H and Arabian.

Dan was elected to serve as councilor for Ward 5, in the R. M. of Morris in a by-election in 1977, and was councilor for six years and reeve for twelve years. During that time he served on many committees, including the Red River Valley Hospital Board, Rail Retention Committee for the CNR Morris-Hartney line at which time that committee made an agreement to keep the line open for twenty more years and that agreement was up in 1999, and the railway has now been sold to a U. S. based company. The Pembina Valley Development Corporation was another committee that Dan was part of when the ini-



tial workings for the water line that is now running through the municipality alongside Highway #23 began. This line is bringing water to a large area in the Red River Valley. Completion of this project was in 1999, after being in the works for at least half a dozen years, if not more.

Monica, the oldest child of Dan and Helen, was born on November 12, 1967. She went to kindergarten in Kane, and it was also the last year that the school was open. She went to elementary school in Lowe Farm and graduated from Morris School in June, 1985, after completing Grade 12. She is now living in Winnipeg and has a Windshield Repair Business.



*Dan and Helen Thiessen and family, (l-r) Monica, Rhonda and Craig Shewchuck, Stefan*

Rhonda was born July 30, 1971. She also went to school in Lowe Farm and Morris, graduating from Grade 12 in 1989. After working a few years Rhonda took a computer programming course at Red River College, and has found employment in that field. Rhonda married Craig Shewchuk on May 23, 1998. They are living in Winnipeg.

Stefan was born on March 29, 1973. He attended school in Lowe Farm and Morris and vocational at St. Jean. He graduated in 1991, and worked in Morris and Rosenort as a welder for a few years and then headed out to Surrey, British Columbia for a year to work. He is now taking Mechanical Engineering at Red River College in Winnipeg.

### **ABRAM G. & AGATHA (Born) TOEWS** *by Mildred (Toews) Beach*

Abram and Agatha Toews farmed a section of land one mile east and one mile south of Kane, Manitoba. When we moved to this location from Myrtle, Manitoba in 1937, our family consisted of Erna (age 17), Elda (age 14), Bill (age 11), Marilyn (age 6) and Mildred (age 1). The memories each of our family members have of Kane life will be significantly different because of these age differences. I write from my own perspective.



*Abram and Agatha Toews.*

Closely woven into the farm and family life of our parents was their Christian orientation. Outwardly perhaps not particularly religious, both parents had a religious conviction that was firmly rooted in Mennonite faith and culture.

Dad's family was Bergthaler. Mom had been baptized Mennonite Brethren before her marriage to Dad. In those days this marriage of beliefs was a considerable compromise for each of them. Although they had joined the Bergthaler Church at the time of their marriage, it was not until much later in life that this church affiliation had significant meaning for them. Occasionally we would attend the Bergthaler Church at Lowe Farm. On big occasions like the "Viertal Jahres Fest" at Kronsgrad, Manitoba, we would go there and enjoy the all-day Christian celebrations.

Dad, Elda and Walt were all involved with the Sunday School that was held in Kane School over a period of about ten years. Marilyn and I also attended and remember fondly the many hymns from the "Triumphant Service Songs" book.

Dad was ecumenical in outlook. We frequently visited Rose Farm Rudnerweider Church for "Judendverein" and I remember visiting the Pentecostal Church in Carman. When we were on winter vacations in Arizona, Dad visited the Mormon Church while I took in a Catholic service with a new found friend.

Our mother, on the other hand, kept her heart allegiance for the Mennonite Brethren Church. No doubt she



*The A. G. Toews family reunited at the farm, 1990.  
(l-r): Mildred, Elda, Walt, Erna, Marilyn.*

was pleased and gratified when the two oldest girls married men from that church.

The “faith” of our family was to be sorely tested in the accidental death of Bill in 1940. All of us have had to struggle with the “why” in various ways. I remember Dad taking us all to the piano to teach us the hymn “Gott ist die Liebe” (translated “God’s love is Boundless”). I believe it is the main message we learned from life with our parents.

Just a short summary of where we are today - Erna and Frank Doerksen and family are in Keremeos, British Columbia; Elda and Henry Thiessen live in Mitchell, Manitoba; Walt, having lost his wife Rose in 1996, is now in Carman, Manitoba; Marilyn and John Wiebe are here in Winnipeg; Tony and I live in St. Vital, Manitoba.

### **JOHN J. & KATHERINE (Schellenberg) TOEWS**

*by Wilma (Toews) Taylor and Bill Toews*

Our father, John Toews (born 1903 - Kronsart) met Katherine Schellenberg (born 1905 - Altona) as she was walking home from a function at the MCI in Gretna. They married in 1927, at the church in Reinland, the village that had, at some time in the past, been home to both of their forefathers. After living with Grandpa Toews in Kronsart for a short period of time, they settled half a mile west of Kane in 1929.

Fire destroyed their small house and its contents that same year and a house was subsequently built in Kane for \$275.00, the total gross income from the farm (quarter section) that year. It was a warm house, well insulated with sawdust and sturdily built. Eventually it was moved to Winkler, where it is still in use. I (Wilma) have memories of an electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling in

each room of the house and mother having the use of electrically powered appliances, including a butter churn, all powered by a wind driven generator which also serviced the store, and the garage, for many years before the introduction of hydro.

I have many other childhood memories, or are they impressions? Sitting on father’s lap with my sister, as he chatted with us, and teased us. Father taking pictures of Art, June and I, seated on the dining room table, with a camera which had some kind of flash mechanism. Sharing a Burnt Almond chocolate bar with Mom, June and Art on a Sunday afternoon. Going to the community Sunday School, which took place in the School building, with 25 cents in our hand for the offering. Meeting with our relatives in Morris or Morden Park for a picnic and many more.



*The J. J. Toews family, 1941-42. (l-r): Art, June, Katherine (Mom), Wilma, Jerry, John (Dad).*

After being relieved of the farm in 1931, by the mortgage company, a few implements were sold and the proceeds were used to procure a service garage. The front section of the garage became a grocery outlet, where one could not only buy grocery items and straw hats, but you could buy a cool soft drink which Leonard Penner would get for you by opening the trap door in the oiled floor, and reaching down into a dank, dark hole in the ground where the drinks were kept. Various dealerships were taken on and developed. (Refer to Pete Harder’s article “Business in Kane”.)

With the help of Bill and Herman Schellenberg (Katherine’s brothers), Leonard Penner and others, the business became well established, leading to the purchase of a deluxe Diamond T, 2 ton truck in 1936. Mr. Toews used it before the war started in 1939, to take a truck box full of local people and school kids to see the King and Queen on their visit to Winnipeg. That same year, with lumber that cost \$840.00, and was shipped directly from British Columbia by rail, a general store was constructed and managed by Leonard Penner, who joined the war effort in the early ‘40’s.

At about this time, Pete Harder came along and, with

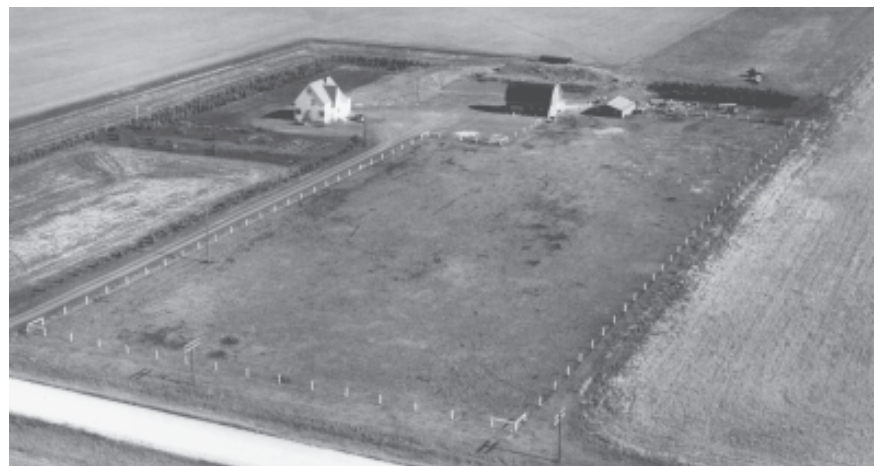


*The J. J. Toews family home in the 30's (building left of the garage) in Kane.*

Art Toews, nurtured the business into a going concern. The farm had been taken on again in 1935, but the store building became living quarters for the family, eight in total, plus the hired help.

Earlier, the Toews' had become involved in school affairs as a result of a visit by the Minister of Education, and John served as chairman of the board and Katherine, trustee - secretary for a number of years. They both had an appreciation for higher education, and expected their children to take advantage of improved opportunities. As well, they were keen on starting their children in music, especially the girls, in order to give them something to fall back on, should they have to make their own living in the future. As well, both John and Katherine were fond of good music, so June and Wilma, barely school age, were sent across the tracks to Mrs. Squires, wife of the Canadian Consolidated elevator agent, who gave them piano lessons for a short time in a small apartment on the elevator premises. Accompanied by the wheezing of the fly wheel on the stationary engine, they took instruction.

Katherine then purchased a Heintzman piano for \$50.00, with money that she earned by boarding elevator work gangs in addition to her family and hired help. For the remainder of their years at home, the girls were driven, usually by their Dad, to Winkler and later on to Winnipeg for weekly lessons.



*The John J. Toews farm, 1951-52.*

During their residency of over 47 years in the Kane area, John Toews was sought out for his ability to repair pretty well anything, keeping inflation in check in the process. Katherine, in the meantime, boarded any number of hired help as well as raising their family. She also frequently filled in to manage the store.

In 1949, Mr. Toews built a new family home on the original farm site and in 1957, a new garage was built in Kane, which Pete Harder purchased in 1960. After moving to the farm, Mr. Toews spent much of his time in his shop, where he built equipment for the farm. Each item had a unique feature not found on currently available commercial equipment. For diversion, he would engage in a game of checkers with his good friend Henry Schellenberg.

During this time Katherine went back to school at 57 years of age, and received her L.P.N. certificate after which she spent twelve years in nursing at Morris Hospital, fulfilling a lifelong desire. Her interest and loyalty to the job was demonstrated by occasionally volunteering a 16 hour shift when the situation required. Nursing also filled a social need for her.

John's final project, the rotary engine, remained unfinished due to a stroke in 1984. The engine was something he had dreamed about for