

GEORGE KOTERLA

submitted by John Koterla

I was born in Gonor 1904. My parents Peter and Eudokia Koterla (nee Yatsura) immigrated from the Ukrain and entered Halifax in March 1903 with their three children, Bill, John and Mary and settled on a farm in Gonor. Later on my brothers Peter, Andrew and Mike and my sister Lena were born.

I started school at 11 years old. Since we lived 4 miles from school, I went to school only when weather permitted. At the age of 14 I completed grade 2 and decided to quit school and go to work. My first job was in the Transcona Machine Shop in their Ammunition Shell Department. I could not see any future in farming. Next year at the age of 15, I went to Hyas, Sask. to work in Hyas Trading Co. General Store. After working there 7 1/2 months, I got homesick, quit my job and went back home to Gonor, Man. I brought back with me some money, clothes and a copy of a Stradevarious Violin. In 1919 I formed a four piece orchestra with Bill Dubowits on Violin, Mike Dubowits on Drums, Harry Praznik on Clarinet and Tenor Saxophone and myself on Cornet. The name of our orchestra was the Moonlight Orchestra and we read music notes. We played in surrounding districts around Gonor, Narol, Rosedale, etc. We played at weddings, socials and picnics until 1924. In the summer of 1924, we went to Fort William, Ont. and increased our band to 6 musicians. The new additional musicians were Edward Pyech on Clarinet and Martin Yarema on slide Trombone.

I joined a Military Brass Band and played 1st Trumpet once a week. In 1925 I went to International Falls, Minn. U.S.A. and again formed a 4 piece band and played at Dance Halls. I also joined a Town Brass band and played at the skating rink arena in Fort Francis, Ont. once a week.

In 1926, I went to Detroit, Mich., U.S.A. and stayed at my brother's (Bill) place. I worked for awhile at the Chevrolet Division at the G.M. plant doing tool work and later worked at the Chrysler plant as a tool grinder.

In 1927, I operated a Photo Studio in Detroit. In July 1929, I went back home to Gonor and married Mary Figol of Narol, Man., daughter of Wasyl and Ksenka Figol (nee Podperyhora). Two days after the wedding we returned to Detroit, Mich, U.S.A. and about 6 weeks later 9 banks closed, because they went into receivership. I lost all my money like many others, with no sign of any job or business.

Next year, May, 1930 we were blessed with our first child, a daughter, and we named her Irene. In September I cashed my Life Insurance Policy, my brother Bill gave me his car and we packed up and left Detroit heading to Gonor, Man., hoping that perhaps there was more to eat back home. The journey was rough, mostly detours, because of construction and 1400 miles of driving. Our trip back to Gonor cost us \$10.80 for gas and oil. In Michigan, U.S.A. the gas was 9 gallons for \$1.00.

Back at Narol, we lived at my wife's parents summer kitchen, measuring 10x14 ft. There was no jobs in site and to keep the wolves away from the door, I went professional as a photographer taking pictures of family



George and Mary Koterla, granddaughter Sherry Wesley, 1982.

weddings and baby photos. I developed and printed the pictures in the room where we lived. Trying hard to provide for my family, I also helped cutting and hauling cord wood for \$2.00 to \$3.00 per week. Later we rented a 2 room shanty for \$6.00 a month.

In 1932, I went to Grand Beach and started the first photo developing business in Grand Beach (Grand Marais). Customers only had to wait 2 days at the most to get their films developed and printed. At the beginning, I didn't have a penny in my pocket. I went to the Eastman Kodak Photo Supply Co. and explained to them of my past experience with my own photo studio in Detroit, Mich, U.S.A. and told them that I wanted to open a Film Developing shop, but that I had no money or collateral to back me up. I promised to pay them after the season was over, that is after Labour Day. They trusted me and supplied me with all I needed, films, chemicals, and printing paper. I also had no money to pay for train fare to Grand Beach which was about 65 cents so I took my gold pocket watch to a pawn shop, they loaned me \$3.00 and now had enough money for train fare and for some food.

I built a shop in Grand Marais 10X4 ft. of rough local lumber which cost about \$20.00. This was for my photo shop. I bought the property and two years later I built a lunch room which I named George's Fish and Chips. I also built the first and so far only Drug Store in Grand Marais. I rented out the Drug Store to a Druggist named Henry Pasco. My Drug Store also was the first place to get a liquor vending licence in Grand Marais. A few years later I bought two more lots with business buildings on them. One building was operated by Harry Blake-Knox as the first Movie Theatre in Grand Marais.

The second building was a grocery store and the third building was a barber shop and sleeping quarters.

In 1942, I persuaded my nephew Matt Gowriluk to quit his \$25.00 a week job and come to run a grocery store I owned at Grand Marais. I made his credit good at Mcleans Grocery Wholesale Co. so they kept Matt well supplied through that season, so that the shelves in the store were full. At the end of that summer season, he made enough profit so that he was able to start a Fruit

and Vegetable Wholesale which he called Midland Fruit in Winnipeg.

We eventually quit the film developing business and only operated a restaurant at Grand Marais with my wife and children, 3 daughters and one son. I kept the name George's Fish and Chips.

In 1939, I was hired as a tool maker at Vulcan Iron Dept. in Winnipeg and in 1942, I was went to Prince Rupert, B.C. to sharpen tools to drill mountains, granite rock for Defence projects. Later on in Winnipeg I was hired as a Manager for the Silver Grill Restaurants.

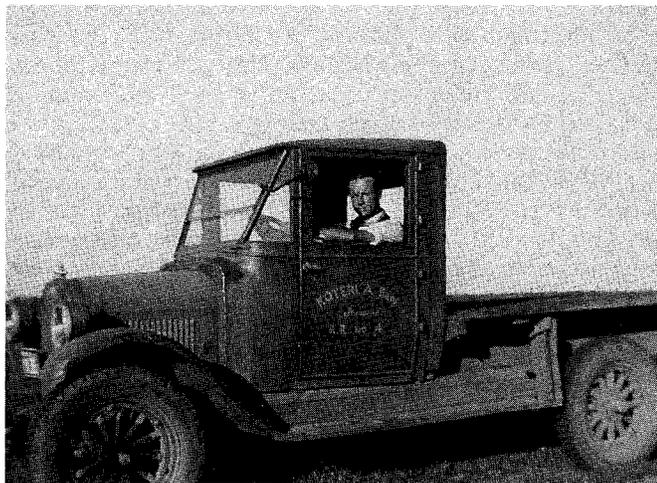
In 1944, I bought a River lot in Gonor. It was R.L. 170 opposite the Gonor School and about 1/4 mile south of the Lockport Bridge on Henderson Highway. We built a new house and in two years it was all paid for.

As our children got older and finished their education, they went out on their own.

My daughter Irene got married to Gordon Saltner a locomotive engineer, Evelyn married Frank Wesley, former Principal of the Happy Thought School in East Selkirk and also a very good Accordion player. Noreen married Bill Nerbuas a salesman and is now living in Vancouver. Ernie, my son, married Helen Kowalyk from Poplarfield, Manitoba, daughter of Minnie and Mike Kowalyk. Ernie built a home next to mine and is employed as an Assistant Secretary Treasurer of the R.M. of St. Clements. He is a musician, Violinist, and Tenor Saxophone and he has also made some records which are still being played on the radio. My son Henry stayed in this world for only a couple of years, But I am sure he enjoyed them.

Myself, for the past 30 years, and now in 1982, am still in the Washing Machine business.

Since 1928, I studied on my own to increase gas mileage in cars. The last invention I made was the best. Now in 1982, I am driving a 1978 Chevrolet Nova that gives me 40 M.P.G. highway driving. I am still working in my repair shop 6 to 8 hours every day. I am beginning to feel my age of 79. It's time to slow down.



Andrew Koterla in truck, family farm truck.

ANDREW KOTERLA

submitted by Ernie Koterla

Andrew Koterla, a Ukrainian Canadian Citizen, helped to protect and defend his country of Canada, Continent of North America, and also risked the chance of losing his life to protect Great Britain during the Second World War.

He is a son of his late parents, Peter Koterla and Eudokia (nee Yatsura). They also gave him brothers Bill, John, George, Peter, and Mike and two sisters, Mary and Lena.



Left: Andrew, Right: Mike Koterla digging potatoes.

Andrew Koterla enrolled in the No. 10 District Depot - Canadian Infantry Corps (L.S.R.) the Canadian Army at Winnipeg, Man. on the 8th day of January, 1943. He was stationed in Nova Scotia for about one year then went overseas on New Year's Eve of 1944-45 to England. He served in Canada, United Kingdom, and Continental Europe. France, Belgium, Holland and Germany still linger in his mind. As far as medals and decorations are concerned in respect of service during the war, there was 1939-1945 Service and the "France and Germany Star".

Andrew was honourably discharged April 8, 1946 to return to civil life by reason of Demobilization of the Army.

After being discharged from the Army, Andrew went back to farming the home farm with his brother Mike. Andrew and his brother Mike are the only children of Peter and Eudokia Koterla who continued to farm the family farm on Lots 211 and 212 in Gonor Man., R.M. of St. Clements. When the government made the Floodway project, the home farm was lost to it but Andrew and his brother Mike bought another farm close by in the R.M. of Springfield bordering the R.M. of St. Clements directly behind the Pine Ridge Trailer Court.

In 1982, the memories of the Second World War being left far behind, Andrew Koterla with his brother Mike Koterla are still carrying on their parents profession of farming.

ERNEST PATRICK KOTERLA

submitted by Ernest P. Koterla

I was born on March 17, 1935 in the Selkirk General Hospital to my proud Ukrainian Canadian parents, George, son of Peter and Eudokia (nee Yatsura) and Mary, daughter of Wasyl and Ksenka Figol (nee Podperhora). I lived in Gonor most of my life. My parents wanting me to follow in my father's footsteps as a musician, taught me to play the violin between the ages of five to seven years old. At eight years of age my parents sent me for private classical violin lessons, to a qualified music teacher, Ann Palmer of Winnipeg, Man. After passing grade 7 classical violin with the Royal Conservatory of Music, University of Toronto, I began to play at Ukrainian weddings, socials and dances with my brother-in-law Frank Wesley, in a five piece dance band. I have made two records, one with the Interlake Polka Kings and one with the Continentals. I have also played 6 years with the Mike Domish Band. Music has played a great part in my life. I have two daughters, Tammy and Tracey. In 1982 Tammy (11 years old) is taking Classical Guitar, Grade 3 with the Royal Conservatory of Music and Tracey (14 years old) is taking Grade 8 Classical Piano with the Royal Conservatory of Music, University of Toronto. Tracey is also in her Third Year in Music Theory.

We lived across the road from the Gonor School. This made it very difficult to play hooky from school but, I managed to play hooky like most ordinary small school boys do. After completing high school at the Gonor School I enrolled at the Provincial Government College, Manitoba Institute of Technology in Winnipeg and successfully completed a 12 month course in Accounting.

My parents were very good to me and had done their very best to bring me up properly in this world. My brother Henry who passed away when he was a small child, and my sisters Noreen, Evelyn and Irene were also treated equally well by Mom and Dad.

I did have some good luck in my life and one of my good fortunes was to marry Helen (nee Kowalyk) of



Ernie Koterla 7 years old, 1942.

Poplarfield, daughter of Minnie and Mike Kowalyk. Helen is a wife who I am well pleased with and very proud of. Tammy and Tracey, our daughters help to make a happy and wholesome family.

I could remember when I was small, perhaps as far back as when I was 5 or 6 years old, how poor we were. We lived in a small two room house in Gonor. There was a wood stove we used for heating and cooking and we didn't have any luxuries like electricity or even a water well on the property my father was renting in Gonor. There was no telephone in the house. An ice cream cone, chocolate bar, or a soft drink was a rare pleasure we enjoyed once or twice a month. To go for a drive in my father's truck, whenever we could afford gasoline, was enjoyable, even though we were a bit crowded in the cab. Imagine, Mom and Dad and four of us children.

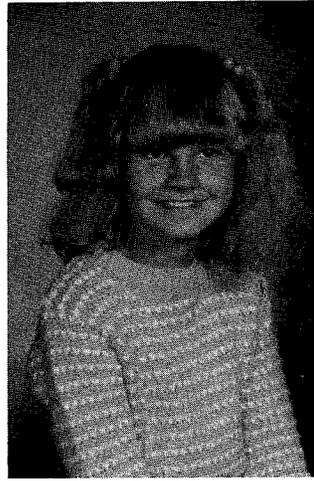
When Dad began to operate the first film processing shop at Grand Beach (Grand Marais) which he owned, life became more interesting to me as we could go swimming and just being at Grand Beach was exciting. Dad also owned and operated a restaurant at Grand Beach (Grand Marais) which he called Georges Fish & Chips. I was very young at that time and I had to work to help Mom and Dad at Grand Beach but I enjoyed it, after all it was only for July and August. Dad also rented out a building to Harry Blake Knox who operated the first



Left to Right: Shayne Wesley, Ernie Koterla, Helen Koterla, Frank Wesley, Jan Kazuba, Ken Cybulsky, Ollie Moroz, George Kowalyk and Noreen Koterla May 28, 1960.



Tracey Koterla



Tammy Koterla

movie house in Grand Beach. I think that I saw just about every movie that Harry Blake Knox had for the first year.

Dad, George Koterla, eventually bought property across the road from the Gonor School and built a house on River Lot 170. I lived in that house until I got married in 1960 to Helen Kowalyk. Helen and I moved to Winnipeg. In 1976 we moved back to Gonor. My Dad and Mom gave us half of their property and we built a house on it.

One day I saw an advertisement in the newspaper offering a job at the office of R.M. of St. Clements for the position of an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. I applied for the job and was quite excited about it as I wanted to work for the R.M. of St. Clements and eventually be the Secretary-Treasurer of the R.M. of St. Clements. I was overjoyed when I found out that the position of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer was offered to me.

It was October 17, 1977 when I first started my job as an Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for the R.M. of St. Clements. At this point of time I already had 22 years of office experience, one and a half years of R.I.A. and a 12 month accounting course. William Sokolowski was the Secretary-Treasurer of St. Clements. He picked, chose and delegated the work that I was to learn and do in the office. The other work he delegated to the other office staff. They were too busy to show me or train me how to do their job and since my ambition was to become a Secretary-Treasurer of the R.M. of St. Clements, I spent many hours working overtime by myself and attending many council meetings in the evening without compensation, that is no time off work or no pay for overtime work. It was a tough job to try and learn on my own. To help me with my job and qualifications I enrolled in a 4 year Manitoba Municipal course. In April 28, 1981 I graduated and received my Manitoba Municipal Administrator's Certificate. According to Municipal Law, this certificate gives me the official qualifications to become a Manitoba Municipal Secretary-Treasurer.

Working for our Municipality is giving me great enjoyment that I am serving and doing something worthwhile for the community.

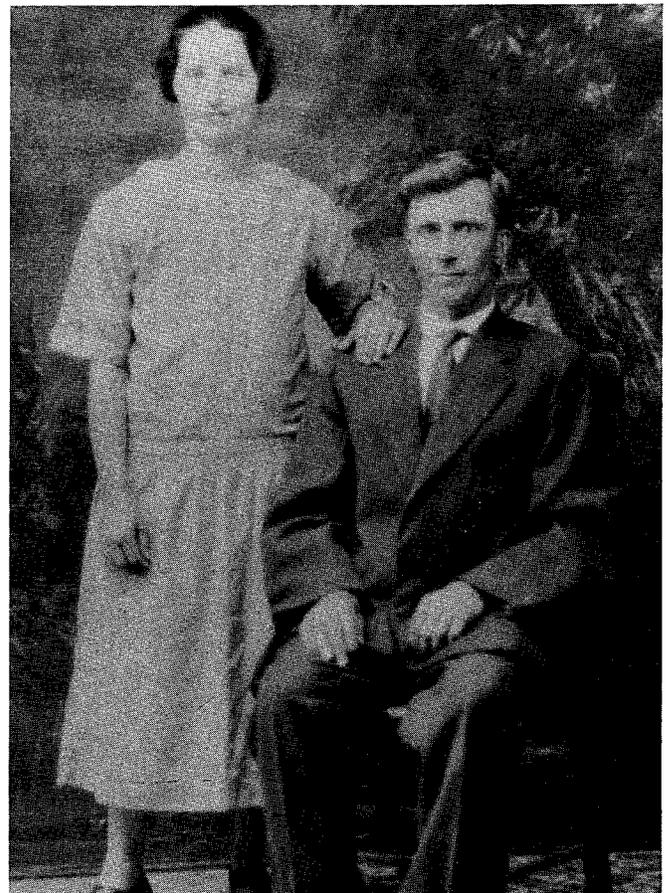
MAXIM KOTOWICH (KOTOWICZ)

submitted by Wlm. Kotowich/slh

Maxim Kotowich was born in the Western Ukrain in the year 1888. He was the son of Konrad and Maria Kotowich. Konrad was born in 1856 in Karson, District of Brody, in the Province of Galicia. Konrad had served in the army for about 12 years. His duties and rank found him in the infantry for about 2 years and then he spent over 10 years as a cavalry officer. Konrad's honourable discharge was dated Dec. 31, 1898 when he was just 42 years of age. Maria had been born in 1859.

At the time of his discharge, Konrad and Maria had 5 children: Maxim, the eldest, at age 10 years followed by Marko, Eva, Anthony and Nettie.

With his army career being over, Konrad thought about the future. He was aware of Canada and had read and heard about many of his countrymen who had emigrated to this vast new land where a man could be free and make a good life for himself. After careful consideration, Konrad put his affairs in order, obtained his passport, and with his wife Maria and their five children, set sail for Canada and a new life in the year 1899.



Maxim and Pearl Kotowich.



Pearl Kotowich and Anne Burbella, Pearl's sister Jennie.

After an uncomfortable but safe journey, Konrad and his family landed in the east where they remained but a short period of time. They then travelled by CPR to Manitoba where Konrad obtained temporary lodging while he looked for land on which to settle his family and make a home.

The land that Konrad finally decided upon was situated to the north of the City of Wpg. in the Village of Narol, lying on the east bank of the Red River. The lot number was 234 and lay in the South end (Ward one) of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements. Here, with the help of his family, Konrad set about building a home for his growing family and brushing and clearing his newly acquired property. Soon he had a home up and a garden in and each year he cleared more land and planted and seeded more crops. Konrad and his family carried on a mixed farm operation, the children attended school everyday and church every Sunday.

Konrad lived to be 83 years of age, passing away in the year 1939. Maria passed away in 1933, at the age of 74. They are both buried in the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church Cemetery, Narol, Man.

As Maxim grew up he attended Donald School and assisted his father Konrad with the mixed farm operation. Maxim met and married Pearl Burbella, the

daughter of Demetrius and Anna Burbella. Maxim and Pearl had three children, all boys: Bill born in 1917, John in 1919 and Steve born in the year 1921. They made their home on the outer part of Lot 234 in Narol.

The three boys of Maxim and Pearl all attended the Donald School in Narol for their education.

William married Sophie Eliass and they had no children.

John married Rose Kruzelnicki and they had three children.

Steve married Helen Rozmus and they had two children.

Maxim passed away on May 25, 1963 in his 73rd year, while Pearl lived to be 79, passing away on March 18, 1975. They are both buried in the churchyard Cemetery of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gonor.



Left to Right: Maxim and Bill Kotowich, Metro Jacyk and John Kotowich.

WILLIAM KOTOWICH

submitted by Wlm. Kotowich/slh

William Kotowich was the son of Maxim Kotowich and Pearl Burbella. His grandfather was Konrad Kotowich, the father of Maxim. Konrad and Maria set sail for Canada, prior to the turn of the century, bringing with them their family of five children.

Maxim married Pearl Burbella and they had three sons: William in 1917, John in 1919 and Steve in the year 1921.

William grew up and worked with his father, who operated a mixed farm operation in the Village of Narol, situated north of Winnipeg on the east bank of the Red

River. William attended the Donald School for his education and the Narol/Gonor Churches for his spiritual needs.

The eldest son, Bill, very early on volunteered his services to the community where he grew up. He served as School Trustee of the Donald School District No. 1094 for a total of 18 years. Of the 18 years, he served 3 years as a Trustee, 7 years as Chairman of the Board and finally, 8 years as the Secretary-Treasurer for the District. Bill was also extremely interested in the municipal politics of Ward One within the Municipality of St. Clements. His south ward had been represented by such men as Geo. Davis, John McKay, Donald McDonald, Gustav Ludwick, Steve Nebozenko, D.S. Semeniuk, Onofry Gudz, Stan Ludwick, Max Dubas Jr. and Joe Gunter. So, in 1948 Bill decided to let his name stand for nomination as Councillor and he was the successful candidate. From 1948/49 to the present time Bill has been chosen by the people to represent his home ward, continuously, except for a brief break in 1975/77, a total of 32 years.

Bill married Sophie Eliass, the daughter of Nicholas and Anne (Eliasow) Eliass. They had no children. Sophie very sadly passed away in the year 1974 at 57 years of age. She is buried in the churchyard cemetery of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church at Gonor.

After a time, and because life must go on, Bill met and married a lady who had years earlier, been a Narol girl, Olga, the daughter of Albina and Joseph Popowitch. Olga was a widow, and her and Bill are now married and sharing their life together. The Popowitch family had lived at Narol before moving to Winnipeg. Their daughter Olga was born in Winnipeg.

William Kotowich has the distinction of being the one Councillor who has served the longest period of time on the Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements during the first one hundred years of its history.

Bill also has been appointed and served on various Boards on behalf of the munc. which included: Selkirk and District Hospital Board for 6 years, member of the Planning Advisory and representative on the Selkirk and District Planning Area Board since its inception. Bill has served on the Selkirk and District Weed Board since 1963 and has been Chairman from that time, to present. He also served on the Eastern Development Board, Manitoba Vegetable and Potato Growers Co-op Association, from its inception Bill has been an active member representing St. Clements on the Winnipeg Additional Zone Association.

In 1983, at the age of 65, Bill continues to serve the residents of St. Clements with distinction and honour. He has seen many changes in the municipality over the years and has kept pace with progress and has helped to better the community life we enjoy.

NICHOLAS KOWALCHUK

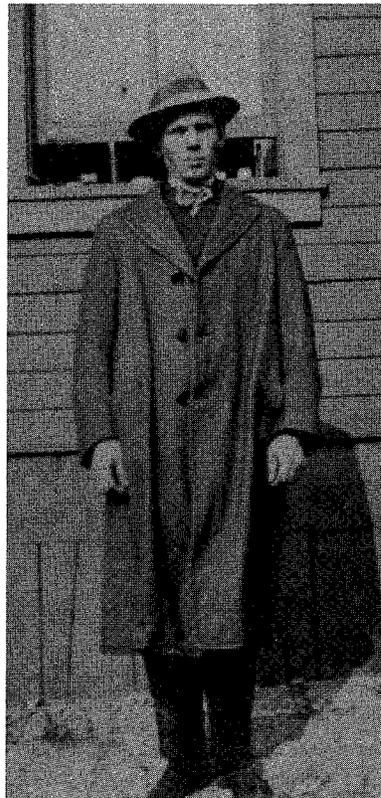
submitted by Harry Kowalchuk

Nicholas Kowalchuk was born in Austria on May 19 1893.

He came to Canada in 1910 and settled in the Kenora, Ontario district, where he started employment with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Nicholas married Sophia Shiska in February, 1923 where he worked in Ignace, Ontario. He continued his employment with the C.P.R. working in Deception, Ont. and LacLu. From there he moved to Man. where he worked at Milner Ridge for three years, then moved to Gonor, Man. He worked in this area until his retirement in October, 1954. Nicholas bought a parcel of land on Henderson Highway and built a home there where he farmed and did gardening. The Kowalchuk's had four children, two sons and two daughters. One son died at age two years.

Nicholas Kowalchuk died on November 30, 1959 after a very lengthy illness.



*Nicholas
Kowalchuk*



Ann Forgie and son.



Mr. and Mrs. Forgie (Ann Kowalski).

JOHN AND JULIA KOWALSKI

submitted by Mrs. O. Wardrop

John and Julia both came from a Village in Austria, named Byla.

While in East Selkirk, their home was located on

Church Road, where Mr. Kowalski farmed approximately five acres. He was a well-read man.

Their family consisted of five children, Frances (Mrs. Alex Kowalski) of Chicago, Mary, (Mrs. Podworny) of San Francisco, Peter, Anne (Nettie, Ernest Forgie), and Paul (who died in infancy).

We interviewed Mrs. Forgie at Park Manor in Transcona, shortly after our arrival she sang the song, "Smile a While". During our visit she sang a Ukrainian song, "E Shoomit i dit" and whistled a few tunes for us. She has a lovely voice and still retains a real sense of humor.

Among her accomplishments, she used to play the Autoharp and the Violin. She loved to dance, particularly the Kolomayka.

HARRY AND ANN KOWALUK FAMILY

submitted by Tony Kowaluk

Harry Kowaluk, a young carpenter, came to Canada from Austria in 1911. He met and married Julia Gruber in Nov., 1917, for a few years they resided with her parents. I was born in Sept. 1918, in my grandfather's house which is still standing. My father purchased 3 acres at sec. 6-13-5 in the municipality of St. Clements. They built first a 2-room log house and had a market garden, besides my father's carpenter work. In due time, 4 more children were born and we built a larger log house in 1937, which burnt down in 1945, and my parents moved to Old England, also in the Parish of St. Clements. (St. Andrews).

My father passed away in 1965, and mother passed away in 1981. Both are buried in St. Nicholas Church Cemetery, in Gonor.

I started school in Gonor and when it burned down, I went to Ashfield School (Kirkness). I worked in San Antonio Gold Mines at Bissett for a few years, then came home and worked for the C.N.R., until I retired in 1981. I have resided in Middle Church since 1945, and married a girl from Saskatchewan, Ann Stengrem in 1943. We have 3 children, Mrs. George Simmons (Marlene), in Winnipeg, Mr. Robert Kowaluk, in St. Boniface, and Kenneth Kowaluk at home. We also have three grandchildren, Sandra, Robert and Greg Simmons.

My sister, Elizabeth Kreviazuk, lives in Old England, my brother James also a carpenter, lives in Birds Hill, William is in the armed forces in Winnipeg and my youngest sister, Doreen also lives in Winnipeg.



Left to Right: William, Harry (father), Julia (mother), Jim and Tony on Tony Kowaluk's property.



First log house of Kowaluk's. Left to Right: Harry, Mike Kreviazuk, Tony Kowaluk, 1937.

JOHN AND NELLIE KOZYNIAK

submitted by Stella Kozyniak

The story of John and Nellie begins in the village of Chernowa, (Western Ukraine) and Huta Lubycka, (Poland).

John (Ivan) born, December 30, 1893, was the eldest of seven children. By 1909, he had learned about the immigration to Canada which had motivated many of his country-men to leave their homeland.

In 1909 he left Chernowa, destined for Winnipeg. Soon he found himself working for the railway in Saskatchewan with hundreds of other men in similar circumstances.

Having worked his ship passage back in a few years, he returned to Manitoba. He took on various manual jobs in Winnipeg as well as working in the pulp and paper industry both in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

During this time he was in communication with a cousin of his, Fred Horbaty, who was homesteading in Libau. Fred encouraged him to join him in Libau and take up farming.

John decided to try farming, initially living at the Fred Horbaty residence. Eventually, he saved enough money to purchase his own homestead acreage at Section 24-15-6E.

Most of his energies went into clearing the land and building the dwellings for himself and the livestock.

Now in his early thirties, he decided he needed a helpmate, thus began contemplating marriage. He still maintained contact with friends in Winnipeg who endeavoured to assist in his search for a wife. By coincidence, friends of his were acquainted with a couple who had sponsored to Canada from Poland, the daughter of their friends, in Poland.

Nellie (Aniela) Leszczynski, born April 17, 1902, the third youngest of seven children. She was encouraged to come to Canada by friends of her late parents who had immigrated to Canada before World War I.

Nellie arrived in Winnipeg, alone, in the fall of 1927. She lived with her sponsors for approximately two years.

Her first job was working in the Schmatu Industry. The job consisted of ripping out garments which her employer then recycled by sewing clothing from the

material. (Little did she know that the skills she acquired at this job, she would put to use later in trying to clothe her family).

Her second job was working in the housekeeping department at the St. Boniface Hospital. She worked in the staff laundry, where she was appreciated for her thorough diligent work.

John and Nellie were married in 1929, and began the long struggle of eking out an existence in what, to Nellie, seemed like a god-forsaken part of the world.

Even prior to their marriage, John was making the necessary arrangements to sponsor the remainder of his family from the Ukraine. They arrived in the spring of 1930.

During the two years, they lived with John and Nellie. In the three room log house, consisted of ten adults and three children at times. At one time there were eleven adults, when Nellie's brother Stanley, who had immigrated to Canada about a year after her, came to stay for a brief duration.



John and Nellie Kozyniak family. Front Row, Left to Right: John, Stella, Pamela, Nellie and Sharon. Back Row: Joan, Chris, Jenny, Eugene, Walter, Mildred and Jeff.

During this two year period, the two younger brothers were trying to purchase land of their own in Dencross. Having done so, they made ready the necessary dwellings. Andrew with his wife and child established a farm near Sam and their mother Ksenia. The sisters began to disperse to other areas as they married. Annie married Dan Kube and moved to Bowmanville, Ont., Mary married Bill Putiewski and moved to Brightstone, Man., Pearl married Mike Filip and lived across the road from John and Nellie, Katherine married Bill Hnatyshen and moved to Winnipeg.

As the community began to grow and establish an identity, the people began to feel a lack of expression of their ethnic culture. It was with this purpose that several of the neighbors organized and built what today would be

termed a cultural centre. John was one of the organizers. He also served as its secretary-treasurer as well as took part in performing in some of the plays that were put on at the concerts.

This Cultural Society was to come under scrutiny of the R.C.M.P. who suspected it to be pro-socialist at a time when this was considered treasonable. As a result it was disbanded. The building was sold and moved to a new site. Today a few pieces of concrete are the only evidence of its existence on the corner 317 highway and road 6 east.

The struggle for survival prior to and during the depression etched itself permanently in the memory of John and Nellie. The farm was nearly lost due to an inability to pay taxes. Income was augmented by cutting cordwood in the winter. This in turn was hauled to Selkirk by oxen. Through self denial of some of the minimal comforts which today are taken for granted, John and Nellie were able to establish themselves and expand the acreage of the farm.

Their children were born in the family home, a three room log house. A local midwife assisted with the deliveries. For many years the nearest doctor was in Selkirk and public health services weren't established in the area. Health care was virtually unknown, except in serious illness as it necessitated a trip to Selkirk or Winnipeg. This meant hiring a neighbor who had a vehicle and on one occasion Nellie walked along the railway to West Selkirk to visit John who had been hospitalized.

The children, Walter, Mike, Eugene and Stella had four miles to walk to school. Attendance was often disrupted during the winter months or when the weather was inclement. In spite of financial constraints, Mike and Stella were encouraged to obtain secondary school education.

John and Nellie retired in 1972. John passed away in July 1983. Nellie is now living in Winnipeg. Eugene and wife Joan (Euesden of Dundas, Ont.) and family continue to farm the family farm. Walter and wife Mildred, (Pokornik of St. Francis, Man.) live in Winnipeg and their three children. Mike lives in Toronto. Stella lives in Winnipeg.

There are many happy and sad chapters in the personal story of John and Nellie which originally began in a distant land.

JOHN KREVIAZUK

submitted by Carol Whawell

John was born in Austria in 1905, the first born of Nicholas Kreviazuk and Annie Eschcka. When John was two years of age, the family immigrated to Canada and settled in the Gonor area, just north of Lockport with Annie's half-brothers, the Panko's.

Nicholas first worked on construction of the Lockport Bridge and then on the Railroad being built to Grand Beach. He purchased 20 acres of treed land which he cleared with his team of oxen and started a farm.

He became a naturalized citizen of Canada in Feb. 1910.



John Kreviazuk



Anna and John Kreviazuk, 1930's.

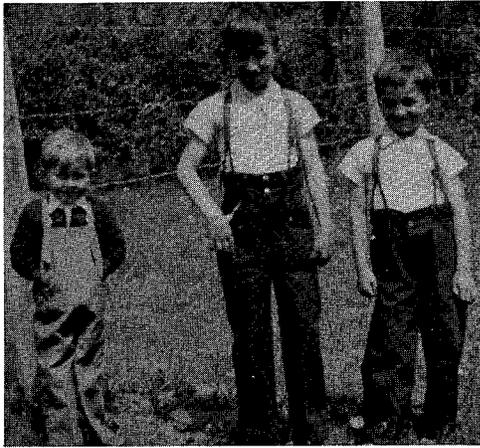
Nicholas and Annie had seven more children: Michael, now residing in the Mapleton area, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 1983. Peter, now deceased, but whose family resides in the East Lower Fort Garry area. Anne McRae of Selkirk, Kay Senoff, who with her husband, have been missionaries in Kenya, East Africa for many years, Lily Starr, now residing in Toronto, Margaret Thorburn, residing in Vancouver and Mary Maynard, of Toronto.

Nicholas died in the spring of 1950 and Annie died in 1957 and they were laid to rest in the McKenzie Presbyterian Churchyard Cemetery.

John attended Gonor School and started work when the Manitoba Rolling Mills opened in 1919. After working at the Mill, he got a job harvesting in Saskatchewan in the mid 1920's. He met a local girl, Anna Hryza, and they were married in Aug. 1930. Anna was the daughter of Michael and Tekla Hryza, who farmed in the Gonor area.



Top: John and Anna Kreviazuk. Bottom: Edward Kerr, Carol Whawell, John Kreviazuk Jr., Walter Kreviazuk.



John Jr., Walter and Edward, Kreviazuk boys.



Mrs. John (Annie) Kreviazuk and Carol.

After the wedding, John and Anna moved into the Hryza's home, where they stayed until they built their own home, in 1951. During these years, John worked at the Mill again for a short while and then he started work for Red River Motor Coach bus lines. John stayed with the bus lines from the early 1930's to the mid 1950's. He loved driving a bus, and everyone from Pine Falls and Lac du Bonnet to Winnipeg has heard of Johnny the bus driver.

He received the Wpg Free Press safe-driving award. After his bus-driving days, John got a job with North American Lumber, driving truck. He worked with them, off and on, until he fully retired in the early 1970's.

While John was busy driving buses and trucks, Anna was equally busy working the farm and raising four children. Her first-born, Walter, now resides in Sarnia, Ont. with his wife Kay and their two sons, Larry and Doug.

Edward lives in St. Andrews with his wife Jean and their two children, Sandra and Tim.

John's namesake, John Jr., affectionately known as "Puffy" by everyone in the Selkirk-Lockport area, lives in Lockport with his two daughters, Shelley and Cheryl.

John and Anna's only daughter, Caroline, lives on the old Hryza property where John and Anna spent their early married years. Carol lives there with her husband, Roy Whawell, and their two children, Scott and Melissa. The old farm house and buildings are gone and the garden area is seeded in grass, but the family pride and history is still there.

After John's retirement from North American



4 generations Oldest to Youngest, Tekla Hryza, Anna Kreviazuk, Carol Whawell, Melissa Whawell.

Lumber, John and Anna lived a more quiet life at 6557 Henderson Hwy., their first and only home. John's health was not too good, so the days were spent puttering around the yard, building miniature tool boxes, bows and arrows or sandboxes for his Grandchildren, or baby sitting for these same Grandchildren.

Every Oct. John could be found at the front of his driveway with his trailer loaded with "Pumpkins for Sale". He loved meeting and talking to the people who stopped to buy a pumpkin and many people drove past all the other pumpkin sellers to stop and buy a pumpkin from the "older man with a cane" as one woman described him, just so they could hear some of his stories.

John and Anna celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Aug. 1980. They renewed their wedding vows and celebrated with family and friends they hadn't seen in many years.

John died on Sept. 21, 1980 and is laid to rest in the Holy Trinity Churchyard in Gonor. Anna became ill shortly after John's death and now resides at Red River Place Nursing Home in Selkirk.

HARRY AND MARY (ZORNIAK) KREWIAK (KRYWIAK)

submitted by Olive Wardrop

Harry and Mary Krewiak were both born in the Ukraine; Harry in 1888 and Mary in 1900. Harry lived for a short time in Chicago and came to Canada during the first World War. He worked here for the Canadian National Railway.

They were married on Jan. 21, 1919. Their family members are: Cecilia, the first born, she now lives in Toronto, John, born in 1920, lives in St. John, N.B., Mike, born in 1922, lives in Selkirk, Steve, born in 1924, lives in Edmonton, Andrew (Hank) born in 1925, lives in Toronto, and Francis born in 1926, who is also from Toronto. The Krewiak family lived on Church Road, west of the old Happy Thought School.