

Michael Omeniuk was born in 1912 and married Julia Boyko in 1935. Michael farmed the homestead until 1926 and then farmed in Blackdale for three years. He then purchased land on Rebeck Road in 1932 where market gardening was their livelihood. In 1947 they purchased 60 acres on Hoddinott Road where they make 396 Hoddinott their residence. Mike and Julia have nine children: Violet (Natiuh), Joyce (Sokalowski), James, Betty (Gnutel), Harold, Janice (Gudge), Dolores (Tutkaluk) and Robert. All the children reside in and around Birds Hill and have blessed their parents with twenty-three grandchildren. The grandchildren are fortunate to have their great-grandmother Anne Boyko, Julia's mother, who still enjoys good health.

Michael retired from market gardening in 1979 but still continued in grain farming. Michael has been actively involved in the community as a member on the Birds Hill Fire Commission Board as President of the Manitoba Vegetable Grower's Association. He won the Birks Dingwall Trophy and Plaque in 1975 for the best kept yard in Manitoba. Mike and Julia now winter in Mesa, Arizona.

Nancy Omeniuk (1916) married Joseph Zaretski and lived in Pine Ridge where they had one daughter, Carol. Joe passed away several years after and Nancy stayed on the farm for a few years until she moved to Toronto. In Toronto she married Michael Nutiuh and they still reside in Toronto.

John Omeniuk was the youngest born in 1917. John farmed the homestead with his father for a few years until he married Anne Magus and bought his own property east of Highway No. 59. John and Anne have three girls: Linda, Donna and Melody.



Brad's wedding July 5th, 1980 in Toronto. Left to Right: Annie, Jesie, Mike and Nancy, brother and sisters.

Maria Omeniuk passed away in 1933 and John Omeniuk in 1945.

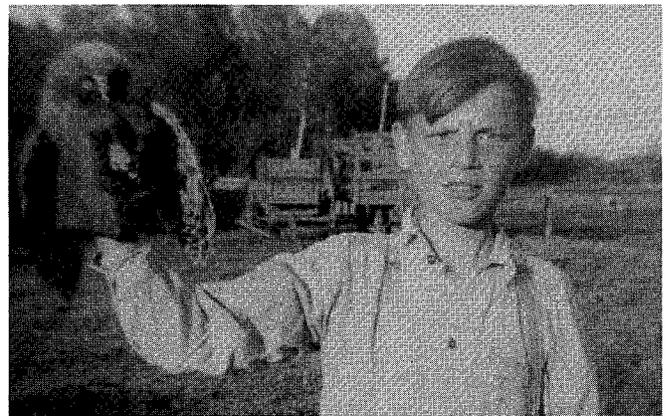
To quote Jessie Omeniuk; "There were many odd happenings in those early days, mostly painful. Many a time we went to bed hungry".

## TONY ONISHKO FAMILY

*submitted by Shirley Onishko*

Back in 1914, Fred Onishko came to Canada from the Ukraine. He worked in Saskatchewan, for several years, then moved to relatives in the Tyndall area called Dolyniuks.

He married Nellie Kosley Nov. 18, 1923. She was the daughter of John and Catherine Kosely. They lived in Tyndall after they were married for one year, then moved to Garson and later bought the farm from the municipality once owned by Oakes. Fred Onishko worked clearing the land on the farm and later at Manitoba Rolling Mills. He passed away August 9th, 1968. Baba (Nellie) Onishko and Casmir still live on the homestead.



July, 1947. Tony Onishko.



June, 1979. Val, Chris and Jo-Anne Onishko.



May, 1975 Val, Chris and Jo-Anne Onishko.



*Four generations. Back Row, Left to Right: Shirley Onishko, Steve Kotowich, Jo-Anne Onishko. Front Row: Valerie Onishko, Anne (Baba) Kotowich and Christine Onishko.*

Fred and Nellie had four children, Anne who married Walter Warrenchuk, son of Christine and Kiprian who lived on Frank Street in East Selkirk. They have three sons Ronald, Brian and Wayne. They all reside in Winnipeg. John lives in East St. Paul. He has three children, Sandra, Terry and Tracey.

I, Shirley Kotowich, came from the West side of the river. My folks lived for six years in Rossdale and then moved to Cloverdale where my dad, Steve Kotowich, bought the farm from my grandparents, Tony and Anne Kotowich. I remember looking for a lot with Tony in East Selkirk, there were many choices then. Gordon and Mable Nelson said we could buy one from them at the time. We thought this was perfect as it was out of Selkirk and still close to town. To obtain our title and lot, it cost us four hundred dollars. We started building our home in August and got married Oct. 8th, 1966.

We have three daughters, Christine born May 29th, 1968. Joanne born January 21st, 1970 and Valerie July 20, 1971. The girls attend Happy Thought School. They were active in Brownies and Guides and enjoyed Ukrainian Dancing. They enjoy sports and in 1980, Christine was on the volleyball team from Happy Thought that took the suburban championship. In 1981, Joanne and Christine both were on the volleyball team and once again Happy Thought took the suburban championship, coached by Gary Dion.

We are very lucky to still have our great grandmother, Anne Kotowich, who is 85 years old and Grandpa, Steve Kotowich, who resides in Selkirk, making it a four generation family from the Kotowich side.

John, Tony and Casmir are all presently working at Manitoba Rolling Mills. I am presently working at the Royal Bank. Being a new comer to East Selkirk and no



*Nellie Onishko, Anne Warrenchuk, John Onishko, Tony Onishko, Casmir Onishko, 1981.*

relatives here, I now have a brother Wayne who built a home here. Julie and Wayne have two children Steven and Kimberly.

East Selkirk is a very friendly and growing community.

## **FRED K. OTTO**

*submitted by John Otto*

Fred K. Otto was the son of William Otto and Henrietta (Maron). They lived in both Germany and Russia and were basically farmers and involved in agriculture. William and Henrietta had four children. Fred was the eldest and was born in Germany in 1879.

The first of the Otto family to journey to Canada was William's brother Fred. Then in 1898 at the age of 19, William's son Fred K. Otto, inspired by news from his Uncle Fred, who was already established in Wpg., made the long trek by boat to Halifax. He travelled via CPR to Winnipeg where he stayed with his Uncle for a time.

Young Fred didn't let moss grow under his feet, he was



*The Fred Otto family, Harry, John, Fred, Emeline, Pauline and Reinhold.*

soon working and learning to master the new language. He started working for the railway and before long he had been transferred further west where he worked on the Crows Nest Pass. He was really seeing the new west as it was opening up.

After Fred had accumulated enough monies, he returned to Wpg. and started looking for land. Then in 1904 he took up a 160 acre homestead at Thalberg on the SW 1/4 of 18-16-8E. This land was mostly all bush. This presented a real challenge to Fred and undaunted he set about clearing the land and building his first home in Manitoba.

Fred met a young lady, named Miss Trapp and in due course they were married. In time Fred and his wife had two children, Herman and Eda. Then tragedy struck, Fred's wife died and he was left with the two young children. Fred struggled on his own as a single parent and then he met and married Pauline Stubel. Fred and Pauline had their first child, Reinhold in 1907. During this period Fred was urged to enter his name in the municipal elections of 1906. He was a successful candidate and represented the north end of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements, Ward 6 from 1907 up to 1914 and the outbreak of World War I.

Fred and Pauline had another son in 1909, John, and then a girl, Bertha, in about 1911. Bertha died at a very early age. Emeline was born the following year and then they lost another child, Albert, who died in tender years. Following the death of Albert, Fred and Pauline had four more children, Anna, Marsha, Helen and Alfred.

The family and most of the children attended the Thalberg School and the Thalberg Lutheran Church. Thalberg in German means "Hill and Valley".

Fred and Pauline not only worked hard on the land and struggled raising their family of nine children, but found the time also to contribute to community, Church, school and local government. Fred was appointed the first Postmaster of the Thalberg Post Office in 1907, and he kept that job for 13 years, he also served many terms as Sec. Treas. of the Thalberg School District. He also took an active interest in the Lutheran Church and served in various positions for that institution. His municipal career was at a time when the municipality was trying to wipe out "noxious weeds" as well as apply a new concept of "Conservation" along with boundary changes and investigations into their school districts. Fred was interested in the betterment of roads and drainage in Ward 6 and welcomed the "Good Roads" movement during his term.

On Nov. 14, 1954, Fred and Pauline celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at a special service at the Lutheran Holy Trinity Church at Thalberg and enjoyed a dinner and family reunion at their home.

Their nine children all married as follows: Herman married Edna Fitz, of Sask., Eda married John Gabel of Ladywood, Reinhold married Louise Trapp of Grand Marais, John married Augusta Geschke, Emeline married Henry Kurbis, Anna married Rudy Buss, Martha married William Schirley, Helen married Rudolf Schiller, and Alfred married a Zirk girl.

Fred K. Otto died on April 17, 1965 in his 86th year and his wife Pauline died just six weeks later in May,

1965. They are both buried in the Thalberg Lutheran Cemetery. Fred and his wife Pauline were the true pioneers of the municipality.

## JOHN AND GUSTY OTTO

*submitted by John Otto*

John Otto was born in 1909, the second son of Fred and Pauline Otto of SW 1/4 of 18-16-8E, Thalberg. His father was first married to a young lady named, Miss Trapp and they had two children from the first marriage, Herman and Eda. His father's second marriage was to Pauline Stubel. John is the second child of the second marriage. His father was a Councillor for Ward 6 of the Rural Munc. of St. Clements at the time of John's birth and he continued in this capacity up to the end of 1914, when John was of school age. John's early years were very active and community oriented because his father Fred, apart from being involved in local government was also the appointed Postmaster of the Thalberg Post office and Sec.-Treas. of the Thalberg School District.

John attended the Thalberg school and the Thalberg Lutheran Church. John's eldest brother, Reinhold was born in 1907 and John arrived in the world in 1909. John recalls the sadness in the family when they lost a brother and sister, Bertha and Albert, at a very early age. John's younger sisters and brother, Emeline, Anna, Marsha, Helen, and Alfred soon arrived to make their family unit complete. Alfred was the last child born to Fred and Pauline Otto, and is the baby of the family.

John first purchased some land, a quarter section, in 1934 from the government. He borrowed equipment from his father Fred, and slowly started to improve it. He started courting a young lady named Gusty, the daughter of Otto and Martha Geschke of Thalberg. In 1938, John



*John and Augusta Otto.*



*John and Augusta Otto Melvin, Diane and Beverly.*



*John and Augusta Otto, Melvin, Diane, Beverly.*

married Gusty and they settled in Glenmoor on SE 27-15-8E. They soon had their home built and added another quarter section for a total of 320 acres. John remembers breaking the land with his father's old 10-20 McCormick. They created a mixed farm type of operation and eventually went into grain and found this very rewarding. In 1941, their only son, Melvin, was born. Having grown up in a family where his father, Fred was involved in local governemnt, it wasn't long until John decided to let his name also stand for nomination as Councillor for Ward 6 in the Rural Munc. of St. Clements. He was successful in his bid and was elected to the Council in 1939 and like his father before him, was to remain in that position for another 8 years. In 1939, John unseated William McIntosh for the right to represent the northern part of the municipality. John relinquished his seat in 1946/47 to Reuben Thomas.

John Otto, Councillor for Ward 6, of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements, walked 16 miles from Glenmoor to Libau, then took the bus into Lockport in hopes of receiving a ride with Councillor Pasiuk to attend the regular monthly Council Meeting. When he arrived in Lockport he found that the Councillor for Ward 1 had already left for the meeting and John then had to walk the additional 6 miles from Lockport to East Selkirk. He arrived at the meeting at noon hour.

In 1943, John's first daughter, Dianne was born and six years later, Beverly was born. The children attended the Glenmoor school and the Beausejour Collegiate.

Melvin married Sandra Kangas and they have seven children, Dianne married Ken Fox, and they have two children, Beverly married Gary Solitki and they have two children. As of 1983, John and Gusty have eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. John and Gusty turned the home farm over to their son Melvin and daughter-in-law Sandra. John and Gusty now live in Beausejour.

## ISAAC AND KATHERINE (WINNER) OVENS

*submitted by Tom Ovens*

Isaak (Ike) Ovens was born in Ontario. The family moved to Colorado, U.S.A. Ike married Katherine Winner, a native of Colorado. Their three children were all born in Colorado: Merle, Tom (1893) and Ruby.

Mr. Ovens worked in Mining, and, for a short period, he was the local Sheriff.

They moved to Canada in 1896, and settled in Kamloops, B.C. On to Kenora, Ont. for a year before coming to East Selkirk in 1898.

Their first home was near the school, and then next to the CPR depot.

Mrs. Ovens worked as a Cook at the Van Horne Farm when it was just getting organized.

They eventually moved to a farm next to the Harry Nelsons, and, stayed there until 1920 when they sold and retired to Wpg.

Minnie, Tom's wife recalls that her parents (George and Nellie Lane) and Tom's sisters did not want them to get married. They predicted that the couple would be parted in less than six months. Sixty-four years later, they are still enjoying a great marriage!



*Minnie and Tom Ovens wedding.*



*Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ovens.*

### **JACOB OSOL**

*submitted by Hans Ozol*

Jacob was born in 1869, Jacob Osol later changed his last name to Ozol, he immigrated to Canada in 1894. He entered through the Port of Montreal. He worked for CN in the Rennie Region. He worked in a stone quarry in 1900 for about 2 years. Jacob brought in 2 brothers in 1901, John and Chris. They went to the country to live with friends Mr. and Mrs. Peterson. Jacob applied for a homestead in 1905 and built a house, a smithy, a root cellar and a well. He brought over his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Wanag and a brother Jedert and family.

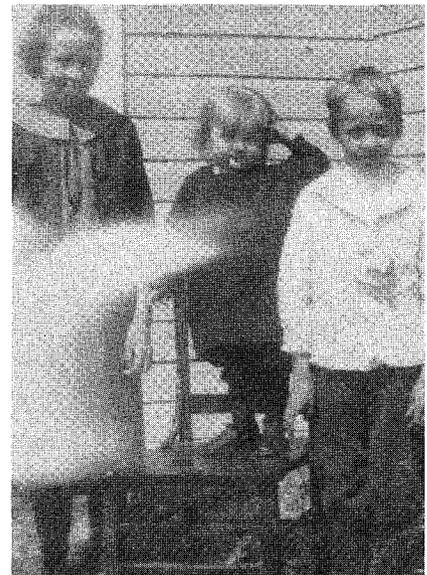
In 1907, Jacob bought a quarter section of land close by SW 1/4 15-15-6E. He brought his mother (Liz) over, then he built a new house on their land and in 1909, he got married to Dora Shainook and raised a family of 3 children; Milda, Hans, and Alice, where he farmed until 1944. He was instrumental in naming the Village of



*Pioneers of the Libau district. Sitting: Mr. and Mrs. Peterson. Standing: Jacob Ozol about 1900.*

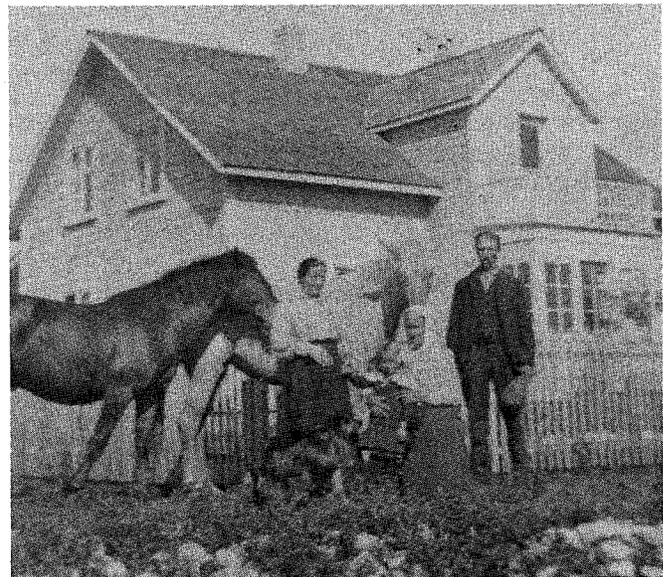


*Jacob and Dora Ozol, 1909 after their wedding.*



*Milda, Hans and Alice Ozol.*

Libau. It was told to me that when the CN Railway came through that it was in need of a name for its station and also for a P.O., so a meeting was held and it was decided that as at that time, the few people that lived close by were mostly Latvian or German, and as most of them left the Old Country through the Port of Liepaja (Baltic Sea, Latvia) (Libau) (Russian Version) to name it Libau; its present name. He still lived on the farm but then he gave it to his son Hans, until 1955 and moved to the city to live with Milda and Alice, his daughters. Jacob Ozol was a true Pioneer of this district and most, of the buildings he constructed are still to be seen.



*Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Ozol, Grandma and Milda. House was built in, 1909.*



June 12, 1980. Sitting: Mr. Hans Ozol and wife Lorna. Standing: James and Donald.

## HANS OZOL

*submitted by Hans Ozol*

Hans Ozol was born on the farm of his parents on April 17, 1917. Both he and his sisters went to school at the Old Libau School a quarter of a mile from home. In June, 1955 he married Lorna Myketuik and in the same fall his parents moved to Winnipeg to stay with the two unmarried daughters where they stayed until their death.

Hans and Lorna have two boys, Donald born in 1958 and James in 1962, who at this date are working in Winnipeg and have a home there. In 1960, he built a new house on the farm, and moved the old house next to the barn to be used as a shop and storage purposes.

Hans and his wife are semi-retired now.

## JOSEPH AND SOPHIA PAJAK

*submitted by Rosalia McKay*

Sophia, the daughter of Wladislaw Oleksyn married Joseph Pajak in 1906. They settled on bushland bordering Narol and Gonor, on the east shore of the Red River. They built a two-storey log house of Manitoba Poplar and started clearing land to carry on a mixed farm operation.

Sophia and Joseph had 9 sturdy healthy children. In the year 1970 during the Centennial celebrations, all eight children were alive and well. All did well in life and in business.

An education in those days was not as important as the development of the land. You cleared and worked your land with axes, picks and shovels and with the help of a horse and neighbours. If you didn't have a piece of



*Wedding of Mike Pajak (Payak) and Dora Polson.*

machinery or a horse, you borrowed from kind neighbors. This practice of helping each other was common, and no one abused this community spirit.

We all toiled and worked hard with progress sometimes slow, but we cleared an acre or two each year.

Insecticides were not much used, we kept control by frequent inspections and in the early 1920's we used Paris Green, sparingly, with lime and water for our cabbages and potato crops.

We picked lots of wild fruit, nuts and mushrooms.

We walked four miles to school daily in all kinds of weather and our teacher walked 3 miles. Many had frozen noses, cheeks and feet.

To get hay for the stock we travelled 30 miles return, cut it in fall and brought home the hay in the winter. In winter it was easier on the horses and we could carry heavier loads and less was lost in transit. We didn't even stop at a farm to warm up, we wanted to get the horse and load home. Horses were priceless to us.

Sunday was a real day of worship and family gathering to us, although the stock and chores had to be taken care of.

Our supply of wood was cut and hauled in winter for the next year, so it got a full summer for drying.

Recreation was ample and homemade equipment was used. Ice skating was those clip on kind of skates or you made a pair out of an old wooden pail that fell apart, you used the slabs. You tied those over your shoes. Skis were made the same way except from a barrel slab.

We learned to swim on our own in creeks and water holes and finally the swift Red River, which was fit to swim in those days.

Stanley Pajak spent four years in the Navy.

## KIRYK AND ANIELA PARFANIUK

*submitted by Helen Doherty*

My father, Kiryk Parfaniuk, came to Canada as a young man of 18 years in 1894. He married Aniela Olexyn, the eldest daughter of Wladislaw Olexyn. Kiryk and Aniela had 12 children: Michael, Joseph, William, Nicholas, Steven, Helen, Mary, Caroline, Michael and Rose and two infants died at an early age.

The three eldest died of Diphtheria (Mary, Caroline and Michael) as did Rose in 1921.

Kiryk worked for a Mennonite farmer for \$100.00 per year as well as the Lockport Bridge project, hauling gravel on Henderson Highway and market gardening until 1959 when his wife Aniela passed away on Aug. 25, 1959.



*Kiryk and Nellie Parfaniuk's anniversary.*



*Kiryk and Aniela Parfaniuk's first home built from logs in 1928, standing by the gate is Mildred and Ludwig Kristchuk.*



*William Parfaniuk pumping up Kiryk Parfaniuk's first Ford truck, 1927.*

Aniela was a business woman who used to go with her son William to Beausejour for chickens, eggs and butter and sell it at the North-End Markets. Although they had a 1927 Ford truck, they still went with horses and sleigh in winter because often as not, the roads were heavily drifted with snow and the sleigh would go over a big drift and the load would spill. Aniela made many trips into



*Kiryk and Nellie Parfaniuk 1957 cleaning and bunching onions.*

David's market on Dufferin and King Street where you paid 25 cents or 35 cents for a stall and put the horses in David's barns for the day. You also brought your own hay. It was a terribly long ride into town, sitting in the heat at the market all day, and then the long trip home. However, we never heard our mother complain.

Aniela had a fast running pony, one of the fastest horses, no one could drive him but Aniela. This was her favorite horse and she visited her parents Olexyn's at Lockport driving this pony.

The land Kiryk Parfaniuk bought at Lot 259, Narol on Henderson Hwy. was four miles long. Most of the farms ran to the pines, and by the time you got to the end of your land it was time to come back home.

Kiryk had mortgaged his land to Anton Wachal and he lost it because in 1930-31, jobs were hard to get and the payments were heavy on the lot he bought that year (Lot 251). That land was bought from Tom Hay who was a real estate man.

The log house at Lot 259 had two small rooms. The living room and bedroom was one room and it had a baby's home made crib in it, an old Raymond sewing machine, a bed and a cast iron heater, as you entered the kitchen. In the upstairs attic, is where all the children slept. That is where all the children were born. With the help of Mrs. Malazdrewich, the mid-wife, the children were brought into the world. In the attic, the cooking onions were stored, loose, under the beds for winter. There were no stairs to climb, just a ladder.

The kitchen had a homemade wooden table and chairs, a cast-iron stove and a few cooking pots and utensils that were found in the CPR fire on Higgins Ave. in Winnipeg. There was a trap door leading to the clay dug-out that served as a basement. In the basement vegetables, jams and preserves were stored.

This log house was plastered with clay and sometimes the chinking and clay fell out and it had to be filled in again before winter set in. The log building was white-washed inside and out at least once a year, usually in spring or in the fall after all the work was done.

There was no indoor plumbing, you either went out to the barn or the outdoor toilet, regardless if it was 30 to 40 below zero or not.

A few more words about the Olexyn family. As mentioned, Aniela married Kiryk Parfaniuk and they had 12 children.

The second Olexyn daughter was Sophie and she married Joseph Pajak (Payuk) and they had 10 children,

Frank of B.C., Roseline of B.C. (who owned a Dine and Dance place previously in Britannia Bay, Ontario), and Joe of Winnipeg. Then another girl, Mary who married John Herman and they had 4 sons and 2 daughters. Caroline married Peter Kusurba and they had 2 sons. Stanley had one child and also spent four years in the Navy. Walter had 5 children and Kay had one son. Helen married Mr. Tomek and they had one daughter. Jean is deceased.

The third daughter of Wladislaw Olexyn was Lena (Helen) who married Peter Slusar (Slusarchuk). They lived on Grandpa Olexyn's property for a long time. They farmed and Peter fished down on the river bank like the others in the area, and often by boat. Then they sold out and bought a piece of land at Lockport. They built a Billiard Parlour and they made a good living. They had two children (one died as an infant) and Walter, their only son, operated the Pool Room and was a Barber by trade. When Peter and Helen retired, they went to live in Winnipeg on Alfred Ave. Later, Walter and his wife turned the Poolroom into a grocery store.

On April 13, 1982, Walter passed away and the store was sold to new owners.

Rod, the only son of Olexyn married Effie and they had 4 children.

## PASKARUK FAMILY HISTORY

*submitted by Sylvia Paskaruk*

Bill Paskaruk was born in Sundown, Man. in April, 1930. His parents were John and Ann Paskaruk. He went to school in Sundown. At the age of 14 he went to work in Ontario cutting cordwood for \$53.00 per month, he also helped during harvesting in different parts of Manitoba. As the years went by he got a job at Furnesman as a tinsmith. In 1955 he married Sylvia



*Standing, Left to Right: Donald, Bill, Gary, Edward. Sitting: Sylvia, Valerie, Maureen (wife of Ed) Paskaruks.*

Dolynuik, daughter of Sam and Mary Dolynuik and settled in East Selkirk, Man.

He travelled for 12 years to his job in Winnipeg. Then in 1961, he got a job at the Happy Thought School, as a custodian and a school bus driver, and with the division for 10 years. At present he is working as a tinsmith with Soke's Heating in Selkirk, Man.

Bill and Sylvia have 4 children, Donald, Edward, Gary and Valerie. Edward is married to the former Maureen Balcaen, daughter of Carole Balcaen and the late Edward Balcaen.

Bill has been Vice-President and President of the Ukrainian Home and Reading Society for the past 20 years. He was also President for one year for the East Selkirk Recreation Association.

## MICHAEL AND MARY PATSON

*submitted by Lorne Patson*

Michael Patson was born on Nov. 24, 1884, in the Village of Dzekow Stary, Galicia, Western Ukraine. He immigrated to Canada, arriving in East Selkirk, Man. on March 23, 1911. One of the first jobs he had was working on the railway lines to the western provinces and locally to Grand Beach. He started the Manitoba Rolling Mills in 1917, working at various jobs and retired in 1952, as a bricklayer in the open Hearth, after 35 years of service.

He met and married Mary Skrypetz on Nov. 13, 1921. Her parents had immigrated to Canada prior to 1900, and Mary was born in Libau, on May 7, 1903. Their first home was in East Selkirk on the banks of the Cook's Creek, just west of the present new bridge. In 1932 they moved to their new home which was located about 1/2 a mile north, also near the Cook's Creek. This is where they farmed and raised their family. They had 5 children, four girls and one boy, who all attended the Happy Thought School.

Nellie, the eldest, attended the University of Manitoba, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Degree. She went on and got her Masters Degree at Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa, and her Doctorate at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She taught in Universities in Canada and the U.S.A., as well as two years at the University of Lahore, Pakistan in 1956 to 1957, and two years at Melbourne, Australia 1980 to 1982. She presently lives in Vancouver.

The second child was Lonnie, who after serving in the Army, overseas during World War II, returned to the University of Manitoba, and received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. He joined the staff of the Provincial Assessment Branch in Feb. 1954 and is presently the District Supervisor in charge of the Selkirk District. He married Lucy Bellay on Aug. 1, 1953, who taught school in East Selkirk. They have twin girls, Donna and Cheryl.

The third child, Anne, took up teaching. She met her husband, Louis Maurice while they were both teaching in the town of Selkirk. Their wedding was the first to be held in the new St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in East Selkirk, on July 4, 1953. They have three children, Dave, Denise and Diane. A fourth child died at the age of two. They now reside in St. Boniface.



*The Patsons, 1939.*

Next was, Stella (Steffie) who attended two years at the University of Manitoba, taking Home Economics. She is employed with the Accounting Dept. of the C.N.R. and resides in East Kildonan.

Julia, the youngest, worked in the Data Processing Dept. of the Great West Life Assurance Co., before she married Michael Kirk on May 20, 1961. They have two children Joanne and Michael Jr. Julia passed away July 3, 1980.

Michael Patson took an active part in the community. He was the Treasurer of the committee when the local Community Hall was rebuilt, after a fire burned the original hall. Under his care, the Hall was paid off in a few years. He also contributed his time and effort in the building and concrete work of the present St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church. Mary Patson also took an active part in the community and bazaars, and also cross-stitch embroidery for church linens. They spent their latter years living in East Kildonan with their daughter Stella.

Mary passed away at the age of 59, on Aug. 4, 1962, and Michael passed away on Sept. 10, 1976, at the age of 92.

## **LEN AND HILDA PATZER**

*submitted by Mrs. Hilda Patzer*

Len Patzer is the eldest son of Theodore and Rosalie Patzer (nee: Klann). Hilda is the eldest daughter of Fred and Mary Kintop. Len and Hilda were united in marriage on Aug. 14, 1942. They are still members in the Thalberg Trinity Lutheran Church.

We settled on Sec. 28-16-8 and I still reside there, as it is home for me, after we added more land. We bought Sec. 5-16-8, the Southeast quarter, and also added the Sec. 29-16-8, Southeast quarter to it.

Leonard and myself farmed a mixed farm and grain and also had a dairy farm of 24 cows for a few years.

We celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary in Aug. 1967. The house I live in now, was built in 1949, and the barn we built in 1951.

Leonard served on the School Board for many years as



*25th anniversary Leonard and Hilda Patzer.*

Secretary-Treasurer also as a Sunday School Teacher, on the Lutheran Church Council. He was kept very busy and active.

We were very lucky to have the School so close to our home, so we never had to transport our children to school. The school was only 1/4 of a mile away and also we had a high school close by until Grade 11, after that they were transported to Beausejour.

Leonard passed away suddenly of a heart attack on Oct. 10, 1975. I still reside on the homeplace.

Our children are: Edmund, Lillian, Kenneth, and Lorna. Edmund married Arlene Spence and they have two boys, Bradley and Jeremy. Lillian is married to Dennis Kozak, and they have two children, Marlis and Jason Wade. Kenneth is married to Wilhelmina Vriends, they have three children, Diana, Cheryl and Gregory. Lorna is married to Michael Zarzycki, and they have one boy, Michael.

## **PAULSON FAMILY**

*submitted by Felix Paulson*

My grandfather, Pjetur Paulson, landed in Canada from Iceland in 1876. With him was my grandmother, Gúdrun Johnsdotter, and their six children.

The government offered property for settlement, situated between Gimli to the Icelandic River, and 250 Icelandic settlers, my father, James Petur, son of Pjetur Paulson, was among them. He was five years old at the time. They all travelled by barges from Selkirk to settle there. They ran into a storm out from Sandy Bar, located on the West side of Lake Winnipeg, and the barge drifted on shore at Sandy Bar, and that is where they spent their first winter. Some of them built cabins and some stayed in tents all winter. They did not even have firearms with them, as they had never hunted. Although they were mostly all fishermen, they had never fished under ice. Therefore, their first winter was a very hard and difficult one. Had it not been for the kindness of an Indian man named, John Rumsay, who had hunted and provided



*Pjetur Paulson, 1921-22.*



*James Peter and Elizabeth Paulson on their wedding day in 1903.*

them with meat, it would have been even more difficult for them. It should be mentioned that although John Rumsay resented the Icelandic people moving in on his hunting grounds, that when he was told that the land had been granted to these new immigrants by the Government, he not only accepted the fact but set about to help them. They in turn helped him in whatever way they could.

One year later, 150 of the Icelandic group died of small-pox including my grandmother Gudrun and four of her six children. Also, John Rumsay lost his wife and four children to this same epidemic.

Pjetur Paulson also organized the first school in Gimli which was held in a home residence.

My father, James Petur, left home and worked at Hookers Lumber Mill in Selkirk at the age of 11 years. He stayed for 21 years and left the company with the title of Head Engineer. James Petur Paulson married Elizabeth Anderson, daughter of Alex Anderson, of Balsam Bay in 1903. For this special event he rented a snappy team of horses from a Selkirk Livery Stable, complete with driver, for one week.

During the summer of 1903, he built a home in Balsam Bay, obtaining the lumber from Hookers Lumber Mill, located at Grand Marais. In the winter of that same year he moved the house over the ice to Victoria Beach, which was then in the municipality of St. Clements. The house was located where the old Air Force Grounds are situated

at Victoria Beach. He also lived in a house situated where the Victoria Beach Golf Course now stands. He also built another new home between 4th and 5th Avenues on Arthur Road, where he ran a General Store.

James Petur Paulson also, apart from running the General Store, also looked after the Victoria Beach Municipal Public Works and the Government Lighthouse.

In 1925, James Petur sold the business and his property at Victoria Beach and moved to Balsam Bay, building a new home there about 100 feet from where he had built his first home in 1903. He more or less retired with four still dependent children. There he spent the rest of his life until the time of his death, in 1960.

The James Petur family consisted of 4 sons and 5 daughters, with one son and daughter dying in infancy. The eldest daughter, Violet Stewart, died in 1950.

Still living are Hazel, who had married Gunnar Sigurdson of Riverton. Roonie Paulson of Grand Marais, Esther Thomas and husband Gordon of Winnipeg, Peter Paulson and his wife Phyllis of Victoria Beach, Charlie Paulson and his wife Margaret of Saskatoon, and myself, Felix Paulson and my wife Florence of Patricia Beach.

Felix and Florence raised their family at Stony Point, or better known these days, as Patricia Beach. Felix writes, we have one son, Gerry Paulson of Patricia Beach, and four daughters. There is Lila Smith and her