

## **WILLIAM (DOC) AND VICTORIA PUTERAN**

*submitted by Victoria Puteran*

William Puteran is the son of John Puteran and Elizabeth. He was born on the Puteran homestead at Gonor on Oct. 1, 1913. He had a sister Ann born in 1910 and another sister Doris born in 1917. From a previous marriage, William had four step-sisters: Lena, Katherine, Sophie, and Doris.

William attended the Gonor School for his education and along with his family was an early member of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Gonor.

Living in Kirkness at the time was the Zaversnake family and the youngest girl, Victoria, caught his eye. Victoria was one of eight children born to Wasyl and Maria Zaversnake, and was considered the beauty of the district.

William and Victoria married and raised a family of 7 children: Gloria (March 26, 1946), Linda (March 16, 1948), Richard (May 1, 1952), Sylvia (Sept. 28, 1953), John (Feb. 16, 1958), Deborah (Nov. 11, 1964), and Stephen (Jan. 15, 1966).

Gloria married Ken Arends and they have three children: Alan, age 10, Denise age 8, and Paul age 6 years. They live in Willmar, Minnesota.

Linda married Paul Gould and they have 3 sons: Danny age 9 years, Jason 7 years, and Joel 5 years old.



*William and Victoria Puteran.*

They reside in Sherwood Park, Edmonton, Alt.

Sylvia married Ernie Dyck and they have 4 boys: Trevor age 6 years, Robert age 5 years, Ian age 2 years, and James 3 months old. They live in Roseisle, Man.

John married Morag Hardinge and they reside in Brandon.

Deborah Michele married Bruce Armson and they live in Edmonton, Alta. On Dec. 24, 1983 a son was born to Debbie and Bruce. They named him Tyler Earl Armson, and he arrived weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 21 inches in length. Grandfather and grandmother, William and Victoria Puteran were there to welcome their new grandson.

Richard remains unmarried at the present time, and resides in Brandon.

Stephen, the youngest in the family, attends the Selkirk Regional Comprehensive High School in Selkirk. He is in Grade 12, majoring in English/Arts. He plans to attend university on completion of Grade 12.

William and Victoria, along with Stephen live on the original Puteran homestead. In 1948, William Puteran built a new home on the Puteran homestead, which still remains. They continue to work land that has been in the family for just under 85 years.

## **ALBERT AND IDA RAIN**

*submitted by Joyce Rain*

Albert and Ida Rain were married in Sept. 1927. Then they immigrated to Canada in 1928, from Poland. They travelled 3/4 of the way across Canada by train, and settled in Saskatchewan. Albert and Ida had two children, one daughter Erna and one son Henry. The Dust Bowl came and they again moved with five horses, 30 head of cattle, two wagons and a Model T Ford tied behind the wagon. On the road, they traded a new born calf for a dog, to help them drive the cattle. Also on the road, they sold their best cow for \$200.00. But they were on their way to Manitoba, no matter what. They made their home in St. Peters, Man. They settled here in winter and during the cold months they cut and sold wood, and they grew and sold cucumbers in the summer. In later years, they sold grain and sold and traded cattle. They



*Albert and Ida Rain.*

made a good living at this. Their children went to Hoey West School, a one room school house. Their daughter, Erna got married on March 29, 1948 to Fred Hartenberger. In 1950 they were flooded pretty bad, but they stayed where they were. On Oct. 19, 1957, their son Henry got married to Joyce Schroeder. In 1960, they experienced another flood. This flood cost them five head of cattle, 200 chickens and a lot of grain. But they lived through it. The next five years weren't so bad. Then in the spring of 1966, they were flooded again, but were a little better prepared. The Rain's say, "We could drive a motor boat (40 h.p. motor) almost anywhere." "In 1967, we moved with our buildings and all, about five miles south on the St. Peters Road, where we retired. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary in 1977. We both are members of the East Selkirk Senior Citizen Club, as of now."

### **WILLIAM (BILL) AND MARGARET (McLEAN) RANGER**

*submitted by Bill Ranger*

Bill Ranger was born in 1899 in St. Anne, County of Prescott, thirty miles southeast of Ottawa, Ont. He had two brothers and two sisters.

While working and taking some courses at the Agricultural College in Ottawa, he was encouraged by a Professor Brown to come to the Van Horne Farm for employment. He was 18 years old at the time; worked two years as a Teamster; and then became Foreman when J.R. Oastler was the Manager. He later worked under Managers: J.B. Sangster, and C.R. Bradford. Bill recalls that it was a great experience working at the Van Horne Farm. They cropped 4000 acres; ran 2000 sheep; had 60 horses for land work; 30 Holstein cows for milking and over winter they fed an extra 100 cows for sale in the spring.

Cooks Creek meandered through the farm. There were 22 Springs in the Creek that kept the water flowing all winter, which resulted in never having to pump water for the cattle.



*Margaret (McLean) Ranger, William (Bill) Ranger.*

In the early 1930's, the Royal Trust Company approached him to become an Inspector of Farms. He covered a large territory from Rainy River in Ontario to Eastern Alberta. Bill stayed at this job for six years and then worked as an Inspector for Canada Permanent in their Manitoba Territory.

Bill married Margaret McLean, daughter of J.C. and Margaret McLean, in 1935. Their son Jack was born in 1939. Jack graduated with a Science Degree and works for IBM in Walkington, New York.

Margaret is deceased and Bill now lives at Middlechurch Home.

### **DIENGOT AND HENRIETTA RECKSIDLER**

*submitted by Betty Linklater*

Diengot Recksiedler and Henrietta Yabush were born and raised near Wolhynien, Russia, where they married and raised their family: Ferdinand, Gottlieb, Attellia and Helena. They came to Canada in the early 1900's and first settled somewhere in Saskatchewan. They planted crops and suffered a loss when their crops froze. The winters were terribly cold. They heard Manitoba was the place to go. Diengot built a wagon with a wooden cover (a caboose type). They loaded their belongings and started for Manitoba. They settled in Greenbay, near Beausejour. They had very little so they first lived in a root cellar type house. They dug a hole and put a roof on it, and lived there for a little while. They continued their family: John, Fred, Emma, August, and Samuel were born in Greenbay.

Diegot was a handyman and craftsman, he built a sawmill, he had gotten the sawblade from somewhere. He made lumber with his sawmill and built a house. Diengot also built a windmill and was able to grind his own flour and feed for cattle. He made needles from course pig hairs and wove the hairs together with thread. He tanned leather and was able to make horse harnesses with the leather and the needles that he had made.

Diengot also taught Sunday School in a Lutheran Church. There was only one minister for three churches so when the minister wasn't at the church, Diengot filled in as a lay reader. He read from the Bible and held the service.

Diengot Recksiedler and Henrietta Yabush's second son Gottlieb Recksiedler, and Gottlob Schmidt and Caroline Yabush's daughter Henrietta Schmidt, met in Greenbay, as both families were neighbours.

Gottlieb Recksiedler and Henrietta Schmidt married in Beausejour. They first lived with Diengot and his family. Diengot gave Gottlieb a 1/4 section of land near Greenbay. Gottlieb built a small lumber house and they started a family: Olga, Henry, Edward, Mary, Ida, Fredrick, and Edmund. Because of financial difficulties, Gottlieb had to sell the house. They all moved to Jackfish Lake, near to Grand Marais, where they homesteaded, and continued their family: William, Daniel, Nora, Harry and Arthur (twins), Esther, Aldon, and Violet. They worked hard and cleared the land, so that they could have a small farm. They continued in the pulp

business which Diengot, the grandfather, had started with his family and his sawmill. Most of Gottlieb's and Henrietta's children still live in this area.

## HNATYSHYN \* REUTCKY

*submitted by John T. Reutcky*

Grandfather, Semko Hnatyshyn and his wife, Nettie, both born in Toporiw, Western Ukraine, emigrated to Canada in 1900 with their five children, Mary, Stephen, Eva, John and Nicholas and settled in Gonor, Man., St. Clements Municipality, where they farmed until 1926. Two more children, Andrew and Frances were born to them there.

Mary Hnatyshyn married Fred Reutcky in 1903. They lived in Gonor where they farmed until 1927 when they moved across the river to Lockport and operated a chicken farm there until 1951. The five children born to them are: Michael who became a school teacher in Saskatchewan and taught there and later operated stores there and in Oak Bank, near Winnipeg; James and Samuel, contractors in Winnipeg; John, a lawyer in Chicago; and Stephen who started the poultry farm in Lockport and died in 1949.

## MEMORIES OF THE ROARING TWENTIES

*submitted by John T. Reutcke*

A history of the Municipality of St. Clements must include mention of one of its most prominent features which is St. Andrew's Lock and Dam, commonly known as the "Locks". The gigantic structure was erected at the beginning of this century over the St. Andrew's Rapids on the Red River. This masterpiece of engineering intended to facilitate river transportation required a period of more than ten years to complete. The multitude of workers on this enormous project included numerous residents of this municipality whose history we are writing here in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of its incorporation. Many of those early settlers who are mentioned here toiled in the construction of the Locks thus earning their start in their new life in this country.

The Locks was a center of activity during the summer months when I was a boy living in Gonor during the decade known in history as The Roaring Twenties. Hordes of Winnipeggers drove down to the Locks because in those days, due to a lack of good roads for automobile travel, there were no other places to go in their automobiles. A line of cars miles long moving slowly bumper to bumper was a common sight on the Gonor road on a Sunday afternoon. These were the forerunners of the modern traffic jams on the expressways of our large cities. On the Gonor side of the river at the bridge every available space was filled with cars on Sundays. Many drove down to fish in the river below the falls where fishing was always good. Some camped overnight, others drove down to spend the day in the country or to have a picnic with their families. The banks of the river were crowded with fishermen casting their lines off the shore but most fishing was done from

rowboats which crowded the river. A large painted sign at Mary Gunn's Restaurant near the East approach to the bridge read "EATS". Soft drinks, ice-cream cones and meals were served there. Business was so brisk on weekends that people stood in lines waiting to be served. Lemon-Sour was a popular drink in those days.

A number of Gonor boys, including myself, spent most of the summers at the Locks where money came easier than by the backbreaking work at home on the farm. Catching minnows and providing the fishermen with bait and renting boats and fishing equipment constituted a days work at the Locks. But sad to say, there were days when duty called and one had to stay home and "pitch in" in the continuous battle against the sow-thistle and the potato bug.

Hardly a weekend went by without some form of entertainment taking place in the Gonor School Hall. All this to help ease the life of the hard working residents of the Gonor community. Concerts plays and dances were frequently held there in winter and summer. Lantern slides, and in later years, movies were shown there occasionally, chiefly for educational purposes, and heartily enjoyed by the audiences. Basket socials and dances were held frequently in the school hall, the music being furnished by the bands of the Chaiowsky Brothers or Bill Dubowits. Across the river the Lockport Inn was filled with dancers on weekend evenings, even throughout the winter, until the Inn burned in the 1930's.

During the early 1920's the RTU was organized purely for recreational purposes, even though the name stands for Rough, Tough and Ugly. The founding officers of the organization were Jake Davis, Sam and John Darichuk, Peter Kuhn, Pete Powluk and others. The ugly members were designated by such names as *Full Moon*, *Kaitch*, *Scringy* and *Mule Skinner*, among others. The meetings of this organization were held in the evenings under the light at the Corner near Mike Peak's store. The chief objective of this club was baseball. The team was very well equipped with funds raised at the school dances arranged by *Miss Edith Griffis*, Principal of the Gonor School during that era. Miss Griffis was also responsible for the Christmas concerts given in the Gonor School Hall and looked forward to by the community including the students who were the actors in this annual drama. I also took part in the memorizing, rehearsing and performing in the concert itself, and I remember how wonderful it was to be a part of it, and at the end another bit of happiness was to receive that little brown bag of hard candy to take home and chew until it was gone.

Those were the days of our youth when getting up in the morning seemed like a great adventure as we wondered what the new day will bring. Now we often wonder why we did not stay in bed all day since nothing seems to happen.

The Rolling Mills in Selkirk were the only source of employment for Gonor's younger men in those days. Trying to find a job in Winnipeg was similar to trying to locate a needle in the haystack. However, Gonor's men did not sit around idle when work at home slackened in the late summer and fall. They went "out West" to work in the wheat fields of Western Manitoba and in Saskatchewan, returning in the late fall with money to

spend in winter. Yours truly tried this work one autumn and to my dismay I learned that besides pulling red hot ingots at the rolling mill in Selkirk on a hot day, it is the hardest kind of work, ever devised, even worse than picking cucumbers.

It was about 1926 when Peter and George Homeniuk began to operate a much needed motorbus route between Gonor and Winnipeg. I was one of the first regular passengers together with Lucy McDonald, while I was attending the University in Winnipeg. This bus operation was extended to other portions of the province and operated for many years and was later merged into another company. George Donald of neighboring Lockport also operated a bus line from the Lockport station on the railroad between Winnipeg and Selkirk. His daughter, Mabel, who still lives in Lockport, operated the bus to the Locks and into Gonor. Recently, Mabel Davis was honored as Canada's first woman bus driver. She is as much a part of Gonor as the Locks itself.

The Locks was a pleasant place in summer in the old days. However, during the winter months, as we walked across the frozen river to the Lockport station to board the "street Car" to the high school in Selkirk, the Locks and all things around it appeared deserted, bleak and lonely, and covered with snow. Nothing remained to remind us of the gay summer-days except the ever present roar of the falls.

It would be fitting, at this point, to mention where Gonor received its name. History has it that it was named after Jean Gonor, a French priest who was a liaison officer between the French government and the Indian tribes in Canada.

## JOHN T. REUTCKE: MEMORIES

*submitted by J. Reutcke*

During the 1920's the Winnipeg newspapers sometimes described Gonor, with its little whitewashed houses, as a village transplanted from Eastern Europe. These houses were quite close together because the farms in Gonor, which were called river lots, were only 100' wide and most of them were nearly 4 miles long. Lord Selkirk who colonized the area along the Red River nearly 100 years before, he created this land pattern to permit each land owner access to the river for travel and transportation because there were no roads in the early days. The land near the river was very fertile and was used for growing crops and many kinds of vegetables which found a ready market in the growing City of Winnipeg only 15 minutes to the south. Away from the river there was hay land which furnished feed for the horses and cattle and at the east end of each farm were woods which supplied logs for building houses and firewood for heating and cooking.

Gonor's principal industry was the growing of many kinds of vegetables, chiefly potatoes, which were hauled to Winnipeg by horses and wagon and sold either at the Farmer's Market located at Dufferin Ave. and Derby St. or by peddling on the streets and back lanes in the north-end of the City. Oats, wheat, and barley were also raised mainly for feed for livestock and the flour used on farms. Wheat was ground into flour at local mills and other

grains were used for feed for the livestock. The leading crop grown in Gonor was potatoes. In the springtime each year there was much activity at the Gonor station on the CN Railroad where trainloads of potatoes were loaded and shipped to the United States.

In the late summer and fall the grain was cut and stooked or stacked in the field to dry for a short time and then the sheaves were hauled, piled into stacks in the farmyards for threshing. It was interesting to note the various types of stacks. Some were very artistic while others were thin and top heavy and appeared ready to fall over.

One of the early steam threshing outfits was operated by a Mr. Johnston and Clouston from Cloverdale. The steam engine was drawn by a team of horses as it was not self-propelled. Later the thresher outfits became self-propelled except the one operated by Stanley Husarski of Gonor which was powered by a gasoline engine. "Having threshers for a day or two was a most exciting time". Special food had to be prepared for the hard working threshermen which was also enjoyed by the youngsters. The noise of the machinery was overwhelming and in order to be heard you had to yell at the top of your voice, even from close by. While the threshers were busy with their work we boys "borrowed their bicycles and in a few days learned to ride them by practicing on the gravel road, which was pretty hard on the knees and elbows." The fun was all over when the threshing was finished and the machines and engines moved away to the other neighbors' yards.

The name of Tom Sanders should not be omitted from Gonor's early history. A common sight along the road in winter was the sight of Tom and his enormous Clydesdales hauling and straining under a load of gravel from Clark's Pit, north of Gonor. He provided the gravel for nearly all the roads in and around Gonor. In the warm months he and his gigantic team of horses pulled a huge breaking plow to break the virgin land of the Gonor vicinity. Tom and his large team also furnished the power to move houses and extra heavy loads. Also, poor Tom did not get to enjoy his old age pension for very long as passed away in the early 1930's, only a few months after retiring on his pension.

Many Gonor residents on the river lots north of the Locks engaged in fishing for large Catfish and Bass by means of heavy nightlines which were weighted down to the river bottom and marked by a wooden float at the surface. Each line stretched about halfway across the river and had attached to it 40 or more hooks spaced about 3' apart which were baited each evening. Early in the morning the line would be raised and any fish removed, and fish buyers came with their trucks, very early in the morning, to buy the fish, usually offering about 5¢ per pound in those days. Some of the fishermen would stuff the large fish with pebbles or pieces of lead to increase its weight.

During the 1920's the Gonor School was one of the largest of the Country schools in Canada, with four teachers and about 150 pupils. Most of the teachers during those years were from Winnipeg and came out daily on the electric railway on the west side of the river. A few boarded with Gonor families like Miss Edith

Griffis, Lillian Hay and Mrs. Leger. These ladies deserve much credit for the untiring service which they rendered to the Ukrainian community in Gonor in addition to teaching the children. They staged children's concerts in the school halls such as Christmas and also the Gonor School Fair put on in the fall of the year to which the children brought their cows and calves, chickens, ducks, geese and garden products which they raised themselves at home on the farm, plus handicraft, art and needlework. The most enjoyable part of these fairs came about late in the fall or later in winter when Gilbert Gunn, the local school Trustee and Justice of the Peace came to the school with a small bag full of quarters, nickles and dimes, and had them handed out to each child who entered in the fair an average amount of 10 to 15¢ or more up to 35¢ for placing in an event.

Christmas Eve was observed by the Ukrainian's on the seventh day of Jan. each year and was called "Swiatay Wecher" or Holy Evening. Usually on that evening, the light of the Aurora Borealis, which turned the night into near daylight, was seen, and Christmas Carolling could be heard all over Gonor, by small groups of boys. First greeting the people with "Christ is Born" while often standing in knee deep snow before the windows. As the singing ended the man of the house would open the door and hand us a "copper" which was a large one cent piece popular in those days. Occasionally, we would receive one of those tiny 5¢ pieces, which was also in vogue. Both of these coins disappeared from circulation, many years ago.

There was hardly any Ukrainians in Gonor who did not attend Church regularly and no one did any work on Sunday. Anyone who even chopped wood on Sunday was, in our opinion, surely destined to be buried in hell. The Ukrainians who comprised a majority of the population of Gonor observed the major church holidays about two weeks later than the English. This was not popular with the younger generation because we had to be in school on our Christmas Day, New Year's Day and other holidays.

Easter was always a gay season. On Sat. night before Easter Sunday, a number of young men sat up all night huddled around a log fire in the Churchyard near the Bell Tower, keeping vigil. On Easter Sunday morning, we were in Church before daybreak, because the procession commenced at sunrise. We felt relieved to see the Eastern sky turn bright. After the Church services, there was the blessing of the baskets of food which the people brought from home and placed in a huge circle around the Churchyard. It was a happy time not only because we were celebrating Christ's Resurrection, but also because it was the spring of the year and that brought great joy to everyone, especially to see green patches of grass exposed by the melting snow of which we were sick and tired of by then.

In the early summers in Gonor, long ago, one could smell the smoke from the smudges which were being burned to keep away mosquitos from the cows during milking time. That is now a forgotten event because milk comes in plastic containers from the supermarket, and no milk cows are to be seen anywhere in Gonor now. I remember when Mother would be milking in the evening,

and we boys stood waiting with our cups, for her to fill with fresh milk, direct from the cow. What a treat that was.

What formally was a Village of little whitewashed houses, with outhouses at the rear, has taken on the appearance of an affluent suburban area, for miles along the river, consisting of many spacious modern homes, equipped with all the most modern conveniences. As one drives through Gonor and Narol, you no longer see the endless rows of potatoes, onions, garlic and other vegetables.

## JACOB AND PHILIPINA RIEHL

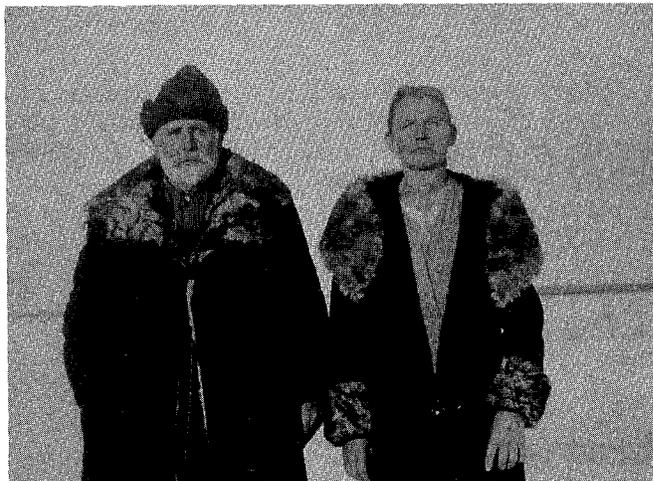
*submitted by Gus Riehl*

Jacob Riehl and his wife Philipina immigrated to Canada from a village in the Crakow area, which was Austria at that time. They arrived in Winnipeg in 1900. Here Mr. Riehl, being a carpenter by trade found ready employment, and they made Winnipeg their home for the next ten years.

In 1910 they moved to Libau and settled on an 80 acre farm which was made up of a pioneer-type two-room log house, a small log barn and enough cultivated land to grow a vegetable garden and feed for a few cows, pigs and chickens.

The farm was unable to support the Riehl's growing family, and Mr. Riehl made up the balance by working at his trade in, and around Libau. Up to his retirement most of the buildings in the area were built by him. Some of the ones that are still standing include: the German Lutheran Church; the residence of the Late Albert Petznick; the old Reichert residence, and the house which is still occupied by Daniel Petznick.

Jacob and Philipina Riehl had eight children: Phil Riehl of California; Rose, Mrs. George Reichert; Kay, Mrs. Daniel Petznick of Libau (deceased in 1978); Elizabeth, Mrs. Richard Kirby of Vancouver; Gus Riehl of Selkirk; Minnie, Mrs. John Dawson of Sault Ste.



*Jacob and Philipina Riehl March 21, 1936.*

Marie, Ont.; Charlie, who died when he was only a year old, and Lillian, Mrs. Peter Nolman of Winnipeg.

Phil, the oldest son's story is rather unusual: when he was only fourteen years old he left home and for some time he worked for a travelling circus. He worked his way to Los Angeles, California, where he worked for a while picking fruit. He was later employed by the Edison Power Co. with whom he stayed for the next thirty years. During this time Phil married Hilma Borg of Fresno, California. They raised three children: two sons, Earl and Leroy, and a daughter Lois.

What makes this story unusual is that during all this time, Phil did not come home once to see his parents and the rest of the family. It was not until more than thirty years later that Phil and Hilma and their two younger children Leroy and Lois motored out to Libau to pay the rest of the family a long overdue visit, and they had a wonderful reunion.



*Riehl family reunion, 1943 at home of Reicherts. Back Row, Left to Right: Gus Riehl, Mary Riehl, Rose Reichert, Hilma Riehl, Jacob Riehl, Philipina Riehl, Elizabeth Kirby, Lillian Nolman and Peter Nolman. Front Row: Minnie Dawson, Phil Riehl, Kay Petznick, Richard Kirby and George Reichert.*

Phil passed away in 1945 and Hilma a few years later. Jacob Riehl and Philipina Riehl sold their farm in 1943 and moved to Libau where Mr. Riehl passed away in 1945. Mrs. Riehl passed away in 1954.



*Jock and Mary Robertson.*

## **JOHN EMSLIE (JOCK) AND MARY ROBERTSON**

*submitted by Olive Wardrop*

Both Jock and Mary were born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. They came to Winnipeg in 1912 and moved to East Selkirk in 1924. They lived at the East end, commonly known as the Sheep Farm. They stayed for ten years, when they moved to Selkirk and then back to Winnipeg in 1941.

Jock Robertson had a stroke in 1939 and he died in 1946 at the age of 62. Mary Robertson died in 1978 in her 92nd year.

There were seven boys and one girl in the family: Bill of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, Jack, deceased in 1981, he was 70 years of age, Lillian of Calgary, Alberta, Harry in Winnipeg, Victor deceased in 1929, he was 9 years of age, Sidney deceased in 1938, he was 14 years of age, Donald deceased in 1926, he was 1 year old and Fred who resides in Winnipeg.

The older children attended Highland School. The younger ones attended Mayfield School and Daerwood in Selkirk.

## **FRANK AND CAROLINE ROGOSKI**

*submitted by Frank Rogoski*

Frank Rogoski was the son of Dan Rogoski and Phyllis (nee: Zelinski). He moved to Grand Marais in April, 1955 from Matlock, Manitoba. He was a partner in a trucking business, known as Dan's Transfer, in Matlock, Frank had started with his dad in 1933. In Sept. 1940, Frank married Caroline Zelenitsky, then went to the Army for a 5-year sprint and then returned in 1946 to the trucking business until 1954. In 1947, their first daughter, Beverly was born, and in 1953, their second daughter, Charlene, was born. Beverly now is an X-Ray Technician in Edmonton General, and Charlene is a Registered Nurse at the Health Science Center.

Frank has 3 brothers, Victor and Dennis in Winnipeg, and Charlie at Winnipeg Beach. He has 3 sisters, Helen



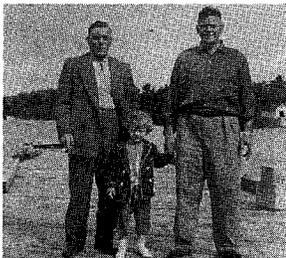
*Frank at back, Beverly and Caroline. Front Row: Son-in-law James Beveridge and Charlene.*

and Kay in Toronto, and Betty-Ann at Matlock. His dad, Dan, at 87 years of age, is still taking care of himself with a bit of assistance from Betty-Ann. His dear mother, Phyllis, passed away in 1977 at the age of 83.

Frank started working as a Police Constable for the R.M. of St. Clements at Grand Marais in April, 1955, for \$150.00 per month, including room. It was the hardest way to make a living as he was the only messenger, for he had the only telephone in the area. Frank says, "My wife and children were also involved in delivering messages when I was out on call. It was expected of me, as the cottage owners in Grand Beach and Grand Marais paid my salary".

On April 27, 1972, he was appointed Justice of the Peace for the province of Manitoba. In May, 1969, he became a Real Estate Broker.

"I don't think I could have stayed as a policeman very long, but my boss, Reuben Thomas was a Prince of a Man, and also Max Dubas, both deceased. There was a lot of problems in Grand Marais, but from May to September the City of Winnipeg moved to the Beach and then the action started. In 1955, the Boardwalk was in bloom with the Merry-go-round, restaurants, Hot Dog and hamburger stands, Souvenir booths, the CNR station, and about 10 trains daily. At this time, there were two Men's Beer Parlors and a few bootleggers. Every weekend was the same, and sort of a picnic. I had two men with me, and on weekends we did not get any sleep. The next year, we were able to hire extra help on the weekends, in July and August. There were three dance halls in the area, and a lot of fights and drunks."



*Reuben Thomas and Frank Rogoski and Frank's daughter Charlene.*

## JOHN AND EVA ROKOSH

*submitted by Mary Rokosh*

John Rokosh Sr. married Eva Tashekowski in Poland in the late 1800's. John Rokosh Sr. was in the cavalry regiment in Poland during the Polish War. He was an expert horseman. They came to Canada in the very early 1900's and settled in Libau. After a few years, they moved to East Selkirk and settled on a farm. They had five children, Mary, Victoria, Mike, William and John.



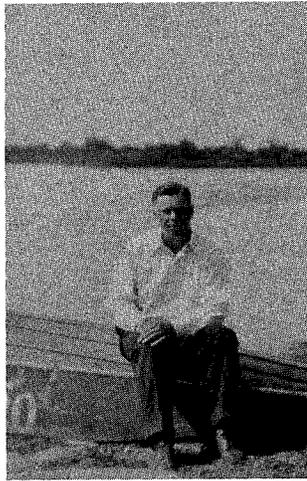
*John Rokosh Sr., John Rokosh Jr., Eva Rokosh.*

In the very early years, there were little white houses on the property where Indian families lived. The Rokosh home was built very close to the creek and many Indian families would stop and buy cow's milk. In return, the Indians gave Eva Rokosh a beaded button bag, moc-casins and a little oblong roaster (which was burnt black as they must have roasted their meat over open fires.) Eva Rokosh was very busy helping to clear land, gardening and feeding animals. This gave her little time to spend with the children, especially, baby William. The Indian mothers must have noticed this and offered to take care of the baby. Apparently, this frightened Eva, as she thought they might take the baby in their canoe and she would never see him again.

The Rokosh's had three teams of working horses and a riding horse, named Minnie. John Rokosh Sr. was often seen proudly riding his saddle horse to inspect his farm at the corner of Colville Road and Highway 59. Minnie was a buggy horse in the summer, and a cutter horse in the winter. John Rokosh Jr. recalls racing Minnie down Ferry Road and jumping, beautifully clearing, the wooden gate to their property. All the fieldwork was done by the horses. Custom work was done for different people such as plowing, seeding, hauling sheaves, and



Sally Millar, Bill and Stella Rokosh.



William (Bill) Rokosh

hay, digging potatoes and binding grain. John Rokosh Jr., and his brother, Bill, hauled gravel for the roads with the horses in the winter, and graded these same roads during the summer. They covered Libau, Lockport and East Selkirk.

Many oldtimers in the area recall picnics held on the farm. There was fund-raising for the church, dancing on a platform and all the children had their wedding receptions here. Beer was 10 cents a glass, as well as hot dogs.

A Model A Town Sedan was bought in 1930. In 1933, John Rokosh Jr. took his parents and Mrs. Kologinski to Chicago to see the World's Fair and to visit his brother, Mike, and wife, Sophie.

Mary Rokosh, married Andrew Markewich and they had five children, Pauline, Herbie, Frank, Tommie and Jean. Victoria married Cliff Tepleski, and they had three children, Peter, Helen and Billie. Mike married Sophie Kologinski, and they had two daughters, Pat and Anita. William married Stella Kologinski, and they had one



Mike Rokosh with their saddle horse "Minnie".

daughter, Evelyn. John married Anne Stefaniuk, and they had four children, Elenore, Betty, Douglas and Denise.



Mike Rokosh Sr

Mike and John are the only two living children. Mike resides in Elmhurst, Illinois, and John lives in Selkirk, Manitoba.

John Rokosh Jr. also remembers hauling pulp to the mills in Pinefalls where he worked in the early 1930's. He married Ann in 1935, and in 1936 moved to Selkirk where he worked for a car and implement dealer.

In 1940, he started his own business as an International Harvester Dealership. He served the Selkirk community and district until 1977. In this year he semi-retired leaving his son Douglas, to carry on the business. At present, his son Douglas and wife, Mary, reside at the old homestead in East Selkirk which has been in the family since the early 1900's.

## WILLIAM AND NETTIE (KORDALCHUK) ROMANIUK

*submitted by Peter Cole*

Nettie is the daughter of Anton and Annie Kordalchuk. She was born in Torhowica, Province of Horodenka, Austria, and came to Canada in 1907.

Her first marriage was to Mike Kolodginski who at the time lived in East Selkirk and who was born in Austria. They married in Jan. 1914 and had two sons. John was born in 1915 and Peter in 1918, six months after his father was killed. Mike was killed in a Railroad accident in 1918 at the Union Stockyards in Wpg.

Nettie stayed with her parents for the next 2 1/2 years and during that time had no choice but to go to work for the Van Horne Farms hoeing, stooking, making hay and later in the falltime trimming turnips. During that time she met Bill Romaniuk.

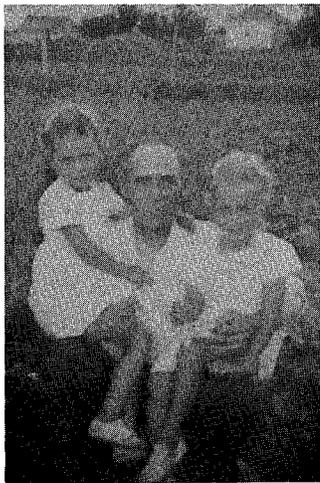
In 1922, she married Bill Romaniuk and they moved to Wpg. and lived there for three years. During the time they lived in Wpg., Bill worked at the Union Stockyard and Nettie did household chores for Mrs. Franks, and later worked for the Dyson Pickle Factory for \$1.00 a day.



*Bill and Nettie Romaniuk, 1936.*

In 1925, they moved to East Selkirk and bought the property she now lives on, and during that time they put up new buildings which are there till this day. Between 1925 and 1939 Bill held odd jobs and Nettie went back to the Van Horne Farms hoeing and cleaning sugar beets and helped Mrs. Sangster preparing meals during the beet season.

In 1940 Bill started work at the Manitoba Rolling Mills and Nettie retired from the Van Horne Farms and boarded teachers that taught at the Happy Thought School. In 1950, ill health caused Bill to leave his job at the Rolling Mills so he took an early retirement. He died in 1961. During Bill's retirement, Nettie supplemented their income with work at the Municipal office in the morning, and in the afternoons at the Star Hotel, working for Mr. and Mrs. George Rennie.



*John Romaniuk Sr. (Nettie's husband) and granddaughters. Daughters of Ann and John Kolodginski.*



*Anne Donalchuk, Peter Romaniuk, Katherine Stefaniuk.*



*Nettie Romaniuk and her great-grandchildren July 13, 1981.*

Nettie has been very active in Church activities since 1925, in the first St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the present. She was on the Church Committee for 23 years.

Nettie has been very popular making cabbage buns (Perishki) for many showers and stags, most of the time between 6 and 7 hundred.

Nettie has become an avid traveller since 1965 and has made trips to Chicago, Ont., Edmonton, Calgary, Golden, B.C., Thompson, Snow Lake and Flin Flon, Regina and lately Whitehorse.

She makes trips to Flin Flon and Regina quite frequently to visit with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

At 84, Nettie enjoys taking care of her own home, baking bread and buns, dainties and cookies. Her cookie jar is at all times full for her great-grandchildren to empty. She is very friendly with her neighbors, young and elderly.

Nettie enjoys her membership in the Seniors Club, and takes part in Carpet Bowling, Crib tournaments and 31. She also enjoys visits from her six grandchildren and her 16 great-grandchildren.

## **WILLIAM AND ALICE ROMANO**

*submitted by William Romano*

Mr. Hnat Romano and his wife Eva arrived in Canada from the Western Ukraine (Brody) in 1886. With them were their four children, Sam, Nick, Mary and Bill. The agents promoting Canada had flooded the Ukraine with literature describing this new land as a land of promise. Hnat was impressed and decided to journey to this land where "fences are made from sausages".

When they reached Manitoba they soon settled on Lot 210, Gonor, situated within the Rural Municipality of St.



*Sam and Catherine Romano.*

Clements, which lay on the east side of the Red River.

When Hnat viewed his new land-holding what he saw was a little bit of pasture, some wood and trees for firewood.

They soon had their log home built and had purchased a pair of oxen. Prior to getting the oxen, Hnat used to carry his food supplies (flour) on his back all the way from Wpg. to Gonor. Henderson Hwy. in those days was only an Indian trail winding in and out along the east side of the Red River. When they finally made a provincial road out of it, they followed the old winding trail.

After the oxen were bought, it was easier in many respects for Hnat and his family. However, Hnat used to tell the story that on the way to Wpg., up around Birds Hill the oxen used to find water, lay down in it and rest. No amount of coaxing would induce them to proceed with their journey until they were ready.

Sam was only seven years old at the time, but assisted his father with the chores, of running a homestead. As Sam grew up he worked for the CNR Section crew and



*William  
and Alice  
Romano  
April 7,  
1968.*

supplemented the family income. Then Hnat thought it was time for Sam to be married and together they chose lovely Catherine Karhut to be his bride.

When Hnat came to Canada, he found that there were no Churches of his faith close to home and knowing his family would not want to miss their Church Services they used to walk all the way to Selkirk and return every Sunday, until a Church was built in Gonor for them.

Hnat was one of the most enthusiastic to assist building the first Church in Gonor, and was one of the early Cantors and assisted with the service. Hnat loved his family and was a good provider. His love for the land was evident. He managed to raise his family and provide the necessities to life on his mixed farm. Coal oil was a necessity and he always took a little wood to town and from the sale brought home sugar and other groceries. Hnat had his own pigs, cows and chickens to provide the needed meat and dairy products. They always did their best with what they had. Hnat Romano passed away over 30 years ago and left behind him a proud legacy of love for the Church, family and his land.

Sam and Catherine had seven sons and one daughter. They were all raised on the Romano property, lot 210 Gonor. The seven children were: Anne, Bill, Michael, Steve, Nick, Peter, John and Harold. Peter died at about 5 years of age. They all attended the Gonor School and the Holy Trinity Church.

Bill, who married Alice Negrich, a local Gonor girl, says he wouldn't want to live through those hard times again. Bill feels people have a pretty good life now. Bill mentioned that in his younger years they had to bring hay in from the bog, and the next day you were bringing in wood from the bush. All this firewood had to be cut by hand. During the summer all you did was hoe, hoe, hoe on the gardens and trips into Wpg. had to be by horse, which were long, hard and time consuming.

Bill stated that he built his own home in 1938 and that all the lumber and material was worth about \$700.00 and the chap who did some of the carpenter work got 20 cents an hour, and was happy with the wage. Bill's parents weren't able to help with the finances of a new home and credit was hard to get in those days. When asked by a lumber company what he had for collateral, Bill told them, "house, pigs, and a wife" and Bill built his house, by doing a lot of the work himself, and without credit.

Bill and Alice were blessed with one daughter, Beverly, and continue working their land and growing vegetables and grain. They live at 6161 Henderson Hwy. Steve, the youngest Romano son, and his wife Mary live on the old Romano homestead at Lot 210 and also market garden and carry on the tradition of working and tending the land.

Beverly married Edward Los and they live in the Town of Selkirk and they have three children.

It is interesting to note that Hnat Romano and his son Sam were both Cantors at the Holy Trinity Church in Gonor. Bill is the third generation to be Cantor and this has been a labor of love for 35 years. Bill was a member of the Board of Directors for the church for about 18 years and was instrumental in forming the choir and served as choirmaster.