

## **NAGEL, Ernest and Lydia**

Ernest and Lydia Nagel, of German descent, arrived in Canada in 1905. Both were still in their teens, and they looked forward with great anticipation to the possibility of prosperity and happiness in this great new land.

They came to Dominion City in Manitoba where they attempted to gain a foothold by managing a flour mill. Returns were meager, so they joined three brothers at Mossbank, Sask., and turned to farming. This, too, proved less than prosperous.

In 1914, in answer to a government proposition, Ernest filed an application for a homestead in Southern Saskatchewan in the district today known as Killdeer. The homestead he chose was on Sec. 20, Tp. 2, Rge 3, W. 3. He paid the government ten dollars for a quarter section of land and was assured that if the family could live on it for five years, ownership was guaranteed.

The next few years saw them living in a "soddie" (later to be replaced by a large stone house). They had a rapidly growing family. Courage and hard work were the order of each day. However, life was bearable, for surrounding neighbors were always ready to lend a hand in every emergency.

In the spring of 1916, a school was planned and constructed. All the men and women of the community co operated to realize this dream. April of 1917 saw the opening of the Table Butte School, District Number 3640.

That same year the government granted a post office, to be located on Mr. and Mrs. Charles Root's farm. It remained there, the Killdeer Post Office, until 1931. In the meantime, the hamlet of Killdeer had gradually developed. A railway also appeared so the post office was moved to this new area.

Perhaps the most trying experience during these pioneering years was the absence of professional medical care. In 1916, two doctors moved onto neighboring farms and a Red Cross Post was established at Wood Mountain. The registered nurses proved an asset to the surrounding country side.

Certain highlights long remembered by the Nagel family were the library books from Mrs. Root's travelling library, the annual sports, and the Christmas program. Social life was very limited so these three avenues of communication were treasured.

For forty years Ernest and Lydia underwent many trying experiences. It need hardly be mentioned that hail, drought, and insect invasions dealt heavy blows. But in spite of these disasters, Ernest and Lydia raised nine daughters and four sons, and managed to provide each with a sound, educational training.

Today these family members are widely scattered. They are: Fred, Adeline, Elsa, Emelia, Louis, Deana, Rosa, Hermina, Martha, Linda, Lyda, Ernest, Martin.

In 1954, Ernest and his wife retired and moved to Regina. They lived comfortably until October, 1970, when Ernest passed away. In May, 1976, Lydia followed her husband.

Ernest and Lydia lived long and fruitful lives. That the years were filled with hardships and toil is obvious. But one ventures to claim that as they sat in their retirement home and dreamed of days gone by, the treasured memories of many former events, made all the years truly worthwhile.

### **NEIN, Theodore and Elizabeth**

Ted Nein was born in South Russia in a town called Schilling, in 1898. He attended school there for nine years. In 1912 they immigrated to Winnipeg, Canada. His parents, one sister, two brothers, and Ted came over and joined his oldest sister who had been in Winnipeg since 1906.

Their boat ride across the Atlantic is one that won't be forgotten. Their boat sailed the same month that the Titanic went down. Luckily they arrived safely, but the after effects were drastic. Ted became sick; it was like walking around drunk for three weeks after they landed. The doctor said it was a case of sea sickness and prescribed castor oil. Ted spit it back and refused to take anymore. He finally started taking sour pickle juice and after three days he was able to start work.

He worked in the Royal Crown Soap Factory for four dollars a week for three years. In 1915 they came to Saskatchewan where he worked for a farmer for fifteen dollars a month.

He was married in 1920, to Elizabeth Link who also was born in South Russia. In 1921, a daughter, Ella was born to them and the following year another daughter, Ella, was born. In 1923 sorrow struck as Esther died very suddenly.

In 1922, Ted quit farming and moved to the town of Morse and started to work on the C.P.R. In 1927 he and his family came to Rockglen where he started to work as section foreman for the C.P.R. The war broke out in 1939 and in 1940 Ted enlisted in the army and was stationed overseas for five years. He returned in 1946 and resumed work at his old job as section foreman in Rockglen.

In 1954 they moved to Coronach where he worked as section foreman until December of 1962 when he retired after forty-one years.

He and his wife now reside in Rockglen and their one daughter, Ella (Mrs. Irvin Engle) resides in Missoula, Montana.

## **NEUMEYER, Peter**

Peter Neumeyer was born in 1905, in Gurahumora, Bucovina, Austria, to a family of four boys and eight girls. After taking the third grade, World War II broke out and there was no longer a school in Gurahumora. Peter wanted to return to school after the war but was told he was too old, as he was now sixteen.

With conditions in Austria being unfavorable for young folks to become established, he came to Canada in 1924. His sister had immigrated to New York and had saved enough money for Peter's fare. He travelled by passenger ship from Austria to Halifax, then by train to Moose Jaw and on to Assiniboia. Peter could not speak English, but at the station he met a man with a long beard – Mr. Rust, who could speak German, took him to dinner and then found a farmer to give him a ride to Ralph Kwasnicki's at Scout Lake.

Peter found work on a farm. He did chores and farm labor for Mr. Linden for six years. In 1927, Mr. Linden gave Peter land for wages and his farming days began. The first summer he lived in a room boxed-off, in the barn with his horses. Later he built a one-room shack. Times weren't very good for Peter the first years. If it wasn't frost, it was hail!

He farmed this land until 1932, then bought another half section from Dan Reinoeh. Peter tried to farm both places, but they were too far apart. He then gave up his first land – let it go back to the land company.

On his second farm he lived in a granary, until he moved a house from Bill Popescul's. On his first tractor, he paid two hundred dollars down. It broke down – he couldn't afford to pay for it, so the company repossessed it.

Peter farmed this land for eleven years but, as there were no crops, he couldn't meet payments. Because of pressure from the owner and land company he was forced to give up the land.

In 1942, he bought a half section of land from Mr. Sittry, but things weren't much better as he got hailed- out five times. What a grim outlook ahead – crops all gone and everything bashed into the ground! But Peter was still determined to farm. In the early forties he hauled hay all winter for Mr. Stauber, in return for his room and board.

He moved to Scout Lake in 1942 and farmed until 1967 when he sold his land to Nick Wadowsky.

After he retired, he spent three winters boarding with Mrs. Stauber, in Assiniboia. Finally in 1973, he moved to Assiniboia where he enjoys the comforts of a bigger town. In the summer he still spends a few days in his little house in Scout Lake.

## **NEWHOUSE, Henry and Emma**

It was in 1906, that a young man by the name of Henry Frederick Newhouse, who was born at Gluckstadt Elbe, Germany, left his homeland and travelled by ship to immigrate to North Dakota, U.S.A. While on board he met Emma Biensch, a young lady, born at Hergisdorf, Germany, who was also travelling to a new country. Her destination was Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, where she intended to live with her brother and other relatives. A romance started and flourished, but Henry had to wait until 1908 before Emma joined him in North Dakota, where they were married.

Henry was a blacksmith by trade and he and Emma lived in Springbrook, North Dakota, where they raised three children, Lilly, Paul and Robert. In 1914 the decision was made to move to Saskatchewan. The family travelled by wagon and team, plus one milk cow, to homestead adjacent to the Montana border. The thrill of seeing prairie grass so lush and tall that it came over the young mother's head, made them feel that their dreams really had come true. This land is still in the family name.

Their little house on the prairie was built with the help of a neighbor, who lived a mile east of them by the name of George Derry. Here Henry continued blacksmithing along with farming. Their shopping centre was in Scobey, Montana with grain being hauled either to Scobey or Verwood, for at that time there was an "open line" between the two countries. Coal for heating the house was obtained from a coal mine, about four miles east of their home, owned by Jim Burton, or from Scobey.

As the children grew older, school days became part of their lives, first at Lacordaire (1917), then at Borderland. Memories of "skinny-dipping" in the swim hole at noon hour in the Poplar Creek, or losing their lunch pails as the horses swam the swollen creek in the springtime, are tales often told. A fishing bee, with nets on poles, held by two men, one on each side of the creek, to catch suckers, was also a popular pastime.

Picnics and sports days were important social events, especially the picnics at the Newhouse farm, where Mother had a lovely strawberry patch, to the delight of the many young people that would gather there. Barn storming by plane, with the pilot, W. Skinner, coming from Willow Bunch to give everyone a thrill, as well as the regular Sunday baseball games, played at anybody's home, with the teams being made up of a mixture of American and Canadian players were other memorable events.

About 1923 failing health attacked Henry, who by now had added the selling of farm insurance to his business, and so the family decided to move, thus becoming one of the first residents in the newly formed "Valley City", later called Rockglen in 1926. Here Henry continued his insurance business, which was later taken over by his son, Robert H. Newhouse.

**NIELSEN, Albert and Emma** - by Minnie (Nielsen) Kimball

Albert John Nielson, my father, was born July 11, 1873, at Waupaca, Wisconsin. Emma Matilda Bjorkman, my mother, was born at West Sweden, Wisconsin. They were married at Ashley, North Dakota, November 31, 1909.

Mom had proved up a homestead at Ashley. Three children were born there, Myrtle in 1910, Florence in 1912 and Ralph in 1914.

In 1913 Papa came to Saskatchewan. He homesteaded a quarter and pre-empted a quarter eleven miles south and three miles west of the present site of Rockglen. On a sheltered spot on the pre-emption he built a sod house and dug a well.

Papa had driven up in his second-hand 1913 Model T Ford to locate. Papa bought the car from a doctor who had gone out to see a patient, when he came to a hill and forgot about the brakes. He braced his feet, pulled back on the steering wheel and hollered, "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!" Papa said, "He hit the only damned tree in the country". When the car was repaired Papa bought it. The doctor said he wanted nothing more to do with "that contraption".

Mom sold her homestead early in 1914 and moved up to Canada, via North Portal, to the end of the rail line at Bengough, with the children. The Moen boys, friends from Ashley who had moved up two years earlier, met them and helped them move to their new home.

The first year they plowed furrows with the walking plow and just covered the spuds with sod. A small patch was also worked up for a garden. Mom got setting hens and eggs from neighbors. From North Dakota they brought Papa's favorite team of horses, Barney, a rat-tailed Indian pony and Grant, grandson of Dan Patch, a cow, a calf and the dog Sport.

Papa was a strong man. He would pop a full forty- five gallon fuel barrel up on his knee and into a lumber wagon box easier than most could toss half as much. If he couldn't lift the loaded wagon box with his shoulder, it was too heavy for the team and some was unloaded.

Papa bought a Soyer Massey tractor in the early years but it was a "dud". He traded it on a 1060 Rumley which had one speed – two miles per hour. It pulled a string of machinery behind it – once over the field was broke, leveled, disked, seeded and harrowed. The Rumley worked good on the threshing machine too.

Papa did custom threshing from the boundary north to Joeville, east as far as the Lacordaire district and west to Coal Creek. Theodore Grace worked for years as engineman on Papa's threshing outfit.

Papa learned the blacksmith trade from his father who had been a professional blacksmith in Denmark. He did a great deal of heat welding and shod many horses for neighbors. (Papa shared his blacksmithing knowledge with brother Ralph who later owned one of the first acetylene welders in this area; he also did custom welding for neighbors). I doubt that Papa ever collected much for his labor.

Mail was first picked up at Lacordaire Post Office, then Richard and Carbert, Montana. L. J. Linthicum then got the Borderland Post Office; it later moved to Peter Kay's and then on to Sam Linthicum's. The distance was so great that we began to pick up our mail in Rockglen.

Meat, those first years, was mainly grouse, prairie chickens and rabbits.

As doctors were as distant as Assiniboia and Scobey, Montana, in 1916, I, Minnie, was born at the home of an aunt in Minnesota. Clifford, the only Canadian-born child arrived at our farm April 1919, with a Mrs. Bridgman of Rich Montana attending.

In 1919 the whole family, except Florence and the threshing crew, were down with the flu. Papa treated them with Watkin's Cold and Grip Tablets and Watkin's Red Liniment, both inside and out. He never lost a one!!!

Myrtle and Florence had two weeks of schooling at Borderland in 1919. Then in 1920-21 Mom took us to Scobey for three months where the two older girls and Ralph attended school. In the summer of 1922 a high school girl, Nora Kay, taught us and Vivian Herriod, in the bedroom of our home. In 1923 Nada Bernard taught our Shanty School; Nora Kay taught in 1924. Boundary School opened in 1925.

Papa died in March, 1934 after a second heart attack. Mom lived to be eighty-five. She spent the last few years in Oregon with Myrtle.

On July 3, 1934, I married Carl Kimball. We live a mile south of Canopus. We have six children, Maxine (Thomson), Mavis (Jacobs), Brian, Kenneth, Elizabeth (Thomson), and Patricia (Putz); seventeen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Myrtle married Howard Beach and they had seven children and twelve grandchildren. Florence married Delbert Oglesby. They had three children and eight grandchildren. Ralph married Elena Balon, they had three children and three grandchildren. Ralph died at age fifty-three and never got to see the grandchildren. Clifford married Marjorie Johnson. They had five children and nine grandchildren. Marjorie died at thirty five. Clifford later married Mrs. Pauline Farrington, adding another five to his family. Pauline died in 1976. Clifford lives in Vancouver where he says the climate agrees with him. Myrtle and Florence are both widowed. Ralph's youngest son, Nairn Nielson, with his wife Brenda and baby son, live on the farm Papa and Mom built up.