

field work twice a week for evening practices. It was particularly memorable to see Joe Skalicky and Gilbert Wourms come in from breaking land, all covered with dust, just in time for practice, after which they had supper and returned to the field. During these years, the whole team travelled in the back of Joe Skalicky's two-ton truck. One of the most memorable occasions for this team was travelling in the back of this truck to Barrier Lake on a team picnic and fishing trip.

By 1946, the war being over, a lot of young men had returned home. Players now added were Ben Schmitz, Mike Hoffman, Bernard and Chris Mager, Ed Stroeder, and Alois Gerwing. Also, John Abel had moved back to Lake Lenore and joined the team again. From 1946 to '48, the team was coached by Henry Loose and Tony Ludwig, and from 1948-50 the coaches were Henry Loose, Lorenz Mamer and Weldon Thompson.

In 1950 a lot of the older players retired. John Abel and Ed Stroeder tried to organize some teams but with little success. Between 1949 and 1953, the only team that existed was one that played at the occasional sportsday. Some of the players at this time were Henry Brinkman, Fred P. Gerwing, Doug and Art Nieman, Leander Mamer, Dan and Alois Gerwing and Ed Stroeder. These teams lacked depth in pitching and, as a result, didn't fare too well.

From 1953 to the mid '60's, very little ball was played as Lake Lenore seldom had a team. In 1956, the Lions Club acquired the grounds of the present sportsgrounds and started building the present ball diamonds. The backstop of the former ball diamond was just northeast of the gate into the present sportsgrounds and they hit towards the present rinks. One of the hardest hit balls from this diamond ended up where the Sask-Tel building is now located. It was Arnold Mehr who struck the blow.

In the mid 1960's, Ray Bauer, Leo Nienaber, and Pat Hoenmans began organizing teams to go to tournaments. Leo caught and, with Emmett Bauer as their main pitcher, they did quite well. In 1969, Lake Lenore entered the North Central Baseball League. Ray Bauer and Leo Nienaber were the main organizers.

Some of the players of the 1969 team were Brian Prodahl, Greg Gerwing, Leo Nienaber, Dave Marshak, Allan Yarskie, Pat Hoenmans, Richard Schafhauser, Don and Doug Schuler, Kevin Abel, and imports Chris Molnar and Rod Brockman. Ray Bauer was the coach. The team was called the Lions until about 1973. It was then renamed the Lakers and is still known as this today. Ray Bauer coached until about 1971; then Leo Nienaber and Dave Marshak coached for a couple of years. From 1974 to 1982 Richard Schafhauser coached and since 1982 Philip Gerwing has been the coach.

Here are a few more interesting stories. Adolph Schmitz remembers how, back in the 30's, they

would work in the fields with horses until about 6 p.m., get the horses home and fed, have their supper and walk to practise by about seven. Joe Skalicky said that he lived five miles from town. In 1939, he remembers walking this distance twice a week to practice. His gauge was to run two telephone pole lengths, walk one, then run two, walk one, all the way to town. Notice that they practised twice a week at this time. John Abel remembers pitching one seven-inning game in which his team fielded only two ground balls . . . the rest he struck out. Then there's the story of Lorenz Mamer pitching a three-inning game at a sportsday and recording 10 consecutive strike-outs. It seems as if pitchers like Lorenz Mamer, John Abel, Alphonse Hopfner, Alois Gerwing and so on were real masters at throwing the out-drop (today known as the screwball).

I found in doing the research for this history that there were many very good and successful teams, especially in the 20's, 30's and 40's, that there were many very talented ballplayers and powerful batters, as well as a lot of fascinating stories. I've only been able to mention some of the players and a few of the stories; unfortunately, probably many are missed. I would like to thank all those who helped me with memories, to get this information together.



Winner of the League Cup during mid thirties. Back row (L to R): Ted Schmitz, Dr. Nathan Goluboff, ?, ?, Dan Hopfner, Mike Gaetz, Mike Mehr. Front: Leonard Schmitz, Chris Schmitz, Rob Hopfner, Bill Reeves (catcher), Albert Hergott, ?

MINOR BALL

Since the late 1960's, minor ball has been very active in Lake Lenore. Before the minor leagues were formed, the boys would get together and play ball at every opportunity until they were old enough or good enough to play with the senior baseball team.

With the forming of minor leagues, they now start at age five or six and compete with the leagues of other towns. The smallest in the league are known as Mosquitos, then move up to Beavers, Bantam, Midget and Juvenile, before the Senior team. Many