

JOE ABEL

Joseph William Abel, the youngest child of Michael and Anna (nee Gaetz) Abel, was born at Lake Lenore, Sask., on October 25, 1921. He attended Stuckel School and later, when the Solo School District was formed, he completed his schooling there. Joe enjoyed curling and playing ball. He was also an avid sportsman as he loved fishing and hunting.



Back Row L to R: Kevin and Karen. Front Row L to R: Florence and Joe.

In 1950 he married Florence Cody from Pilger, Sask.

They have two children: Kevin, who operates the family farm and Karen, who married Gerald Smith from Pilger. Karen and Gerald have two children and live at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Florence superannuated from teaching in 1979 after 35 years of service. She taught at Stuckel School from 1954 to 1964. At that time the family moved to Pilger, Sask. and have continued to reside in that community.

MICHAEL AND ANNA ABEL

By Rose Marie Gallais as told by John and Mike Abel

Michael Abel was born on February 13, 1880, in Alsace, Lorraine, and at the early age of two years immigrated to Minnesota, U.S.A. He, with his parents and five brothers and two sisters, settled near Millerville. His father had a farm of approximately forty acres, and since this did not require the help of six boys, Mike went out to seek employment. He worked at various jobs and was able to learn the art of stone masonry and helped erect many stone foundations for homes and barns in the area.

In August of 1904 he left his family behind in Minnesota and ventured to Canada where he took up his first homestead near what is now Lake Lenore. He filed on NE 12-40-21 W2.

On May 15, 1906, Mike married Anna Gaetz. She was the daughter of John Gaetz and Johanna Larsson who had emigrated from Minnesota in the year 1904. She was the eldest of the twelve Gaetz children and twenty years old at the time of their immigration. There was always enough work in the house and garden to keep her occupied. Mike and Anna were part of a double wedding ceremony as Anna's sister, Katherine, married George Gerwing at the same time. This apparently was the first marriage in the newly-settled Lake Lenore area and was ministered by Father Chrysostom. It took place in the Bernard Gerwing home which is now located in the village of Lake Lenore across from the present day church.

Like all other families, Mike and Anna's first home was made from logs. When a new home was needed, neighbors got together, held a building bee and erected a new house in no time. Their home was a neat 17' x 17', two-storey building. Later, a lean-to was added and this was quickly converted into a kitchen.

This kitchen saw many a loaf of homemade bread as "Ma Abel" became known for her delicious, giant-sized loaves. Due to either shyness or shortage of women, there were quite a few bachelors in the neighborhood, who bought bread from Anna for the grand price of five cents a loaf. Later, the price rose to 10 cents, probably due to inflation! This extra income bought a few extras that couldn't have been



Back Row—Mary Walker (Gaetz), Anna Abel (Gaetz), Mary Cichy (Abel) Front—Mike Abel, Frank Gaetz.