



Mike Abel family picture taken in 1932.

in turn have rented to Joe's son, Kevin, and John's son, Daryl. Mike still lives on the home place and although he has retired, he has not made any plans to move. John lives in Lake Lenore and Joe in Pilger.

John married Libby Egger (Skalicky) on November 20, 1934. They have six children: Anne (Bob Altrogge); Yvonne (Ronald Pellegrini); Lucille (Jerome Wilde); Conrad (Bernice Steckler); Leon; Daryl (Gwen Gerwing).

Mike never married.

Frances married Laurenz Zurburg on January 8, 1935. They had one daughter and four sons: Rose Marie (Bruce Gallais); Lawrence (Victoria Stocki); Richard (Sandra Lippai); Harold (Sandra Lacquement); Jerome (Sylvia Andruchow). After eight years of illness, Frances passed away on December 6, 1961. Laurenz, a cancer victim, died October 4, 1977. Both are buried in the St. James cemetery.

Joseph married Florence Cody on July 11, 1950. They have a son and a daughter: Kevin; Karen (Gerald Smith).

As we pass the grotto near the church at Lake Lenore, we, the children and grandchildren, have fond memories of our parents and grandparents. This grotto, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes in remembrance of the men who died in the war, was built of stone in the spring of 1947 under the engineering of Mike Abel who had mastered the art of stone masonry so many years before.

#### MICHAEL ABEL JR.

By Rose Marie Gallais

Michael Abel Jr. was born on August 6, 1910, the second son of Michael Abel Sr. and Anna Gaetz. Like his older brother, John, and sister, Frances, and younger brother, Joseph, he was born at the home place situated on NE 12-40-21 W2.

Mike took his schooling at Taylor and Stuckel schools. He took his later grades at Lake Lenore where he boarded with the Joe Linz and Mike Gaetz families. While going to school there, Mike was one of Father Bernard's faithful mass servers. He says

that he served mass often, sometimes twice in one day.

It was also in these later school years that Mike became involved in playing baseball. He played "hard ball" with Lake Lenore and some for Daylesford. He recalls playing with Daylesford when they won the coveted "Platzer Cup" in Humboldt two years in a row. Mike did some pitching and also played at various other positions. As he drifted out of the ball playing arena, he spent more time "umping." He has umpired many games, both locally and in surrounding districts.

Besides ball, Mike played some local hockey—for a neighborhood team the "Rangers". Home ice for the Rangers often was a slough in the middle of the Abel pasture.

Other interests were fishing, hunting and trapping. These pastimes not only brought enjoyment, but also provided food and extra spending money in times when things weren't so "good." Up to now Mike has still been doing a bit of hunting and fishing and can still tell many a story about bygone episodes—the "big" one that got away or the buck that ran too fast and was just beyond shooting range!



Mike Abel

It has not been all play as Mike has worked on the family farm since leaving school. In 1939 he went out to work during the winter months. The first winters he went to the Carrot River district to do bush work, one of these was working for John Voelk at Clemenceau. The following winters he spent in Ontario at a pulp mill. In 1949-50 and 1950-51 he decided to go west and worked at Port Alberni as a lumber grader in a planer mill.

The poor health of his father in 1951 made Mike decide to take over the farm and he farmed it until 1962. For health reasons, Mike decided to take it a