



Chris and Joe Gaetz

ed St. Matthew School north west of Fulda.

In the fall of 1961 they left Lake Lenore and moved to Port Alberni where Joe was employed in construction and Chris worked in the B.C. telephone office. They followed the construction jobs and in September, 1963, Joe attended Vancouver Vocational School to learn a welding trade. After that there were many moves and he went about building and repairing mills.

In September, 1970, they purchased the Southwind Motel, five miles south of Golden, B.C. Joe also works at Evans Plywood Mill as a welder and is the Fire Chief of Nicholson Volunteer Fire Dept. Chris



Gord, Beverly (Gaetz) and their son, Timmie Mather

is employed at Golden Elementary School as a part-time teacher's aide.

They have one daughter, Beverly Ann. She married Gord Mather on October 6, 1979 and they have one son, Timothy George. They live in Golden B.C.

JOHN GAETZ SR.

John Gaetz Sr. came to the United States from Bavaria in a sail boat at the age of nine. He married Johanna Lorsung at Millerville, Minn., in 1881.

In August 1904, Mr. and Mrs. John Gaetz took their 10 children and left Millerville, Minn., to come west and make their home at Lake Lenore. One of their children, their oldest son John, came here ahead of them. With their family group was also John Gaetz Sr.'s dad, Mr. Joe Gaetz Sr. who died in Oct. 1906.

They came by train to Rosthern. Included in their two car loads of shipment from the States were four horses and six cows. Arriving at Rosthern, they got their wagons organized and loaded their machinery. They led their cattle behind the wagons, and at times the children had to get off the wagons and chase the cattle to keep them going.

There were more people in the group that started out from Rosthern to Lake Lenore. Among them was a young couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. John Dobbmeyer, who had a tiny baby about six-months old. The trip was tough and the heat was terrible. The little baby got sick and died. That was their first tragedy. They stopped and buried the little one at a place called Dead Moose Lake, now known as Marysburg.

They headed for Lake Lenore and arrived at cousin John Hoffman's place, where they were taken in, and stayed until Mr. John Gaetz and boys got out logs and started their own home. We won't say how crowded Hoffmans were with the parents, father and 10 children moving in on them in their two room log house. In those days there was always room for one more. Gaetz's built their log house on the homestead which was Frank Gaetz's farm, now owned by the Nieman family. Barns and granaries were also made of logs.

They brought all their horse machinery along from Millerville. Mike's mother brought along her spinning wheel and with the help of her five daughters, did all their own spinning and knitting. As for food, rabbits and suckers were their meat and fish; they snared and shot the rabbits. Every stream and creek running to Lake Lenore had fish. People had plenty to eat. It was only necessary to go out and catch it.

In 1906 they bought a pair of steers from Bob Lyle at Flett Springs and broke them in for driving and pulling, and with their four horses and oxen, axes and grub hoes, they opened their land. In 1914 Dad Gaetz bought their first car, a Grey Dort.