

By Dec., 1926, there still was not enough money to start on the hall so a co-operative was formed, this being the Verndale Community Co-operative Assn. Shares were sold for \$5 each and this, with a loan, produced enough money to make the start. In the spring of 1927, a head carpenter, Mr. J. Rendek of Basin Lake, was hired and time and labour were donated by the people of the community. Finally, by July, the hall was, for the most part, completed.

The grand opening was held on July 15, 1927, with a dance featuring the Hopfner Orchestra and a midnight banquet.

The first president of the new co-operative was Mr. Noel Hubbard, vice-president—Mr. Ed Staudinger Jr., secretary—Mr. Mike Allen and auditor Mr. Mac Cleveland.

The first board of directors were Mr. Hugh Palmer, Mr. Lins Salmond and Mr. Martin Johnson.

The hall was used extensively throughout the years and, in 1979, a bar was added, a sitting room, kitchen and bathrooms on the east side.

#### FLASHBACKS—OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

By Rita Tagseth

Within each generation, society is blessed with their romanticists, people sensitive to music, art and drama. Lake Lenore, too, has had its "greats". Already about 1905 John Gaetz started a brass band that gave much enjoyment to the whole area, performing for festive occasions. Mr. Gaetz was also a violinist and was most anxious to assist young enthusiasts.



Front row (L to R): Walter Riederer, Lloyd Brown, Mike Gaetz, Gene Forster, Eugene Moll, Ted Hoenmans (the director), Albert Schmitz, Eddie Riederer. Back: ? , Dominic Forster, Ray Forster, ? This was called the German Band of Lake Lenore. The picture was taken at The Blue Room in Saskatoon, Aug. 30, 1934

Mr. Gaetz carried on with the band which flourished and expanded to include many young men. It was the pride and joy of the whole area. Other people who contributed their talents to promote the band over the years were Leo Frank, Mr. Martinka and Christ Hopfner.

Mike Gaetz's and Christ Hopfner's talents ad-

justed to the society of their time. Dances were the "in" thing. Every small town had either a hall or a serviceable barn, so dance bands were organized. The Gaetzes and the Hopfners each had outstanding bands. Others, including Penny Hopfner, Virge Rath, Doyschers, Stangels, Forsters, were musicians that rate in our memory with Guy Lombardo and Mart Kenny.



L to R: Claude Forster, Dominic Forster, Ray Forster, Adam Stangel (piano), Gene Forster, Jack Junk.

There were also our "less professional" musicians like Joe Willen Jr., Johnny Stuckel Jr., Math and Bill Berscheid, Alfred Mayner, Albin Meyer, Clifford and Bernard Schreiner and the Sterners, just to mention a few, who with their old time music entertained at many dances, house parties and "sing alongs". Mr. Christ Hopfner, a graduate of the Minneapolis College of Music, shared his talents and his energy with the Community in a much more concrete way. He conducted the church choir for approximately 25 to 30 years. It was not unusual for the choir to practice several times a week for two or three hours to master four-part harmony masses for Christmas or Easter.

Paul Nessman, a young bank employee and choir director, also left his mark. He introduced folk songs and modern music besides church music, at choir practice. At Christmas, Lake Lenore people still thrill to the four-part harmony Latin mass, a mass that was introduced more than forty years ago. Surely many of us will never forget "Silent Night" with violin descants and obbligato. Mrs. Katie Reynolds was a most patient and faithful organist for many, many years. Alphonse Gerwing, an accomplished pianist, generously gave of his musical talents. Even now when he is home for a visit, he is ever ready to fill in as organist should the need arise.

Albin Meyer, our blind musician, will ever be remembered as the organist at May Devotions. He was also in great demand for house parties as he was able to play the drum, the guitar and the mouth organ at the same time—a one-man band that thrived on giving enjoyment to his fellow man in music.

Mr. Ted Hoenmans, another of Lake Lenore's fine pianists, originated "Talent Programs" which