

THE JOHN MARTIN WIESE FAMILY

by Bernard Wiese

The Wiese family story as we know it, begins with John Frank Wiese, born at Tuckel, County of Koenigsberg, West Prussia on December 10, 1839.

He married Caroline Siegenhagen who was born in this same village. At this time in the history of Europe, there was great political unrest and persecution.

Because of their Political beliefs, this couple left their homeland by dark of night, to escape harassment.

After Christmas in 1868, they boarded a sailing ship at the mouth of the Vistula River. It took two weeks to get from the North Sea, through the English Channel and into the Atlantic Ocean.

The voyage across the Atlantic was one of great hardship and trouble. It took seven weeks, and they were plagued by winter storms, mutiny, disease, and an attempt to scuttle the ship 48 hours off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Because of the sickness on board, the ship was placed in quarantine for three weeks. They were finally allowed to land, and the first of the Wiese family to set foot in the new land, did so in Canada.

From Nova Scotia they went by rail around Niagara Falls and then by boat to Duluth, Minnesota and arrived there in April of 1869.

John Martin Wiese was born at Winona, Minnesota on September 15, 1872.

In February of 1875, this family of five came to Wilson, Kansas. They were taken by ox team forty-five miles north, and homesteaded a quarter section of land there. Here they built and lived in a sod house.



John and Bertha Wiese wedding picture

When John Martin Wiese was a very young man, he apprenticed as a Blacksmith. This was to be his trade for the rest of his life.

His motto was: "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well." He tried to teach this philosophy to his sons and grandsons.

On November 14, 1896 John Martin Wiese and Bertha M. Pestinger were married at Tipton, Kansas. To this couple, two sons were born; Oscar on April 1, 1902 and Rudolph on February 17, 1906.

John Wiese operated a Blacksmith Shop at Victor, Kansas, shoeing horses, sharpening plowshares and disc blades. He was able to make a living at this, until a drought made farming impossible.

A friend of John's had come to Alberta and returned to tell of the land that was available there. In 1912 John came to the Sunnibend District to see the country for himself and to look for a homestead. He was pleased with what he saw and upon his return to Kansas began to make plans to come to Alberta.

In September of 1913 all of the families possessions were loaded on a boxcar, and accompanied by John and son Oscar, headed north for Canada.

On Friday the 13th of September, 1913, John and Oscar Wiese arrived at Clyde, Alberta, which was the end of the steel. Bertha and Rudolph came by passenger train and arrived at Clyde three days later.

The Wiese family left Clyde with a team of mules, two cows, some chickens and a heifer, which was a gift of Bertha's parents.

They headed west and after getting stuck east of Hazel Bluff, finally arrived there, and spent the night. The next day they went two miles north of Hazel Bluff and a mile west, and came to the ferry on the Pembina River.

The ferry, at that time, was operated by George Kidney. There was a store there also, operated by Tom Letts.

Bertha and son Rudolph stayed part of the first winter with the Golder family.

John and Oscar made a dug-out in the slough bank on the land now owned by Terry Hilliard SW 22-60-1-W5. They put up hay for the stock and built a place for the chickens. The mules and cattle survived the winter, but the chickens were not so fortunate. During the winter they travelled downstream to Carl Antonsons, and returned again to their slough bank home.

In March of 1914 the Wiese family, together with their

stock and belongings, followed along the south bank of the river until they came to the mouth of Fish Creek. From here they travelled on the river ice, until they came to their homestead. It was March 14, 1914 when they settled on NW 4-27-61-W4. A small home was constructed and a log barn was started.

John Wiese was an ardent hunter, so food was a simple matter. There was an abundance of moose, deer, ducks and partridge. Fish were plentiful in the river, and a hook left dangling in the water overnight always produced a fish by morning. Some fish were dried for later use. Moose and deer were canned and salted.

Land clearing started immediately and soon a garden and a small amount of grain was grown. This land was covered by heavy timber, so there were huge stumps to grub by hand, and many roots to pick. Slowly the livestock increased in number, as did the acres of land cleared.



John and Bertha Wiese's House 1922

In 1922 a new, three-storey home was built. It was one-storey log, and two-storey frame construction. It was modern for the time and even had two colored leaded glass windows and two doors to match!

Bertha Wiese was a very hard working homemaker. She was also a very talented lady. Her fancy needlework, of all kinds, was admired by all who knew her. Few people could equal the work she did, and in fact, some of the things she did are now a lost art. Any time not taken up by homemaking, gardening, etc. was spent making beautiful and useful things.

Bertha Wiese died in 1927.

John lived alone and continued working in his Blacksmith Shop. He made a shingle mill and other pieces of equipment. He remained busy and active until his death in 1949.

BEGINNINGS OF THE OSCAR WIESE FAMILY

by Olive Wiese

We met at a picnic in Pibroch one July day. Oscar was playing baseball. My friend, I met while in Nurses Training, Marie (Garde) Roddick, introduced us. After my visit to Pibroch, we corresponded and Oscar came to Edmonton often. We were married in April 1927, in May, I started my life as a farm wife.

We have seven children, three daughters and four sons.



Oscar and Rudolph Wiese

Eleanor married Jack Baxandall. Phyllis to Jack Downing, Carol to Raymond Boucher, Bernard married Audrey Arndt, Kenneth to Marjorie Milligan. Charles to Eileen Ziese and Ronald married Agnes Rendfleisch. We also have fourteen grandchildren.

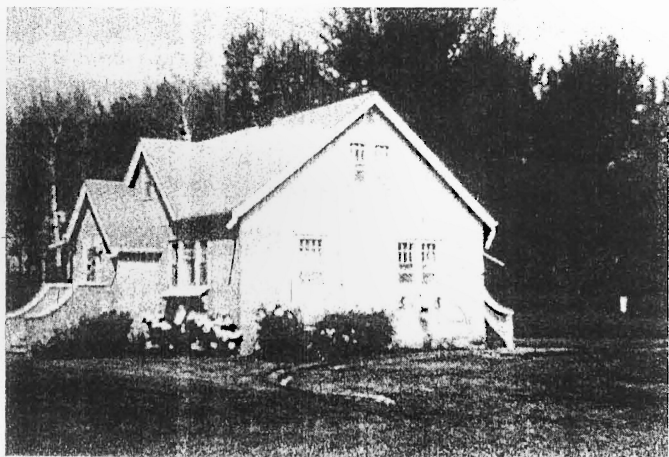
Times have changed a great deal over our fifty-six married years. We have seen small farms, and very small homes grow. We have seen power and gas brought into homes, children grown, married and new homes and families started.

We left Edmonton on the 5th of May 1927 in a Studebaker car, accompanied by our two brothers, Bill Fulcher and Rudolph, Oscar's brother. Thank goodness they were along or we wouldn't have reached Pibroch that day. The roads were so bad that half the time we were stuck and the brothers had to push us out. We finally arrived at what is now known as Antonson's Beach. The Antonsons lived on the west side of the river in those days, so we left the car and Carl came with his boat and got us. Oscar and I stayed with the Antonsons, while Bill and Rudolph walked across the field to the Wiese farm. They got a team and wagon and that's the way I arrived, as a bride, on the land we have lived on for fifty-six years. A new house was being built for us, but as it wasn't finished we moved in with Oscar's parents. Bertha, Oscar's Mother, was ill, so I took over the house. That fall we moved into our own home. That winter our first child, Eleanor, was born weighing two and one-half pounds. If it hadn't been for Jean Antonson and my Mother, she wouldn't be here today.

Jean Antonson, the best friend anyone could have had, always had time to come over and help me with things I had never done. She taught me to can moose meat, putting down pork in a brine, and churning butter as well as many other things.

Our family grew, Bernard and Kenneth were born two years apart. Two more years went by and Charles and Ronald were born in the same year. Now we had five children and surely our family was complete or so we thought for seven years.

We planned a new house with more bedrooms for our family, power, and a bathroom. No more wash tubs, wash boards and carrying water in, and then carrying it out again. Before our home was completed our second



Oscar Wiese's House 1982

daughter was born and we moved in when Phyllis was eighteen months old. In three years' time she had another sister Carol. Now our family was complete and work was easier in our new home. Hardships of the early days were behind us. For me these were the happy years, the children all in school, some in High School, some in College and the young girls in Grade School.

Our home was always open to their school friends, weekends there were get-togethers of dancing and in the winter skating and skiing. Summer saw trips to the different lakes with the ball team. All the parents went along and a good time was had by all.

It was a good thing that I liked to cook because the young ones had extraordinary appetites. Through our children we have made many life-long friends.

We still live in our home on the farm that Oscar's father homesteaded. Oscar has lived on this piece of land for seventy years.



Oscar Wiese's Family - Ronald, Eleanor, Bernard, Carol, Ken, Phyllis, Charles, Oscar and Olive



Oscar and Olive Wiese

In 1950, Oscar was elected to the Council and served two terms. He built some of the best roads in the district and many are still used today with very little done to them except maintenance work.

Looking back we remember the hard times but the satisfaction of accomplishing the raising of seven children made it all worthwhile.

RONALD WIESE FAMILY

by Jim Wiese

Ronald was born November 17, 1935, the youngest of four sons. After attending school in Sunniebend and later in Westlock, he decided to farm. He started on a small scale, working with his father Oscar, and his three brothers. He and Charles grew potatoes and raised chickens and turkeys.

In July, 1956 Ronald met Agnes Reindfleisch from Barrhead at Bernard and Audrey's wedding dance. They were engaged in December and married on March 9 the following year. After honeymooning in B.C. they moved into the basement of the little house at Oscar's, with Kenneth and Marjorie living upstairs. When Kenneth moved to where he now lives, Ronald and Agnes moved upstairs. Over the course of the first six years of marriage they had three sons, Jim, Michael, and Bryan.

In 1962 Ronald bought Gerry Dyke's home quarter. They later built a home and moved there in November 1967. The boys then moved from Pibroch school and started attending Westlock. About this time they started playing hockey at Linaria.

Over the course of the years, Ronald acquired more land; but with grain prices so low, it was decided to start feeding cattle. Initially he custom fed at neighbor Ken Bibby's Farm, but later built a feedlot at home. In 1973 Ronald purchased his first Charolais, getting into the purebred cattle business. The herd grew slowly at first, but as the boys became older and got more involved in the business, the size increased. They all joined 4-H, becoming members of the Sunniebend 4-H Beef Club and learned the basics of feeding and showing steers. They also started showing the Charolais cattle, first at local shows, then on a larger scale both in Western Canada and the Northwestern U.S. Over the years cattle displayed under the Pembina Valley Charolais banner have won at such shows as Edmonton, Calgary, Lloydminster, Brandon, Regina, Agribition, and even Denver, Colorado, the U.S.'s biggest livestock show. They have won every major livestock show in Western Canada, at least once, and several years have established themselves



Left to Right: Jim, Michael, Ron, Bryan, Agnes Wiese

as the most winning show herd in Canada. They continue to be heavily involved today. Cattle have been sold into most Canadian Provinces and many U.S. states. The cattle operation entails the most up to date management available, not only artificial insemination using the best bulls available, but also the utilization of frozen embryos. In 1984 eleven calves will be born on the farm from one cow, using embryo transplanting and holstein recipient mothers.

Ronald has served as director for both the Alberta and Canadian Charolais Associations and for two years was chairman of the national show and sale committee. He also served on the Northlands Board for several years. Agnes has served on the national women's executive, the Charolettes. The entire family travels to as many Charolais events as possible regardless of the distance.

In the spring of 1983 Agnes became ill and her sickness was finally diagnosed as cancer. She died on July 13. Previously she had been involved in such activities as garden club and the church. She will be remembered in the community for organizing many of the showers for brides to be; as well as her large garden and flower beds in which she took so much pride. There was always lots of extra garden produce for any neighbor who may have been short. She also enjoyed helping organize the flower show at the Westlock Fair. Anyone who knew her will surely miss her.

Jim lives in the little house at Oscars where Agnes and Ronald used to live. He is the fourth generation Wiese to live on and farm the land. Bryan has a trailer on some land southwest of Ronald's, Michael lives at home until his marriage to Nora McGaughey in the summer of 1984. All three boys are involved both in the cattle and grain farming operations and like their father are avid hunters and fishermen. Everyone enjoys skiing and spending time at the family cottage at Thunder Lake in the summers, water skiing.



Ronald and Agnes Wiese and family - gate sign

THE WIGHTMANS

by Mary McGregor

Wilbert and Bertha Wightman bought the Charles Adair farm located on the banks of the Pembina River

WILLIAM COLLINS WEIR

by Vera Weir

Bill was born in Dundee, Scotland on February 6, 1906. The family came to Canada in 1911 and to Linaria in 1914. He was one of the first children to attend a Linaria school. He worked at the sawmills and hauled lumber to Pibroch. He took an active part in all community affairs, serving on the hall, church, and school boards. He was one of the crew that cut logs to saw lumber for the community hall, then they all got busy and built the hall. The hall was opened in 1931 and is still in use (with some additions). It was hard work but they enjoyed it, as it was a form of entertainment, and they were achieving something. The men brought their lunch and the ladies took turns serving tea and soup. In a few years they built the curling rink in the same way. Bill curled for many years. He won many prizes.

THE BERNARD WIESE FAMILY

by Bernard Wiese

I was born the first son of Oscar and Olive Wiese, on May 27, 1930. My Dad shovelled snow drifts, two days before I was born, in order to get my Mother to the hospital.

I attended Sunniebend School until grade nine. How well I recall those school days! We walked across our place and Billy O'Connors, to Grasbys. Here, we met Ken and Mary and walked the rest of the way with them. In the winter we would ski, as the snow was too deep to permit walking. In the summer, when it rained, we walked home barefoot. My brother Kenneth, Ken Grasby and I had many adventures, hunting, fishing, and trapping. We sold squirrels to Mrs. Murfitt for ten cents each, but twenty-two shells only cost twenty-five cents a box then. We had a leaky old boat, and if two of us rowed, and the other bailed water furiously, we could make it across the lake.

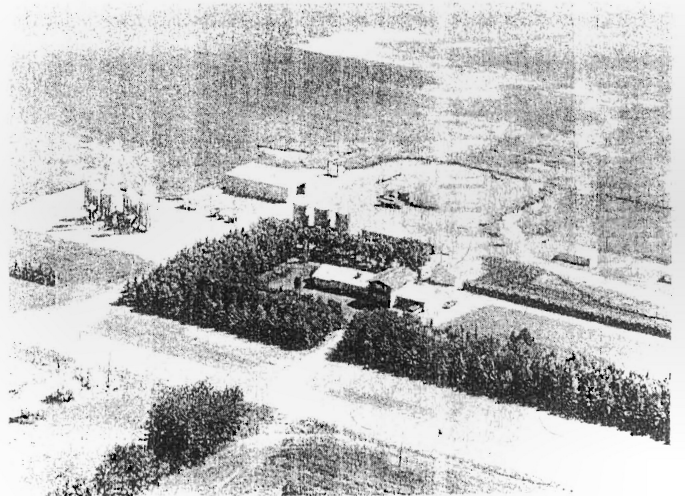
My high school was taken in Westlock. When in grade ten, I roomed with Don Plain. We had many good times together. Once we took the train from Westlock to Pibroch to go to a dance: the fare was twenty-five cents each. While in high school I curled and played baseball for Westlock Jrs., and for Linaria.

In 1948, I attended Vermillion School of Agriculture and graduated in 1950. While there, I first met Arden and Olga Wingrove, Marjorie Wiese, and many others who are still friends to the present day.

In July of 1956 I married Audrey Arndt of Westlock. We worked in Edmonton for two years and then returned to our farm NE 9-61-1-W5, which we had bought a year earlier, and where we still live. We built our own home,



Audrey, Bernard, Barbara and Keith Wiese



Bernard Wiese Farm Picture

as well as some outbuildings, and worked on our farm. Audrey and I worked in the Oilfields for A. Miller Construction, for two winters, and one summer. Again we returned to the farm.

In July of 1963 our daughter Barbara was born and in March of 1966, our son Keith joined our family.

We had been farming with my brother Kenneth and his wife, Marjorie. During this time we bought a section of land, and added more in later years.

In the fall of 1966, Audrey and I, together with Kenneth and Marjorie, started a fertilizer business. This enterprise grew steadily, and in about a year, we started the Anhydrous Ammonia business. There were only three other Ammonia dealers in the province at that time.

Due to the fine farming area, and the progressive

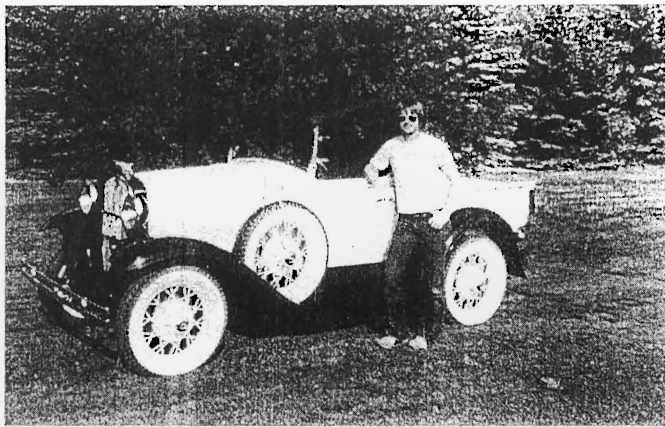


farmers of the district, this fertilizer business grew to one of the largest in Alberta. We have enjoyed our association with our customers many of which are both our neighbors and our friends.

Barbara is presently living and working in Westlock. Keith is at home and attending high school.

We have been fortunate to have Kenneth and Marjorie as partners in our farming and fertilizer operations. We have also been fortunate to live in such good communities, and to have such good people for friends and neighbors.

We hope to live in this district, among our friends and neighbors, the rest of our lives.



Keith Wiese with 1930 Model A Ford truck. He restored this truck, it was bought new by Roy Marshall. Has been in the Marshall and Wiese family since.

JAMES WIESE FAMILY

James Wiese was born February 4th, 1934 to Rudolph and Esther Wiese of Linaria. He has three younger brothers, Max, John and Dan.

Childhood Christmas was usually spent with Mother's parents, Max and Nellie Zeise of Dapp, while birthday parties were shared with our close neighbors, Dave Giles, and Armand and Alice Neilson. We attended Linaria and Westlock high school. My ambition was certainly not to go to school, but to play ball and help my father in any way I could around the farm.

After graduating from the Fairview School of Agriculture in the spring of 1954, I farmed with my Dad and brother, Max. We purchased the Phillip Giles quarter, NE 23-61-2-W5 in the spring of 1957, where I now reside. This quarter was homesteaded by John (Jack) Baggett in July of 1912.

I worked two winters with Hayden and Clyde Dick on a ranch near Phoenix, Arizona. It was at this time I met and married Mary Sue Duck in July of 1959. We had two girls, Susan Samantha born April 16th, 1960 and Cindy Marie Rose on November 13th, 1965. The girls also attended Linaria and Westlock high schools.

Dad passed away January 29th, 1969. At this time, brother, Dan was just starting school at Fairview College and joined the farming partnership in the spring of 1973.

In August of 1982, I married Evelyn Baron. She is the



Summer of '83, Susan (23), and Cindy (17) Wiese

second youngest of six brothers and two sisters. Evelyn has been employed at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Barrhead for the past 20 years.

My hunting buddies and I look forward to the deer season on the Red Deer River, near Brooks. A good time to relax after fall work and enjoy each other's company.

JOHN CHARLES WIESE FAMILY

John Wiese, the third son of four of Rudolph and Ester Wiese who migrated to Alberta from the United States, met here in Alberta and were married. My Dad from Kansas, my Mother from Colorado. I was born in Edmonton and my Mother and myself were taken in by the Smith family, whom my mother had never known, but in the later years became great friends. We stayed there until we were both strong enough to come home. I was raised in Linaria and by the time I was sixteen had become an avid baseball player. As the years went by, I became one of the top players in batting and pitching. In my school years, I went both to the Barrhead School (Grade 10), then to Westlock for 11 and 12, from there to the Calgary Technical School 1958-1960, (the winters of). I finished a Graduate of Farm Mechanics.

After the first year back on the farm, I purchased four Purebred Jerseys and started into the Dairy Industry, shipping cream. By 1966, I had met and married Barbara Ann Bruder, daughter of Bob and Isobel Bruder, the second daughter of six, and moved from my parents' place here to the Fred Theriault farm. A year later, after driving one thousand miles a month back and forth to milk, we moved twenty-five head of Jerseys here. As time went on, we phased out the Jerseys and went into Holsteins and the Fluid Milk Business. We have expanded from four head of cattle to the present one hundred and fifty head of Holsteins.

In 1968, our first son Randall was born; 1970 our first daughter Jody; 1974 Todd; 1976 Troy; and 1978 Nick.



John Wiese Family, Randall, Barb, John, Jody, Todd, Troy, and Niki Wiese



Aug. 1980, eating apples; Randall, Jody, Todd, Troy, and Niki Wiese

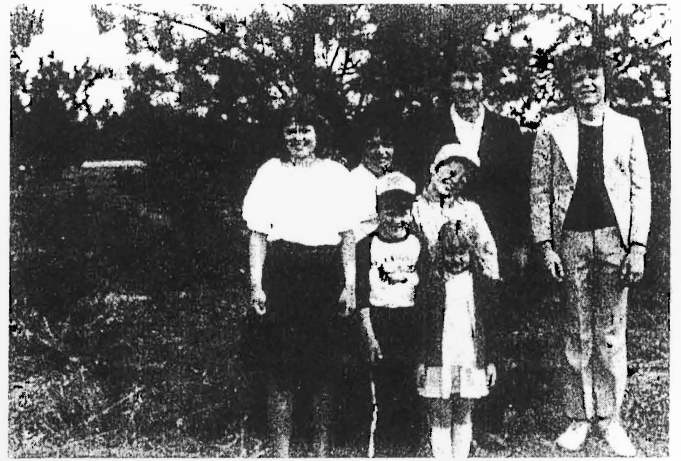
little girl.

February 11, 1970 at Linaria Hall with a capacity crowd in attendance was Charter Night for Local 703 of the National Farmers Union, where I was elected first president.

In 1977, as first president, I played a major part in the organizing and the construction of the Agricultural and Athletic Building, built on the school grounds at Linaria ... a steel building 110' x 230'. This the first to have a \$25,000 Plastic Board System (Hockey) with advertising on 32, 4' x 8' panels, paid for by the advertising.

We came very close to losing our farm in 1982-83, from a severe winter, with a new barn not completed and a way too much time spent working for the Agricultural Society on the arena.

Last fall I blew the engine in my big tractor, ran over my combine pickup twice, blew the rad on the combine, had it on fire, burnt the transmission out of my 3/4 ton on the way back from Manitoba, and watched my big tractor roll backwards off of my cement pad into my liquid manure lagoon!!!



Jody, Barb, John, Randall, Troy, Todd, and Niki Wiese.

THE KENNETH WIESE FAMILY

Kenneth and I met at the Vermillion School of Agriculture (now Lakeland College) where we were students in 1950. After we graduated in 1951, Kenneth came back to the farm at Sunniebend and I worked in Edmonton at the Bank of Commerce. I was living with Olga Shulhan (later Mrs. Arden Wingrove). Wingroves had just moved up to the Sunniebend district from Salisbury, having bought the Marshall farm near Wieses, so it was handy for Arden and Kenneth to come courting Olga and me.

I had been raised and had taken all my schooling at Bon Accord, where my parents, Helen and Jim Milligan farmed. I have one sister, Mrs. Shirly Byers of Fort Saskatchewan, and one brother, Jim, who still farms at Bon Accord.

Kenneth and I were married in 1953. Kenneth, his Dad and brothers, with the able help of Ed Bergdahl, built a little house in the yard of his folks and this is where we lived for the first five years of our marriage. We have come to call this little house "The Honeymoon Cottage", so many newlyweds have lived there. When Ronald and Agnes were married they finished a suite in the basement and for almost two years we lived there together, quite happily, as I remember.

In 1954 the Pembina River flooded in the spring. Kenneth and his family had been through a flood before but it was quite a new experience for me. The men pushed up a dyke all along the river south of our house, I felt much like the little Dutch boy with his finger in the dyke, expecting it to give way any minute. Our first anniversary was during the flood, we went by boat, over fences and across fields, ending up at Mary and Forest Adair's. Arlene Adair was just leaving, by boat, to go to her sister's wedding.

There were quite a few newly married couples in the district, and we used to have some good times. No one had much money and it was before the time of T.V., so we had to make our own fun. We used to play cards; square-dancing was popular then, and we took lessons at Pibroch. We would skate in the winter; I remember one year the ditch froze over and we could skate a long ways

up and down.

When we get up to 1955 there were some major changes in our life. One of the best - on December 21, just days before Christmas, we brought home our first daughter, Patricia, a sweet little blonde baby. The next summer Kenneth's brother Bernard and Audrey Arndt were married and we decided we would work in partnership a decision we have never regretted.

In 1957 we bought the Doug Plain farm at Linaria and moved there in the fall of 1958.

That was a busy and exciting summer, on July 29th, we got our second daughter, Lloy. I remember that day so well. Lloy was two months old when we got her, she had such black hair and dark eyes, she looked at Patty, Kenneth and I with the biggest smile as if to say, "Where have you guys been all this time?"

In 1966 I started working for Dr. Mielke at the Dental Clinic. Originally I was to work for a month while his assistant, Kenneth's sister Carol and Raymond Boucher were on their honeymoon, but their plans changed and Raymond took a job at Slave Lake, and the month stretched into nine years.

In 1968 Kenneth and Bernard decided they needed some permanent help on the farm and a young fellow from Holland came over to work for us. Dignus Kakebeeke is still with us, and we don't know what we'd do without him. Allan Heywood came the year after Dignus and he has also worked for us faithfully, all these years.

We seemed to be in a hail belt during the sixties and early seventies and suffered a lot of setbacks from hail. Three years in a row we had hail on August 7th, we hated to see that date come. In 1963 a tornado went through the yard causing a lot of damage to cattle sheds and granaries. All this is only part of farming though, and in the long run we have been most fortunate.



Patricia, Kenneth, Marjorie, and Lloy, 1959



Kenneth, Patricia, Lloy and Marjorie Wiese, 1975

In 1975 we decided to build a new home. Kenneth took on this task, for a year and a half he worked on it, with lots of help in the winter from Jim Wiese, Tony Kristel and Ewald Erickson.

In the late 1970's the girls were both in University and I wasn't working any longer, Kenneth and I began to take life a little easier and do some travelling in the winter. We both enjoy seeing different parts of the world and we have had some very interesting holidays.

Along with many of our friends we took up skiing a few years ago and have spent many happy days "on the slopes" with family and friends. In 1982, along with Bernard and Audrey and Dignus, we bought a place at Panorama which has come to feel like our second home.

Patricia graduated from The U of A in 1975 with a degree in Education, specializing in Music, and has since taught at Namao Jr. High except for one year at Ardrossan. She is the music teacher and band director there, very happy and involved in her work. Both the girls have



Marj., Lloy, Ken and Pat at Panorama

been involved with music all their lives, getting a good start with Mr. and Mrs. O'Shaughnessy on the piano, and later had many students of their own in the community. They participated in the excellent summer music workshops at Camrose College. Later Patricia turned to the flute as her major instrument and studied with Shelley Younge while in University. Lloy continued with piano and while in University she took private lessons from Michael Massey. She graduated from U of A in 1978 with a BA in Arts and at present she is teaching piano to private students.

In December of 1983 Patricia and Dean Hengel were married. Dean currently works at the U of A as Business Manager for the Athletic Department.

We are very fortunate, we have great friends, a loving and supportive family; our daughters and son-in-law; we are so very proud of. Life has been good to us.

ESTHER (ZIESE) WIESE

My parents were Mr. and Mrs. Max Ziese Sr. While living at Swissvale, Colorado, U.S.A., seven children were born to them; Julius, August 21, 1884; Emmaline, June 13, 1896; Christina, January 31, 1898; Max Jr., March 4, 1900; Maria, September 15, 1902; Esther (myself), born July 2, 1905; Alletta, October 20, 1907; two of my sisters died here. Emmaline died at six months and Christina died of diphtheria when eight years old, a dreaded disease and nearly always fatal.

Our home was built on the banks of the swift flowing Arkansas River on one side and the Denver Rio Grande railroad on the other, all surrounded by the Rocky Mountains.

My mother owned a small herd of range cattle and her favorite saddle pony was named "Fly". She rode side-saddle, which was customary for lady riders of the times. Her riding habit was a very full long dress that almost covered her toes. She was a real pioneer, and as well as being a good horse-woman, she could use any gun my father owned, as we were to experience, on the homestead in Canada in later years.

My father worked in the rich goldmines in Colorado. It was a dangerous job and many men lost their lives underground.

Mother finally persuaded Dad to give up mining and move east, to Slatemills, Ohio U.S.A., where my Great Uncle James Schooly and Aunt Maria owned a farm not far from where they lived in the city of Chillicothe, Ohio.

I was three years old, the fall of 1908, when we left Colorado and moved onto the farm. The grounds that surrounded the old colonial house were beautiful with huge maple trees, shrubs and rose beds, all enclosed with a white board fence.

The farming was carried out by negro help, hired by my Uncle James, and my father was to oversee the operation. There was an apple orchard and other fruit trees and we could grow any kind of vegetable, including watermelon and cantaloupes.

My youngest sister, Louise, was born here on August 9, 1910.

We lived here for four years. Julius, Max and Maria



Rudolph, Esther, Jim, Max, John and Daniel Wiese, with Old Shep, their faithful dog, about 1951

attended school. At least one third of the pupils were negro, and caused trouble for both the white children and the teachers. My father became discontented here, as he wanted to have land and a home of his own. After reading the glowing accounts in the newspapers, that homesteads were open for settlement in sunny Alberta, for \$10.00, he made up his mind to come and see for himself.

He arrived in Edmonton in April 1912, and took the work train on the C.N.R. to Clyde. From there he walked across country on the "Sandhill Trail" to the location of his homestead. He was pleased with the rich soil he found there and went back to Edmonton and filed on his homestead at (Eunice) now Dapp, Alberta, the SW 1/4 4-62-26-W4, about one-half miles from our nearest neighbor, (Mr. and Mrs. Hottenstein and family).

Here, in this new and wonderful land, with the help of Mr. Hottenstein and ox team, "Tom and Jerry", he built his little log cabin made of fire-killed spruce logs; a 30' by 16' cabin with a sod roof; made of small poles laid close together, first covered with hay then a layer of clay and finished with a thick layer of sod. When it rained for three or four days, it would leak for a few days but was nice and warm in the winter with our air tight heater, and wood cookstove. He built pole bunks for our beds and when Mother came she made straw ticks for mattresses. There were two small windows and a door in the south and one window in the north. A slab floor covered the centre of the one-room cabin leaving the floor bare under the bunks.

When Dad finished the cabin, he went back to Edmonton to his job, and sent for Mother and we six children. Julius was now 14, Max 12, Maria 9, myself 7, Alletta 5, and Louisa was 2 in August of that year.

We followed Dad in July 1912 and travelled by train from the State of Ohio, north to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario on around the north side of Lake Superior, then took off west across the open prairie, to Edmonton, Alberta. On our travels we saw quite a few moose and acres of fire weed in bloom, which usually shows up after a grass fire. Julius remarked to Mother one day, "It is as

flat as a table." It was a long and weary journey for Mother to make with we six children, with the responsibilities of changing trains; sometimes in the middle of the night. Mother never complained, and the only time anyone cried was when Alletta cried, after she found her doll had been broken. It had fallen off the seat when our train collided with another one.

On our arrival in Edmonton, mother could not find our father, due to poor communications. She had very little money left. There was nothing to do but go to the "Immigration Hall". The accommodations were the barest of necessities, a rough bare floor, a small bare table, a few enamel dishes and a small wood cookstove with a few pots and pans. The bedroom was long and narrow with single bunks lined up along one wall, covered with dark grey wool blankets, no sheets or pillows; and dirty. The houseflies were so thick I could smell them, and it made me sick. Due to unsanitary conditions, Louisa the baby became sick with dysentery and nearly died. There was no plumbing at all, which added to our dilemma. Mother knew she had to get us out of there, so we took the work train as far as Morinville and slept on the floor in the station for two or three nights while we waited for the train to come, and then we rode in the Caboose to Clyde. That was the only railroad north of Edmonton and it went on to Athabasca. We stayed in the boarding house at Clyde a few days and had good meals and clean beds.

From there my oldest brother Julius, walked twenty-one miles over the "Sandhill Trail" to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hottenstein (and eight children) to have Mr. Hottenstein bring his ox team "Tom and Jerry", and wagon to Clyde and take us to his house, (which was not far from our own log cabin).

After travelling to Clyde, a night's rest was needed for men and team. We then began the last leg of our long journey. Half-way there we had to spend the night at the Henry Hansen's home. The next morning, when we were about to leave, he charged Mother \$11.00 for the night's lodging, and it took about the last cent she had. I can still see the shock and hurt look on her face as she slowly pulled the money from her purse and handed it to him. An act unheard of in those days of "western hospitality".

That day we travelled over the worst part of our entire trip. It was very rough riding in the wagon anytime, but when we came to the muskeg where corduroy had been laid over the softest places, it was worse than ever when the wagon wheels hit each log as we bumped over them. Without it, travel was impossible during the summer months, (most of our travelling was done after freeze up in the fall and before the frost went out in the spring). Later that evening we pulled into the Hottenstein home. Our journey was nearly over. That night seventeen of us had to have a place to sleep, but they made us feel welcome and found room for everyone (even though it was on the floor for some of us). They had a nice two-storey house and many travellers stopped there on their way farther north.

After a rest of two or three days, Mother took us over the trail to our own little log cabin. "Mother was home at last!" She finally got word to our Father that we were

home, and he walked eighty miles from Edmonton to be with us for a few days, then he went back to work and Julius went along to find work also.

The next spring, Dad and Julius dug our first small garden, with spade and shovel; and used a grub hoe to break up the sods, and finished it with hoe and rake. That summer, after the rains came, our sod roof was beautiful with fireweed in full bloom. Eddie Hottenstein brought his team of oxen and breaking plow and with Max helping, they turned the first furrows of this "virgin land". This was the beginning of progress in this new and wonderful world. Our home for the future was on the way and it would never be the same as we cleared the land of trees, willow brush, and logs that lay where they had fallen years before, after a great forest fire which had swept the country. There were some dead trees still standing with burnt out places where the limbs had been. Now the land was ready for the breaking plow in preparation for our future fields of grain waving in the wind, like small oceans before a storm. Would it be rain or hail? Many acres of land were first put into production by the use of the slow-moving but reliable oxen pulling a breaking plow, disk, and diamond-tooth harrows.

From this time on many events were to take place in those years of slow progress, and times of misfortune and tragedy, as our lives unfolded before us. There were happy times too, such as picnics, house parties, box socials, dances, and of course the "Christmas Tree Concert" when Santa Claus came in a real sleigh with sleigh bells; to hand out a bag of goodies and a present to each child.

These were the war years of 1914-18, and times were very hard and some of our local boys went overseas, never to come back. Two more sons were born; Fred, February 26, 1915, and Robert, July 2, 1917, and my Father delivered them both by himself.

By the spring of 1915, Dad had enough money to buy a cow, "Cherry". Then he went to Edmonton and bought a large team of black oxen, "Dick and Bill", (they weighed one ton each) then bought a wagon and supplies and it took him one week to drive the eighty miles home.

That summer our log school was open for the first time in July and August. Our teacher, Miss Barker, came from Edmonton to teach us during her holidays. The school was named Hillman after Hillman Nutt, a homesteader's daughter. From then on our schooling was very irregular, because of extreme cold weather, and teachers were hard to get.

The winter of 1917-18, Dad built our new two-storey house 30' x 26', of hand hewn logs and we moved in, in the spring of 1918. We enjoyed the extra room, and it was a half a mile closer walk to school, when it was open.

That winter (1918), I was 13 years old and had been in Edmonton in January to work for board and room for \$1.00 a week, and to attend school. The lady there just wanted me to work for her and help with the children. One day I took the train home in February. There was no way for me to get word home on short notice, so I got off the train at 9:00 p.m. There was no one there on that dark and lonely night. I was not afraid to walk as I started out to walk home. There was about 4 to 6 inches of fresh snow, just enough to hinder my walking. I had walked

about two and a half miles when I began to feel very tired. I went to Mr. and Mrs. Trueblood's house and asked Mrs. Trueblood if I could stay the night. She told me to come in and gave me a bed. The next morning I walked within a mile of home, but could not go any farther, so I stopped at the Mr. and Mrs. George Featherstone place and slept there that night. The next morning I walked on home, and when I opened the door and walked in, the folks were dumbfounded to see me, two days after the train had gone on north. That winter of 1918-19, while the war was raging in Europe, the Spanish flu hit in all its fury, and more people were to die of it than during four years of war.

It was a good thing I had come home as Dad and Max were working in the coal mines and Julius was home to do the heavy chores and haul hay for the cattle.

He went to bed one night after a long cold trip to Westlock, with the oxen, and he was not feeling very well. The next morning he called my sister Alletta and I to tell us that he was too sick to get out of bed and we would have to do the chores. He had fallen victim to the "Spanish flu". With the flu he developed pneumonia and could not fight them both. I was thirteen years old and Alletta was only eleven. It was a difficult job for us to feed, water, and clean the barn for twenty-one head of cattle; all done by hand; and we milked eight cows. Mother was busy going up and downstairs to care for Julius and the two small boys. There was no school for January and February due to the extreme cold and deep snow, (and that was one of our most severe winters we had ever had). Many cattle starved to death when feed ran out and spring was late.

Dr. Geddes came to see Julius, as he was able to, in 40 degree below weather, with his team of horses and cutter. Dad came home to help with chores and took turns with Mother sitting up at night with Julius. He was delirious for a long time. Dr. Geddes left some strychnine tablets for him when the crisis came, when his high fever would break. He rallied from the crisis and we thought he would recover, but due to lack of nutrition and medical treatment, he had a relapse and after three and a half months, he died on May 11, 1919 at the age of twenty-four. I gave him his last drink of water. There were no antibiotics to treat the flu with in those early days.

Alletta and Maria attended school in Edmonton for the 1920-21 term. Alletta taking grade seven and Maria taking grade eight. Both worked for board and room. Tragedy struck again when Alletta fell from a swing on the school grounds and landed on her right side. She was too sick to write a letter home and was too shy to tell the lady of the house how badly she was hurt, but kept going for two days. The third day, when she was not up to get breakfast for the two children, and the father, the lady went to her room and asked her why she wasn't up. She said, "I can't get up." When the Doctor came her appendix had already been ruptured for sometime, and there was no hope. My Father got a message on the railroad telephone that Alletta was critically ill. He went to Edmonton on the train to find her barely alive, but she knew Dad and asked him not to tell Mother because she would worry too much. She died on April 7, 1921 at the age of thirteen.

The fall of 1921, I was sixteen years old and worked for board and room for two years while I attended King Edward Junior High School at Strathcona. I took grade eight and was promoted to grade nine. The next term I found grade nine very difficult because of a poor foundation in the lower grades at Hillman School. I worked very hard (as an education was very important to me) and passed grade nine.

That summer, my sister Maria, and I worked for Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hergott, proprietors of the Westlock Hotel. They were very strict, with us, but were good to us too. We all had our meals together as a family.

I had worked there a short time when I suddenly suffered a nervous breakdown, brought on by the tension of the past two years, and I had to quit my job. When I was well again I worked between Edmonton and Calgary doing housework and helping with children. An education in itself. My wages were from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per month.

I finally had saved enough money to pay for a course in Beauty Culture and Marceling, a "marcel wave" was very pretty and popular at that time. It was made by using a heated Marcel Curling Iron. I had to work for board and room again in order to take the course. The summer of 1927, I rented space for my Beauty Parlour from Mr. Gross, who had the barbershop next door, and named it "The Westlock Beauty Parlour". I liked my work immensely and enjoyed my many customers from the surrounding countryside. Some came from as far away as Fort Assiniboine. Some of them to mention a few were; Mrs. Arthur Bently, Mrs. Wheatly, Mrs. Albert Cyre, and the Pete Soule's girls, and many more.

I met Rudolph Wiese in 1927.

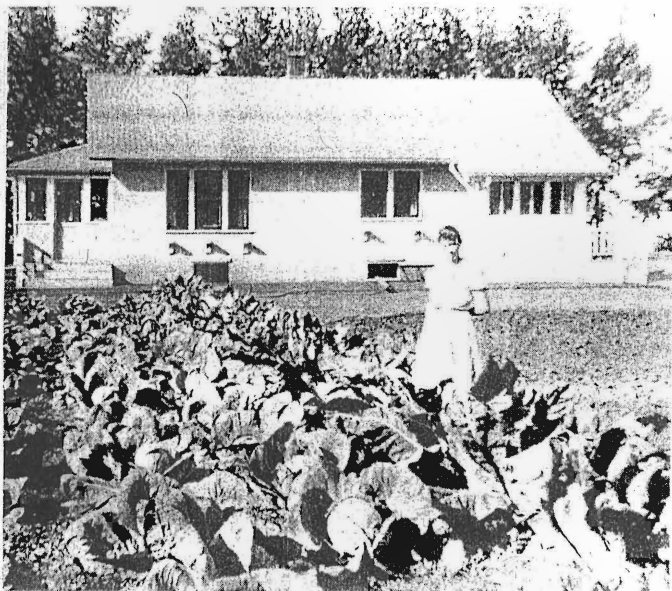


Jim, John, Rudolph, Esther, Dan and Max Wiese, Rudolph's last Christmas 1968

RUDOLPH WIESE FAMILY

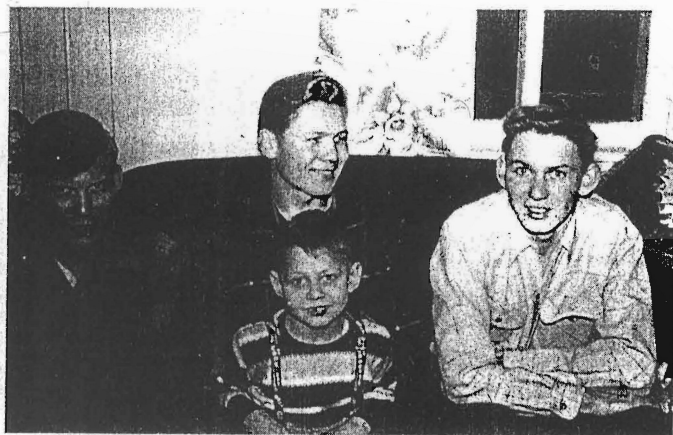
Rudolph Wiese's parents were John and Bertha Wiese. Their house was at Victor, Kansas, U.S.A., where they lived on a farm. Along with farming Mr. Wiese had a blacksmith shop and was an expert at his work. Grandmother Wiese created beautiful needle work of all kinds.

Two sons were born at Victor, Kansas; Oscar, born



Esther Wiese in her cabbage patch

April 2, 1902, and Rudolph John born February 17, 1905. They immigrated to Edmonton, Alberta sometime in September 1913, where Mr. Wiese filed on his homestead at Sunniebend, Alberta, along the Pembina River NE 4-61-1-W4.



Jim, Max, John, and Danny Wiese, taken at Uncle Max's "Moms old house".

Mr. Wiese and Oscar rode in the boxcar with their cattle, to Clyde, Alberta, and arrived there on Friday September 13, 1913. Mrs. Wiese and Rudolph took the passenger train and arrived at Clyde on Sunday September 16, 1913.

From Clyde they drove the team of mules within a short distance east of the Hazel Bluff Church where they got stuck in the mud with the loaded wagon, and made camp for the night. They drove on from there to Mr. and Mrs. Golden's house. Granddad and Oscar went out to the homestead but Rudolph and his mother stayed there for awhile and he went to school. They also lived with the Robins family before going on to the homestead. A few years later they moved from their small house into the two-storey house, Granddad had built with lumber from

his own sawmill.

Rudolph was very sick one winter with scarlet fever, and he and his mother were quarantined for six weeks. Ivy McCloud nursed him through it. Ivy was a daughter of Mrs. Bill Marshall of Sunniebend.

As time went on the three men formed a partnership, which was carried on over the years and everyone benefitted by the arrangement as they made progress and expanded their land holdings and responsibilities. Mrs. Wiese became ill and passed away in June 1927.

Rudolph and I had known each other for quite sometime the winter of 1927-28, when I had the beauty parlour at Westlock. We became engaged and I gave up the beauty parlour in the spring.

We were married on August 21, 1928, Rev. Diki Allen, from Westlock performed the ceremony, at my parents' home; Mr. and Mrs. Max Ziese of Dapp.

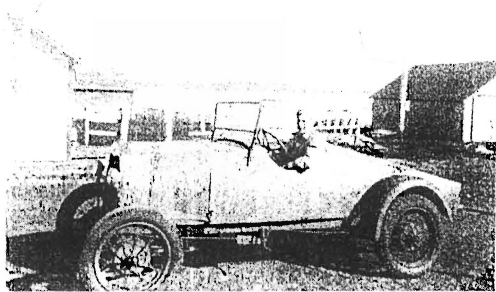
We lived with Mr. Wiese for four years. Our first child a baby girl Rosalie Mac was born on August 14, 1929 and died the same day.

We moved to our own home at Linaria the fall of 1932. We had no partitions and a rough floor and practically no furniture but it was our own home. The next spring, 1933 we got our small trees from the experimental farm, 21 hundred in all for our windbreak and most of it still stands after fifty-one years. Myself, Ed and Harvey Yuill dug the holes for each tree and carried pails of water for each hole. It has been an inspiration in our lives as the leaves burst out each spring and the birds find protection for their nests. It also protects our garden from early frosts.

Our first son; James Martin was born on February 4, 1934, three years later Max Rudolph was born on February 20, 1937; John Charles, October 22, 1939 and still no girl. It was a long time before Daniel Stewart was born on April 14, 1950, now we had our four boys. They all went to school at Linaria and high school in Westlock.



Max, Danny, Jim, John and Esther Wiese



Max Wiese in a handmade Ford "The Bug", April 1956

Jim and Max and Charles and Ronald Wiese (Oscar's sons) batched in Westlock for grades eleven and twelve, and made their grades. They all worked on the farm in the summer. Jim attended Fairview School of Agriculture from 1953-54 and Max attended there from 1956-57. John took a two-year course at Calgary School of Technology. Dan wanted to be a farmer too and graduated from a two-year course at Fairview School of Agriculture. They all gained knowledge in various ways. There was a very good staff of teachers in that school.

When Oscar's boys and Rudolph's boys were capable of running the machinery on the farm they each took their sons into partnership with them.

Granddad Wiese passed away in August of 1949. Rudolph and boys continued to work together.

Jim and Evelyn live on their farm in Linaria, with Jim's two daughters Susan and Cindy; (Susan and Cindy's Mother, Mary, lives in Arizona). John and Barbara and their family are at home on their farm in Linaria. Their children are; Randall, Jody, Todd, Troy and Niki. John has a dairy farm, and farms some grain and of course lots of hay. Jim, Max and Dan have a farming partnership and Dan has his own house, Max lives with me on the home place and is a collector of coal-oil and Aladdin lamps.

Rudolph passed away January 29, 1969, from cancer, and was greatly missed. He taught the boys well and they have carried on the way he would have wanted them to. He has left them a heritage to carry on in the future.

Some of our neighbors in Linaria and Shoal Creek have been; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gagnon and family; Mrs. Turner and her son Bob; Ivan and Lil Neilson; Mr. and Mrs. Giles and family; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Willcock and family; Mr. Jack Baggett; Mr. and Mrs. Skaret and family; Mr. Joe Baggett and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Baggett and family; Mrs. Kitty Howard, (she taught school at Linaria); Mr. and Mrs. Fred Horsley; Mr. and Mrs. Sirois, (Mrs. Sirois taught school at Linaria); Mr. and Mrs. Jim Adams; Mr. and Mrs. Morland and family; Mr. and Mrs. Percy Smith and family; Ken Monson, (he taught school at Linaria); Durwood Monson; Mr. and Mrs. Ewald Erickson and family. Some of these neighbors have moved away and others have passed on, but not forgotten. We do have a great community and all help each other in time of need, be it a fire, help in the fields, or at home when a loved one has passed on. Myself and family will always be grateful for your concern.