MATT. 19:6

WEDDINGS OF ESSEX COUNTY MENNONITE CHURCH MEMBERS
1926-1946

WEDDINGS
OF
ESSEX COUNTY MENNONITE CHURCH MEMBERS
1926-1946

The bride or the groom or both were members of a Mennonite congregation in Essex County at the time of her/his marriage.

United Mennonite Church names and dates have been compiled from the church register.

Mennonite Brethren information has been supplied by Peter Bartel.

Editorial Committee

Henry N. Driedger
Astrid Koop
Martha Wiens

Leamington, Ontario
1986

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WEDDINGS OF ESSEX COUNTY MENNONITE CHURCH MEMBERS

1926-1946

1926

Henry Tiessen and Susa Enns — August 1, 1926
by Elder Jacob H. Janzen

This wedding was performed on a Sunday afternoon in an upstairs room of Arthur Brown's hotel at the corner of Talbot and Princess, Leamington, Ontario, one of the buildings used by the Mennonite immigrants for worship. People worked during the week and this was the only free day in which a wedding could take place. During the service it rained, the roof leaked, and Elder Janzen had to stop and wipe his face and move to a dry spot. After the service everyone was invited to the bride's home for zwieback, raisin bread, cookies, and coffee.

The photographer did not work on Sunday so the picture was taken the following week. That is why the bride is not wearing a veil in the photograph.

1927

Peter P. Willms and Elizabeth Klassen — January 17, 1927
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This wedding was performed in the George Klassen home on Pearl Street, Kingsville, Ontario.

Jacob P. Driedger and Agnes Dick — May 15, 1927
by Elder Jacob H. Janzen

This wedding was performed in the Mission Hall on Middle Island Road, Pelee Island.

1928

Jacob Krahn and Maria Thiessen — April 8, 1928
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Kingsville United Church.

Frank Dick and Sara Toews April 22, 1928
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in Arthur Brown's hotel.

Gerhard Patkau and Kathe Klassen July 29, 1928
by Elder Jacob H. Janzen

This couple was married in the Kingsville United Church.

John Bergen and Mary Esau August 26, 1928
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in Wheatley, Ontario.

Bernhardt Boldt and Sara Boschmann September 16, 1928
By Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in Arthur Brown's hotel.

Gerhard Toews and Helen Unrau September 30, 1928
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Martens home in Coatsworth, Ontario.

Peter Kroeker and Margareta Klassen November 11, 1928
BY Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Klassen home in Rodney, Ontario.

1929

John Harder and Susie Dick April 7, 1929
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married on a Kingsville farm.

Henry C. Neufeld and Mika Barkowsky April 14, 1929
by Elder Jacob H. Janzen

This couple was married in Arthur Brown's hotel.

Abram Heinrichs and Justina Falk May 4, 1929
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in Windsor, Ontario.

Isaak Dick and Katharina Friesen September 1, 1929
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in Kingsville, Ontario.

Jacob Riediger and Justina Gieseler September 30, 1929
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in Kingsville, Ontario.

H. Thielman and Lydia Reimer October 6, 1929
by Rev. J. W. Reimer

This couple was married in Leamington, Ontario.

Daniel Boschmann and Liese Rempel October 20, 1929
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Boschmann home on the Fourth Concession.

1930

Abe Dick and Tina Esau March 1, 1930
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Esau home on Erie Street, Leamington.

Jacob H. Wiens and Anna Enns March 14, 1930
by Rev. David Derksen Sr.

This couple was married in the bride's parental home in Newton Siding, Manitoba.

Peter F. Willms and Erna Hamm April 6, 1930
by Elder Jacob H. Janzen

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Abram Reimer and Helen Willms May 11, 1930
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Jacob J. Dueck and Anna Toews May 18, 1930
by Elder Jacob H. Janzen

This couple was married on the Toews farm, Pelee Island.

Heinrich Schroeder and Anna Huebert June 14, 1930
by Rev. John Dick

This couple was married in a rented church building in Windsor, Ontario.

Heinrich Koop and Margareta Enns August 10, 1930
by Rev. Dietrich Koop

This couple was married at Elford, corner of the Fifth Concession and the Arner Townline.

John Loewen and Liese Thiessen August 17, 1930
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Nic. Thiessen and Maria Schmidt September 28, 1930
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Maria Epp and Wilhelm Huebert October 25, 1930
by Rev. John Dick

This couple was married in Windsor, Ontario.

Isaak H. Tiessen and Anna Huebert November 2, 1930
by Rev. Jacob P. Friesen

This couple was married in the auditorium of the old Town Hall, Leamington.

Peter Janzen and Liese Thiessen November 23, 1930
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in Arthur Brown's hotel, Leamington.

Henry D. Janzen and Margareta Krueger December 28, 1930
by Rev. John Dick

This couple was married in the Rev. Jacob D. Janzen home, Ruthven, Ontario.

THE WEDDING OF SARA TOEWS AND FRANK G. DICK

Although Sara Toews and Frank G. Dick were born in the same village, Fürstenau, Russia, father's family moved to the Crimea when he was a young boy, and so they did not meet again until their wedding in Ontario, about 30 years later. Mother was working in Manitoba, doing housework, when dad began writing to her from Coatsworth. After corresponding for awhile, he sent her money for a train ticket East, so that they could be married.

Mother's friend sewed a silk wedding dress for her. Mother bought a veil and white shoes, and packed her suitcase. She also brought with her a large myrtle "tree" planted in a nail keg, and a set of gold cuff-links, a wedding gift for dad.

On her arrival in the Leamington area, she was welcomed into the home of the late Jacob F. and Susie Toews, her cousins. Anna (Toews) Braun remembers holding the veil for mother, while she ironed it. It was then decorated with myrtle greens.

On Sunday, April 28,1928, after the worship service, in the hall on Erie Street North, my parents were married by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen. The text he used was Psalm 84: 10 and 11, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

Aunt Susie Toews had invited a few guests for the wedding dinner, which consisted of ham, which dad had bought for the occasion, and "Pluma Moos". After much visiting, mother and dad, along with his youngest brother, Uncle Abe Dick, drove in their pick-up truck, to Coatsworth, to a small three-room house, on a farm where they share-cropped.

Anna Dick Klassen

Werte Freunde,

Zur Hochzeitsfeier unserer Tochter Maria mit Herrn Nickolai Thiessen, die so Gott will Samstag den 28.ten Sept stattfinden soll, laden wir Sie hiermit herzlich ein. Die Feier soll um 2. Uhr nachmittags in unserem Lokal in Leamington beginnen, Nach der Trauung laden wir Sie zu unser Haus zum Mahle ein.

Achtungsvoll,
P. u. A. Schmidt.

Leamington
im September
1930.

Wedding Invitation of
Maria Schmidt and Nickolai
Thiessen written by the
father of the bride,
Mr. Peter Schmidt, 1930

Hochzeitslieder

Ihr habt nun das Bündnis geschlossen,
Ihr knüpftet das heilige Band,
Als liebende, treue Genossen
Zu wandeln durch's irdische Land.
Was immer in künftigen Tagen
Beschwerte des einzelnen Herz,
Ihr wollt miteinander es tragen
Und teilen die Freud und den Schmerz.
Doch sei euch nur Freude beschieden
Und ferne sei Sorg' und Gefahr,
Der stille, der häusliche Frieden
Er biete sich immer euch dar!
Zwar kann es nicht immer so bleiben
Im wechselnden Erdengebiet,
Die Stürme des Herbstes vertreiben
Oft, was uns im Lenze geblüht.
Doch haltet die Hoffnung im Arme
Und Liebe im Herzen nur treu,
Dann bleibt euch, befreiet vom Harme,
Des Glückes hold blühender Mai.
Das wünschen im fröhlichen Kreise
Wir alle, und haben euch lieb,
Und singen dies Lied nach der Weise:
Ach, wenn es doch immer so blieb'!

1931 — 1935

1931

Nicolai Dyck and Agatha Hamm February 14, 1931
by Rev. John Dick

This couple was married in Windsor, Ontario.

Abram Heinrichs and Maria Goertzen February 28, 1931
by Rev. John Dick

This couple was married in the United Church, Windsor.

Peter Driedger and Katharina Klassen April 12, 1931
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Kingsville Baptist Church.

William Willms and Bertha Dyck June 14, 1931
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Nick Unger and Agatha Epp September 19, 1931
by Rev. D. Derksen Sr.

This couple was married in Whitewater, Manitoba.

Jacob Unger and Justina Dick October 4, 1931
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Abram Driedger and Lena Koop October 11, 1931
by Rev. Dietrich H. Koop

This couple was married in the Ruthven United Church.

Katharina Fast and Henry Dick November 7, 1931

This couple was married in a Mennonite Church, Waterloo.

1932

Sigmund Nickel and OLga Goertzen — April 22, 1932
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Jacob Thiessen home, No. 3 Highway, Leamington.

Cornelius Toews and Anna Dick — May 8, 1932
by Elder Jacob H. Janzen

This couple was married on the Dick farm, Pelee Island.

Waldemar Unger and Anna Willms — May 22, 1932
by Rev. N. N. Driedger

This wedding was held in the Shotton Hall, Leamington. It was the first wedding performed by Rev. N. N. Driedger.

Henry Wiens and Agatha Thiessen — June 19, 1932
by Rev. N. N. Driedger

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Johann Enns and Agnes Enns — August 21, 1932
by Rev. N. N. Driedger

This couple was married in Arthur Brown's hotel, Leamington.

Helene Janzen and Dietrich Esau — October 23, 1932
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Franz Tiessen and Anna Toews — October 29, 1932
by Rev. N. N. Driedger

This couple was married in the Goldsmith United Church.

1933

Johann Barkowsky and Agatha Tiessen — January 29, 1933
by Rev. N. N. Driedger

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Johann J. Thiessen and Margaretha Friesen June 11, 1933
by Elder N. N. Driedger

This couple was married in the Shotton Hall, Leamington.

Heinrich Tiessen and Helen Schellenberg October 21, 1933
by Elder N. N. Driedger

This couple was married in the Leamington Presbyterian Church.

1934

Heinrich Braun and Margaretha Wiens April 29, 1934
by Elder N. N. Driedger

This couple was the first to be married in the new church, the Essex County United Mennonite Church, Oak Street East, Leamington.

Cornelius Regehr and Maria Driedger May 6, 1934
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Henry Kornelsen and Maria Enns August 11, 1934
by Rev. Dietrich Koop

This couple was married in Vineland, Ontario.

Heinrich P. Enns and Maria Schellenberg October 6, 1934
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Peter J. Enns and Margaret Dick October 27, 1934
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

Kornelius Dirksen and Hilda Klassen October 27, 1934
by Elder N. N. Driedger

This couple was married in the Kingsville Baptist Church.

Jacob Braun and Olga Giesbrecht October 28, 1934
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Peter H. Enns and Susanna Koop November 4, 1934
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Penner and Agnes Dyck November 24, 1934
by Elder N. N. Driedger

1935

Agatha Kornelsen and Jacob Boschman — March 10, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Peter Dick and Liese Toews — March 24, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Peter Lodde and Maria Cornies — April 6, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

David Unrau and Maria Klassen — May 11, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Abram Toews and Maria Warkentin — May 19, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Nicolai Tiessen and Anna Wiens — June 2, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Heinrich Tiessen and Helena Reimer — July 21, 1935
by Rev. H. H. Janzen

Gerhard Tiessen and Maria Koop — October 6, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Anna Wiebe and Jacob Gossen — October 22, 1935
by Rev. A. Rempel

This couple was married on Pelee Island, Ontario.

Johann Toews and Margaretha Walde — October 26, 1935
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Heinrich A. Buller and Luise Huebert — November 16, 1935
by Rev. H. H. Janzen

THE WEDDING OF KATHERINA ESAU AND ABRAM G. DICK

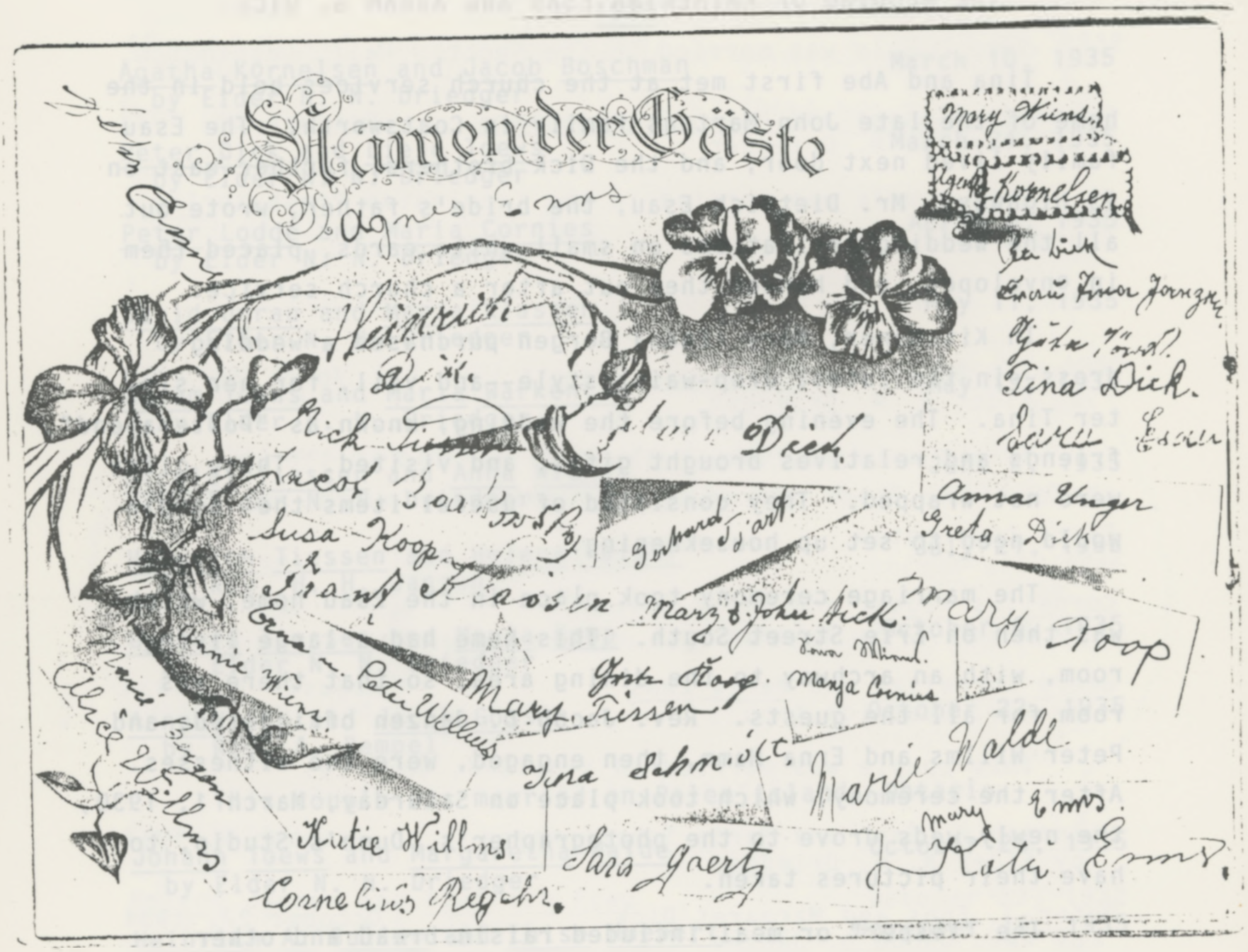
Tina and Abe first met at the church services held in the home of the late John Martens family in Coatsworth. The Esau family lived next door, and the Dick brothers, further east on #3 Highway. Mr. Dietrich Esau, the bride's father, wrote out all the wedding invitations on small white cards, placed them in envelopes, and handed them out after a church service.

In Kitchener, Mary (Esau) Bergen purchased a wedding dress--in the latest drop-waist style--and veil, for her sister Tina. The evening before the wedding, known as "Polterabend", friends and relatives brought gifts, and visited. These gifts were not wrapped. They consisted of useful items the couple would need to set up housekeeping.

The marriage ceremony took place in the Esau home, which was then on Erie Street South. This home had a large living room, with an archway to the dining area, so that there was room for all the guests. Rev. Jacob D. Janzen officiated, and Peter Willms and Erna Hamm, then engaged, were the witnesses. After the ceremony, which took place on Saturday, March 1, 1930, the newly-weds drove to the photographer's, Dunn's Studio, to have their pictures taken.

The "Vesper" or meal included raisin bread and other baked goods, and a special cake, baked by Tina's employer, Mrs. Bradford. In the evening, their young friends came to enjoy "Schlüsselbund" and other social games. As a finale, Jacob Barkowsky led in singing, while he removed the groom's boutienniere. Mary Bergen removed the bride's veil, replacing it with a white silk bow, which the bride wore every Sunday for about a year. After their marriage, the young couple lived with her parents for a few months; then they moved to the Don McCarty farm to set up their own household.

Anna Klassen



Signatures of Wedding Guests
at the marriage of
Jacob Unger and Justina Dick
October 4, 1931

dur a=7

Gott grüsse dich!

f p

1 1. 5 5 0 3 3. 1 1 0 4, 1. 2 3, 3 2.
5 5. 3 3 0 1 1. 5 5 0 1, 6 6 1, 1 7.
3 3. 1 1 0 5 5. 3 3 0 6, 4. 4 5, 5 4.
1 1. 1 1 0 1 1. 1 1 0 4, 4. 4 1, 1 5.

Gott grüsse dich! Gott grüsse dich! Gott grüsse dich! Kein andrer
Gott grüsse dich! Gott grüsse dich! Gott grüsse dich! Wenn dieser

p f

3. 2 1 7 6. 2 1 2 3. 3 4 2 5, 67
1. 7 1 7 4. 6 5 7 7. 7 1 6 5, 4
5. 5 5 5 6. 4 3 5 5. 5 6 4 3, 32
1. 4 3 3 4. 4 5 54 3. 3 6 4 5, 5

ndrer Gruss gleicht dem an Innigkeit, gleicht dem an Innigk
iser Gruss so rechs von Herzen gehs, so rechs von Herzen geh

5. 6 5 b7 b7. 6 6 6 6. 7 6 1 1. 1 7
3. 4 3 5 5. 4 4 43 2. 2 2 6 6. 5 5
1. 1 1 1 1. 1 1 1 1. 1 1 2 2. 2 2
1. 7 1 3 4. 4 4 4 4. 4 4 2 5. 5 5

rüsse dich! Kein andrer Gruss, Gott grüsse dich! Kein andrer Gruss
i dem lieben Gott der Gruss, gibt bei dem lieben Gott der Gruss

1936 — 1940

1936

Alex Fischer and Anna Friesen — January 19, 1936
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

(Rev.) Jacob Barkowsky and Maria Friesen — June 7, 1936
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Gerhard Braun and Sara Esau — September 20, 1936
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Heinrich Barkowsky and Hedwig Mahler — October 11, 1936
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann Cornies and Anna Tiessen — October 17, 1936
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Heinrich Cornies and Maria Tiessen — October 24, 1936
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Gerhard Johann Dick and Liese Goertzen — November 6, 1936
by Elder N. N. Driedger

1937

Abram Dick and Maria Toews — May 15, 1937
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Gerhard Krueger and Maria Cornies — May 22, 1937
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Nicolai Cornies and Katharina Bergen — June 5, 1937
by Elder N. N. Driedger

John Ewert and Mary Wiebe — June 19, 1937
by Rev. Isaac Tiessen

Peter P. Dyck and Elizabeth Klassen — August 15, 1937
by Rev. A. B. Peters

This couple was married in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Jacob Dick and Mary Elaskey — August 30, 1937
by Rev. R. Stafford

This couple was married in Montreal, Quebec.

Paul Goertzen and Olga Suderman — October 9, 1937
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Heinrich Huebert and Clara Schellenberg — October 23, 1937
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Konrad and Helene Walde — October 30, 1937
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Wilhelm Cornies and Maria Walde — October 30, 1937
by Elder N. N. Driedger

This was the first double wedding.

Gertrude Driedger and Jacob Koop — November 6, 1937
by Rev. Abram Rempel

1938

Jacob Janzen and Margaretha Dick — February 26, 1938
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann Krahn and Agatha Barkowsky — February 27, 1938
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann J. Konrad and Margaretha Warkentin — April 23, 1938
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Gerhard Konrad and Agatha Cornies — May 22, 1938
by Elder N. N. Driedger

(Rev.) David Derksen and Louise Dick — October 9, 1938
by Rev. Jacob Penner, Port Rowan

This couple was married in the lower auditorium of the First Baptist Church, Leamington.

Wilhelm Schellenberg and Johanna Funk — October 16, 1938
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Abram Friesen and Maria Wiebe — October 29, 1938
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann Janzen and Maria Konrad — November 26, 1938
by Elder N. N. Driedger

1939

Peter Dirksen and Maria Unrau — February 18, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Peter A. Epp and Helene Thiessen — April 16, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Abram Wiebe and Agnes Toews — April 16, 1939
by Rev. Isaac Tiessen

Johann Enns and Katharina Epp — April 23, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Ewald Wiebe and Elizabeth Braun — May 6, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Heinrich Hildebrandt and Maria Warkentin — May 7, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Maria Wiens and Peter Derksen — May 13, 1939
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Abram Jacob Konrad and Agnes Barkowsky — May 20, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Derksen and Agatha Driedger — June 3, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Heinrich H. Enns and Katharina Toews — October 21, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann Braun and Annie Toews — October 22, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Dietrich Dick and Katharina Wiens — October 26, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Dietrich Enns and Erna Driedger — October 28, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann David Cornies and Katharina Janzen — November 4, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann Martens and Tina Schmidt — November 5, 1939
by Elder N. N. Driedger

1940

Henry A. Epp and Margaretha Tiessen — February 3, 1940
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Abram J. Wiebe and Mary Boschmann — March 23, 1940
by Rev. Isaac Tiessen

Dick Froese and Helene Woelk — March 30, 1940
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Liese Tiessen and Peter Loewen — April 13, 1940
by Rev. Abram Rempel

Erna Neufeld and William DeFehr — April 16, 1940

Liese Tiessen and John Derksen — May 4, 1940
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Justa Toews and Cornie Toews (Rev.) by Rev. Abram Rempel	June 2, 1940
Johann Dick and Agatha Driedger by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger	June 15, 1940
Abraham Ginter and Catherine Heinrichs by Elder N. N. Driedger	June 23, 1940
John J. Isaak and Mary Hiebert by Rev. Isaac Tiessen	September 1, 1940
Bernhard Konrad and Suse Konrad by Elder N. N. Driedger	October 18, 1940
Jacob Martens and Anna Derksen by Elder N. N. Driedger	November 30, 1940
Alfred Klassen and Erna Mathies by Elder N. N. Driedger	December 28, 1940

A SMALL WEDDING

John and I were married on June 14, 1940, just nine months after England declared war on Germany. Canada was also drawn into the war.

Due to hostilities toward anything that was German, our church functions, which were still all in the German language, were cut to a minimum. No meals were to be served in the church basement. There were false rumours that sugar, which was rationed during the war, was being stored in the church basement. This rumour led to vandalism and breaking of dishes in the church basement. Town Council forbade the use of German at public meetings. Because of this the funeral of Mr. Peter P. Enns was held at the Enns' home, and the wedding of Rev. Cornie and Jessie Toews was held immediately after the Sunday morning church service.

Our wedding, however, was planned for Saturday afternoon. My father, N. N. Driedger, had notified the police that a wedding would take place at our church on that Saturday afternoon. The choir, under the direction of Mr. Henry Krueger Sr., sang "Gott grüsse dich" and two other songs. We were thankful that the choir came out to sing, even though they were not invited to the reception, which was held at my parents' house on Oak Street East. In order not to cause unnecessary suspicion, the reception was kept small. Only our aunts and uncles, and cousins our age were invited, plus a few of my parents' friends. The cars were all parked behind the barn to avoid attracting attention.

After the meal, the late Elder J. C. Neufeld, John's cousin, started a game of Schlüsselbund behind the house with the few young people that were there. When mother heard the singing, she rushed out and put a stop to it. Mother, remembering the Russian revolution and the horror that followed, was uneasy and afraid, and I believe overreacted to the situation.

Later we had a short program of recitations and songs in the house. The late Elder J. C. Neufeld had written a song to the tune of "Lass die liebe Sonne ein". The chorus was "Lass die Sonn' der Liebe ein".

We were fortunate to be one of the first Mennonite couples to go on a honeymoon. It came about in this way. The agent where John bought his gas for the tractor wanted also to become a car dealer. He had a small Willis which was reported to be easy on gas, and wishing to advertise it among the Mennonites, he asked John to take it on a long trip to try it out. What better chance was there to go to Niagara Falls the day after our wedding!

Agatha Dick


1941 – 1946

1941

Herman Huebert and Susan Penner — March 29, 1941
by Rev. Storm, Lutheran Church, Kingsville

Abram Konrad and Anna Flaming — April 19, 1941
by Rev. Abram Rempel

Susanna Froese and Martin Woelk — May 18, 1941
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Sally Cornies and Arthur Epp — June 7, 1941
by Rev. Jacob N.Driedger

Katharina Friesen and Johann Lepp — June 14, 1941

Frank Toews and Gertrude Hamm — October 4, 1941
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Ernest Neuman and Agnes Dick — October 18, 1941
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob J. Driedger and Gertrude Enns — November 8, 1941
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Toews and Margaret Mathies — November 29, 1941
by Elder N. N. Driedger

1942

John Cornelius Sawatzky and Helen Dyck — January 1, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Ann Bergen and Carl Segedin — January 17, 1942
by Rev. Storm, Lutheran Church, Kingsville

Dietrich Walde and Margaret Cornies — February 14, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann Peter Schroeder and Gertrude Krahn — February 21, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Dietrich Hildebrand and Mary Janzen — April 11, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Pankratz and Margaret Huebert — April 18, 1942
by Rev. Isaac Tiessen

Annie Mathies and William Krause — April 18, 1942
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Henrietta Warkentin and Walter Willms — June 6, 1942
by Rev. Abram Rempel

Katie Driedger and Henry Warkentin — June 20, 1942
by Rev. Abram Rempel

(Rev.) Cornelius Driedger and Annie Enns — September 26, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Gerhard Konrad and Hildegard Thiessen — October 9, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Petker and Justina Braun — October 17, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Hildebrand and Susie Warkentin — October 31, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann Toews and Melita Barg — November 21, 1942
by Elder N. N. Driedger

1943

Johann Toews and Justina Dick — January 9, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Nicolai N. Tiessen and Anne Froese — May 1, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob David Cornies and Elizabeth Toews — May 8, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

John P. Dyck and Helen Wall — May 9, 1943
by Rev. Abram Peters

This couple was married in the North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church.

Johann Krüger and Margaretha Wiens — May 22, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Founk and Liese Dyck — July 17, 1943
by Rev. Dietrich Koop

This couple was married in the Vineland United Mennonite Church.

Ernst Barg and Louise Neuman — September 11, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Herman Peters and Agatha Enns — October 9, 1943
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Peter Wiens and Ruth Epp — October 10, 1943
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Peter Fast and Katharina Neufeld — October 19, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

This couple was married on Pelee Island.

Peter Hildebrand and Mary Berg — October 30, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Gerhard Bergen and Elfrieda Toews — November 7, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Dietrich Walde and Edith Goertzen — November 21, 1943
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Gossen and Aganeta Siemens — November 27, 1943
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

1944

Peter Jacob Driedger and Anna Bergen — January 29, 1944
by Elder N. N. Driedger

John C. Taves and Annie Duerksen — February 26, 1944
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

John Tiessen and Alice Toews — March 4, 1944
by Rev. Abram Rempel

Cornelius H. Epp and Susanna Dyck — April 12, 1944

This couple was married in Whitewater, Manitoba.

Daniel B. Klassen and Anna Langeman — April 26, 1944
by Rev. Isaac Tiessen

Peter Warkentin and Käthe Dick — April 29, 1944
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Johann P. Driedger (Rev.) and Marianne Rempel — May 6, 1944
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Abram Epp and Hilda Klassen — June 23, 1944
by Elder N. N. Driedger

This couple was married on Pelee Island.

Rita Penner and Henry Lepp July 8, 1944

Walter Willms and Elfrieda Dyck October 9, 1944
by Rev. H. Janzen

This couple was married in the Kitchener Mennonite Brethren Church.

(Rev.) Jacob C. Neufeld and Agatha Driedger October 21, 1944
by Elder N. N. Driedger

1945

Cornie Hamm and Erna Mathies February 3, 1945
by Rev. Dietrich Klassen

This couple was married in the Virgil, Ontario, Mennonite Brethren Church.

Nick Driedger and Margaret Peters February 10, 1945
by Rev. John H. Enns

This couple was married in the bride's parental home, New Bothwell, Manitoba.

Johann Harry Dick and Helene Bergen April 7, 1945
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Kornelius Konrad and Annie Dick April 14, 1945
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Mary Schulz and Peter Konrad April 15, 1945
by Elder Enns

This couple was married in La Salle, Manitoba.

Nick Neufeld and Elisabeth Mathies April 21, 1945
by Elder N. N. Driedger

George Konrad and Betty Flaming April 28, 1945
by Rev. Jacob N. Driedger

Peter Dueck and Hilda Schmidt May 5, 1945
by Rev. Isaac Tiessen

John Mathies and Helene Schellenberg May 12, 1945
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Rudolph Dueckman and Frieda Langeman August 11, 1945
by Rev. David Derksen

This was the first couple married by Rev. D. Derksen.

Liese Dyck and Jacob W. Dick — October 20, 1945
by Rev. G. G. Neufeld

This couple was married in Lena, Manitoba.

Dietrich Taves and Selma Neufeld — November 21, 1945
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Rempel and Helene Koop — December 31, 1945

This couple was married in Altona, Manitoba.

1946

Nick Schmidt and Susie Dick — January 19, 1946
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Peter Tiessen and Martha Rempel — February 9, 1946
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Henry Wiebe and Helene Falk — May 18, 1946
by Rev. J. Penner

This couple was married in the Virgil Mennonite Brethren Church.

Henry Schmidt and Helena Dueck — June 1, 1946
by Rev. J. Penner

This couple was married in the Virgil Mennonite Brethren Church.

Johann Schmidt and Betty Dick — June 27, 1946
by Elder N. N. Driedger

Jacob Dirksen and Johanna Schroeder — October 5, 1946
by Rev. Abram Rempel

Ferdinand Reimer and Marion Nelner — October 5, 1946
by Rev. David Derksen

Rudolph Hamm and Eleanor Reimer — October 5, 1946
by Rev. David Derksen

This was the second double wedding in Leamington.

Jacob Flaming and Elfrieda Klassen — October 12, 1946
by Rev. Jacob D. Janzen

Martha Tiessen and Jacob P. Froese — October 19, 1946
by Rev. Abram Rempel

Ben Neufeld and Molly Willms — October 19, 1946
by Rev. David Derksen

Johann C. Neufeld and Katharina Dyck — October 26, 1946
by Elder John Wichert

This couple was married in the Vineland United Mennonite Church.

Henry Koop and Helen Lehn — November 1, 1946
by Rev. Herman Lepp

Werte Freunde

Zur Teilnahme an der Trauung
unserer Tochter

Helena
mit
Herrn Johan Dick
welche, so Gott will, am 7ten April
1945 3 Uhr nachmittag in der
Kirche zu Leamington stattfinden
soll, laden wir Sie nebst Familie
freundlichst ein.

Nach der Trauung bitten wir
Sie am Mahl, im Kellerraum
der Kirche teilzunehmen

Hochachtungsvoll

Wilhelm u Maria Bergen

Leamington
im Marz 1945 (siehe umseitig)

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dyck

request the honour of your presence

at the marriage of their daughter

Elizabeth

to

Mr. Jacob Fonk

on Saturday, July seventeenth

nineteen hundred and forty-three

at three o'clock

United Mennonite Church

Vineland, Ontario

Lunch will be served

Zur Trauung unserer Tochter

Annie

mit

Herrn Cornelius Konrad

die, so Gott will, am 14ten April 1945, 3 Uhr Nachmittags in unserer Kirche zu Leamington stattfinden soll, ebenso zu dem darauffolgenden Hochzeitsmahle daselbst, laden wir Sie freundlichst ein, um gemeinsam den Segen des Herrn fuer das junge Paar zu erflehen.

Hochachtungsvoll

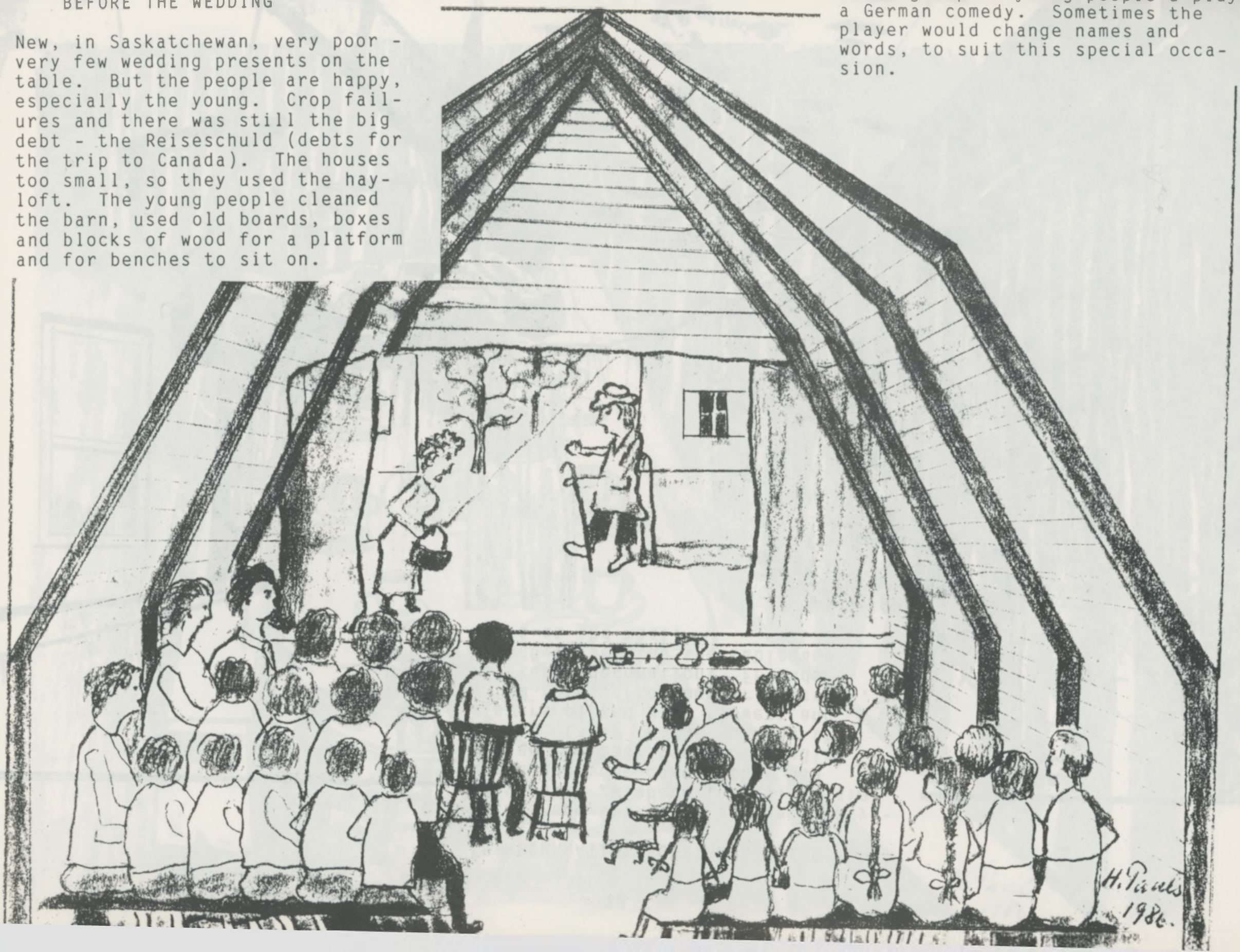
Justina und Wilhelm Dick

Leamington, Ontario

POLTERABEND, OR THE EVENING
BEFORE THE WEDDING

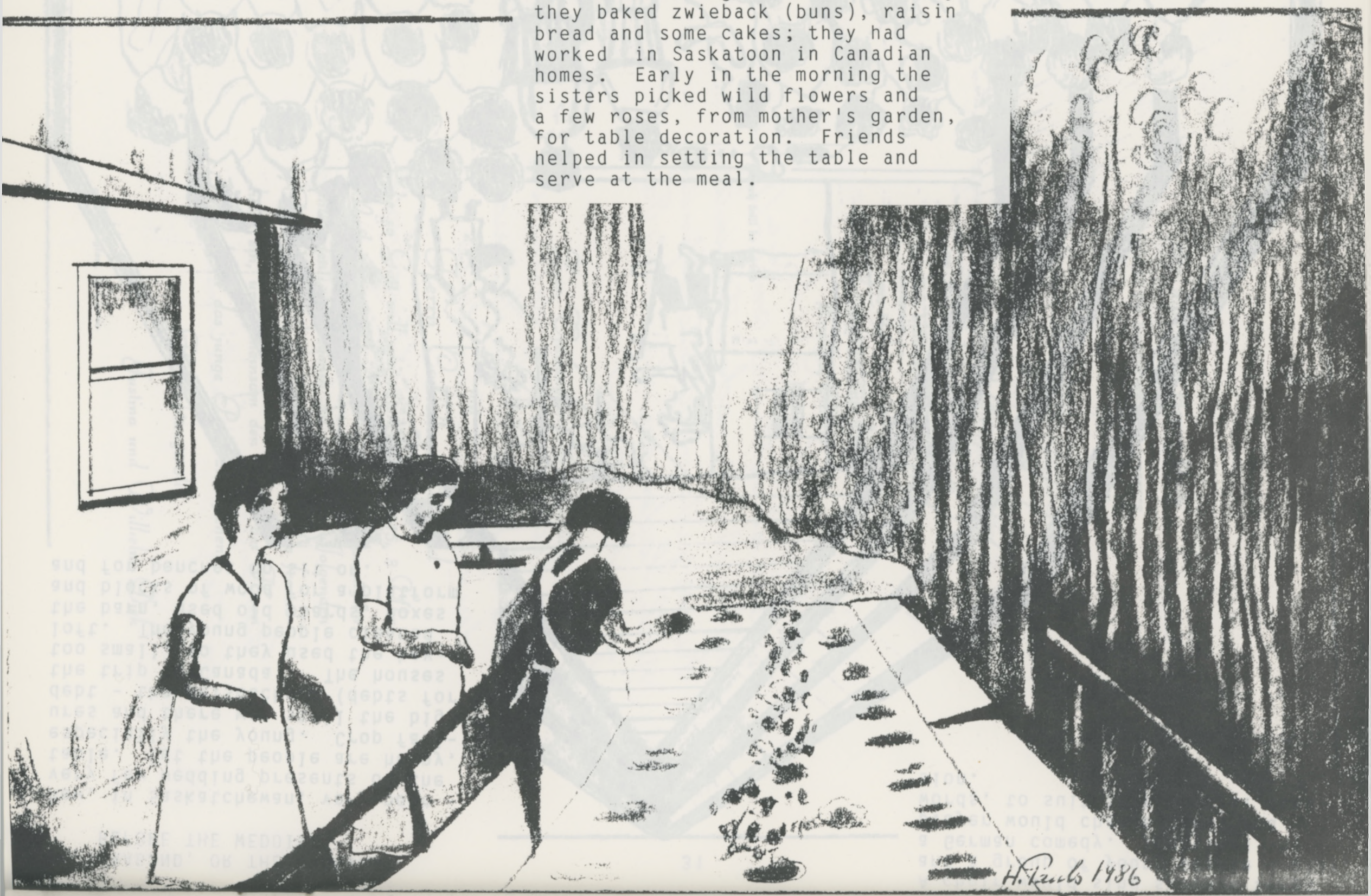
New, in Saskatchewan, very poor - very few wedding presents on the table. But the people are happy, especially the young. Crop failures and there was still the big debt - the Reiseschuld (debts for the trip to Canada). The houses too small, so they used the hayloft. The young people cleaned the barn, used old boards, boxes and blocks of wood for a platform and for benches to sit on.

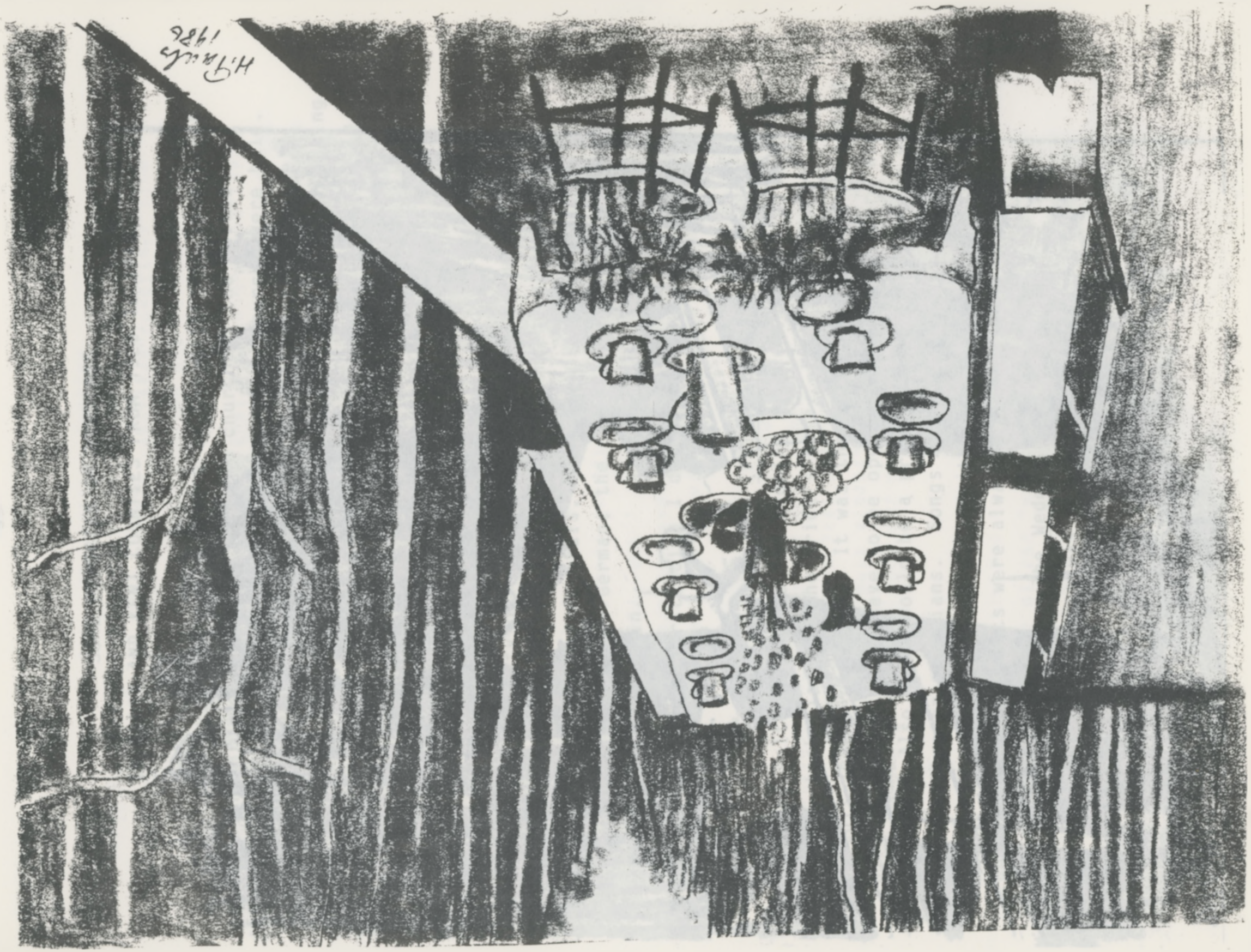
A choir would sing special songs and a group of young people a play, a German comedy. Sometimes the player would change names and words, to suit this special occasion.



IN PREPARATION FOR THE WEDDING

Mother and the girls had been busy - they baked zwieback (buns), raisin bread and some cakes; they had worked in Saskatoon in Canadian homes. Early in the morning the sisters picked wild flowers and a few roses, from mother's garden, for table decoration. Friends helped in setting the table and serve at the meal.




H.J. Hawks
1926


HP. 1986

SOME MEMORIES OF WEDDINGS
IN ESSEX AND KENT COUNTIES FROM 1926 TO 1946

It was my privilege to preach in the different localities where the joint services of our two churches, the United Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Brethren Church, were held. Since I was not ordained until 1935, I could not solemnize marriages. In those first years I was the only minister daring to preach in English. There were three reasons for this. In my last year in high school in Russia I had taken a one year course in English. The Canadians who heard me were kindly disposed to a New Canadian trying hard to speak in their language. They overlooked possible accent and errors. And lastly, the majority of our people did not know sufficient English to be critical. Therefore I was frequently asked to speak at weddings and funerals, where people were in attendance who did not know German, the only language our services then were conducted in.

For easier understanding I describe the weddings in three parts.

I. Wedding Eve (Polterabend)

The Polterabend was the evening before the wedding and it usually took place in the bride's home. Many people would come to this joyous occasion. It was the time to present the wedding gifts. They did not have to be opened because they were not wrapped. Also there would be a program of music if there was an orchestra or musicians. Songs would be sung, poems--often self-written--were recited, and skits of humorous nature were performed. Such skits were always popular.

II. The Wedding Service

The wedding service was the most important part of the wedding. It was usually held on a Sunday afternoon, since our people were employed and could get off only on Sunday. The hall or church would be decorated appropriately. There were no bridesmaids or best men.

At the right time the bride and the groom would enter and come along the aisle. Often two small children, mostly girls, with baskets in their hands, would walk ahead of them and drop flowers on their path. After they were seated, the service began with a congregational hymn and a prayer. As at that time we had the multiple ministry, usually two or three ministers would take part in the service, the duration of which was a good two hours. There were several congregational hymns, two or three selections by the choir, two or three sermons and the solemnization of vows (Trauung).

There was no exchange of rings though rings were purchased. I recall our 18 karat gold wedding rings cost us $6.00 each in 1930.

Local farmers and professional people with whom the bride and groom were employed would be invited. Imagine the ordeal they were subjected to, sitting through a two-hour service of which they understood little, though they enjoyed the singing. After such a service one of them remarked, now he knew why Mennonite marriages lasted so well: they did a good job marrying the couple.

For the marriage questions and solemnization the couple would stand, and then kneel for the prayer and benediction. They would be seated for the last choir selection. Then the congregation would appropriately sing the hymn "Jesu, geh voran!" With the last verse the couple would rise and walk out along the aisle.

The whole service was less formal and less ceremonial than it is today. Perhaps also because of the little different connotation the word "ceremony" has in the German language, we would have felt strange to talk about a marriage "ceremony".

III. The Wedding Evening

The wedding evening again was a joyous event. Whereas in services females and males sat separated on either side of the aisle, now the young people mixed and formed what they called in low German "bunti Reej". Most of the evening was taken up by social games, mainly, "Schlüsselbund". In the Mennonite Brethren churches they would have a program of songs, music, poems and short talks with all kinds of advice for the young couple. The centre of the evening would be the taking off of the bride's veil and the putting on of a bow, replacing the ancient cap (Haube) as a token of her married state. Honeymoons were not customary at that time. Had they been, there would not have been time or money for them.

Isaac Tiessen

MENNONITE WEDDING TRADITIONS

The early Mennonite families brought their traditions and customs with them from their former homeland, Russia.

Rev. Jacob J. Epp remembers his wedding, in the Village of Fischau, Russia, in 1937, as follows: "Helene Willms and I were married in August 1917. Our wedding service was held in the Willms barn. The village young people came to help prepare the barn. Tarps were borrowed to cover the walls. The rafters above were covered with green branches. Garlands of foliage were hung on the walls. Everyone who helped stayed for supper and the 'Polterabend' that followed. The 'Polterabend' was an evening of songs, skits and dialogue.

"Neighbours had brought milk and butter for zwieback. The zwieback dough was mixed and then distributed among relatives and friends to be baked. Borscht or Selenki was the lunch for the wedding day. For supper ham and Pflaumenmus was served. (Pflaumenmus or Pluma Moos is a soup made with dried fruits such as prunes--Pflaumen--, apples, apricots, and raisins.) Because it was war time, napkins were not to be found, and so my wife used tissue paper, decorating it with sewing machine stitching. All the youth were given corsages to wear.

"My wife sewed her own gown. It was cream coloured. Before this time wedding gowns had been black.

"Our wedding picture was taken in Halbstadt, on the day after the wedding."

Most engagements were of relatively short duration, but in two cases the engagement (though unannounced) dragged on for five years. The first was the engagement of Isaac Tiessen and Anna Huebert. In the fall of 1925 Isaac Tiessen emigrated to Canada, leaving his parents, an invalid sister, and his fiance. He had asked the Hueberts for the hand of their daughter and received their blessing. Since Isaac and Anna were young, and since the

Hueberts also hoped to emigrate in a year or two, the couple planned to be married in Canada. But, in spite of repeated applications, the Hueberts were denied passports. Late in 1929 they fled and joined the thousands of refugees near Moscow. Miraculously they were able to leave via Germany for Canada. On April 27, 1930, at one a.m., they arrived in Windsor, Ontario, where Isaac and his two cousins awaited them. A week later the engagement was announced at the church service. On November 2nd, the wedding date, the hall which the Mennonites rented for church services, was not available; therefore, the wedding took place in the old Leamington Town Hall. Rev. Jacob Friesen of Kitchener officiated at the wedding.

A second couple, Jacob Unger and Justina Dick, also had made plans in Russia to be married. Justina Dick arrived in Canada with her family in 1928, having left Russia in 1926 and having spent some time in England. In the meantime, Mr. Unger was not able to emigrate until 1929. He came, via Moscow, to Kitchener, Ontario, in 1930. The following spring, Mr. Unger came to Essex County to share-crop one of Francis Gregory's tobacco farms in order to pay his Reiseschuld. (The term Reiseschuld refers to the money that the immigrants owed to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company which had paid for their travel expenses.) Jacob and Justina were finally married in Leamington in October of 1931.

Mrs. Erna Enns remembers some of the early engagements: "First of all we remember the engagements. They were usually celebrated with a dinner at the home of the bride's parents, with the groom's family invited. This dinner took place on the Saturday before the announcement was made in the church. On that Sunday the bride's parents and family were invited to the groom's home for a noon meal with his family. It was always hoped by the couple that the announcement would be a great surprise, but it very seldom turned out that way. After the annnouncement, there would be almost weekly invitations for a meal with relatives and friends."

The church announcement of the engagement is a tradition that is still with us today. However, today the wedding invitations are different; but in the early years in Canada the old custom was still used.

"The custom of handwritten wedding invitations was brought along from Russia," states Mrs. Annie Konrad. "The invitations were formally worded. On the inside page a list of about ten to twelve names was written along with the request 'please forward'. Everyone was asked to pass on the invitation to the next one on the list as soon as possible. Occasionally someone would forget, or at the last minute, hurriedly forward it.

"Prior to our wedding in 1945 I had received a printed invitation from British Columbia for the wedding of Frank C. and Melita Peters. This appealed to me. We were the first in the Leamington area to have printed invitations mailed to our guests."

After the engagement announcement, it was time for the mother to think seriously about her daughter's wedding dress. Usually she, or someone else in the family, would sew the dress. Occasionally a seamstress would sew it. It was even more unusual to buy one. But in 1929 Mika Barkowsky Neufeld paid $3.98 for her gown. The dresses were the style of the day, from mid-knee to floor length. The veil could be ordered from the Eaton's catalogue. In the 1940's a ready-made gown could be purchased in the Jaunty Shoppe for $17, although Ann Segedin recalls that her dress was bought on sale for $9 because it was a left-over summer style.

One very important custom, that could not be overlooked was the use of myrtle adornments. Mrs. Liese Janzen (widow of Rev. Jacob D. Janzen) explained to her daughter, Liz, that the bride always wore a myrtle crown. There were also some sprigs of myrtle adorning the front of the bride's dress, her shoes, and the edge of the veil, as had been the custom in

Russia. The groom always wore a sprig of myrtle on his lapel. The crown and the boutonniere had white waxy berries in it, and the boutonniere was tied with a white satin ribbon.

The green of the myrtle symbolized the "green", or first wedding. The story was that if you grew myrtle for your own daughter, she would never marry. When Mrs. Janzen's cousin, Mrs. Helene Schmidt, was married, their Aunt Sara Martins provided the plant. She promised Liese that she would see to the myrtle for her wedding, too. Aunt Sara Martins from Kleefeld went to Halbstadt to the Mooriaheim, a nursing school, to buy the myrtle.

Myrtle was also laid on the head table in a diagonal pattern with plates of zwieback set in the angles, and myrtle swags adorned the edge of the table. In the late 1930's the use of myrtle green was discontinued.

The custom of the bridal bouquet was introduced in Canada. Garden flowers, wild flowers, or artificial ones were used, as well as greenery. Some brides ordered their artificial bouquet from Eaton's, for $3.98. A bouquet of crepe paper roses was made by Mrs. Janzen, aunt of the groom, for the wedding of Peter Enns and Margaret Dick in 1934, and it was used again the same year by Susa Dick Enns' wedding.

The week before the wedding was very busy. Now it was time to prepare the food for the "Polterabend" and for the wedding meal. Ham or beef might be cooked, and a variety of cookies baked. Fresh zwieback and raisin bread were a necessity. On occasion, cakes and Pluma moos and sausage might be added.

In the 1930's it was customary to have cold cuts, ham, sausage, salad, cakes with soft icing and squares in addition to the traditional zwieback and raisin bread. In the 1940's sandwiches became prominent, with coffee and pastry following.

The meal was prepared entirely by family and friends. Catering was unheard of. In fact, Mr. Bill Schellenberg says,

that the whole community took part in many of the preparations for a wedding. Family, friends and neighbours baked and cooked, and decorated barns, houses, or, in his case, a greenhouse, all eager to help in the important task of starting a young couple in a new life. The whole community became the extended family that gave its support and blessing to the beginning of a new home of life and love.

The evening before the wedding, called Polterabend, is described by Rev. Gerhard Thiessen: "To this evening came the youth as well as the older people to give gifts to the bridal couple. A play dealing with love as the theme was presented in a humorous fashion. There was often much to laugh about. When the play was over, social games were played; for example, Schlüsselbund. There was also lunch with soft drinks.

"This custom of a 'Polterabend' was practised everywhere Mennonites lived: in the Terek and in Siberia, where large Mennonite settlements were. Somewhat later when the bad times came, the 'Polterabend' would be less boisterous and more quiet. The next day would be the wedding.

"In some Mennonite villages in Russia dishes were brought to the 'Polterabend' and smashed in front of the couple. The word Polterabend comes from this custom: to make loud noise = poltern. The groom was expected to clean up the broken dishes by morning."

The custom of "Polterabend" continued in Canada until World War II broke out, when bridal showers became the vogue.

The wedding gifts were very inexpensive and practical, often from Lee's 5 and 10 Cent Store. But they were new, compared to the second-hand gifts received during the hard times in Russia. Mrs. Anna Woelk recalls that when she was married in 1924 in Russia, her gifts were all used, consisting of 2 forks, 2 spoons, 2 knives, 4 tea towels, 6 silver teaspoons and 4 plates: 2 for good use and 2 for every day. As a rule,

gifts were left unwrapped.

The day of the wedding had finally arrived. At the beginning, the weddings were customarily held on a Sunday afternoon, as people worked six days a week. This was their only day off. On Pelee Island the wedding might be postponed at the last minute if the boat could not run because of bad weather or the minister had made other plans.

When the choir began singing "Gott grüsse dich" the young couple would start down the aisle. There were no pianos or organs and so the choir was an absolute necessity. The young people could sing in the choir until they were married. Choir practice was a social event for them. When Henry and Anna Schroeder were married in 1930, the choir was directed by the bride's father, Mr. Henry Huebert.

It was not customary to have bridesmaids until the 1940's, but the flower girls were already in fashion during the 1930's. At the wedding of John and Melita Toews in 1942 there were six bridesmaids in attendance. The gowns were chosen by each bridesmaid, and did not necessarily match.

Now the bride and groom were seated in their chairs decorated with white ribbon, myrtle and evergreen boughs. Standing was out of the question; the ceremony lasted up to two hours. There were two ministers and sometimes three, with one of them officiating. Each minister gave a sermon. The sermons were often quite personal. Between the sermons there would be congregational singing. In the congregation, the men sat on the right side of the sanctuary and the women on the left. During the singing of the final hymn, "Jesu geh' voran," the newly-weds would leave to sign the register during the last verse.

Rings were not formally exchanged.

After the wedding meal the young people gathered to play Schlüsselbund and other social games while their parents visited.

These games were played outside in the summer, in barns or greenhouses during inclement weather. In the 1940's they moved to rented halls containing pianos.

The highlight of the evening is described by Henry N. Driedger: The wedding guests would sing the following song:

Es fällt nun ab der Jugendkranz,
Erloschen scheint der Lebensglanz
Fast traurig senkt sie nun das Haupt,
Des grünen Myrtenschmucks beraubt.

Doch, liebes Herz, verzage nicht!
Dich ziert jetzt eine höhere Pflicht:
Des Hauptes Decke nun hinfort,
Wie sich's geziemt nach Gotteswort.

Gib her den Strauss, du junger Mann,
Und nimm die gute Lehre an:
O lieb dein Weibchen treu und zart
Nach guter Ehemänner Art!

Nehmt eure Pflichten treu in Acht,
Wie eins das andere glücklich macht!
Und wo sie stehen vereint im Herrn
Da weilt und segnet er so gern.

During the first verse a girlfriend or relative of the bride removed the veil and the myrtle crown. During the singing of the second verse, a married girlfriend or relative pinned a ribbon in the bride's hair. During the singing of the third verse a single fellow took off the groom's boutienniere.

Immediately after this song, all single ladies formed a circle around the bride, who stood in the middle, blind-folded. They walked and sang the following song:

Wir winden dir den Jungfernkranz
Von Veilchen blauer Seide,
Und laden dir zum Spielen ein,
Und gross ist unsere Freude.
Schöner, grüner Jungfernkranz.

Then the circle stopped moving and the bride would walk in one direction until she came to one girl; she would be the next bride. The young fellows would sing the same song with the groom in the centre, and the same would happen. Then the bride and groom would be raised on chairs. When they kissed, everyone

yelled "Horka" and they were let down. Then the new couple from the song was raised and they had to kiss. With that, the evening came to an end.

Usually the bride would go home to her parents and the groom to his and he would pick her up the following day. After Jacob and Anna Gossen were married in 1935, Anna stayed home for several days to help her mother and sister Mary prepare for the annual pheasant hunt on Pelee Island.

Rev. C. Driedger tells us that after their wedding in September of 1942: "We knew that it was expected that we would be in church the next morning. We lived east of Wheatley and had a Model A Ford. We also had every intent of going to church - but I had a sneaking suspicion that someone might do us in, and knowing that, I got up early the next morning, and I was not disappointed. I had four flat tires. I spent the next hour pumping up the tires with my hand pump and took my young bride to church. We were on time!"

Not every couple went on a honeymoon in the 1920's and 1930's but some did. Anita Driedger, daughter of Waldemar and Anna Unger says that "... the wedding was on Sunday. They (her parents) went to Pelee Island for a day - their honeymoon. They did not eat all day - they stood in line for hot dogs which were sold out by the time their turn came."

Out of necessity most couples lived with the groom's parents. Many people were share-cropping and still paying for the Reiseschuld. The new wives had to be frugal to make ends meet and so many of them continued wearing their wedding dresses on Sundays until they were worn out. Others remade their dresses for younger sisters. In one case, Mrs. Susie Woelk made hers into a nightgown - blue satin. In the case of Mrs. Anna Toews, her dress was used for the burial of her cousin Njunja Driedger in 1940.

Weddings have changed since those early years. Many of

the traditions that were brought from Russia have fallen by the wayside. However, a few things are still the same. An engagement is still announced during a regular Sunday morning service. Quite often we still have two ministers during the wedding service, the couple still sits, and the congregation still sings hymns.

Astrid Koop and Martha Wiens