

also saw-mills in the Montagao Lake area and many of the settlers hauled out lumber and other material for the erection of buildings and fences.

People were not choosy when taking on a job as long as there was a chance to make a few dollars. I started working on the Steep Rock section in 1915 when Charlie Zettergren was foreman, and was laid off when winter set in. During the winter my Dad and I hauled out cordwood and we also cut some logs which we were going to use to build a bigger barn. Toward spring, in fact it was March 4th, 1916 as we were walking home from the bush we noticed smoke in the direction of our yard and as we came closer we noticed that the house was gone. Everything that we possessed had gone up in smoke. My brother, Hans had gone to Steep Rock for some groceries and my mother was at home with my younger brother, Carl. Tom Reading had just come over to sharpen his axe on our grindstone and it was our luck that he was there, for the fire spread so swiftly and he kept my mother from running back into the house to save some of our clothing and other belongings. Most of the things we lost had been brought from the old country and of course could never be replaced. It was a terrible experience but there seemed no other way out but to build again and with the help of some of the neighbours it was not too long before we had erected another house better than the first one. Although money was out of the question whenever a settler was faced with some calamity neighbours would help in any way possible. During the month of March Charlie Zettergren joined the army and so did Everett Yarrington, who happened to be the first man on the section. The new foreman was Robert Petkovich and Kris Tate was the first man I started working on the section again in April 1916 and kept on until fall. We worked 10 hours a day and got 17½ cents an hour. In the fall I hired out and worked on a farm near Rosenfeld, in southern Manitoba for a full year. When I returned to Faulkner Harry Payne had just moved in and opened the first store at Faulkner which he called "Faulkner Cash Trading Store". He also installed a cream testing station which he operated until creameries were built at Moosehorn and Ashern.

In the early days nearly every quarter section was settled and the majority of the settlers came with the intention of breaking land to get into grain farming. Progress was very slow on account of the clearing which had to be done by hand and the endless battle with stones which turned up in most places. Consequently the majority of settlers began to realize that it was more profitable to keep cows and ship cream in order to make a living and raise money for further expansion. The Government became aware of the situation and finally came up in 1918 with a plan to provide the settlers with dairy cows. The price of cream happened to be very good at that time and many settlers were hopeful that this would give them a start. However, this plan which was commonly known as the "Winkler Cow Scheme", proved to be a failure. While the intention of the Government might have been good, the cows were not the type and quality that had been promised and the price was high, in some cases \$120.00 per head. Two or three years later the return for 5

cows in one instance was \$33.00. The price of cream had also fallen. Many of the settlers had gone out to work and earn money.

Shortly after the first war many veterans were placed on the land by the Soldier Settlement Board. Some remained but many of them pulled out. The reason for leaving again was that very little road work had been done up to that time.

Furthermore many of them were not used to this kind of life and possibly had been living in a city where they had held some kind of a job. In the start 160 acres of land seemed enough for any one settler to make improvements and keep a few head of cattle, but as the cattle herds were growing, more land was required. Some settlers were able to get a second homestead, and some bought more land to be able to increase their herds. Along the lake the situation was different right from the start. Settlers found more open land suitable for hay and pasture, which also produced a better quality of feed for livestock and there was no immediate need to clear and break land. Furthermore fishing proved to be a main occupation during the winter months. Since bulldozers have been brought into the area much more land has been cleared and seeded down for pasture and tame hay in all areas. Of course the size of the individual farms has increased to 1 and 2 and even more sections. When we arrived the quarry at Steep Rock had just started and many of the settlers found work there. My Dad worked there for several years.

On July 14, 1920 I was married to Wanda Nachtigall, daughter of Wilhelm Nachtigall who homesteaded on S.E. 2,28,10. I took my homestead in 1921, worked at home for a few years and later started on the railroad again. In 1927 I applied for a position as section foreman at Langruth and held this section until 1931 when I was transferred to Ashern. In 1933 the C.N.R. abolished a number of sections on the main line west of Winnipeg. This forced a large number of employees to move to other locations. I was affected by this and in order to exercise my Seniority I moved to Grahamdale, leaving my family on the farm which I had bought near Ashern. Later I gave up the railroad, bought more land and remained on the farm where we are still living. We have two sons and two daughters. In 1957 the sons took over the farm and are now ranching. Both are married, Hans to Agatha Peters of Kirkfield Park and Fritz to Joan Otto of Ashern. Our oldest daughter, Margaret, is married to Dan Porcher, who was raised on a homestead near Ashern, now farming in the Parkdale area near Winnipeg. Irmgard was married to Neal Campbell of Port Moody, B.C. and is now living in Keewatin, Ont.

Settlement in our area proceeded rapidly, especially during the second decade of this century. Thereafter, except for the depression years the population declined. However in recent years ARDA and also the Hydro Development in the northern part of the province have boasted the activity on the land as well as in the town and villages along No. 6 Highway.

Mr. and Mrs. Pohlman

The Pohlman's came from Russia and homestead-