

virtually single-handed the annual Southern Manitoba Music and Speech Arts Festival which quickly became the blueprint for numerous other such festivals across Manitoba.

K.H. was well-known in Canadian and western US music circles, especially as organizer and conductor of choirs. He's listed among major Canadian composers. In 1953 he was awarded a doctorate in music from St. John's University, England; partly in recognition of three compositions (lengthy opera-type cantatas) for choir and string: To the Youth; Zion, O City of God; God in Nature. Later he composed the popular At the Sea Shore. Although he'll always be known for his beautiful musical compositions, inspiring radio programs, massive choir festivals, formulating a blueprint for musical-arts festivals, conducting highly-popular Easter cantatas, West-Manites will best remember him as a very warm and fun-loving human being.

A daughter of K.H.'s, Mrs. Susie Penner of Winkler (who loaned me numerous news clippings about her talented father), writes: "Our father was a quiet man. We enjoyed the evenings together. We sang and played; Dad and Mother guitar, our brother (killed in a car accident at 16) mandolin, my sister violin and I accordion. I'm so thankful to my father for developing this musical interest in us. I also conduct choirs, have had a girls' choir for '12 years here, for many years a ladies' choir and conduct mass ladies' choirs at conferences. I've been a church organist for 30 years, teach piano here. My sister (Winnipeg) plays piano too and accompanies choirs and singers."

Whenever I think of this most remarkable dynamo who influenced my own youth as did few others, certain things stand clearly out. He was about the only man who "got through" to me and a little group of hard-rock teenagers with whom I hung around, drag raced, raised Cain. I recall my astonishment when during one noon-hour break he joined us in a game of fastball (he must have been about 55 then) and out-played everyone in a game we felt we owned exclusively. I recall vividly the fascinating anecdotes and jokes he told, many considered somewhat risqué by members of our own ultra conservative congregation. Young people especially quickly recognized in him a person so deeply involved in life, so genuinely sincere and committed to a cause they responded by singing and playing musical instruments as never before.

I last saw K.H. in 1950 while passing through Winkler by train. He'd come to meet it and was standing quietly and humbly beside his bicycle---a most incongruous figure in a materialistic society which revered driving latest-model cars. This impressed me vastly more than had he emerged from a chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce.

Massive choir festivals were Dr. Neufeld's specialty. For example, in 1954 he conducted a 900-voice choir---accompanied by string orchestra and brass band---before a capacity audience in Winnipeg auditorium. Several writers have rightly called him "the man who brought music to southern Manitoba." During this time of Brandon's 90th anniversary it's fitting we in West-Man should pay tribute to "the wandering conductor" who wandered among us for a third century making our lives more meaningful.

63. BRIEF GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF MY CHILDREN'S ANCESTORS

My great grandfather on my father's father's side, PETER NEUFELD, was born somewhere in the Marienburg area of Prussia. As a youth, prior to joining the Mennonite church, he was in the Prussian military service. Grandchildren recall his Prussian uniform (one believes it was that of an officer) stored in a trunk in South Russia. Great grandfather moved to South Russia much later than most Mennonites; some say at age 17. This suggests it might have been about 1840-60. He lived on a farm in Rueckenau.

Peter married KATHERIENA ENNS, who was born approximately 1831 and was the daughter of ABRAM ENNS who died in Rueckenau in 1854-55. Mrs. Enns, born about 1809, then married a Barkmann, died in Rueckenau 1860-61. Great grandmother Katheriena had a sister 18 years younger called Justina (born 1849, later Mrs. Johann Guenther) who came to live with the Peter Neufelds who were then recently married and had just purchased a farm. During those years they worked extremely hard to make ends meet. (Maria Klassen of Winnipeg---a daughter of Justina---now 81, possesses considerable information on that branch of Ennses). The Guenthers had 10 children. Four died in infancy (Daniel and three Justinas) and the others were: Aganeta who died Apr. 1902 at age 20; Abraham, died Sept. 1902 at 27, married but without children; Johann, oldest son, died 1929; Peter, died 1933 at 45; Elizabeth (Mrs. Hildebrandt), died May, 1947 at 57; Maria (Mrs. Klassen), the youngest. Johann Guenther Sr. died 1929 at 75 and his wife Justina died 1931 at 81.

The Peter Neufelds had 11 children: 1. Peter, who never married, the oldest. 2. KORNELIUS (my grandfather), born Oct. 18, 1874 in Rueckenau, the youngest. In approximate order of age following Peter they were: 3. Elizabeth (Lyske), who didn't marry until about 50, married Hermann Dyck and upon his death married again, died by falling off a roof with foul play sus-