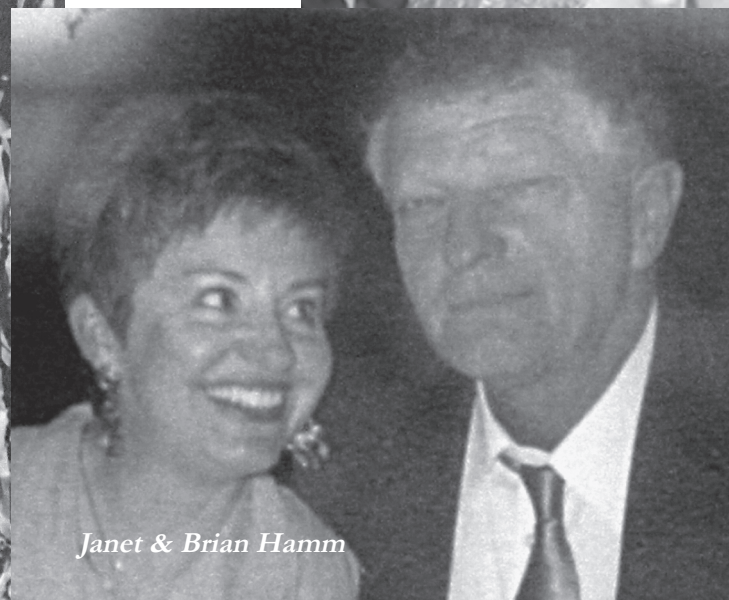


A picture is worth ...



Brian in the corn



Janet & Brian Hamm



Moving the H.F. Hamm house, in July 2006.



Helen Klippenstein makes a bid at Peter and Elizabeth Friesen's auction, in May 2006.



Summer 2006

Coming events

July 29

Sunflower Festival bakeover event, 2 to 6 pm
Guided tour & fasma - \$10

June 10 to October 31

Neubergthal Exhibition at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, in Saskatoon, SK.

Come & visit

Tours of Neubergthal, a Mennonite street village, are available upon request.

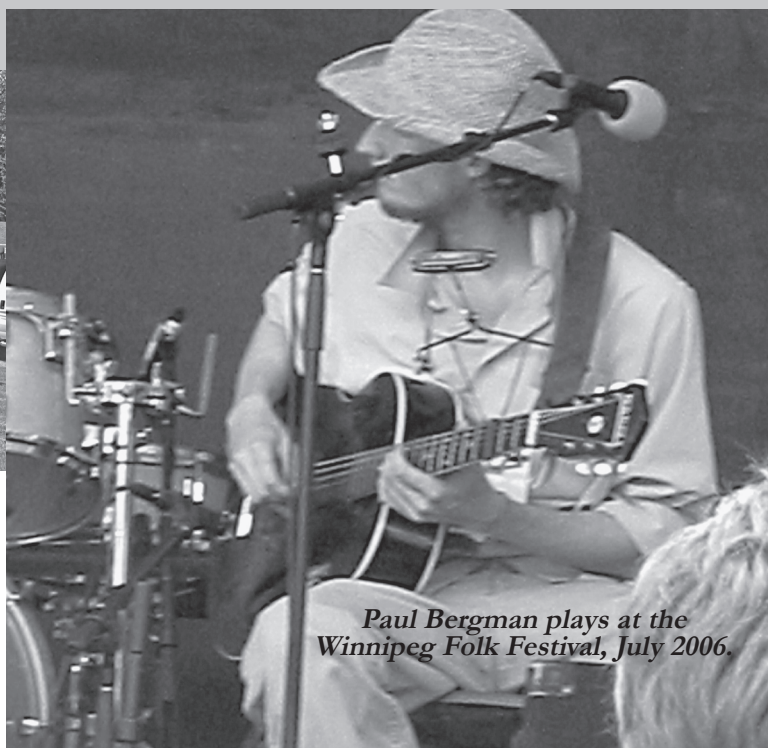
Call ahead to make arrangements

We also take special requests for other types of tours and events. Please call or e-mail us for details on how we can accommodate your group.

Ph. (204) 324 1567 or 324 1612
email: NHFI@mts.net

Neubergthal Heritage Foundation

Norma Giesbrecht
Ken Hamm
Frieda Klippenstein
Karen Martens
Peter Klippenstein (treasurer)
Jennifer Giesbrecht (secretary)
Teresa Hamm (vice chair)
Margruite Krahn (chair)



Paul Bergman plays at the Winnipeg Folk Festival, July 2006.

Neubergthal

Notes



The Neubergthal Store, in 1972.

Long into the night

By John Klippenstein

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Klippenstein founded the yard where the P.W. Hamms lived. They moved to Mexico. There were six children in the family, three with brown eyes and three with blue eyes. Three children stayed in Canada and three moved to Mexico. Three are buried in Canada and three in Mexico. One of the children was my father, John W. Klippenstein. He married Henrietta Kehler. My father was born on Feb. 28, my daughter was born on Feb. 28 and my grandson was born on Feb. 28.

I was born in 1928, the same year that my Dad started the Neubergthal store. First he was a travelling salesman, equipped with a Model T Ford, he peddled groceries until he could purchase one acre of land from his Uncle Peter Klippenstein. The store was put on the northeast corner of the lot. It was a general store selling everything from sewing needles, thread, buttons, pitchforks, stove pipes, snow shovels, etc. He would take eggs in trade. He also sold car gas, oil, and kerosene for lamps. It was a good meeting place. All the mail was picked up in Altona by whoever went to town. It was sorted out and put in individual mail boxes. Going to the store for the mail was a good excuse to sit around on those wooden drink cases that were positioned all around the store, gossiping, sharing local news like a new litter of pigs, a newborn calf, how many eggs the chickens laid per day, who is pregnant, and so on. It was also a place where men came to play cards till late into the night, which was not with the approval of the wives at home.

Cars came to the store to fill up with gas. The gas bowser had a glass top that had to be hand pumped full with five gallons of gas at a time, then filled into the cars by gravity flow.

Almost every family in the village had a car, sometimes there was a line of cars parked in front on the store. Peter Kehler with his Graham Paige, Peter P. Hamm with a Model A Ford, Peter W. Hamm with a Model A Ford, Andrew or Henry Sawatzky with a Willys Knight. Some came on horse back or buggy, tying the horses to the hitching post. This consisted of three posts and a metal pipe connecting them. This made room for four horses.

The store hours were long into the night. The house was about 75 yards from the store. At this time we were four boys in the family, Ernest, Martin, myself, John (Hans), and Victor, ages 8, 6, 4, and 2 years old. One late winter evening Mom went to the store to watch Dad clean up from a long day's work. We were sleeping in the house and I clearly remember Martin, half awake, saying in Low German, "Vout es dout hea so rukrijch?" (How come it is so smoky?) At this Ernie, the oldest, jumped up and grabbed Victor, the 2 year old, by the arm and dragged him through the doorway that was halfway engulfed in flames. Martin and I jumped full speed through the door and headed out. Ernest dropped Victor on a snowbank and the three of us ran barefoot to the store screaming, "FIRE, FIRE, the house is on fire." So Dad and some others came with shovels, shoveling snow on the fire until it was out. What we learned from that is that



The five Klippenstein boys and their cousin Eva Kehler. (l-r) Eva, Victor, John, Martin, and Ernie, holding Rex.

you don't hang overalls close to a wood stove that has spitting wood in it.

Shortly after this, Dad purchased another half acre of land from Peter P. Klippenstein on the south side of our property. The store was then moved onto that lot by Uncle John Kehler with Grandpa Kehler's Fordson tractor, rolling it on fence posts. Some others that helped were John A. Hamm, Jacob S. Friesen and more. It was moved complete with the leanto, which was a chicken barn in the back, and of course the hitching posts. Later a stock room was added to the south side of the store.

Chickens would lay eggs under

the store and I was small enough to crawl under the store to gather them. Later I would trade them for some candy and drinks. Soon we were big enough to hang around the store at night. There was no hydro, no TV, not even a radio. My Dad made a crystal set with earphones. We would be outside the store in the dark, sneaking around and riding the card player's bikes or sitting in someone's car, but we found out quickly that was a no no.

Kids have to have to have something to do, so we would make a camp fire not too far from the store and treat ourselves to candy and soft drinks from the store.

Sunday the store was closed so we would tease the girls or go to the "crossing" (the corner of village street and 421) to "Acke Kleppshteens" where Willy Klippenstein was confined to his wagon. Many evenings we would walk along the village street singing, "We'll be coming

'round the mountain", "Come to the Church in the Wildwood", "John Brown's Body", "Beautiful, Beautiful Brown Eyes", "Good Night Irene", and others. Sometimes we would ride on horseback or go swimming in the dugouts. Many evenings we would all turn into 'peeping toms' (fensta beloure). Sometimes we would find us a good watermelon or even a smoked sausage out of a smokehouse (reeacha coma).

The store was open from 1928 – 1973 when my dad, John W. Klippenstein passed away, but the happy memories go on. Memories go ON and ON, so that was "THE NEUBERGTHAL STORE".

NHF update

From June 9th to October 31 the Neubergthal "Village Life" exhibit & the art of Margruite Krahn, along with an exhibit by the Osler-Hague (Sask.) communities is showing at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. The exhibit features paintings, artifacts, as well as photographs by P.G. Hamm. A group of Neubergthaler's made the trip out for the opening night as well as a field trip to to The Station Arts Centre in Rosthern.



The entrance to the exhibit in Saskatoon.

Thank you to Larry & Theresa Hamm & the girls, John & Norma Giesbrecht, Karen Martens, Susan Wiens, Sara & Rebekah Krahn, my mother Loraine Hiebert, and former residents Tim & Michelle Martens for help and support.

by Margruite Krahn

Watch for the **new yard signs** being installed, and check out the **new kiosk sign** at the Community Centre.

In memory of Brian Hamm

Brian Hamm, 63 years, of Neubergthal, passed away peacefully on July 6, 2006, in Altona. Brian was born in Altona on August 19, 1942. He attended school there until grade 9, then helped his dad on the farm and running the dairy. On June 16, 1968 he married Janet Wiebe of Plum Coulee; they just celebrated their 38th anniversary. In May 1970 they adopted Brent, and Jason in February 1973.

Brian lived all his life, like his Dad before him, on the same yard. He loved to farm and was able until he became ill. The last year was difficult, with many health problems, which became more difficult towards the end. Brian enjoyed spending time with his family. Over winters during the past years Brian and Janet travelled to Mexico, Phoenix, Florida, & Barbados; they also often weekendend in Grand Forks, and summered in Detroit Lakes. Brian's other favourite past time was going for

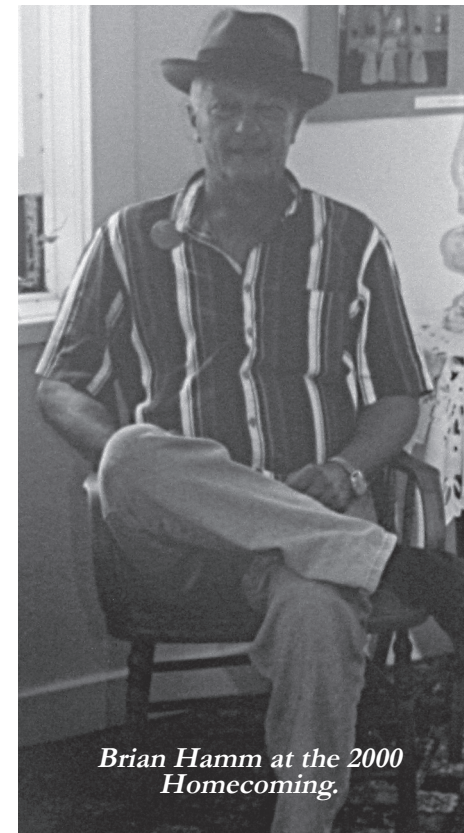
coffee to meet friends and discuss farming.

The funeral was held on Monday, June 10 at 2 pm in the Altona EMM Church. Interment followed in the Ne u b e r g t h a l C e m e t e r y . Donations may be made to the Canadian Food Grains bank in Brian's memory.

Brian's family thanks friends & family for their prayers, which brought Brian to find peace in the Lord, and so it was that he could accept his fate with dignity & courage.

He is survived by his wife Janet (Wiebe); sons Brent (Carla) & Jason; 4 grandchildren, Tanner, Madison, Kemper, Trey; sister Phyllis (Glenn) Friesen;

one aunt Maggie Friesen; mother and father-in-law Henry B. & Anne Wiebe; 3 brothers-in-law, 5 nieces and one nephew. He is predeceased by his parents Henry F. and Helen Hamm.



Brian Hamm at the 2000 Homecoming.

Comings and goings

In April 8 **John Wall & Helen Unruh** were married in Winkler. They live in the village, on the Northwest end between the Klippensteins & the Abrams.

On June 29, **Cody Friesen** (Glen & Sharon) & **Tim Isaac** (John & Joanne) graduated from W.C. Miller Collegiate.

On July 6 **Brian Hamm** passed away (see accompanying article and photographs).

Correction

Elma Kruger, formerly of Neubergthal, residing at Boundary Trails Rehabilitation Centre, passed away at 89 years, March 25. **She is predeceased by her husband, Peter Kruger, and survived by son Bob and his family.**