

*Reference

Arnold Hueske
Clarence Hueske
Fred Hueske
Ken Hueske



RICHARDTON HERITAGE

A HISTORY OF RICHARDTON, NORTH DAKOTA



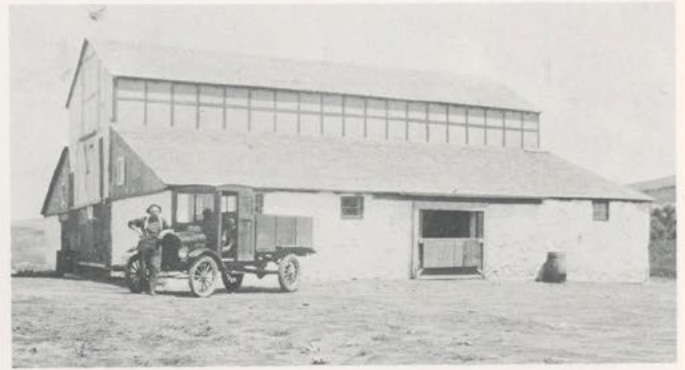
RICHARDTON HERITAGE

A HISTORY OF RICHARDTON, NORTH DAKOTA

Published for the Richardton Centennial celebration which was held on July 8-10, 1983, commemorating the 100th birthday of the city. Contests were held to select a logo and a name for this publication. Mrs. Dale Hauck designed the winning logo above, and Mrs. Paul Aman submitted the name of the book.

The cost of this book was paid for by individual purchases, contributions of advertisers and special donations.

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Area settlers worked hard on their homesteads and farming was a good business in the early 1900s. Above left is the large stone house on the Aquilinus Gress farm that was reminiscent of the large farm houses the Germans built when they settled in Russia. At right is Nick Schuld on his farm south of Richardton with his brand new 1923 Ford truck, purchased at Joseph Kilzer Ford in Richardton. Note the large, sturdy stone barn in the rear.

of the ad appearing in German newspapers attempting to entice settlers to Richardton:

"Richardton in Dakota Territory has land available. A family will need about \$750 (3,000 Reichmarck) to get started on a homestead; this would cover a dwelling, and a stable and the purchase of a team and a cow, some implements and seed for potatoes and vegetables for the first year. One hundred sixty acres can be taken with an additional amount under the Timber Culture Act. The town is attractive with its olive green painted homes and red rooftops."

SECOND GROUP OF GERMANS ARRIVE

During the late 1880s and throughout the next twenty years or so, the other two groups of German immigrants settled in the Richardton vicinity. Those were the German-Russians and the German-Hungarians. In the late 1700s and during the early 1800s thousands of German farmers accepted the invitations extended by Russia and by the Empire of Austria-Hungary to settle and farm in their nations. About 100 years later those farmers found their way to the United States, again accepting large expanses of free farmland. In every instance, those settlers succeeded in turning those lands into some of the most productive farms in the world.

These two distinctly different groups of Germans came to Richardton. The

majority settling here were Roman Catholic, and the largest group were the Germans from Russia. The German-Hungarian settlement was mainly south of Richardton, while their counterparts from Russia settled throughout the area. This latter group were principally farmers, while the German-Hungarians, in many cases, joined some of the original German settlers in various business ventures in the community. This characteristic might be attributed to the two women rulers who had extended the original invitations to these German farmers, Catherine the Great of Russia and Maria Theresa of Austria-Hungary. Catherine encouraged her fellow Germans (she was a German princess initially) to specialize in farming, while history shows that the Hapsburg Empress Maria Theresa asked her German colonists to acquire trades and learn the business world in her nation. Farmland was not as readily available in that nation as it was in the vast steppes of South Russia.

CHURCHES START EARLY

The original Richardton Church had been the Richard Company's little pre-fabricated 24 foot by 40 foot wood frame structure to be used by all faiths in the town. However, by 1890 Catholics so predominated in Richardton that the city founders donated the building to them. The few Lutherans made use of homes until their church eventually got built.

There was no resident priest nor minister

in Richardton for the first few years, but a young Catholic missionary had taken an interest in the German immigrants and their spiritual needs. Father Vincent Wehrle, OSB, a Swiss Benedictine who later founded St. Mary's Abbey, made his first visit to the town in 1893 and seemed to think that this area would be best for his new monastery, which he had originally founded as St. Gall's Priory at Devils Lake, ND. But that story comes later. Likewise the Protestant clergymen in the early years were the missionary types, providing "traveling" services to their scattered followers.

As the settlers continued to come, so did business. August Koesel, son of a German family which had settled near Hebron in 1882, started Koesel's Store in 1894, a landmark business that exists today as Richardton's only grocery store, purchased in part from relatives of the Koesel's in the 1970s. The Koesel family is still involved in community affairs and local businesses.

Although the C.B. Richard Company had provided a small building for a school in 1883, the local Catholics founded their own parish school in 1897 and the Richard building became the public school. One of the earliest organizations in the community was founded in 1896 when the Catholic women formed St. Ann's Altar Society. That group affiliated themselves with the Christian Mothers Society in 1913 and today those Christian Mothers are



Lee and Frances (Derzaph) Senn

After living a few years in Texas they decided to return to Rochus' home town of Richardton. Here they bought the Dickbener farm five and one-half miles south of Richardton.

They had four children: Ann (Mrs. Gerald Kopp) died in 1978 and Gerald died in 1980 in California.

Leo married Barbara Messer and lives in Richardton.

Erwin married Mildred Magelky and they live on the home farm.

Leona married Bob Lucy and lives in Las Vegas, NV.

Rochus died in 1933, leaving Frances with four small children. She remarried Lee Senn in 1935 and continued to farm until 1947 when they retired in Richardton. They had one child Diana, who married Hal Thieben and lives in Las Vegas, NV.

There are 14 Hoff grandchildren, four Senn grandchildren, and 37 great-grandchildren.

Francis Hoffmeyer

Francis Hoffmeyer was born on May 2, 1919, at Tower City, ND, to Frank and Margaret Hoffmeyer, who still reside at Valley City. Francis, better known as Sonny, attended schools at Tower City. After farming for a few years Sonny decided to work on road construction. He was employed for Schultz and Lindsey Construction is an operating



Shirley (Schatz), Dean and Francis (Sonny) Hoffmeyer

foreman, building most of the interstate hiways across the state of North Dakota. The I-94 project in 1963 brought him to the Richardton area.

He married Shirley Schatz, daughter of Pauline and Emanuel Schatz on March 23, 1965, in Beeville, TX. Shirley was born in Richardton on June 14, 1943, and lived on a farm south of town until she moved with her mother to a farm south of Elgin in 1957. Shirley attended school in Elgin, then helped manage the Schatz Recreation until 1964 when she moved to Bismarck.

After their marriage Sonny and Shirley lived in Bismarck until 1966 when they purchased the Henry Olson property in Richardton. Two sons were born to them, Dean, on July 13, 1966, and Daryl, on August 18, 1972 (deceased on August 21, 1972).

Sonny worked on construction in various Southern states, doing a good deal of traveling, always returning to Richardton to spend the winter here. Sonny retired from the construction business in 1981. Now he still does hobby woodworking and grows bedding plants in his green house.

Shirley started selling Avon door to door in 1974 and still enjoys doing so.

Dean is a student at Richardton High School and is employed part-time at Sanders Chevrolet.

Sonny has the following children from a previous marriage: Linda, Billings, MT;

Phillip, Lubbock, TX; Barry, Littleton, CO; Morris, Westminster, CO; Mark, Denver, CO; twins Pamela, Colorado Springs, CO, and Paula, Houston, TX; and Laurel, Colorado Springs, CO.

Sonny and Shirley purchased their present home from Harvey and Pauline Pechtl.

Arnold Hueske

Arnold Hueske, son of Fred and Reake Hueske, and Rose Forster, daughter of Nick and Johanna Forster, were married in 1948.

Arnold served in the U.S. Army in 1944-1945 as an M.P. in the maintenance Division in California. He also was a school board member in the Germania School District. Before marriage Rose taught school in Pleasant Valley School District at Stanton, ND, and also a year in the Germania School District.

After marriage they purchased the homestead of his father where they are living at the present time.

Arnold and Rose have five children. Kenneth, a farmer/rancher north of Richardton, married Kathleen Messer, daughter of John and Katie Messer. They have four children: Jeff, Lisa, Donna and Dustin.

Sharon, owner/operator of a beauty shop in Staplehurst, NE, married Bill Benedict, of Omaha, NE, and they have two sons, Shaun and Jeremy.



An official portrait of the Richardton city "Fathers" ... OOPS!, "Fathers and Mothers." Back, l-r: Leo Krenzel, George Sanders, Mayor John Schulz, C.J. Renner. Front, Auditor Peter P. Hecker and Dolores (Mischel) Amann. Mrs. Amann is the fourth generation of her family to serve on the governing board of Richardton. She is also the first woman elected to a seat on the commission since its inception in 1906.

Jane, a kindergarten teacher in the Taylor-Richardton School District, married Ed Thompson of Cavalier, ND, and they have three daughters: Brenda, Connie and Dawn.

Bruce, a 1976 graduate, passed away in December, 1980.

Darla, a freshman at Moorhead State University, is studying art and business.

Clarence Hueske

Clarence Hueske, son of Fred Hueske, was born in 1915 in Dunn County, ND. He married Catherine Bogers of Halliday in 1947. They are living on the homestead of his uncle Fred Zaske north of Richardton.

They have three sons: Lenny, Larry and David. The boys all graduated from Richardton High School.

Lenny lives in Richardton and works for Hoff Machine and Weld. Larry and David both work and live in Dickinson.

Henry Pathmann
Dealer in Grain and
Farm Machinery

Richardton, - N. D.

(From 1914 Stark County Atlas)

Fred Hueske

At age nine Fred Hueske came with his parents Carl and Gusta Hueske and his sisters Bertha, Minnie, Emma and his brothers Carl and August from West Germany to Renville County, MN. When he was twelve he was hired out as a farm hand, working for several farmers in the Renville community for \$.75 a day. In 1905 his family came to Richardton and stayed on a farm where Tony Sattler now lives. In the spring they moved to Dunn Center. Fred filed on a homestead 14 miles north of Richardton in Dunn County. He farmed with a walking plow and a team of horses to break the sod and seeded by scattering the seeds by hand. In 1910 he married Freidreka (Reake) Heineman. They both worked hard to get ahead. They built a barn, enlarged the shack into a home and increased the livestock and bought more land. He also did custom well drilling.

When the drought and Depression came in the 1930s, Fred lost his farm. They moved to the former Frank Kelly farm, which was about two miles away, and lived there for four years. He rented his former farm again for several years and then bought it back. They raised sheep and pigs, and milked cows and raised poultry.

Fred was one of those who helped build St. John's Lutheran Church at Richardton. He served in various capacities within the church. He also

served as secretary and treasurer of Germania School District, and as a school board member.

Their family consisted of five children.

Ruth (born 1911) married Clinton Perhus, a farmer-rancher who lived 20 miles north of Taylor on the Knife River. Their children are Beverly, married to Clarence Elkin of Bowman; Dorothy, married to Jim Morris, Billings, MT; Jim, married to Linda Anderson. Jim and Linda live on the home place.

Ervin (1913-1974) lived on a farm south of Dunn Center.

Clarence (born 1915) married Catherine Bogers. They live on the former Fred Zaske farm. They have three boys: Leonard, Larry and David.

Florence, born January 12, 1918, died a tragic death at 18 months of age when she pulled the plug of the washing machine full of boiling water upon herself.

Arnold (born 1924) served in the U.S. Army Infantry in 1944-1945 as a MP in California. In 1948 Arnold married Rose Forster. They have five children: Kenneth married to Kathy Messer, Sharon married to Bill Benedict, Jane married to Ed Thompson, Bruce (deceased 1980), and Darla, a student at Moorhead State University. Arnold and Rose live on the old homestead north of Richardton.



Ken and Kathy (Messer) Hueske Family. Back, Kathy and Ken. Seated, l-r: Lisa, Donna, Dustin and Jeff.



Another "relic from the past" . . . John A. Gress' 1947 Ford coupe, his "courtin' car" parked in front of the Aquilinus Gress farm home.

Mrs. Hueske passed away January 18, 1952, and Fred Hueske passed away March 30, 1976, at age 93.

Ken Hueske

Kenneth Hueske was born on December 23, 1948. He was the first of five children born to Arnold and Rose (Forster) Hueske of Richardton. He graduated from Richardton High School in 1967. While he was in school Ken was active in sports.

Kathleen Messer was born on April 4, 1949, the thirteenth of 14 children born to John A. and Catherine (Greff) Messer of Richardton. She also graduated from Richardton High School in 1967. During most of her high school years she worked at Johnny's Appliances or the Ranger Cafe.

Ken and Kathy were married on October 25, 1967. The first year of marriage they lived in a trailer house on his parents farm, after which they rented a house in Richardton. In 1969 they bought the Gion house and lived in it until 1971. During the time they lived in town Ken worked at Richardton Machine and Manufacturing and Kathy worked at the Ranger Cafe and Richardton Community Hospital part time.

In November of 1971 Ken and Kathy bought the John and Frances Haag farm north of Richardton. On this farm today they raise hogs, cattle and grain.

The Hueskes have four children. Jeff is 15 and Lisa is 14 and they are attending

Richardton High School. Donna—10, attends Taylor Grade School. Dustin is one and one-half years old.

Ken has been a director on the Richardton School Board for several years. Kathy is a member of several organizations in the area. The family enjoys farming and living in this community.

Robert Hunke

The story of the Hunke family in America began in April 1883 when Robert, his parents Heinrich and Elizabeth, his brother Max and sister Anna emigrated from Berlin, Germany.

Heinrich and his family homesteaded south of Richardton on land that is now part of the Loyd Rummel farm. The Hunke family remained on this homestead until the death of Heinrich in 1890.

In the same year as his father's death Robert Hunke became a citizen of the United States. In the ensuing seven or eight years Robert was employed in a variety of occupations, among them was a job under C.B. Richard, after whom the city of Richardton was named. Mr. Hunke was also a manager of the Richardton Land Improvement Company. Following this employment, he secured a homestead for himself, a quarter of land southwest of town on which Bernard now lives.

On November 22, 1899, Robert was

married to Anna Kuhn. She had been employed as housekeeper for the late Bishop Vincent Wehrle. Mr. and Mrs. Hunke became the parents of eight children, five of whom are still alive: Henry, Genevieve (Mrs. Ted Maas), and Bertha of Richardton, Ben of Taylor and Ann (Mrs. Fred Corkery) of Dickinson. Two children did not live beyond infancy and Alice died in 1939.

In 1912 Robert was appointed Postmaster of Richardton. In order to fulfill this appointment, he rented the farm out and bought a home in town. While in town he was active in community affairs, being a member of the Home Guard and an organizer and director of the Farmers State Bank for many years. He resigned as Postmaster in 1918 and moved back to the farm.

Being the farm was in the Taylor School District the children attended school there.

In 1937 they moved back to Richardton due to the poor health of both parents. Shortly after this move Mother Hunke passed away in November of 1937. Robert Hunke died in 1955.

Bertha Hunke

Bertha is a graduate of Taylor High School and the Christie Beauty School of Bismarck.

After being employed in Beauty Shops in Bismarck and Dickinson, her sister Ann and she opened the A & B Beauty Shop in Richardton in September, 1937,