

Prepare for Centennial in 1974

By William E. Juhnke

MOUNDRIDGE, KAN.—Representatives of eight Mennonite churches in the central Kansas area have begun plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of their forbears on American soil.

These churches, founded by a Swiss-German immigrant group, are Hopefield, First Church of Christian, and Eden, all of Moundridge; First Mennonite of Pretty Prairie, Zion and Bethany of King-

man, First Mennonite of Burns, and the First Mennonite of McPherson.

At a meeting in the Pretty Prairie Church on Sunday afternoon, July 16, various committees were named to get the plans rolling. They are Memorial Marker, Immigrant House Replica, Fine Arts, Recipes, Cultural and Practical Arts, Clothing and Costumes, Wheat, Fund Raising, Tours of Historical Sites, and Publication and Publicity.

THE GROUP AGREED to invite the participation of other interested people. They also decided to erect a memorial marker on the site of the immigrant house near the Hopefield Church, four miles west of Moundridge. They are working together with other Swiss-German Mennonites, especially those from the Freeman and Marion areas of South Dakota. Reuben Goertz, a member of the Salem-Zion Church near Freeman, was present at the meeting.

The forbears of these Mennonites were swept out of Switzerland between 1671 and 1791, some fleeing to the Palatinate and others to Montbeliard, France, where they lived for 100 years. Some of the dissenters to state religion come directly to Pennsylvania, but these Swiss-Germans found their way to Polish Austria and Russia where they stayed for another century. After Russian privileges were withdrawn, they became a part of the trek to America in 1874.

ANDREAS SCHRAG was the Swiss-German member of a 12-delegate group which explored an American refuge from Russian nationalism and militarism. This survey covered the months from April to September 1873. On May 23, 1874, Schrag brought the first group of 11 families, arriving at Yankton, S.D.

A second group of Swiss-Germans arrived in the Freeman-Marion area in September 1874. Some members of this group left South Dakota and together with others from central Kansas helped form the First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie 86 years ago. This church now has 601 members.

The third group of these Swiss-Germans came to Kansas in October 1874. It was composed of 73 families, with 14 of the families going to South Dakota. This group was led by Rev. Jacob Stucky and Rev. Jacob D. Goering. It is the descendants of this group who are spearheading plans for the centennial observance in Kansas.

THESE EARLY immigrants lived in an immigrant house furnished by the Santa Fe Railroad, located about four miles west of what is now Moundridge. Soon afterward there was a post office at Lake View, about one mile further west. The pioneer village of Christian was abandoned in favor of Moundridge 12 years later, the latter being one mile north of the newly constructed Missouri Pacific Railroad.

The next meeting of the Swiss-German Centennial Committee is planned for 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Eden Church near Moundridge. Dr. Harley J. Stucky of North Newton and Edwin R. Stucky of Moundridge head the planning group.

SWISS MENNONITE
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Twenty-six people representing the eight Swiss Mennonite churches met at the Kingman Mennonite Church on September 16, 1973 at 2:30 p.m. The opening prayer was led by Rev. Funk of the Kingman Church. The minutes were read and approved. Harley J. Stucky, chairman, gave a progress report of the Centennial activities.

Considerable discussion was given to fund raising and it was agreed that donors should be recognized and special recognition should be given by designated categories. The chairman urged that donors be encouraged to give through their respective church treasuries and then have it channeled to the Centennial treasury. This is for both records and income tax purposes.

Treasurer's Report: Walt Goering, treasurer reported \$2522.05 receipts, \$930.59 disbursements, and \$1591.46 on hand. Report was accepted.

The Centennial Marker was discussed. Peter J.P. Schrag moved that we continue with the marker until completed and that it be given high priority including globe, cross, and plaques. This motion was seconded by Melvin Stucky and passed.

Fine arts activities were next on the agenda. Some suggestions were as follows:

- 1) Early Spring activities involving the children
- 2) Literary contest etc.
- 3) Special Sunday school devoted to Centennial activities on June 1
- 4) Swiss dialect play and the production Von Russland Auf Amerika to be given next Spring
- 5) Combine church choirs to give concerts on Thanksgiving Day at Moundridge and Pretty Prairie.

Mrs. Kaufman reported 300 recipes collected and fine progress made with the recipe book.

Wheat Committee: this committee is in the process of planting turkey wheat. There is considerable activity in the planning stages--threshing bee, walking plow, and team pulling contest next falls, parades, etc.

Publicity: Bill Juhnke is gathering material and publishing some excellent historical articles on Mennonite history in the Moundridge Journal.

Menno Kaufman moved that the Executive Committee be authorized to proceed with program planning. Seconded by Waldo Preheim and passed.

Pete Kaufman moved that the Executive Committee secure insurance on the construction employees working on the Marker. Seconded by Melvin Stucky, passed.

Phil Goering moved that we meet again on November 4, 1973 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hopefield Mennonite Church.

Adjourned.

Ed R. Stucky, Secretary

SWISS MENNONITE
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 4, 1973

Eighteen people representing the Burns, Hopefield, McPherson, Eden, and Pretty Prairie Mennonite churches met at the Hopefield Mennonite Church on Sunday, November 4, 1973 at 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Andrew Shelly of the Hopefield Mennonite Church led in the opening prayer.

Chairman Harley J. Stucky gave a progress report showing slides of the construction of the Centennial Marker and other Centennial activities.

The treasurer's report was presented and discussed with some explanation given concerning the money spent on the marker.

Projects approved thus far are as follows:

- Commemorative Marker
- Publications
- Wheat activities
- Costume displays
- Practical arts displays
- Fine arts activities--plays, etc.
- Program planning

Considerable discussion was given to fund raising. It was suggested that solicitation be continued and that some larger donations be sought.

Some consideration was given to the establishment of a host committee. It was also suggested that a foods committee will be needed.

Motion made and carried that the following serve as committee members with Harley J. Stucky to draw up the wording for the inscription to be placed on the plaques. Those to serve with Harley J. Stucky on this committee are to be Menno S. Kaufman, Bill Juhnke, Roland Goering, and E.G. Kaufman. The final draft of the inscription is to be reviewed by the Marker Committee, Executive Committee, and finally the Centennial Committee. Moved--Ed R. Stucky, seconded Menno S. Kaufman.

The next meeting is to be on December 9, 1973 at 2:30 p.m. in the Burns Mennonite Church.

Ed R. Stucky, Secretary

The next meeting of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Committee will be held at the First Mennonite Church, Burns, Kansas on December 9, 1973 at 2:00 p.m. Church is located 2 west and 1 north of Burns.

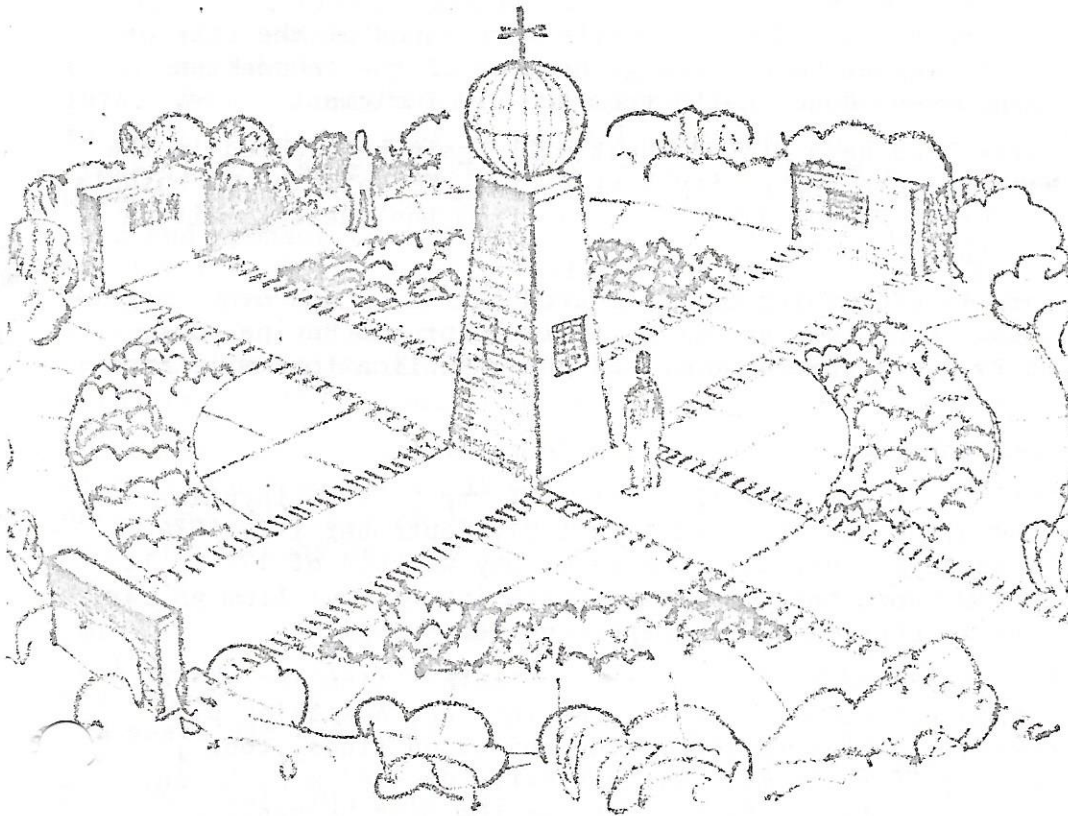
Several items have been suggested for the agenda. These include the following:

- A. Recommendation by the Executive Committee that each committee consider all of the projects which were originally included in the budget as important and to be completed. However, in view of the fact that we have given highest priority to the marker we suggest that each committee seek necessary funds to complete the objectives and projects assigned and undertaken by each committee.
- B. Creation of a Foods Committee. The following names are recommended: Mrs. Marjorie Stucky, Mrs. Evelyn Stucky, Mrs. Jake Graber, Mrs. John W. Goering, and Mrs. Willis Voran. Would you have any additional names to suggest to the committee?
- C. Reports from the various committees including a suggested calendar.
- D. Projects: In addition to the projects which were approved at the time that the budget was adopted the following have been suggested--
 - 1) matter of blacktopping the road from the west mile line to the entranceway of the Centennial Commemorative Marker; 2) What should be done with the remaining silverdale limestone? Should there be a roadside sign either at an Interstate near Moundridge or Elyria or should it be used for a roadside marker west of the present Commemorative Marker along the blacktop? 3) Other projects.
- E. Centennial needs--display racks for articles. Standing bulletin boards or glass cases would be helpful. Also need display rack for family pictures.

Did you know that the stonework on the commemorative marker is complete! To complete the project, however, we need landscaping, walkways, globe and cross, lights and plaques.

August 20, 1973

SWISS MENNONITE CULTURAL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWS



PROGRESS REPORT

Work on the Memorial Marker has begun!

The footings and foundation have been poured. It will take approximately 2 months to build the memorial marker at the present rate of activity.

PROGRESS REPORT continued

Vernon Wedel (Jake Wedel's son) has been secured as a stone mason to put up the memorial marker.

Seventeen tons of Silverdale Limestone for the memorial marker has arrived and is on the ground.

You are invited to drive by and watch the progress or lend a helping hand.

Incidentally, old square nails were found at the site of the Immigrant House during the time of the foundation digging--no doubt nails from the old Immigrant House.

Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat will again be planted in the Kansas State University test plots. KSU ordered 21 bushels of Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat from the Wheat Committee for this purpose.

Work is proceeding on the church histories and other materials. Many have submitted recipes for the Recipe Book. It is hoped that a number of these publications will appear this fall.

CALENDAR SUGGESTIONS: Dates to remember!

The celebration for the coming of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites will be held August 31, September 1-2, 1974. These days constitute the Labor Day weekend of 1974. It is now known that people are planning to come from as far away as Louisiana, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

The suggested activities for the celebration include a parade, an old-fashioned threshing bee, a walking plow contest, demonstrations, pony and wagon rides, tours, contests for the most authentically dressed man, woman, child, family group, contest for the most Mennonitische "beard and moustache", recognition for those who have gone into the ministry, mission work, or MCC service. There will, of course, be plenty of Swiss Volhynian food.

"City of Richmond" docked in New York on August 31, 1884. A commemorative service of this docking will be held on August 31, 1974 in connection with the Centennial activities west of Moundridge.

1974 is the poppyseed Centennial. Prizes will be offered for those who grow the largest poppyseed heads and excel in other categories. Also prizes will be awarded in a folklore writing contest. Contests are open to those between the ages of 6 through 18.

The annual meeting of the Swiss Mennonite Historical and Cultural Association will be held on February 3, 1974 at 2:30 p.m.

A TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES FOR 1973-74 has been prepared. Those interested in the suggested calendar may obtain their copy by writing to the President or other officers of the association.

Sunday school classes are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Swiss Volhynian Mennonite history and with their own family genealogies during the first quarter of 1974. Young people's groups are encouraged to be creative, to write their own play or musical composition, and to stage it for their congregation or groups within it.

Women's organizations are encouraged to bake traditional food and sponsor traditional meals. During the first quarter the Fine Arts Committee will put on the play "Von Russland auf Americka" and the Clothing Committee will sponsor a style revue of authentic costumes. If you are interested in sewing an authentic costume, we suggest you get in touch with Mrs. Luella Loganbill, Moundridge, Ks.

The Centennial Committee needs art and craft materials for display and for sale in 1974. This is a project that everyone, especially our children, teen-agers, and senior citizens should consider seriously.

The Centennial belongs to all of the descendants of the Swiss Volhynian forefathers. It represents our effort--that is all of our efforts collectively--to commemorate and express appreciation for the arrival of our forefathers 100 years ago and for the faith and commitment which motivated them. So won't you join us on this festive occasion? The Centennial will only become exciting as you give yourself enthusiastically and wholeheartedly to some phase of Centennial activity. Therefore the Centennial can be something of a dud or it can be something really great and that something will depend on you and me and everyone else. You can help to make things happen! Did you know that the other day I received a tip about an old trunk which came over from Russia and the family was contacted and has given permission to display it during our celebration. Someone has also given the chairman a tip on original passports.

The \$18,000 budget includes money for memorial marker, replica of the Immigrant House, Centennial publications, wheat and poppyseed centennial activities, drama, music, and a variety of Centennial programs.

A budget of \$18,150 was approved for Centennial activities at the July 16, 1972 meeting at the First Mennonite Church in Pretty Prairie. The committees are now finding that it is difficult to operate within the framework of the budget because it was prepared prior to the inflationary spiral and because it did not include the labor costs on many items.

To raise the necessary Centennial funds, we need 6-10 families who will contribute \$1000-2000 or more; 20-30 who will give \$500-999; a hundred or more families who will give \$100 or more. The Centennial is an opportunity --a rare one that comes around only once in a hundred years--to express our appreciation.

The fund raising committee had suggested that memorials would be accepted in the amount of \$100 or more. Most families, we believe, will want to establish a memorial for their grandparents or great-grandparents who came over on the "City of Richmond".

The Executive Committee in its discussion of giving decided that it would recognize gifts in the following five categories:

Memberships--\$10-49.99

Boosters--\$50-99.99

Centennial Givers--\$100-499.99 (A minimum of a dollar a year for a hundred years.)

Pioneer Givers--\$500-999.99

Founders--\$1,000 and above

We trust that you will give generously to the Centennial activities to commemorate the courage and commitment of our forefathers. It has been said that those who have no past have no future. It is only as we know who we are and know where we came from, that we can appreciate where we are, and where and what we can be in the future.

GIFT AND/OR PLEDGE

☐ Cash \$ _____

☐ Check \$ _____

☐ Pledge \$ _____ per year

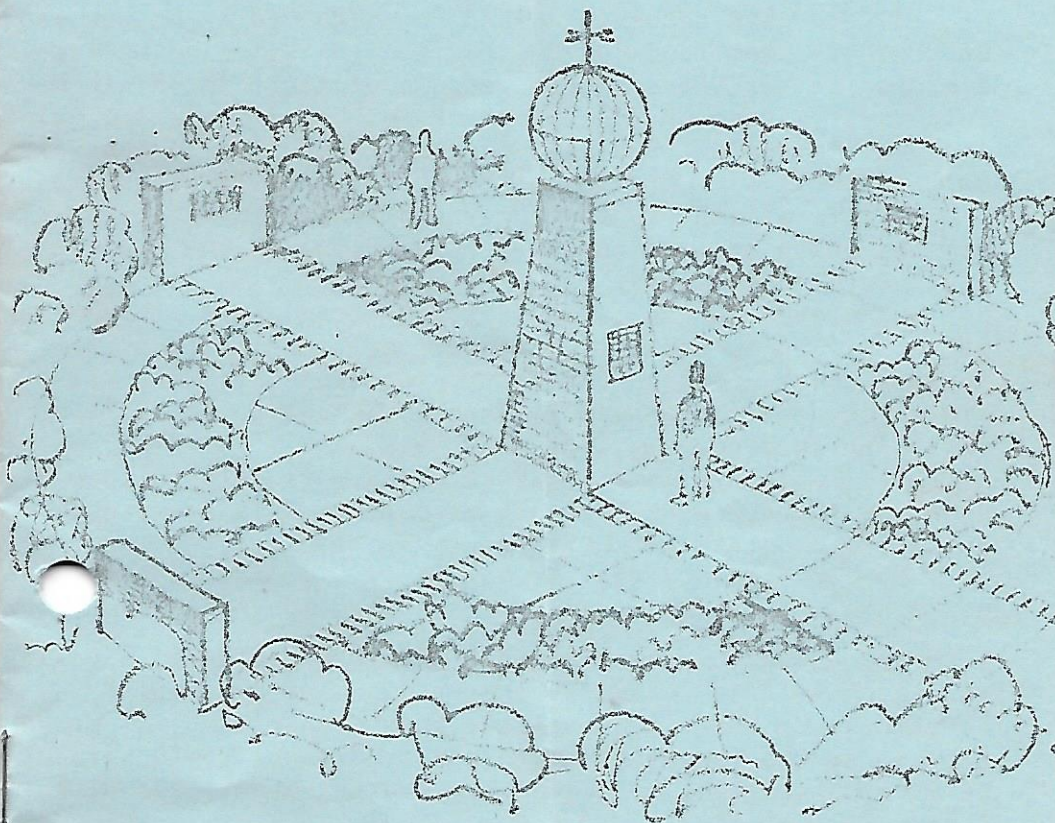
☐ 1973-74, ☐ 1974-75, ☐ 1975-76

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
to the
SWISS MENNONITE CULTURAL & HISTORICAL MEMBERS



The Commemorative Memorial Center located west of Moundridge designates the place where the old Immigrant House stood and notes the center of the community in 1874 and subsequent decades.

SWISS VOLHYNIAN MENNONITE CENTENNIAL 1874 - 1974

1974 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the coming of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites to Kansas.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. WHY A CENTENNIAL? WHY A CELEBRATION?

1. To glorify God, express thanks to Him for His marvelous leading and to recommit and rededicate ourselves to Him as revealed to Jesus Christ, our Lord.
2. To re-examine our lives in the light of Scripture and the faithfulness of our forefathers who settled here.
3. To give recognition and honor to God as He has led our fathers from lands of persecution to this land of freedom, and He has blessed them because of their faith, in manifold ways, giving us a heritage of faith and Christian values.
4. To collect and disseminate information on the spiritual, cultural and material history of the Swiss Mennonites.
5. To attempt to interpret and relate in a meaningful way the faith of our Mennonite forbearers, to the present and future generations.
6. To establish or support scholarships or other means of assistance at accredited educational institutions to further the education of deserving students of Swiss-Volhynian descent who intend to devote themselves to fulltime Christian service.
7. To engage in activities which will help us to understand ourselves, even to laugh at ourselves in drama and thus to appreciate our heritage.
8. To help others, our neighbors and other non-Mennonites, to understand us and our contribution.

With the above purposes in mind, we are engaging in a variety of activities including the erection of a memorial commemorative shaft. We believe that such a memorial growing out of the Mennonite faith and traditions would serve as a visible symbol to Mennonites and non-Mennonites alike. The shaft includes:

- a. The symbol of the cross over the world which is in tune with our history of suffering and persecution, and faith, and befits our present activity of missions, relief and service ("Go ye therefore, and teach all nations....") "In the name of Christ" all over the world.
- b. A circle or world idea which fits in with our concept of brotherhood - of including people rather than shutting them out of God's dominion. The world is also the field of service and Christian activity.

CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES--PROGRESS REPORT
February 3, 1974

I. Early Centennial Planning

1. November 1969--Hopefield Mennonite Church created a Centennial Committee and encouraged the idea of including others on it.
2. March 14, 1970--The enlarged committee organized.
3. March 17, 1971--A letter was sent to all of the churches inviting them to send representatives in an effort to plan for the Centennial.
4. May 16, 1971--The first Centennial Committee meeting which included representatives from the 8 Swiss (Volhynian) Mennonites in central Kansas met on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the Hopefield Mennonite Church.

This group spent many meetings in planning Centennial activities and working out a statement of purpose, and creating a committee structure.

5. July 16, 1972--The Centennial Committee meeting at Pretty Prairie adopted:
 - a) a statement of purpose and objectives
 - b) approved the erection of a commemorative marker as drawn by the architect, Stanley Regier of Wichita
 - c) adopted a budget of \$18,500.

The Centennial Committee cultivated and nurtured the Centennial plans and set an example of interest and organization which has been widely emulated by other groups. The Goessel folks have also been active for some time. The South Dakota Swiss established their committees in the winter of 1972-73. Other groups have also set up their committees in the last year. The Tri-College Centennial Committee was organized in March, 1973.

II. Incorporation

1. February 4, 1973--the Centennial Committee decided to incorporate after much prayerful deliberation.
2. February 14, 1973--the Incorporation papers were filed with bylaws declaring our fiscal

year as running from February 1-January 31. Dale Stucky drafted the articles of incorporation.

3. Recognized by Internal Revenue Service. The following material is a quotation from a letter received from the IRS: "based on the information supplied and assuming your operation will be as stated in your application, for recognition for exemption we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax.... donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code bequests, legacy, devisees, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provision of section 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the code." W.T. Coppinger, District Director.
4. Corporation includes S.D. brethren. "South Dakota Mennonites have joined with Kansas Mennonites by becoming members of the Swiss... Cultural & Historical Association, Inc."--Freeman Courier, January 24, 1974.

III. Conducted an Agro-Cultural Tour from March 26 to April 15, 1973.

IV. June 17, 1973--Field Day sponsored a tour which included the Alta Mill, Warkentin Homestead, and the field of growing Turkey Red Wheat near Newton.

V. June 24, 1973--Transfer of land and site dedication ceremony. The Association received land from the Hopefield Mennonite Church for the purpose of erecting a Commemorative Memorial Center. The Association now has its own home.

VI. August 16, 1973--Ground broken and silverdale limestone received on site, thus the work commenced on the construction of the Commemorative Memorial Center. Vernon Wedel was secured as the stone mason to erect the marker. Work continued on the marker through September and October in spite of the Halstead flood into November.

VII. Publications include: A Centennial Treasury of Recipes, a Study Guide of Swiss Mennonites Who Came to Kansas in 1874 and Martin Schrag's European History of the Mennonites Who Came From Volhynia and the ship lists of the four groups of Volhynian Mennonites are currently at the press.

VIII. Growth in Association membership--from zero to something over 250.

IX. For various activities planned for 1974 see the calendar of events.

NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE:

1. The stone work on the Commemorative Marker is complete. Now we need landscaping, walkways, globe and cross, lights, plaques, gravel and grass, culvert for entry, and stone benches for reflection. We desperately need someone to assume leadership for the above.

2. We desperately need to plan more carefully for visitors August 31, September 1 and 2. The Goessel Centennial Committee is planning for 10,000 visitors during the summer of 1974--how many should we plan for? Is there anything we should do in the Swiss Mennonite community which would help in making the touring sites more attractive?

3. We will need assistance in erecting the tent on August 30 and in taking them down again. Two tents, 40x140' have been reserved--one to serve as a meeting center and the other to serve as a display and possibly food center. We will need display racks and we need all of your assistance in bringing pictures and old artifacts and machinery and quilts and old antiques for this occasion. And we will need considerable help on the part of many couples to assist in the preparation and sale of food during the celebration.

HONOR ROLL

We recognize in submitting this Honor Roll that some individuals whose financial resources are limited have given generously and sacrificially of themselves in thought, time and energy in the promotion of Centennial activities. The following Honor Roll reflects the kind of brochure which has been prepared for this annual meeting and again for the Centennial days, August 31-September 2, 1974. For

MEMBERS:

(\$10.00-49.99)

Mrs. Ida E. Albright, Pretty Prairie
Ernest Becker, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Becker, McPherson
Mrs. Geo W. Duerksen, Wichita
Richard Flickinger, Moundridge
Art J. Goering, Newton
Delbert Goering, Moundridge
Mrs. Elva Goering, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon E. Goering, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Goering, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Goering, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Martin J.P. Goering, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert H. Goering, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Goering, Lindsborg
Agnes Graber, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Al Graber, Pretty Prairie
Art H. Graber, McPherson
C.J. Graber, Moundridge
Mrs. Ed H. Graber, Pretty Prairie
Miss Edna Graber, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Jake C. Graber, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Graber, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. M.C. Graber, Newton
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Grundman, Moundridge
Sharon Harris, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Johnson, Nogales, Arizona
Candace Juhnke, McPherson
James Juhnke, North Newton
Janet Juhnke, McPherson
Ruth Juhnke, McPherson
Wm. Juhnke Jr., Lawrence, Ks.

MEMBERS (Con't):

Mrs. Alice Kaufman, McPherson
Ann E. Kaufman, Kingman
Dr. & Mrs. E.G. Kaufman, North Newton
Howard L. Kaufman, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. W.J. Kaufman, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Krehbiel, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Emil H. Krehbiel, Pretty Prairie
Ernest M. Krehbiel, Moundridge
Harry Krehbiel, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey L. Krehbiel, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Herman J. Krehbiel, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Jake W. Krehbiel, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Merlin R. Krehbiel, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Krehbiel, Hutchinson
Ruth E. Krehbiel, Moundridge
Ted Krehbiel, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Moeller, Overland Park, Ks.
Mrs. Dan H. Schrag, Moundridge
Dwayne D. Schrag, Commerce, Texas
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob J. Schrag, McPherson
Brian Stucky, North Newton
Connie Stucky, Denver, Colorado
Mr. & Mrs. David C. Stucky, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Delmar Stucky, Pretty Prairie
Felix Stucky, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Stucky, Zaire, Africa
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Stucky, Murdock, Ks.
Milton Stucky, Pretty Prairie
Mose Stucky, McPherson
Mrs. N.P. Stucky, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Phil J. Stucky, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Ransom Stucky, Burrton
Rita Joy Stucky, North Newton
Virgil Stucky, McPherson
W. Robert Stucky, McPherson
Elizabeth Unruh, Pretty Prairie
Marion E. Vogts, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Voth, Moundridge
Milo Voth, Moundridge
Wilbur Voth, Moundridge
Arlyn Wedel, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Wedel, Moundridge
Walter Juhnke, Moundridge

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wedel, Moundridge
Antonio W. Wedel, McPherson
Willard Wedel, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Harry White, McPherson
Eldon D. Zerger, McPherson
Mrs. Marjean Zerger, McPherson

BOOSTERS:

(\$50.00-99.99)

Esther Albright, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob E. Albright, Pretty Prairie
Mrs. Walter Foth, Newton
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer H. Goering, Moundridge
Mrs. Joe J. Goering, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin E. Goering, Moundridge
Rev. Roland Goering, Hillsboro
Mr. & Mrs. Jake Graber, Pretty Prairie
Linda Kaufman, Moundridge
Viola Kaufman, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Varden Loganbill, Moundridge
Lorene Schrag, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. David Stucky, Burns
Mr. & Mrs. Dean R. Stucky, Wichita
Mr. & Mrs. Ed R. Stucky, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Stucky, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert E. Stucky, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Jonas L. Stucky, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Willard W. Stucky, Moundridge
Hulda Voran, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Voran, Kingman
Lee M. Krehbiel, Moundridge

CENTENNIAL GIVERS:

(\$100.00-499.99)

Mr. & Mrs. Ben J. Albright, Pretty Prairie
Adolph Goering, Moundridge
Mrs. Chris Goering, Moundridge
Mrs. Ed E. Goering, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Goering, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob L. Goering, Kingman
Mr. & Mrs. Leland R. Goering, Moundridge
Milo B. Goering, Halstead
Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Goering, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore J. Goering, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Goering, Moundridge

CENTENNIAL GIVERS (Con't):

Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Goering, Moundridge
Ida Graber, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. Graber, Pretty Prairie
Carl Juhnke, Hutchinson
Mrs. Meta Juhnke, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. J.J. Kaufman
Wm. F. Juhnke, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Waldo J. Kaufman, Moundridge
H.A. Krehbiel, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Herb J. Krehbiel, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Lichti, Moundridge
Pretty Prairie State Bank
Mr. & Mrs. Herman J. Schrag, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. John O. Schrag, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Schrag, Kingman
Rev. & Mrs. Andrew Shelly, Newton
Chris L. Stucky, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. Henry S. Stucky, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Herb C. Stucky, McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Lavern D. Stucky, Peabody
Lucy Stucky, Pretty Prairie
Mr. & Mrs. Marion J. Stucky, Galva
Marlin R. Vogt, Moundridge
Mr. & Mrs. George Voth, Hutchinson

PIONEER GIVERS:

(\$500.00-999.99)

Mr. & Mrs. Menno S. Kaufman, Newton
Mr. & Mrs. Peter E. Kaufman, McPherson
Stanley Regier, Wichita for architectural services
Peter J.P. Schrag, McPherson
Dale Stucky, Wichita for legal services
Mr. & Mrs. Harley J. Stucky, North Newton
Nathan Stucky, Bloomington, Indiana , for services
rendered

FOUNDERS:

(\$1,000 and above)

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MEMORIALS--The following memorials have been established:

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Juhnke
by Mrs. Dan H. Schrag, Walter Juhnke, Carl Juhnke,
and Wm. Juhnke

In memory of Christian D. and Fannie C. Krehbiel
by Ella Mae (Mrs. J.J.) Kaufman

In memory of Mr. Jacob P. Kaufman
by J.J. Kaufman and Peter E. Kaufman

In memory of Mr. Joseph H. Schrag
by Mrs. Eric Goering

In memory of Mr. Joseph A. Goering
by Mr. Eric Goering

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jake K. Graber
by Walter W. Graber

In memory of Lena B. Stucky
by the Henry S. Stucky Family

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. S.P. Krehbiel
by Esther (Mrs. Walter) Foth and Elma (Mrs. Joe J.)
Goering

In memory of Mr. J.N. Kaufman
by Linda and Viola Kaufman

In memory of Mr. Jonas J. Goering
by Meta (Mrs. Wm. E.) Juhnke

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Graber
by Mr. & Mrs. Peter E. Kaufman

A REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1973

Matthew 28:19,20--"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them...teaching them to observe all things which I have commanded...and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the world."

We are either missionaries or a mission field. Few of us think of ourselves as missionaries and even fewer of us admit that we are basically a mission field. Generally, we contend and comfort ourselves with the thought that we are "Die Stille im Lande". "The Quiet in the Land." Many of us do not want to be in the limelight or share publically our faith and convictions, or resources to enable others to tell the Mennonite story for us! Those, who take this position tend to think of the Centennial activities as folly and the Centennial Marker "Ein Denk Mal Mennonitische dumheit". Some of these same people also speak of the foolishness of a Mennonite Festival in Century II and the folly of a program at the State Fair in Hutchinson this fall.

By contrast with this tradition of silence and quiet retirement we have the model of the evangelical fervor of the early Anabaptists who shared their story with neighbors, friends and critics, from Zurich to the peripheral marshes of the Zuider Zee and from France to the Vistula River Delta in eastern Prussia and Poland. These missionaries were so active in the proclamation of the gospels that 1000's were "converted" and joined the movement. Their infectious plea for a total commitment, a voluntary church membership based on a rational belief and adult baptism, reached thousands and many dared to believe. But they were also practical realists and knew that mere words were empty. So they insisted that one's life should reflect one's words and the two should correspond even in evangelism. In other words one's actions had to correspond with one's verbalization. Faith and life were two co-equal portions of one's sphere.

Because these new ideas threatened the social structure of both the church and state they were persecuted extensively ---the educated leaders, the bold laymen, and those who had

the courage to stand up and be counted were drowned, burned, banished, or silenced. Nearly a century later after its beginning a priest observed that the movement had finally been brushed and that the Anabaptists were now the quiet in the land from whence comes our phrase "Die stille im lande". Undoubtedly many Europeans were happy in the thought that the disturbing commitment of the Anabaptists was no longer around to irritate or embarrass. You know the rest of the story. The Anabaptists were permitted to exist and allowed to continue to farm here and there on the condition that they remain the "quiet in the land". Throughout their European sojourn which includes the sojourn of our own forebears they were restrained from witnessing or carrying on any program of evangelical outreach. So being the "quiet in the land" was not necessarily a virtue but a condition of restraint under which our forefathers lived or were permitted to live.

The time and conditions have changed and we now find ourselves living in a land of freedom which has accepted the principle of separation of church and state and which has extended a large measure of religious freedom to us so that we have been able to carry on a program of missions, relief, and Christian service to the extent of our ability during the past century. We have witnessed on peace and nonresistance and have made a significant impact on the total society through MCC, MDS, and education and other activities.

Today, we might well ask ourselves about the wisdom of following the model forced upon us through centuries of persecution. Can we really be quiet or hide our past heritage and present faith in 1974? Do we want to? Would society label us as being ungrateful?

I say this seriously because 1974 finds us "center stage" on the Kansas scene not because of our own evangelism or our efforts to seek recognition, but simply because we have made it our home and because this marks the century of our coming and of our bringing Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat. So, here we are as Mennonites "center-stage". Shall we recognize our role and recognize that

the spotlight is upon us for we are the actors and we are on stage--all of us! Should we tell our story or should we hide, sneaking away from the floodlights as though we had something to hid. Should we leave the state in order to conform to the tradition of being "the quiet in the land"? For many people this is a real dilemma and some find themselves quite critical of all the Centennial activities, be they at Hillsboro, Goessel, Freeman, S.D., Century II, Hutchinson, or here.

So we have the two models--one that comes out of those early years of enthusiasm and growth and the other from those centuries which we were suppressed and restrained. I would like to lift the model of the early Anabaptists and of the early Christians who tried to fulfill the great commission which Jesus gave...Go ye....teach all nations, baptizing them....teaching them to observe all things which I have commanded....lo, I am with you always" as the model for 1974. This model of evangelical fervor is consistent with true Christianity and with early Anabaptist-Mennonitism. 1974 is a year of unusual opportunities, a year that welcomes our witness in a most striking manner and a year that will help set the tone of the future--for years to come.

The Mennonite Festival in Century II, the activities at the Hutchinson State Fair and the Commemorative Memorial Center are opportunities to witness to the present and future. The Commemorative Marker is "Ein Denk Mal Mennonitische Mission"--"A commemorative object that provides opportunity for reflective thought about the history, contemporary activities, and mission of Mennonites in today's world and in the future." The Commemorative activities of 1974 is more than a 100 year backward look, its an opportunity to review our contemporary activities and to re-evaluate our mission in today's world and in the future. There is a suggestion in the Bible that Jesus was born in the fulness of time and in Ecclesiastes a statement that there is a time to weep, to die, to rejoice, get married, etc., and I would submit that 1974 is a time to give thanks and express appreciation and celebrate. The time is ripe!

The receptivity which we are receiving is almost beyond belief. Newspapers have printed stories about the coming of Mennonites which they would not normally consider as approp-

riate material for their readers. News media is most gracious in presenting news items dealing with the Centennial and coming of the Mennonites. Even the mass media and the Kansas Legislature in passing resolution #1014 declaring 1974 as the Centennial of the Introduction of Turkey Red Hard Winter Wheat and the Governor's declaration designating this year as the Centennial Year.

Doors have been opened to us that may never open again and I think that we should walk through them and witness now while we have the opportunity. The other day a local farmer told me that he attended the meeting of the Kansas Wheat Growers in Manhattan on January 22, 1974. He was pleasantly surprised that Tom Roberts, who is President of the Kansas Wheat Growers Improvement Association presented slides and other materials on the Centennial which included pictures of the Mennonite churches in this area including Alexanderwohl, Bernhard Warkentin statue in Newton, Bernhard Warkentin house, Kansas State Historical Marker at Walton, and the Swiss Mennonite Commemorative Marker and other material. This local farmer was pleasantly surprised to think that non-Mennonites in their meetings would try to bring the Centennial before a primarily non-Mennonite audience of wheat growers. I site this merely to suggest it as evidence that 1974 finds us center stage. We can either play that role or we can try to sneak off the stage and hide. We can either rise up for the occasion and display our faith and our activities or we can hang our heads in shame.

1974 provides us with an opportunity to review our own history and hopefully to rededicate ourselves to God, and to those principles of Christian faith which come through the revelation of Jesus Christ and to re-adapt them to the world in which we live. It provides us with an opportunity to walk into the future with a sense of conviction, a sense of God's presence and with a confidence that He will support us tomorrow and lead us in the days to come even as we believe that He led our fore fathers to come to this land.

H.J.S.

SWISS MENNONITE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Memorial Marker Com.

Menno S. Kaufman
Peter J.P. Schrag
Phil Goering
Marvin Schrag
James L. Stucky
Pete Kaufman
Wm. Voran
Jonathan P. Flickner
Vernon R. Goering

Immigrant House Replica Com.

Melvin Stucky
Milo Goering
Daye C. Stucky
Phil H. Stucky
Dave Goering
Henry S. Stucky
Philip A. Goering

Fine Arts Com.

Mrs. Gladys Goering
James E. Stucky
Mrs. Lorena Goering
Janette Roberts
Mrs. Helen Goering
Mrs. Lois Graber

Recipe Com.

Mrs. Alice Kaufman
Mrs. Ruby Stucky

Cultural & Practical Arts Com.

Herbert E. Stucky
Mrs. Ruby Jantzen
John Voth
David Stucky.
Sam Schrag
Mrs. Ronald Wedel
Mrs. Wilbur Meisenheimer

Family Pictures Com.

Mrs. Art Wedel
Mrs. Waldo Preheim
Mrs. Pete Kaufman
Ernest Sanner

Wheat Com.

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Lyle Stucky
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Eric Goering
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Swiss Community Com.

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Phil Goering
Wm. E. Juhnke
Marvin Schrag
Pete Kaufman
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Historical Sites Com.

Dale Stucky
Jonas L. Stucky
Art Waltner

Promotion Com.

Wm. E. Juhnke
Miss Lucy Stucky

Clothing Com.

Mrs. Luella Loganbill
Mrs. Dorothy Graber
Mrs. Esther Schrag

Foods Com.

Mrs. Sam Stucky
Mrs. John W. Goering
Mrs. Joe C. Graber
Mrs. Reiny Niehage
Mrs. Richard Flickinger
Mrs. Ben Wedel

Executive Com.

Harley J. Stucky, Pres.
Wm. E. Juhnke, V. Pres.
Ed R. Stucky, Sec.
Walter W. Goering, Treas.
P.J. Goering, Exec. Tr.

MINISTERS OF SWISS CHURCHES:

Chapman, Joe--First Mennonite Church, Burns, Kansas
Funk, Peter--Kingman Mennonite Church, Kingman, Kansas
Gingerich, James--First Mennonite of Christian, Moundridge
Neufeld, Walter--Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, Ks.
Porzelius, Ernest--First Mennonite Church, McPherson
Shelly, Andrew--Hopefield Mennonite Church, Moundridge
Voran, Peter--First Mennonite Church, Pretty Prairie

Gerig, Virgil--Salem Zion Mennonite Church, Freeman, S.D.
?Ulrich, Wilfred--Salem Mennonite Church, Freeman, S.D.

February 3, 1974

FIRST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SWISS MENNONITE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Hopefield Mennonite Church, Moundridge, Ks.

Afternoon Business Session - 2:30 p.m.

Organ Prelude Mrs. Wayne Stucky
Hymn - "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" p.519
Scripture Rev. Walter Neufeld, Eden Menn. Church
Prayer. Rev. Peter Funk, Kingman Mennonite Church
Music Schweitzer Ensemble
Welcome Rev. Andrew Shelly, Hopefield Menn. Church
President's Report
Secretary Report - Treasurer's Report
Reports by Committee Chairmen:

Memorial Marker Committee
Recipe Committee
Fine Arts Committee
Program Committee
Cultural and Practical Arts Committee
Wheat Committee
Fund Raising Committee
Tour of Historical Sites Committee
Clothing Committee
Foods Committee
Family Pictures Committee
Swiss Mennonite Community Committee
Immigrant House Replica Committee
Promotion Committee
Executive Committee
Host Committee
Promotion Committee

Report by Nominating Committee and Election
Closing Hymn - "Lead On, O King Eternal". p.399
Closing Prayer and Benediction. Rev. James Gingerich,
First Christian Church

Traditional food and a time for visitation!

TENTATIVE CALENDAR--1974

Feb. 3 - 2:30 p.m.--Annual meeting of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural & Historical Association at Hopefield Mennonite Church. A meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. and a Centennial program will be at 7:00 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church. The program will feature a panel discussion on "The Centennial From My Perspective" and a ladies trio singing the "Emigration Song".

Feb. 10--Play entitled "Von Russland Auf Amerika" to be given at the Pretty Prairie High School Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children.

Feb. 17--*Take tape Recorder - (Schwartz Ensemble)* Play entitled "Von Russland Auf Amerika" to be given at Moundridge High School Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children.

March 10--Western District Centennial Sunday. All congregations to plan and develop their own programs.

March 23 and 30--7:30 p.m.--A chronological style revue of garments wore at time of immigration to U.S. to present time. Sponsored by Committee on Clothing. To be given at Pretty Prairie Grade School on the 23rd and at Moundridge High School Auditorium on the 30th.

April 15-May 6--A 21-day Agro-Cultural Tour led by Dale Stucky will visit Russia, Poland, and historic European Mennonite centers.

June 2--Field Day. Visit to Alta Mill and various plots of Russian and Turkey Red Winter Wheat.

June 16-23?--During this period the Turkey Red Wheat planted on the Hopefield Church ground-- $4\frac{1}{2}$ west and $\frac{1}{2}$ north--will be cut with a binder, shocked and hopefully some of it hauled into storage for safekeeping.

Aug. 30--Evening parade and other activities at Pretty Prairie, perhaps other special activities in Moundridge, Newton, and Halstead vicinity.

Aug. 31--At the site of the Commemorative Memorial Marker activities all day will include a young people's walk from Peabody to Moundridge; parade of horses, buggies, wagons, and saddle club at Moundridge and Pretty Prairie the day before; an old-fashioned threshing bee; "City of Richmond" docking service; traditional meal; walking plow contest; demonstration of old grinder using horsepower; and pony rides, wagon rides, and horse pulling contest.

Sept. 1 (Sunday)--9:30 a.m.--Worship services. All congregations invited to a special worship service. Traditional meal at noon.

2:30 p.m.--A special dedicatory service of the Commemorative Marker.

4:30 p.m.--A style revue will be presented.

5:30 p.m.--Traditional Swiss Volhynian foods offered.

7:30 p.m.--Fine Arts Committee will sponsor some one-act plays.

Sept. 2--Miscellaneous activities, including tours to some of the original farms, Peabody Cemetery, Halstead Bernhard Warkentin Farm, Alta Mill, Mennonite churches of the Swiss Volhynians, Adobe House at Hillsboro, Wheat Palace at Goessel, Alexanderwohl Church, Gnadenau Village, possibly Lindsborg Mill. Activities would probably be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sept. 11-17--Centennial activities at the Hutchinson State Fair including a pageant at the Grandstand at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 11-13--Mennonite Festival at Century II with special programs in evening and on Sunday. The Western District Conference will meet in joint session with other Mennonite conferences on Friday and Saturday.

Thanksgiving, 1974--"The Messiah" given at Pretty Prairie and Eden Church, Moundridge by the Moundridge and Pretty Prairie combined choruses.

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM - 7:00 p.m.
Eden Mennonite Church, Moundridge, Ks.
February 3, 1974

Organ Prelude Mrs. John Schrag
Hymn - "O, God our Help in Ages Past" p.84
 (Verses 1,3,4,6)
 "To God Be the Glory" (Verses 1,3) p.532
Scripture. . Rev. Joe Chapman, First Menn. Church, Burns
 (Isaiah 44:24-28)*
Prayer Rev. Ernest Porzelius
 First Mennonite Church, McPherson
Immigration Song** Ladies Trio, Hillsboro
 (%LeOra Grunau)
Panel Discussion. . . "The Centennial From My Perspective"
 Ed R. Stucky, Moderator
 C.B. Goering representing the senior citizens
 W.W. Graber representing the men
 Mrs. John O. Schrag representing the women
 Mrs. Ronald Stucky (Ruth Ritthaler) representing youth
 Brian Stucky representing youth
Announcements. Harley J. Stucky
Offering. Offertory prayer. . Wm. Juhnke
Hymn - "God of Grace & God of Glory". p.434
Closing Prayer and Benediction

*This passage of scripture was read on August 13, 1874 in the last worship service on the European continent by the Kotosufka Congregation at Hamburg, Germany.

**The ladies trio is from the M.B. church in Hillsboro where Elder Jacob Stucky's Immigration Song was sung to introduce the Centennial activities on January 6, 1974.

May 30, 1974

Dear Pastor:

On behalf of the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association (Moundridge area centennial organization) and the Tri-College Centennial Committee, I wish to notify you of the following tentative plan for another centennial activity which would take place in late August.

There exists the possibility of having a Mid-Kansas Mennonite Centennial Train Ride/Hike which would involve all the communities and individuals in Central Kansas who are descendants of the Mennonite immigrants who came from Russia in 1874-1884. The plan presently calls for the running of the Santa Fe or Amtrak train along the Santa Fe Railroad from Emporia to Hutchinson, and letting off appropriate groups at appropriate stops, such as: Goessel and perhaps Hillsboro off at Peabody, Whitewater and Newton area groups off at Newton, Halstead and Moundridge groups off at Halstead, Burrton at Burrton, Hoffnungsau (Inman-Buhler) and perhaps Pretty Prairie off at Hutchinson.

These groups, after having ridden the train and been let off at their historical stops, would then hike or ride horse & wagon 14-20 miles to the site of their Immigrant House or other historical site where they would perhaps hold a service and camp out overnight. Each community would be responsible for their own activities after leaving the train.

The idea sounds exciting, of course. Since 14-20 miles is quite a way to walk, we foresee that the only ones fit enough to attempt this might be from ages 14-25 or so. This also falls into the age group of people that we are trying to impress the idea of the awareness of the Centennial. Hopefully, these youth will get a better idea of what their forefathers had to go through and what their heritage is, along with having a lot of fun and mixing with other youth from the area. I would like to ask you to write back to me and report the mood of your congregation after having done the following:

- 1) Suggest to me a willing leader of your church's youth who would be responsible for organizing the hikers of your church through me. This person should be 18 or older. Send his/her name and address.
- 2) Suggest to me a willing leader of your community to act as "elder" who would tie together the hiking leaders as the head of a committee. This person could perhaps be a youth sponsor or of college age. Send his/her name and address.
- 3) Announce this trip repeatedly from the pulpit and in the bulletin. I will keep you posted on details as summer progresses.

T There may be problems in carrying out everything planned. For instance, the running of the train is not certain, and to ensure it might take considerable efforts. In the light of this, things are only in the preparation stage and only tentative. Please respond by at least June 20 if possible.

If I have anything left unanswered, please ask or feel free to make suggestions.

Sincerely,

Brian Stucky
Rt. 2
Burrton, Ks. 67020

BS:dhs