

**Celebration
From P. 4**

Provost and noted that he was able to enjoy visiting one of the buildings that Friesen moved in Texas on a holiday there.

Murray, Reeve of the Municipal District of Provost acknowledged Friesen for his achievements and character and also congratulated the Friends of Pete Committee.

Richard and Ruth Holmes were acknowledged for their efforts in helping to organize the occasion. Kelch and Irene Johnstone were the two others on the organizing committee for the last several months. Rich Holmes said that Canadians are too shy about celebrating home-grown achievers "and we need to stop more often and recognize more people like him."

Several businesses, groups and individuals were thanked for their generosity, efforts and time in pulling off the evening.

DVDs of the film Pete: Moving manmade Mountains were available for sale as were Blue's CDs of her singing.

As Kelch was giving further instructions about the buffet of hors d'oeuvres available, champaign corks could be heard being popped and socializing continued into the evening.

The bar was operated as a fundraiser by volunteers from the Provost and District Museum Society.

Displays were set up including the original jack that Friesen made and patented as well as his Opal Award.

People then lined up to greet Friesen or get his autograph where he sat near the front of the stage on another red carpet area.

• SUNDAY MORNING

The next morning at 10:30 a.m. there was a special church service held at St. Norbert's in the Rosenheim district honoring Friesen and his friends and relatives who once lived in that area.

The service was conducted by long time friend and Mennonite Pastor Art Yerex of Strathmore. Lunch prepared by the Rosenheim Historical Society followed. People of all denominations were invited and at the end of the service the church bell was rung.

• FRIDAY MORNING

On Friday morning Friesen was invited to Provost Public School

where he talked to approximately 120 school students about his life and he offered them some advice while he chatted with them during a presentation that included a slide show.

• SATURDAY AFTERNOON

A tour organized by Kelch, down the Blair Road (now Highway 899) brought back memories for many of the Mennonites attending the Pete Premiere. Approximately 35 people joined the caravan led by the Lions handivan bus.

The first stop was the site of the Luxemburg School where nearly all of the Mennonite children attended school in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The quarter section directly east of the school was farmed by one of the Unger families. Right south of

Luxemburg school but on the east side of the road was the farm of John Hamm where Victor Wiebe, a son by a previous marriage, also lived.

The tour continued on one mile farther south to the farm of John Unger on the west side of the road. All that is left of the farmstead are some trees planted by John Unger but descendants of Unger had many fond memories of the place which was later farmed by Abe Loewen. The next stop was the Mennonite Cemetery where there are at least six graves on land that was at the time farmed by the Neudorfs. Four miles south was the Peter Unger farm, now owned by the Klein family. Many descendants of Peter Unger enjoyed seeing this place.

The caravan proceeded north again on 899 to the Dietrich Friesen farm where Pete lived from 1924-34. Located directly south of the road that leads off Highway 899 to St. Norbert's, it was gen-

erally known as the "Blair place" because of the large house. This house was later moved to Provost in the 1950s.

After a visit to Rosenheim school, which Pete Friesen had to attend because of the school boundaries, the entourage visited St. Norbert's Church.

The tour ended in Provost with a visit to the "Blair house" where

Colin Jamieson gave Friesen and his immediate family a tour.

Friesen enjoyed seeing the house. When asked how he felt about visiting the interior of his former home, Friesen said, "It seems smaller than I remember it to be. But then I guess I'm a little larger now!"

(Pictures on P. 19)



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