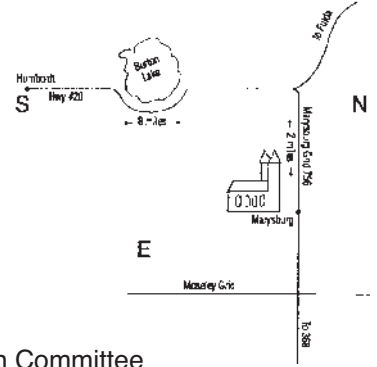




# The Marysburg Town Crier



Vol. 5, October, 2005

Publisher: Assumption Church Restoration Committee

## Labelle master craftsman and philosopher

*Excerpts from Mike Labelle's message to the audience of the Dec. 19, 2004 Christmas concert:*

"I would like to dedicate this moment to all the unsung people who together make up this community's history.

At the end of the day it doesn't really matter who did what. It's the participation of all that counts.

Restoration includes also the simple things of life, as simple as favourite recipes, long-experienced music, stories, games. These are the tools we have to help us carve a future worthy of looking back on.

As we listen to today's fine performance, let us try to remember what brought us to this day.

The construction of a building of such grandeur as this one, is truly a show of community effort and faith. Every brick laid, every stroke of a paint brush intended to bring beauty into our lives, is a work of faith.

Let us do as they did, give in uncalculated measure."

Mike Labelle (owner and CEO of Western Restoration). We know Mike as an artist and superior craftsman. His words reveal him as a philosopher."

A.G. — Editor



Photo: Laura Deibert

Mike Labelle, owner of Western Restoration, Anola, Manitoba, astride the west tower of Assumption Church, Marysburg. The windstorm of April 15, 2005, did considerable damage to the church's roof, towers and façade. Luckily an expert was at hand to make repairs. The rainy sky is typical of the spring and summer of 2005. Hats off to the Humboldt Journal which gave extensive coverage of the restoration work through the late winter and spring of 2005.

Hats off to the Marysburg men, and to the various tradespeople who completed the two new bathrooms at midnight the day of our second summer concert. Our visitors and concert goers are all most appreciative!

## Marysburg summer festival closes season with Thomas Yu

by Kathy Ponath

The architecture of a beautifully designed and constructed church should serve to bring its visitors into a greater sense of the presence of God. The Assumption Church at Marysburg is such a church. The soaring ceiling and arched pillars leading to the apse, the stained glass windows and beautiful altar make a visitor aware that he or she has stepped

into a very special place, a place apart from the world. It was the perfect setting for a concert of music that also took the visitor into a transcendent realm of beauty. The soaring, lyrical and haunting beauty of the music of Chopin performed by pianist Thomas Yu closed out the summer season in the Marysburg Festival of the Arts on August 17th.

A torrential rainstorm did not hamper attendance as about 300

people from throughout the region made their way to this remarkable prairie cathedral, 10 miles northeast of Humboldt. Some came because they were devotees of the festival and the community, others came because they had previous experience with the artistry of Dr. Yu, and yet others came out of curiosity. Whatever the reason, none were sorry that they had ventured out on such a dark and stormy night,

for the music pouring forth into the atmosphere of the beautiful cathedral was an uplifting experience.

Dr. Thomas Yu performed a sampling of the repertoire he has prepared to play as a participant in Frederick Chopin International Competition that is held every five years in the great composer's homeland, at the Warsaw National Philharmonic Hall.

Dr. Yu is an amazing person, not just for his remarkable gift as a pianist but also as an academic. Dr. Yu, a dentist, is in a post-graduate program in periodontics, working on his thesis in head and neck cancer research. Yu has won nine national prizes for his artistry and performed in such illustrious venues as the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, The Winspear Centre in Edmonton and the Toronto Centre for the Arts. He gladly added the Assumption Church in Marysburg, Saskatchewan to that list of concert halls.

Producer of the Festival, Al Gerwing, introduced Dr. Yu remarking, "It is an honour to have him here as a send-off to the Warsaw Chopin Competition." He mentioned that Thomas had performed in Marysburg two years previous. He joked that Yu "brought the house down" and

they have been restoring it ever since, referring to the Marysburg Assumption Church Restoration project to preserve and restore the 1921 heritage site. Dr. Yu was in the province for just five days visiting his family in Saskatoon but jumped at the chance to play in the acoustically superior church on a magnificent Steinway grand piano, one of the few available for public concerts in the province. The piano is a permanent fixture in the church on loan from the festival's Artistic Director, Gregory Schulte.

The rainy evening's last light, diffused by the church's original stained glass windows lit up the clerestory as Dr. Yu began his concert with two Etudes. By the time he had played the second etude, evocative of a winter wind, the audience was spellbound by the magic of Chopin's music and the artistry of the pianist. As the evening darkened, the light from the church's altar intensified as did the music. Chopin's rich rhythms and changes in tempo and mood were apparent in the lovely "Berceuse" and the "Sonata in B flat minor, Opus 35." After an intermission the concert resumed with a Scherzo and a Nocturne and the unusual "Waltz, Opus 42." Dr. Yu ended

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Part of the Mike and Catherine Bauer family of Marysburg. Back row: Anna Oelkuch, Catherine, Catherine (Kate), Viola. Front row: Michael Jr., Elmer, Genevieve, John. All are deceased except John, who lives in Washington. Elmer and John were popular entertainers in the 30s and 40s as "The Bauer Boys". The Pioneer Mother statue, sculpted by Heather Benning, takes up space in both floors of the former Bauer home. Its head rises out of the roof facing south where "the great mother" gazes serenely and proudly over the countryside that her generation brought under cultivation. Photo taken in early 1930s.

**MARYSBURG HOMECOMING - JULY 28, 29, 30, 2006**  
*Come celebrate the rejuvenation of Assumption Church*

# Baumls celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

Ray and Vikki (nee Trach) Bauml began their married life on July 18, 1955, in Runnymede, Saskatchewan. They made their home in their farmyard north of Marysburg, and raised a family of six children: Pat, Rick, Cindy, Joan, Rob and Chris. In July of 2005, Ray and Vikki celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a Come and Go Tea. The Marysburg Hall was filled as friends and relatives joined the Baumls' children and grandchildren in honouring the couple.

During these 50 years, Ray and Vikki have given freely of their time to the Marysburg parish and community. In the early years of their marriage, Vikki taught in St. Henry School. She also served as a volunteer catechist in the school. Vikki is always ready to help cook and bake for any parish function, or to clean, dust, scrub and polish.



Reflections by Richard  
**Ray and Vikki pose with their offspring at their golden wedding observance: Pat, Lab Tech in Yellowknife, NWT; Rick, computer consultant, Calgary, Alta.; Chris, Del-Air, Humboldt; Joan, Executive Secretary, Saskatoon Health District; Rob, Financial Advisor, Vernon, BC; Cindy, Prison Psychologist, Kingston, Ont.**

Ray served as president and treasurer of the Curling Club, and was a "feared" curler, as well. In

the summer, Ray was often found on the ball diamond calling balls and strikes. Of course, the boys

didn't agree with all the calls. Ray gave much time to parish council, serving several terms

including the chairperson position. Many a day he spends with the cemetery crew keeping the graveyard well-manicured.

Ray and Vikki have assumed church ministry roles as readers, communion ministers and taking up the gifts. As lay presiders, they have kept our traditional Good Friday services going. Ray has spent endless hours on church restoration work while making with his great sense of humour. Whenever there is a job to do, Ray and Vikki are around. To quote one parishioner, "Both are there all the time, but they never make a big noise." They are the kind of people communities are built on.

The Marysburg people are grateful for Ray and Vikki's presence among us and congratulate them on their Gold Wedding Anniversary. — Doris Puetz

# Dead Moose Lake (Marysburg) pioneers remember their beginnings

*Quotes from pioneer memories compiled by Sister Celine Graf, OSU, and St. Henry School children in 1955.*

"This railroad business (in NW United States - Ed.) was so dangerous. My wife worried so much for me. By now I ran a regular passenger train. One experience as engineer of a passenger train I will never forget. We had passed through several mountain tunnels after which we had three miles of level track. Here was our chance to speed up and usually we did. This particular night, however, I slowed down. It was as if a voice within me was saying, "Better slow down!" Suddenly I saw a big pile of rocks on the track not far ahead. Because we were going slow I got the train stopped.

The conductor came up to me and said, "Man, if it hadn't been for you," and he looked 250 feet down the cliff, "we would be down there, now." I thanked Our Lady for her protection. I always said a Hail Mary before beginning my journeys.

— Henry Therres, Marysburg pioneer

"In the fall of 1903 I worked on the railway to earn a little money. We worked between Carmel and Bruno. It was hard work cutting through those hills. At first we used mules and later, horses. The wages were 30 dollars a month."

— Frank Massinger, Marysburg pioneer



Once the track is cleared the train seems dwarfed between the snowbanks

"At Rosthern we bought a team of horses and a load of shingles. One of the horses was very small. At Fish Creek Joe Duerr helped pull us up the bank of the Saskatchewan River. We were supposed to get to Leofeld next evening but our poor little horse couldn't make it. We asked some people to be kind and put us up for the night. They were poor and all they could offer was their pig barn. After the pigs were chased out we put in straw which we had on our wagon and put our mattress on the straw. Next afternoon we got to Spanis'. From here we were supposed to go the Ludwigs', but in a ravine our horses got stuck."

— Math Strueby, Marysburg pioneer

"Rosthern holds many unpleasant and sad memories for

me. John (Mueller) had to go ahead to prepare a home for us. A family asked us for me and the children to stay with them. But they didn't tell us that their children had scarlet fever and diphtheria and their house had not been fumigated. The woman gave Jackie and Max the bed in which one of their sick children had been. Max got scarlet fever. Jackie got both scarlet fever and diphtheria. Little Jackie died a few days later and is buried in Rosthern. The funeral cost us 50 dollars. That left us only 50 dollars to live on and I was quarantined for two weeks."

— Margaret Mueller, Marysburg pioneer

"About 10 miles from our home at Dead Moose Lake we met some Indians. At first we children were terrified, but the Indians were friendly. After that we saw them often as they would pass through here on their way to pick berries or fish at Lake Lenore. They also had the most beautiful slippers, decorated with beads, for trading. Often we played with the Indian children. They would ride our big horses and we rode their little ponies. We had lots of fun."

— Gertrude Leinen (Mrs. Ben Albers) Marysburg pioneer

"When engines ran short of water we shovelled snow into the water tender."

— George Haeusler



Shovelling near Moseley. George Haeusler says the group has among them Bert Clarke and son of Daylesford, ? Thoms, Alex Wesling, himself and his brother Alphonse, Paul Loroff, ? Koenders, Ernie Korte and more that he can't remember. "The snow was hard as rock," remembers Egill Buschmann, who must have been on the scene as well.



Kenny Duncan, engineer, looks out of the cab window; Mike Bunko, brakeman, standing on snowbank.

"We were absolutely blocked in," and that's when we formed a snow-plow club."

— Egill Buschmann



The big three-day snowstorm of March 1956. Snowplow in front of engine, trying to clear track near Moseley.

# Choir represents North America at Songbridge

Saskatoon Children's Choir was invited to sing at Songbridge in Hong Kong, not as representative of Canada, but of all North America. Children's choirs from Finland, South Africa and China represented Europe, Africa and Asia respectively.

This fact alone tells us how remarkable is this group of children — and right on our doorstep!

The girls (they were all girls!) marched up the aisle like the champions they are, heads held high, taking possession of their venue with supreme confidence. When they turned to face the audience from the high altar steps their radiant faces captured the audience's hearts already before the first notes were sung.

And how they sang! They tossed off a Debussy ode with aplomb. And then they sang that marvellous duet "Wir eilen mit schwachen, doch emsigen Schritten" from J.S. Bach's Cantata #78. This writer had

heard them sing it in Holy Spirit Church, Saskatoon in March and thought, "Yes — adequate." But now in Assumption with its great acoustic and enhanced by the recent renovation, this rendition would have rejoiced the heart of the great Bach himself, had he heard it in St. Thomas Church, Leipzig.

This extraordinary technical competence, glorious tone, and interpretive skill were present in all their selections, some of them contemporary experimental compositions of extreme difficulty.

The audience was pleased to have some Canadian folk songs in concert arrangements near the end of the program.

The singers and director Phoebe Voight were reported as saying, "Singing in Marysburg church was akin to singing in the cathedrals in Europe."

How proud we were to be able to host them before their momentous trip to Hong Kong for Songbridge.



Photo: Humboldt Journal

## Robert MacLaren, tenor

"A soaring beginning for the 2005 summer festival" wrote Keri Dalman of Winnipeg tenor Robert MacLaren's Marysburg concert, June 8.

MacLaren had spent the last 17 years in Germany as opera soloist, recitalist and oratorio singer. He now teaches voice at the University of Manitoba.

"At times gentle, at times powerful, MacLaren's strong, full tenor voice bounced off the ceilings, walls and floors of the newly refurbished church," wrote Dalman.

The main feature of MacLaren's concert was the Schumann song cycle Dichterliebe (A Poet's Love). In sixteen songs the poet and the composer speak of falling in love, of a heart broken, and finally the bitterness after betrayal. The cycle begins with lyric tenderness, then gradually darkens, becoming desperate, angry and bitter.

After the intermission MacLaren sang four Robert Burns songs, Scottish favourites, and after an operatic set he gave

the audience Danny Boy as an encore, much to their delight.

Gregory Schulte, a mentor of MacLaren early in his career, was the accompanist.



Photo: Humboldt Journal

## Pomedli makes the cello sing

"Pomedli makes cello sing" was Journal editor Keri Dalman's headline following Rachel Pomedli's Aug. 4 concert in Marysburg.

"She set the cello singing in the Bach unaccompanied suite opening the concert," wrote Dalman, "producing sounds both sweet and passionate."

Of the Debussy Sonata for cello and piano the reviewer wrote "it began with a dramatic opening statement by the piano becoming softer with the entrance of the cello, then building to forte with beautiful cello melody."

The Brahms minor Sonata for Piano and Cello Op 38 followed the intermission. At the end of its dramatic and climactic finale, wrote Dalman, "Pomedli uttered a quiet whew! and glanced at her shredded bow."

Modern composer Martinu's Variations on a Theme by Rossini concluded the program. It requires the highest skill technically for both cellist and pianist (Michael Angell) and the two performers rose to the occasion.

The enthusiastic audience applause won them an encore, a lullaby showing the cello to be just as much a lyrical concert instrument as a dramatic one.

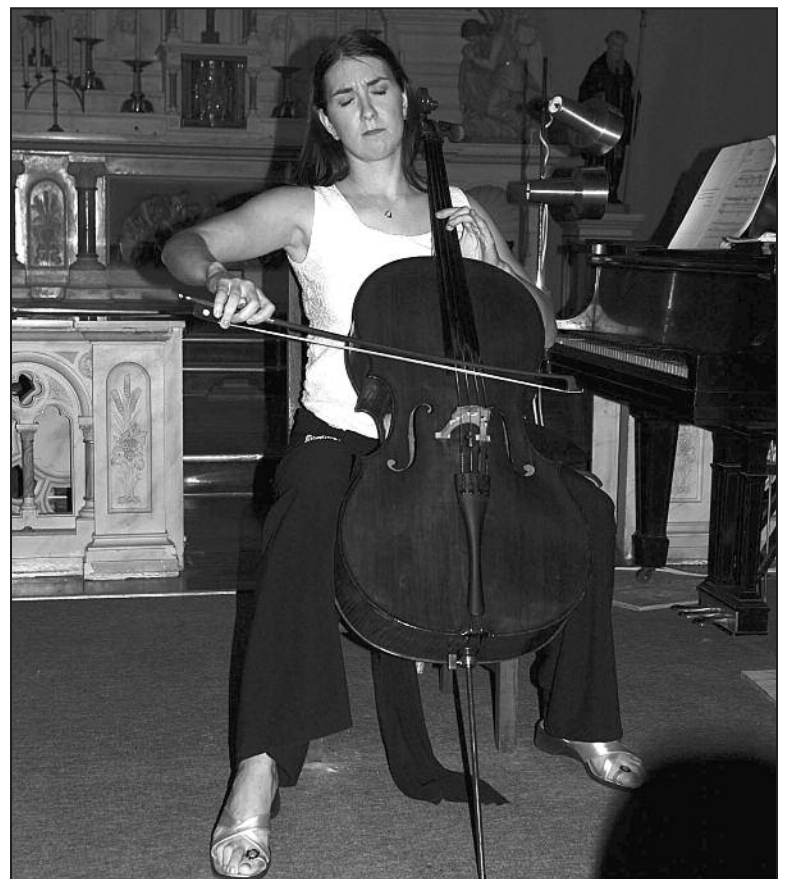


Photo: Humboldt Journal

A note from Rachel:

"Thank you for inviting me to perform again at Marysburg. I love playing in that beautiful

church and for such a wonderful audience. Congratulations on the Festival and the church restoration!"

— Rachel Pomedli

## Awe inspiring performance

Continued from page 1

the concert with the brilliant and awe inspiring performance of the Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante - a virtuoso grande finale. The audience responded with a standing ovation which called the pianist back to the Steinway for one more Etude.

Dr. Yu recognized his teacher Bonnie Nicholson who was in attendance and his family. He pronounced the festival as "one of the best," thanking the audience for helping him to fulfill a dream. His connection with the audience made through his magnificent performance was complemented by his genuine and down to earth persona revealed before, during and after his time at the piano.

This performance capped the 5th season of the Marysburg

Festival of the Arts. Other performances throughout the season included tenor Robert MacLaren from Winnipeg, the Saskatoon Children's Choir (one of four children's choirs to be invited to Songbridge, an international children's choir festival) and cellist, Rachel Pomedli.

The festival was begun with a two-fold purpose: to raise money for the restoration of the Assumption Church and to establish the future of the church as a venue for the performing arts. The church is currently holding services every second Sunday.

The building has been designated a heritage site but that has not resulted in any grants to help pay for the restoration. A group of committed individuals recognizing the spiritual, historical and architectural value of the building decided in 1997 that it must be

preserved. About \$30,000 is left to pay on the restoration already done to this point — a new roof, interior repairs and painting and the installation of bathrooms. The stained glass windows need to be cleaned and re-soldered and 32 Berthold Imhoff paintings must be cleaned and remounted.

Mr. Gerwing is looking forward to the time when the restoration is complete and the festival can afford to pay its world-class performers more. The artists have been willing to perform for less money because they appreciate the importance of the project. As Dr. Thomas Yu noted during his concert, "Sound is a precious thing," and one of the greatest features of the building is its acoustics. The music that fills this sacred place through this festival makes everyone who attends realize just how precious it is indeed.

### Marysburg Regional Chorus Fall Concert

Mark your calendars  
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2005 - 2:30 & 7:30

Annually, since 1998, the Marysburg Chorus has sung for the public in Assumption Church, every second year being a Christmas Concert year.

This year's theme is Hymn-Sing, a celebration of the rejuvenation of our beautiful church of the Assumption of Mary.

Tell your friends! Invite your neighbours.  
And if you have visitors bring them along.

Note: "We couldn't come because we had visitors." But . . . wouldn't your visitors have been pleased, had you only brought them. . . .!

# Yu draws 300 to Marysburg

August 17, 2005 — the closing night of Marysburg's Summer Festival of the Arts.

The rain began at 7 p.m. It increased at 7:15 and by 7:30 it came pelting down but that did not deter 300 people from coming to hear Thomas Yu play Chopin.

"He was simply amazing to hear," wrote Keri Dalman in her Humboldt Journal review. "It sounded as though Yu at times, was playing with at least four hands and on two keyboards."

Yu sampled widely from Chopin's repertoire: ballads, waltzes, etudes, scherzos, polonaises, a bit of each genre that he needs to perform in Warsaw in late September as Canada's representative at the International Chopin Competition.

Yu praised the Steinway Grande as a truly noble instrument; he lauded the church reconstruction committee for their work in restoring "this remarkably beautiful building with its incomparable acoustics."

"I'm honoured to be part of this festival," said Yu. I think it's



Photo: Humboldt Journal

one of the best and I'm lucky to be part of it. In fact some of my New York friends are staying up late waiting for me to phone them to tell them how this Marysburg festival engagement went."

"Yu had his eyes closed during

most of the concert," wrote Dalman "and it was clear on his face that he was feeling what his fingers were playing."

"Call me anytime and I'll come," Yu told the audience. Their applause roared their "yes."

## Lake Lenore has state-of-the-art kiln

August 23 to 27 was the inaugural firing for Martin Tagseth the Village Potter of Lake Lenore. The firing was led by internationally recognized ceramic artist/instructor Tom Rohr, of Pleasant Hill, Oregon.

The kiln is based on a 15th century Asian design. It was continually stoked for over 100 hours, and consumed approximately five cords of wood. The final temperature inside the kiln was 1,300 degrees Celsius.

Inside the kiln were 500 pieces of ceramic pottery and one large ceramic sculpture created by Spanish artist Jordi Alfaro.

— Andrew Kellner, apprentice



Freya and Ben Tagseth, Tom Rohr, Andrew Kellner (apprentice potter)

(Martin is the youngest son of Arthur & Rita Tagseth of Humboldt.

The front page of the 2004 Town Crier carried a tribute to the recently deceased Rita Tagseth, beloved Marysburg teacher).

## From Dear John (Brinkmeier) letters

"I wanted to write to you to let you know how extremely happy it made me to receive The Marysburg Town Crier, (the Centenary edition - Ed.) I read it word for word. There were pictures of old friends and my father's picture too. It really touched my heart."

— Frances Morden, Midland, Ont.

"Thanks for the Town Crier and all the hard work you do in restoring our church. We appreciate it very much."

— Bud and Antoinette (Zintel) Miller

"Thanks to all the people who put in so much time and work to restore our beautiful Church of the Assumption."

— Quirin and Kay Walz

"It warms my heart to know the church is being preserved. I

hope to see the finished product one day." — Juanita (Bron) Dunn

"I have a lot of memories (of that church). Used to serve mass every morning, being so close, even when school was out. I was back there in 2000 - had a good time." — John M. Bauer

"Thanks for all the work you people have done."

— Mary Ann (Rositch) Gysel (Mary Ann Wisser/Rositch died in August 2005)

"I was in your church only once but know it is well worth keeping in good condition. I am not a Catholic but feel this is a very worthwhile project."

— Elmer Geiger, Griffin, Sask.

"Thanks for the Town Crier. We read every word."

— Math Schulte, Squamish, B.C.

"I always admired your church when I visited there and I hope you are able to restore it for future generations to enjoy."

— Jo Lauer, Kelowna, B.C.

"Happy to hear you and the community of Marysburg are hanging in there to get the restoration completed."

— George and Bea (Puetz) Parker

Glenn Hall writes in One Hundred Interesting Stories About Humboldt (pub 2005):

"Humboldt was the greatest place for a kid to grow up. I've always said that. We could walk to the rink and do so many things that made growing up special. I loved hockey but my second love was baseball. For some reason we had trouble fielding a ball team in Humboldt, but I was fortunate to play with a bunch of great guys and good friends in Marysburg."

## From our correspondents

"The choirs were on TV and I taped it. The Hong Kong kids had high praise for the Saskatchewan girls, saying they were so friendly and embodied the spirit of Songbridge.

At the concert, when the MC said "from Saskatoon" I gave a big 'Woo-hoo!' I could see by the surprised and pleased looks on the girls' faces that they were happy to have so vocal a Saskatchewan person in the audience."

— Maureen Nienaber, Hong Kong, July 17, 2005

"Been there, Maureen! Heard them in Marysburg church. They were wonderful!! I'd go back in a minute."

— Alice Buttinger, Lake Lenore

"They're a top notch international choir. They weren't representing Saskatchewan or even Canada — they were the representatives of North America! There were choirs there representing three other continents and judging by our group, I'd say Saskatchewan has the tallest girls in the world."

—Maureen N.

"Thank you most sincerely for your tribute to our beloved Rita in the Town Crier."

— Art Tagseth and family

"It isn't often I have the chance to perform in a venue as beautiful as the Marysburg church — and for such an engaged and appreciative audience! They were more attentive, sensitive and appreciative than most audiences in big cities, and I thank them."

— Nathan Simington (violinist, 2004) Rochester, NY

"So viele musikalische Veranstaltungen in Marysburg. . . . So many concerts in Marysburg as I read in the Town Crier. The population is small and I am most impressed with what you folks are accomplishing there!"

— Norbert Rothenberger, Hoerden, Germany, Christmas, 2004

## Inducted into Hall of Fame

August 20, 2005 - Isidore Strueby entered our provincial Baseball Hall of Fame this day at age 76.

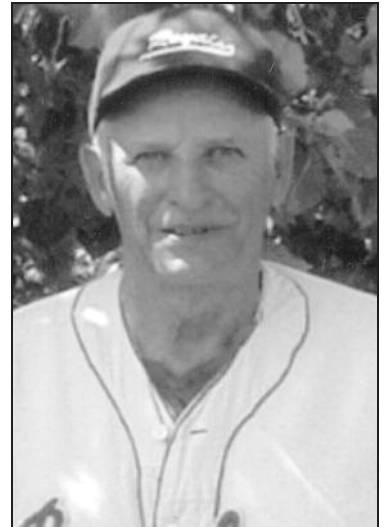
"It's not just what they can do on the field. It's also how they influence our young players off the field" said guest speaker, Linus Westberg.

Strueby started his baseball life very young. By 14 he played with the Marysburg Juniors. Four years later he became a vital part of the Marysburg Royals playing with them from 1947 to 1968. In 1980 he became the Royals' coach. Under his guidance they won six North Central League championships. In 1990 Strueby was named Saskatchewan Baseball's Manager of the Year.

He remains a huge fan of the Royals.

— by Aaron Dane-Lutz of the Battleford News-Optimist

Isidore - the Town Crier salutes you!



Isidore Strueby - his brother, Sylvester, was inducted in Saskatchewan's Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991; and the Strueby family name in 2000!

**Dear friends of Assumption Church, We appeal again for help. Through the first six years of restoration work we kept strictly to our rule of No Borrowing. But in late winter 2004 we faltered. For two reasons; the scaffolding was in place and crew available; and reason two: no-interest loans were available. We borrowed!**

**Now we have a \$30,000 debt. That's the bad news. These loans are no-interest. That's the good news. But, no-interest or not they need to be repaid. And there's still work to be done on the building in addition to the windows.**

**Please friends, help. Small donations are useful, yes, although they need to come in great numbers. If among the small donations we find some large ones, why what a great relief that would be! But large or small, thanks!**

Send donations to:

**Assumption Church Restoration  
c/o John Brinkmeier, Treasurer  
Box 1017, Humboldt, SK S0K 2A0**

Reg. Charity #11911 1599 RR0001

The Marysburg Summer Festival of the Arts executive and Town Crier thank Keri Dalman and The Humboldt Journal most heartily for their coverage of concerts as well as church restoration work. We give you roses (in spades!). Thank you, too, to Kathy Ponath and the East Central Connection, to CBC radio, and to Jeff Rogstad and Saskatoon CTV for publicizing the festival and the church project. We are most grateful, friends!