

THE BETHEL - ZION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1863 - 1963.

The centennial celebration began as a dream and ended in a beautiful never-to-be-forgotten memory for a host of people.

As the calendar began nearing 1960 the mind of the Tweedsmuir Curator began to dream of celebrating the one hundred years of the life of the Bethel and Zion Communities.

She mentioned something of her hopes and ideas to commemorate the event to some of the church officials and although they agreed it would be very nice to arrange something they considered the undertaking would prove to be a problem much too large to handle.

But the curator already had "her wagon hitched to a star" and she quietly continued to collect historical data on church and community. When the congregational meeting of the church was held in January 1963 the question again arose. This was the centennial year! If anything was to be done the plans must be started soon.

Those present that bitterly cold night agreed upon some event to mark the 100 years if Mrs. Ralph Sills would act as convener of a committee consisting of Roy Sills, Earl Sayers and Cecil Ketcheson, with others to be added as plans progressed and need arose.

As soon as could be arranged, the convener called her committee and read her suggestions which are as follows:

Select a date suitable for friends at a distance to attend.

Make the celebration a two day affair - a Sun. & Mon., or a Sat. and a Sun.

Ask a former minister to conduct the service - have only a morning service - 11.00 A.M.

To show our hospitality and to permit renewal of old friendships we should provide a free lunch at the church for any who wished to remain and visit - both days.

Unveiling of a cairn at the site of the former Zion Church.

Quiet visit to both cemeteries in respect to the pioneers whom we honour.

Approach Thurlow township council regarding erection of a fence around Jones' cemetery to keep out to roaming cattle and thus protect the grave markers.

There should be a parade of old time vehicles and farm machinery and costumes and a display of antiques in the hall.

List of as many former residents with addresses who were in any way connected with our churches - including school teachers - keeping in mind that there are 3 schools.

Old time school to be conducted.