

Mount St. Francis Community.

Twenty-two years ago in 1934 a community was started on the fifth concession of King Ridge on King Ridge farm. King township.

Five acres of land were loaned to the Reverent Father McGoey, by Mr. John McCabe to start this community.

There was a church already built here about 1929. The land for the church was donated by Mr. J. McCabe and the farmers living around formed a bee to build the church which was called Sacred Heart Church.

The first year 1934 Five men and their families who because of the the depression were unable to make a living for themselves moved into the community. Three of these had quite a few children, the other two were young married couples without children.

Four small houses were built by them and one of the young couples lived in the big barn on Mrs. Bertrand's land.

Here the first baby of the community was born and both the baby and mother were soon moved to the hospital as soon as possible. The baby was born during a January snowstorm.

The second year 1935, fifty acres were bought from Mr. McCabe on the side road between the fifth & sixth concessions of King, which is now known as the Community Side Road.

Then there were fourteen more families selected to come and live here. These men built five two story houses for the first five families and these people each got an acre piece from the 50 acres.

These five families each got a horse, cow, chickens, pigs, and the implements such as a wagon, harrows, disks, sleds and others that are needed on a small farm.

While the five big houses were being built, the other fourteen men were building small one story houses 15' x 30's so they could bring their family to be with them.

There was one family who came out on their own and lived for awhile in Mrs. Bertrand's house, then in the McCabe homestead, and then they bought John Gould's house on the hill on the side road.

By this time there were quite a few children in the Community. Each of the fourteen men were given a small piece of land for a garden. They and their wives produced a lot towards their food for the year.

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The women went out in the bush, and picked wild fruit

such as Raspberries, Strawberries, and sugar plums, to preserve for the coming winter. They also received quite a lot of domestic fruit. peaches, pears and apples which they also preserved, as well as pickles, relishes and jams. There was quite a bit of competition between the ladies as to who could preserve the most fruit and food for the winter.