



**Humble Beginnings Lead to Massive Achievements**

Former resident Pete Friesen moved massive buildings including the Gem Theatre in Detroit and even a famous lighthouse (right) using his knowledge. Photo left shows the Rosenheim School that Friesen attended when a young boy. His problems and successes are being told in a made for true Canadian story television show that will use these images, called "Pete: Moving Manmade Mountains" Story starts on page one. ©PROVOST NEWS FILE.

**TV Groups at USA Show**

**From P. 4**

extremely complex move of historic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in 1999, Friesen has become an engineering legend. He is an innovator who has developed machinery, engineering methods and computer programs, all still widely used in the industry.

While relocating approximately 5,000 buildings in his lifelong career, he has helped preserve some of America's most treasured historic structures.

Stewart told *The News* in a recent interview that for the U.S. showings, the American Civil Engineers will be represented ". . . we have so much interest in this thing right now (in the Michigan area)" and added that delegates from the National Society of Professional Engineers are interested in coming, "We are also getting a youth choir of children to sing and North Vancouver, B.C. singer Julie Blue to sing her tribute song "Believe in Yourself." Blue may also sing in Provost.

Chuck Forbes, head of the famed U.S. Forbes Management family is sponsoring this event and is flying the Friesens from Seattle to the U.S. events.

Engineers planning to take in this event "are very excited about this program" says Stewart.

President of Corinth Films, Inc., John Poole of

Riegelville, Philadelphia, who is the U.S. distributor for this new RYBW Productions film has sent several invitations to television networks in the U.S. including: Mission Broadcasting, Inc. in Ohio, WGBH-TV in Boston, Turner Classic Movies in Atlanta, Georgia, Post-Newsweek Stations in Detroit, as well as MHZ Networks and WBNX-TV 55.

Others from the Detroit area are very

interested as well and some sports figures may attend the U.S. premier says Stewart.

Serving on the "Friends of Pete Committee" for the Provost event the first Saturday in May are: Stewart from North Vancouver, Peter Rowlands from Ontario, Marion Kelch from Czar and Rich Holmes from Provost.

Ticket prices for the Canadian premier have not been set.

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**An Interview With Pete Friesen**

(from PN March 2006)

Pete Friesen, who at 84 now lives in Linden, Washington, was born in the Ukraine in 1922 and was part of a Mennonite colony.

He faced adversity growing up in the area and, says Stewart became the "number one structural mover in the world." He also set four Guinness World Records for moving buildings of various weights and methods and in 1955 at New Westminster, B.C., invented a hydraulic jacking system (under a Canadian patent) that is used by virtually every mover in the world today.

Friesen's father Dietrich had 30 servants and labourers working for him, plenty of land, horses, cattle, a beautiful wife and two young sons before Pete

was born. In 1917 the Russian revolution was underway and the family along with other Mennonites had their land and possessions taken. Dietrich's wife was killed along with a young son. After a few years of running and hiding Dietrich married Anna, one of the Mennonite servants who had worked in his household and a year later Pete was born. They escaped Russia, eventually sailing to England and from there across the ocean to Canada. After three months of quarantine they moved on for their final destination in the Canadian west —Provost.

Dietrich bought a farm with 480 acres, but since he was an aristocrat in Russia he did not enjoy working in the grain fields nor shoveling cow manure. He was doing what his servants used to do for him back in Russia; hard labour. The film will depict Dietrich becoming angry and taking out frustrations on little Pete.

What defined Friesen's life happened one day on the farm when he was

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