

# Alex Old settlers picnic Saturday, September 6th

Mrs. Edith Lanz, pioneer resident of the Alexander area, will be guest of honor at the 24th Annual Old Settlers' Day picnic in Alexander on Saturday, September 6th.

Festivities will begin with a parade at 11 a.m. featuring floats, bands, antique machinery and horses. The traditional free beef barbecue will be served following the parade. After the barbecue a program will be given honoring Mrs. Lanz and other old timers of the area. The afternoon will end with horse events.

Mrs. Lanz, the former Edith Meyer, was born November 10, 1886, near Fairway, MN. After completing eight years of elementary school she was employed as a hired girl by an elderly couple. She married Paul Lanz, owner of a water well drilling rig, at Red Wing, MN and for a time they made their home in that City.

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Lanz and their two oldest children came to McKenzie County and homesteaded near Alexander. Seven more children were born on the homestead.

Mr. Lanz died in the 1930's and Mrs. Lanz and a son, Bill, continued to work the farm. Later Mrs. Lanz moved to Seattle, WA where she worked for three years in a mental institution to earn money to pay off debts on the farm incurred during the depression years.

After her son, Bill, married, Mrs. Lanz left the farm and established her home in Alexander. Because of ill health she entered the Good Shepherd Home in Watford City in the fall of 1968, and after spending the winter there was able to return to Alexander last spring.

The Lanz children are: Bill, on the original homestead; Arthur, Devils Lake; Harry, Thompson Falls, MT; Mrs. Laverne (Ruby) Morey, Poulsbo, WA; Harold, Seattle; Robert in California; Mrs. Ira (Hazel) Buckby, Houston, MN; Mrs. Mervin (Grace) Sivertson, Bainbridge Island, WA; and Mrs. Wilma Nelson, Williston. Her family also includes 22 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren.



Mrs. Edith Lanz To Be Honored

## Approximately 2000 people attended Old Settlers' picnic at Alexander . . .

*Sept. 11-69*

With the weather cooperating beautifully a record crowd attended the 24th annual Old Settlers' Picnic in Alexander on Saturday, September 6th.

An estimated 2000 people enjoyed the day's festivities and the free barbecue. Beef was provided by the honored guest, Mrs. Edith Lanz.

Activities began with a parade made up of many fine floats, antique machiney, and horses. The American Legion Auxiliary was awarded the prize for the best entry; the Lewis and Clark Trail Museum was second, and the First International Bank, third. Also a part of the parade was the pioneer wagon train that traveled from Arnegard to Alexander under the direction of Wagonmaster Clarence Leiseth.

Charles Aasen was master of ceremonies for the afternoon program honoring Mrs. Lanz and other pioneers of the area. Music was furnished by the All Faiths Choir, the Alexander band, and vocalists.

The occasion was also a re-

union for the Lanz family with all members getting together for the first time since 1928.

Following the honors program horse contests were held with prizes for the winners in each event. A baseball game also was played, with Arnegard defeating Alexander 11 to 3.

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**OLD SETTLERS . . .** Over 2,000 gathered at Alexander Saturday to attend the 24th Old Settlers Picnic. There were old settlers there who came to the area as early as 1900 and of course there were some new settlers who have only been in the area a matter of weeks. It was a beautiful day, the parade was outstanding, and the beef barbeque was as delicious as usual. The above photo was taken of just a portion of the chow line, all waiting to receive one of those heaping plates of noon-time lunch. (Farmer Photo)