

Festival ⁽²⁸⁾ features ^{Echo} ^{aug 1/84} Rhineland's 100th year

The rural municipality (RM) of Rhineland celebrated its 100th birthday on Friday in conjunction with the first day of the annual Sunflower Festival.

The theme for the agricultural and 4-H parade was "Rhineland, 100 years" and featured many new special additions such as antique horsedrawn to modern day farm machinery. The parade itself (with over 100 entries) extended over one mile and lasted an hour and was probably the best agricultural parade ever seen at the festival. The parade marshal was Gnadenthal farmer, Johann Peters.

Rhineland sponsored a noon VIP luncheon, and in the evening Centennial functions again dominated the festival stage show.

Rhineland historian J. C. Fehr sang his own rendition of "Rhineland, 100 years today", to the considerable enjoyment of an audience of almost 1,000 persons.

The RM recognized its citizen members of the book committee, J. C. Fehr, John Rempel, Elma Kehler, Louis Pokrant (absent), chairman W. J. Kehler, and Proofreader Mary Friesen, Horndean, with personalized copies of the RM's new book.

Reeve Schroeder also presented a personalized copy to Gerhard John Ens, author of the newly-published RM history entitled "Volost and Municipality".

A history book auction of the



Rhineland Reeve Jake H. Schroeder poses with Centennial award plaque from the province presented to the RM to recognize 100 years of dedicated citizen participation in local government and community service. Manitoba finance minister Vic Schroeder also presented the reeve with a cheque for \$8,922 to assist with paying for Centennial celebrations. (Echo photo) ECHO aug 1, 1984

first three copies of the book netted \$550, \$325 and \$150 respectively in sales to Reeve Schroeder, Jack Penner and Gerald Loepky. The book is now on sale for \$20.

Further Centennial events included an RM Centennial interdenominational church service which attracted hundreds from the Lutheran, United Church and Mennonite congregations.

The outside service in the park included brief historical sketches of the churches, special musical groups, including the Ebenezer choir, and a message.

A noon family picnic at the

park was followed by games and races, somewhat reminiscent of the picnics schools and communities held long ago.

Rhineland secretary-treasurer Jake Bergen was also presented with a personalized copy of the RM history book, for his extensive involvement in the preparation of the book.

Presentation by the RM of 18 Century Farm award plaques to residents still farming was followed by a fasha of watermelon and rollkuchen, sponsored by the RM, to conclude the Centennial activities and the festival for another year.