

## **Rich pre-war village Bereke**

Recently thumbing through an old file of the regional newspaper "Akmolinskaya Pravda" as of May 21, 1941 (in one month before the beginning of the Great Patriotic war), I found a note under the catchy title "Everybody is happy". An excerpt from letters of settlers who arrived on May 4 of that year from Ukraine to the kolkhozes (or collective farms) "Kuigenzhar" and "Bereke" of Vishnevsky district of Akmola region was provided. The letter itself was previously published in the Ukrainian regional newspaper "Bolshevik Zaporozhya".

I will introduce a part of the letter, where my native village is mentioned: "...collective farm "Bereke" is remarkable too; it is located in 40 km from Akmolinsk. It has 13700 ha of land, 1,500 ha of which is under cultivation, 1700 ha of hayfields, 7 large lakes full of fish and wild waterfowl. There are three cattle-breeding farms, there are 224 cows, 532 sheep, 50 horses, 40 pairs of oxen, 3 pairs of camels, pigs, rabbits in the collective farm. There is a car in gang... ." According to these numbers, not every small village of the district can be compared with pre-war Bereke by the number of livestock production today.

Just imagine, this newspaper article was published a month before the start of the Great Patriotic war launched by Nazi Germany against the Soviet people. The farmers of Bereke, past the difficult times of the civil war, food allotment, Goloshchekin's cruel collectivization, severe famine of 1930-1933 years, wide-scale repressions of 1937-1938, met persecuted immigrants from far Ukraine with prosperity. According to Nagima Kabyldinova, a native of the village Bereke, she still remembers her childhood in the harsh war years. There are seven lakes of the village: Shalkarkol, Alagul, Tanagul, Zhakypkol, Zhaltyrkol, Zhankula and small Saryoba –now splash their white waves. These waves saw, heard and remembered all the glorious history of the village Bereke and its inhabitants in different years.

Anyway, the history is developed by spiral, so there is hope that the presence of seven lakes and the rich land of the small villages of the capital area in the future will contribute to the recovery of agricultural production and tourist facilities on

the site of a former glorious collective farm "Bereke", where our older generations have worked. The days, when the existing roadside sign of the village "Bereke" will also meet proudly home folks, visitors and immigrants, will come. An example to it is the fact that endless lines of cars and minibuses, full with passengers from Astana and the suburbs come day and night for the weekend to the famous salt lake Big Saryoba, famous for healing Andronov mud in swimming season in summer. In four years our pride -Astana will host the participants and guests of the International exhibition "Expo-2017", it is about five million people, and it is wonderful to have own analogue of the "Dead sea" in the middle of the vast steppe Sary-Arka in the immediate vicinity from the capital of Kazakhstan.